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The **TIMBERJAY**



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BROADBAND

Ribbon cut on Midco's new Ely fiber network

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Midco, the newest fiber internet provider operating in Ely cut a ribbon on Tuesday, June 27, to celebrate the completion of their fiber-based broadband network in the city of Ely. A traditional ribbon-cutting ceremony usually takes place in

front of a new business location, but since Midco's network encompasses the entire city, the firm held its ribbon-cutting at the Ely Chamber of Commerce— an appropriate choice considering that their new network will almost certainly bring new economic development to the community.

The event marks a milestone for Ely. While being at the end of the road has its allure at times, it proved a disadvantage in the quest for broadband in recent years. But the wait appears to be over as Midco's new system is offering

See...MIDCO pg. 9



Left: Rep. Roger Skraba and Ely Mayor Heidi Omerza wield the scissors to cut the ribbon on Midco's new fiber optic network in Ely. Also pictured are (l-r) David Sebesta, John Eloranta, Angela Campbell, and Paul Kess.

photo by C. Clark

INDEPENDENCE DAY 2023

THE 4th UP NORTH

A week of activities set across the area in celebration of our nation's birthday



Four days of fun set in Ely

ELY- Once again, Ely will deliver several days of July 4 festivities. The holiday gets rocking on Saturday with the second-ever Rock the Park concert event in Whiteside Park. The concert was organized by the Ely Events Committee, a currently ad hoc group of Ely citizens who come together every year to help put on Ely's usual impressive spread of July 4 events. According to City of Ely deputy clerk Casey Velcheff, the group is looking into becoming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Ely's July 4 events span four days, including Ely's well-known and festive parade and culminating in

See...ELY FOURTH pg. 10

Tradition on tap in Tower-Soudan

TOWER - Tradition might be the theme of this year's Fourth of July celebration in Tower-Soudan. All of everyone's favorite events are back on track, and parade organizers are hoping to once again see lots of original and amazing float entries. While the pancake breakfast, 5K/10K Run, Parade, and Children's races are all set for Tuesday, July 4, there are special events set for July 2 and July 5.

Sunday, July 2 features the annual Breitung Community Picnic from noon-3 p.m. This free picnic includes hot dogs, popcorn, and root beer floats. There will also be outdoor games and water play for the kids, so bring swimsuits if it's warm

See...TOWER-SOUDAN pg. 10

Orr ready to rock July 3rd

ORR- The North Country's celebration of the country's independence traditionally kicks off early with Orr's July 3rd Fun Day, and a dedicated crew of volunteers is carrying on that tradition with a full slate of activities to entertain old and young alike.

Pancakes and sausage will be flying off of the Orr Community Center griddle beginning at 7 a.m., courtesy of the North Woods Travelers, who are raising funds for a trip to Barcelona, Paris, and Spain. Adults can get all the pancakes they can eat for \$10, and kids 5-12 are \$5, with those under five eating

See...ORR FUN DAY pg. 10

COUNTY SCHOOLS

District budget woes continue to worsen

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

VIRGINIA— For anyone who thought the increase in state aid to education passed by the Minnesota Legislature this spring would resolve school funding shortfalls, ISD 2142 Finance Director Kim Johnson has disappointing news.

The 2023 school district budget that Johnson presented to the district board for approval on Tuesday remains nearly a million dollars in the red and is expected to leave the district's unassigned fund balance more than \$1.7 million in deficit by the end of the coming school year. She said the school board will need to immediately begin evaluating options to address the red ink.

The district expects to end the current school year with a \$2.994 million deficit.

See...DISTRICT pg. 9

VOYAGEURS NAT'L PARK

DNR objects to park's frozen roads proposal

State officials question the park's authority to regulate state waters

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Voyageurs National Park officials are getting strong pushback on their Frozen Lake Surface Access and Use Plan from a somewhat unlikely source— the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

A letter from the state agency, now circulating on social media, is getting positive responses from the public for the objections it raises to the plan as well as its criticisms of the park's unilateral development of the proposal. What's more, the DNR appears to be challenging the park's suggestion that it can restrict access to public waters that it doesn't own, noting that the state never relinquished

See...PARK PLAN pg. 9



Left: Old cars, flags, marching bands and much more will be on display during parades to be held in Orr, Ely, and Tower over several days surrounding the Fourth.



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Community notices



Andy Hill as Jackpine Bob Cary. photo by S. Hall

"Root Beer Lady-the Musical" opens Sept. 7

ELY- "Root Beer Lady- the Musical" is moving forward in its production schedule towards opening night at Ely's Historic State Theater on Sept. 7. "The production has many moving parts," said-playwright Barb Cary Hall, "but the level of commitment and enthusiasm among the cast and company is amazing. It's a different musical than it was eight years ago. We have new characters and a couple of new songs, but our vision is the same- to share Dorothy Molter's inspiring story to a larger audience through entertainment." Rehearsal of choreography, led by Johnnie Hyde, will culminate in a video being created at the Tofte Lake Center by Birch Bay Studios to be used as a working tool for the musical. The cast of ten is locked in for the production and is hard at work learning lines and lyrics. Andy Hill, who recreates Jackpine Bob Cary as the narrator, said he is honored to play the part of his longtime friend and mentor. "I've never done anything like this before, but I've been inspired by all the plays and performances I have attended over many years in Ely. Folks don't realize the amount of time and effort that goes into being a part of something like this, so I figure it's my turn to give back to the local arts community in return for all the entertainment they've given me." "Root Beer Lady- the Musical" is scheduled for Sept. 7-10 at Ely's Historic State Theater. Tickets available at www.elystatetheater.org.

Free firewise demonstration on July 8

VERMILION LAKE TWP-Have the recent wildfires made you think about the readiness of your property in the face of wildfire? There will be a free firewise demonstration on Saturday, July 8 from 10 a.m.- noon at a lakeshore home on Pike Bay Dr. Attend this event to learn about the things a property owner can do right now to make their home and property more wildfire resilient. The event will be held outdoors, rain or shine, at the home of Aaron Kania and Roxanne Tea, 6197 Pike Bay Dr., Tower. The event is sponsored by Dovetail Partners, the Vermilion Lake Fire Department, St. Louis County, and Firewise Minnesota. For more information, contact Gloria Erickson at 218-365-0878 or gloria@dovetailinc.org.

Deadline for mortgage assistance, July 7

ST. PAUL - HomeHelpMN provides up to \$50,000 to eligible homeowners who have fallen behind on their mortgage, taxes, lot rent, homeowner association fees or other housing-related expenses due to the pandemic while funds remain. All applications must be received by 5 p.m. Friday, July 7, to be considered. The program is currently operating with a waitlist. Applicants will be reviewed based on the availability of funds, date and time of submission, and applicant's risk of housing displacement. Interested homeowners can apply at homehelpmn.org. For questions about HomeHelpMN call 800-388-3226 for additional assistance. HomeHelpMN Live Chat and Call Center are available

HISTORY
History Night Wednesday highlights region's legendary couple

ELY - The second History Night of the summer, presented by the Ely-Winton Historical Society, brings folklorist, oral historian and author Timothy Cochrane to town. His recently released book, "Making the Carry, The Lives of John and Tchi-Ki-Wis Linklater," gives readers a "valued contribution to Minnesota's Indigenous history" (Carl Gawboy). Tim Cochrane was superintendent at Grand Portage National Monument for twenty years, where he worked closely with the Grand Portage Band of Anishinaabeg and the tribal council.

Another review by Katherine A. Powers notes the book, "...embeds its two central figures so deeply within their historical context that the book is as much a history of a region as a dual biography. John was a Métis of Anishinaabeg, Cree and Scots ancestry, and his wife, Tchi-Ki-Wis, a member of the Lac La Croix First Nation. Both lived and worked in the border country of Ontario, Manitoba and Minnesota during the transformative period from the 1870s into the 1930s."

The review continues, "John and Tchi-Ki-Wis were versatile, independent people, deeply versed in Indigenous ways and lore, who managed, in their own fashion, to elude the coils of racist policies — though not a massive dose of white condescension. John came down from Canada to Minnesota as a young man, making a home with his

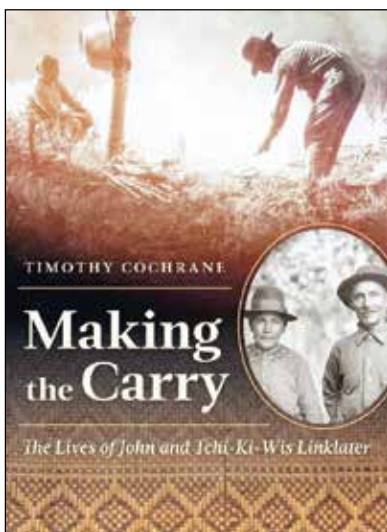
wife on Basswood Lake. Still, both traveled extensively, seasonally for traditional pursuits and jobs.

John worked as a trapper, wolf-bounty hunter, fur dealer, logger, dog musher, waterman, fisherman. He also became a renowned and much sought-after fishing and hunting guide, gifted photographer and game warden with a prodigious knowledge of the region's ecology.

For her part, Tchi-Ki-Wis was famous for her peerless knowledge of the region's plants, their medicinal properties and use in dyeing, weaving and other traditional tasks. Above all she was an inspired craftswoman, celebrated for her skill in beadwork and the virtually lost art of weaving complicated, multihued cedar-bark mats. She was a master at designing and sewing parkas and moccasins, and fashioning traditional artifacts including model canoes, moose calls and beadwork for tourists."

Cochrane's presentation, with ample time for questions, will dig into the remarkable lives of two of our area's most storied and resilient residents. From an Isle Royale cabin to their home on Jackfish Bay in Basswood Lake, John and Tchi-Ki-Wis created an extraordinary legacy for us to reflect upon and honor.

"Making the Carry" will be available for sale with Cochrane personally signing copies. History Night will be Wednesday, July 5, at 7 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of the



Minnesota North College Vermilion Campus (VCC) and is free to the public. This event is sponsored by the Bob Maki family in memory of Ellen and Bill Hanson (Bob's aunt and uncle), who were work colleagues and close friends of John and Tchi-Ki-Wis.

UPCOMING HISTORY NIGHTS:

- July 19 - Pete Kero on his new book Minescapes: Reclaiming Minnesota's Mined Lands
- August 2 - Brian Matuszak on Works Progress Administration projects in Ely
- August 16 - Dodi Martin on the Centennial of the Ely Music and Drama Club

CULTURE
LVCC to host cultural events in July

Chamber music and art show planned

TOWER- Iron Range and local arts groups are eager to hold events in St. Mary's Hall at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center and the LVCC is delighted to host them. In July there will be three events: a chamber music concert, a play, and an art show.



On July 9 at 4 p.m. the LVCC will host a chamber music concert as part of the Northern Lights Music Festival. The Northern Lights Music Festival is one of Minnesota's largest music festivals. According to their website they offer "lovers of classical music three weeks of live professional opera, chamber music and orchestra concerts presented by an international roster of guest artists, performing faculty and prize-winning young artists". Lemonade

and cookies will be served after the concert. For more information on the Northern Lights Music Festival go to northernlightsmusic.org.

On July 28 and 29 the LVCC is hosting the third biennial Art on The Lake art show. The preview party is Friday, July 28, starting at 5:30 p.m. with appetizers and refreshments and guests will have the opportunity to purchase art. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased on the LVCC website.

On Saturday, July 29 at 9 a.m., the art show opens and one of the artists will be doing a demonstration on canvas. The show is free and open

to the public and ends at 4 p.m.

The Stages of the Range Players production of "These Shining Lives" written by Melanie Mar-nich, was originally set to premier in July, but was delayed due to casting changes.

They are now looking at a fall production date. The Stages of the Range Players is a nomadic theater cooperative serving Minnesota's Iron Range area. They bring to the stage over 20 years of experience in theater. The play is based on the true story of four women who worked for the Radium Dial Company - a watch factory in Ottawa, Ill. It showcases the danger women faced in the workplace and highlights the wider lack of concern companies had for protecting the health of their employees. For more information on the Stages of the Range Players and this play go to <https://tinyurl.com/SRPTheater>.

Tickets may be pur-

chased for all three events by visiting the LVCC website, vermilionculturalcenter.org. These events are a continuation of the more than 50 programs the LVCC has sponsored over the years.

What's new is now other organizations are also sponsoring events at the LVCC. The vision early board members had when they decided to move the old St. Mary's Episcopal Church to the Main Street of Tower was to create a venue for education, the arts and culture. While the building is still unfinished, groups still hold events there thanks to the wonderful acoustics and beautiful setting in the old sanctuary.

To help the LVCC continue the renovation project, donate at the LVCC website or send a check to the LVCC at PO Box 659, Tower, MN 55790.

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4 on the 4TH

Tuesday, July 4, 2023
Miners Lake / Trezona Trailhead
4-Mile Run & Walk

- Online registration is available at elymarathon.com
- Early registration forms are available at the Ely Public Library

Questions, please contact: jkdunn355@gmail.com

RACE INFORMATION

Race day registration:
cash or check only • 6:40-7:40 AM
\$40 after June 27 • Kids 12 and under FREE

Run starts at 8 AM
Walk starts at 8:10 AM
Kid's Race (12 and under) 8:15 AM

Net profits from the race will go to support the Ely Track Club

MANUFACTURING

Lamppa Manufacturing expands product lines

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— Lamppa Manufacturing is poised to substantially expand its product line here, with new introductions planned in the next few months for both furnaces and sauna stoves— and it's getting some help from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation.

The IRRR board, just last week, approved a \$150,000 participation loan to the company, part of a \$300,000 working capital package to complete design certification and testing of the new products. The Entrepreneur Fund is providing the other half of the funding package.

While all of the new products should expand the market share for Lamppa's Kuuma-branded wood heaters, their introduction of a new sauna stove has the potential to revolutionize the sauna stove industry, according to Garrett Lamppa, who has taken over day-to-day operations at the plant from his father Daryl.

Over the past three years, Daryl has continued working alone in their small former plant, but has focused his attention on redesigning the company's sauna stove to incorporate technology that has already made Lamppa's Kuuma wood furnaces the most efficient and cleanest burning on the market.

"It's a true gasifier, the only one on the market that we're aware of," said Garrett. "It burns better, cleaner and uses very little wood." Daryl achieved those results by focusing on controlling the burn process, in a manner similar to its wood furnaces although without the computerized controls.

Indeed, just four or five sticks of wood can burn for hours and is typically enough to bring an entire sauna up to as much as 200 degrees, accord-

ing to plant manager Dale Horihan. Its high efficiency means that you only need to load the stove once when starting it. You let it catch for few minutes, then shut it down to engage the gasification and it burns with a bluish flame that has even prompted a change in the logo for the stove, with the trademark red flame replaced with one tinted blue. Typically, there's no need to add any additional wood during the burn, which is another reason the stove puts out so little smoke. "You usually get a lot of your smoke in a sauna when you open the box to add wood," noted Horihan.

Along with the introduction of true gasification, the company has also expanded the size of the box that holds the sauna rocks— it now holds as much 200 pounds of rocks, giving it tremendous heat retention. "It can still be 120-150 degrees in the sauna the next day," said Garrett.

While its new sauna stove will cost more than its traditional model, the company is hoping to attract interest from the growing ranks of sauna aficionados as well as urban sauna fans who otherwise might not be able to use a wood-burning stove due to wood burning regulations in many cities. The company is also hoping to tap the commercial market, as an increasing number of spas incorporate sauna into their offerings.

While sauna has always been popular in places like northern Minnesota, with its large Finnish population, the growing awareness of the many health benefits associated with the traditional practice has greatly increased its popularity throughout the world.

"Sauna is hot," quipped Horihan. That's been true for a while in Europe, but there is still plenty of room for growth here in the U.S., said Horihan. "The U.S. is probably



Garrett Lamppa (r) and Todd Petersen stand along a version of the new wood gasification sauna stove Lamppa Manufacturing is preparing to launch soon. photo by M. HelMBERGER

one of the least-tapped markets right now," he said.

A new approach

The growing popularity of sauna is presenting new opportunities for Lamppa Manufacturing. The company is increasingly thinking about "the experience" of sauna and is hoping to capitalize on that trend. For the first time, the company is focusing on the aesthetics of its products as well as the function. Daryl, a wood-combustion savant, has relentlessly focused on function, but may have given less attention over the years to the form of the company's products. Under the guidance of Garrett and Horihan, that's now changing and it will be apparent with the launch of their new gasification sauna stove that will demon-

strate a greater attention to the look of the product than in the past.

The company is also conducting more testing in real world conditions to ensure both the ease of operation of the new stoves as well as their safety. While the company expects the new gasification stove will appeal to hardcore sauna fans, they want the device to be easy to use as well for those customers who are new to the practice.

The company has set up two saunas outside of their manufacturing plant, where they will be able to conduct more testing to ensure safety even in tighter quarters. The most recent of those saunas was built in Hibbing as part of the Bluejacket Career Academy, that teaches students trade skills. Horihan said the test saunas will give the company the abil-

ity to gather more data on safety issues and exactly how to best utilize their sauna stoves to achieve the conditions that customers desire, which can vary from those who prefer a very hot, dry sauna, where internal temperatures can be as high as 200 degrees, to those who prefer a "cooler" sauna with lots of steam.

For those interested in seeing the new gasifying sauna stove in action, Garrett said the company will be firing up the stove in one of their test saunas on a nearly daily basis for the foreseeable future and he invites folks to stop by and see if for themselves.

The company is also bringing a former product, an electric sauna stove, back into the market, with significant improvements. They're not ready to reveal the details about the new and improved electric device, but they have high hopes for the potential of that market, since about 80 percent of sauna heaters currently sold in the U.S. are electric. The company hopes to have the testing and U.L. certification completed by the end of the year.

Vapor Fire 200

At the same time, the company is ready to launch its Vapor Fire 200 wood-burning furnace,

which is a somewhat smaller version of its Vapor Fire 100, which was recently re-certified by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Vapor Fire 200 should complete its certification by later this summer, which will make it available for sale in the U.S. market, hopefully in time for the 2023 heating season. That should make for a much better season for Lamppa Manufacturing than last year, when the EPA required that the company re-test and re-certify its Vapor Fire 100 model with short notice, a decision that left the company scrambling to arrange retesting while prohibiting the sale of its primary wood furnace through the bulk of its peak season.

All of which portends a busy future for Lamppa Manufacturing. With new products, along with a ten-year renewal of a 30-percent tax credit for buyers of their wood-burning furnaces under the Inflation Reduction Act, the company is poised for serious growth.

Some of the additions to their product lineup might have hit the market last year, but the EPA certification fiasco was a temporary setback. "Now, we're going full blast on product design," said Garrett.



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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

The new normal

Diminished air quality is just one of the ramifications of climate change

The past several weeks have offered residents of the North Country and much of the rest of the northern U.S. a reminder that no one can escape the effects of a warming climate. Twenty years ago, the number of summer days during which residents of northern Minnesota experienced poor air quality was virtually zero. That has changed remarkably, and climate change is major reason why.

Wildfires in Minnesota and all across Canada and the western U.S. are becoming far more common in the summer than in the past, and when they do occur they are much larger and produce broader and more intense air quality impacts than in the past. Fire season in northern Minnesota used to be short, generally limited from snow-melt to green-up in the spring, with a very short fall fire season if conditions were dry.

But as temperatures have warmed and the frequency of drought has increased, wildfires can occur in northern Minnesota in virtually any month without snow cover. This isn't just our imagination. These changes are real, documented by actual weather data from thousands of weather stations and these changes are consistent with the steady rise of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

And you don't need a weatherman to know there's smoke in the air. We feel it in our throats and in our eyes and see it in the sky. The state's Pollution Control Agency tests air quality on a daily basis and agency officials regularly alert us when wildfire smoke is particularly dangerous.

Already this year, we've had Air Quality Index readings in our local area as high as 175, a level that's considered unhealthy for everyone, not just sensitive individuals. The smoke contains tiny soot particles that can penetrate deeply into our lungs, creating respiratory problems and even more serious health problems, like lung cancer, over time.

Changes in climate have become increasingly dramatic and impossible to dismiss, even though some still refuse to acknowledge the reality of climate change and its link to human activities, primarily the burning of fossil fuels. Burning fossil fuels generates a wide range of pollutants harmful to humans and other life on this planet, but it's the generation of CO₂, long known as a heat-trapping gas, that poses

the greatest risk to our future. Prior to the Industrial Revolution, CO₂ comprised about 280 parts per million in the atmosphere. Most climate scientists believe anything over 350 ppm is likely to cause serious consequences in the long term. Yet, earlier this year, the level of CO₂ in the atmosphere topped 425 ppm for the first time and the rate of increase continues to rise despite the limited progress the world has made in its much-needed shift to carbon-free sources of energy.

Climate change is already having major repercussions across the country. The cost of insuring homes and other property is rising rapidly, particularly in places like California and Florida, where the risks posed by worsening wildfires or super-charged hurricanes are rising every year. Food prices are increasing in part because drought is limiting agricultural production. This year, almost the entire Midwest is experiencing drought of various intensity. We all need to get used to higher food prices because they're here to stay, due in large part to climate change.

And we also need to recognize that our overall health is going to be affected as the planet's forests continue to burn. Living in northern Minnesota no longer guarantees that we'll have clean air to breathe. These days, there's no place remote enough to avoid the effects of an Earth that is increasingly on fire.

The rise of CO₂ is an inconvenient fact with many dire consequences, but it's a fact that we need to face up to and take aggressive action to address.

Unfortunately, because this is America in a deeply divided age, concern over climate change has turned needlessly partisan. Twenty-years ago, concern over climate change was an area of bipartisan agreement, but that has changed and it has hampered America's ability to meet this challenge.

That's unfortunate, because the reality is that we all breathe the same air and climate change is making the quality of that air worse. That's not anyone's imagination. It's not even a matter of opinion. It's a matter of fact and the sooner we all face up to it, the sooner we can begin to take the serious steps needed to save ourselves and all of the other creatures with which we share this remarkable planet.



Letters from Readers

Would the libertarian explain his alternative?

The letter writer from the June 23 *Timberjay* ('Americans Missing Out on True Freedom'), as a 'true Libertarian', laments the evils of all forms of governance, apparently hoping for some vague Utopian existence, where we all live in harmony- despite the capricious vagaries of human nature that make that virtually impossible.

So, what would the 'true' Libertarians propose? That we do away with free elections entirely? And then what? Unless they're anarchists surely they must believe that some form of governing is necessary. And if they can come up with one more effective, and more conducive to freedom, than democracy, I'd like to hear about it – because without democratic principles, any alternative is too scary to contemplate. Just take a look around the world – maybe these folks would prefer Putin's Russia, or Iran, or North Korea, or any of another dozen or so countries worldwide, where basic freedoms we take for granted are non-existent, where expressing their discontent, as they do here, would get them a long prison sentence, or worse.

As for the Civil War experience, to say that "the Southern states felt the need to protect themselves from the power the North used through the Constitution" is incredibly naïve, just more of the 'Lost Cause' nonsense that Confederate advocates used to 'ennoble' their rebellion, their attempt to keep slavery alive; this foolish notion – which some Southern historians still cling to – that the war was entirely about states' rights and secession and had nothing to do with slavery, completely ignoring the fact that slavery, and the way of life based on slavery, lay underneath it all

(without the issue of slavery, and the desire to expand slavery westward, there would've been no real reason for the South to want to secede). The Constitution, as written by the founders, in fact, favored the South, since the institution of slavery was written into it as a compromise, without which the Southern states would never have agreed to join.

So, what are we left with? As has been said a million times, to refuse to participate in the election process, to exercise the privilege of the vote, means one has forfeited any say in how things are done, how the country is run. By staying 'above the fray', so to speak, and refusing to participate, one can't very well complain after the fact about how things turn out.

Lynn Scott
Soudan

Repudiating Trump would be good for the country and the GOP

The dilemma of the GOP presidential primary candidates is absurd. Anyone who aspires to replace Donald Trump at the top of the ticket must criticize him and emulate him at the same time. Because Trump's fanatical base is unfazed by his obvious incompetence and his alleged crimes, any challenger who points out his failings will suffer the retribution of the likely primary voters. On the other hand, if they seek to be "Trump lite," it's self-defeating because why vote for Ron DeSantis or Nikki Haley, or whoever if you can still vote for Trump himself? You can't out-Trump the Donald. So far only candidate Asa Hutchinson has openly suggested Trump should pull out of the race, and that seems to be less on moral grounds than on the notion that Trump can't win the general election.

It does seem likely

that Trump would again lose to Biden (or any Democrat) a second time, and possibly by an even wider margin. It's also likely that since a significant majority of Americans oppose Trump, the GOP would lose control of the House again, and Democrats would expand their advantage in the Senate. The few prominent Republicans who have displayed the courage and integrity to oppose the moral, political, and financial corruption of Trump, have paid dearly – Elizabeth Cheney comes to mind.

It seems likely the GOP will re-nominate a would-be autocrat on a platform of fear, hatred, retribution, and lies. How pathetic is that? Last November, Minnesota Republicans insisted on running right-wing crackpots and Trump sycophants for statewide offices and look how that turned out. So, when it comes to Donald Trump running for president again, Democrats may well say, "Go ahead, make my day." Still, it would be better for American democracy long term if the GOP finally repudiated Trump and his falsehoods and returned to a responsible conservative platform offering realistic goals for governance and problem-solving instead of ineffectual cultural bombast and a drumbeat of lies about the 2020 election.

Peter M. Leschak
Side Lake

We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

COLUMNIST

Our complicity in feeding the media beast

Last week the world had a front row seat to a drama playing out in the murky depths of the frigid North Atlantic Ocean, courtesy of a media landscape all too eager to capitalize on

consumers' hearty and perhaps morbid appetite for a sensational, tension-filled tale.

It was a story filled with suspense, tension, and peril, five men in a van-sized experimental submersible diving to view the wreck of the Titanic were lost in the deep, and a frantic search

unfolded in the air and on the surface to find them before the clock ran out on their oxygen supply, dooming them to nightmarish deaths.

In the end, the search was for naught and the story had a sad ending, as a remotely operated vehicle scouring the ocean floor found the scattered remains of the sub a few hundred meters from the bow of the Titanic. The sub had succumbed to the immense pressure of the depths, violently imploding around the time it lost communication with the surface on the first day of its

dive. The speed of the implosion, measured in milliseconds, was faster than the men's ability to comprehend it, a more merciful end than the agony of awaiting suffocation over days in the frigid waters.

The media has been roundly criticized in various media outlets for its minute-by-minute, blow-by-blow coverage of the event while paying scant attention to a much larger disaster, the sinking of an overloaded fishing trawler filled with hundreds of migrants off the southwest coast of Greece. Surely hundreds of lives lost in a maritime disaster deserve more attention than the plight of a few rich tourists taking a joy ride to the Titanic.

What most critics miss,

however, is that the media was giving the people what they wanted, as evidenced through the attention paid to their stories. News value in the digital age is driven by clicks, and from the earliest reports media moguls knew they had a viewer magnet drawing people in. The Titan sub search had any number of compelling story lines suited to the public's appetite. First of all, it had faces, readily identifiable people with backstories. Several were people of great wealth, and the rich and famous have long been a bankable draw when something bad happens to them. There was a possible villain in the Titan's owner, piloting a vessel that was deliberately excluded from industry safety cer-

tification and roundly criticized for its construction, right down to the gaming joystick used to control its movements. And of course there was the Titanic, still the subject of fascination more than 100 years after it sank while similarly ignoring warnings of danger.

I'll admit I helped to feed the frenzy, frequently checking numerous sources for updates as the disaster unfolded. What I found disturbing was the sensational tone used in much of the reporting. Take the gaming controller as an example. It was routinely mentioned as an example of cheap, low-tech materials

See **MEDIA**...pg. 5



DAVID COLBURN

Sober house is a much-needed facility

I read the *Timberjay's* article about the proposed sobriety house to be located at the Vermilion Park Inn in Soudan. It was a fairly accurate report of what happened that evening at the Breitung community meeting but I would like to make a correction: Jane Turner was an investor in the Vermilion Park Inn for a relatively short time. However, the other original investors besides me were Tom Burns and his wife Toni Mancina-Genalo. Toni died two years ago but Tom is still an investor in the Inn and spends his summers here. He is a nurse whose background includes working as a nurse in a prison. He feels that a good way to keep individuals out of prison is to address their addictions to drugs and alcohol. My husband, Mike Skorich, was a deputy sheriff years ago and he feels the same way that Tom does.

I am somewhat astounded at the negative reactions to a much-needed facility in our area. People seem to agree that such a facility is important but not in their town. My husband and I are adding to our cottage right next door to the Inn because we want to live here. We will live here much of the time and patients at the sobriety house will be our neighbors. Nothing about this frightens me. Last week, Pastor Liz Cheney gave a remarkable sermon at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower. Much of it resonated with me as I thought of the sale of the Vermilion Park Inn and the change it would bring to our community. Among other things, Liz said, "As we know, Jesus brought about change not by keeping the peace on a regular basis, rather he disturbed the peace on a regular basis calling into question the religious leaders daily and called upon the least likely to bring about the kingdom." She continued to say that, "This remind-

er of Jesus' work to bring about change, to show love and mercy, grace and compassion to all people through love and acceptance, is what disturbed the peace...Jesus was peace and love and that was disturbing to those in charge because Jesus' power came in the form of vulnerability and not violence or fear." In addition, Liz said, "You see, fear leads to immobility. We can't risk immobility. We can't risk silence. We can't risk justice and peace. And we certainly can't allow fear to lead us." A good lesson to ponder.

I've read some interesting comments on the Facebook-Care Crossings-post. In spite of seven and one-half years of receiving no pay here, over \$900,000 of my retirement fund that I spent to improve the old Soudan Hospital (most of my retirement fund), I am described as greedy and money-hungry. I would lose twenty to twenty-five percent of my investment and that doesn't sound greedy to me. I would like to think that all these years of work and investment in Tower (on other projects and improvements) and Soudan have improved the area significantly. Many of my neighbors in Soudan and other friends in the community have given great support to the concept of a treatment center in the old hospital. They comment that not one of their families has been spared the pain of a member that has been addicted to alcohol or drugs.

I would ask those opposed to this much-needed facility to take a deep breath, think again, and realize that thirty days in a warm, welcoming and educational treatment center is a gift to many people. Not in their backyard? I am almost eighty-seven years old, it will be next door to us. Fear does not rule our lives.

With sincere concern and respect,

**Mary Smilanich-Batinich
Soudan**

Who are the real savages?

A human story emerges from monumental Stone Age sites, as scientific evidence reveals, that prehistoric hunter-gatherers led settled lives in complex, large-scale communities of cooperation to feed, clothe, shelter, educate and share the wealth they created. These interacting settlements predated pottery, animal domestication and plant cultivation.

This prehistoric scene reaches back about 12,000 years ago, before Stonehenge by 7,000 years and prior to the development of agriculture. Gobekli Tepe in southeastern Turkey is one such site, discovered in 1994. Many other similar sites have been found throughout the same region, some even older. Minus evidence, a Hobbesian "dog eat dog" description of hunter-gatherers, long accepted is now under challenge. Savages they were not.

A linear version of human history, beginning with farming 5,000 years ago has been told. This story asserts that forces of history inevitably led to growth of cities, then city-states, empires and nation-states, followed by industrialization and now extreme inequality. Life got complicated, necessitating the need for hierarchy in social organizing, that some men are more equal and destined to "lord over" others of lesser distinction.

"Great Men" history parades warriors, emperors, kings, popes, generals, presidents, captains of industry and finally, the billionaire class! Most of them billed as geniuses, self-made and most deserving of adulation. Hierarchical thinking, deeply infused in religion, race, gender and social class keeps economic life removed from the political. Politically we enjoy a semblance of democracy, but in economic life we accept dictatorship.

How can that be, have we been told a story or what? Our economy is the private preserve of the

billionaire class to decide how we live our lives in terms of food, entertainment, education, work, health and who gets what, where, when and how much! Prehistoric humans may have known what we have been led not to know.

**Harold Honkola
Stillwater**

Without law and enforcement, tyranny prevails

I read with interest the June 23 letter from Mr. Love entitled 'Americans missing out on true freedom'. But I finished reading with a sense of disappointment and astonishment. He identifies himself as a Libertarian and I sense his conclusion but see nothing by way of an alternative. That's because there is no alternative acceptable or even possible. My assessment follows.

1) Voting: I agree voting is a privilege and not an obligation. Not voting can send a message, but rarely is the message acknowledged or understood in my view.

2) Living free: I don't think our Revolutionary patriots fought to Live Free but rather for the reasons listed for pursuing our independence. Our Declaration provides for our moral identity and our reason for existence as a sovereign nation. Our Constitution is a provisional guide for meeting our goals, intended to be modified as necessary to meet ongoing societal needs either informally through Court re-interpretation (which seems to work best when the Court has a more liberal bias) or formally through amendment. The two founding documents are not anti-ethical. One is the goal-the other a way to meet that goal and both were products of the same set of founding fathers.

3) Absolute freedom without coercion: Homo homini lupus, meaning man is a wolf to man. This Latin proverb is consistent with man's fall from grace through original sin

according to Abrahamic religions. Love's letter admits if people were angels they wouldn't need a government, or at least a government with enforcement powers. What more really needs to be said? Well, I'll say this. The performance of our government under any administration typically leaves much to be desired. We need better government, meaning we need to get involved. Elected and other civil servants can be wolves, too, and some are, especially when bought and paid for, perhaps including some appointed court justices as well.

4) National debt: I have trouble connecting debt with freedom.

5) America is in trouble: I tend to agree. And our trouble now seems to be more from within than from the outside. Partisanship, especially among right-wing conservatives in my opinion, in conjunction with a quest for political power and aggrandizement has produced a government on the brink of non-functionality. A sense of public service seems to be generally lacking.

6) Sovereignty: I agree individuals are born sovereign but due to enlightenment and/or experience choose to organize society and relinquish rights, like security, in exchange for civil rights.

7) Control by force leads to slavery: Love, in his letter, argues that our Civil War brought on by powerful northern states violated the rights of the southern slave states. That is, the North used superior resources that ultimately led to freeing the slaves. His final assessment is that force is being used now by our government to enslave us just like it enslaved the southern slave states. With respect to that war, suffice it to say although slavery was legal by an unwritten covenant, secession and confiscation of federal property was not legal and Lincoln had sworn an

oath to defend the country from insurrection. With respect to us being slaves of our government, that's an opinion, not a fact.

8) My own summation is that even though this country is going through a challenging time, it is what it is and we can only strive to improve what we have or suffer still more consequences. Even the esoteric and idealistic Jefferson believed in ordered liberty.

Finally, and outside the specific scope of the Love letter (sorry, I couldn't resist that), historian/philosopher Will Durant in his 'Lessons of History' claims democracy is the most complicated and fragile form of government due to relative ignorance. It is the foremost breeding ground for wealth concentration which is not only natural but inevitable, yet leading ultimately to violent or peaceful redistribution. The process gives rise to an autocrat who promises security under a martial government, thus engulfing the democratic world. He also concludes that through the ages analytical thought has dissolved the religion that buttressed the moral code that offered service to the state. Caught in the interval between one moral code and the next an unmoored generation surrenders itself to luxury, corruption and a restless disorder of family and morals.

We need government to try and entice people to be more Angelic in pursuing life, liberty and happiness without affecting the lawful pursuits of his neighbor. In short, the law and order needed to sustain a society of wolf-men necessitates an enforcement arm. If not, tyranny prevails.

**Jerald Brown
Buyck**

MEDIA...Continued from page 4

used to construct the Titan. I don't recall reading a single report that went to the trouble of explaining that such a controller was wholly adequate for the task it was used for. The Titan had only two propulsion thrusters, one vertical and the other horizontal. Standard game controllers are far more sophisticated than necessary to handle the guidance task and have been demonstrated by millions of users to have the necessary precision and durability. Steering a sub with only two thrusters wasn't rocket science, and it didn't need a NASA-designed controller. But an article headlined "Game controller was up to the task" isn't nearly as appealing as "Game controller part of cheap build."

Some media outlets managed to report on the limited supply of oxygen in a straightforward manner, while others did their best to report in detail what suffocating would be like. And naturally, they all competed to get James Cameron, Titanic filmmaker and deep diving expert, to give his opinion of the situation. While other experts were available and used, landing Cameron's star-power only added to the drama.

And then there were the scoops, the inevitable

attempts to get something no one else had. Rolling Stone was the first, somehow obtaining an internal government email reporting banging sounds at regular intervals heard by Canadian sonobuoys. Never mind that Rolling Stone didn't check any further or that the Department of Homeland Security said after the email was leaked that the noises weren't banging, this was a scoop, a likely sign that the men were signaling to rescuers from their carbon-fiber and titanium prison at the bottom of the sea. Everyone picked it up, and the term banging was widely bandied about until the revelation Thursday that it couldn't possibly have come from the sub because it had imploded long before. New Republic was the first to report the lawsuit filed by a former Ocean Gate engineer reportedly fired for raising safety concerns, a theme that continued to grow throughout the disaster.

Meanwhile, the sinking of the Greek fishing trawler the week before was indeed a greater tragedy in numbers of lives lost, but lacked features compelling for a U.S. audience. Americans by and large show little interest in the plight of the down-trodden in other parts of

the world. Those on the trawler were escaping a situation few Americans knew or cared about. They were faceless and poor, reportable only as statistics and not human stories for news organizations which have drastically cut back on foreign correspondents. The tragedy was immense, but in terms of its ability to drive media coverage and clicks also quite impotent. If people had shown more interest in the initial stories, there would have been more coverage. Major news media these days is as much about giving the people what they want as it is about reporting hard news. News that sells is news that runs. It's entirely likely that the big boys got more mileage out of Marjorie Taylor Greene calling Lauren Boebert a bitch on the U.S. House floor than they got out of the Greek trawler disaster.

We're fortunate at

the *Timberjay* not to be beholden to any large corporate interests where the dollar dictates what's news and what isn't. We do our best to report news in our communities accurately and fairly, bringing readers what they need to know. Some of the stories come with their own built-in drama, but we don't try to create drama where none exists. And we also create a fair amount of interesting content about interesting people and events that make life in the North Country enjoyable. Our subscribers and advertisers tell us we're doing a good job with their continued patronage, and it's one we're proud to do. We'll listen to our reader's feedback, but our coverage will never be driven by clicks on our website. It will be driven by what's newsworthy.

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TIMBERJAY

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

Week of July 3

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 July 18.

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.

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.

Kugler Township
Molly Korpi
Mary Beth & Al Reller
Pike River Products
Carmen & Bob Dale
Laurie & Rolf Anderson
Ron Abrahamson/ Abe
Construction & Masonry
Zup's Foods
Paul Pishler
Renee Holloway
Linda Brula in Memory of Frank Brula
St. James Presbyterian Church

July events at Tower's Gathering Gallery

TOWER- The Tower's Gathering Gallery space will be hosting the following events in July.

Vendor Dayz-Wednesday, July 5 from 4 – 6 p.m. Stop by to see wares from four to six vendors.

Monday Morning Mischief -Monday, July 10 from 8 -10 a.m. There will be coffee and laughs. All are invited, please stop by to visit.

Gentle Yoga Flow & Stretch- Thursday, July 6, 13, 20, and 27 from 9 – 10:15 a.m. This class includes stretching, breath work, meditation, and gentle yoga flow. Walk in's welcome.

Restorative Yoga-Monday, July 17, 24, and 31 from 9 - 10:15 a.m. Restorative Yoga is a slower, more restful passive practice that will melt away muscle tension, create space in the body and reduce stress. Walk in's welcome.

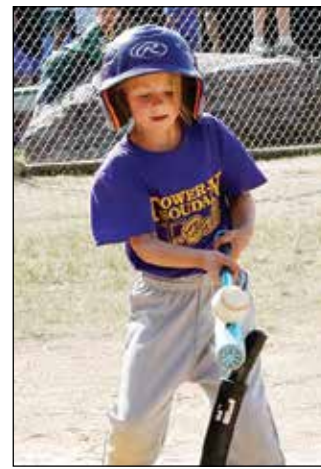
Smith's Infusion Pop Up Shop- Friday, July 28 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday July 29 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Come find crafters and artists, and Jenni can help you build your craft business.

Call Dianna @ 559-433-7754 with any questions or visit the website at www.towersgatheringgallery.com and click on Calendar/Events.

TOWER-SOUDAN SUMMER BASEBALL



Summer t-ball is underway. Pictured are players at the June 21 game. From left: Amelia, Raven, Saija, Otto, Johnny, Emma, and James. Not pictured is Tanner. And, I dare any of you to decide which of these kids is the cutest! Below (from left) Emma, Johnny, Otto, and Amelia. Their next home game is on Monday, July 17 vs. Cook Grey. photos by J. Summit

**Reminding everyone to have a safe 4th of July**

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer so far. June has gone by so quickly. I would like to write this message to remind everyone to be safe this

during this year's upcoming 4th of July celebration. As a reminder, the Breitung Officers will be strictly enforcing speed limits. There will be a great increase in vehicle and foot traffic. We want everyone who visits to have fun and enjoy themselves. Please watch your speed.

I would also like to remind parents to watch your children during the parade. We are strong-

Letters from Readers

ly discouraging all participants in the parade from throwing candy from their floats and vehicles. We want everyone to watch the parade, but we want it to be done with care. Everyone's safety is our greatest concern. Parents, please make sure your children do not run into the street for candy. I do not want any accidents to occur.

Enjoy the holiday weekend,

we live in the greatest country in the world. This is a reason to celebrate. Have a good rest of the week. Don't forget to visit our Officers as we will be mingling with the community during the events.

I will see you on the 4th,
Daniel Reing
Chief of Police
Breitung Police Dept.

COMMUNITY NOTICES**Get your memberships now for Old Settlers**

BREITUNG TWP- The annual Old Settlers Reunion and Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 15, with booyah dished up at 12 noon sharp. Memberships are \$10 paid in advance. Please make checks payable to Vermilion Range Old Settlers, and mail to P.O. Box 724, Tower, MN 55790. Memberships are also available the day of the picnic, but pre-payment is preferred to make the registration line move more quickly at the picnic!

Membership in Old Settlers is open to anyone born or living on the Vermilion Iron Range. The money raised through memberships pays the expenses of putting on the annual picnic. If you have never tasted Old Settlers booyah (meat and vegetable soup prepared from the same recipe year after year), you are in for a treat. The meal is cooked overnight over wood fire in 100-year old iron kettles, and it always tastes amazing. Take-outs are also available if you are unable to stay for the picnic, live music, and raffles.

Old Settlers 50/50 raffle

BREITUNG TWP- This year attendees at the Old Settlers will have the opportunity to participate in a 50/50 fundraising raffle. Tickets will be \$5 and available during the event, with the winner drawn that day. This will be a fun way to help the Old Settlers Committee with event expenses.

St. Martin's Summer Luncheon & Silent Auction

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower is hosting a Summer Luncheon and Silent Auction on Wednesday, July 12. Doors open at 11 a.m. Bidding on

the auction baskets will run until 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. The cost for lunch is \$8. In addition to the luncheon and silent auction, the St. Martin's Quilt Ministry will have handcrafted items and Robin Majerle will have Norwex products available for purchase. This is a great opportunity for you to sit back and let someone else do the cooking, and a chance to visit with neighbors and summer visitors. Hope to see you there.

Proceeds from this event will go to Youth Activities and the Charity Fund.

Charlemagne's Attic Sale Returns to Tower's Historic Fire Hall July 3-4

TOWER- Get ready for the shopping experience like no other! The much-anticipated Charlemagne's Attic Sale is back this year, but on a much smaller scale due to the interior construction at the fire hall. It will be held at the Historic Fire Hall located at 504 Main Street in Tower. The mini sale will take place on July 3 and 4, running from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day.

Discover a treasure trove of vintage, antique, unique, cabin, and fun items just waiting to be purchased. This event is not only an opportunity to acquire remarkable pieces but also a chance to support a worthy cause. 100-percent of the proceeds from the sale will go towards the ongoing restoration efforts of the Historic Fire Hall.

In addition to the incredible selection of items available for sale, we are excited to offer Charlemagne's 52 Club Raffle tickets at the event. Make sure to secure yours early, as only 300 tickets will be sold until July 31. With 52 chances to win cash prizes

ranging from \$100 to \$250, this raffle is an excellent way to test your luck. The drawing for all 52 winners will take place on Aug. 1 at the Train Depot Museum. It's important to note that you do not need to be present to win, but you must be 18 years or older to purchase a ticket or be eligible for a prize.

To get a sneak peek of some of the items available for sale, we invite you to visit our Tower-Soudan Historical Society Facebook page, where you can browse through a sampling of the collection. Additionally, we are pleased to feature artwork for sale, including one-of-a-kind photographs of the iconic Isle of Pines Bridge by the talented photographer Carol Ferguson who resides on Pine Island each summer.

Don't miss the chance to explore the interior restoration progress of the fire hall during your visit and learn more about future plans at the Tower-Soudan Historical Society Education Event Center. For further information, please contact: Nancy Larson, TSHS President, 218-750-7514.

Summer Yoga Offered at Tower's Gathering Gallery

TOWER- This summer, yoga enthusiasts are invited to join two styles of yoga classes at the Tower's Gathering Gallery, located at 515 Main Street in the Pike River Products building. The classes will be held every Thursday and Monday during the months of July and August.

Gentle Yoga Flow and Stretch: Thursdays: 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. on July 6, 13, 20, 27 and Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24. Pre-paid fee for eight sessions is \$90, drop-in fee is \$15 per class.

Gentle Yoga Flow and Stretch is designed to enhance flexibility, coordination, and strength through a series of asanas performed in coordination with mindful breathing. The class also includes meditation practices to promote relaxation and mental focus. Mats, straps, blocks, and blankets are available for drop-in participants, and pre-registration is not required.

Restorative Yoga: Mondays: 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. on July 17, 24, 31 and Aug. 7, 21. Pre-paid fee for five sessions is \$60, drop-in free is \$15. Restorative Yoga is a gentle and relaxing style of yoga that focuses on achieving deep relaxation and balance. All poses are performed on the floor with the assistance of supportive props such as bolsters, blocks, blankets, and straps. The class incorporates breathing techniques and meditation to promote physical and mental well-being. To ensure the class is held, a minimum of four participants is required. Pre-registration is mandatory and must be completed by the Saturday before the class to confirm the session on Sunday afternoon.

Participants are encouraged to take advantage of the unique opportunity to rejuvenate their bodies and minds through these summer yoga classes. Whether attending the Gentle Yoga Flow and Stretch or the Restorative Yoga class, you will experience the benefits of yoga in a serene and welcoming environment.

For more information or to pre-register for the Restorative Yoga class, please contact Nancy Larson at 218-750-7514 or communitycoaching@yahoo.com.

Read It
HERE

LOCAL BUSINESS

The Ely spoon ladies at the Farmers Market

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- “I had no idea what I was getting into,” Winnie Renner told the *Timberjay*. Renner has been selling handmade wooden spoons and similar kitchen utensils for almost 20 years in Ely. Along the way, her daughter Linnea joined her. A sign displayed at their Farmers Market table proclaims their wares as made by “two grey haired ladies from Ely.” Mention Ely’s spoon ladies, and most Ely residents know exactly who you’re talking about.

Renner never planned on becoming an Ely Farmers Market icon. She got into woodworking by accident. She and her husband, Bob, were building their home on the shore of Shagawa Lake two decades ago when he died. Finishing the woodwork on the inside of the home fell to Winnie, who was in her sixties at the time.

“We were building this house, and I couldn’t find anyone to help me,” Winnie related. “That’s how I learned how to do

woodwork.” Self-taught, she finished all the doorways, windows, trim and more.

With wood scrap, Winnie started making handmade spoons. “Soon I had too many to use and too many to give away, but not enough to sell.” She fixed that and got a table at an Ely Blueberry/Art Festival (BAF) to sell her wares. “That was 17 or 18 years ago. Everything sold out.”

That BAF was the only one she sold at. With her daughter joining her, the Renners have sold at just the Ely Farmers Market ever since, with an occasional added venue thrown in every now and then, like the Ely Folk School Maker’s Market last December.

Though Winnie and Linnea sell their wooden wares together, they maintain separate businesses. If you know their different styles, their utensils are distinct from each other. Their wares are displayed together but each utensil has a tag identifying who made it. Winnie is almost exclusively a spoon mak-

er while Linnea branched out into cutting boards, bowls, and what she calls “Ely twiddles.” A twiddle is a wooden kitchen utensil with a shape dictated by the wood. The twiddle owner is the one who determines its use around a kitchen, whether it becomes a specialized spatula, a serving utensil or a pot stirrer.

Winnie and Linnea use 22 different types of wood but don’t buy any for their utensils. “It’s all



The Ely spoon ladies and some of their wares: Winnie (left) and Linnea (right) Renner. photo by C. Clark

repurposed and the wood is from all over the world,” Linnea stated. “None of our wood goes to the dump ... Some of our wood is from the city wood pile. We collect wood cuttings and downed trees. People also give us wood and sometimes wood just shows up (at our house) ... We are grateful for it.”

Visitors to Ely who found the spoon ladies at the Farmers Market also sometimes send them wood from around the

world to be made into utensils. Winnie is now 87 and Linnea is 61. Though they have been selling their wares for close to two decades, it’s the people they’ve met at the Farmers Market that has kept them going.

“I love the Farmers Market and all the people I’ve met there,” Winnie remarked. “It’s making friends with the people who come (to our table) that keeps me going.”

Winnie and Linnea use 22 different types of wood but don’t buy any for their utensils. “It’s all

repurposed and the wood is from all over the world,” Linnea stated. “None of our wood goes to the dump ... Some of our wood is from the city wood pile. We collect wood cuttings and downed trees. People also give us wood and sometimes wood just shows up (at our house) ... We are grateful for it.”

Visitors to Ely who found the spoon ladies at the Farmers Market also sometimes send them wood from around the

WINDOW INTO YESTERDAY

MR. MANTEL’S MOTORCAR

by DAVID KESS

Ely-Winton Historical Society

ELY- In the early days of scouting for timber and then the early days of mining in Ely, travel to and from Duluth was only by foot trails through the wilderness. Horses and later wagons and carts improved the trails only slightly. The first real road into Ely was the railroad in 1887.

Motorcars came to Ely in 1910 even though there were only a few short roads around the town. “Horseless carriages” became an instant attraction to townspeople that year.

By 1910, there were already 88 car manufacturers in the United States. One of them was Sears, Roebuck, and Co. Prices ranged from \$325 to \$475. Cars first came to Ely in large wooden crates on railroad cars, and these crates were used as garages. Each automobile came with a free ten-day trial and a money-back guarantee.

Prominent Elyites such as Dr. Parker, Dr. Ayres, Dr. Lockhart, Captain Trezona, and William McCurdy sought out Chalmers

automobiles. But, there still were no decent roads out of town. With no gasoline stations, each car owner purchased gasoline in gallon containers and the gas needed to be filtered through a chamois cloth.

In 1910 Ely entrepreneur Joseph Mantel got the “bug” to have a car for himself, so he took the train to Duluth, bought an E. M. F. vehicle #30 for \$1,250, and had it shipped back to Ely on a railroad flat car. It was an open car that held five passengers, with brass trim, tiny brakes, no shift, and a handbrake. Since it scared horses, was noisy, and stirred up clouds of dust, an attempt was made to outlaw the vehicle on city streets. Roads existed only to Winton and Burntside Lake.

Several car owners, including Mr. Mantel, started dreaming about a trip to Duluth, although only narrow horse trails and no roads as such existed for some of the way. Knowing what likely lay ahead, they took axes, shovels, chains, patching materials, ropes, and extra gasoline. Tires then had no tread, so there were numerous flats. These were patched with fabric patches. Going was much

easier once they connected to the Vermilion Trail.

Mr. Mantel had convinced Joe Skala and Anton Kochevar to accompany him. Townspeople thought they were all out of their minds. The trip to Duluth took two days. The car was on display at the St. Louis Hotel in Duluth for two days. The trip back to Ely went without incident. Roads were steadily improved and soon became passable.

It must be pointed out how valuable a resource Lee Brownell’s picture collection and writings have been to me and many others. Beyond his work, we only have back issues of the

Ely Miner and several other early newspapers. The newspapers are not indexed, and researching them is tedious and time-consuming.

Dea and Bob Whitten, along with Columbia Childers compiled 100 years of highlights of the *Ely Miner* in a publication called “Marriage, Mining, Mischief, and More.” This too has often been helpful. Not to be overlooked is “One Hundred Years - Ely Since 1888,” published by the *Ely Echo*. Lee Brownell’s work stands out among them.



Left: Albert McMehan in a Ford Roadster. Above: The first car in Ely, a Studebaker E.M.F. owned by Mantel. submitted

Upcoming Events

Ely Public Library

ELY- The spice for July will be mustard.

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.

The library board meeting for July will be on Wednesday, July 5, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

On Thursday, July 6, the library will hold “Jack’s Bean Sprouts,” which is a program designed for preschoolers to help them learn fine motor skills based on the fairy tale “Jack and the Beanstalk.” Activities include reading the story and planting a “bean stalk” to bring home. Please register in advance so the library can order enough supplies.

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.

Theater Camp musical

The Northern Lakes Arts Association Youth Theater Camp will present the musical production of *Suessell Kids* on July 8 with two performances, one at 2 p.m. and one at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and are available at the door or at northernlakesarts.org/tickets.

Gallery talk

Photographer and Friends of the Boundary Waters (FBW) founder Chuck Dayton will give a gallery talk about his photography, from 5-7 p.m., at the FBW office at 8 E. Sheridan St. The event is free.

Farmers market and Arts in the Park

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 presentation starts at 5 p.m.

Art and Soul Gallery

ELY- The gallery will host an open house for its July exhibition, “Journey North - Captivating Images” by Heidi Pinkerton, on Saturday, July 1, from 1-3 p.m., at 427 E. Sheridan Street.

As of June 28, 204 vendors have signed up to sell at the Blueberry/Art Festival

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

► July 4: There will be no Tuesday Group meeting on July 4

► July 11: Trust for Public Land

► July 18: Ooof, Here We Go Again: Tamarack Water Alliance & Talon

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



finally the rain blessing from sky and clouds

soil, people, respond

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.

ORR CENTER

Center closed for now as board seeks new direction

Bisbee dismissed as director, Rusty Pelican antique shop evicted from building

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Change is afoot at the Orr Center, which closed temporarily on Monday, although it's not entirely clear what that change will eventually look like.

Michelle Manick is president of the Orr Center five-person governing board, and she told the *Timberjay* on Tuesday that the board feels the time has come for a reset, to refocus the center on its original goal as a hub of community engagement, a goal that became obscured in recent years.

"My vision is that we have just a lot better future going forward," Manick said. "We kind of fell in a little bit of a hole here, and I'm just kind of hoping to climb out of this hole and have a lot more community involvement with different projects and different stuff happening. It would just be nice to have it be the hub of the area. We just need to go back to our original game plan."

Two of the steps in pivoting in a new direction are ones that have caused some negative reactions, none more so than from the person most directly affected, the now former Orr Center director Paige Bisbee. She received a hand-delivered letter when she arrived at the center on Monday informing her that she had been dismissed. Bisbee took over the position from retired director Wendy Purdy about a year and a half ago.

"I don't know who the board is," Bisbee said. "I only know Michelle Manick. I wasn't a party to any of the decision making. I was just informed yesterday when I showed up. The thrift shop is closed. They just locked the doors."

And in another blow, the Rusty Pelican antique shop that Bisbee has operated in the center for five years is being evicted. Bisbee said she was given until July 31 to be out of the building.

"Yep, the Rusty Pelican will be out," Bisbee said. "I'm going to run regular business hours on Saturday, July 1 and Monday the third, and then I pretty much won't have time to run any more hours. It'll take me the rest of the month just to relocate everything."

The notice is so fresh that Bisbee hasn't had time to consider options for reestablishing her business elsewhere, but she wants to stay close.

"I can't handle relocating any farther than Cook," she said. "My goal is to have a storefront somewhere in the Orr/Cook area, but I don't know where. And I'm not sure how I'm going to be able to run it. A small storefront isn't going to attract much."

Bisbee was clear she didn't appreciate how the situation was handled. "I have a feeling most people are going to feel the same way," she said. "It's



The Orr Center is undergoing changes implemented by its board of directors to rekindle the original vision of the facility serving as a hub for the community. file photo

not my choice, it's not my call, but there seems to be a lot of that kind of decision-making in the air the last few years."

Manick acknowledged that some might react negatively, but that the board is committed to ride it out for the long haul.

"It will be positive in the end," she said. "We're looking at the very long term."

Manick indicated that there had been some disagreements between the board and Bisbee, but reiterated that the primary focus for the changes, particularly saying goodbye to the Rusty Pelican, is on setting a new course for the center.

"It just wasn't working out in our best interests," Manick said.

An essential task in the effort to shift direction will be to recruit more community volunteers.

"We're kind of struggling because right now

we're down to almost no volunteers," Manick said. "I think our volunteer issues will change a little bit when we're trying to formulate and restructure. We've had a lot of comments, a lot of people reach out and say that if it were more community-oriented and more based on local we have a lot of people who are willing to come in and volunteer. We're just trying to do what we can to make it last as long as we can."

The thrift shop will remain the anchor feature of the center, but Manick said they will be evaluating its operation, particularly with regard to pricing.

"People think of a thrift shop, and they think of things as being very inexpensive," Manick said.

"People don't come into a thrift shop to pay a lot of money for anything. So we want to re-analyze and restructure our thrift shop

in part because we feel like maybe it hasn't been accurately priced. We'd like to try to be more like the Cook thrift shop than what we have been. Another idea we've talked about is having specials every month at the thrift shop where a certain percentage of the income gets donated to a different cause. We're really trying to focus on the community as a whole."

The temporary closure makes accessing the Orr Lions Club medical equipment closet and food closet more challenging. Club member Tom Antikainen told the *Timberjay* that the club was looking into possible alternatives. Manick said they had spoken to the Lions Club and affirmed the need for those services to be available.

Manick said the board hasn't ruled out the possibility of hosting a retail business in the center, but it would have to have a

strong local focus.

The original vision of the Orr Center included serving as a place for learning, and Manick said a goal is to bring in opportunities that are responsive to interests and needs in the community.

"We'd like to maybe have some classes on things that can help people in their lives," she said. "Maybe people need basic cooking skills, or maybe they need skills like managing their money. We have an active quilt group that we would like to have start meeting there. There are a lot of different avenues to use the center. That was the original goal when we started this and we kind of got a little bit away from that. I don't think there was a specific reason. Sometimes you try something different because maybe it might be better. Now we're trying to get back on track."

COMMUNITY NEWS

Gallery hosts garage sale

COOK- On Friday, June 30 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. enjoy an artists' sale of new and lightly used art and antiques at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook.

The gallery is located at 210 S River St., and is open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Watch for NWFA's annual event at the Cook Community Center on August 11 where there will be music with dance space by "The Blue Water Big Band".

Upcoming events listed for NWFA

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts has a busy schedule of activities ahead.

➤GALLERY GARAGE SALE — Friday, June 30 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

➤WRITERS MEET —Saturday, July 8 from 2-4 p.m. at the gallery, open to all interested writers and no registration required.

➤PAINTING WITH DIANE LEVAR — Monday, July 10 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., paint water lilies at the Cook Community Center, 510 Gopher Dr., Cook. Registration required, call 218-666-2153.

➤QUILTING CLASS/HEARTS — Wednesday and Thursday, July 12-13; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. each day at the gallery. Registration required, call 218-666-2153.

➤LINOCUT/BLOCK PRINTING — Saturday, July 15 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the gallery. Lyn Reed, instructor. Registration required, call 218-

666-2153.

NWFA Gallery at 210 S. River St. is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 50/50 raffle tickets and tickets for the August 11 concert event are available. See more information at www.nwfamn.org, and on Facebook and Instagram. The email address is nwfamn.org@gmail.com.

July 5 concert in park features the Beefeater Brothers

COOK- Cook's own and favorite, Eric Pederson and talented cohorts, the Beefeater Brothers, will perform everyone's favorites, classic country and rock and roll hits on July 5 for Wednesdays Music in the Park.

Every Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. grab a blanket or a lawn chair or sit in your car to hear a different sound of music. Enjoy food and refreshments provided by St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church. In case of rain the concert will be moved to the Cook VFW.

Music In The Park is made possible by Cook VFW Post 1757 and the VFW Post 1757 Auxiliary, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cook Lions Club, Northwoods Friends of the Arts and free will community donations during the concert.

Church donates to park music series

COOK- Sharna Kishel, president of Northwoods Friends of the Arts, received a \$750 donation for Music in the Park from St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church parishioners Jesse Ploof and Carol

Seppala. The church runs a concession stand every Wednesday evening from 6-8 p.m. during Music in the Park, a weekly concert held through the end of August at the gazebo in Cook City Park.

Cook library offers summer programs

COOK- Summer is here, and the Cook Public Library is offering programs and activities for all ages.

Preschool-Elementary: Come to the library and pick up reading materials, including a free book for preschool and elementary readers. Preschoolers get to color in a circle every time they read. Elementary-aged kids are challenged to get a BINGO through reading books and doing activities. Completion prizes can be picked up between August 1 - 31.

Teens/Adults: Pick up a summer reading BINGO card, read or listen to 5 books to make a BINGO and return your card between August 1 - 31 to receive a prize.

July and August Events:

➤ July Take & Create Kit: Found Object Puppets (while supplies last)

➤ July 13: Story Time, 10 a.m.

➤ July 18: Minnesota Author Darrell J. Pederson, 2 p.m.

➤ July 20: Story Time, 10 a.m.

➤ July 25: Bubble Wonders, 3 p.m.

➤ July 27: Story Time, 10 a.m.

➤ Aug. 2: Forest Service Program, Ungulates Love Forest Fires, 11 a.m.

➤ Aug. 3: Story Time, 10 a.m.

ORR'S JULY 3RD FUN DAY

- 7am-10am - Pancake Breakfast at Orr Legion
- 9am - 5k Run/Walk (8:00am registration at tennis courts)
- 11am-3pm - Craft Fair and Fry Bread Tacos at Orr Legion
- 11am-3pm - Luke's Tractor Show
- 12pm - Kiddie Parade
- (11:30am registration behind Pattens)
- Parade winners will be announced following the parade
- 2:30pm - Sawdust Dig (\$300 in dollar coins)
- Pony Rides and Outdoor Vendors and Food throughout the day
- 5:30pm - Bean Bag Tourney
- (Registration 4:45-5:15pm-\$20/team)
- 8pm - Street Dance at the Orr Muni featuring Deep Tracks
- *** Fireworks at dusk in the Orr Bay ***

ORR'S JULY 3RD FUN DAY

BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT

Orr Muni

Registration 4:45-5:15

5:30pm Tournament

\$20/team*ALL CASH payout!

11:00am-3:00pm

Luke's Antique

Tractor & Joker Show

Anything with wheels is welcome!
You think it's unique? You think it's cool?
We want to see it. Bring it on down!



MINING

NorthMet mine proposal faces new legal setback

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The proposed NorthMet copper-nickel mine has suffered another legal setback, this time over its air quality permit originally issued by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency back in 2018.

The state's Supreme Court ruled late last week that a legal challenge to the company's air emissions permit led by the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, or MCEA, should be reinstated after the state Court of Appeals dismissed the matter on procedural grounds.

The case was not the first involving the original permit

issued by the MPCA. An initial case filed by MCEA and other environmental appellants prompted the Court of Appeals to remand the permit back to the MPCA after the court determined that the agency's findings were inadequate to allow for judicial review. After making additional findings, the MPCA issued a revised air permit and it's that permit that is the subject of the latest lawsuit.

But PolyMet, now New Range Copper Nickel, had objected, claiming that the lawsuit was served on its legal counsel 31 days after the permit was issued, a day late under the state's Administrative Procedures Act and civil appellate rules. The Court of Appeals agreed and

threw out the case.

Yet the high court found that that the case had been properly served, since the statute only required service on the parties involved and because the suit had also been served on PolyMet officials directly.

The decision reinstates the environmentalists' appeal, which will now head back to the Court of Appeals for a decision on its merits.

MCEA, Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, and Sierra Club challenged MPCA's failure to investigate PolyMet's claims that it intends to limit its production to 32,000 tons per day even though financial projections produced by an independent consultant under

Canadian disclosure rules, concluded that the company could achieve much higher profit margins by increasing its rate of production. The litigants contend that PolyMet is using the smaller production figure to avoid stricter air pollution limits designed for larger emitters, which require companies use the "best available control technology, or BACT. By limiting its production to 32,000 tpd, PolyMet is able to be permitted as a "minor" emitter, thereby avoiding the BACT requirement.

The environmental groups contend that PolyMet intends to seek an expansion once all of its permits are in place, and that the company is actually engaged in "sham permitting."

PolyMet denies that claim,

and MPCA officials note that the company would still be required to seek a revised permit if it plans to increase its rate of production at a later point. But courts have suggested that it is easier for companies already in operation to receive a permit for an expansion than for the original permit.

This latest legal setback comes on the heels of the June 6 decision by the Army Corps of Engineers to revoke its Section 404 wetland impact permit for its NorthMet mine after the Fond du Lac successfully argued that the proposal could not guarantee it would meet its own water quality standards in downstream waters.

MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT

Chief Justice Gildea to step down in October

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor



Justice Gildea

in October of next year.

Gildea called her service on the court "the honor of a lifetime." And she said it was the right time for the court to make a transition.

"Our courts have largely recovered from the impacts of the pandemic, we secured important investments for our justice system in the recently completed legislative session, our judiciary is on solid fiscal footing and the Minnesota Judicial Council has adopted an innovative strategic plan that will guide the work of

our courts in the next biennium," Gildea said in a written statement.

"This is a moment of stability and opportunity for our state's judiciary, and a good time to hand the reins to a new chief justice," she continued.

Gildea won two elections to remain on the court and her current term would have run through 2025.

She steered the courts through pandemic upheaval, which caused many proceedings to go remote and led to a case backlog that is still being addressed. She also expanded audio and visual access to criminal case proceedings, including a new policy that takes effect in January. And she oversaw the

addition of more treatment courts to recognize underlying factors of criminal actions and the need for diversionary penalties in certain circumstances.

The chief justice is also a member of the state Board of Pardons otherwise made up of the governor and attorney general.

Her exit will give DFL Gov. Tim Walz the opportunity to fill the slot, his second selection to the court. Walz released a statement thanking the chief justice for her service.

"She has been a strong defender of the judicial branch. I have seen firsthand the balance and thoughtfulness she brings to her work each and every day," he said, adding he'll lay out the

process for choosing a new chief in coming weeks.

Gildea said no matter who appoints the justices, the court worked hard to remain a "collegial and collective body."

"Our court has always strived to reach consensus on the difficult issues that come before us and the vast majority of our opinions are written without a dissent," she said in her written statement. "It has been a privilege to serve alongside such esteemed jurists, and I am confident my colleagues will carry on this spirit of collegiality into the future."

Minnesota Public Radio News contributed to this story.

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JULY 4 • 4PM Aurora
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Gershwin Cuban Overture; Fiddler on the Roof
and opera Hits sung by the cast of *La boheme*

Vivaldi's Four Seasons
Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* with NLMF Orchestra
and Alexander Markov, soloist
JULY 8 • 4PM Aurora
JULY 10 • 7PM Ely

Winners Concert
CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNERS
JULY 20 • 7PM
At the iconic
Hibbing High School Auditorium

La Bohème
Puccini's
JULY 14 • 7PM Aurora
JULY 16 • 3PM Chisholm

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

THIS ACTIVITY IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE VOTERS OF MINNESOTA THROUGH A GRANT FROM THE MINNESOTA STATE ARTS BOARD, THANKS TO A LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION FROM THE ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND.

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Spend 4th of July in Tower-Soudan

Celebrate our Nation's Birthday in Tower-Soudan This Year

Parade – July 4th

Judging begins at 10 a.m. at Tower Civic Center parking lot

Honored Citizen
Carol Alstrom
Parade Marshalls
Al & MaryBeth Reller

Flag Raising at 10:15 a.m.

at Tower City Hall. Come join us and sing along as the Star Spangled Banner is played by a local musician.

Kiddie Parade at 10:45 a.m.

Kiddie Parade lines up between UBetcha and the Birch & Main Bldg (across from City Hall)
All participating children will receive \$5, a lanyard, vinyl sticker & flag. All children welcome to come march in the parade. Decorations welcome but not required! Kiddie Parade Gift bags available at 10:30 a.m.

Parade starts at 11 a.m.

Adult Parade Prizes

*Best of Show \$450
 1st \$350 • 2nd \$250 • 3rd \$150
 Best Family Float \$100 • Most Patriotic Float \$100 • Best Business/Commercial \$100*

Please Pre-Register Parade Floats/ Entries with Jolene Mroszak (218) 255-2131 or tseventsboard@gmail.com

Tuesday, July 4 Pancake Breakfast

Tower Civic Center
 8 - 10:30 a.m. • \$10 adults, \$5 kids 8 & under
 Pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee
Sponsored by the Tower-Soudan Civic Club

July 4th

FOOD, FOOD, FOOD...and more!

Benchwarmer Grille

*Cheeseburgers & Fries, Brats & Chips (Full Menu Indoors)
 Green Machines, Special Drink Prices
 \$1 off malts & shakes*

D'Erick's Beer Garden

Pulled Pork and Chicken Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Green Machines, Beer, Pop & Water. Bloody Mary Garden. Beanbags all weekend.

Sulu's Espresso Cafe

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Coffee drinks, baked goods & scones inside

Pins 'n' Needles

Free Hot Dogs & Beverage for Children after the Parade! plus....Temporary tattoos

Good Ol' Days

Frozen Margaritas, Turkey Legs, Fresh Hamburger Patties

Check out all the Food Booths on Main Street

Tuesday, July 4th

40th Vermilion Walk & Run Starts on Main Street • 8 a.m. (Lake Vermilion Cultural Center lawn)

*10K Run- 8:00 a.m. • 5K Run/Walk 8:05 a.m.
 1-Mile Kids Fun Run- 8:15 a.m.*

Race shirts for sale and Vermilion Run stickers for all participants. Race courses are the same as in 2022. Race will start/end at same spot!

Pregister:

Pick up a registration form at the Timberjay office or email jsummit@vermilioncountry.org Questions, Call Jodi Summit at (218) 753-2950

Register on race day from 6:30 a.m.-7:45 a.m.

*10K or 5K \$15 (\$20 on race day)
 Kids Fun Run is FREE • 5K Family Rate is \$40.
 Kids 12 & under race free (5K or 10K) with paid adult.
 Sponsored by Friends of Vermilion Country School and the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board.*

July 4th Children's Races & Sawdust Scramble

12:30 p.m. – Sawdust Scramble at the football field (west end)

*Children's Races at the school field – following the Sawdust Scramble
 Be sure to thank the race volunteers!*

- 6-yard dash ages 2-3 (boys & girls races)
- 10-yard dash ages 4-5 (boys & girls races)
- 20-yard dash ages 6-7 (boys & girls races)
- 50-yard dash ages 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 (boys & girls races)
- Backwards Race (boys & girls races) ages 2-3, 4-5, 6
- Wheelbarrow Race (boys & girls races) ages 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14
- Sack Race (boys & girls races) ages 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14
- **Adult Races:** Prizes for 1st, 2nd, ages 15-25 and 26 & up
- He/She Race, Water Balloon Toss

Actual races subject to change & new races may be added!

FIREWORKS ON JULY 3 & 5

At dusk on Niles Bay (west end) on July 3 and Big Bay (east end) on July 5. Please stay 150 ft. from barge launching the fireworks!

Fireworks sponsored by Lake Vermilion Resort & Tourism Association

Sunday, July 2 from 12 - 3 p.m. Community Picnic Breitung Recreation Area in Soudan

*Sponsored by Breitung Township
 Free community picnic, hot dogs, popcorn, root beer floats, games and fun for all ages.
 4th of July Raffle Drawing will be held*

This Tower-Soudan Fourth of July schedule of events has been brought to you by these community-minded businesses:

- Aronson Boat Works
- Bauman's Vermilion Funeral Home
- Benchwarmer Grille
- Bob's Service & Towing
- Breitung Township
- Broten Construction
- Como Oil & Propane
- D'Erick's Tower Liquors
- Docks on Wheels
- Embarrass-Vermilion Federal Credit Union
- Fortune Bay Resort Casino
- Frandsen Bank - Tower
- Glenmore Resort
- Gruben's Marina & Village
- Harbor View Spa & Wellness
- Janisch Realty
- Lake Vermilion Houseboats
- Lake Vermilion Cultural Center
- Lamppa Mfg.
- Little Green Pantry & Flexspace
- Marjo Motel
- Nordic Home North
- Northern Lights Salon
- Northwoods Land Office- Tower
- Northwoods True Value- Tower
- Pier 77 Mini-Golf
- Pike Bay Lodge
- Pike River Products
- St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Soudan
- Scenic Rivers Medical & Dental
- Sulu's Espresso Cafe
- The Timberjay Tower-Soudan Agency
- Tower's Gathering Gallery
- UBetcha Antiques & Uffda Thrift
- Vermilion Classic Boatworks
- Vermilion Club
- Vermilion Design Co.
- Vermilion Fuel & Food/ Soudan Store
- Vermilion Land Office
- Vermilion Park Inn
- Vermilion Senior Living
- Vermilion Storage
- Vermillion Roofing
- Y Store
- Your Boat Club
- Zup's Grocery - Tower



North Country

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since 1989

HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE

Lamppa's jersey retired at Soudan ceremony

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

Lon Lamppa was a longtime mentor for young athletes in the region

SOUDAN- The late Lon (Lonnie) Lamppa was honored here on June 21, as his number 6 jersey was officially "retired" at the American Legion Memorial Field in Soudan. Lamppa, who died last July at the age of 73, was a longtime coach for both the Tower-Soudan High School as well as summer baseball teams. He also coached basketball.

"Nobody knew more about baseball than Lonnie," said Greg Dostert. Lon was a grad-

uate of the Embarrass High School. He played football in college at Bemidji State, and then went to the University of Minnesota for a graduate degree in physical therapy. He was a physical therapist with the Minnesota Vikings after graduating, but then decided to move back home. He spent the rest of his career working at the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, and most of his free time coaching youth and high school sports.

Right: Lonnie's three sons, Davis, Josh, and Justin stand with their mother Ann at the dedication to Lonnie, who died last year.

photo by J. Summit

"My dad loved baseball and being at the ballpark," said Lon's oldest son Justin. "He loved spending time with kids. He coached me and my brothers. So many coaches and teachers have been inspired by See **LONNIE...pg. 4B**



VERMILION TRADITIONAL POW WOW

A TIME TO SHINE

A rainy weekend didn't dampen the smiles at this year's Vermilion Traditional Pow Wow held June 23-25. Pictured clockwise from top left: Darian Goodsky, part of the Goodsky Family Singers drum, waited for his turn to lead a dance. Aniyah Two Crow got a pair of new earrings from her grandmother. Suzie Perrault, age 5, from Eveleth was all smiles as she got her ribbon skirt on. Don Chosa danced with his grandson Callin. photos by J. Summit



INVESTMENTS

IRRRB awards \$1.5 million for projects in the region

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Businesses, communities and outdoor recreation in North Country communities received over \$1.5 million in economic development funding last week from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board.

The amount represents about 40 percent of the \$3.8 million allocated by the board in support of projects in northeastern Minnesota that will facilitate an estimated \$29.9 million in total investment, including private and other public sources. Those projects will increase the regional tax base, retain jobs and create construction jobs, provide essential services and expand outdoor recreation. IRRRB loans are anticipated to impact 90 jobs, while grants for infrastructure projects are projected to impact 66 jobs and create 150 construction jobs.

The board affirmed its commitment to a new visitor center at Crane Lake with an award of \$950,000 to Crane Lake Township for infrastructure and site work for the 5,150-square-foot visitor center and campground at the community's entrance to Voyageurs National Park, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Quetico Provincial Park. The project will also rebuild an access road and public boat landing.

The City of Ely will receive \$280,000 to construct the new Ely Regional Trailhead facility, connecting trails and amenities. The trailhead facility will function as a rest stop and tourist information center and serve the David Dill Taconite Snowmobile Trail, Prospector's Loop ATV Trail and Mesabi Trail.

Tower-based Lamppa Manufacturing, Inc. was awarded a \$150,000 loan to provide working capital to help bring a pioneering new furnace model to market (see story page 1). The capital will be used for testing, marketing, initial inventory and training. Lamppa Manufacturing is a leading provider of wood-burning furnaces and has the world's only EPA-certified furnace.

The Iron Range Tourism Bureau was awarded \$64,880 to fund the Northern St. Louis County Trails Task Force Small Trail Projects grant program. The program is administered by IRTB and provides grants to cover costs related to trails and trail facility/amenity projects in the region. Past funding has paid for projects such as the Ancient Cedars Trail in Tower.

Winter recreation was also on the board's agenda, with Voyageurs Trail Society receiving \$75,000 to reconstruct trails, repair two existing bridges, build nine new bridges, install two gates and purchase a new 2023 Tucker Sno-Cat Grooming Tractor for the snowmobile trail network located between Voyageurs National Park and the David Dill/Arrowhead State Trail.

NEW BUSINESS

Helping to find a better you

Cook couple open new medical spa

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Right: Matthew Holmes and Kristen Scott in a treatment room at their new medical spa in Cook. The couple will be hosting a grand opening open house for their new business this Friday.

photo by D. Colburn

said. "I think we maybe saw the joy that we could bring out of it. This is something where people are looking forward to their appointments, and we want to make it something that people look forward to and make it a great experience that they're happy with."

"I think we both like the diversity of medicine, too," Scott said. "I'm a flight nurse, so usually people aren't having a very good day when they're seeing me. It's a nice change of pace, for sure."

See **MEDICAL SPA...pg. 4B**





Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

WILDLIFE RESEARCH

Study: Northern Minnesota wolves catch fish

Voyagers Wolf Project finds that area wolves fish more often than previously thought

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK— A new study published in the journal *Royal Society Open Science*, documents that gray wolves in northern Minnesota make use of spawning freshwater fish as a food source more regularly than scientists had once thought.

The study, produced as part of the Voyagers Wolf Project, found that wolves take regular advantage of the spring spawning runs of white suckers as a significant food source during the few weeks of the spring when the suckers congregate in streams for spawning. Suckers and most other freshwater fish are typically found in lakes or deeper portions of streams the rest of the year,



Nighttime images of an uncollared wolf ambushing a freshwater fish. Images are from a remote camera video recorded at Irwin Creek in northern St. Louis County.

making them largely inaccessible to wolves.

But when available, the study concludes that at least some wolves may rely heavily on fish as their primary, at times almost exclusive, food source. “Once

fish become available, wolves appear to spend the majority of their time hunting and killing fish,” note the authors of the study, led by Danielle Freund, with the University of Minnesota’s Department of Fisheries, Wildlife

and Conservation Biology and co-authored by Thomas Gable, et al.

The spring spawning run of suckers comes at an opportune

See **WOLVES**, pg. 3B



Above: A river jewelwing damselfly rests on a weathered upturned root.

Right: Tall tamarack line the outflow from Lost Lake, at the headwaters of the Little Fork River.

Below: A Google Earth view of the west half of Lost Lake, indicating the tip of the lake’s outlet, the location of the photo at right.



LOST LAKE

DESTINATION HEADWATERS

An afternoon paddle where the muskeg meets the shore

As I paddled my kayak along the muskeg shoreline of Lost Lake this past weekend, I had a squadron of defenders watching my back. It’s not news to anyone who has set foot outside this year that the biting bugs have been pretty ferocious. Even on the water, they’ve occasionally beset the unsuspecting fisherman, so as I cruised slowly along the shore, I was happy to have the protection of legions of dragonflies.

More than once, they swooped down from above to snatch away a mosquito or deer fly that was making circles around my head. Our bats may be gone, but we still have our dragons.

For those who aren’t familiar with Lost Lake, it’s a typical peatland lake, mostly round, except for the north and east side, where rocky outcrops give the shoreline a bit more definition. The

south and west shores are all floating muskeg, and these stretches always make for an interesting explore. It’s a decent sized lake, more than a mile across which means the wind and the waves can get rolling at times.

There’s a constant battle between the muskeg, which naturally tends to engulf its surroundings, and the wind and waves which relentlessly beat it back. The shoreline is lined with tamarack tip-ups, victims of summer thunderstorms or October gales, their intricate roots providing weathered and twisted sculptures worthy of any museum.

In between the sculpted roots is the moss, in a seemingly endless variety of shades of green, punctuated by bog heaths and blue flag irises.

While I was out for a pleasure cruise on this



MARSHALL HELMBERGER



Want to explore Lost Lake?

DNR naturalist Arika McGraw will lead a free interpretive paddle for kayakers or canoeists on Lost Lake on Saturday, July 8, from 3-5 p.m.

Participants will paddle along the edge of the bog to try to catch a glimpse of some of the plants and animals that call the peatland home.

Advanced registration is required, and the event will be capped at 20 attendees. To register, please email arika.mcgraw@state.mn.us.

Life jackets are required. Dress for the weather. Footwear appropriate for outdoor paddling is recommended.

Above: The intertwined and weathered roots of a clump of tamarack, one of many dozens lining the shore of Lost Lake.

photos by M. HelMBERGER

Wildflower Watch

This week’s featured flower
CANADA ANEMONE



The **Canada Anemone**, *Anemone canadensis*, can be one of our showier flowers, particularly when found in large mass blooms. This is a wildflower that prefers sunny and grassy locations, often in wet meadows.

It’s easily recognized by its sizable (1-1.5 inches wide) white blossoms, which typically grow singly atop a 12-16” stem. The distinctive, divided leaf is reminiscent of a geranium however this plant belongs to the Buttercup family.

Outdoors briefly

DNR offers tips for a quieter Fourth of July

REGIONAL—For those who want to celebrate the Fourth of July without all the fireworks, consider a visit to a state park near you.

The Department of Natural Resources is reminding Minnesotans that state parks offer a quiet location to celebrate the holiday away from all the noise. Minnesota rules prohibit the use of fireworks in state parks.

“Not everyone enjoys the light and sound associated with fireworks,” said Ann Pierce, Parks and Trails Division director. “Minnesota state parks and recreation areas offer a fireworks-free environment for those who want to celebrate Independence Day in a more peaceful place.”

Here in the North Country, it’s easy to find a state park near you. The Superior National Forest is another place where you can get away from both the crowds and the noise often associated with the Fourth.

If you go, remember to pack smart by bringing sunscreen, insect repellent and plenty of water for all the people and pets in your group. Snacks are another good idea, particularly if you’re spending time outdoors with children.

If you’re planning to spend time on the water, don’t forget your life jackets.

See **PADDLE**, pg. 3B

Outdoors briefly

Fire restrictions remain in effect

REGIONAL — Despite recent rain, fire restrictions remain in effect in St. Louis, Lake, Carlton, and Cook counties, according to the Department of Natural Resources. That

means no burning permits will be issued or activated and disbursed site campfires are prohibited. In addition, no fireworks are allowed on either public or private lands outside of city limits, so be aware of that restriction over the Fourth of July holiday.

Fishing reports

Ely area

Walleye fishing can't be fantastic all the time, even in the Ely area. Anglers have been struggling to stay on the walleyes this last week. Those reporting success have been finding them in 12-18 feet of water, out on sunken islands. Spinner rigs, tipped with crawlers have been best, but jig and half a crawler has also been very effective. Top colors have been orange, gold and pink.

Bass fishing, too, has slowed on some of the area lakes, but has changed very little on others. Topwater continues to be the way to go on the lakes where the bite is still good. Aggressive bass are being found on classic smallmouth locations like boulder flats, points and downed trees. If bass aren't smashing top-water baits, wacky rigs have

been extremely effective as well in the same areas.

Pike have been active this last week. Anglers have been catching good numbers of pike under 30 inches with a few over 40 inches still being caught. Spoons, spinnerbaits, and suckers under a bobber have been effective for anglers. Weedlines, river mouths and mouths of shallow bays have been the areas to key in on if you want to catch pike.

Lake trout anglers were reporting success this last week. Trolling with lead core and trolling spoons, over 30-80 feet of water has been most effective. Anglers have been finding lakings close to sunken islands and off points.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors. See more at Arrowhead OutdoorsElyMN.com.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
77 55					79 56					83 59					84 58					78 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.
06/19	78	55	0.00		06/19	77	55	0.00		06/19	76	55	0.00		06/19	77	55	0.00		06/19	75	50	0.00	
06/20	79	60	0.00		06/20	78	60	0.00		06/20	78	55	0.00		06/20	90	63	0.00		06/20	75	60	0.00	
06/21	87	60	0.00		06/21	87	60	0.00		06/21	90	59	0.00		06/21	88	61	0.00		06/21	87	54	0.00	
06/22	87	61	0.00		06/22	86	61	0.00		06/22	90	58	0.00		06/22	88	63	0.00		06/22	87	53	0.00	
06/23	88	66	0.00		06/23	88	66	0.00		06/23	90	58	0.00		06/23	82	63	0.00		06/23	87	64	0.00	
06/24	81	59	0.40		06/24	81	59	1.03		06/24	83	60	0.27		06/24	66	61	0.00		06/24	82	60	0.42	
06/25	68	58	0.92		06/25	80	58	0.27		06/25	68	61	0.92		06/25	64	59	0.00		06/25	70	60	0.64	
YTD Total 9.52					YTD Total 10.12					YTD Total 7.22					YTD Total NA					YTD Total 8.55				

GLUTTONY PROVES FATAL



Left and above: Steve Engel, of Babbitt, posted these pictures on Ely Field Naturalists recently. They were taken by his nephew Trevor during a recent boat ride along the South Kawishiwi River with his kids and their cousins. It appears a northern pike took on more than he could chew with a walleye nearly its own size. He got it down far enough that he couldn't cough it back up and both fish ending up perishing.

PADDLE...Continued from page 2B

afternoon, I did have a destination in mind. Lost Lake is not only one of the most prominent features of its namesake Lost Lake Swamp, it is also the headwaters of the Little Fork River. The water that makes up the river begins its long journey to the north from the lake's western-most tip, which forms a narrow, pointed outlet that slowly flows out into the swamp. The lake's waters are more nutrient rich than the water found elsewhere in the swamp, and even as the outlet narrows and eventually disappears into the swamp, you can still identify the course of this nascent stream by the larger tamarack that grow along its edges. I've always liked

that particular spot. It's calm and protected and it's a good place to think about the nature of headwaters. I like to let my mind wander here, charting the course of these waters as they slowly ooze to the northwest through the swamp before the Little Fork starts to really take shape as a small stream and finally a river ten miles to the west. From there, of course, it's on to the Rainy River, Lake of the Woods, the Winnipeg River, to Lake Manitoba and finally out the Nelson River to Hudson Bay.

I've taken that trip a hundred times, although only, to date, in my imagination. For now, that will have to do.

WOLVES...Continued from page 2B

time for wolves, since the snow has typically left the landscape, making it more difficult to catch whitetail deer. And the run typically comes just before fawn drop, which is another significant source of food for wolves.

An individual wolf, a young male, provides an example in the study. The young male had caught and consumed three beavers between May 7 and May 14, then switched to fishing from May 19-29, during which time fish appeared to make up all of its diet for the ten-day period.

"Fish are probably a more energetically profitable and safer prey to hunt and kill than beavers because they require less search time, less energy to acquire and consume, and have less potential to inflict injury," note the researchers.

The study's findings suggest one way that wolves, as generalist predators, can maintain their population even as whitetail deer numbers have generally declined in recent years in the vicinity of Voyageurs National Park.

"Wolves are adept at exploiting

short-term, seasonal food pulses such as geese and molting birds, carcasses of livestock or hunter-killed prey, berries and salmon," note the authors, citing other studies. "This dietary plasticity enables wolf occupation of a wide range of biomes (e.g. deserts, tundra, forests, plains) across the northern hemisphere."

Previous studies have documented how gray wolves utilize salmon spawning runs in coastal Alaska and British Columbia, but this was the first time that researchers have extensively documented wolves making use of a similar resource involving freshwater fish.

The study found that wolves from several Voyageurs-area wolf packs engaged in fishing, indicating it wasn't a localized behavior unique to the culture of a single pack. Gable had first documented two of his study's GPS collared wolves engaged in fishing in 2017, a behavior that had not previously been documented involving freshwater fish. In 2020, a lone male wolf fitted with a video recording collar, further confirmed the catching and

consuming of fish by wolves. Those findings led the Voyageurs Wolf Project to apply more emphasis to studying this particular behavior, and that effort led to the latest report.

Not surprisingly, the study found that beavers played a role in facilitating this behavior in wolves. The study documented that spawning suckers tend to congregate on the downstream side of beaver dams and that wolves focused their fishing efforts on these locations. The wolves fished at night and often cached suckers on shore to eat during the day.

The researchers conclude that this wolf behavior was previously unknown primarily due to its ephemeral nature, typically lasting only a matter of days or a few weeks at most, as well as the difficulty of studying a secretive predator such as a gray wolf. In addition to GPS collars, which are used routinely by wildlife researchers, the Voyageurs Wolf Project has made extensive use of trail cameras throughout its study region, which have further helped to confirm this behavior through photographs and video.

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LONNIE...Continued from page 1B

him.”
Lamppa started coaching Little League, and eventually moved up to coach Babe Ruth when his youngest son, Davis, was too old for Little League.
Lon and Ann Lamppa had three sons. All three went on to be coaches and teachers. Justin coaches and is an athletic director at Minnesota North-Itasca, Josh coaches and is the

activities and community education director for Rock Ridge High School, and Davis coaches and works at Minnesota North-Mesabi.
“Lon liked to say baseball is like church,” said Dostert. “Many attend but few understand.” That was one of many, what his friends and student athletes liked to call “Lonnie-isms.”
Lonnie was considered an important mentor

to many of the children he coached. He guided students to be the best they could be, as well as coaching them on skills important not just on the athletic field.
Several former student athletes turned out for the ceremony. Former Golden Eagles athlete Steve Svatos, now a teacher himself, spoke about the time he injured his knee,

and Lonnie helped get him back and forth to Ely for his physical therapy appointments.
Baseball was always an important part of the Lamppa family, and that tradition is continuing.
“This year I have seven grandkids playing baseball,” said Ann Lamppa. “Last summer I had nine.” The drop in numbers is due to three of the Lamppa

grandkids attending basketball camps this summer, instead of playing baseball. And besides baseball and basketball, some of the Lamppa grandkids are playing hockey, keeping Ann busy trying to attend as many games as possible. The youngest Lamppa grandchildren aren’t ready for t-ball yet, but in the next few summers, those numbers will be growing.

Lamppa is the second ballplayer honored at the field. The first was BEST (Babbitt-Embarrass-Soudan-Tower) ballplayer Josh Mathson, who holds several state records in high school baseball. Mathson died in an automobile accident in 2015. Dostert says they hope to continue the tradition of honoring those important to the game of baseball in Tower-Soudan.

MEDICAL SPA..Continued from page 1B

There isn’t another med spa closer than Duluth that offers the array of services available at Evergreen Aesthetics, and providing patients with easier access to what they want was another motivating factor.
“It’s nice to bring this home and have it where people don’t have to travel as much,” Holmes said. “And we can keep that business in the community as well.”

Scott summed up the overarching mission of Evergreen Aesthetics. “The main part is to rejuvenate youth and enhance beauty,” she said. “What we want to do is help people feel better about themselves. We’re not plastic surgeons looking to make those dramatic kinds of changes. We’re here to help people slow the aging process so they can feel more confident about themselves.”

The couple offers a wide variety of treatments from botox, dermal fillers and chemical peels to microneedling with radio waves and hydrafacials. Some treatments have exotic sounding names like Jeuveau, an injection for improving frown lines, Latisse, an eyelash treatment, and Upneeq, an eyedrop that lifts low-lying upper eyelids. For Homes and Scott, it was important to have the highest quality services and products at a variety of price points to give people as many options as possible to accomplish their goals. “We weren’t going into this half-baked,” Holmes said. “We wanted to make sure that we really were able to do what we wanted to do. We didn’t want to partially treat people with them still having to do part of their treatments down in Duluth. We wanted to offer everything short of surgical interventions here.”

“A lot of places are smaller and have just Botox and fillers, or something along those lines,” Scott said. “We decided early on that we didn’t want to just do that. With Botox, it’s not going to help you if you have a certain amount of skin laxity or certain depth of wrinkles. We wanted to make sure that we could address a broad spectrum of people and give them the results they were looking for.”

Since making the decision to go ahead with the med spa in February, the learning curve has been steep, she said. First came all the research to determine what the top-of-the-line items were in the

industry in order to choose what they would offer. Then came the training. There’s not a general course that addresses all of these procedures, medications, and equipment – training is product and machine specific, requiring travel, online coursework, and on-site visits from company trainers.

And of course, they needed a space for the med spa. For that they turned to their good friends Brandon and Tiffany McCormick, owners of North Office.

“We knew about North Office and what they’d been doing here, and that they had space available,” Holmes said. “To try to find a rental space somewhere else and renovate it to get it up to the quality and feel we wanted, we weren’t going to find that anywhere else. It took a huge burden off of us to be able to have a beautiful office space to come into so that we could focus more on the equipment we wanted, the type of specialty chairs and a few furnishings without having to do anything else for the space.”

Microneedling

A possibly unfamiliar procedure that has gained widespread and popular use in the world of aesthetics today is the practice of microneedling, and Holmes and Scott have procured one of the leading units in the country, the Morpheus8 made by Inmode. Facial and neck treatments with the Morpheus8 give skin a more youthful appearance

and can address issues of aging, skin irregularities, and pigmentation. Collagen is a basic building block of skin, and the aim of microneedling, Holmes explained, is to stimulate the body to rectify its own skin issues by producing more collagen. The Morpheus8 is a unique combination of two technologies, microneedling and heat-inducing radio waves. In essence, the two technologies combine to slightly injure the skin, triggering the body’s healing mechanisms.

“So, you’re getting the microneedling at very set determined and adjustable depths, stimulated with radiofrequency energy to heat the tissue to injure it enough to stimulate more collagen production,” he said. The effects of such treatments are longer lasting than using fillers or Botox.

They also have the Morpheus8 Body which can be used on other areas, and has the capability of actually melting fat cells, such as those found in cellulite, and the remnants are absorbed and metabolized by the body.

Since the procedure can be uncomfortable, they have the option for patients to receive the inhalational anesthetic nitrous oxide, known as laughing gas, often used to manage pain in dentistry.

Microneedling alone can be done with the use of the Skin Pen, the first microneedling device for

aesthetics that was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. As with the Morpheus8, multiple treatments may yield better results. Scott said Skin Pen treatments come in at a lower price point than with the Morpheus8.

And that’s another reason Holmes and Scott offer so many kinds of treatments, to make aesthetic treatments available to a wider array of people with differing budgets. If one option is too expensive, desired results may be attainable with a less-expensive alternative treatment. Their treatments aren’t covered by health insurance plans, so patients pay out-of-pocket. They will be offering a popular medical procedure finance plan to assist with spreading out the cost over time.

Treatment planning

Holmes and Scott encourage prospective clients to arrange for a free consultation.

“We actually require a consultation prior to starting the Morpheus8 treatments,” Scott said.

“I think the importance of having a consultation with us is to talk about what a patient’s goals are, as well as to help make sure that they have reasonable expectations,” Holmes said. “It’s not going to be the same as if you get liposuction and a tummy tuck, it’s not going to be the same as if you get a face lift.”

“We like to talk to people about how their goals are a process,” Scott

added. “We go through the process and all of the different approaches we could use to get you to where your goals are.”

Consultations are also important when someone is having work done related to a particular event, such as a wedding. “There’s definitely a timeline of when certain things are going to be better than others depending on what you’re looking to get done,” Holmes said.

Holmes and Scott aren’t only interested in helping people feel better about themselves through treatments. They’re also interested in promoting healthy skin care. To that end they’ve arranged to sell the AlumierMD line of medical grade skin care products, a collection of about 50 different products for cleansing, hydrating, enhancing and protecting the skin.

“When people come in for consults, we kind of go through a skincare routine with them and help them out with what things are going to be best for their skin type and their goals,” Scott said.

Whether it’s teenagers with acne or seniors with crow’s feet, Evergreen Aesthetics has something that will likely work for them. And Holmes and Scott emphasized that skin treatments are equally beneficial for men who want to rejuvenate their appearance. Men have increasingly shown interest in aesthetic treatments as the world of Zoom meetings

and social media has taken off, putting more focus on appearance.


“Sometimes people have these preset notions that it’s just going to be for women, and that is not at all the case,” Holmes said. “We’re not gender specific. All of our services are available.”

Holmes and Scott haven’t given up their other medical jobs, so Evergreen Aesthetics’ services are available only by appointment. “We don’t have regular business hours,” Scott said. It’s going to be contact us by phone or email for an appointment. And we’ll be having online booking available where people will be able to go to our website, look at all our services, and book right from there.”

“Being small town and local people, we’re also trying to keep our hours pretty flexible,” Holmes said. “We’re trying to make sure that we have some evening hours available and even some weekend time.”

A grand opening open house will be held from 5-8 p.m. on Friday, June 30 at the Evergreen Aesthetics office at 1817 Hwy. 53 in Cook. There will be gift cards and product/treatment giveaways at the event.

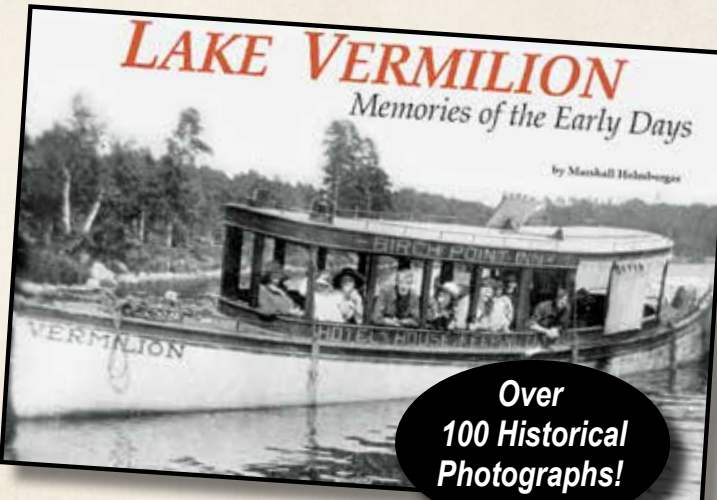
To learn more about Evergreen Aesthetics, or to schedule a consultation, call 218-666-8670 or email info@evergreenaestheticsMN.com. Their website is evergreenaesthetics.com.



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TAXES

Counties get boost in public lands PILT

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- St. Louis County and other northern Minnesota counties with large amounts of state land will see a sizable increase this year in the money they receive to make up for the lack of tax revenue it otherwise would receive for those lands.

The Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board (NCLUCB) a coalition of ten counties including St. Louis County, announced last Friday that the counties will collectively receive a boost of nearly

\$9 million in their payments in lieu of taxes, or PILT, over 2022. That's thanks in large part to the efforts of two North Country legislators who passed a law to address inequities in the PILT system that disadvantaged counties with large amounts of public lands.

"We must acknowledge the leadership role of the two chief authors of this legislation: Sen. Grant Hauschild and Rep. David Lislegard," said St. Louis County Commissioner and NCLUCB Vice-Chair Paul McDonald. "They effectively articulated the fiscal necessity for increased public land payments

to counties throughout the state generally, and for counties with large tracts of public lands most specifically."

The inequity is illustrated by six counties – Aitkin, Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and St. Louis – that host 62 percent of the state's public lands but received only 39 percent of the 2022 PILT distribution. In 2020, public land acreage in northeastern Minnesota counties was compensated by PILT payments of less than \$5 an acre, while counties in the southern half of the state were compensated anywhere from \$20 to over \$100 per acre. Ac-

ording to a 2022 study commissioned by NCLUCB, the highest compensated county for PILT payments received 170 times more per acre than the lowest.

The Legislature didn't totally erase the inequities, but they revised the formula to give northern counties a large overall increase. St. Louis County, with 1.462 million acres of public land, will receive an estimated \$5.457 million in PILT this year, a 42-percent increase over the \$3.8 million payment it received last year.

Nearly 70 percent of the land in Koochiching County is

public land, making the county heavily dependent on PILT money for its annual operating budget. Their PILT payment will increase from \$2.8 million in 2022 to \$ 4.444 million this year— a 57 percent increase.

NCLUCB Chariman and Pennington County Commissioner Neil Peterson said, "We are both pleased and grateful that the 2023 Legislature adopted our recommendations to reduce the statewide inequities in PILT reimbursements and increase funds to counties with disproportionately high levels of public lands."

ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM

Upcoming special programs at area libraries



MT. IRON- The Arrowhead Library System (ALS) is pleased to present "Bubble Wonders," a free program being offered at the following locations:

➤ Tuesday, July 11, 3:30 p.m. at the International Falls Public Library

➤ Wednesday, July 12, 3:30 p.m. at the Mt. Iron Public Library

➤ Thursday, July 13, 10:30 a.m. at the Virginia Public Library

➤ Monday, July 24, 10 a.m. at the Babbitt Public Library

➤ Monday, July 24, 3:30 p.m. at the Ely Pub-

lic Library

➤ Tuesday, July 25, 3 p.m. at the Cook Public Library

"Bubble Wonders" is an uplifting show, full of surprises, using bubbles to inspire others to follow their dreams. Geoff Akins combines incredible bubble wizardry with whimsical words of wisdom and will leave the audience feeling like anything truly is possible! This free program is 45 minutes and family-friendly for ages 4 to adult.

Found Object Puppet Take & Create Art kits

MT. IRON - The Arrowhead Library System (ALS) will be providing Found Object Puppet Take & Create Art kits to member public libraries to distribute July 5-31.

This art experience was designed by COMPAS

Teaching Visual Artist Christopher Lutter-Gardella. Each artist will receive a box of curiosities and an instruction manual on how to re-imagine the pieces into the parts of a uniquely imagined puppet. The artist can then write about their puppet, make a "character sketch" or write a play with their puppet as the central character. The puppet can be whatever each artist wants it to be. Kits will be distributed at the following public libraries and ALS outreach locations in our area: Aurora Public Library, Babbitt Public Library, Cook Public Library, Ely Public Library, International Falls Public Library, Mt. Iron Public Library, Virginia Public Library, Arrowhead Library System Bookmobile, Arrowhead Library System Mail-A-Book (*patrons must qualify for Mail-A-Book services, kit

may be modified in order to deliver by mail).

This program is geared towards participants ages 8-13, though younger kids can also create with more help from an adult. Please note each location has a limited number of kits - contact your local library for more information. Christopher Lutter-Gardella will be

visiting the ALS region Aug. 1-17 for a special interactive puppet program, so feel free to bring your own found object puppets to your local library program.

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heri-

tage Fund. To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at www.alslib.info or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Thomas W. Aro and Renee K. Aro

Thomas William Aro, 80, of Lake Vermilion, passed away peacefully on Dec. 12, 2022. Shortly after Tom's death his beloved wife, Renee King Aro, 80, of Lake Vermilion, passed away peacefully on Jan. 22, 2023. Please join Tom and Renee's family for a celebration of life to be held from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, July 8 at the Lakeside Tent at Fortune Bay Resort Casino. Tom and Renee will be buried at 11 a.m. on Sunday, July 9 at the Maple Memorial Cemetery in Maple, Wis., alongside Tom's parents, Elmer and Ellen Aro. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Vermilion Lake Association.

It was Tom's father Elmer who introduced Tom and Renee. Renee was selling raffle tickets for the Miss Virginia Pageant and Elmer thought Renee was charming and might be a good influence on his slightly rebellious son. Elmer was, of course, correct!

Tom and Renee were high school sweethearts at Virginia High School (class of 1960) and were married for over 60 years. During their life together they were blessed with three wonderful children, five grandchildren and a great-grandson. They shared many adventures and travels, and endured sorrow and loss. Through it all they were a team, a bonded pair, always working hard to support and learn from each other.

After high school Tom attended Mesabi Junior College in Virginia, while Renee attended St. Cath-

erine University in Saint Paul. They were married in 1962 and headed west to Tucson, Ariz., where Tom completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from the University of Arizona. After college Tom worked for Peat Marwick International as a Certified Public Accountant. Tom's first client with Peat Marwick was the Del Webb Hotel and Casino company. Tom quickly joined Del Webb in 1967 and this led to a varied and exciting career in the hotel and gaming industry with stops in California, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Mississippi, Florida and places in-between. Even after retirement Tom continued to work in the industry as a board member for the Laguna Development Corporation and the Signal Inn Association.

Renee was an amazing multitasker and while she was busy raising three children, she found time to embark on a successful career as a real estate agent and broker during the family's time in Las Vegas and Lake Tahoe. Eventually, Tom's career took them to New Jersey where he worked to open several hotel casinos on the Atlantic City Boardwalk. Their final stop before retirement was New York. Tom and Renee spent over 20 years living in Manhattan. There they embraced their love of the theater, the symphony and the opera. Renee was an amazing tour guide for all the friends and family who came to visit. She loved sharing the "insider's tour of NYC" and embraced city living to the fullest. During her time in NYC, she received her

Paralegal Certificate from New York University Institute of Paralegal Studies in 1994. Renee worked for Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf as a paralegal focusing on real estate law until her retirement.

For Tom and Renee there was only one option for retirement - the Iron Range. After being away from Northern Minnesota for forty-plus years they were excited to settle down on their beloved Lake Vermilion. Retirement was not a quiet time for Tom and Renee as they were involved in many community and volunteer organizations. Tom served as a Supervisor for Greenwood Township, was on the Board of the Mesabi Range College Foundation and was a Deacon at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower. Renee volunteered at the Vermilion Lake Association, the Tower Women's Club and at St. James Presbyterian Church.

It was the sense of community and the people of the Iron Range that filled Tom and Renee's spirit. They truly came full circle and could not imagine the end of their lives being spent anywhere else.

Jack A. Brandt

Jack Ainer Brandt, 83, of Tower, passed away on Friday, June 23, 2023, in his home. Arrangements are pending with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

Judith Ronning

A memorial service for Judith Ronning will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 1 at the First Baptist Church in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.

Melia M. Shikonya

Melia M. Shikonya, 78, of Ely, passed away on Friday, June 23, 2023, at Waterview Pines Nursing Home in Virginia. Funeral arrangements are pending with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

What Is Good For Greenwood Township?

The Greenwood Community Recreation Board was formed in 2016 by 11 caring Greenwood residents. The board became a 501(c)3 and built the recreation area. This area's value is approximately \$350,000 with Greenwood Township giving a small gift of \$10,000 towards this beautiful facility. The majority of the facility was built with property owners monetary gifts, fundraising, grants, and MANY VOLUNTEERS. Hours of volunteer time, support, and contributions. It should also be known that there are current supervisors, in office, at Greenwood Township that lobbied against it.

The board starts each spring by meeting to take all the benches, hoses, recreational equipment (this equipment available for anyone to use), etc. out for the season. Then throughout the summer months the volunteer board cleans the pavilion, plants and waters the trees and flowers, rakes the playground, and WEEKLY hauls the garbage from the pavilion. When asking the supervisory board to haul the garbage they were told there is no one available to do this and they all haul their own. Then fall arrives and all is put away for the winter months. There is an informational kiosk alongside the sidewalk and two winters ago the glass doors were broken by the hazards the season brings. Rick Stoehr stated, at a meeting, in 2022 that it would be repaired. GUESS WHAT, the kiosk has not been repaired but is quickly deteriorating because of non-repair. He stated that he has been too busy to repair it. Almost two years, later.

Last year I was personally contacted by several parties interested in reserving the pavilion. They had left messages at the township with no return call. I attended a meeting, volunteered to take the reservation process over, and was told my contact information would be placed on the website for interested parties. GUESS WHAT, that did not happen so I turned the material back into the township this spring.

Now, this week with watering, checking the pavilion and playground, plus hauling the garbage (bags and cost paid by the recreation board), I decided to check the porta-potty and storage

building that has the recreational equipment housed in it. The porta-potty was almost completely full and there was no toilet paper. Since the building of the recreational area there has always been two porta-potties during the summer months. GUESS WHAT, still only one. Then utilizing my key to check the equipment I found the handle replaced and locks changed. GUESS WHAT, not a single recreational board member was called concerning this. We have had two break-ins over the last several years so we enhanced the door with a hasp to prevent break-ins and equipment being stolen. (The recreation board replaced the stolen equipment.) There is no longer a hasp and in calling Rick Stoehr he stated they had no keys. Keys were given to the township when the hasp was placed on it and there are still four sets of keys available from the recreation board. GUESS WHAT, unneeded funds used by the township that a simple communication could have solved. Now the recreational board has no key access and neither does the weekly summer bocce league. I was so glad that I checked it out before the league arrived to play and could not get the equipment. GUESS WHAT, it will get broken into again, equipment stolen, and who will pay?

It is so very sad that things are done so insensitively and without regard to those that volunteer and the area people that use this facility. You can wait, a week or two, and read a response from John Bassing or Rick Stoehr, but in my opinion so much of what is good in Greenwood is being destroyed. WHO KNOWS WHAT'S NEXT FOR GREENWOOD. It started with the deterioration and firing of many in the fire department to a minimal volunteer group and now they are inhibiting the volunteer recreation board from working weekly to maintain the area. You can listen, call, or read information from your current supervisory board but if you want true facts you should call those affected by this current board. I am one of those volunteers. Jarri Ankrum (218) 750-7236. Just remember, your vote counts to make GREENWOOD GOOD, AGAIN.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

New children's book features Fourth of July on the Range

REGIONAL- A new hardcover children's book set on the Fourth of July in Biwabik features many things familiar to anyone living on the Iron Range: a hometown Fourth of July with a kiddie parade, children's games, and lots of noise and fireworks; a Slovenian grandmother who bakes potica and strudel; and a dog who gets scared by fireworks and runs away.



The family gets the word out about the lost dog at the local post office and with an article in the local newspaper. After almost a week, a policeman spots the dog, and returns him to his family, dirty and covered with ticks, but safe and sound.

David Setnick's newly published children's book was illustrated by Lupi McGinty. Setnick was born and raised in Biwabik, moved to California, but since his retired to his family's original home in Biwabik. The book is based on the true story of their family's basset hound who ran away on the Fourth of July. But while the actual case of the missing dog happened while his family lived in California, this fictionized version takes place in Biwabik.

The book is published by Beaver's Pond Press in St. Paul and is available at Piragis in Ely, the Lyric Arts Center in Virginia, and online at Itasca-Books.com. Setnick, who is now retired, coaches springboard diving at Mesabi East High School, and is also a contributing writer for the *Hometown Focus* and *East Range Times*.

PUBLIC HEALTH

County recognizes volunteers, staff for efforts during COVID pandemic

REGIONAL - COVID-19 has thankfully faded from the headlines as transmission rates, hospitalizations and deaths have all remained steadily low in this region for more than six months. But the memory is still strong of the dedication and hard work of volunteers through MNResponds and staff from St. Louis County Public Health and other departments.

On Tuesday, June 20, St. Louis County leaders honored the more than 350 people who served at COVID-19 testing events, vaccine clinics and other crucial roles that helped protect people during various stages of the pandemic with a recognition luncheon inside the Public Works garage in Pike Lake, the same garage that served as a vaccine clinic for months.

Over the course of the pandemic, St. Louis County Public Health held 550 testing events and distrib-

uted more than 13,000 test kits. Additionally, Public Health hosted more than 640 COVID-19 vaccine clinics and administered more than 48,000 doses of vaccine.

Tuesday's recognition event was largely celebratory, but also included a moment of silence, led by County Board Chair Patrick Boyle, to remember and honor the more than 600 St. Louis County residents who died from COVID-19.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the number would be astronomically higher if not for the help and leadership in this room," Boyle said. "They say the whole of society is your patient in Public Health, and our Public Health team did just that."

"Over the last three years of the pandemic, our roles at St. Louis County Public Health shifted as we all have supported individuals, families and community," said Linnea

Mirsch, director of Public Health and Human Services, telling staff and volunteers, "You directly impacted over 50,000 lives between testing, vaccinations, isolation and quarantine services, and community supports. You served as a reliable source of local data and helped interpret data in meaningful ways to make recommendations and interpret Federal and State guidelines for the safety of all, especially those at highest risk."

Volunteers through MNResponds worked alongside Public Health staff to provide these clinical services and make it easier for people throughout the community to access tests and life-saving vaccines. A total of 86 people volunteered through MNResponds, donating more than 9,300 hours of service.

"Without the help of volunteers, we could not have provided all the clinical services that were needed during the pandemic," said Amy Westbrook, director of Public

Health. "We saw individuals step up and assist our staff who were also working tremendous hours to serve our citizens, and if there's a bright spot during those challenging times, it was seeing how much the MNResponds volunteers gave of themselves to help us and others."

The County had tried holding this event on two previous occasions but both times had to postpone as COVID-19 cases surged. Tuesday's recognition event included lunch and fellowship time, along with a photo to commemorate the team effort required over so many months. Honorees also received engraved plaques that included an empty vaccine vial that had been used at one of the clinics.

A story map summarizing the county's response during the pandemic and other information about the virus can be found online at stlouiscountymn.gov/covid19.

Capture Ely Photo Contest

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Tips for photographers entering the contest:

- No shopping entries were received in 2022
- No winter, fall, or spring photos were received in 2022
- Ely has many opportunities for recreation and family fun



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Tower Civic Center

8-10:30 am

\$10 - adults

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Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage patties, orange juice and coffee



BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Township taking action on blight house on Jasper Street

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SUDAN- The Breitung Town Board made quick work of the agenda at their June 22 meeting. Of highest concern was a house at 3 Jasper St., which has been repeatedly cited for blight. The town board authorized Police Chief Dan Reing and the township maintenance department to remove a refrigerator that has been in the yard for some time. Reing stated that it was illegal to keep the refrigerator there, as well as a danger, and it needed to be removed. The property owners had made some effort to clean up their property, removing garbage and batteries from the yard, but still have other dangerous items on the property including a vehicle with broken glass, gasoline cans, and other potentially hazardous liquids. In addition, the lawn has yet to be mowed. At the May meeting Reing was authorized to hire a business to clean up the property, so long as the quote came in under \$2,500. The quote given was \$5,200. The township is looking at ways to resolve the issues themselves, beginning with the fridge. Reing will contact St. Louis County Hazardous Waste for advice on dealing with the hazardous materials. The home has been on the township's agenda since their March 23 meeting.

The board discussed the blight ordinance and will review it to see if it needs updates. Reing stated that the ordinance could be used to encourage another property owner to remove a decrepit bridge that is putting the town's water supply in jeopardy as well as an old water tower, vehicles, and tall grass on the same property.

Police

Reing warned residents of fraudulent calls. He said calls are on the rise and to be wary of anyone asking for money. He



The township got a quote to have the property cleaned up, but it came in over twice the \$2,500 the board had previously approved spending. photos by S. Ukkola

said there have been calls where people pose as the Geek Squad and charge to "update" your device, when really, they're just taking your money. He said there are other calls where people pose as family members asking for money, often the scammers pose as grandchildren who call their grandparents in a time of need. The scammers use technology to replicate your grandchildren's voice. If you receive any suspicious calls, use a secondary source to verify the information (i.e. call your children to verify your grandchild's whereabouts, or lookup the number to the Geek Squad online and call them in-store) and always make a report by calling the Breitung Police Department at 218-753-6660.

In the month of May the Breitung Police Department ramped up their speed enforcements and issued six speeding tickets for speeds ranging from 76 mph to 85 mph in a 60 mph zone. There was one arrest for DWI and one arrest for domestic assault.

The department also issued a ticket for an expired registration and another for failing to fasten a seatbelt. They gave one parking ticket and participated in five community engagements.

Reing thanked all who participated in the mock crash on May 2. The video is now available for public viewing, a link is posted on the police department's website, breitungtownship.org/departments/police.

Other news

In other news, the Breitung Town Board:

- Heard from the Minnesota State Demographer that the population of Breitung Township is now 525 people.

- Heard that McKinley Park's wireless internet will be hooked up on July 5.

- Heard that Echo Point residents will get fiber broadband connections to their individual homes in summer 2025 as part of a Bois Forte broadband project. It may be some time until residents of Soudan get a fiber internet connection,



since Midco delivers speeds that meet the state's definition of broadband, but it's expected that internet minimum speeds will be raised at some point.

- Heard no update about Care Crossings, aside from SLC planning and zoning stating that their meetings are always held in Virginia at the Government Services Center and could not be moved to Soudan. The township will notify residents of the county meeting for Care Crossing's

conditional use permit meeting via bulletin boards outside the town hall, Soudan Store, and inside the Post Office.

- The Breitung Community Picnic will be held July 2 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Breitung Recreation Area, next to the skating rink.

- The next Breitung Town Board meeting will be held Thursday, July 27 at noon.

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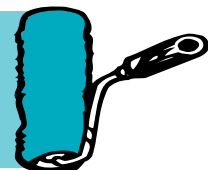
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