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The **TIMBERJAY**



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ADDICTION TREATMENT

Proposed sober house still faces pushback

Woman seeking to create the home has had string of violations at another similar facility

by **JODI SUMMIT**
Tower-Soudan Editor

Soudan- Over two dozen Soudan residents attended a question-and-answer session with Cathy Cerra-Harvieux, who is hoping to convert the Vermilion Park Inn to a sober housing and outpatient treatment center for adult men. The facility, originally built as the Soudan Hospital, has operated as a bed and breakfast for more than seven years, but has gone

through a number of changes in use over the years.

Cerra-Harvieux, who is executive director of Care Crossings, said she plans to start with 10 clients, and then expand to 15, with an eventual maximum of 20. The facility would have three staff, including a nurse-practitioner, plus Cerra-Harvieux, living on site. Cerra-Harvieux said she has worked in the treatment field for 40 years and has similar facilities elsewhere in the state.

If approved, the sober house would provide transitional housing for clients, while working with them to find stable employment, and then moving them into more permanent housing situations closer to wherever they find a job. While sober housing is not regulated by the state, this facility would be run more like a residential treatment facility, she said, and estimated the average stay for a client would be around three months. Clients living at

Right: Cathy Cerra-Harvieux took questions from Soudan residents last Sunday at the Vermilion Park Inn. She is hoping to convert the facility to adult addiction treatment and sober housing.

photos by J. Summit

the house have 30 days to find employment. Care Crossings provides transportation to and from work for their clients.

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Left: Worshippers line up to enter the St. James Presbyterian Chapel for the final sermon. Founded in 1884, the church was a center of spiritual life for many residents of Tower-Soudan for nearly 140 years.

Below: Natural light from the church's arched and stained glass windows reflects off the pages of an open Bible.

photos by J. Summit

TIME PASSES ON

LAST CALL TO PRAY

Tower's St. James Presbyterian, founded in 1884, holds final service

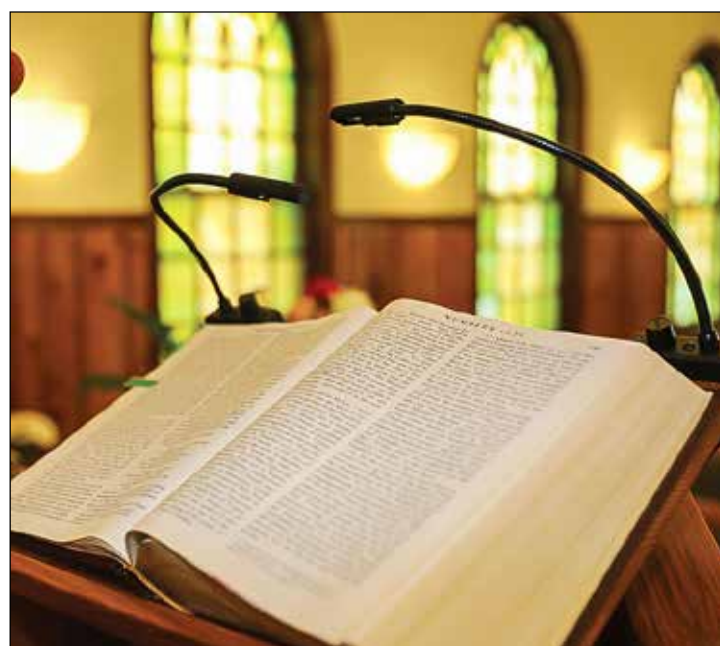
by **JODI SUMMIT**
Tower-Soudan Editor

Tower- The sight of a long line of people streaming into St. James Presbyterian Church on Sunday was something not seen for a very long time. But those entering the church building, built at the corner of S. Second and Spruce St. in 1936, were doing it to say goodbye. Goodbye to the church, goodbye to their fellow congregants, and goodbye to a history of Presbyterian worship in Tower that dated back to the church's founding in 1884.

St. James has been a small but mighty presence in the Tower-Soudan community for the past few years. But with an aging and dwindling number of members, the church community made the difficult and final decision to close their doors earlier this month.

On July 9 the church hosted the "St. James Celebration of Life," and held its final service. Rev. Richard Blood, who led the church for five years in the 1990s was on hand to lead the congregation, which has been without a pastor

See...**ST. JAMES** pg. 9



CITY OF ELY

Council talks signs and signs of the times

by **CATIE CLARK**
Ely Editor

Ely— Signage and signs of the times occupied considerable discussion at the city council meeting here on Tuesday.

Ely residents Frederica Musgrave and Lynn Evenson addressed the council about misbehavior at Ely's July 4 parade and related festivities. While both mentioned problems with parade marchers and parade spectators throwing things, Musgrave commented at length about "vulgar banners and signage" which cast Ely in a less than favorable light. She referred specifically to items like the "F**k Biden" flag (unedited in real life) flown across the street from the Ely Young Life carnival games for children held at Whiteside Park. The offensive flag and its statewide exposure on social media was the subject of an article in

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

AIR EMISSIONS

Ten states sue EPA over wood furnace testing

Minnesota among the ten

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Attorneys generals from ten states, including Minnesota, have filed a notice of intent to sue the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency over its failure to adequately manage an emissions standards program for wood-burning residential furnaces.

The claims in the lawsuit are consistent with the findings of the EPA's Inspector General's Office, which issued a blistering report on the program back in March, as reported in the *Timberjay*. The failures in the EPA's program centered on inconsistent testing procedures, which the

See... **TESTING** pg. 10



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Community notices



Storytelling on the Tower train on Wednesday, July 19

TOWER- Train Tales is a summer adventure offered to children in the Tower-Soudan-Lake Vermilion community by the Tower-Soudan Historical Society. There will be future Train Tales this summer on July 19, and Aug. 9 and 30. Story time is from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. and coincides with the arrival of the Arrowhead Library bookmobile. Children coming to Train Tales that have not yet attended Kindergarten need to be accompanied by an adult.

The first train tales event hosted 10 children and several parents and grandparents were “all aboard” Train Car 81 as storyteller Kathy Siskar took them on a fun adventure. Siskar, brightly costumed for the occasion, wrote the story “Mystery on Train Car 81” that she enthusiastically read to the spellbound children. As she read, the children were fully engaged, eagerly trying to figure out “who-dun-it”. Songs about the railroad, which Siskar taught the children to sing, accompanied the story. Kid-friendly treats, donated by Zup’s Grocery in Tower, were passed out to the children and accompanying adults after the story. Each storytelling session will feature a new storyteller and a new train-related story.

“Under The Big Top” concert to celebrate Veterans on the Lake 40th anniversary

ELY- Spiritwood Foundation is sponsoring a concert event to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Veterans On The Lake on Saturday, July 15 at 7 p.m. at Veterans on the Lake, located at 161 Fernberg Rd.

Over the years the nonprofit Fall Lake resort has provided thousands of veterans with a chance to enjoy the North Country. The event, dubbed “Under the Big Top,” will feature performances by Monroe Crossing, Pat and Donna Surface, Mary LaPlant, Marina Whight, Butch Schmidt, and the Ely Ledgerockin’ Chorus.

Proceeds will benefit Veterans On The Lake and the Spiritwood Foundation’s programs for seniors and veterans. The Spiritwood ‘Forget Me Not’ Foundation is an Ely-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to supporting organizations that enhance the quality of life of those afflicted with Alzheimer’s Disease and other forms of dementia. Donations to the foundation fund programs for veterans’ homes and assist other nonprofits working in memory care.

This event will raise funds to help them complete much needed renovations at the facility, including a new wheelchair accessible fishing pier, a new handicap-friendly bathroom and shower in the main lodge, and renovating docks to be wheelchair accessible from the cabins.

For more information or to purchase tickets visit www.spiritwoodbigtop.com.

Tower-Soudan History Talks set for July 27, Aug. 8

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Historical Society is hosting two history talks this summer. All are open to the public and admission is \$5 per person.

Thursday, July 27 at 4 p.m. in Coach Car 81. Mary St. Onge will share her memories of a lifetime of summers at the lake. Mary’s family were early settlers of Pine Island on Lake Vermilion. Mary is the author of “The Forever Days - A Memoir about Healing and a Lifetime of Summers at the Lake.” Mary’s family is one that traveled to Tower by train and took the steamboat in the harbor to their Pine Island property. Books will be available for purchase.

On Tuesday, Aug. 8 at 4 p.m. at the Herb Lamp-pa Civic Center, Dick Peyla will share the “incomplete story” of the Peyla family and the Arrowhead Garage. As Sonny Peyla would say “It’s 20 below. Let’s go to work.” Dick has a fun and interesting powerpoint to present.

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Attorney Kelly Klun will walk you through the basics of developing a Will, setting up a Trust and the effect of other legal documents.

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LOCAL HISTORY

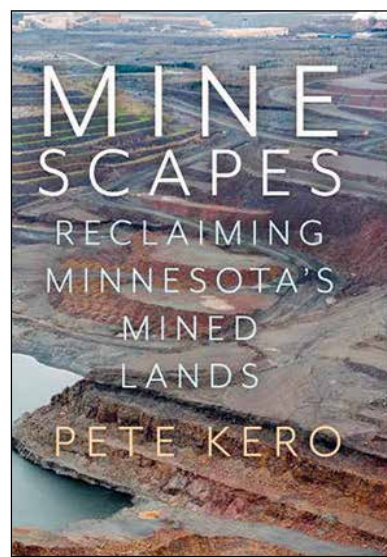
Ely History Nights features “Minescapes” with Pete Kero, environmental engineer on July 19

ELY- The Ely-Winton Historical Society’s third history night this summer highlights a topic affecting every resident and visitor to our part of the world – reclaiming and repurposing the mining landscape. On Wednesday, July 19, Peter Kero will discuss his new book “Minescapes, Reclaiming Minnesota’s Mined Lands,” (Minnesota Historical Society Press) which contains stories from Minnesota’s Iron Range and highlights the challenges of competing needs on lands that offer opportunities for both mining and recreation.

For thousands of years, humans have modified the physical environment by clearing land for agriculture or damming streams to store and divert water. We’ve extracted natural resources for the benefit of our society. In our area, those resources have historically meant timber and mining.

In Minescapes, environmental engineer Pete Kero explores the record that is written on Minnesota’s mined lands—and the value systems of each generation that created, touched, and lived among these landscapes. His narratives reveal ways in which the mining industry and Iron Range residents coexist and support each other today, just as they have for more than a century.

The Mesabi Iron Range in northeast Minnesota conjures dramatic visuals of open pit mines and ore piles, enormous earthmoving equipment, and once-booming towns with aging architecture. But now many of these towns are busy with tourists. There are biking and ATV trails, forests and lakes. And yes, continued mining.



Over the decades, people have approached the iron lands with differing perspectives. Early miners opened the Mesabi Range to extract its ore, but key players also upheld conservation principles by setting aside lower-quality rock for use by later generations with better technology. Nature found its way into the cracks and crevices of these rock piles, and within fifty years, groves of aspen and other successional plants had transformed the red rock into vibrant green. As early as the 1950s, residents were repurposing minelands by building ski jumps and cultivating grouse-friendly habitat. These impulses were codified in the 1980 Mine Reclamation Rules, which specified how mining companies should care for the land both during and after extraction. In the early 2000s, the Laurentian Vision Project brought together landscape architects, engineers, and residents to dream up possibilities for the landscape—and then to make those

dreams real by building bridges, creating wildlife sanctuaries, and opening former minelands for fishing and mountain biking.

Peter Kero is an environmental engineer practicing at Barr Engineering Company in Hibbing. For more than 25 years, he has consulted with public agencies, mining companies, and communities who are reclaiming and repurposing the mining landscape of the Midwest. He is active with the coordinating committee for the Laurentian Vision Partnership and publicly speaks at mining and reclamation conferences around the country. Kero’s grandfathers were miners, and he understands the economic promise of mining to families and communities. At the same time, having lived more than four decades within the mined landscape, he understands the social, political, legal, and technical difficulties associated with reclaiming and reusing these lands.

Peter will have copies of the book available and can personally sign them. History Night will be Wednesday, July 19, 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 Twin Metals Minnesota.

Upcoming History Night topics

Aug. 2 - Brian Matuszak on Works Progress Administration projects in Ely

Aug. 16 - Jodi Martin on the Centennial of the Ely Music and Drama Club

MUSIC COMPETITION

Minnesota State Old Time Fiddle Championships set for July 22

MT. IRON-The 41st annual Minnesota State Old Time Fiddle Championships, in their 11th year at Mt. Iron’s Merritt School Auditorium, will take place Saturday, July 22. Walk-on registration for contestants starts at 10:30 a.m. with the show starting at 1 p.m. We are thrilled to be able to continue this tradition, which began over 40 years ago in Cotton. The contest is open to all U.S. and Canadian fiddlers as well as all other stringed instrumentalists. The National Old-time Fiddlers’ Association certifies our championship division and each age division. We have \$2,000 in cash and prizes to give away. The non-fiddle and Twin Fiddle divisions are open to all ages and all bowed and plucked

stringed instruments. Rules, online registration, and contact information can be found on our website www.mesabisymphonorchestra.org/Fiddle-Contest. For contestants who don’t bring their own back-up accompanist, we are fortunate to have Tom Weisgerber on guitar.

At the show you’ll hear first from each of our three judges: Mary LaPlant, Sara Alexander and John Wallace. Contestants will each play a waltz, a hoedown, and a tune of choice, except for Twin Fiddlers who only need to play a tune of choice. We are excited that two former state champions will be returning to the stage this year. The show is open to the public for a modest fee of \$10.

These activities are



made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature’s

general and arts and cultural heritage funds, and in part by a grant from Minnesota State Fiddlers Association.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Four-way stop to be installed at intersection of Highway 135 and County Highway 21 in Embarrass

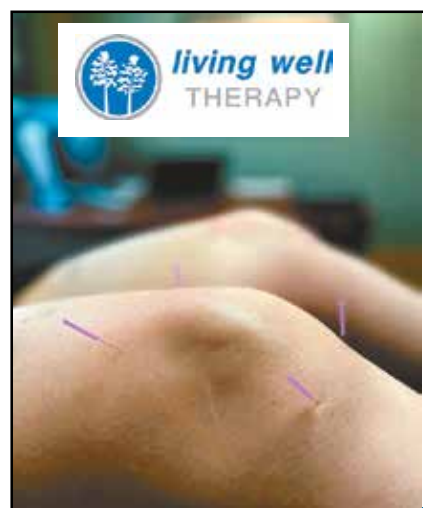
EMBARRASS– The Minnesota Department of Transportation will be installing a four-way stop at the intersection of State Highway 135 and County Highway 21 in Embarrass on Monday, July 17.

Changing traffic control at this intersection from a two-way stop to a four-way stop will increase safety. New signs and pavement markings

will be installed on Highway 135. Stop signs already exist on County Highway 21, and new signage will be placed on all approaches to the intersection warning drivers of the change.

Motorists should use caution when driving through the intersection while the changeover process is happening.

For more information on projects in northeast Minnesota, follow us on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/groups/MnDOTnortheast> and Twitter at @mndotnortheast. For real-time traffic and travel information in Minnesota, visit www.511mn.org.



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TOWER

Council appears ready to green light chickens

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

City audit completed, will be reviewed at next month's meeting

TOWER— There was good news and bad news in the city audit this year, which was released Monday by Walker-Giroux and Hahne. The audit cites continued deficit spending in several accounts, although the audit results often don't coincide with actual operating budgets nor cash flow. On the plus side, the number of issues raised in the auditor's management letter fell to five, a significant improvement over the city's peak of 18 items five years ago. The remaining items are longstanding and relatively minor issues that don't have easy fixes.

The city council will have the city auditor, Devin Ceglar, give his annual audit presentation at their August meeting and the *Timberjay* will have more specifics on the audit once city officials have had an opportunity to review it for accuracy.

In other action, the council voted to a change in the city's livestock ordinance to make way for chickens in the community, although the initial reading of the ordinance likely isn't the last word. In a two-step process, the council also voted to amend the city's Ordinance 20, to strike the longstanding prohibition on chickens.

At the same time, the council gave a first reading to a dense, five-page chicken ordinance that includes an unusual list of prohibitions, including a prohibition on the sale of eggs, or the harvesting or butchering of chickens within the city limits. The ordinance also prohibits children under five or adults over age 65 from handling chicks due to concerns about the spread of disease. The ordinance also includes a long list of requirements for constructing a coop, including specifications regarding nest boxes, roosts, and ramps, as well as proper protection from snakes.

Electric or fueled heaters in or adjacent to the coop are strictly prohibited under the proposed ordinance.

City residents would need to apply for a license to keep chickens under the new ordinance and the council reviewed a license application prepared by city officials.

The council may consider changes to the ordinance prior to giving it a second reading in August. The council is under a strict 60-day timeline to complete adoption of the ordinance, which was the subject of a recent citizens petition which, under the city's charter, requires the council to allow chickens or face a special referendum election to give city residents a vote on the question.

"We don't want to be in a situation where we have to call a special election and bring this to the public if we can avoid it," said clerk-treasurer Michael Schultz.

Council member Joe Morin, who has spearheaded the new ordinance, said he and council member Kevin Norby have met with the petitioners to discuss the language and that they significantly expanded on a one-page proposal provided by the petitioners.

Other councilors raised questions about enforcement of the new ordinance and noted that the city was already dealing with violations of the existing ordinance, since some residents have been keeping chickens for months.

"It seems like a great way to have trouble between neighbors," said council member Bob Anderson.

"What fun would it be without that," quipped council member Josh Zika, prompting laughter from the council.

Ordinance 20 does require the city to maintain an animal control officer, although it has failed to

designate one for years. Schultz said the city could ask police chief Dan Reing to address any violations of the new rules.

In other business, the council:

- Heard from clerk-treasurer Schultz, who noted that this year's legislative session did approve significant new funding streams for small cities, including an increase in local government aid, or LGA, public safety aid, and the creation of a new small cities assistance revenue stream funded by taxes on online purchases. The city is slated to receive an additional \$18,641 in public safety funding, \$10,706 additional in LGA, and \$21,858 in one-time small cities assistance, for a total of \$51,205.

- Heard from Schultz that he and ambulance director Dena Suihkonen recently met with TransMedic president Beth Beik to establish new rates for ambulance calls outside city limits. He said the new rates are in line with what other area services charge for calls outside city limits. According to the most recent audit, the ambulance service continues to lose money on its operating budget, mostly due to the cost of depreciation (which totaled \$54,430 in 2022) and the new methods of accounting, which no longer include township contributions as operating revenue. In the past, the city used

to include the township contributions as operating revenue and did not track depreciation, which inflated apparent margins. The townships contributed less in 2022 than in past years because Greenwood Township is no longer contributing.

Mayor Dave Setterberg said the city is currently developing some new spreadsheets that suggest that by better managing schedules and pay rates, the city could make the system financially sustainable.

The council also discussed the status of a proposed joint powers agreement. To date, both Greenwood and Vermilion Lake townships have declined to take part in the joint powers, while Breitung and Eagles Nest are on board with the idea. Kugler

Township has yet to take a position.

- Voted to authorize Setterberg and Schultz to make a bid award decision for work on the train depot roof. The bids are set for opening on July 12, and Schultz said it would be best to not have to wait until the council's Aug. 14 meeting to approve a contractor for the job.

- Heard an update from Schultz on the trailhead project, who said he had no recommendation on the proposed Green Flush toilet system. City officials are still waiting to know the final costs of the road work associated with the related kayak launch before committing to the construction of a new toilet. "We should know the final numbers, soon," he said. Given the time delay from ordering to delivery, Schul-

tz said the city is looking at 2024 for installation of the facility in either case.

- Approved a motion to retain Benchmark Engineering for \$6,250 to develop a proposal the city could use to apply for a DNR regional trails grant. The city may be able to tap some IRRR funding to help pay the cost of the grant work.

- Heard that the city's housing partnership team could use another council member. Morin, who is leading the effort for the city, said it does represent a considerable time commitment.

- Heard from Setterberg that the city's request for \$1 million to install a fourth sewage treatment pond had been approved by the U.S. House.

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

A changing planet

Humans need wisdom to grapple with the threat posed by climate change

The numbers are increasingly telling us the story about our rapidly changing climate. As has been widely reported in recent days, we had a three-day stretch from July 3-5 in which we beat the previous record for the highest average global temperature ever recorded. We beat the old record from 2016 on July 3, then beat that record the following day. Then, on July 5, we topped the all-time record set on July 4.

We're facing unprecedented heat waves, massive wildfires, and so much disruption as a result of our burning of fossil fuels. And yet it doesn't seem that this reality is translating into the kind of action that it's going to take to keep this rising global disaster in some semblance of check—which means we may need to start talking about climate change differently.

That's because the change that's coming goes far, far beyond the climate. What we are witnessing today is just the warm-up act to a profound global change that is going to reshape everything. Virtually every aspect of human society will be affected by the changes wrought by our continued burning of fossil fuels—the changes are already being seen.

One of the questions that has arisen in the past few years is simple—at what temperature is human society no longer possible? We recognize that innovations like air conditioning may allow those with financial means to survive in almost any temperature, as long as we stay indoors. But what about the vast majority of humans on the planet who don't have access to air conditioning or who need to work outdoors? What about the residents of poorer nations to our south who depend on reliable climate patterns to grow the basic staples they need to feed their families?

Climate change is already responsible for some of the disruptions in Central America that have sparked mass migration. The pressure on those who live to our south to move north is only going to increase in the years ahead. A wall, no matter how high, will not prevent people from doing what they need to do to survive.

And mass migration won't be limited to those from countries to our south. Eventually, maybe even soon, residents from the southern U.S., will begin to head northward to avoid the kind of brutal and unrelenting heat experienced in recent weeks in places like Texas.

Heat indices of 125 degrees or more are dangerous to the human body and such temperatures are going to be much more common in the near future. Rising sea levels and the effects of intensifying wildfires and hurricanes in places like California and Florida are already making these places too expensive for many to live as insurance rates in both states are skyrocketing due to climate change.

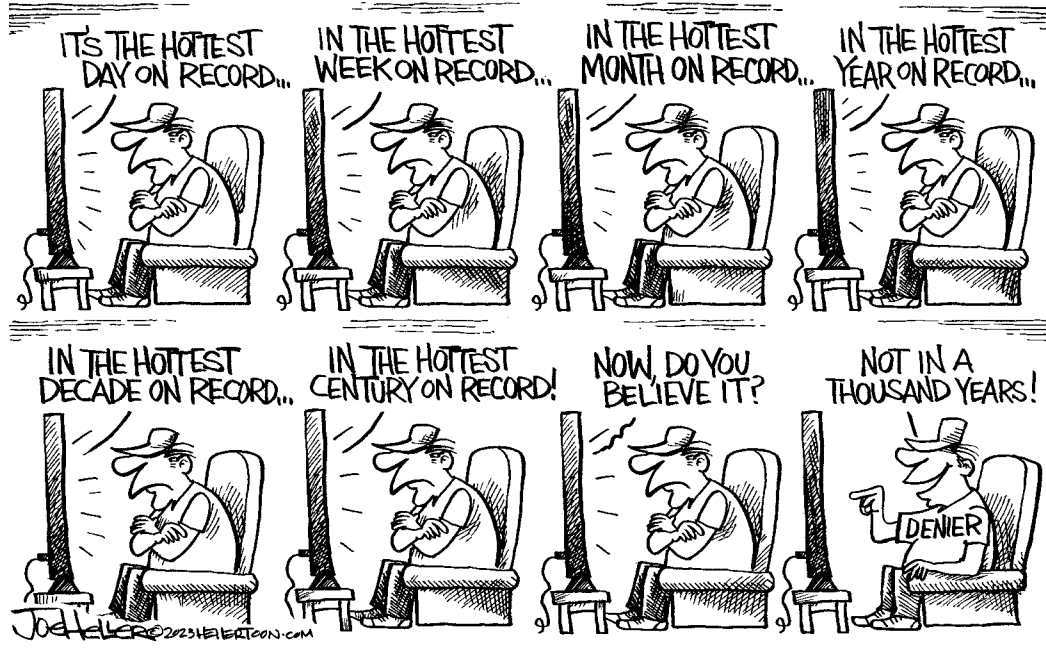
How will we greet this growing flood of climate refugees? Will we offer them our support or will we turn them back as a perceived threat to our own security? Will we even have the ability to do either?

Food shortages are going to plague us all, increasing both the levels of hunger and the cost of food when it's available. The U.S. has been fortunate that its best agricultural land has been largely aligned with a climate that is conducive to crop-growing. That is already changing and the change is only going to accelerate. If, as projected, our best crop-growing climate shifts to the north and east, it will increasingly move into regions, such as northeastern Minnesota and Canada, where the soils are not conducive to large-scale agriculture.

Irrigation is a temporary fix at best for farming in many areas. Across the Great Plains it is becoming increasingly difficult already as aquifers run dry and farmers are already facing the loss of river water for crops in large parts of the Southwest.

Much of the heat we're experiencing this summer is related to the return of what is being described as an el Niño on steroids, with ocean temperatures unlike any we've recorded before. Ultimately, it is the change to the oceans that will do us in. Scientists have reported that, to date, the oceans have absorbed about 90 percent of the additional heat generated in the last few decades due to climate change. That has helped to limit atmospheric heating, but it will eventually upend the marine ecosystems upon which we all depend for food as well as the oxygen we breathe. We are an ocean planet and we are in the process of altering them at an unprecedented rate. If we don't take action, the consequences will be existential.

Humans have proven themselves to be remarkably clever over the centuries, but not always wise. In our brave new world of human-induced planetary change, wisdom is the only thing that can save us.



Letters from Readers

Green hydrogen a better fit with U.S. transportation needs

President Biden declared, “The future of the auto industry is electric. There is no turning back.”

This new electric auto industry will be solely dependent on the national electrical grid system for charging and recharging batteries. The present grid capacity, however, cannot accommodate the 278 million vehicles in the U.S. that will be replaced with electric powered vehicles. Moreover, General Motors has affirmed that the company will continue to produce electric cars but will terminate their production of combustion engine autos by 2035 and another auto manufacturer stipulated the same by 2030.

Adding further strain on the current grid will be the recent state law mandating that most new buildings install only electricity for heating and cooking requirements. New York State is in the lead for legislating these requirements. Other states are also expected to adapt similar legislation.

What will it take to upgrade the grid? It will require leadership and substantial financing. There is no single authority with jurisdictional control over the national grid. The grid is composed of 7,700 power plants comprising dozens of networks, subject to different authorities. Numerous stakeholders and organizations get involved in the management decision-making processes: federal and state regulators, appointed and elected commissioners, local officials, and groups of NIM-BY people. Anyone of these entities can slow or stop progress.

Who will bear the costs needed for the grid upgrade, for the increase in capacity and for the new battery charging stations? Will the improvements be

completed in time to meet the demand? Electric vehicles are already flowing off domestic and foreign auto assembly lines.

The U.S. needs alternative resources to mitigate the reality that the country is becoming substantially more dependent on an electricity-based powered economy tethered to an imperfect grid. The grid would contain many of our economic eggs in one basket, being responsible for powering a large portion of our transportation system and for our innumerable electricity needs.

The grid is vulnerable to both weather interruptions and possible domestic or foreign terrorists' attacks. Current climate changes are intensifying. The seven million miles of power lines cannot be fully protected from downed electric lines caused by stormy weather. Weather conditions in just one instance last year generated blackouts in 23 states affecting 200 million people. The grid experiences on average almost 100 blackouts a year.

The grid is spread throughout the country and it's impossible to guard all exposed locations from sabotage making the grid vulnerable to electricity interruptions. Last year nine substations were attacked by terrorists. The grid is also subject to cyber-attacks.

Considering the substantial projected increased burden and the increased proportionate reliance on electricity from the grid, the U.S. should develop an alternative source of energy to lower its dependence on an overburdened grid.

The development of green non-polluting hydrogen appears to be a good candidate to supplement our domestic and military energy sources and create an alternative market for non-polluting hydrogen powered cars.

Hydrogen is the most abundant element on Earth. Green hydrogen can be produced using renewable fuels such as sun, wind,

hydropower, or nuclear to generate the electrolysis process for separating hydrogen and oxygen from water (including sea water).

At the present time, the cost of generating green hydrogen is too high for widespread commercial use. A considerable amount of research is in process with the expectation that the cost of green hydrogen can be substantially reduced to serve large and numerous markets.

Confident that this goal will be obtained, major hydrogen facilities are currently under construction in many countries including Japan, China, India, Namibia, and the European Union. Saudi Arabia has a massive hydrogen project underway adjacent to the Red Sea with three major American companies engineering the huge complex. The Saudis plan to export green hydrogen fuel to replace the anticipated decline of their oil exports. Hydrogen is already being used in more than 56,000 cars worldwide of which 12,000 are operating in California.

Electricity must be used as it is generated, it cannot be stored economically. Hydrogen, in contrast, can be stored, transported, and used without shrinkage or degradation by pipelines, ships, trains, and trucks. The grid, on the other hand, loses five-to-seven percent of its electricity in transmission and distribution.

Using hydrogen fuel avoids the negative environmental aspects of battery dependency. The rationale to replace combustion fueled cars with electric cars is to avoid greenhouse pollution generated by using fossil fuels. Nevertheless, 79 percent of the electricity used to power the grid is currently from coal and natural gas. In addition, batteries rely on raw materials like cobalt, lithium, and rare elements requiring smelting that emits sulfur oxide and other harmful air pollution.

Gerry Snyder
Ely

COLUMNIST

Life has ups, life has dips...

Mid-July has arrived and you look into the ditches along the roadsides, you see tall, spiky clusters of pink and purple wildflowers adding vibrance to the landscape. Fireweed is in season again and so is my column writing, after a six-month break. I'm hoping my columns, like fireweed, can once again add some color here and there, a chuckle and perhaps bring a nod from someone who can relate to what I'm writing about.



SCARLET
STONE

My wonderful travels to Ireland, Scotland and Wales in the past couple years fulfilled long sought-after travel goals and brought so much joy and a multitude of fresh experiences. However, upon returning home from such heights, my life seemed pale in compar-

ison. I'd gone through another divorce and was lonely. I have always been the gal who looks forward to festive events, the life of a party. My mother used to tell me, “Life isn't always fun you know, sometimes it's just plain old life.” Well, I never liked that saying. My mom, a non-drinking schoolteacher treated herself once-in-a-blue moon, while I treat on a daily basis! It might be with an ice cream cone, a ride in the country to see fireweed and other lovelies or go out to bars to have cocktails.

I did not become aware of

having any issues with how alcohol affected my behavior and interaction with other people until about nine years ago while sitting at an outdoor bar in Ely. A somewhat distant friend said, “Some people have told me you say things that are mean when you drink, but I have never experienced that with you.” Wow, what the hell I thought...not realizing at that time her words were a gift. I was absolutely shocked and had no idea that I was hurting people's feelings with things that I said. I would justify such occurrences by saying to myself, “You're fine

Scar...unless provoked, or so-and-so needed to hear the truth, or they had it coming.” I liked alcohol more than the idea of life without any...so I decided to simply try harder to control my drinking by counting straws or switching to spritzers. I would succeed for a while and then when reason was affected by drink, circumstances and mood, I would want to achieve higher “lift-off” and switch to hard liquor to light the engines. I rarely would leave a bar af-

See ALCOHOL...pg. 5

COLUMNIST

Caesar's wife and Ely's ambulance service

The perception of a conflict of interest in government is a slippery slope. The Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH) sent a letter to the Ely Area Ambulance Service listing several concerns it had with the service, which was the subject of an article in the May 12 edition of the *Timberjay*. One of those concerns was that a conflict might exist with two elected officials on the governmental Ely Area Ambulance Joint Powers Board which allocates tax-funded revenues to the nonprofit ambulance service.

The two officials involved are also members of the board of directors of the ambulance service. It is not difficult to see why hospital officials would express concern that officials voting to spend money on the ambulance service also sit on the ambulance board. If the ambulance was operating as part of local government, this situation might fall under a type of conflict known as "incompatibility of offices." While not illegal under Minnesota's conflict of interest laws, sitting on both the joint powers board and the ambulance board would be prohibited in places with stricter laws, like Massachusetts.

After EBCH sent its letter of concern, the two joint powers board members in question took opposite actions. One stepped down from the joint powers board while the other did not. A legitimate case could be made for the actions of both elected officials. This editorial examines the current confusing situation, how it arose, and ultimately, how Minnesota's narrow definitions for conflict of interest are at the root of the situation.



CATIE CLARK

There's a messy line between an actual conflict of interest and the perception that a conflict exists. The current situation is perhaps best illustrated by the famous story of Caesar's wife.

The antiquarian Plutarch, in his classic work on the lives of famous Greeks and Romans, related the story of Caesar's third wife Pompeia. At the time, Caesar was one of Rome's most important magistrates. Every year, the wife of one of Rome's elected magistrates hosted the festival of Bona Dea ("the Good Goddess") at her home. The festival was open only to Rome's upper-class women. In 62 B.C., hosting the Bona Dea rites fell to Caesar's wife. Because he was male, Caesar was not allowed inside his own home during the rites.

A disreputable young patrician and friend of Pompeia, Publius Clodius, snuck into the Bona Dea festivities disguised as a woman. The rumor in Rome was that he intended to seduce Pompeia. Clodius was caught and charged with sacrilege. Caesar immediately divorced Pompeia. As the sacrilege trial got underway, Caesar was called as a witness and questioned as to why he divorced Pompeia. Caesar had no evidence against Clodius. Instead, he famously replied, "My wife should not even be under suspicion."

This account in Plutarch is the origin of the famous proverb that "Caesar's wife must be above all suspicion." Invoking this proverb is a frequent bread-and-butter refrain in commentaries on the improprieties of politicians. The gist of the Caesar's wife rule is that public officials should be held to a high

moral standard where their conduct should be above suspicion.

Granted, the Caesar's wife rule has been used both ways. The targeting of Hunter Biden is a good example of using the Caesar's wife rule to smear President Joe Biden. Conversely, others argue that the Caesar's wife rule should not prevail because the accused should be considered innocent unless proven guilty, as argued in a stand-out editorial by the Wall Street Journal during the confirmation hearings of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who was accused of sexual abuse.

Local politics in the Ely area are hardly on the same grandiose scale as federal scandals but the actions of the two elected officials push the rule of Caesar's wife both ways. In April, when EBCH originally raised its concerns, Rod Gruba was both a board member of the ambulance service and the Fall Lake supervisor appointed to the joint powers board. He stepped down in May, after EBCH sent its letter, and was replaced by supervisor Eric Hart. By stepping down, Gruba placed himself above suspicion.

Did Gruba need to step down? On the surface, Minnesota's statutes for local officials appear clear on the subject: "A public officer who is authorized to take part in any manner in making any sale, lease, or contract in official capacity shall not voluntarily have a personal financial interest in that sale, lease, or contract or personally benefit financially therefrom (MN §471.87)."

Gruba had no voluntary personal financial stake in the financial relationship between the nonprofit ambulance service and joint powers board. His service to both was that of a civic-minded citizen participating in local government and volunteering with a local nonprofit.

The other official involved is Bob Berrini. He is the Morse Township superintendent on the joint powers board and a member of the ambulance service board. To date, he has not stepped down from either position. Like Gruba, he does not personally profit financially from the relationship between the ambulance and the joint powers.

This is where the slippery slope comes into the picture. Regardless of Minnesota's laws, many situations perceived as conflicts do not involve personal financial gain. For example, nepotism is a well-known type of conflict, where the offender does not profit but a relative does. Self-judging is another form of conflict, which is why judges are not allowed to preside over cases where they may be related to defendants, plaintiffs, or even witnesses.

Amazingly, Minnesota conflict of interest statutes for local officials include a twenty-item carve-out of situations that would otherwise violate the prohibition of personal financial gain. The result is a smorgasbord of laws that address a hodge-podge of specific cases (MN §471.88). One example of these carve-outs allows businesses belonging to elected officials to apply for community development grants, but only in communities in St. Louis County of less than 5,000 people.

None of the exceptions in MN §471.88 appear to apply to the joint powers or the ambulance boards, though the matter has not been considered by a Minnesota court or been the subject of an opinion issued by the state's attorney general.

Public perception of conflict of interest is broader than Minnesota's laws for local officials. Just across the border, just the potential of a conflict is often a reason to declare one

exists in Canadian courts. To quote Canada's Federal Court of Appeal (*Threader and Spinks vs. Treasury Board of Canada, 1986*), the "Rule of Caesar's wife" should be the default assumption in cases in conflict of interest: "It is more likely than not that the public servant, whether consciously or unconsciously, (will) be influenced in the performance of his public duties by considerations of his private interests." By the standards of other places, Minnesota's laws on the subject would be considered too narrow.

According to Minnesota laws, it appears that Berrini has done nothing wrong. Like Gruba, Berrini's well-meaning efforts have been those of a civic-minded citizen participating in local government and managing a local nonprofit. What Berrini has violated here is the rule of Caesar's wife. Though not illegal in Minnesota, the problem is a perception of a potential conflict. Like the opinion of Canada's Federal Court of Appeals, there is doubt that even a well-meaning person can serve the interests of his public duty as an elected official and the ambulance nonprofit since one is funding the other.

The perceived conflict does not appear to violate Chapter 471 of Minnesota's statutes. Given the broader application of conflict of interest laws in other jurisdictions, maybe Minnesota should broaden the prohibition of voluntary personal financial gain to include the financial gain of the organizations that elected officials may also be a part of, including nonprofit corporations, even if the officials involved do not receive any financial benefit themselves. Such an expansion would remove ambiguity from the current situation and save Bob Berrini from being equated with Caesar's wife.

ALCOHOL...Continued from page 4

ter two or three drinks as I've been a binge drinker...indulging two or three times a week but never back-to-back. In my three plus decades I have only had one DUI, have a few blackened feathers in my hat for disorderly conduct plus the knowledge of what a set of cuffs feels like in the back of a squad car. "Well behaved women rarely make history." I don't go halfway with anything I'm passionate about...and was born with a loaded color crayon box with extra colors to deal with. I guess that's the best way to describe it, or I am a pack of Fourth of July fireworks with some extra powder packed in the top of each cylinder. Mom would say, "In the cookie dough of life, you are a chocolate chip." We are what we are...ya get what ya get.

Some might cringe at my openness on the subject of my alcohol use disorder (the newest politically correct term)...or just being a drunk.... but if you have been a reader of my columns you know I don't shy away from talking about anything. I now consider it possibly a responsibility to help others gain understanding, self-acceptance, forgiveness, honesty and give unproductive things like guilt and shame a toss. Don't be thinking I am gearing up to start a ministry of being a church luncheon speaker after reading this column.

Bars became theatrical backdrops for dressing up, singing, "letting it

rip".... and in firecracker style with red hair blazing and hats or beads flying, I could at times, slip from spectator status to being a spectacle. The saying, "Go big or go home" was a favorite. Many patrons through the years hoped it was the later, as I was known to loudly sing "Happy Holidays" on the Fourth of July or Halloween or any day. I had lots of fun...until I didn't.

Like everyone else, I too was born with obsessive traits. In my twenties it was lusting for sewing fabric and affordable antiques. The thirties yielded buying the "staples" in life such as charger plates, napkin rings and clothes that sometimes never had the tags cut off. In my forties I obsessed with shoes, accessories and drinking fruity alcoholic bevs. Now after years of drinking have passed with husbands coming and going, raising a fine son, parents and beloved pets dying and most of my life lived, I'm wanting deeply to be done and just be kind and be real. The past decade experiencing a DUI, disorderly conduct, personal confrontations, loss of relationships, blackouts, the loss of a bra here and there and increasing negative effects of alcohol abuse to my health and safety showed me my throttle was being pushed to the floor and I was doing it.

I started exploring the idea of stopping about ten years ago and have attended a few AA meetings in past years, but I personally didn't grasp what I

needed from them. My route had to be knowledge, science and spiritual based of course...as I have always believed in a higher power. I listened to many audio books on alcohol abuse and basically worked the hell out of my willpower muscle that got tired and gave way repeatedly. I do not label myself or anyone else an alcoholic because for me it was never a craving for the liquid but rather for other things. So, I kept looking for a direction that what would work for me. This past year I discovered the writer Annie Grace. I listened to her audiobook, "This Naked Mind" and have found her method to be what has helped me stop wanting to drink. It's basically changing how you feel about the alcohol itself. Remove the desire, and there is no temptation (Beliefs affect attitude, affect action). Learning to not like it came from experiencing pain and anguish repeatedly and from reading much on what drinking does to the body's organs (Book: "Alcohol Explained," by William Porter). At my age I know if I kept the pace, I'd have a stroke... and could not take care of my property or myself. Or I could blackout at the wheel and kill myself or someone else. Friends and loved ones were worrying about me and a large part of deciding to stop was the unfair stress and pain it caused them. It's a fine time to be done and I know that like a toddler strengthening its legs to

walk a person can become strong and successful with changing behavior.

Almost two months in, the benefits I have gained so far from not drinking are wonderful! I am sleeping soundly again, my stomach and intestines are not upset, I don't have hangovers that ruin the next day, I never have to wonder what I said or did, I don't fear the loss of my driving privileges, taking my life or someone else's with reckless driving. My confused memory is restored, the brain fog is gone, the ringing in my ears has ended, eyesight is clearer, inflammation reduced, weight loss occurring, lowering of cholesterol, blood sugar and blood pressure. I know internally my liver, heart, brain and other organs are healing. My depression has ended, and my outlook is bright as I once again enjoy activities I had stopped doing. I also have more money in my wallet too. The hours spent at the bar are used for getting neglected tasks done at my property in Soudan. I am singing with a choir again, riding my electric bike, doing healthy cooking. Life is good.

Others may be able to manage drinking alcohol with limitation, but I get the big F.A.I.L award with that attempt, so quitting is best for me. On afternoons or evenings when I would go to happy hour at the local bar I instead drive past the colorful ditches of fireweed to the "Snack-Shack" (Y Store)

and get a treat or go for a bike ride in nature, or visit with non-bar friends and I am very content. Remembering a verse on a card I got years ago with a sketch of a curly-haired girl sitting at the top of a

slide humorously sums it up... "Life has ups and life has dips...at least we have potato chips."

So now we are caught up. I'll catch y'all again in August!



the TIMBERJAY

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Week of July 17

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.

Free community meal at Immanuel Lutheran on Wednesday, July 26
TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran Church is hosting their monthly free community meal on Wednesday, July 26 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., or until the food is all gone. The meal this month is tacos and all the fixings. Eat-in or take-outs are available. Everyone is welcome to attend.

St. Paul's and Soudan Baptist hosting VBS starting July 17
SOUDAN- St. Paul's Lutheran and Soudan Baptist are hosting a joint Vacation Bible School Monday, July 17 through Thursday, July 20 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. VBS is open to all area and visiting children ages 5 to 14 years old. Lunch is provided. The theme this year is "Wholly Love" and the week will include fun, games, and crafts. Please preregister by calling 218-753-3047.

Tower-Soudan Fourth of July float winners
TOWER- Winners for this year's Fourth of July parade float entries are as follows:
Best of Show: Broten Construction
1st Place: Iron Trail Motors
2nd Place: Vermilion Dock and Lift
3rd Place: Vermilion Club
Best Family Float: Vermilion RV Park
Most Patriotic: Vermilion Club
Best Business/Commercial Float: Broten Construction.

Lunch Bunch to meet July 20 at the Montana Cafe
COOK- The Lunch Bunch will meet at The Montana Cafe in Cook, Thursday, July 20 at 12:30 p.m. A show at the Comet Theater will follow. Please RSVP by July 17 to July 218-753-3982. Anyone that would like to join us are welcome to attend.

Old Settlers Reunion and Picnic set for July 15

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 available the day of the picnic, and newcomers are encouraged to attend! 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.
But if you don't qualify for "membership," guests are also welcome to purchase a \$10 ticket to attend the event.
Attendees need to bring a pot to hold their portions of the boil-

ing hot booyah, along with their own dinnerware and other picnic fixings to go along with the meal. Bread, butter, and coffee are available with the booyah. Cold beverages can be purchased at the campground store.
Take-outs are also available if you are unable to stay for the picnic, live music, and raffles. Steve Solkela and his ever-popular one-man-band will be performing.

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.

LAKE VERMILION IN ART

RSVP by July 14 for Art on the Lake Preview Party

TOWER- Reservations are due by Friday, July 14 for the Art on the Lake Preview Party set for Friday, July 28 at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center (LVCC) in Tower. The show is then open to the public on Saturday, July 29.
The show will feature original local paintings of Lake Vermilion and the surrounding area. The next Art on the Lake show will not be until 2025.
The preview party is Friday, July 28 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. While the building is still being renovated it is a perfect venue for an art show. An assortment of delicious appetizers and beverages will be served. Tickets are \$25 each and are available to purchase at vermilionculturalcenter.org or for \$30 at the door. The RSVP date for the preview party is today, July 14.
This year's Art on the Lake will be dedicated in memo-



ry of Carol Brown, one of the groups' long-time artists. You may donate in her memory on the LVCC website or by sending a check to LVCC, P.O. Box 659, Tower, MN 55790.
The public show is on Saturday, July 29, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. One of the summer artists will be doing a painting demonstration at 10 a.m. at the Cultural Center.
Left: Artists who participated in the show back in 2021 took a minute to pose for a photo at the 2021 preview event. file photo

FOURTH OF JULY FUN

Tower-Soudan Fourth of July children's races winners



- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| <p>TOWER- There was possibly a record turnout for the children's races on the afternoon of July 4 in Tower. The following is the list of winners, who received cash prizes. Please note that the names were dictated by the children (sometimes with help from parents), so please excuse any misspellings!
Winners are listed in order, first, second, and third.</p> <p>6-yard dash
Boys 2-3: Tommy Marohnic, Isaac Zoellick, Cal Carlson
Girls 2-3: Lennon Zubke, Mila Anderson, Leni Lesse</p> <p>Backwards race
Boys 2-3: Walker Weibacher, Finn Suihkonen, Owen Zak
Girls 2-3: Sawyer Suihkonen, Lennon Zubke, Leni Lesse</p> | <p>10-yard dash
Boys 4-5: Kiernan Standish, Grant Pettinelli, Henry Lemon
Girls 4-5: Maddie Peterson, Colbie Stellmach, Seija Snyder</p> <p>20-yard dash
Boys 6-7: Logan Werner, Henry Lupkes, Boone Wachlarowicz
Girls 6-7: Nora Zubke, Mila Quick, Jorie Adkisson</p> <p>50-yard dash
Boys 8-9: Kai Standish, Kade Jorgenson, Jack Wachlarowicz
Girls 8-9: Brinley Hackuneneller, Allie Vesel, Tayah</p> | <p>Stellmach
Boys 10-11: Aiden Lukkonen, Harrison Rosati, Henry Tjadem
Girls 10-11: Addison Lobe, Abbie Taft, Mariah Johnson
Boys 12-13: Jake Starich, Dalton Hutchinson, Jordan Peterson
Girls 12-13: Gigi Rosati, Kaylee Vonruden, Summer Peters
Boys 14-15: Owen Lamson, Nate Crow, Andrew Quistad
Girls 14-15: Arana Yanez, Reese Yanez, Kenzie Moeckel</p> <p>Sack race
Boys 7-8: Kade Jorgenson, Henry Licari, Tyler Peterson
Girls 7-8: Allie Vesel, Josie Quick, Ayva Anderson
Boys 9-10: Harrison Rosati, Beau Burgess, Thomas Stellmach
Girls 9-10: Phoebe Zobitz, Ellie Licari, Mariah Johnson
Boys 11-12: Jordan Peterson, Dalton Hutchinson, Kooper Dostert
Girls 11-12: Summer Peters, Vivian Woodford, Kaylee Von-Reden</p> | <p>Boys 13-14: Nate Crow, Grant Hennen, n/a
Girls 13-14: Kenzie Moeckel, Myah Peters, Aubrie Takanen</p> <p>Wheelbarrow
Boys 7-8: Tyler Peterson and Ty Trucano, Ellis Oliver and Luke Hampson, Chris Mullen and Vincent Vesel
Girls 7-8: Norah Hodgkins and Pejah Reichensperger; Mila Quick and Lily Russell, Penny Zoellick and Rosie Zoellick
Boys 9-10: Bode Hutchinson and Gormac Oliver, Jax Lobe and Keegan Koblebsky, Grant and Collin Zobitz
Girls 9-10: Emmi Crow and Hailey Ulmer, Henry and Ellie Licari, Mariah Johnson and Hackun Eller
Boys 11-12: Dalton Hutchinson and Henry Tjadem, Griffin Hennen and Isaac Licari, Jordan and William Peterson
Girls 11-12: Oliver Jorgenson and Addison Lobe, Lauren Hampson and Autumn Ulmen, Vivian Woodford and Kaylee Von-Ruden
Boys 13-14: Grant and Ian Crow, Landon Wellander and Bentley Crego</p> | <p>Bentley Crego
Girls 13-14: Gigi Rosati and Avery Loftus, Gianna Whisler and Ari Yanez, Charlotte Rosati and Kenzie Mockle</p> <p>Adult races (first and second place only)
Men's 50-yard dash, age 15-25: Noah Lamson, Owen Lamson
Women's 50-yard dash, age 15-25: Ava Fink, Allison Fink
Men's 50-yard dash, 26 and older: Max Cary, Bryan Hutchinson
Women's 50-yard dash, 26 and older: Kim Zoellick, Whitney Cobby
He/She sack race, age 15-25: Eva Peters and Carter Haycraft, Ava Fink and Noah Lamson
He/She sack race, age 26 and up: Kim and Kurt Zoellick, Caleb and Jenna Fisher
Water balloon toss, ages 15-25: Ava Fink and Noah Lamson, Mckinley Haycraft and Rhett Johnson
Water balloon toss, ages 26 and up: Whitney Cobby and Randy Johnson, Steph and Paul Dever,</p> |
|---|---|--|---|---|

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Ely Fire Department hoses test

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- When a garden hose springs a leak, it's an annoyance. When a fire hose springs a leak, it could be a catastrophe. Because its hoses are critical to its mission of fighting fires, the Ely FD tests its hoses. On Monday, July 10, the FD tested all of its hoses in the southwest parking lot at the Vermilion campus of Minnesota College North.

"The last time we did this," said Ely Fire Chief David Marshall, "we tested over 16,000 feet of hose." The hose tests on Monday were the first of Marshall's tenure as fire chief, though he told the *Timberjay* he would like to test the hoses every year. The FD tested all of its hoses Monday and the lengths tested were staggering. "Engine One has the most hose," Marshall explained, "around two miles."

The Ely FD hired a specialty firm, Firecatt, for the tests. Firecatt, which has locations around the country, sent a four-person crew up to Ely from Troy, Mich. After picking up the testing trailer and all the crew members, the trip up to Ely took 15 hours, according to Firecatt crew chief Brandon Vlasic.

The testing trailer is the work horse of the hose tests. The trailer hooked into a fire hydrant next

to the parking lot for its water supply. The piping in the trailer allows up to ten hoses of different diameters to be tested at the same time. The trailer pressurizes five-inch hose up to 200 psi and the FD's 1.75-inch and 2.5-inch hoses up to 300 psi. The hoses are held at those pressures for 30 minutes. Any hose that leaks during that time fails the test.

A fire hose failure during the test was an eye-catching event. One of the five-inch hoses failed while the *Timberjay* was watching. An older hose dating from 2009 sprung multiple leaks on one end during the test of hoses loaded on the FD's ladder truck, resembling a giant lawn sprinkler hose by the end of the test. Members of the department discussed the possibility of cutting off the leaking section when it was noted that the other end had also developed a leak. All of the hose was retired from service.

Other than the leaking hose, the other novel experience observed during the hose test was the sound. As the hoses were filled and brought up to pressure, they made eerie creaking sounds as the canvas fabric expanded and crept across the asphalt of the parking lot.



Ely Fire Chief David Marshall points at a large diameter fire hose that sprang multiple leaks during a pressure test on July 10. photo by C. Clark



The Northern Lakes Arts Association wrapped up its summer theater camp with two performances of the musical "Suessical Kids!" on July 8, featuring well-known Dr. Suess figures like Horton the elephant and three Cat in the Hat characters. photo by C. Clark

Ely Fourth of July parade winners

ELY- More than a dozen awards were given out among the 88 floats entered this year in the Ely 4th of July parade. Winners were as follows:

Most patriotic float category were: first place- the Jantschek family, second place- Veterans on the

Lake Resort, third place - Brad Chase. Honorable mentions were awarded to Little Miss Great Lakes Linley Klegstad and the Ely Community Health Center.

Non-commercial float category were: first place - "Up" The Moren Fami-

ly, second - Ely Hockey, third - Contented Critters. An honorable mention was awarded to the Winton Park Fundraiser float.

Commercial float category were: first place - Dutchmen Tree Service, second - Pebble Spa, third - Kuehl's Logging. An

honorable mention was awarded to Weisinger Construction.

Most creative kids category were: first place - Hadley, Emma, and Teagan Frehulfer for the "Hadley For President" wagon, second - Olivia Korb for "Lady Liber-

ty," and third - Kiersten Schoonover.

Winners in the most patriotic kids category were: first - Frankie Hamilton, second - Tanner Hamilton, and third - Claire Schoonover.

From the Ely Kiwanis Club about its pies

ELY- For years, the Ely Kiwanis Club has been serving up fresh blueberry pies at the Blueberry/Art Festival and Harvest Moon Festival. It has been an amazing collaboration between the club and two dedicated ladies, Gwen Bakken and JoEllyn Murphy, who were employed at Boundary Waters Care Center and Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital.

Over these years, Gwen and JoEllyn have volunteered their time and services to order and do the preliminary pie preparation for the club fund-raisers. Club members step in to finish the preparation before Gwen and JoEllyn complete the baking process. The number of pies served over the last few years has ex-

ploded to total over 800 pies for the two festivals. The ladies always took personnel time off from work, and for their effort, they received a portion of the profits made on the sale of the pies. Those funds were then donated by them back to Boundary Waters Care Center for various unfunded improvements.

For years, Kiwanis has been facing the day when an alternative method would be needed to provide blueberry pies for the very popular fundraising effort that provides so much support to so many of our local youth programs. The hospital kitchen has been the only commercial kitchen in town that could handle such a huge undertaking. As eventually happens

with long-term efforts, the inevitable has finally occurred - the kitchen used for making pies locally is no longer available.

Now, here's the good news. After a plenty of research, Kiwanians have found a pie they are pleased to serve to replace the old recipe. Pies will now be baked at the Babbitt Zup's store, be given the same Kiwanis personal touch, and delivered to the pavilion in a timely fashion. Slices of pie with ice cream will be available as usual. Whole pies can be purchased for home-baking. Additionally, root beer floats will replace the Zup's BBQ sandwich.

Club members have also been brainstorming ideas to satisfy what seems to be the growing

popularity of volunteerism prevalent in our community. If anyone wants to try their hand at serving pie or ice cream for a few hours during the festival, club members are willing to train anyone on the spot and put them to work. It's a lot of work, but also a lot of fun talking with festival goers. If you are interested, contact ElyMNKiwanis@gmail.com.

This is a critical time for our fundraising effort, as we transition to this new phase and seek to maintain our high level of support for the youth of Ely. We hope we can count on your continued support to help us help kids in Ely. We think we have found the "right" pie and the "right" solution to maintain our high standards of "mmmmnn good

tasting pie" that keeps festival goers coming back year after year to say, "It's not a Blueberry Festival until we have a piece of your pie."

Elyite college honors

BEMIDJI- Bemidji State University announced on July 5 that Elyites Kasey Bertelsen and Anna Urbas were named to the president's honor roll for the spring 2023 semester. To be eligible, Bemidji State University students must be enrolled for at least 12 credits and earn a GPA of 4.0 during the semester.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Upcoming Events

Ely Public Library

ELY- The spice for July is mustard.

The library will host a "Kids for Kids" concert on Tuesday, July 18, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. The performers will be a small group of students that are taking part in this year's Northern Lights Music Festival.

The library will host a presentation on the Beaver float planes used by the Superior National Forest. This program is for adults. The presentation will be on Wednesday, July 19, from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

The library will host the Bubble Wonders event for all ages on Monday, July 24, 3:30-4:30 p.m. See the July 7 edition of

the *Timberjay* for more details on the program.

The library scientists group, for grades 5-7, will meet on Thursday, July 27, 11 a.m.-noon. Participants will study mechanics and trajectories by making a working model of a catapult. Pre-register for this program so the library can order enough supplies.

On Thursday, July 27, attorney Kelly Klun will give a free class on estate planning, from 5-6 p.m. Pre-registration is not required but it is encouraged so the library can have the appropriate number of handouts made in advance of the class.

The library will celebrate Uncommon Instrument Awareness Day, on Monday, July 31, from 2-3 p.m., in a program for all ages. Ukuleles and autoharps are just some of the strange instruments that might show up. Par-

ticipants will also create their own instrument to take home. Space is limited for this program so pre-registration is required.

The Get Crafty with Tricia program for all ages will make tie-dye bags. The event will be on Tuesday, Aug. 1, starting at 11 a.m. This event will take place outside on the library grounds, so it will be weather dependent. Pre-register in advance so the library has your contact information and can order enough materials for class participants.

The monthly Library Board meeting for August will be on Wednesday, Aug. 2, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

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.

Ecumenical service at Semers

Grace Lutheran Church, Ely Presbyterian Church, Ely United Methodist Church, and St. Mary's Episcopal church will hold an ecumenical service at Semers Beach this Sunday, July 16, at 10 a.m., with lunch to follow at the park pavilion. In case of rain, worship will be in the pavilion.

Vets on the Lake 40th anniversary concert

ELY- Ely's 501(c)(3) Spiritwood Foundation will sponsor a concert to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the nonprofit Veterans on the Lake Resort, 161 Fernberg Rd. on Saturday, July 15, at 7 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the resort's and the foundation's programs for vets and seniors with de-

mentia. Tickets are \$20. See the July 7 *Timberjay* article on the concert for more details.

Farmers market and Arts in the Park

ELY- Ely's farmers market and the Northern Lakes Arts Association Arts in the Park program are every Tuesday evening, from 4-6 p.m. The evening music presentation starts at 5 p.m. The Ely Community Band will play at 6 p.m. through the end of July.

Museum Open House

ELY- The museum will hold its "Donuts at Dorothy's" open house on Sunday, July 30, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., featuring coffee from Ely's Gene Hick's Coffee and nosh from Brainstorm Bakery. The event is free.

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:

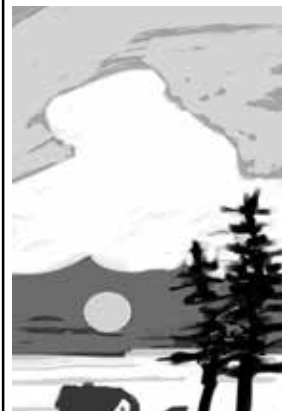
► July 18: Ooof, Here We Go Again: Tamarack Water Alliance & Talon with Shanai Matteson

► July 25: Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters Updates with Becky Rom & Ingrid Lyons

► Aug. 1: Quantum Human Design with Jaime Brennan

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



time to live it up
fun at the lake, out fishing

blue skies, warm waters

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.

Community events

Crane Lake Chapel Bazaar set for Wednesday, July 19

CRANE LAKE- The Annual Crane Lake Chapel Bazaar is Wednesday July 19 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at 7399 Handberg Rd. Organizers are accepting quality donations of items for the event, and ask that clothes and electronic items, including TVs and CD and VHS players, not be donated. Donations can be brought to the firehouse back garage. Enjoy shopping, raffles, and lunch. There will be books, crafts, and baked goods for sale in the Chapel. Across the street at the Fire Hall you will discover antiques and other “used treasures”. Raffles are going on as well with \$5 tickets already available for purchase. You can win a gorgeous handmade quilt, a hard shell Yeti cooler, a large Lily Pad floating mat, a free day on Pine Points pontoon, and other gift certificates and generous prizes. Join us July 19 for fun, food, and fellowship.

North Woods Archers host car wash fundraiser on Sunday, July 23

COOK- North Woods Archery Club will hold a car wash on Sunday, July 23 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Cook Fire Department located on 2nd Street E.

Youth archers and their coaches will scrub vehicles with high quality supplies from Cook's Auto Value in this new fundraiser.

The club is raising money for the upcoming season.

“Our program relies on donations, both monetary and in-kind, to help offset expenses for equipment and tournaments,” said Emily Nelson, club president. “We provide funds for archers so that all who want to experience archery can participate.” The club is building on its success from the 2023 season and numerous archers who have their sights set on the national tournament in April 2024.

“Our program is growing, and kids are hitting bullseyes,” Nelson said. “They don't mind getting their hands dirty to make sure our program is a success.”

North Woods Archery Club is part of the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). More information is available online at www.naspschools.org.

Cook High School classes of 1964 and 1965 to meet on Aug. 5 at The Landing

COOK- The Cook High School Classes of 1964 and 1965 will meet at The Landing at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, Aug 5 for their annual luncheon get together. Hope to see you there.

Heiam Foundation benefit tickets on sale

COOK- Tickets are available now for the Heiam Foundation benefit set for Saturday, Aug. 12 from 5-9 p.m. This year's event features a Hawaiian Luau-theme. Don't forget your Hawaiian shirt or grass skirt! To purchase tickets, sponsorships or to preview the virtual auction, please visit heiam.cbo.io.

Please purchase tickets by July 29 so the food, catered by Boomtown Woodfire can be ordered. The event will be held at the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade building at 8025 Oak Narrows Rd., Cook.

This marks the 30th annual benefit for the Heiam Foundation, which raises money to support health care needs in the Cook area. The foundation's mission, through continued growth of the endowment, is to support programs, services and facilities that serve the medical needs of Cook health care area residents. Since its founding thirty years ago, the foundation has been able to donate over \$813,000 towards these needs.

Emily Koch named to President's Honor Roll at Bemidji State University

BEMIDJI – Emily Koch, of Orr, was named to the President's Honor Roll at Bemidji State University for the spring 2023 semester. To be eligible, Bemidji State University students must be enrolled for at least 12 credits and

earn a GPA of 4.0 during the semester.

Bemidji State University, located amid the lakes and forests of northern Minnesota, occupies a wooded campus along the shore of Lake Bemidji. Enrolling around 5,000 students, Bemidji State offers 70 undergraduate areas of study and eight graduate degrees encompassing arts, sciences and select pre-professional programs.

OUTDOOR MUSIC**The Hutter Bunch on July 19 at Music in the Park**

COOK- Fun popular songs and homegrown Americana will be performed on Wednesday evening, July 19, at Cook's Music in the Park by “The Hutter Bunch.” This bunch of diverse talented Iron Range musicians, bringing joy with music to our region for years, will begin playing at 6 p.m. and conclude at 8 p.m. The concert will be held at the gazebo on River Street and the food vendor will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Bring a lawn chair or sit in your



car to hear “The Hutter Bunch” who love to make music and deliver a good show each and every performance. Enjoy St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Alango) refreshment stand selling burgers, brats and hot dogs.

In case of a rainy Wednesday evening the concert will move to the Cook VFW.

Hear a different sound of music each Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. Music In The Park is made possible by the VFW Post 1757 and the VFW Post 1757 Auxiliary, Cook Lion's Club, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Northwoods Friends of the Arts, and free will community donations.

NORTHWOODS FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

NWFA's 50/50 Raffle and Annual Concert

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts' 50/50 Raffle in Cook will again take place this year and two winners will win either 50-percent of the total raffle ticket sales or a beautiful ceramic fish platter (value \$195) created and donated by artists Lyn and Mark Reed. The \$5 raffle tickets will be on sale at the NWFA Gallery next to Dream Weaver Salon on River St. The 50/50 Raffle is an annual event in which the owner of the first ticket drawn will win and choose either the lovely Fish Platter or 50% of all the ticket sale proceeds. The owner of the second drawn ticket will win either the platter or the cash.

Tickets may be purchased from NWFA board members and volunteer members anytime and at Cook's Music in the Park Wednesday evenings (5:30 to 8 p.m.), at the NWFA Gallery and on the final evening, Aug. 11 during the gala concert event featuring “The Blue Water Big Band” at Cook Community Center.

To purchase 50/50 raffle tickets or concert tickets on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. go to NWFA Gallery on the main street of Cook, near Hwy 53, 210 S. River Street (the Dream Weaver Day Spa and Salon complex).



Above: The Blue Water Big Band

Left: Ceramic fish plate donated by Lyn and Mark Reed.

The Blue Water Big Band Returns to NWFA Aug. 11

COOK- On Friday, Aug. 11, from 5 to 9 p.m., NWFA will present its annual concert and fundraiser featuring “The Blue Water Big Band” from Duluth. This is a concert with room to dance from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The fundraiser will be held at the Cook Community Center at Doug Johnson Park, 510 Gopher Dr., Cook.

The doors open at 5 p.m. with Cook's own “Beefeater Brothers” performing at 5:30 p.m. along with basket raffles and silent auctions and a drawing. Concert tickets purchased in advance for \$25 include a Zup's Bratwurst prepared by the Cook Lions Club, chips, water and other refreshments. Tickets are \$30 at the door.

There will be time to purchase \$5 raffle tickets before the annual 50/50 Raffle concludes that night with the drawing of two tickets. The owner of the first ticket drawn gets to choose either the lovely ceramic fish platter created and donated by artists Lyn and Mark Reed OR 50-percent of all the ticket sale proceeds. It is a win-win situation. The owner of the second drawn ticket will win either the platter or the cash.

Concert and/or raffle tickets may be purchased from NWFA board members and volunteer members anytime or at Cook's Music in the Park at the gazebo Wednesday evenings (5:30 to 8 p.m.). To purchase tickets on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. go to NWFA Gallery on the main street of Cook near Hwy 53, 210 S. River St. (the Dream Weaver Day Spa and Salon complex).

COMMUNITY NEWS

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Bemidji State University, located amid the lakes and forests of northern Minnesota, occupies a wooded campus along the shore of Lake Bemidji. Enrolling around 5,000 students, Bemidji State offers 70 undergraduate areas of study and eight graduate degrees encompassing arts, sciences and select pre-professional programs.

Erik Aune Named to Hamline University Dean's List for Spring 2023

ST. PAUL- Erik Aune, of Cook, was named to the Hamline University School of Business Dean's List for the Spring 2023 term. Aune was among 92 students to make the Dean's List in Spring 2023. To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher and complete a minimum of 16 credit hours.

Founded in 1854, Hamline was the first university in Minnesota and among the first coeducational institutions in the nation. Today, Hamline University provides a world-class education for undergraduate and graduate students. Our faculty, staff, and students cultivate an ethic of civic responsibility, social justice, and inclusive leadership.

Upcoming events listed for NWFA

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

► LINO CUT / BLOCK PRINTING— Saturday, July 15 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the gallery. Lyn Reed, instructor. Registration required, call 218-666-2153.

►MAKE A FINNISH (TOSSUT) WOOL FELTED SLIPPER— Friday, July 21 with Sue Archibald at the NWFA Gallery. Bring a tote lid. Students may select wool color from Sue. Registration required, call 218-666-2153.

►BEGINNING WATERCOLOR WITH LYN REED— Thursday, July 27 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. This free curious and creative class is open to students from age 7 to 90 but registration is 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 Aug. 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.

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 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.

The Cook Public Library Summer Reading program is sponsored by the Friends of the Cook Public Library with funding support from the Cook Lions Club, United Way of NE MN, Dollar General Literacy Grant and individual donations.

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89.9fm - Brainerd

kaxe.org

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ST. JAMES...Continued from page 1

since Doug Workman retired. The service filled the pews and luncheon afterwards served a full house, including many neighbors and friends from Immanuel Lutheran, the church located next door to St. James.

Many who had long-time family ties to the church attended and reminisced. Richard Kitto remembered his time singing in the church choir, a church in which his grandparents were very active.

"There are lots of old memories here," he said.

Kathy Siskar spoke about the church's history. The first church building was constructed in 1884, possibly the first established church in the community.

"This group envisioned a community that would grow and prosper and would need a solid spiritual foundation to make that happen and keep souls nurtured," she said. The original church building, located on N. Third St., burned in 1936, and the church was rebuilt at its new location, where it now stands.

Siskar quoted from an old church newsletter, an article written by Jenny Tobin. "St. James has been known as a church that is



Above left: (l-r) Former members Terri Kitto, Richard Kitto and Mark Peil came for the final service this week. Above right: Former pastor at the church, Richard Blood, came to say goodbye to his old friends. Lower right: Longtime church organist Marge McPeak will be looking for a new spiritual home. photos by J. Summit.

welcoming to everyone in the community," Tobin wrote. "The spirit of this church has always been strong and loving. Over the years, this church has been an outreach to Tower and the surrounding community."

That tradition of community outreach contin-

ued to this day. In recent memory church outreach has included sponsoring free Thanksgiving community meals, children's Christmas parties, the community Easter egg hunt, children's activities and Vacation Bible Schools, soup luncheons, activities supporting the children

at the elementary school, prayer shawls, ecumenical services, musical events, youth fellowship, and Bible study groups. And while some of these events are now being continued by other community groups, many have disappeared with the dwindling church membership.



"As the ages of the St. James membership grew, and the energy and money dwindled, St. James made the painful decision to close," Siskar said. "They knew, however, like the St. James forefathers and foremothers, that true church is not a building— it is the strong belief in and commitment that we have to God and his people. It is the essence of our spirits. They will know we are Christians by our love."

"I know in my heart that God is smiling," Siskar said. "He is very pleased with the journey that St. James Presbyterian Church has completed. He is saying well done good and faithful servants, well done."

"It is so nice to see our church full," said longtime member Jill Wagoner. "I love this congregation. It is a safe place."

The church choir from neighboring Immanuel Lutheran performed a piece, featuring a flute solo by Angie Gurrius, before the meal was served.

Jayne Yocum joined the church only a few years ago and she'll miss what it brought to her life. She had been volunteering at the annual Vacation Bible School, and said the people she met there made her feel so welcome.

"We got to know so many people," she said. "It was so worthwhile."

Marge McPeak spent time saying goodbye to the organ, which she had faithfully played for the last 23 years. She said she would be taking the light that illuminated the music home with her, as a lasting reminder. She'll also be taking the memory of the full pews this Sunday with her, instead of the many Sundays when the church was filled with fewer than a dozen congregants.

Church members now are deciding on finding their next spiritual home.

"I'm not sure where I will end up," said McPeak. "I will be visiting other churches with friends. It's sad, but it's time. I've been a Presbyterian my whole life."

The church building and parsonage belong to the synod. The synod is donating the parsonage to Habitat for Humanity, which will be doing some minor updates and then finding a new family for the home. The future of the church building itself is not known at this time, but several church members expressed hope it can be repurposed for another community use, perhaps housing.

ELY COUNCIL...Continued from page 1

the July 7 edition of the *Timberjay*.

The council also spent considerable time on a relatively minor expense— an estimated \$1,000 to buy signs, hardware, and posts for street number signs for the residents on Pioneer Drive. Despite the modest cost, the council quickly discussed whether the residents should be mounting their own signs or if the city should charge them for the new signage.

"This should be people's responsibility," remarked city council member Al Forsman. "The city shouldn't be doing this."

While residents in most Ely neighborhoods post their own house numbers, typically near their front door, the homes on Pioneer Road are set back far enough where such numbers would be of little use to passersby, or emergency responders. In most rural parts of the county, providing 911 or fire number signs is typically a government expense.

Ely city clerk-treasurer Harold Langowski said the lack of signs on Pioneer "has been an issue for over 20 years." Langowski noted that the number of address signs needed was less than 25, and that the posting of house numbers visible from the street on Pioneer "is not consistent ... right now, there are no signs."

Langowski also said that requiring residents to post their own signs was problematic given that most would not scout for buried utilities, running the high probability that erecting their own signage would lead to puncturing fiber-optic cable or other buried utility lines. Alternatively, if the city installed house number signage, it would insure "consistent addressing (of residences) throughout the city."

Ely Fire Chief David Marshall added that Pioneer was "the most difficult (street) for first responders to locate addresses," commenting that the lack of visible street numbers was a public safety issue.

After a brief discussion of whether to table the item or send it back to the projects committee, the council decided to vote on the original motion, to spend the

\$1,000 for the signage and its installation on Pioneer. The motion passed with Forsman casting the one vote in opposition.

July 4 appreciation

Mayor Heidi Omerza thanked the Ely Events Committee, the citizen group that organized the July 4 parade and other holiday weekend activities, including the "Rock the Park" concert on July 1. Omerza had certificates of appreciation from the city for each of the committee members. She also gave the committee the key to the city.

"They didn't just fill (the holiday weekend) with events, they overflowed it," Omerza told the council. "Next year, they will do even more."

County survey

St. Louis County contacted the city and requested that Ely inform its citizens about a survey in progress regarding the county's family resource center. The survey is targeted at the parents or caregivers of under-18 aged children or vulnerable adults. The anonymous survey is designed to explore what supports parents and caregivers need to help their dependents. The City of Ely has posted the link to the survey website on its Facebook page.

Medical assistance renewals

St. Louis County reached out to the city to highlight that more than 50 percent of the county's households which needed to apply for their medical assistance renewals did not do so before the July 1 deadline. The Minnesota Department of Human Services has taken advan-

tage of a federal extension until Aug. 1 for application for this renewal. After this deadline passes, further extensions "will not be an ongoing option for future renewal."

To look up their medical assistance renewal status and dates, Minnesotans can visit mnrenewallookup.com. The county encourages residents with medical assistance to check their status and renewal dates and to take advantage of the federal extension to renew if they're still qualified.

Recycling center trashed

In his report to the city council, Langowski remarked that people have been dumping trash at the city's recycling center. He also noted that corrugated cardboard boxes were not accepted for recycling by the city, noting that St. Louis and Lake counties' transfer stations do accept cardboard. The fine for dumping trash at the recycling center is \$300. Regarding recent incidents, Langowski remarked that two offenders were recently identified.

"Whatever you do, you should not be leaving corrugated cardboard on top of the ash pile," Langowski added, stating that it wasn't a problem in the summer, but would create "a small problem" during colder times of the year.

Langowski brought the meeting to a momentary humorous standstill when he pointed out that those who illegally dump their cardboard boxes at the city's recycling center should remove their shipping labels first.

High School milestone

The city council

also looked ahead to the 100th anniversary of Ely Memorial High School, approving a recommendation from the Heritage Preservation Committee (HPC) to seek grant dollars to create video interviews of Ely graduates, at least one for every decade since the high school was built. The video would be produced locally and would likely take advantage of an all-class reunion set for next year to celebrate the high school's milestone.

In other action on Tuesday, the council:

► Approved putting the city's recently retired but still useable ladder truck out for bid. The retired truck was replaced by a newer tower truck put into service in June.

► Approved a recommendation from the Ely Utilities Commission (EUC) to hire DBC LLC to conduct a rate study of the city's utilities.

► Approved a recommendation from the EUC to approve the quote from Qualus in the amount of \$91,856 for substation upgrades.

► Approved a recommendation from EUC to approve \$797,134 for the May EUC bills.

► Approved a recommendation from EUC to approve a payment of \$175 to Butch Gornik for consulting services and \$500 to Mick Shusta for "A Operator" services.

► Approved a recommendation from the projects committee to install a two-way stop sign on Washington St. at 11th Ave. E, which Langowski noted was the site of several traffic collisions.

► Approved Ely Utilities Commission claims for July 11 for \$139,666.

► Approved partial pay estimate #1 to Low Impact Excavators for \$137,942 for East End Development.

► Approved Invoice No. 447572 for \$3,740 and Invoice No. 448462 for \$12,025 for the Prospector ATV Trail to Short Elliot Hendrickson, Inc.

► Approved a residential rehab loan for Alex Povhe at 403 E. James St. for \$10,000 for a new propane furnace and new

windows, pending proper paperwork and fees, and to direct Attorney Klun to work with applicant and proceed with the loan application.

► Approved Resolution 2023-015 authorizing the city to make application and accept funds from the IRRR Residential Redevelopment Grant Program.

► Approved Resolution 2023-016 authorizing the city to make application and accept funds to the IRRR Culture and Tourism Grant Program.

► Approved a motion for the Ely Watercross Association to acquire the surplus bleachers from the little league ballpark. The association wants to restore the damaged bleachers, and "would be happy to allow the city to use them for future events," according to correspondence the group sent to the city. The bleachers were wrecked by wind in 2016 and replaced using funds from the insurance claim for the damage.

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ARROWHEAD REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL

HOUSE...Continued from page 1

The project, according to county officials, would require a conditional use permit and Cerra-Harvieux said she is working with an attorney on the CUP process, although she has not yet submitted an application. She had previously said she thought the project would not require a CUP because the building had previously operated as a group home for developmentally disabled adults. The project will also require licensure as a non-residential treatment facility, she said. The sober housing portion of the project would receive funding that is used for transitional housing but does not require state licensing.

Cerra-Harvieux continued to face pushback, however, this time over a recent report from the Minnesota Department of Human Services that found a facility she owns in Oak Park Heights was in violation of 15 of the substance use disorder treatment rules and statutes.

Trisha Poderzay brought the report, dated June 6, 2023, in which the DHS outlined violations that included: issues with policies and procedures not meeting state requirements; lack of documentation that staff reviewed clients' rights and responsibilities on the day of service initiation in four of five files reviewed; lack of

consent for disclosure of suspected maltreatment for vulnerable adults; initial service plans for four of five client files reviewed were not person-centered, and the files did not identify treatment needs. In addition, the report found that intake assessments were not signed by a qualified staff member in two of five cases and intake assessments lacking numerous other required information including details of past drug use, information on time of abstinence from drug use, and any circumstances surrounding relapse. Nor did assessments include information about mental health screenings in three of five files reviewed while individual treatment plans in four of five files reviewed did not meet state requirements including any documentation that the client was involved in the development of the plan; and multiple other violations and issues.

The status of the complaint remains unclear. When asked by the *Timberjay* whether the issues raised by the DHS had been resolved, Cerra-Harvieux did not respond directly to the question in an email response to the paper.

In response to questioning on the DHS report, Cerra-Harvieux cut off Poderzay before she could finish her questions. Cerra-

Harvieux explained that she had been cited for not doing background studies on employees, and this was due to lack of this service during the pandemic, and that they had been completed as soon as the background studies were again made available. This was actually a separate order, and Care Crossings was fined \$1,200 for the background study violations.

Cerra-Harvieux did not address any of the other issues in the other DHS correction order report.

Many at the meeting continued to question why she wanted to locate the facility in Soudan.

"We know it is difficult to treat opioid addiction in a rural area," Cerra-Harvieux said, who noted there are not any similar treatment options in the wider area.

When asked about what pros and cons there were for placing this facility in Soudan, Cerra-Harvieux said there weren't any cons.

"The pros are the environment. This is not a city. There are things that are not accessible."

But others wondered if the sober house would bring trouble into Soudan.

"In my experience," said Victoria Carlson, a business owner in Tower with law enforcement experience, "some of the best places to score are by sober houses."

Jessica Lenci, whose

house is next door to the Vermilion Park Inn property said she had a young couple interesting in buying their property, who said they were no longer interested.

"The effects have started," Lenci said. "It's going to affect this little community. We won't be getting young couples moving in. I understand that people need help, but this isn't the place for it."

She also noted she was not comfortable with the idea of 20 men living next door. Another neighbor predicted how she'd respond if one of the sober house residents knocked on her door. "I'd be locked and loaded," she said.

Cerra-Harvieux talked about the structured days for those living in the sober house. Those new to the program are not allowed outside unsupervised. As they move through the treatment process, they are allowed to check out for short periods of time to take walks. Days include group therapy sessions, mental health therapy, meals and cleanup, and attendance at meetings like AA. Residents cook and cleanup for themselves.

Care Crossings would have trained staff on-site at all times, and mental health providers, counselors and a psychiatrist would be either working with clients onsite or through an online

system. Client checks are done on a 15-minute schedule to make sure no one is missing. If a client is suspected of using drugs or alcohol, there would be an immediate drug test, Cerra-Harvieux said.

Still, some of those in attendance seemed to acknowledge the need for such a facility and why it might be located in Soudan.

Sandy Wallin, who works as a social worker, said she had a friend who lived next door to a 12-step house that opened up in Virginia.

"At first she was really concerned," Wallin said, "but within a year they were mowing her lawn for her."

That seemed to entice one elderly neighbor, who wondered if the residents could perhaps help her and husband with some of their chores.

MaryBeth Reller cited their basic humanity. "These are human beings," she said.

Dave Archambault, who is the Director of Substance Use Disorder Service for Range Mental Health, was at the meeting and was able to address some concerns over client behaviors.

"I would imagine most of the people coming in would have gone through a 30-day in-patient program, and they probably would have been living in this area."

Archambault noted there is a drug problem in our community already. He oversees the detox program in Virginia.

"I get it," he said. "But the chances of these issues happening here are not great."

He said that at least 70-percent of the clients in such a home want to be there. He also said, in his experience, when someone leaves such a facility when they are not supposed to, they are having a friend or relative drive them back to where they used to live.

Many of those living in the sober house would be under court order, and if they don't cooperate with the program, they could be sent to jail.

Soudan resident Patti Banks, who serves as CEO of the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital said it is important to have these conversations.

"If we don't air these fears, we are never going to work these things out," she said.

She noted that hospitals can't provide the long-term care and treatment that is needed for addiction.

"We need this kind of tiered support," she said. "These people need somewhere to go."

TESTING...Continued from page 1

inspector general described as "dysfunctional."

It's a complaint that has been made for years by Tower-based Lamma Manufacturing, which argues that they produce the only wood furnace in the country to actually meet the standards set by the EPA. Longtime company owner Daryl Lamma has argued with EPA officials for years that they had certified a handful of furnaces produced by other manufacturers that had not actually met the testing criteria.

"If newer wood heaters do not meet cleaner standards, then programs to change out old wood heaters may provide little

health benefits at significant public cost," the states wrote July 6 in a 60-day notice of intent to sue.

The states that have joined the lawsuit include Minnesota, Alaska, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Vermont and Washington, as well as the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. All of the states have adopted programs to improve air quality in regions where a significant number of residents use wood stoves for home heating.

While heating with wood can save homeowners a considerable amount of money, some

types of wood burners are known to be hazardous to public health due to their emissions, which include extremely fine particulates, known as PM 2.5, as well as carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds. The EPA estimates that the 340,000 tons of fine particulates emitted by wood-burning devices nationwide account for 10,000 to 40,000 excess deaths due to heart disease, lung cancer, and other ailments. Wood furnaces are larger wood-burning devices that typically replace a forced air furnace and are designed to heat an entire home.

The EPA under the

Obama administration set strict new rules to try to control emissions and used federal dollars to encourage homeowners to install furnaces that showed they could meet those emissions standards. Many states also invested money into incentives, but now their lawsuit is expected to argue that those investments have failed to improve air quality due to the failures of the EPA's testing program.

The EPA Inspector General is likely to provide powerful evidence for that claim. "Flawed test methods and a lack of EPA oversight of the wood heater program have created uncertainty for states," wrote the

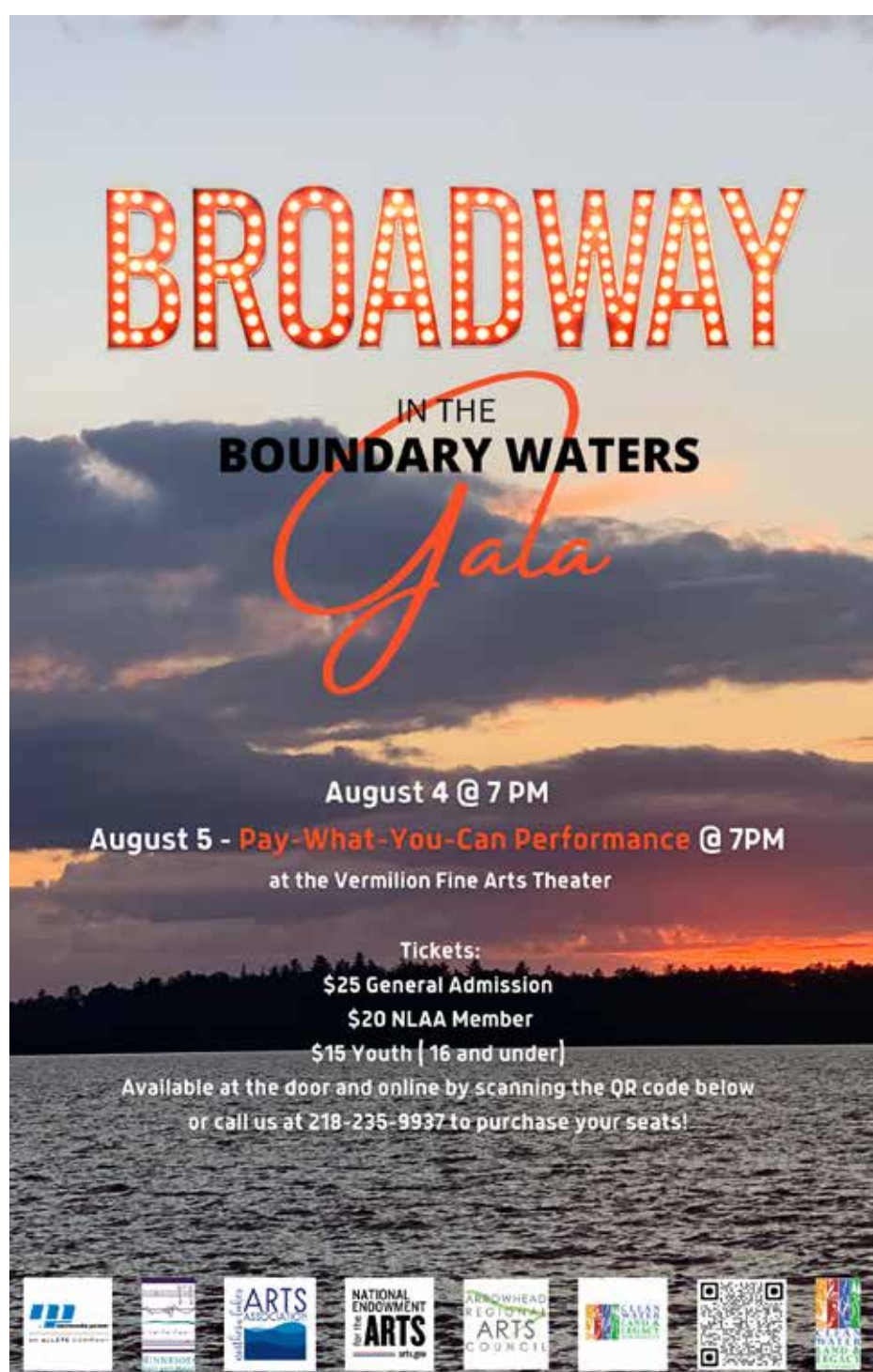
inspector general in the office's report, issued Feb. 28, 2023. "State regulators from Alaska and California said that they are concerned about relying on the EPA's certification process to identify wood heaters to sell in their states or for their changeout programs."

The EPA supports programs aimed at replacing older, dirtier wood heaters with newer, cleaner models and distributed about \$82 million in grants for residential exchanges between fiscal years 2015 and 2021, according to the Inspector General.

"However, if the replacement models do not meet emission standards

because of the reasons described above, millions of federal, state, and local dollars could be wasted," noted the inspector general.

According to the *Associated Press*, the states contend that the EPA's errors have allowed the sale of some wood furnaces to continue, and buyers to receive tax incentives, even though the furnaces in question may not actually improve air quality. "If newer wood heaters do not meet cleaner standards, then programs to change out old wood heaters may provide little health benefits at significant public cost," the states contend.




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ELY SCHOOLS

Board talks long-term facilities plan in light agenda

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY— The ISD 696 school board considered a “rough draft” of the district’s long-term facilities maintenance plan (LTFMP) during a 29-minute meeting on Monday. Minnesota state law requires that every public school district must approve a LTFMP with a 10-year outlook on an annual basis.

The board offered little discussion about the plan, although school board member Hollee Coombe suggested that the district add new bathrooms for the baseball and football fields which she said “are very out of date,” and lack accessibility features. Coombe recommended that the bathroom facilities at the sports fields be added to the LTFMP.

District superintendent Anne Oelke noted that the LTFMP will need to be approved for the 2023-24 school year before July 30.

“We will need a special meeting,” Oelke remarked, for the approval of both the LTFMP and for “30 policies approved by the Legislature ... which need to be approved before the school year.”

Oelke mentioned 30 policies, but she included a list of 50 items in the agenda packet for board members, most of which were policies approved by the Legislature.

Regardless of the actual number of policies, the July 24 meeting of the board is currently scheduled as a work session and not as a regular board meeting. At a

minimum, the district will need to announce and hold a special meeting before the end of the month in order to approve the LTFMP. Aug. 28 may also become a special meeting day if the district hasn’t approved any of the required policy changes by that date.

In other action on Monday, the board:

► Approved the district’s June 2023 Financial Report, and the June 2023 receipts in the amount of \$926,749 and disbursements in the amount of \$481,244.

► Approved the hiring of Harry Carlson for the full-time custodian position effective June 5.

► Renewed the following fall and winter head coaches for the 2023-2024 school year as recommended by athletic director Tom Coombe: Louis Gerzin, head football coach; Megan Wognum, head volleyball coach; Jayne Dusich, head boys and girls cross country coach; Tom McDonald, head boys basketball coach; Todd Hohenstein, head boys and girls Nordic skiing coach; Max Gantt, head girls basketball coach; Jake Myers, head hockey coach; Desirae Cram, dance team

coach; Donna Kari, head speech coach.

► Approved the following fall assistant coaches for the 2023-2024 school year as recommended by Coombe: Jim Wittrup, assistant football coach; Randi Walker, assistant volleyball coach; Kayci Zorman, junior high volleyball coach (stipend paid by Ely Net Club); Sarah Spate, assistant cross country coach; Troy Oelke, Tim Hogan, Eddie Prjatel,

Louis Wigen, volunteer assistant football coaches; Nicole Selmer, Carl Skustad, Megan Devine, Toni Dewaulter, Clara Roy volunteer assistant cross country coaches.

► Approved an extra-curricular assignment for Amy Kingsley, with Youth in Action, for grades 6-12.

► Approved the second reading of revised Minn. School Board Assoc. Policy 410 Family and Medical

Leave, and revised Minn. School Board Assoc. Policy 417 Chemical Use and Abuse.

► Accepted a \$5,500 donation from the Ely Educational Foundation for the weight room.

► Heard the report of Tom Coombe reminding the school board that “five weeks from today, (fall season team) practices will start.” Due to the yet-to-be-fixed gymnasium floor at the high school, Coombe

remarked that sports sign-ups will probably take place on the baseball field. Coombe also noted that with the number of donors “lining up” to contribute to the weight room, there will likely be “little to no investment by the district itself.” Last, Coombe informed the board that the Ely baseball field will be the site of the 2025 Division 2 Legion baseball tournament.

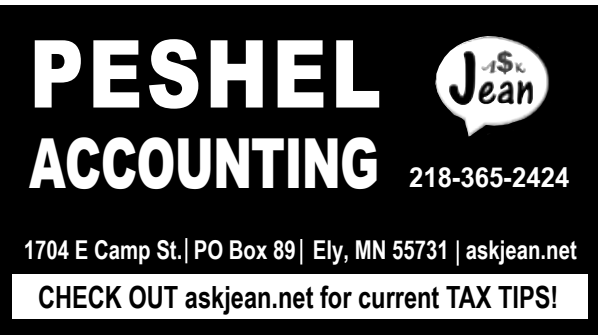



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ELY

Whiteside Park kiosk gets an update

by JEN SHUSTER-DAHLIN
Staff Writer

ELY-Visitors at this year's Blueberry/Art and Harvest Moon festivals have a redesigned information kiosk to inform them of Ely businesses and events.

Incredible Ely, a nonprofit organization that spearheads projects to revitalize downtown Ely and encourage economic growth, updated and replaced the signs in the Whiteside Park kiosk this spring. The kiosk was erected in the park in 2018 with posters featuring local businesses. The signs on the kiosk were changed out once before, about three years ago. Signs featured on the kiosk included a map of Ely, various posters advertising local businesses, and a seasonal calendar of events happening in Ely. The signs were ready to be revamped again this year, and Incredible Ely set about getting the project in motion.

Incredible Ely, founded in 2008, can undertake projects such as the information kiosk with funding from contributions on its website.

"If anyone is interested in donating to our kiosk program or our brightening up program, there is a link on our website that allows for online contributions," said Incredible Ely Board Member Kelly Klun.

At the top of the frame of the kiosk are the names of several businesses from the Ely area. Klun said these businesses were fundamental to the original kiosk project in 2018.

Members of Incredible Ely decided to use this most recent makeover to direct the kiosk to-

ward the thousands of tourists who come to the city every year, particularly in the summer and fall for the Blueberry/Art and Harvest Moon festivals.

"We thought long and hard about the issue and decided that our focus would be on people visiting Ely. As locals, we often overlook the things we see on a day-to-day basis, so we thought the largest impact we could have would be on the visitors to Ely and dedicating the sign to why Ely is great," said Klun.

Every town that draws tourists needs at least one location for visitors to stop and take photos to post online and share with family and friends. In Los Angeles, the Paul Smith pink wall on Melrose Avenue, Minneapolis, has the Bob Dylan mural. The social media aspect of the new kiosk signs was something the board of Incredible Ely had in mind with the latest design.

"The sign became more community asset-focused. On the back is a location for Instagram photos. It is a beautiful backdrop where people can take pictures while visiting Ely. We hope it's used during Blueberry/Art, Harvest Moon, and other park events." Klun said.

And beautiful they are. The new signs are bright and vibrant with pops of color, featuring photographs of natural phenomena, past local events, and the Ely area. The posters welcome and encourage visitors to "choose their adventure." Each sign offers activities, ranging from visits to area museums to the local golf course to the Boundary Waters.

Making a new and attractive kiosk was a challenging



Above: The new kiosk at Whiteside Park is now in place. Right: The old kiosk. photos by J. Shuster-Dahlin



feat, said Klun.

"An Incredible Ely board member put the content together, led by Kate Kalan, and we hired an outside designer to perfect the look. We had content contributions from the Ely tourism board and Laura Schulze. They helped with the imagery that brought the kiosk to life. The sign was a pretty time-intensive project, creating the images and content and hanging the sign ourselves. We are proud of the look and hope Ely is as well."

Incredible Ely could not do projects during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the nonprofit is coming back with many projects already under its belt and more on its way. One of its most recent efforts includes

"Brighten Up Downtown Ely," hanging flower baskets and banners that welcome visitors and advertise upcoming Ely events on Sheridan Street.

Ely deer killer gets plea bargain: probation and restitution

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

REGIONAL- The Ely college student who deliberately hit three deer with his truck last March has pleaded guilty to three misdemeanors for the "use of a motor vehicle to chase wild animals." In a plea bargain approved by Minnesota District Court Judge Andrew R. Peterson on June 22, Casey Alan Meadows received one year of probation and paid \$1,890 in restitution, fees, and fines.

Meadows ran down the deer near the Ely Golf Course on the evening of March 21. The incident received heavy media coverage throughout Minnesota and generated widespread public outcry on social media. He was 20 years old and attending

Minnesota College North at the Vermilion campus at the time. Meadows turned 21 on July 10. The district court lists his current address as Madison, S.D.

Plea bargain

Meadows originally pled not guilty at his May 12 arraignment hearing in Virginia, but later changed his plea as part of the settlement of the case. He was sentenced to 90 days jail time, which was stayed assuming he meets the conditions of his probation.

Meadows agreed to the following probation conditions: not to harm any animal, not to hunt while on probation, not to commit any similar offenses, to remain law abiding, and to pay all restitution, fines, and fees.

"I am pleading guilty

to all three counts of 'Use of a Motor Vehicle to Chase Wild Animals,' Meadows wrote in his plea petition, "because on March 21, 2023, in St. Louis County, Minnesota, I was driving my truck when I saw three deer on the highway and I intentionally hit the three deer with my truck. I knew that it was wrong and unlawful to do so."

On June 27, the court ordered Meadows to pay \$1,500 restitution, a fine of \$300, and \$90 in fees. Meadows was issued two

receipts on June 3 for his payment of the total \$1,890 imposed by the district court in Virginia.

"I hope this young man will learn from his mistakes," said Ely Police Chief Chad Houde in reaction to the plea deal even as he lamented the relatively light penalty. "I would like to see stiffer penalties for people who commit cruelty to animals," he added.

The crime

Meadows deliberately hit the three deer during

daylight hours and he reportedly sped up to hit the deer, one right after another.

"I've never had a case like this in my 12 years on the job," said DNR conservation officer Anthony Bermel, who acknowledged the outrage that played out on social media in the wake of the incident. "People have a right to be upset," he told the Timberjay at the time. "He [Meadows] didn't really have an excuse. It was an opportunistic thing and for whatever reason he

thought it would be fun." The Ely Police Department euthanized the three deer soon after they were hit by Meadows' truck, but not before a picture of one of the injured deer was posted to the "What's Up, Ely?" Facebook group. The Ely PD was the lead agency for the incident, with assistance from Minnesota Conservation Officers from the Department of Natural Resources and the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office.

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FOURTH OF JULY

Over 250 took part in the 40th Annual Vermilion Run

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The weather cooperated, and the runners showed up for the 40th running of the Vermilion 10K and 5K run. There were 170 signed up for the 5K, and 50 signed up for the 10K race this year. Over 40 children participated in the one-mile fun run.

Becky Nickila ran the 5K course twice, first with her 9-year-old son Jack, and then with her five-year-old

daughter Aubree, who ran almost the entire way!

One 5K runner missed the turn-off for the 5K run and ended up running a rather respectable 10K race (Lindsey Edwards, that is you!)

Jerry Myre (pictured at right with sons Nicholas and Shaun) celebrated his last week as a 69-year-old by completing the 10K, a race he has run almost every year since the mid-1980s. This year, two of his sons, Shaun and Nicholas, also ran the 10K, and some

Right: In his last week in his 60s, Jerry Myre of Lake Vermilion completed the 10K run with his sons Nicholas and Shaun.

photo by J. Summit

of his grandkids ran the kids one-mile fun run.

Runners in the 5K and 10K ranged in age from five-years-old to over 70. The race is sponsored by Friends of

See RACE...pg. 2B



NORTHERN LIGHTS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Classical music, classic venue

Performers light up the stage at Lake Vermilion Cultural Center

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The Northern Lights Music Festival hosted an afternoon concert of chamber music at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center in Tower. Concert performers included young musicians attending the Northern Lights Music Festival young artists program (a three-week residential music camp for young artists at “collegiate” level) as well as professional musicians and teaching staff from the music program.

This year’s offerings included a nice selection of Rachmaninoff, in honor of his 150th anniversary. The concert in Tower featured vocal selections by Leonard Bernstein from “Wonderful Town” and “On the Town” by mezzo soprano Melanie Ashkar, young artists on piano and violin, a beautiful and complex Ravel piece, “Anime”, by 16-year-old Joie Kuan on piano, two Rachmaninoff pieces, and ended with Alexander Markov on violin and Edisher Savitski on piano performing “Ave Maria” by Schubert and “Zigeunerweiser” by Sarasate.

Northern Lights Music Festival Director Veda Zuponcic spoke about their love of performing and preserving these older performance spaces. The LVCC is built around the old St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, which has excellent acoustics.

Upcoming festival concerts and opera performances:

► La bohème
Friday, July 14 at 7 p.m. at the Veda Zuponcic Auditorium, Mesabi East, Aurora

Adults: \$50/Students (under 18): \$15

After the opera program

Toast the stars of La bohème with a glass of Prosecco and enjoy delicious hors’oeuvres prepared by Chef Doug Dahlgren.



Top: The lustrous woodwork in the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center provided exceptional acoustics for performances under the auspices of the Northern Lights Music Festival, held Sunday in Tower.

Above: Mezzo soprano Melanie Ashkar performed a medley of Leonard Bernstein songs.

Right: Violinist Alexander Markov performs Ave Maria with piano accompaniment by Edisher Savitski.

photos by J. Summit

Price \$30 per person. Reservations required: (218) 750-0070.

In the newly remodeled Aurora American Legion Club.

► Chamber music on Saturday, July 15 at 7 p.m. B’nai Abraham Cultural Center, Virginia

Adults: \$15/Students (under 18): \$5

See MUSIC...pg. 2B



DEVELOPMENT

Rose drops easement request

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — The on-again, off-again request by RV park developer Dave Rose for an easement across property owned by Your Boat Club, appears to be off-again, possibly for good.

Rose told city officials at a public hearing on Monday that he was throwing in the towel after learning that his application remains incomplete.

According to Tower Clerk-Treasurer Michael Schultz, City Attorney Mitch Brunfelt suggested that Rose does not appear to qualify for the easement allowed under state law because it’s part of a single tract, most of which contains his Tower RV Resort on the east side of the East Two River. Several acres of the tract lie on the west side of the river, however, and Rose has indicated his desire to develop the property, even though it is overwhelmingly wetland.

Brunfelt also informed Rose that he would need to document that the tract on the river’s west bank is actually five acres, since state law requires a tract be five acres or more to qualify for an easement under the statute in question. County land explorer suggests the property is just over five acres, but that would likely need to be confirmed through a survey.

Rose would also need to hire an attorney to draft some of the forms required for the easement and he didn’t have the proper names for the parties involved. He also hadn’t properly served the affected landowners, according to Schultz.

Given Rose’s change of heart, the city agreed to refund about \$19,000 in escrow that Rose had paid to the city up front to cover its costs in processing his easement petition. The city opted to return his escrow funds in full if he was now abandoning the proposal.

New plan by Rose

While Rose has apparently abandoned his plan for an easement, he isn’t giving up on ideas for using the site to generate a financial return. In an email to the Timberjay on Tuesday, Rose said he now plans to create platform tents on the site, which customers can access from the new kayak/canoe landing the city built along the East Two River, just downstream of the city harbor.

FUN ON THE FOURTH

Ely's 4 on the 4th race top finishers

Four mile race

- Ages 0-12**
Boys:
 1. Charles Fuenffinger, age 12
 2. Melvin Geffre, age 10
 3. Vincent Howe, age 10
Girls:
 1. Eloisa Gomez, age 12
 2. Eila Fuenffinger, age 10
 3. Cecelia Fuenffinger, age 10

- Ages 13-15**
Boys:
 1. Adrian Rausch – second overall best time
 2. Carter Gennerson
 3. Brooks Brenny
Girls:
 1. Mattie Lindsay
 2. Addison Przybilla
 3. Molly Zbacnik

- Ages 16-19**
Men:
 1. Sam Gausmann – fifth overall best time
 2. Eli Olson
 3. Nathan Nall
Women:
 1. Sydney Auguston
 2. Anna Dunn
 3. Ameya Petsch

- Ages 20-29**
Men:
 1. Michael Schwinghammer – first best overall time
 2. Christian Murray –



- third overall best time
 3. Izaak Nosbisch
Women:
 1. Cailee Peterson – sixth overall best time and best women's time
 2. Sadie Saxton – second best women's time
 3. Shelby Suhr – third best women's time

Ages 30-39

- Men:**
 1. Hudson Kingston – fourth overall best time
 2. Trenton Monson
 3. Charlie Keller
Women:
 1. Brittany Swarts
 2. Kara Cherne
 3. Nadine Thibault

Ages 40-49

Men:

1. Chad Fuenffinger
 2. Pete Sawyer
 3. Mark Sponholz
Women:
 1. Becky Przybilla
 2. Sarah Morris
 3. Jean Cerkownik McKimon

Ages 50-59

- Men:**
 1. Mike Matthews
 2. Thomas Hoffman

3. John Dybvig
Women:
 1. Teresa Saxton
 2. Nancy Miller-Levin
 3. Kristin Rantala

- Ages 60+**
Men:
 1. Steve Saxton
 2. Mike Murray
 3. Gary Maher
Women:
 1. Judy Murray
 2. Mary McGrory
 3. Betsy LaPlatt

- Kids 1 mile**
Boys:
 1. Payson Larson, age 12, 8:39
 2. James Townsend, age 9, 9:01
 3. Owen Huotari, age 10, 9:03
Girls:
 1. Elizabeth Langowski, age 12, 9:27
 2. Jocelyn Larson, age 8, 10:04
 3. Emily Dunn, age 8, 10:13

- Walkers**
Men:
 1. Landon Parker
 2. Roger Skraba
 3. N/A
Women:
 1. Ee Lin Tan
 2. Catherine Danielson
 3. Esther Anderson

RACE...Continued from page 1B

Vermilion Country School and the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board. We would like to thank all the volunteers that made this year's race possible: Mary Shedd, Jodi Summit, Karen and Bentley Crego, Jen and Marge McDonough, Marshall Helmberger, Tracey Dagen-Strong (whose family started the race back in 1982!), Stephanie Ukkola, Sam O'Brien, Karin Schmidt, Nancy Salminen, Victoria Ranua, Muriel Scott, Dani and Denise Pieratos, the Hoodoo Point campers who manned the Hoodoo water station, and everyone who helped out at the finish line. We'd also like to thank the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center for use of these grounds as our registration spot, and the Breitung Police Department for help with traffic control. The race is a fundraiser for the Vermilion Country School in Tower.

There were a few glitches with the timing system, so there may have been some variance in timing, and a few racers may have missed having their times recorded. City of residence is in Minnesota, unless noted otherwise. The top three male and female finishers in both races won insulated stainless steel drinking cups decorated with race stickers. Other finishers receive vinyl race stickers.

10K Results

- Phil Richert, Northfield, 36, 33:32
 Soren Bortnem, 17, Tower, 36:39
 Forest Tuttle, 32, Tower, 37:52
 Charlie Bortnem, 15, Tower, 38:22
 Walter Skahl, 48, Virginia, 40:51
 Dave Schwartz, 56, Woodbury, 40:57
 Phillip Birk, 40, Duluth, 40:57
 Eve Anderson, 20, Duluth, 44:01
 Maria Richert, 37, Northfield, 44:08
 Matthew Kelly, 22, Bozeman, MT, 45:07
 Warren Doyle, 22, Bozeman, MT, 45:12
 Lance Miller, 24, Eagan, 45:13
 Greg Gossel, 40, Ellsworth, WI, 45:25
 Lillian Beutz, 15, Eden Prairie, 46:27
 BJ Dinter, 38, Eagan, 46:33
 Bryan Larson, 48, Maple Grove, 48:41
 Caleb Childers, 32, Nashville, TN, 48:41
 Faith Eskola, 45, Mpls, 48:49
 Ben Taft, 26, Northglenn, CO, 49:01



Runners look fresh and eager as they take off from the starting line during the 5K portion of the Vermilion Run held July 4.

- Joel Dunning, 50, Mpls, 49:37
 Lindsey Edwards, 33, North Branch, 49:32
 Lance Miller, 24, Eagan, 50:09
 Peter Molinaro, 44, Mendota Hts., 50:35
 Gerald Pineda, 51, Perrysburg, OH, 50:44
 Cliff Reithel, 43, Tower, 52:01
 Shaun Myre, 38, Bemidji, 53:02
 Alicia Nelson, 35, Mt. Iron, 53:17
 Beth Zak, 16, Bethel, 53:27
 Spencer Flattum, 24, Mpls, 53:22
 Tod Swenson, 52, Virginia, 53:44
 Greg Taft, 52, Cold Spring, 53:53
 Larry LaTarte, 49, St. Paul, 54:22
 Charlotte Eskola, 14, Mpls, 54:39
 Noreen Hauklard, 51, Mpls, 55:11
 Andrew Reynolds, 53, Plymouth, 55:18
 Nichole Borell, 39, Columbus, 55:55
 Nicholas Myre, 28, Tower, 56:57
 Adam Zahller, 34, Mpls, 57:38
 Brandon Miller, 27, Mpls, 60:01
 Jessica Hellmann, 48, Ely, 60:17
 Nicholas Pineda, 19, Perrysburg, OH, 61:04
 Pat McDonald, 36, St. Paul, 61:20
 Rachel Kubiawicz, 26, St. Louis Park
 Barb Dwyer, 53, Cold Spring,
 Jerry Myre, 69, Tower (time not recorded, but he wasn't the last 10K runner)
 Deann Dahl, 23, Duluth
 Wendi Kelly, 55, St. Paul
 Jen Stank, 43, Superior
 Dave Schwartz, 56, Woodbury

- Ruth Boedigheimer, Cloquet
 Jennifer Waldron, 42 Austin, TX

5K results

- We did not tabulate the time for those who walked the 5K.*
 Max Molinaro, 13, Mendota Hts, 18:57
 Nolan Kelly, 17, Cold Spring, 19:00
 Olivia Hanson, 9, Duluth, 19:23
 Isaac Monroe, 20, Plymouth, 19:59
 Will Peterson, 16, Virginia, 20:21
 Travis Green, 29, Lincoln, NE, 21:09
 BJ Brandt, 43, Houlton, WI, 21:34
 Dominick Casetta, 14, Grand Forks, ND, 21:58
 Nicole Applewick, 43, Saginaw, 22:31
 Leo Peterson, 12, Northfield, 23:05
 Jim Lodermeier, 59, Tower, 23:28
 Lilli Molinaro, 14, Mendota Hts, 23:43
 Will Swartout, 15, Eden Prairie, 23:57
 Justin Waldron, n/a, Austin, TX, 24:00
 Kevin Green, 39, Chaska, 24:18
 Christian Cochems, n/a, Mt. Iron, 24:50
 Giovanni Casetta, 11, Grand Forks, ND, 24:59
 Jack Peterson, 14, Northfield, 25:10
 Ryllyn Cooper, 15, Mt. Iron, 25:17
 Nicholas Wartout, 11, Sartell, 25:31
 Jessica Swartout, 47, Sartell, 25:32
 Wyatt Cooper, 15, Buffalo, 25:40
 Phoebe Zobitz, 10, Hugo, 25:44
 John Zobitz, n/a, Hugo, 25:49
 Kim Friedrich, 47, Jordan, 25:54
 Krissi Green, 40, Chaska, 25:57
 Meg Norberg, n/a, Des Moines, IA, 26:02

- Joe Erickson, 15, Mound, 26:08
 Joshua Eggers, 40, Tower, 26:15
 Peter Bortnem, 55, Tower, 26:15
 Chris Kolquist, n/a, Leawood, KS, 26:27
 Haley Kolquist, n/a, Leawood, KS, 26:28
 Brenda Lodermeier, 55, Tower, 26:40
 Keith Tuominen, 60, Tower, 26:43
 Jim Erickson, 49, Mound, 26:58
 Ethan Zobitz, 17, Phoenix, AZ, 27:12
 Jason Etten, 47, Roseville, 27:3
 Veronica Molinaro, 12, Mendota Hts, 27:3
 Lexie Wyman, 17, Oak Grove, 27:41
 Logan Childers, 29, Glenmont, 28:07
 Kim Slawson, 53, Apex, NC, 28:08
 Liisa Kolquist, 47, Leawood, KS, 28:12
 Camille Corniea, 21, Mpls, 28:17
 Tyler Peterson, 45, Northfield, 28:23
 Meghann Wahl, 43, Brooklyn Park, 28:29
 Robbie Green, 11, Chaska, 28:3
 Mike Nickila, 35, Proctor, 28:46
 Meghan Corniea, 24, Mpls, 28:51
 Susie Derenzis, 50, Solana Beach, CA, 28:5
 Kate Molinaro, 9, Mendota Hts, 29:01
 John Molinaro, 42, Mendota Hts, 29:09
 Keith Peterson, 47, Britt, 29:16
 Ray Peterson, 50, Duluth, 29:19
 Tami Jannick, 39, Virginia, 29:38
 Lizzie Swartout, 17, Eden Prairie, 29:51
 Dan Peterson, no age given, Duluth, 30:09

- Lily Ketola, 16, Duluth, 30:13
 Izzy Swartout, 13, Sartell, 31:1
 Gunnar Brudaner, 15, Wales, WI, 31:15
 Hannah Zobitz, 28, Roseville, 31:24
 Jason Kelly, 51, Cold Spring, 31:26
 Kelly Fleming, 43, Lafayette, CA, 31:36
 Miley Green, 17, Lincoln, NE, 31:37
 Gracie Green, 13, Chaska, 31:41
 Lisa Ledman, 59, Tower, 32:36
 Devin, Fanberg, 10, White Bear Lake, 33:27
 Drew Fanberg, 43, White Bear Lake, 33:27
 Katiana Zak, 19, Bethel, 33:31
 Craig Stevens, 72, Virginia, 33:42
 Milja Peterson, 12, Britt, 33:47
 Elly Fleming, 10, Lafayette, CA, 33:53
 Sophia Swartout, 16, Sartell, 34:0
 Tom Gustafson, 72, Biwabik, 35:20
 Terry Swartout, 46, Eden Prairie, 35:35
 Kurt Ketola, 53, no address given, 35:42
 Nolan Rust, 10, Belle Plain, 35:44
 Nate Rust, 39, Belle Plain, 35:48
 Michelle Wagoner, 33, Embarrass, 35:59
 Mary Jo Myhrer, 61, Grand Rapids, 35:59
 Christina Corniea, 20, Maple Grove, 36:02
 Andrea Gornick, 32, Tower, 36:20
 Wendy Sersha-Anderson, Tower, 36:20
 Bev Renardo, 62, Tower, 36:21
 Erica Amborn, 41, Hermantown, 36:24
 Mikko Adams, 11, Cambridge, 36:49
 Susan Turnquist, 69, Corvallis, OR, 38:00
 Jennifer Erickson, 48, Mound, 38:03
 Miranda Lanning, 36, Eugene, OR, 38:08
 Cason Gibson, 13, Stillwater, 38:43
 Chris Mish, 44, Stillwater, 38:51
 Sheila Wakson, 44, Mpls, 38:55
 Asher Oja, 9, Virginia, 39:30
 Casey Nelson, 40, Plymouth, 39:33
 Leni Nelson, 12, Plymouth, 39:37
 Madison Millard, 20, Brooklyn Park, 40:13
 Aimee Rice, 41, St. Paul, 41:39
 Rosalind Rice, 8, St. Paul, 41:40
 Chase Cooper, 40, Mt. Iron, 41:56
 Radlee Cooper, 11, Mt. Iron, 42:01
 Keely Kolquist, 13, Leawood, KS, 42:40
 Tiffany Halverson, 48, Virginia, 43:36
 Hailey Zak, 21, Bethel, 44:04
 Beth Zak, 48, Bethel, 44:08
 Maia Kolquist, 17, Leawood, KS, 44:26
 Tony Corniet, n/a, Tower, 44:27
 Becky Nickila, 37, Proctor, 46:18
 Kevin Boedigheimer, 64, Cloquet, 46:27
 John Miller, 40, Mpls, 47:37

MUSIC...Continued from page 1B



Left: Veda Zuponic talks to the audience about the value of music and sustaining historic musical venues.

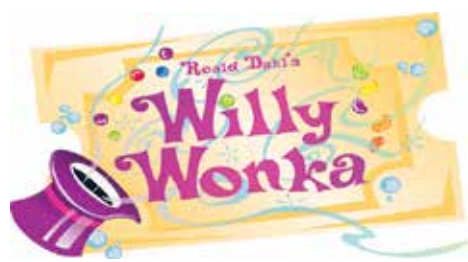
photo by J. Summit

- ▶ La bohème
 Sunday, July 16 at 3 p.m. at the Chisholm High School Auditorium.
 Adults: \$50 / Students (under 18): \$15
- ▶ Chamber music on Tuesday, July 18 at 7 p.m. Buhl Public Library, with FREE

- admission sponsored by Lake Country Power
- ▶ Opera Arias and More presented by members of the NLMF Opera Apprentices Program with piano accompaniment
 Tuesday July 18 at 7 p.m. Vermilion Fine Arts Center in Ely.
 Adults: \$15 / Students (under 18): \$5
 - ▶ Kids for Kids Concert on Wednesday, July 19 at 10:30 a.m. at the Ely Public Library, with FREE Admission

- ▶ Rachmaninoff 150 Festival Concert on Wednesday, July 19 at 7 p.m., Veda Zuponic Auditorium, Mesabi East, in Aurora.
 Adults: \$15 / Students (under 18): \$5
- ▶ Concerto Competition Winners Concert with the Northern Lights Music Festival Orchestra, Gavriel Heine, conductor on Thursday, July 20, 7 p.m. at the Hibbing High School.
 Adults: \$20 / Students (under 18): \$5
 Prior to the concert at 5:30

p.m., The Schools That Did it All: The History of Iron Range Schools. One-hour historic art and architecture tour of historic Hibbing High School prior to the NLMF Orchestra Concert.
 ▶ Closing Concert on July 21 at 6 p.m. Veda Zuponic Auditorium, Mesabi East, in Aurora
 Adults: \$15 / Students (under 18): \$5



Seats now available for Willy Wonka musical at new performing arts center

VIRGINIA- Tickets are on sale for Mesabi Musical Theatre's (MMT) production of Roald Dahl's "Willy Wonka", which opens Thursday, July 27 on the Minnesota Power Stage at Rock Ridge High School. This stage adaptation of the 1964 book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* will be MMT's 14th full-scale production since 2002. Audience members will recognize songs from the 1971 film starring Gene Wilder, as well as new music unique to the stage version.

"We are excited to bring the first full-scale musical production to the stage of the spectacular new Rock Ridge High School Performing Arts Center," said Alison Perry, MMT board president. "Our talented cast and crew, which is comprised of people of all ages from communities across the Iron Range, are working hard to produce a fun and engaging show that is sure to delight audiences."

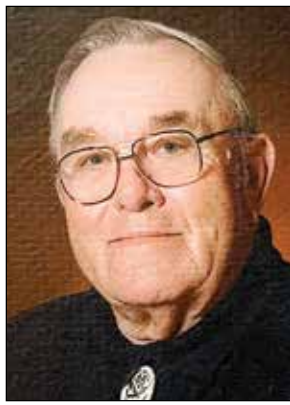
Performances of Roald Dahl's "Willy Wonka" run July 27, 28, and 30 and August 3, 4, and 6 at Rock Ridge High School, located at 1403 Progress Parkway between Eveleth and Virginia. Shows start at 7 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Tickets can be reserved online at our.show/mmtwillywonka. Reserving tickets is strongly recommended to guarantee seats. Online prices are \$24 for general admission, \$19 for senior citizens and military personnel, and \$14 for students.

This title is presented through special arrangements with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI (www.mtishows.com).

"All of the actors have amazing voices and rock their parts," said Parker Feldt, 12, of Aurora, who plays Charlie Bucket. "I'm lucky to work with people who have so much talent and experience. The directors and crew are so great, and the play is so fun. You won't be disappointed!"

Obituaries and Death Notices



Jack A. Brandt

Jack Ainer Brandt, 83, of Tower, passed away peacefully on Friday, June 23, 2023, at his home. A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, July 14 at Lakeview Cemetery in Tower.

Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

Jack was born on March 20, 1940, to Carl Ainer Brandt and Lily (Lake) Brandt of Virginia. After graduating from high school in Virginia, Jack enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. While stationed in North Dakota he met Karen Pulver, whom he later married. After his discharge from the Air Force in October 1963, Jack and Karen moved to Minnesota, eventually settling in Kugler Township.

Jack was employed as an electrician for Erie Mining Company. After his retirement from the mines, he managed the Hoodoo Point Campground in Tower for 13 years from 1988 until 2001. He was a command-

er for the local American Legion Post and also served on the Tower Cemetery Board. Additionally, Jack was active in the leadership of Kugler Township for many years.

Jack is survived by his children, Julie (Brandt) Harrison, Mark Brandt, James Brandt and Brian Brandt; nine grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and younger brother, Bruce Brandt.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Karen Brandt; parents; and older brother, Charles Brandt.



Ruby E. Laitinen

Ruby Evelyn Laitinen, 94, longtime resident of Ely, passed away on Sunday, July 2, 2023. Close family members will hold a private ceremony to honor and cherish her memory. Arrangements are under the direction of the Cremation Society of Minnesota in St. Paul.

Ruby was born on Nov. 1, 1928, in Blaine,

Ky., and moved to Rochester in the early 1940s. She attended the University of Louisville and University of Minnesota for two years.

Ruby married Edward Laitinen of Chisholm and they lived at Eagles Nest Lake near Ely for 40 years, and for short periods afterward in Babbitt, Eveleth, Sturgeon Lake and Gilbert. Ruby lived in Maplewood during her last nine years. She was a longtime board member of the Embarrass Vermillion Credit Union of Tower, and a retiree of Inland Steel, where she served as a custodian.

Ruby is survived by four daughters, Linda Laitinen of Hermantown, Lois Laitinen of Maplewood, Barbara (Mark) Theno of Minnetonka and Evelyn (Jim) Adams of Niles, Mich.; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Edward Laitinen; loving parents, Dr. and Mrs. Carl M. Gambill of Rochester; and brother, Dr. Harold Gambill of San Jose, Calif.

Michael A. Scott

Michael Allen Scott, 62, of Duluth, originally of Ely and Babbitt, passed away on Thursday, July 6, 2023, in a motorcycle accident in Duluth. A celebration of Michael's life will be planned at a later date.

He is survived by his

fiancée, Karin Mobilia of Duluth; sister, Rhonda (John) Raskovich of Chisholm; brother, Gary (Pam) Scott of Farmington; many nieces, nephews, aunts, cousins and friends; and fur companion, Rocky.

Jacqueline Carlson

Jacqueline Carlson, 93, of Ely, formerly of Babbitt, passed away on Thursday, July 6, 2023, at Carefree Living in Ely. Funeral arrangements are pending with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Shawn E. Hannine

Shawn Elliot Hannine, 38, of Cook, passed away on Tuesday, July 4, 2023. There will be a private family interment at a later date. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Get Informed!
Get the Timberjay!



The Ely Chamber of Commerce Invites You to be an Active Part of Your Business Community



2022-2023 Chamber Membership Role

A Stay Inn Ely
Adventure Inn
All Phase Construction
Anova Gallery*
Arrowhead Outdoors
Art & Soul Gallery
Bear Head Lake State Park
Bear Island Realty
Big Lake Wilderness Lodge*
Blue Loon Gallery & Boutique*
Boathouse Brewpub & Restaurant, LLC
Boundary Cabin Getaway +
Boundary Waters Bank +
Boundary Waters Care Center
Boundary Waters Guide Service +
Boundary Waters Journal
Boundary Waters Outfitters
Brainstorm Bakery
Brandenburg Gallery
Camp Van Vac LLC.
Camp Voyageur, Inc.
Canadian Waters Outfitters
Canoe Country Outfitters, Resort & Campground
Cast Outdoor Adventures
Central Avenue Business Park
Charles R. Zeugner CPA
Chilly Dogs Sled Dog Trips
City Of Babbitt
City Of Ely
City Of Winton
Cliff Wold's Canoe Trip Outfitters
CTC
Cunningham Electric, Inc.
Custom Cabin Rentals
Defenbaugh Law Firm +
Docks On Wheels
Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust
Dorothy Molter Mem. Museum +
Duane's Outfitters
Dutchman Tree Service
Echo Shores Resort
Echo Trail Outfitters
Edward Jones
Edwards Oil
Ely Area Credit Union
Ely Area Senior Citizens
Ely D. O. Grill & Chill

Ely Folk School
Ely Golf Club
Ely Igloo Snowmobile Club
Ely Kiwanis Club
Ely Lakes And Pines Real Estate
Ely License Bureau, Inc.
Ely Log Cabin
Ely North Country Trail
Ely Outfitting Co.+
Ely Rotary Club
Ely Shopper
Ely Sportswear Inc
Ely State Farm Keen Insurance
Ely Steak House +
Ely Surplus Store
Ely Timberjay +
Ely Up North Retreat
Ely Veterinary Clinic
Ely Vision & Optometry Ctr, P.C.+
Ely-Bloomenson Hospital ++
Elylodging.Com
Ely's Historic State Theater
Ely's Old-Fashioned Candy
Elywear
Ely-Winton Historical Society
End of the Road Yoga*
Eric Sherman Images
Espland's Resort
Excel Business Systems
Forest Concrete Products
Frandsen Bank & Trust
G Men, Inc
Garden Lake Resort
Grand Ely Lodge +
Gruba Construction
H & S Electric*
Hauling Dogs, LLC.
Healthy Families Chiropractic
Holden Duluth Insurance Agency
Insula Restaurant +
International Wolf Center +
Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation
J&L Ben Franklin & Rental +
Joe's Marine & Repair, Inc. +
Kekekabic Studio*
KJ's True Value Hardware +*
Klun Law Firm

Log Cabin Hideaways
Lossing Powersports
Lucky Seven General Store
Mealey's Gift & Sauna Shop
Merhar's Ace Hardware
Midcontinent Communications
Mike's Liquor & Wine Shop +
Minnesota North College Vermilion Campus
Moose Track Adventures Resort & Outfitting*
Motel Ely
Napa Parts Center, Inc.++
NIXTERIC
Norshor Agency, Inc
North American Bear Center +
North Country Canoe Outfitter
North Harbor Services*
NorthRidge Community Credit Union
Northeast Title Company
Northern Grounds
Northern Lakes Art Association
Northern Routes Rolloff*
Northern Tier High Adventure ++
Northernair Lodge
Northwind Lodge
Northwoods Inn & Suites
Northwoods Partners
OJ's HVAC & Refrigeration
Out MOBILE Escape Rooms
Packsack Canoe Trips & Log Cabins +++
Paddle Inn
Park State Bank
Pengal's Basswood Trading Co.
Peshel Accounting
Pine Manor
Pine Point Resort
Piney Wood Retreat*
Piragis Northwoods Outfitters & Store ^
Plumbing & Heating Solutions
Portage North +
R & R Transfer
Range Cenex Ely
Range Design & Print
Range Regional Airport
Range Reliable Agency, Inc.
Raven Productions
Razor Edge Systems
Recreation Resource Mgt/Fall Lake Cpgd
River Point Resort & Outfitter Co. & Villas & Chalets On The Lake
Riverside Resort & Island Campsites
Rock Country Masonry
Schulze Excavating, Inc

Shagawa Beach Cabin*
Shagawa Inn Resort & Motels on the Lake
Silver Rapids Lodge, Hotels & Campgrounds
Sisu Designs Yarn Shop
Snowbank Lodge & Outfitters
Spirit Of the Wilderness Outfitter & Retail Store
Superior Fuel Co
Steger Mukluks ^
Studio North-Dance & Fitness Center
Subway Of Ely
Sunbelt Business Advisors*
Sundell Eye Associates
Sundog Sports
The Art Corner
The Cabin
The Chocolate Moose
The Ledge Rock
Timber Bay Lodge & Houseboats
Timber Trail Lodge & Motels ^
Tisovich Trucking & Excavating
Tony's Towing/Mather Salvage
Twin Metals Minnesota +++
USFS-Kawishiwi District
Vermilion Roofing*
Veterans on the Lake Resort
Voltz Technologies
Voyageur North Outfitters
Walker Giroux & Hahne
Way to go Outfitters
Wells Fargo Bank +++
White Wolf Dog Sled Trips
Wildwoods Land Company
Williams & Hall Outfitters
Wintergreen Dogsled Lodge
Wintergreen Northern Wear
Wood, Margaret (Lifetime Member)
YMCA Camp Du Nord
YMCA Camp Northern Lights
Zone 3 Gardens
Zup's Food Market ++

New Members *
Bronze President's Circle +
Silver President's Circle ++
Gold President's Circle +++
Platinum President's Circle ++++
Greenstone President's Circle ^

Total Members - 209

Ely Echo +
Ely Family Dental
Ely Fishing Guide Company LLC, The
Ely Flower & Seed

Kovall Construction +
Latourell's Resort & Outfitter
Listening Point Foundation
Lodge of Whispering Pines*

Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

THE HOMESTEAD



After years of indecision, I finally took the plunge

My gradual transition from gardener to small-scale farmer took another step forward recently when the U.S. Post Office in Tower called early one morning just over a month ago to tell me that my chicks had arrived. For years, I had contemplated adding chickens to the homestead, which seem a natural fit with small scale agriculture. They're relatively easy to grow, they provide both meat and eggs, and their manure is like gold for a gardener like me.



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

Yet, there's a lot involved. At a time when my work life is busier than ever and I'm helping to care for my elderly parents, did I really have time to build a chicken coop and make sure they had food and water every day, including in the winter?

The answer was no. I didn't have the time and I still don't, but I've taken the plunge anyway and, just as I suspected, they've been a lot of work, but also kind of fun. They're only a little over a month old, so we haven't enjoyed any eggs or meat just yet, although the manure—which is conveniently combined with bedding straw that helps balance out the carbon-to-nitrogen ratio for good compost—has been piling up. In fact, it's been piling up faster and faster as the chicks have grown.

They outgrew their brooder, which had been their home for a month, and are now in the chicken coop, or as I call it, the chicken Taj Mahal. I figured if I ever got tired of raising chickens I could turn the coop into a solar greenhouse, so I used the same design as my other greenhouse, but that involved a structure that's a fair bit bigger than the typical chicken coop. I figure all the glass on the south face should help keep the chickens warmer and feeling brighter on those short winter days and that might encourage them to lay later into the season. We'll see if my theory holds.

Because we're off-grid, there's more of a challenge to raising chickens in a place where it hits minus-40 or colder most winters, but I know others up here are doing it so it's definitely possible. It's going to be a trial-and-error thing, I suspect, until I can figure out how to keep their water in liquid form when it's below zero outside. No livestock tank heaters will be possible. The greenhouse is well-insulated

See **CHICKS...**pg. 5B



MOUNTAIN BIKING

DOWN IN THE VALLEY

Ely's new Hidden Valley trail system demands your attention

HIDDEN VALLEY— Ely has debuted the latest contribution to the growing number of top-notch mountain bike trails in northeastern Minnesota— just be sure you're paying attention if you decide to check them out. The trails follow the hilly terrain the area is known for, and it means lots of twists and turns and ups and downs as the narrow track winds its way through dense forest. Close encounters with large trees can be just inches away. In other words, it's that perfect mix of danger and exhilaration that has made mountain biking one of the region's most popular non-motorized forms of outdoor recreation.

"It's a firm intermediate bordering on advanced," said Wayne Pasmick, who has been one of the key players in bringing and now maintaining the bike trails at Hidden Valley. He's the treasurer of the Ely Nordic Ski and Bike Club, which manages Hidden Valley, and most days you can find him out of the trails here. After spending a couple hours on the trails here last week, I can see why.

The trails, designed by Grand Marais-based Dirt Candy Designs, turned the Hidden Valley terrain into a roller coaster ride on two wheels. The trails have a few technical elements, like rock gardens and tabletops, but most of the challenge is found in the up and down nature of the gravel moraines that underlie Hidden Valley. The trail is also narrow, barely wider than a footpath, leaving little room for error. The uphill is very manageable, which is a nice contrast with the Redhead trails in Chisholm, which can be a grind when you're coming back out of the pit. It's the downhill that can surprise you at Hidden Valley,

See **BIKING...**pg. 5B



Top: A rider winds his way along a narrow trail at Hidden Valley.

Above: Three bikers head out on the trails.

Left: Signage directs riders to the trails as well as providing rules of the road and a funding acknowledgement.

Below: A scene from the Big Pine Loop trail, which is aptly named.

photos by M. HelMBERGER



WILDLIFE



With good numbers of drumming grouse this spring and a warm and dry June, the fall ruffed grouse outlook appears strong.

Ruffed grouse numbers look strong again

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The Department of Natural Resources has good news for those who plan to hunt ruffed grouse this fall. Northern Minnesota's spring ruffed grouse drumming counts are up again from last year. That fact, combined with the warm and dry conditions in June, are providing the ingredients for a strong fall harvest.

The recent grouse population trend includes a low point in the ten-year ruffed grouse cycle in 2021 that was not as low as previous lows. That was followed by unexpectedly high counts in 2022 and again this year.

Warm temperatures and dry conditions that favor high nest success and chick survival the

See **GROUSE...**pg. 5B

Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower
FIREWEED



We're usually well into summer before the **Fireweed**, *Chamaenerion angustifolium*, spreads its magenta swatches across the North Country landscape.

It's a native wildflower, not to be confused with purple loosestrife, which is a deeper shade of purple and generally grows in wetlands.

The Fireweed does best in sunny locations, which is one reason it prefers roadsides or semi-open rock outcrops. It also does very well in the wake of forest fires, as its name suggests.

It's easily recognized by its showy, four-petaled flowers that grow in a spike atop a stem that can grow six feet tall. It blooms from bottom to the top of the spike, so it has a blooming period of about a month, which is longer than the vast majority of wildflowers in the region, most of which last a week at best.

It's a member of the Evening Primrose family.

CHICKS...Continued from page 4B



Five weeks after hatching, the white Cornish Crosses appear almost full grown. The other chicks are barely one-third their size. photo by M. Helmsberger

so it will definitely hold heat and the chickens themselves should provide some body heat as well.

We opted for a couple hardy breeds that are good layers, so we ordered six Rhode Island Reds and as many Barred Rocks. We ended up with a bonus mystery chick that we haven't firmly identified at this point, although we think he's a rooster just based on his attitude. Regardless, we plan to keep him around. He's got spunk.

We also ordered ten Cornish Crosses, which are strictly meat birds. They don't have the personality of the other chicks, but oh, my god, do they grow fast. They were the same size when they arrived and I swear they're three times the size of the other chicks now and they're just crazy at feeding time. Woe the poor chick that gets between them and the feed tray. I now try to put two trays out at the exact same time so the other birds at least get a chance. I also sprinkle food in other parts of the coop so the smaller birds have a chance.

I'm sure I'm making plenty of mistakes, but they all seem to be developing fine and we haven't lost a bird yet. We are scheduled to lose ten of them in three weeks, come butchering day, and I suspect the other chicks will be pretty happy to see the big clumsy oafs gone. I had a hard time believing that a chick could go from hatching to butch-

ering in eight weeks, but after watching the Cornish Crosses I'm now a believer. These things grow so fast even their feathers can't grow quickly enough, so they end up looking half bare. That might be part of their breeding, I suppose, since it will make the plucking easier. They are true examples of just what selective breeding can accomplish. You could call them freaks of nature but nature had little to do with it. They're really products of human ingenuity.

I know someone will ask the question, so I'll answer it now. No, we have not named any of our chickens although my wife Jodi calls the mystery chick "Hairy" because we think he's a male and because he has feathers on his legs, that looks like something like fur. We may eventually have names for some of them, it can be useful for purely management purposes. I worry, however, that once you name them, they become pets rather than livestock. And even though I suspect we'll become attached to some of our laying hens, there will come a time when they cease pulling their weight and may have to be retired to the stew pot. Hopefully, that's a few years down the road.

My guess is, they'll provide a few more interesting stories— and lots of eggs and manure— along the way.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
77 52					70 49					65 48					65 48					73 49				
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.
07/03	82	62	0.00		07/03	83	54	0.00		07/03	85	57	0.00		07/03	81	63	0.00		06/26	65	58	0.92	
07/04	83	57	0.00		07/04	85	49	0.00		07/04	84	56	0.00		07/04	73	52	0.00		06/27				
07/05	76	55	0.01		07/05	79	50	0.00		07/05	75	55	0.09		07/05	63	52	0.05		06/28				
07/06	66	49	0.03		07/06	65	39	0.00		07/06	63	47	0.02		07/06	70	37	0.01		06/29				
07/07	69	51	0.00		07/07	70	40	0.00		07/07	73	47	0.00		07/07	64	54	0.00		06/30				
07/08	71	54	0.03		07/08	73	45	0.00		07/08	64	50	0.09		07/08	70	48	0.00		07/01				
07/09	71	51	0.00		07/09	70	41	0.12		07/09	70	50	0.10		07/09	81	50	0.00		07/02				
YTD Total			11.39		YTD Total			12.64		YTD Total			8.39		YTD Total			NA		YTD Total				10.53

BIKING...Continued from page 4B

so watch your speed so you remain in control. The sides are typically banked for turns at the bottom of some of the steeper drops for those who like the thrill of banking high. At 62, I prefer to stay closer to the main trail.

"There's random features all along the way," notes Pasmick, "and some of them do have what we call 'b-lines' to get around them but not all of them do."

Hidden Valley has allowed mountain biking on its ski trails for some time, but the new trails are a reminder of just how big a difference a professionally designed single track trail can make to the riding experience. And with just over ten miles of designed trails, including a skills course that's just over a mile, you can spend a lot of time here without running out of room to ride.

It turns out Hidden Valley is a great location for mountain bike trails, because unlike much of the area, it's well-drained. "The key to it all is water management," said Pasmick. "It's the art of diverting water to not have washouts."

While a significant rain can shut down a mountain bike trail in the wrong terrain for hours over even days, most of the five loops that make up the trail system here are

ready to ride almost immediately after rain. The only exception, according to Pasmick, is the back loop, a 4.5-kilometer jaunt dubbed The Outback, which is best avoided if it's rained in the last day.

All together, there are five loops (not including the separate skills course) in Hidden Valley's new trail system. You start out on the 2.2-k Flying Carpet trail, which connects with two other loops— an aptly named Big Pine loop, which has dozens of very large white pine along the route, and Ely Airlines, which is the most technical of the routes and offers the best opportunities to catch some air.

From Big Pine, you can connect with the 3.1-k loop Erratic Behavior, which is the only way to reach The Outback.

Interest in the trails is evident in the number of visitors to Hidden Valley. On a Friday late morning, with rain threatening, there were nearly ten cars in the parking lot and more were arriving as Pasmick and I chatted nearby. In the past, Pasmick said, you'd be lucky to find a single car in the parking lot in the summer. "There's been a lot of interest in it as of late," said Pasmick.

The trail system cost about \$160,000 to design and build, with

much of the money coming from state grants. But maintenance of the system comes mostly from private donations and membership dues in the Ely Nordic Ski and Bike Club. Volunteers do most of the maintenance of the trail systems at Hidden Valley. For the bike trails that includes clearing downed trees, brushing and weed-whipping in the summer and leaf-blowing the trails in the fall to prevent the accumulation of leaves on the trail. Pasmick said they try to avoid allowing organic matter to build up on the trails.

More trails in the works

The success of the trails to date has the ski and bike club planning to add miles. Pasmick said Dirt Candy's principals, Adam and Mica Harju, are already busy designing an additional three miles of trail connected to the Hidden Valley system as well as a separate system planned for the property between the U.S. Forest Service Kawishiwi District office and the Minnesota North Vermilion college campus. With funding already in place, Pasmick said actual construction is likely to start next year. Which means Ely is going to continue to attract more mountain bikers for the foreseeable future.

GROUSE...Continued from page 4B

past two years may partly explain the quicker than expected rise to levels like recent peaks in the 10-year cycle. Snow conditions also were favorable for roosting throughout much of the core of grouse range during the past two winters.

DNR biologists used to predict fall hunting success based in part on spring drumming counts, but it's a data point that's proven to be less predictive in recent years.

"While ruffed grouse drumming counts are up in the core of ruffed grouse range, they are not an accurate way to predict the birds

that will be present during the fall hunting season," said Charlotte Roy, DNR grouse project leader. "Nesting success and chick survival during the spring and summer are among the factors that influence the number of birds present in the fall."

Drumming is a low sound produced by male ruffed grouse as they beat their wings rapidly and in increasing frequency to signal the location of their territory. Drumming displays also attract females that are ready to begin nesting. Ruffed grouse populations are surveyed by counting the number of male

ruffed grouse drums on established routes throughout the state's forested regions.

"In a typical year, we have 13 cooperating organizations providing folks to help us count grouse drumming," Roy said. "We are grateful to our federal and tribal partners for their assistance in completing routes."

The ruffed grouse survey report can be found on the grouse management webpage of the DNR website (mndnr.gov/wildlife/grouse.html).

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Ego
- 5 Curved line
- 8 Easy targets
- 12 Geometric calculation
- 13 "The Matrix" hero
- 14 Conspiracy
- 15 Elephant's ancestor
- 17 Sultry Home
- 18 Low isle
- 19 Pale yellow
- 21 Rice recipe
- 24 Colorations
- 25 Landed
- 26 Magazine staff listing
- 30 Leary's drug
- 31 Skin openings
- 32 TiVo precursor
- 33 Became an expert in
- 35 Actress Ward
- 36 — and crafts
- 37 Cancel
- 38 Where Gauguin painted
- 41 Football filler
- 42 Milky gem
- 43 Large dogs
- 48 Portrayal
- 49 Yale grad
- 50 Humdrum
- 51 Apple product
- 52 Game caller

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15				16			17				
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38	39	40				41					
42					43	44			45	46	47
48					49				50		
51					52				53		

- 53 Continental currency
- 9 "Roots" author Haley
- 27 Always
- 28 Rights org.
- 10 Corn concoction
- 29 Colorless
- 31 Impudent
- 34 Shadowed
- 35 Writer
- 37 Perch
- 38 Actress
- 39 Each
- 40 Angelic light
- 41 "Dream on!"
- 44 Pub pint
- 45 Winter ailment
- 46 Distant
- 47 HBO rival

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PUBLIC NOTICE

KUGLER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly board meeting on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall.

Christopher Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, July 14, 2023

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		÷		7
×			-		×
	×		-		3
÷		×		-	
	+		÷		2
2		5		4	

1 2 3 4 4 5 6 7 8

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: K equals S

CZJC HFCD, CAUX CXQD HNFTO
SJGDTX RJTQ XDC, SFC ZD RJK
LDCCAUL JGNFUO NU ENNC CN
CZD SDKC NE ZAK KCJSATACX.

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

BGUVTZ LGCU OTUBTEZ

GBBTUNHV; ZRTUT'Q K EUKEP

NH TYTULZRNHV, ZRKZ'Q RGM

ZRT INVRZ VTZQ NH.

— ITGHKUF EGRTH

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Super Crossword

Answers

V	I	A	G	R	A	B	S	S	E	C	T	M	A	M	B	O	S		
A	R	K	R	E	N	E	E	I	G	O	R	A	R	A	R	A	T		
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I	N	R	E	S	T	O	O	L	P	E	W	I	T	E	M	S			
R	E	A	R	M	Y	O	Y	O	H	A	A	N	C	A	T				
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			O	H	W	E	L	L	D	A	N	T	E	S	A	L	I	T	
J	O	U	R	N	A	L	C	O	N	S	T	I	T	U	T	I	O	N	
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C	H	I	C	A	G	O	M	I	D	W	A	Y	P	D	F	I	M	A	
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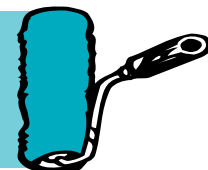
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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