

Blueberry/Art Festival

July 28, 29, 30

Whiteside Park, Ely

Fri & Sat 9 AM-6 PM, Sun 10 AM-4 PM

Special section inside

The TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

VOL. 34, ISSUE 29

July 28, 2023

\$1.50

TOWER HARBOR

Major players seek to join harbor development

Luke Kujawa, Jamie Tatge submit letters of intent to invest in Kringstad's Tower Vision 2025

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

See related **OPINION**

Tower Harbor... Page 4

Right: Tower's harbor could soon be the site for major development after years of false starts and delay.

photo by M. Helmberger

TOWER — After decades of public investment, false starts, and dashed hopes, major development at Tower's harbor and adjacent riverfront may finally be coming soon.

At a special July 20 meeting, the Tower Economic Development Authority received letters of intent to invest in Tower

Vision 2025's harbor proposal from Luke Kujawa, president of Your Boat Club, and Jamie Tatge, president of Leisure Hotels and Resorts, LLC, a multi-million-dollar company that owns and/or manages resort and hotel properties across the U.S.

Both individuals and their companies bring substantial financial resources to the development and Tatge brings a key component that has been missing

See...**HARBOR** pg. 9



EMS

Greenwood rep on the hot seat at ambulance meeting

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Greenwood Township Board Chair John Bassing spent time on the hot seat during a Tower Ambulance Commission meeting that started late and ended early as a result of ambulance calls requiring response by ambulance supervisor Dena Suihkonen.

Frank Sherman, the newly appointed Eagles Nest representative to the commission, had a series of questions for Bassing on why Greenwood was no longer participating in the ambulance subsidy.

"My understanding is that this group is just to raise money for ambulance purchases," he said. "But now some groups aren't contributing."

Bassing said the refusal to include the universal indemnification clause was one reason, claiming that the clause is "used all over."

The city had put the indemnification in the contract in a previous year, but after consultation with their own attorney, had declined the wording from Greenwood, and suggested their own indemnification clause, that would not have Tower be responsible in the case of negligence of other township employees, who serve as first responders.

"Why do you think it is okay to freeload?" Sherman asked Bassing. "What is the possible reason not to contribute to a new ambulance?"

Bassing said their attorney said they would be "crazy" to sign the subsidy agree-

See...**AMBULANCE** pg. 9



ELY'S BLUEBERRY/ART FESTIVAL

Pie and much more!

ELY — The annual celebration of the North Country's most popular wild berry gets underway Friday morning at Whiteside Park and runs through Sunday. This year's Blueberry Art/Festival will feature more than 200 artisans and crafters as well as a wide range of food vendors selling everything from frozen yogurt to egg rolls, along with plenty of fresh-baked

blueberry pie.

Add live music to the mix and you have the makings of Ely's biggest and most popular summer festival.

The festival is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. See page B1 for our Blueberry Art/Festival special section with much more on the event.

Watch for road construction

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The annual pilgrimage from across the region to Ely's Blueberry/Art Festival, set for July 28-30, could take a bit longer than in some recent years for folks planning to

travel on Hwy. 169.

A mill and overlay project got underway earlier this week on a roughly seven-mile stretch from the Pike River bridge in Vermilion Lake Township, to the intersection of Hwy.

See...**HWY. 169** pg. 9



PRESERVATION

NMW lays out strategy for BWCAW protection

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- While the U.S. Department of the Interior has banned mineral leases for 20 years on 225,000 acres within the Rainy River watershed on the Superior National Forest, Ely-based Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness (NMW) continues its push for long-term protection for the 4.3 million-acre Quetico-Superior ecosystem.

"We are not done," said NMW executive director Ingrid Lyons.

"Our goal is permanent protection," she told a packed house at the July 25 meeting of Ely's Tuesday Group at the Grand Ely Lodge. Lyons and colleague Becky Rom, the national chair of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, gave a presentation to over 80 Tuesday Group attendees outlining NMW's strategy to do just that: protect the Boundary Waters for all time. The NMW leads a coalition of over 400 organizations and businesses in the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, an effort that NMW started ten years ago.

Go with the flow

Lyons explained how their efforts to permanently ban mining in the watersheds feeding the Boundary Waters covered an area much bigger than the BWCAW itself. With the help of several maps, Lyons showed that surface and ground water flow through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) starts in the headwaters of the Rainy River basin, in non-wilderness areas to the south.

See... **PROTECTION** pg. 10

“We are not done. Our goal is permanent protection.”

Ingrid Lyons
NMW executive director



Retail Store Open 6 am to 9 pm Daily
NEW BOOK TITLES AND WOMENS FASHIONS

OUTLET STORE HAS NEW WALL OF NORTHSIDE SHOES

40% OFF COMPLETE SIZE RUNS OF MEN'S AND WOMEN'S

You'll find it all at Piragis Northwoods Company 105 N Central Ave.

piragis.com 218-365-6745 boundarywaterscatalog.com

Contact The Timberjay

218-753-2950
editor@timberjay.com



8 04879 35140 5

Community notices

One-Woman Performance— Jeannette Rankin: Champion Of Persistence

ELY- The American Association of University Women (AAUW)-Ely Branch, in collaboration with Ely EMPOWER invites community members to a presentation at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 9 at First Presbyterian Church, 226 E Harvey Street. The one-woman performance by J. Emily Peabody depicts the life of Jeannette Rankin. After the hour-long performance, there will be a party with an opportunity to meet Ms. Peabody. Light snacks will be served. There is a \$10 suggested donation.

In 1916, Jeannette Rankin was the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress, and “Jeannette Rankin: Champion of Persistence” offers us a snapshot of her life from her youth to her maturity. It includes her battle for women’s suffrage, her election to Congress, the legislation she introduced that eventually became the 19th Amendment granting voting rights to women, and her activism for women’s rights and civil rights throughout her career spanning six decades. The presentation includes Jeannette’s votes against the U.S. entering WWI and WWII during her terms as a U.S. Representative and her brave alignment with the copper miners after the 1917 explosion in the Speculator mine near Butte, Mont.


Jeannette’s final acts in Congress include her fight to bring the U.S. troops home from Vietnam and her fight for an electoral system that truly reflects a government of, for, and by the people. The story of Jeannette’s long life offers a unique slice of U.S. history and is a lesson in how democracy does or doesn’t work.

J. Emily Peabody is an actress out of Minneapolis. She has a passion for Shakespeare and has appeared in many other community productions as well. While looking for a story to go with a 1915 musical sensation, a book on Jeannette Rankin fell into her hands. This discovery led to a 2018 Minnesota Fringe Show. In 2019, the show hit the road to Fringes in Kansas City, Mo., Indianapolis, Ind., and Elgin, Ill. In 2023, Ms. Peabody received the Best Drama award at the Tucson Fringe Festival, and delighted audiences at peace organizations all over the Southwest, including at the Rogue Festival in Fresno, Calif.

Camp Vermilion hosting outdoor music festival on Saturday, Aug. 5

COOK- Since 2011, the community has been gathering on the shores of Lake Vermilion to listen to amazing music while lifting up the mission and programs at Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion. In 2023, they are expanding their horizons with the Sounds of the Northwoods Festival and Fundraiser for Camp on Saturday, Aug. 5. Some traditional bluegrass friends will return and some new sounds and bands will be welcomed in as people gather under the tent. Plenty of food and family activities will be included along with the Annual Basket Challenge and Silent and Live Auctions. Bands performing include Crazy Chester, folk and Southern rock band Sloughgrass, family bluegrass band Morningbird, and Iron Range folk and original singer/songwriter Gerald Thilmany on accordion.

The concert is held from 1-7 p.m. at Camp Vermilion, 2555 Vermilion Camp Rd. in Cook. Admission is free. For more information, contact Joel Abenth at 218-780-2069 or Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry at 800-331-5148 or at vlmcamps.org/all-programs-events/2023-sotn-fest.



Call 218-993-2295
for RESERVATIONS

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Breakfast: 6:30-11, Lunch 12-2, Dinner 5-9

- Enjoy our rustic yet elegant dining room.
- Enjoy home cooked cuisine with salads and vegetables fresh from our own garden.
- Breads and desserts are baked daily.

FABULOUS FLATHEADS • LIVE MUSIC
July 14, 15 & August 11, 12
LIVE PIANO with STEVE JOHNSON
on the other weekends.

7632 Nelson Rd, Crane Lake, MN 55725
www.nelsonsresort.com

Our focus is on you!



ADVANCED OPTICAL
Family Eye Care Center

Mtn. Iron/Virginia 741-3000 advoptical.com

30+ frame choices in stock!

ELY-WINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

History Night to feature WPA on Aug. 2

ELY- The Ely-Winton Historical Society’s fourth history night this summer connects Minnesota art, Minnesota artists, and the city of Ely, all during the time of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) from 1935 to 1943. Brian and Sue Matuszak from Duluth will be presenting “A Heck of a New Deal: Minnesota Stories from the WPA’s Federal Art Project (Ely Edition)”.

History Night will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 2 in the Lecture Hall of the Minnesota North College Vermilion Campus (formerly VCC) and is free to the public.

Incorporating humor and history, the Matuszaks will be painting a picture of Minnesota artist Elsa Jenne and how she traveled to Ely in 1939, and again in 1940, to create those two beautiful murals in the Ely Post Office. Brian and Sue have been a part of the Northland artistic community for nearly 40 years and, while they’re not historians or painters, they do have a love for Minnesota art and history. Utilizing information from a variety of sources, including a series of Irene Grahek’s “About Town” columns from 2010, Brian and Sue hope to educate and entertain, as they talk about those two murals you’ve probably seen a hundred times and wondered, “What’s the deal with those beautiful paintings?” By the end of their presentation, you’ll not only have a smile on your face, but you’ll know much more about the murals’ colorful, interesting story.

The WPA was an ambitious



The post office murals were restored two years ago. file photo

employment and infrastructure program created by President Franklin Roosevelt during the bleakest days of the Great Depression. The WPA put roughly 8.5 million Americans to work building schools, hospitals, roads, and other public works. However, many people don’t know that the WPA also sponsored projects in the arts through the Federal Art Project, employing tens of thousands of actors, musicians, writers and visual artists.

Between 1934 and 1943, the U.S. Treasury Section of Fine Art was established to commission artwork in newly-constructed federal post offices and courthouses. Mural contracts were awarded based on national and regional art competitions and renowned Minnesota artist Elsa Laubach Jenne was commissioned to create “Wilderness” and

“Iron Ore Miners” for the Ely Post Office lobby. Cleaned and restored two years ago, the scenes, about five feet tall by 17 feet long, were painted directly on the walls.

Brian and Sue Matuszak are fiscal year 2023 recipients of a Creative Support for Individuals grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

The final 2023 History Night on Wednesday, Aug. 16 will feature Jodi Martin presenting on the Centennial of the Ely Music and Drama Club.

OUTDOORS OPERA

Pickup Truck Opera to perform Romeo and Juliet

REGIONAL- Mixed Precipitation celebrates 15 years of outdoor summer fun, performing one of the most beloved and famous tragedies in the theatre tradition, “Romeo and Juliet”, adapted from Vincenzo Bellini’s 1830 opera, “I Capuleti e i Montecchi” (The Capulets and the Montagues).

Local performances of Pickup Truck Opera include Friday, Aug. 11 at 7 p.m. at Early Frost Farm, 7273 Palo Tia Rd. in Embarrass; Saturday, Aug. 12 at 2 p.m. at Whiteside Park, 721 East Sheridan St. in Ely (presented by Northern Lakes Arts Association); and Sunday, Aug. 13 at 2 p.m. at Mesaba Cooperative Park, 3827 Mesaba Park Rd. in Hibbing. The performance lasts approximately 75-90 minutes. All shows are outdoors. Watch the Mixed Precipitation website and social media for information on weather



delays.

Juliet and Romeo are online strivers in a time of global strife. She’s lifting up others through her social media career - teaching survival skills, sharing recipes, and DIY crafts. Romeo is documenting his van-life travels, inspiring millions to live life to the fullest, even in the darkest times. These two social media sensations

are tired of depending on clicks and likes to survive, so they’re teaming up for a cross-country elopement and honeymoon, but larger forces plan to disrupt their destiny. Sopranos Corissa Bussian and Jennifer LeDoux lead the cast, sharing the role of Juliet on alternating week-ends. Mezzo-sopranos KrisAnne Weiss and Kara Morgan share the role of

Romeo. Tenor Paul Coate plays the role of Tabaldo, Romeo’s rival. Mark Billy and Joshua Eidem share the role of Lorenzo. Baritone Nick Miller returns for his fourth Mixed Precipitation production as Capellio, Juliet’s father. Multi-instrumentalists Ruschman, Miller and Uchenna Chidozie accompany the drama. Watch the Mixed Precipitation website at <https://mixed-precipitation.org/> for more information about the rotating cast.

This adaptation of the beloved tragedy promises laughter, gorgeous bel canto melodies, and calamitous romance. This timeless tale of star-crossed lovers careening toward doom is tragically hopeful and hopefully tragic. Continuing Mixed Precipitation’s tradition of musical ingenuity, this production also features the music of Fleetwood Mac, The Fugees, and The Pixies - star-crossed bands whose passionate romance and feuds play out in their music.

Mixed Precipitation began their mobile format in 2020, using a blue 2011 Ford Ranger pickup truck and a trailer as the container and platform for the opera’s action. Pickup Truck Opera brings pop-up performances to audiences on neighborhood streets, public squares, libraries, and care facilities. This activity is made possible in part by a grant provided by the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

NORTHWOODS FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

CONCERT FUNDRAISER




“The Blue Water Big Band” Cook Community Center
Friday, August 11 • 5 to 9 PM
NWFA annual concert and fundraiser
Sashay in at 5 PM...for refreshments, basket raffles, silent auctions and annual 50/50 Raffle • Dance from 6:30 to 9 PM.

“Beefeater Brothers” performing at 5:30 PM
Purchase \$25 tickets at Music in the Park on Wed Evenings or Wed, Thurs, Fri from 10 AM to 4 PM; Sat 9 AM to 1 PM at the NWFA Gallery, 210 S River Street / \$30 at the concert door
Email nwfamn.org@gmail.com

COME SEE THE OUTDOOR OPERA THAT'S CRUISING ALL OVER MINNESOTA!
The Pickup Truck Opera: Volume 3

ROMEO & JULIET

It's Bellini's tragically hopeful Italian opera, retold with lots of laughs and the music of Fleetwood Mac, the Pixies & the Fugees.



AUG 11 - 7PM
EARLY FROST FARM
EMBARRASS, MN

AUG 12 - 2PM
WHITESIDE PARK
ELY, MN

AUG 13 - 2PM
MESABA CO-OP
PARK
HIBBING, MN

FUN FOR ALL AGES! RESERVATIONS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED, VISIT : MIXEDPRECIPITATION.ORG

ALWAYS A SMILE

A 47-year career at Zup's Grocery in Tower

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Ever since he was a junior in high school, James "Chimpy" Tuominen has been working at Tower's only grocery store. Nearly half a century later, he's ready to retire.

"I don't think it is a record," he said, of his 47-year career at Zup's in Tower, mostly spent as an assistant manager.

Tuominen, dubbed "Chimpy" as a youth by his mother Carol, reflecting his penchant for climbing trees, started working at Zup's part-time in high school. It became a full-time job in 1980, which was also the year he married his wife Wendy, who still works at the Ely Post Office.

Naturally outgoing, Chimpy's time at Zup's was all about the people he got to see every day.

"I was so fortunate to meet so many people," he said. "I loved seeing everybody all the

time. You got to know everybody. And I learned so much from Beanie Zup. He always treated me well and was always so friendly."

Now Chimpy is watching some of Beanie's great-grandchildren working at the store, and he hopes to see some of them continue to gain experience and move into management roles.

While Chimpy had a management title, he was often called on to do jobs no one else would do. If a job was too dangerous for other workers— such as shoveling snow from the store's roof— Chimpy invariably got the assignment. As his name suggests, heights were never a problem for Chimpy.

Operations at Zup's have changed quite a bit during Chimpy's 47-year tenure at the store. When he first started, they had a stamper to put prices on all the products, then they got a label gun that attached stickers.

"Now we just scan everything," he said. He also watched



Chimpy Tuominen poses with grandchildren Saija, Silas, and Sadie Snyder, along with co-workers during his final day on July 12. submitted photo

the store grow as it moved a block down Main Street into its current location, with its own parking lot. Back in the day, the Zup's store was located in the

building that currently houses Bauman's Funeral Home and customers had to park on the street.

His departure has left big

shoes to fill at the store in many ways.

See CHIMPY...pg. 5

ADVENTURES

Wolf bikepacking race overnights in Ely

by JEN SHUSTER-DAHLIN
Staff Writer

ELY- Ely's Semer's Park became the overnight camping spot for The Wolf bikepacking event sponsored by Heck of the North Productions. Over 60 cyclists participated in the three-day event, which started Friday morning, July 21, in Two Harbors and ended in Grand Marais. The race was over 300 miles long.

Bikepacking is a cycling sport that involves biking for multiple days while carrying one's necessities in a gear kit on the bike and camping out during the multi-day ride. There are different variations of bikepacking events: Multi-day Mountain Biking, Ultra-Light, Race, and Gravel, and Expedition and Dirt-Touring.

Heck of the North,

run by husband-and-wife team Jeremy Kershaw and Avesa Rockwell, holds a series of bikepacking races throughout the summer, but the Wolf race is one of their longest options, with the trails running through the North Shore wilderness and participants forced to ride on gravel for much of the journey. The Wolf racers finished the day's ride in Ely, set up camp on the beach at Semer's Park, and then went on to find dinner in town. Saturday morning, breakfast was provided by Heck of the North before the cyclists headed off for the last stretch of their journey.

Friday afternoon's sudden downpour didn't affect Wolf racers, as they were far enough away from Ely when it started.

"We heard the thunder, and I was waiting for it, but it never rained,"



Cyclists in The Wolf bikepacking race camping out on Friday, July 21, at Semer's Beach. photo by J. Shuster-Dahlin

said racer Kevin Kaiser. "Then the thunder stopped...I thought if it rained, I wouldn't get to Ely. The trails were great; it was a beautiful North Woods experience."

One enthusiastic par-

ticipant, Landon Bouma, described Kershaw's courses as "works of art" and said he has raced in a few other Heck of the North productions.

"It was beautiful... every ten or fifteen miles

is a different feel." Bouma said.

Many racers described the course in these exact words: "Challenging but beautiful." The challenge seemed to come from the race's final

stretch, with riders facing rocks and bumps on the Prospector Trail.

To learn more about Heck of the North Productions and their various races, visit heckofthenorth.com.

REAL ESTATE

BIC REALTY WE NEED LISTINGS!
Contact us for a free property valuation

218-666-5352
info@bicrealty.com bicrealty.com

EMBARRASS Price reduced. 3 BR, 1 BA home on almost 62 acres. Outbuildings include a large barn and an old sauna turned into a canning shed. **MLS#145194 \$250,000**

VIRGINIA Price Reduced. 3 BR, 1 BA home with guest home that has 1 BR, 1 BA, and full kitchen. Extra features include 1-stall garage, private yard and decks on both buildings. **MLS#144859 \$143,000**

WE SELL THE NORTH!

VERMILION LAND OFFICE
Real Estate Appraisals

Looking To Buy Or Sell? Give Us A Call!

vermilionland.com
info@vermilionland.com
1-866-753-8985
Cook • Tower • Virginia

Equal Housing Opportunity, MLS, REALTOR

RE/MAX Lake Country
218-757-3233
www.TheLakeCountry.com

Orr-\$78,200 Great hunting and recreational property. 52.62 undeveloped, wooded, rolling acres located about 2.5 miles north of Ash Lake. Adjoins public land and timber company lands on all 4 sides. **MLS#145217**

Orr-\$284,000 This year-round 26x36 ft Pelican Lake home has 1 BR, 1 BA, plus sleeping loft and south-facing covered porch to enjoy your lake views! 26x32 ft 2+stall garage with workshop and indoor-outdoor dog kennel. **MLS#144922**

Orr-\$69,900 Ash River lots in Bear Ridge on Ash River CIC. Each lot comes with shared community septic, shared water from central pumphouse and electric. These utilities are already run to each site. Ownership also gives you access to private docks on 155 ft of shared shoreline, a personal slip, gazebo near lake with grill and 1/10 share of all common areas.

Orr-\$119,000 Buildable, wooded 80 acres south of Orr. Great hunting location with extensive trail system throughout property. Has electric and drilled well. **MLS#144806**

#1 IN THE WORLD REAL ESTATE RE/MAX
*As measured by residential transaction sides.

NEXT TIME COME HOME!

JANISCH REALTY 218-780-6644

Let's Make Sold Happen For You Too!

OPINION

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

Tower harbor

Finally, there is interest that could bring long sought development

For all of two decades, hopes for development at the Tower harbor have met with frustration as the dreams of city officials—to convert the city’s link to Lake Vermilion into an economic engine— have fallen flat for one reason or another.

That era of disappointment may, finally, be coming to an end.

As we report this week, Tower Vision 2025 principal Orlyn Kringstad has assembled a development team with the financial horsepower and long-time management experience necessary to turn the city’s harbor and riverfront into the kind of tourism destination that city officials have long believed it could be.

It’s not a done deal by any means— there are still hurdles to be crossed and agreements to be negotiated. And the cycles of the economy haven’t always been kind to development plans at the harbor.

Yet, for the first time, we potentially have the people in place to make it happen and happen in a big way. Some of the pieces are already in place. The purchase of the 18-acre Marjo Motel parcel, formerly owned by the Mesojedec family, by the owners of Your Boat Club instantly put the riverfront’s most developable property in play. We could see new lodging opportunities under construction on that site yet this year, with much more to come in 2024, and the design of that development is likely to be shaped by this new team, which envisions the harbor, the Marjo site, Your Boat Club, and the Renner RV park as part of a single coordinated development with tremendous synergy.

Under the plan, much of the development would come under the management of Leisure Hotels and Resorts, a Minnesota-based company that owns and/or manages resort and hotel properties all across the country. Quality management is key to the success of whatever is built at the harbor and it’s been a missing piece of the puzzle from the beginning. That’s why the involvement of the company is so exciting. It’s a multi-million dollar enterprise with the resources and the expertise to help turn the harbor and adjacent riverfront properties into a destination that will have heads turning at Tower’s west entrance.

Leisure Hotels and Resorts president Jamie Tatge is intimately familiar with northern Minnesota. He currently owns or manages resort properties on

Lake of the Woods, the North Shore, and his company recently acquired Silver Rapids Lodge near Ely, where he is planning a major redevelopment. His company also manages the Adventure Inn in Ely.

Tatge, who was in Tower last week, recognizes the potential of the harbor and adjacent properties and the remarkable confluence of outdoor recreational opportunities all within walking distance of the site, including a marina with direct water access to Lake Vermilion, one of the state’s premier walleye lakes. Add to that the direct connections to hiking and biking trails, and snowmobile and ATV trails, all located on a major highway that’s flush with tourists all summer long.

The potential is obvious, but how best to take advantage of this opportunity is very much a work in the early stages of development. The initial proposal put forward by Kringstad’s Tower Vision 2025 was very preliminary. What we know right now is that the final proposal for development at the harbor will likely be much different, although we expect it will include a mix of residential and/or lodging, as well as commercial opportunity. That’s consistent with the city’s long-term mixed-use vision for the site. The team is likely to pencil out any number of alternative concepts and layouts to see which makes the most sense for the site and provides the most return. That will take some time, which is why the Tower Economic Development Authority board opted to extend a previous deadline for showing financial capacity. The TEDA board recognizes the potential of the team that Kringstad has assembled and wasn’t about to stand in the way by enforcing a previous, somewhat arbitrary deadline. Financial capacity is unlikely to be a concern with this new team.

The focus, instead, will now turn to the details of the project, how it will be phased, and when we can expect to see construction underway. TEDA, which controls the land at the harbor and a key five-acre parcel along Marina Drive, will be playing a major role in helping to shape that plan and will be working to keep it consistent with the longstanding vision for the property. With any luck, after more than 20 years of dashed hopes and more than ten million dollars in public investment, the long-desired harbor development could soon be underway.



Letters from Readers

Grateful to spend time in Ely

It feels a bit like providence that I’m here in Minnesota this summer. I love the outdoors and have enjoyed the gorgeous hikes, the Wolf Center, and the quaint local bars and coffee shops Ely has to offer. But the best part by far has been the people I’ve met here.

I’ve actually never visited Minnesota, but when I saw an audition listing for Godspell and Songs for a New World in Ely, I decided to apply and was thrilled to receive an offer. I had the privilege of playing Judas in our recent production of Godspell, and I loved diving into this complex character and exploring spirituality and community building while developing and finding a community here of my own.

Here in Ely, I’ve found friendship in my fellow cast and crew—a group of kind and thoughtful creatives who have generously shared their craft and journeys with me. I’ve learned so much about this team from cooking dinner, grocery shopping, and even after-movie discussions of films we’ve seen at the theater.

We’ve also been generously welcomed into the homes and backyards of new friends who have made their lives here, from bonfires after trivia to brunch and lake swimming. I feel so grateful to the community members who have watched our Tuesday concerts in the park and stayed to chat and the vendors at the market who have now become familiar, friendly faces.

Our newest production, Songs for a New World, is about moments of decision and change, like my own, to come here to an unknown place with unknown people—but what a gift it has been. I hope you’ll come to the Vermilion Campus for our upcoming production as we tell stories that run the gamut from unhappy Mrs. Claus to reconnected lovers. What brings all

of these stories together is the potential for growth and discovery. How fitting to be here discovering and growing together while we imagine and interpret these stories through our own voices and experiences.

Once we finish Songs for a New World, we will be performing at the Broadway in the Boundary Waters Gala alongside children from the local community, many of whom were absolute rockstars in the recent production of Seussical. Come to see classic show tunes and new hits performed by new and familiar faces.

Maybe it’s luck or fate or random chance that I’m here in Ely, but I’m grateful to be able to learn and share this summer with all of you.

Syd Bakal
2023 Broadway in the
Boundary Waters
Company Member, Ely

Capitalism is the problem we face

Webster defines a social system as a “patterned series of interrelationships existing between individuals, groups and institutions forming a coherent whole.” Social organization emerges from human imagination and creativity, not that of natural forces or divine design. These arrangements involve six components; resources, relationships, roles, rules, rights and results.

Social systems are organized in multiple ways; private or public, competitive or cooperative, formal or informal, hierarchical or egalitarian, autocratic or democratic and maternal or paternal. Inputs shape output through human behavior expressed in norms and rules, knowledge and belief, ideas and values, motives and desire, power and interests. Americans openly debate political democracy; electoral, participatory or deliberative, but economic critique is taboo.

Economics refers to resources that serve community need and want; food, clothing, shelter, safety and health care. With capitalism, a tiny number of people are empowered to decide who gets what and how much of the surplus of value between production cost and price, called profit. An economic dictatorship of the one percent take this difference, because they can! The system enables it. Workers without voice cannot share nor determine how to use it.

A small number of people impose a system, unchallenged, on everyone else without question and voice, nor vote. Workers with a vote would not choose to send jobs elsewhere, destroy the environment to jeopardize themselves and their families. Willful squandering of resources in the name of growth creates economic insecurity, instability and costly waste to impoverish human health, safety and well-being.

Workers, each left to their own, remain powerless with hyper-inequality and war profiteering while lurching toward climate disaster. Workplace democracy (one worker, one vote) organized as cooperatives, empowers employees to become employers. Social problems cannot be solved individually, collective problems require collective action. Corporate capitalism isn’t the “solution to the problem, it is the problem!”

Harold Honkola
Stillwater

We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

COLUMNIST

What the Florida Black history standards miss

There was little chance that approval of new standards for Black history education in Florida would slip by without igniting some sort of protest, given the state’s recent track record when it comes to championing the destruction of “wokeness” from education.

The state’s so-called Anti-WOKE bill all but guaranteed the standards would go under the microscope, with its emphasis that a person should not be instructed to “feel guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological

distress” due to their race, color, sex or national origin. Is there any other reasonable way to interpret this than an attempt to absolve any present-day whites from the sins of their ancestors, no matter how heinous and extensive they may have been?

It was certain, with the way modern society has come to scrutinize every word in a statement for some hint of bias that 18 pages of educational standards on “African Amer-

ican” history would hold phrases many would object to with rancor and disdain, and that is indeed the case.

The most visible and objectionable has been the direction that instruction on slavery should include “how slaves developed skills which, in some instances, could be applied for their personal benefit,” as if slavery should be viewed as a job training program for the marketable careers of the day.

“The intent of this particular benchmark clarification is to show that some slaves developed highly specialized trades from which they benefitted. This is factual and well documented,” said William Allen and

Frances Presley Rice, two Black scholars who helped write the Florida standards. “Any attempt to reduce slaves to just victims of oppression fails to recognize their strength, courage and resiliency during a difficult time in American history.”

It’s hard to disagree with the last portion of their statement, but in the estimation of others the standards fall well short of achieving that goal.

“The Florida Board of Education’s attempt to minimize the darkest chapter in our nation’s history is an affront to the intelligence of the American people and an overt attempt to maintain White supremacy,” said a statement from the Congressional

Black Caucus.

I’ve personally read through the 18 pages of standards and find much to be encouraged about, but also much to be dissatisfied with.

One area of dissatisfaction I have is with a clearly overt attempt to place American slavery in a context that suggests hey, we weren’t as bad as the other folks out there practicing slavery. It is historically accurate that other cultures also practiced slavery, and that conditions in some areas, such as the Caribbean, were often worse than those found on Southern plantations.

See HISTORY...pg. 5



DAVID COLBURN

Letters from Readers

Come show your support for the performers

In the next two weeks, 30 young people in our community will have the incredible opportunity to participate in the Stars of the North Broadway Workshop, hosted by the Northern Lakes Arts Association. This workshop, made possible through generous grants from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council and the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust, is being led by Ian Francis Lah and the talented professionals of the 2023 Broadway in the Boundary Waters company.

Thanks to these grants this workshop was made free to all participants!

Through games, exercises, and personal guidance, these young performers will learn the fundamentals of theater and expand their craft. They will gain confidence and empowerment as they delve into everything from Stage Combat to Improv. The workshop will culminate in a showcase of the youth's talents, with two production numbers performed during the Broadway in the Boundary Waters Gala on August 4th and 5th at 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale now at <https://www.northernlake->

sarts.org/tickets and are flying fast!

This event is a celebration of the community, the company, and the incredible work these young people have created during the workshop. It's an opportunity for them to gain hands-on experience and be engaged, excited, and challenged as they explore the world of theater. We welcome you to join us at the gala and show your support for these amazing young performers.

Remember, this activity is made possible in part by the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council grant, thanks to appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature's General Fund.

Ian Francis Lah
Executive Director
of Northern Lakes Arts
Association, Ely

Ely deserves a retirement facility with distinction

If the Ely City Council decides to build a new retirement facility, I would like to make the following recommendations.

It is important to retain Elyites in our community. Addressing this issue offers an opportunity to build a facility that will attract new residents to Ely

as well. Importantly, it would generate a growth business for Ely and provide many different types of year-round jobs.

Ely has a unique opportunity to attract those people who are already familiar with Ely having enjoyed previous visits canoeing, hiking, bicycling, camping, fishing, cross country skiing, dog sledding, snowmobiling, photography etc. No doubt, if there are attractive facilities in Ely providing care during the later-in-life aging process, former visitors would consider moving to our community. Most all applicants for retiring communities are still physically and mentally active, but they want the assurance that they will have appropriate future medical services, if and when needed.

Designing a distinctive facility to vitalize retirees to feel in touch with nature would attract our visitors back to Ely to retire. Moreover, a possible design facility might incorporate a two-story "U" shaped building with a glass solarium roof in the "U" void and a glass wall facing west for viewing sun sets.

Architect Richard Neutra wrote a book in 1954 entitled "Survival Through Design" indicating the impact that architecture has on our life and how it can contribute to our well-being.

The solarium could provide year-round gardens with flowers, shrubs, and vegetables. Plus, the sound of water meandering to and from small ponds. The space would be designed to provide a naturalistic setting with tables and comfortable chairs plus appropriate lighting. The solarium will be contributing to the viability of the design to provide for the occupants' well-being in terms of happiness, good health and respite from deep snowstorms.

The atrium would be heated in the winter and air conditioned in the summer with non-polluting renewable energy. There are several environmentally-friendly systems to consider. Solar panels could be installed on the roof of the building or Tesla solar "tiles" that are extremely efficient and look superb. Another possibility would be hydrogen fuel cells that supply electricity by separating hydrogen and oxygen from water. Geothermal power is a possibility depending on the site's location or the closed water circulation pipe that can be placed in a pond or lake.

The senior care center would provide independent living, assisted living, memory care, and skilled nursing. It would incorporate Ely's existing facilities into the program.

There are organizations that can plan, construct, or operate retirement communities. The largest operator in Minnesota is Ecumen that has established many facilities throughout the state. Their home office is in Shoreview.

The retirement business is a rapidly expanding "industry". Most retirement communities have two-to-five year waiting lists. The noteworthy solarium concept will provide comfort to its Ely residents, but also be a distinguishing architectural characteristic for marketing Ely's retirement community.

Gerry Snyder
Ely

A sign of the uneducated

I read Carla Arneson, and Kate Furness's letters about those obscene flags being waved on the 4th of July, and in view of children no less. Remember when Donald Trump kept spouting off about how much he loved the uneducated? Now you know why he said it.

Barry Tungeth
Ely

CHIMPY...Continued from page 3

"You could always count on Chimpy," said longtime co-worker Julie Suihkonen, who joked it would probably take three people to replace him.

"He was totally dedicated. He was always there and took care of everything. It will take years for the new staffers to figure it all out," she said.

If the power went out, Suihkonen said, he was always the first one there, emptying out cases, and staying until the power came back on.

He was also someone that everyone knew would open the store after hours when supplies ran out at a fundraiser, and more pancake mix, or hot dogs, or something else was urgently needed.

"I have a lot of respect for him," said Suihkonen.

A dedicated volunteer

Chimpy usually worked the early shift, giving him afternoons for his other main focus, volunteering for after-school activities and he is, perhaps, best known for teaching hundreds of kids to ride a unicycle over the years. He learned

to ride one when he was in grade school. His sister Kristy [Corey] got a unicycle for her birthday, and Chimpy soon mastered the one-wheel wonder. He soon added other skills to his unicycling, including magic tricks, juggling, balloon-tying, and stilt-walking.

As an adult, he started teaching his own kids, and then others in the neighborhood.

Gym teacher Carol Alstrom had him come and teach her high school life sports class to ride. Local service organizations like the Lions Club and American Legion donated funds to purchase unicycles. There was also continued support from the Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board and Tower Fire Department Relief Association. Soon he was teaching afterschool classes for all ages, and in the 1990s at least half of the students at the Tower-Soudan School became proficient riders. Unicycle riding takes balance, strength, and determination. It also takes a very patient teacher, willing to coax a young rider

until they master their balance, are able to hop on and off the wheel without assistance, and then encourage them to build the strength and stamina to learn tricks.

Chimpy's Tower-Soudan Unicyclowns performed at many area schools, basketball tournaments, and parades over the years. He taught classes in Babbitt and Cook, also, expanding the reach of the unicycle-riding clan.

Unicycling was a skill that took practice, and often the more motivated youngest riders would master tricks before their older siblings. One of the youngest riders he taught was his daughter Tara, who mastered the wheel at the age of four. One of the oldest riders he taught was Steve Abrahamson, who watched his daughter learn to ride and decided to try it out himself. What Steve would tell you is that unicycling is a skill best learned as a child, when the repeated falls don't hurt nearly as much as they do as an adult.

No matter what, Chimpy always encour-



aged kids to get back up and try again after a fall, and most often they always did.

"The kids were always so good," he said. He added mini-bicycles, an old-fashioned Penny Farthing two-wheeler, a large wooden rolling ball, and even some tall "giraffe" style unicycles to the mix. So even kids who weren't quite proficient enough to perform on the unicycles could be part of the show.

"The kids in Tower enjoyed a lot of fun thanks to Chimpy," said Suihkonen, who remembered all the fun nights the two

of them helped organize. Suihkonen ran the swimming program and community education at the school before the pool was demolished, and often they organized joint swim and unicycle fun nights.

Chimpy still volunteers at the school during special activities and fun nights, and he has also organized weekly skating parties in Soudan for years, teaching countless kids how to skate along the way. His connections from the grocery store meant he was usually able to round up donations of tasty snacks, pizza, and ice cream to top off fun on the skating rink.

Retirement

Not surprisingly, Chimpy has plunged into

retirement with his trademark youthful enthusiasm. He just got back from a family vacation to Wisconsin Dells, where he didn't shy away from the giant water slides. He's spending more time out on the lake, fishing and swimming. And of course, spending lots of time with his grandchildren. He and Wendy have been taking more evening boat rides around Ely Island. He is also hiking area trails, and he and Wendy recently purchased e-bikes, that they are both enjoying.

Chimpy's last day of work was on July 12, and staff and customers celebrated with cake and congratulations. And while he won't be working there everyday, he probably will be found there on a regular basis, stocking up on potato sausage and hot bologna, two of his favorite Zup's specialties. Watch for him, and say hi, the next time you're at the store.

HISTORY...Continued from page 4

But the standards seem to come off as some sort of absolutism for America for doing slavery better than others, and if there's ever a case when two wrongs don't make a right this is it. But hey, it fits right in with the goal of not making anyone feel guilty or bad about what happened here.

The other glaring shortcoming I see is that the standards focus on teaching about abolitionist movements and the role of Christian Quakers in particular in advocating against slavery, but nowhere do the standards call for students to be instructed in the active role Christianity played in promoting and maintaining the practice of slavery.

"These standards will further cement Florida as a national leader in education, as we continue to provide true and accurate instruction in African American History," a Florida Department of Education spokesman said.

As with many issues related to American slavery, the role of religion is

complex, and indeed the development of abolitionist movements depended in part on a rejection of Biblical justifications of slavery and the growth of Christianity within slave populations. But any true and accurate instruction about slavery should include the role played by Christian ministers, congregations, and denominations in justifying and normalizing it.

Defense of slavery was routinely justified by Biblical passages used to show that God sanctioned slavery, that the descendants of Ham, purported to be Africans, were cursed to be slaves, and that Jesus said nothing about the evils of slavery. To abolish slavery, some ministers argued, would create such disruption that the ills created would be a greater affront to God's sovereignty and grace than leaving it be. And Christian slave-owners would supposedly treat slaves better than non-Christian slave owners. As historian Larry Morrison has noted, nearly every proslavery pam-

phlet, article, or speaker made at least some reference to a Biblical sanction of slavery, in an attempt to establish a moral justification for it.

The Florida standards cite Frederick Douglass as an African American voice who should be cited in instruction about the abolitionist movement. So let's cite Frederick Douglass as Florida suggests:

"Between the Christianity of this land and the Christianity of Christ, I recognize the widest possible difference—so wide that to receive the one as good, pure, and holy, is of necessity to reject the other as bad, corrupt, and wicked. To be the friend of the one is of necessity to be the enemy of the other. I love the pure, peaceable, and impartial Christianity of Christ; I therefore hate the corrupt, slave-holding, women-whipping, cradle-plundering, partial and hypocritical Christianity of this land. Indeed, I can see no reason but the most deceitful one for calling the religion of this land Christianity..."

I think it's highly unlikely that Douglass' quote will make it into the lesson plans approved for use under standards that have been formulated to avoid blame or guilt when it comes to slavery.

Indeed, if there's a major shortcoming to be found in the standards, I believe it's how they reflect the underlying premise of the Anti-WOKE Act. The avoidance of guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress is rarely ever the place to start when one wants an accurate, truthful telling of history. Unfortunately, the record of human history is as ugly as it is marvelous, as vulgar as it is refined. To do better for future generations, we need to grapple honestly with the ugliness and attempt to understand it in order to move beyond it. Current societal controversies suggest to me that when it comes to ugly, avoidance is more common than engagement.



the TIMBERJAY

Copyright © 2023 by *The Timberjay*.
The Timberjay (PN 16025) is published weekly on Fridays, 51 weeks per year, by *The Timberjay Inc.*, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Business/Editorial Office at 414 Main St., PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Call (218) 753-2950 to subscribe. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Periodicals postage paid at Tower, Minnesota.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Timberjay, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790.

This award-winning community newspaper published each week serves the communities of Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

Publisher	Marshall Helmberger
General Manager	Jodi Summit
Cook/Orr Editor	David Colburn
Ely Editor	Catie Clark
Office Manager	Michelle Toutloff
Staff Writer	Rachel Brophy
Graphics/Ad Sales	Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales/Sports	Jay Greeney

Official Newspaper:

Townships of Bearville, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, Crane Lake, Kabetogama, Greenwood, ISD 707, City of Orr.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce.

Subscriptions Available:

St. Louis County: \$45 year Elsewhere: \$59 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover/AmEx. NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$109 year or \$10 per month.

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

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

Week of July 31

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 Aug. 15.

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.

Citywide garage sales planned for Saturday, July 29
TOWER-SOUDAN- Tower-Soudan Citywide Garage Sales will be held on Saturday, July 29 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Locations will be available on a flyer at Zup’s Grocery. The list of garage sale sites is also being posted in the “What’s Up Tower” Facebook group.

Correction
The Greenwood Township Isle of Pines Bridge fund currently totals \$39,166.

Smith’s Infusion hosting pop-up shop this weekend
Smith’s Infusion will be holding a pop-up shop in the front of the Pike River Products Building at 515 Main St. on July 28 and 29. There will be 11 vendors and crafters with their handmade creations. Smith’s has some new artists and can help people build their craft business. Some of the artists are NRC Wood Creations, Three Mares and an Old Woman, and Linda Jensen Designs with nature acrylic paintings and cards. Hours will be 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Wiffleball Tournament set for Saturday
EMBARRASS- The 14th annual Red Bear Wiffleball Tournament will be held on Saturday, July 29. Four teams are competing this year. The Alaspa Bunch, the 2022 champions, will be defending their title. Games will be held at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m., and the championship at 3:30 p.m. The tournament is held at the home of Marlin and Jeannine Bjornrud, 5452 Nikula Rd., in Embarrass (south of the Four Corners intersection off of Hwy. 135.

TOWER-SOUDAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An incomplete history of the Arrowhead Garage and the Peyla Family: A journey through time

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Historical Society has scheduled a fun presentation showcasing the story of the Arrowhead Garage and the Peyla Family, a part of Tower’s history on Tuesday, Aug. 8 at 4 p.m. at the Herbert R. Lamppa Civic Center in Tower (next to the train). Presented by Dick Peyla, a native of Tower and a retired Chevron research engineer, this event will take you on a journey through time, spanning generations of the Peyla family’s legacy.

This program is open to the public, and tickets are priced at \$5. All proceeds from ticket sales will go towards supporting TSHS programming.

The History Talk on Main Street event will delve into the history of the Peyla family, tracing back to the immigration of Dick Peyla’s great-great-grandfather to the United States in 1882. Settling in Vermilion Lake Township, the family’s story unfolds through a collection of old newspaper clippings, 35mm slides, and vintage photo albums. From their early homestead days in the township, to the establishment of the Anderson Garage



and transportation business in the early 1900s, to the “Y” Store and the town of “Peyla”, Dick will shed light on the community’s growth and development.

The presentation will be a nostalgic reminder of bygone eras.

The Arrowhead Garage holds a special place in the hearts of many locals, and its history is deeply intertwined with the Peyla family’s legacy. Attendees will hear about the working life and history of the Arrowhead Garage and a few stories about

some of Sonny Peyla’s (Dick’s father) unique vehicles, including the 1922 Dodge, the weasel, the floating cars, and early snow sleds.

“We are excited to share this interesting family story with the Tower community and beyond,” said Dick Peyla. “The Peyla family has been a part of Tower’s heritage, and I am looking forward to bringing these stories to light, connecting the past with the present.” Dick grew up in Tower and on the lake, the son of James and Emily Peyla,

graduating from Tower-Soudan High School in 1966. After obtaining an engineering degree at the University of Minnesota, he moved to the San Francisco Bay area. As an active member of the TSHS board of directors, Dick and his wife Peggy spend every summer at their lake home on Echo Point, and he continues to contribute to the community’s history education initiatives.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



St. Paul’s Lutheran and Soudan Baptist churches hosted their joint Vacation Bible School last week at St. Paul’s. College-age counselors from a camp in southern Minnesota came to Soudan to lead the fun and learning. The theme this year was “Wholly Love” and the week ended with a beach day at the Soudan Park.

Above: Susan Trucano-Precht looked over drawings from her granddaughters Ella (center) and Millie. Left: Water fight fun at the park. Below left: Audriana Olson, Ivy Russell, and Ava Redetzke warmed up in the sun. Below right: Parker Salmela works on a drawing. photos by J. Summit



COMMUNITY NEWS

Art on the Lake Preview Party and Art Show this weekend

TOWER-The Art on the Lake preview party is Friday, July 28 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center, 705 Main St. in Tower. While the building is still being renovated, it is a perfect venue for an art show. At the preview party you will be able to buy art before the show opens to the public on Saturday morning. An assortment of delicious appetizers

and beverages will be served. Tickets are \$30 at the door. The public art show is on Saturday, July 29, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The artists participating this year are Julie Baxley, Jeanni Burgwald, Spencer Hahne, Elizabeth Mitchell, Pam Myre, Kathy Tellepsen, and Judy Tweeten. Jeanne Burgwald will demonstrate an oil painting from the beginning

of the painting to end. She will start painting outdoors at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

Art on the Lake benefits the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center. To learn more about the LVCC or to donate, visit their website at vermilionculturalcenter.org.

HOMETOWN HEROES

Deceased local firefighter honored



ELY- Morse-Fall Lake firefighter William Orion Lloyd Fearn of Ely, passed away Monday, July 17, due to a car accident on County Road 88 north of Ely.

Fearn's body returned to Ely on Wednesday evening in a procession of the region's police, EMS, and fire vehicles, on a route that came up through Virginia, passed through Tower at 7:25 p.m. and arrived at Ely around 8:45. The procession entered Ely on Highway 169, and turned at Central to circle Miners Lake.

As steady rainfall started around 9 p.m., the procession reentered Ely on the east side of the city, traveling west on Sheridan

and turning south on 3rd. A right turn on Chapman followed by an immediate right turn on 2nd brought Fearn's remains under a huge American flag hung by the Ely Fire Department next to City Hall. Fearn's casket was then delivered to the Kerntz Funeral Home across the street on 2nd Ave.

Above: The procession of police, fire, and EMS vehicles in honor of William Fearn entering Ely. Right: Ely citizens lined Sheridan St. in the pouring rain to honor the procession of Fearn's remains through the city.
photos by C. Clark



ISD 696 NEWS

Superintendent message

ELY- My name is Anne Oelke (née Roderick), and I am honored and excited to have the opportunity to serve the Ely Public School District as the new superintendent. I look forward to working collaboratively with the staff and community to carry on the long tradition of excellent education in Ely.

Here is a little about me and my background. Ely has been a part of my life since before I can remember. My dad raced sled dogs here in the '70s, and I grew up coming to our cabin in Ely and spending time at Timber Trail Lodge with Bob and Shirley Klaesges playing pool, listening to the jukebox, and eating candy. My parents, Maggie and Gary Roderick, moved to the Ely area with my brother, Matt, and me in 1989. I graduated from Ely Memorial High School in 1997. In high school, I was an honor roll student and a student-athlete playing volleyball and basketball. I hunted in the fall,

ice-fished in the winter, and worked many jobs in the summers.

After high school, I attended Vermilion Community College where I was fortunate to meet my husband, Troy. I then transferred to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point where I received my bachelor's degree in special education and elementary education. After graduation, Troy expressed his desire to return to the Ely area because he stated that he "didn't hunt and fish enough" while attending Vermilion. I received my first teaching job at Washington Elementary as a Special Education Teacher in 2004. While teaching, I continued my education at the University of Wisconsin-Superior and received my master's degree in education administration.

I then served as the Dean of Students for Washington Elementary in 2011, and for the past 11 years, I have been the Washington Elementary Principal. I will be starting my 20th school year in the

Ely Public School District with the additional role of the Superintendent, while still performing my duties as the Washington Elementary Principal. Working and living in the Ely community, we are proud to raise our two children, Jesse and Lucy. I am grateful for the learning community our children have at the Ely Public Schools.

I am excited and committed to working hard to continue to progressively improve the Ely Public School District for our community. I plan to increase communication with the community about what is happening in our schools and all the wonderful things that our students and staff accomplish. I plan to keep our 100-year-old buildings functional and conducive to learning while being fiscally responsible. I plan to grow and expand our education programs and activities to keep our school competitive and independent.

Ely fall sports registration

ELY- The fall sports registration meeting for Ely Memorial High School will take place on Monday, Aug. 7, at Veterans Memorial Field, the baseball field on the school campus.

Football will hold its meeting at 5:30 p.m., while volleyball, and boys and girls cross country will meet at 6:30 p.m. Participants in grades 7-12 and their parents are asked to attend.

Girls swimming, which is part of a cooperative with Northeast Range, will hold its meeting in Babbitt on Monday, July 31, at 6 p.m. at the Northeast Range School in Babbitt.

Registration forms, schedules for games, meets and practices and other information about the upcoming seasons will be available at the meetings. Coaches will also be present to answer questions about the season. Fall sports practices will begin the week of Aug. 14.

All athletes in grades 7-12 must have a current physical examination on file in order to participate. Anyone with questions about physical exams or needing to know if their physical exam is still current may contact athletic director Tom Coombe at tcoombe@ely.k12.mn.us or (218) 235-1025. Physicals are valid for three years and most athletes have them completed during their seventh and tenth grade years.

Fake money alert in Ely

ELY- This is an alert from the Ely Chamber of Commerce. Someone passed a fake 10-dollar bill at the Tuesday Farmer's Market. It was printed on paper and had a slightly different feel than normal money. When marked with a money detector pen, it does turn black.

Upcoming Events

Ely Public Library

ELY- The spice for August is celery seed.

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. Participants will also create their own instrument to take home. Space is limited

ed 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. Preregister 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.

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.

Ely walking tours

ELY- Guided historic walking tours of downtown Ely are given

by local historians every Tuesday at 4 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m., though Aug. 8. The tours leave from the front of City Hall.

Northern Lakes Arts Association

The Local Only Group Art Show will be in the lobby at Ely's Historic State Theater from now until July 30. Viewing the artworks is during the open hours for the theater. There will be a reception for the 26 local artists in the show on Friday, July 28, from 4-6 p.m. in the lobby of the theater.

The Greenstone Art-A-Palooza art show will be at the Ely Arts & Heritage Center at the Pioneer 401 at Pioneer Rd., on July 28-30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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 5-7 p.m. The evening music presentation starts at 5 p.m.

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:

➤ Aug. 1: Quantum Human Design with Jaime Brennan

➤ Aug. 8: Meet New Elyites

➤ Aug. 15: TBA

➤ Aug. 22: A Finnish Family's Immigration Story with Val Myntti

➤ Aug. 29: Root Beer Lady the Musical with Barb Hall

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



thousands visiting
celebrate the blueberry

one weekend a year

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.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Cook Fire Department to absorb Evergreen department

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Hobbled by a lack of volunteers, the Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department will be absorbed lock, stock and barrel by the Cook Fire Department after action taken at a special city council meeting last week.

According to a proposal presented at the July 19 meeting by Cook lieutenant firefighter Shane Johnson, the Evergreen department, which covers unorganized townships 60-19 and 60-20 southwest of the Cook VFD service area, has been actively trying to recruit new members for the past two years to reach the 12 volunteers required by state regulations to have a duly constituted department. The department only has seven members at present, Johnson said, and will be forced to liquidate.

If Evergreen were to go defunct with no one to take it over, Cook could find itself in a similar situation that affected Orr and Nett Lake when the Greaney-Rauch-Silverdale department disbanded in September 2020. St.

Louis County contracted with the neighboring departments for fire coverage in that that area, but pays them only \$200 per run, which doesn't cover their costs. Since Evergreen covers unorganized townships, St. Louis County would again be responsible for contracting for fire service.

The demise of Evergreen's department would also take away Cook's primary mutual aid provider, Johnson said. Evergreen VFD is box alarmed for approximately half of Cook's southern coverage area.

Under Johnson's proposal, Cook VFD would absorb Evergreen VFD, not only taking over Evergreen's service area, but also their personnel, equipment, revenues and finances. The proposed merger would benefit both areas under the Cook umbrella.

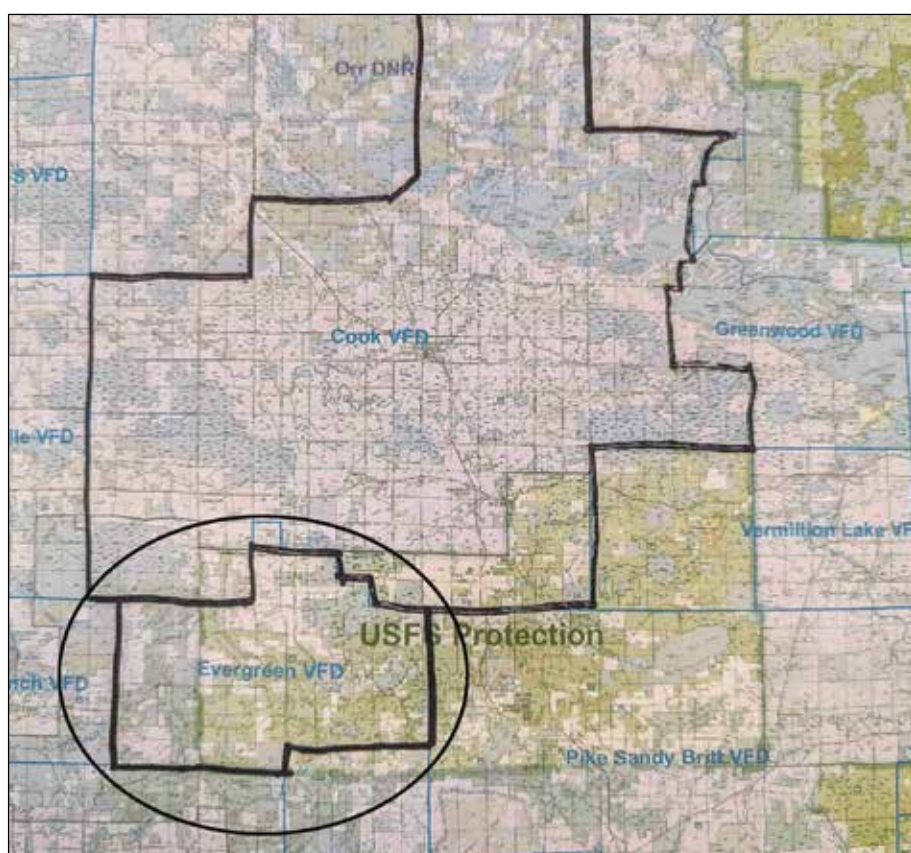
"We have negotiated with St. Louis County, Evergreen Fire, and State Fire Marshall's Office to be able to merge Evergreen Fire into Cook Fire, being able to retain their current members, equipment, fire hall, and the tax



Above: Two years of active recruitment didn't turn up enough volunteers to keep the Evergreen Fire Department operating.

Right: The Evergreen service area, circled, will be added to the Cook Fire Department area.

value funds they receive for their service area," Johnson said in his proposal. "If this new merger takes place, Evergreen Fire would be a Cook Fire substation or fire-hall which only requires four members minimum to work. Those members count towards the total fire department membership for Cook Fire. This also retains our mutual aid with equipment and manpower in our southern coverage areas along with City of Cook and Beatty Township. This new



merger would allow us to provide the same fire coverage as we currently have in place without any cost to the city. The benefits of this merger would be the retention of manpower, up-to-date equipment, and a southern substation to provide the same fire coverage in Evergreen's box alarm areas."

Johnson noted that Evergreen VFD finances have been in the black, and budget information provided by county deputy auditor Phil Chapman confirmed that information. The current levy amount for Evergreen VFD, from SLC, is \$45,427. Their equipment is valued at \$269,291 and

the fire hall at \$99,700 for a total of \$368,991. Revenues and donations for fiscal year 2023 are \$55,000, with total expenditures of \$53,500.

There was no opposition voiced to Johnson's proposal, and the city council voted to move ahead with the merger.

ORR LIONS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Orr Lions Club representative Wendy Laakkonen presents a \$3,016.96 donation to Orr Ambulance Director Donna Hoffer on July 18. The donation was made possible through contributions to the Orr Lions Community Foundation. submitted photo



Orr Fire Department Chief Jeremy Wright receives a \$4,253.16 from Orr Lions Club member Curt Laakkonen on July 18. The donation from the Orr Lions Community Foundation will go toward buying an additional set of turnout gear for fire department members. submitted photo

COMMUNITY NEWS

Miesel photography is August feature exhibit at NWFA

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts is proud to announce noted photographer Keith Miesel will be the featured artist at the NWFA Gallery in Cook during the month of August. The exhibit, "Borderlands", is a photographic exploration along the U.S.-Canada border region from Michigan's Upper Peninsula to Montana. It is striking how his photographs seem to tell a story.

Miesel is a summer resident near Cook and an active member of NWFA. He is a Twin Cities-based photographer with workspace in Studio #418 in the Casket Arts Building, located in the Northeast Minneapolis arts corridor. He attended Michigan Technological University in the Upper Peninsula for his engineering degree while photographing for the yearbook, the Winter Carnival Pictorial, and studied photography and film with Joe Kirkish, a Copper County arts icon. After moving to Minnesota in 1980 he studied

with and was mentored by George Gambsky at Chrystal Bay Art Center, now known as the Minnesota Center for the Arts.

Miesel's personal work is drawn mostly from travels throughout North America and Asia, with emphasis on north-eastern Minnesota including the Boundary Waters. He has made annual trips to photograph the BWCA Wilderness and uses his photos to illustrate the unique and precious value of this quiet place.

NWFA Gallery at 210 S. River St. will be honoring Keith with a public reception from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 4. Please stop in and enjoy this exhibit available Aug. 2-26.

The NWFA Gallery, a membership non-profit, is open and staffed by volunteers 10 a.m.-4 p.m. every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The work of thirty to forty artists is on display year round to meet the goal of inspiring, nurturing and celebrating the arts in the region of Cook. Currently at the gallery the annual event concert tickets and raffles are on

sale for the August 11th concert, "The Blue Water Big Band", with dance space. Seek the list of classes and events on the website: www.nwfamn.org, Facebook and Instagram. Get in touch at nwfamn.org@gmail.com.

Art gallery lists upcoming events

COOK-These classes/events are scheduled soon at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook. Pre-Registration is required for classes by calling 218-666-2153.

►Priscilla Hiipakka art exhibit in the last days of July.

►Photography by Keith Miesel Aug. 2-26. "Borderlands", An Exploration Along the US/Canada Border Region, from Michigan's Upper Peninsula to Montana.

►Open House Reception Friday, August 4th; 5 to 7 p.m for Keith Miesel.

►Open Art Mondays with Jody Feist. Artists are welcome to drop into the Wolfe Den classroom from 6-8 p.m. each Mon-

day.
►Chinese Ink Print Making with Jeanne O'Melia - Thursday, Aug. 3 from noon-2 p.m. 12 years and older. Materials fee. Registration required.

►Paint A Barn Quilt with Kathy Sacchetti - Wed., Aug. 9 at 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Materials provided.

►Gelli Plate Print And Paper With Brenna Kohlhase - two sessions Friday, Aug. 11 and Saturday, Aug. 12 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Materials fee extra. Session 1: create a gelli plate print on paper. Session 2: create a collage on cradled art board. Must attend first day, second day optional.

►Paint A Feather Watercolor with Lyn Reed on Saturday, Aug. 26 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at NWFA Gallery. Materials provided. Registration required at 218-666-2153.

►Create A Beaded Necklace & Earrings with Cecilia Rolando - Friday, Sept. 8 from 1-4 p.m. at NWFA Gallery. Materials fee. Must register. Call 218-666-2153.

Jammin Joe to play park music gig

COOK- The Music in the Park summer series welcomes "Jammin Joe" on Wednesday, Aug. 2 at the gazebo in Cook City Park on River St. Beginning at 5:30 p.m. enjoy a burger or a brat provided by St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church. Music begins at 6 p.m. for two full hours of popular music. In case of rain, the concert will move to the Cook VFW.

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

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.

**Read It
HERE**

ELY BLUEBERRY/ART FESTIVAL

Street closures, reroutes, and new app set for festival weekend

ELY-The city of Ely is implementing changes to traffic flow and parking around Whiteside Park for the Blueberry/Art Festival.

The Ely Police Department has set up a messaging service for the festival, which can issue public safety notices, like any changes or cancellations of festival activities due to weather or other events. To sign up for the notices, send the text "ELYBLUEBERRY"

to 888777. Upon successfully signing up, you will receive a text thanking you for opting in. The thank-you text will also include a link to a map and schedule for this year's festival.

The city will close 7th and 8th Aves. between Sheridan and Harvey to through traffic. The police department will allow vendors, the Kiwanis, the Chamber of Commerce staff, and others working the event onto

7th for drop-offs, pick-ups and loading. Also, the department has established a pick-up zone for customers needing to load larger and heavier items purchased from vendors. The pick-up zone will be on 8th by the bandshell.

Harvey St. between 7th and 8th will be for handicapped parking only.

Chapman St. will be barricaded between 6th and 7th, and at 9th.

No parking will be allowed on the south side of Sheridan between 7th and 8th between 9 a.m. and the end of each day's activities in the park.

This year, Ely will try a new parking and loading scheme on the north side of Sheridan. "For the first time, we will have a 15-minute drop-off and pick-up zone on the north side of Sheridan during the day," said Ely Police Chief Chad Houde. "Anyone

on- or off-loading must then cross Sheridan at the crosswalks. Parking enforcement will be out so if you park on the north side of Sheridan for an hour, you will get a ticket."

The police chief cautioned the public to expect pedestrians "jumping out" into the crosswalks "everywhere on Sheridan this weekend, so please slow down, pay attention, and drive safely."

HWY. 169...Continued from page 1

135 in Tower.

While the project will entail lane closures beginning sometime in August, the preliminary work underway this week is focused on the removal

of the box culvert over the West Two River, located about a mile west of Tower.

Traffic will be reduced to 45 miles per hour near the culvert site, restricted to 12-foot lane widths and

shifted onto the shoulder, but no closures are expected.

But given the volume of traffic that routinely heads to Ely for its most popular summer festival,

the anticipated slowdown could lead to backups.

Travelers hoping to avoid the work zone altogether can do so by turning east at the intersection between Hwy. 169 and Cty.

Rd. 26 and continuing on 26 to Hwy. 135. From there, travelers can head north on Hwy. 135 to Tower, where they can resume traveling on Hwy. 169 just past the construction zone.

Watch the *Timberjay* for more updates on the Hwy. 169 project as it continues through September.

HARBOR...Continued from page 1

from previous proposals — decades of experience in managing such properties.

The TEDA board had previously given Tower Vision 2025 principal Orlyn Kringstad until mid-July to show his proposal for a mixed residential and commercial development on the harbor had sufficient financial backing. In his letter of intent, Kujawa indicated that he had earmarked up to \$1 million toward the project. While Tatge didn't cite a number in his own letter, he has successfully undertaken significantly larger resort-style projects in the past and has indicated he has ready access to the funds necessary to move the project forward in Tower. His Twin Cities based company manages high-end resort properties from Vermont to Oregon and owns and/or manages resort properties on Lake of the Woods, the North Shore, and Ely. And his company

recently purchased Silver Rapids Lodge, near Ely, where Tatge is advancing a major redevelopment of the site.

In a meeting with TEDA executive director Marshall Helmberger last week, Tatge indicated he was intrigued with the unique nature of the harbor site and surrounding riverfront, which combines direct water access to Lake Vermilion with a major highway. The site is also at the confluence of major snowmobile and ATV trails, as well as the Mesabi bike trail and dramatic, newly developed hiking trails. The Your Boat Club marina, located adjacent to the site, also offers boat and ATV rentals as well as club memberships.

RV park developer and building contractor Justin Renner is also expected to play a role in the project although he did not submit a letter of intent as of last

week's meeting.

At the meeting, Kringstad, who is expected to serve as the on-site project manager, outlined a preliminary concept that includes a coordinated development that extends from the harbor to the Marjo property to Renner's RV park. The overall project, should it move forward, would likely entail a hotel, retail space, a restaurant, and dozens of residential units, many of which would likely be for short-term rental.

Kringstad told the TEDA board that further analysis of the harbor site has prompted him to significantly downsize the development there due to space considerations. His original proposal had suggested up to 80 condominium units but he said there isn't room for that many units plus the garage space that many residents would expect.

The TEDA board had questions about the project, including which entity would end up owning the development. Kringstad said that once built, he would hope that the development would be sold or transferred from Tower Vision 2025 to another entity. Kringstad, who is nearly 80 years old, said he's looking to finish the project and retire. He said Mr. Tatge's involvement helps to ensure that the property will be managed effectively once built. "Now we have an expert involved who runs hundreds of hotels and resorts all over the country," he said.

The TEDA board is expected to work with the new team over the next 60 days to define the scope and design of the project. TEDA owns the land surrounding the harbor as well as a key five-acre parcel along Marina Drive, which would

provide additional developable property for the project as well as improved access to the Marjo site. Should the project advance, TEDA would likely sell its properties to the developers under a development agreement.

TEDA is also requesting more financial information, although both Mr. Kujawa and Mr. Tatge appear to have sufficient funds should they opt to move forward with the project once the concept planning is completed.

Water treatment capacity

One of the issues raised by the potential development is wastewater treatment capacity. The city and Breitung Township have made some progress on reducing inflow and infiltration into the sanitary sewer system, but TEDA board member Victoria Carlson questioned whether the proposed development

might not push the joint wastewater treatment facility over its capacity.

The city and township are hoping to expand the treatment capacity in the longer term, but that could take several years.

Meanwhile, it appears that the work on inflow and infiltration has made a difference. As of April of this year, the three-year average flow had been reduced to 114,000 gallons per day. That suggests more than 30,000 gallons per day of capacity.

A note of dissent

While most members of the TEDA board expressed enthusiasm for the renewed potential for the harbor project, the final motion granting a 60-day extension was approved on a 5-1 vote, with Bob Anderson voting no, without comment.

AMBULANCE...Continued from page 1

ment without the indemnification clause. Bassing also noted that Tower had breached the contract terms, by failing to pay for transfer miles and producing a business plan for the service later than they had originally promised.

"Why do we want to do business with people who breached their contract?" Bassing said. "They don't pay their transfer miles [on time]." The city has strug-

gled to pay its staffing costs since adopting a high-wage paid on-call system back in 2018 and the city has had to delay transfer mile payments to the ambulance replacement fund due in lieu of making payroll.

Sherman asked how that breach was different from Greenwood's refusal to pay their subsidy amount?

"We are not obligated," Bassing said. "This

is a freewill offering, a donation. This is not a commitment on our part."

Bassing said that Greenwood is requesting faster response times, a higher level of service, and is not interested in running an ambulance department.

"We want an increase in one of those three things," Bassing said. "Part-time ALS would be an improvement. That is what we want the city of Tower to do," he said. "We are willing to subsidize that."

Sherman noted that the ambulance service is interested in running a quality Basic Life Support (BLS) service.

"It's a business," said Bassing.

"No," said Suihkonen, "it's a public service."

Jeff Damm, the representative from Fortune Bay and a retired Virginia paramedic, said that Virginia will respond immediately, before getting a call-out, to any call in the Tower service area it feels requires ALS. The Virginia Ambulance Service area extends to just south of the former Black Bear Café.

"BLS does the assess-

ment, can put in IVs, can do an intubation if necessary. By the time they are ready to transport, the ALS is there. We see this all the time at Fortune Bay," Damm said. "It's an amazing situation we have up here. It's incredible."

Damm said to add ALS to the Tower service would involve a large increase in staffing costs, and that the number of ALS-type calls was not that high.

In the first six months of 2023, TAAS has responded to 216 emergency calls, and 21 involved ALS intercept and two required air medical intercept, an average of less than four ALS-involved calls per month.

"You are saying those extra calls are not important?" Bassing asked.

Damm said adding ALS to Tower would not cut as much time as people think.

"We have a perfect system," Damm said.

"It is not perfect," said Bassing.

Bassing noted when he had his own medical emergency that required intubation, his daughter

told his wife to drive him immediately to the Cook Hospital, because the ambulance wouldn't get there in time.

"But ALS coming from Tower would have been too late, also," Suihkonen said.

"It's not the exact situation for everybody," Bassing said. "We have a lot of old people in Greenwood who want to improve the service."

Damm noted that Greenwood could opt to hire their own paramedic.

"But we would still have to wait for BLS to come," Bassing said. "We haven't determined what we want to do."

"Tower is already subsidizing the ambulance," said Tower representative Bobby Anderson. "That money could be fixing our streets. We don't have any more money to pay for ALS staff."

"That's why I'd like you to put out a RFP," responded Bassing.

Greenwood has previously asked the city to put out a request for proposals to bring in a private ambulance service, but others with expertise in the field — including a township-commissioned study by McGrath Consulting — have informed Greenwood officials that a private ambulance operation is unlikely to be interested in serving the Tower coverage area.

"The city of Tower is not interested in putting out an RFP," said Suihkonen, who added that Greenwood was now asking other townships to help subsidize the cost of staffing a paramedic.

The discussion ended when Suihkonen was needed to respond to an ambulance call in Greenwood.

Transfer mileage fee


Suihkonen's departure from the meeting left the discussion on the transfer mileage fee for the next commission meeting. But Suihkonen did address the issue briefly at the beginning of the meeting, noting that the Tower Ambulance Service pays for all expenses, other than ambulance replacement.

"You guys donate to pay for an ambulance," she said. "That is it. We pay insurance, every oil change. We are paying to use the rig, and without transfers we won't be able to keep going."

The ambulance subsidy contract currently states the city must reimburse the ambulance subsidy account \$1.66 for each mile driven on an ambulance transfer call. The city has had trouble keeping these payments current while keeping enough funds in the ambulance account to meet payroll and other essential expenses.

"This is essentially a tax on something that belongs to us," Suihkonen said. "We really need to talk about it. That \$1.66 is taken straight out of our operating funds," she said.

Suihkonen said the service currently is staffed with "great people", but the attitude of some in the wider community towards them made it hard to keep up morale.

PESHEL ACCOUNTING  218-365-2424
1704 E Camp St. | PO Box 89 | Ely, MN 55731 | askjean.net
CHECK OUT askjean.net for current TAX TIPS!

Your local source for news, music and entertainment!

 **91.7 KAXE** Northern Community Radio
90.5 KBXE

91.7fm - Grand Rapids
90.5fm - Bemidji
89.9fm - Brainerd
kaxe.org


Lake Vermilion • Tower, MN

MAILBOAT EXCURSIONS
See 80 miles of Lake Vermilion
9 AM-12 Noon • Call for Reservations

Marina Hours: Mon-Sat 8:30-5:30 • Sun 9-4
6143 Pike Bay Drive • 218-753-4190
www.aronsonboatworks.com

READ THE TIMBERJAY!

CITY OF TOWER

P&Z OKs amendments to new chicken ordinance

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— The city’s planning and zoning commission adopted a handful of revisions to the proposed new chicken ordinance during a regular meeting held Tuesday. The new language would somewhat loosen the requirements for daily cleaning of chicken coops, acknowledging that the requirement may be in conflict with common chicken rearing strategies, like deep bedding.

Instead, the commission approved language that required the removal of fecal matter “regularly, as conditions dictate.”

The commission also opted to remove any reference to age

restrictions for the handling of chickens, but opted to keep a reference to health guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control in the chicken license application form. Commissioner Kevin Norby said it makes sense for the city to inform residents about the potential health risks. “But, I don’t know if we should dictate that,” he added.

The revised ordinance will also allow for butchering chickens within the city, but not outdoors. Residents will need to limit their butchering to a garage, the kitchen, or the basement.

At the same time, the commission opted to leave in place rules describing how coops should be built. “I don’t think it’s onerous at all,” said commission-

er Joe Morin.

The commission also adopted broad language on enforcement, but opted not to assess criminal sanctions for those who fail to comply. Instead, the city will use fines or license revocation as needed to obtain reasonable compliance with the new ordinance.

In other business, the commission discussed a request by RV park developer Dave Rose to add three new sites to his Tower RV Resort, which is a planned unit development. Commissioners expressed some uncertainty about the process going forward and whether or not Rose would need a new conditional use permit or a new environmental review. Under the city’s Ordinance 80, however, an expansion of up to six

units in an existing planned unit development can be approved as an allowable use.

The commission also discussed a request by a prospective business developer for more information on the city’s residential-transition zone district along the west end of Main Street. Commissioners noted that any new construction in the zone district must meet Residential-3 requirements, which would generally prohibit anything other than a low intensity home occupation business. “I would see the challenge is meeting the same general character and the lack of off-street parking,” said commission chair Michael Schultz.

In other business, the commission:

► Took no action pending more information on the process for vacating a platted but undeveloped portion of S. Third St. Nicole Carlson has indicated an interest in having the street vacated to allow for the planting of fruit trees.

► Took no immediate action on a variance request by Dan Eveleth to allow for construction of a residence on Cedar St. that is narrower than currently allowed in the ordinance.

► Postponed discussions on changes to Ordinance 82 regarding garages on vacant lots as well as a discussion on short-term rentals. The commission will schedule a special meeting limited to those items in the next few weeks.

PROTECTION...Continued from page 1

These headwaters incorporate large portions of the Superior National Forest in the Ely and Babbitt areas, including the proposed Twin Metals mine site on the south side of Birch Lake.

The paths of convoluted water flow go north up Birch Lake through White Iron Lake to Fall Lake, then northeast to the Basswood Lake area, where flow turns west-northwest parallel to the U.S.-Canada border, through Quetico Provincial Park and the western half of the BWCAW to Voyageurs National Park.

Lyons explained a common misconception about local water flow. “Many people say, ‘How is this mine going to be a problem (because) all water flows south?’ ... We say, no, that’s not true ... the core path of pollution (would be) introduced (at the Twin Metals mine) to the waters just upstream of the Boundary Waters.”

Lyons traced the route of potential Twin Metals mine contamination from the south shore of Birch Lake northeast to Basswood Lake, where flow turns west and heads for International Falls. “Where would that pollution go? We found that it would go up this chain (of lakes) into Basswood, up into Quetico, and all the way up, over, yonder, and beyond.”

Five-part strategy

Rom outlined NMW’s strategy to permanently protect the Boundary Waters from all future Minnesota mining activi-



Ingrid Lyons (left) and Becky Rom presented an overview of the Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness strategy for protecting the Boundary Waters at the July 25 Tuesday Group meeting at the Grand Ely Lodge. photo by C. Clark

ties. That strategy, which has been in play for several years already, has five parts:

1. Deny and cancel the two federal mining leases in the Rainy River watershed. The leases were the only federal leases within the Superior National Forest.
2. Withdraw all federal lands within Boundary Waters watersheds from availability for mineral leasing for 20 years.
3. Pass federal legislation to permanently ban mining on federal lands in watersheds that feed the Boundary Waters.
4. Change Minnesota’s nonferrous mining regulations to ban mining in the Boundary Waters.
5. Pass state legislation to permanently ban mining on state lands in the BWCAW watershed.

Rom related how the first two objectives in the NMW strategy have already been achieved after a decade of effort.

“When we started (ten

years ago),” Rom said, “our goal was to (convince) the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that they needed to conserve the environment (of the BWCAW). And if they did, they would deny the renewal of the (Twin Metals) leases.”

Rom went on to explain how the first objective had to be done twice. While the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) refused to renew the two leases in 2016, the Trump Administration overturned the 2016 USFS decision in 2019, undoing a hard-won victory for the NMW. Then the Biden Administration determined the leases were unlawfully renewed in January 2022.

The group’s second objective was achieved in January when U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland banned mineral leases for approximately 225,504 acres of the Superior National Forest. Rom called Haaland’s action “the most signifi-

cant conservation measure protecting the Boundary Waters in 45 years, since the passage of the 1978 Boundary Waters Wilderness Act.”

Holding the line

With the first two objectives accomplished, the NMW has much yet to do: the remaining three strategic objectives plus ongoing efforts to preserve their first two victories, both of which are being contested in court.

“Twin Metals didn’t like all that stuff I just described,” Rom added, “so they brought a lawsuit in federal district court ... And we intervened. We are five conservation groups and 10 businesses ... the lawsuit challenges the cancellation of the federal mineral leases, challenges the denial of all (Twin Metal’s) applications, and challenges the rejection of (Twin Metal’s) mine plan.”

Both the Department of Justice, representing the USFS and BLM, and NMW and its allies have separately filed motions in the Twin Metals lawsuit to have the case dismissed.

“(We) filed motions to dismiss the federal lawsuit,” Rom explained, “mainly because these kinds of claims belong in the Court of Claims. You can’t force the federal government to have a contract with you. And if you are alleging breach of contract, which is basically what Twin Metals is doing, then you have a claim for damages and you go to the Court of Claims. Now Twin

Metals never had a mine, so I would say its damages are zero—so good luck with that. We’re optimistic that the court will dismiss this lawsuit.”

Rom also described the actions of Minnesota Congressman Pete Stauber in introducing both a resolution and a bill into Congress which would overturn the mineral lease ban put into place by Secretary Haaland. She also described her experience in testifying in May in front of the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, which Stauber chairs. This subcommittee meeting was covered in detail in the May 5 edition of the *Timberjay*.

Rom played a video clip of highlights from the subcommittee testimony. Afterward, she concluded with one of those facts that’s stranger than fiction: “When I got on my plane to fly home that night, they seated me right next to Pete Stauber. So, I sat down, I was on the window. He was in the middle. ‘I was stranded,’ he said. ‘Becky, this was the only seat that was available.’”

Rom did not describe what she and Stauber discussed on the flight.

Looking ahead

Both Rom and Lyons discussed their efforts to achieve protections for the Boundary Waters at both the federal and state levels, given that the state owns a significant portion of the land in the areas upstream of the BWCAW. Even as they work in Washington

to win a sulfide mining ban on all federal lands in BWCAW watersheds, they are working simultaneously in St. Paul to achieve similar protections for state lands.

Rom explained that was important because the state has waffled at times on protecting the BWCAW from mining.

“In 2017, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) did a water assessment of the Rainy River headwaters and what it found ... was that the water quality was exceptional,” Rom pointed out. Then she described how MPCA ducked its responsibility to enforce both federal and state laws to protect the BWCAW, and “took this hot potato of copper nickel mining and threw it back to the (Minnesota) Department of Natural Resources (DNR).” According to Rom, this kind of buck-passing would be resolved by clarifying Minnesota’s own environmental regulations and backing those up with a state law preventing copper-nickel mining in watersheds feeding the BWCAW.

“We have (strategic goals) three, four and five yet to go. So, unfortunately folks, we’re still in it for a while,” Rom summarized.

Rom capped her presentation with an update on the lawsuit the NMW filed in June against the DNR, contesting that a recent May 31 ruling by the agency inadequate to protect the BWCAW, as described in the July 7 edition of the *Timberjay*.

BROADWAY
IN THE
BOUNDARY WATERS
Gala

August 4 @ 7 PM
August 5 - Pay-What-You-Can Performance @ 7PM
at the Vermillion Fine Arts Theater

Tickets:
\$25 General Admission
\$20 NLAA Member
\$15 Youth (16 and under)

Available at the door and online by scanning the QR code below or call us at 218-235-9937 to purchase your seats!

GREENSTONE
ART-A-PALOOZA
AN ART SHOW AND SALE

JULY 28-30
10 - 4

COME SUPPORT, ENJOY,
AND CELEBRATE
REGIONAL ARTISTS

401 N PIONEER RD, ELY, MN 55731



MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Enforcement effort to focus on impaired driving

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- On Tuesday, just one week before recreational marijuana becomes legal in Minnesota, state law enforcement officials gathered in St. Paul to send a strong message to would-be users that operating any motor vehicle under the influence of weed carries the same dangers and penalties as driving under the influence of alcohol.

Their collective preemptive strike on marijuana-influenced driving is fueled by a 127 percent rise in drugged driving cases between 2017 and 2021 as compared to the previous five years. Arrests for drug-impaired offenses rose from 7,000 to 16,000, and officials are concerned that number will go even higher once recreational marijuana becomes legal.

"Our message here today is that driving high is a DWI," said Commissioner of Public Safety Bob Jacobson. "If you choose to use cannabis, please do so responsibly. Never get behind the wheel after using

drugs and alcohol. If you feel different, you drive different, so educate yourself. Be responsible. By doing so you can help keep all motorists on our highways safe. Rodman Smith, director of enforcement for the Department of Natural Resources, emphasized that the laws for recreational vehicle operators are exactly the same as for highway drivers.

"All the rules apply, whether it's a motor vehicle, an ATV, a snowmobile, or a watercraft," he said. "The consequences that happen with a conviction of DWI in an automotive vehicle apply to your ability to operate ATVs, snowmobiles and watercraft. The same goes the other way, so that if you get an impaired driving conviction for a watercraft, snowmobile or ATV it affects your privileges driving a traditional motor vehicle. We're fortunate here in the state of Minnesota to have an abundant amount of trails for snowmobiling and ATVs and tens of thousands of lakes and rivers to operate watercraft on. The

important message here is that impaired driving is impaired driving. It doesn't matter what type of motor vehicle you're driving."

Transporting cannabis

Colonel Matt Langer, chief of the Minnesota State Patrol, emphasized that the restrictions on transporting cannabis in motor vehicles are the same as those for alcohol.

"It's illegal for drivers or passengers to use marijuana or any cannabis products or to have open cannabis packaging," he said. "Violating any of these rules can lead to you being charged with a traffic offense. You may keep open product in the trunk of a car or another area that is not accessible to any of the occupants of the vehicle including the driver and passengers."

Cannabis products may be transported only in the original sealed packaging.

Langer noted that troopers and most law enforcement officers are trained to do standardized field sobriety testing and have the option of calling in a drug recognition eval-

uator (DRE) in situations where drug impairment is suspected. The more extensive evaluation conducted by the DRE can take upwards of a half hour to complete.

Mike Hanson, director of the DPS Office of Traffic Safety, said the state is embarking on a "robust education and awareness campaign" backed up by strong enforcement programs. The awareness campaign will involve extensive messaging through retail locations, bars, restaurants, billboards, social media, radio, streaming TV, audio programming, and many online platforms. Hanson said that the upcoming Labor Day weekend will be targeted for both increased messaging and enforcement as it is one of the busiest holiday weekends of the year for impaired driving.

Hanson also noted two important initiatives funded by the Legislature, drug recognition evaluator training to the tune of \$10 million this year and \$5 million in subsequent years, and a pilot oral fluid

collection project that will assess the use of such sampling for identifying drug impairment.

Participation in the oral fluid project will be strictly voluntary, and Hanson emphasized that the results will not be admissible in any court action nor admissible for any drivers license sanctions. The project is

simply collecting samples to evaluate the oral fluid testing technology that is available. The project will start in September and run for about a year, he said, after which a report and recommendations will be drafted for the Legislature to consider.

ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Hauschild campaign fined for finance violation

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL- The campaign committee for Sen. Grant Hauschild has agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$3,853.62 for overspending on Hauschild's 2022 campaign.

After a review, staff

members of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board determined that the Hauschild campaign had spent a total of \$123,863.62 in campaign-related expenditures, during a time when the spending limit for first-time candidates was \$120,000.

The board noted that

it was the first violation by the committee and opted to impose a penalty equal to the amount of overspending, which amounted to an average of about three percent.

Hauschild's campaign did not dispute the overspending, but explained that they had inadvertently

overspent their television advertising budget due to final placement of ads just before the election, which proved to be more costly than anticipated.

The matter was resolved back on May 30.

The Wilderness Grill

VIEW MENU

OPEN
7AM - 9PM WED - SUN
BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER
PATIO & INDOOR SEATING AVAILABLE
218.753.7804
RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED.
DINE-IN OR TAKE-OUT
1450 BOIS FORTE RD.
TOWER, MN
OPEN THROUGH OCTOBER 7TH

The Wilderness
AT FORTUNE BAY

DATE NIGHT ON THE LINKS
Every Sunday After 4PM
- \$82 -
9 HOLES & A CART FOR 2,
2 BEVERAGES &
CHOICE OF 1 APPETIZER
CALL THE PRO SHOP TO BOOK!
218.753.8917
THROUGH AUGUST 27TH

living well THERAPY

Physical Therapy Clinics in Floodwood, Tower & Duluth

Poor balance, falls and limited activity are common issues facing older adults. We will work with you to create an individual program to address your specific areas of concern.

Most falls are preventable. The staff at Living Well Physical Therapy can help you restore your mobility and live your best life.

PHONE: 218-481-7603
WEBSITE: living-well-therapy.com

FALL PREVENTION

songs for a new world

Music and Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown
Originally produced by the WPA Theater, New York City 1995
(Kylie Renick, Artistic Director)
Songs For A New World
is presented through special arrangement with Music Theater International (MTI)
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI
www.mtishows.com

July 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30 @ 7 PM
July 23 & 30 @ 2pm
July 27 Pay-What-You-Can
Performance @ 7PM
at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater
TICKETS ARE FOR SALE AT
NORTHERNLAKESARTS.ORG
or call us at 218-235-9937 to purchase your seats!

WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER?
MINNESOTA DISCOVERY CENTER

#MUSEUM

OPEN TUESDAY-SUNDAY
IRON RANGE RESEARCH CENTER
TUESDAY-SATURDAY 9 AM - 5 PM

TROLLEY SCHEDULE
MONDAY: CLOSED
TUESDAY: 11am, 1pm, & 3pm
WEDNESDAY: 11am, 1pm, & 3pm
THURSDAY: 11am, 1pm, 3pm & 6pm
FRIDAY: 11am, 1pm, 3pm
SATURDAY: 11am, 1pm, & 3pm
SUNDAY: 1pm & 3pm

MINI-GOLF OPEN

August Events & Programs

8/3 - Bands, Brews, & BBQ 4-8 PM | Live Music By Joe Flipovich | Free
8/10 - Dragons and Damsels Insect Education | 1-2 PM | Admissions
8/10 - Bands, Brews, & BBQ | 4-8 PM | No Band - Ticketed Concert In Amphitheater
8/12 - "I'm New Here" Research Center Orientation Tour | 9 AM-5 PM | Free
8/17 - Bands, Brews, & BBQ 4-8 PM | Live Music By Mia Thompson | Free
8/24 - Bands, Brews, & BBQ 4-8 PM | Live Music By Stephen Stern | Free
8/24 - Minescape Book Release at 7 PM | Local Author Pete Kero | Free
8/24 - Dragons and Damsels Insect Education | 1-2 PM | Admissions
8/26 - Late Night In The Research Center | 9 AM-8 PM | Free
8/31 - Family Discovery Day: Rock Hounds Abound! | 4-7:30 PM | Free
8/31 - Bands, Brews, & BBQ 4-8 PM | Live Music By Reggie Ducote | Free

KAYAK & CANOE RENTALS
A NEW WAY TO EXPLORE MINING HISTORY

AMPHITHEATER CONCERTS
TAMBURITZANS - AUGUST 10
WILD HORSES - AUGUST 18
HAIRBALL - SEPTEMBER 8

TICKETS
SCAN QR CODE
BELOW OR VISIT
OUR WEBSITE!

REDHEAD MTB PARK

MINNESOTA Discovery center

MnDiscoveryCenter.com | 218-254-7959 | Chisholm, Mn

Obituaries and Death Notices



William M. Wyman

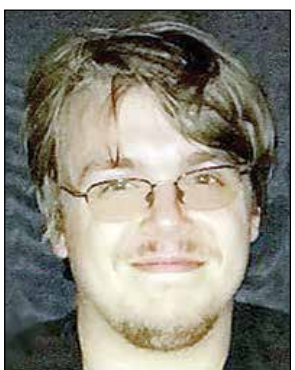
William M. "Morrie" Wyman, 83, of Orr, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 22, 2023, at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth. A celebration of life will be held from 1-2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 5 at the Orr Community Building (the former American Legion). Interment will be in the family plot at the Leiding Cemetery in Orr at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family asks you to please consider making a donation to the American Legion or the VFW in Morrie's name.

Morrie graduated from Orr High School in 1958. He served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps, much of it in the Pacific, receiving his discharge in 1962 after "four years and 33 days." He liked to say he made Corporal "twice." Morrie married Claudia Szybnski in 1964, and they welcomed son Christopher in 1965, followed by son Michael in 1968. He worked for several years at Northwestern Bell, US West, and other iterations of the phone company in St. Paul and in

Duluth before retiring and moving to Orr. He loved to fish and hunt, play bingo at the Cook VFW, and could be found tinkering in his garage every day. He was well known and sought out for his woodworking skills, especially his custom diamond willow walking sticks and canes.

Morrie is survived by his wife, Claudia of Orr; son, Christopher (Tracy) and grandchildren, Briana and Nicole, all of Tampa, Fla.

He was preceded in death by his father, Wilfred; mother, Ida; sister, Wanda; and son, Michael.



William O. Fearn

William Orion Lloyd "Willie" Fearn, 27, was born into God's Kingdom of Power on Jan. 26, 1996, to Linda and Toni Fearn in Stockton, Calif. He was born into God's Kingdom of Grace through Holy Baptism on Aug. 14, 1997, by Pastor Daniel Clemons at First Lutheran Church in Ely. His sponsors were Bill Rosett and Betty Rosett. He entered into God's

Kingdom of Glory on Monday, July 17, 2023, as the result of a car accident. Visitation and funeral services were held on Tuesday, July 25 at First Lutheran Church in Ely. Family arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

William moved with his family to Ely in 1997 and graduated in 2015. He was a manager at Samz. He was an EMR Firefighter and First Responder for Morse-Fall Lake Township. He was a very compassionate, fun-loving, giving person, and a great pool player. He was proud of his heritage as the fourth Norseman. Willie loved hunting, singing, fishing, skydiving with his mom, and his many adventures and travels - London, Mexico, cruises and the Dells. He was also an avid gamer and loved playing cards.

William is survived by his mother, Linda Fearn of Ely; father, Toni Fearn of St. James; brothers, Damian (April Levar) Fearn of Colorado Springs, Colo., Jeromie (Kaitlyn Shober) Fearn of Winton and Max Fearn of Ely; nephews, Grayson and Jaxson Fearn of Winton; grandmother, Peggy Rosett; aunts, Betty Rosett, Lori (Ron) Dubbin, Terri Strokos and her three children in California, and Candi (Curt) Gerrard and their two children, also in California; uncles, Bill Rosett of Ely, and Dan (Jen) Gibson and their son, Duncan, in Nevada. He is

also survived by many, many friends both near and far.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, John Rosett; uncle, Glen Rosett; aunt, Kathi Borst; grandparents, Betty (Merrill) Gibson and Art Gibson of California.

Lucille Brandt

Lucille Brandt is now with God and her husband Chuck forever.

She was born in Biwabik, moved to California, and then back home to Soudan. Burial will be at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 1 at Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. There will be coffee afterward at Soudan Baptist Church.

Shawn E. Hannine

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

He is survived by his mother, Eva; son, Mason; brother, Christopher (Jacqueline); nephew, Matthew; and other family and friends.

Rita M. Cheney-Hunton

Rita Marie Cheney-Hunton, 94, of Angora, passed away peacefully at her home on Monday, July 24, 2023. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on

Saturday, Aug. 5 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, in Cook. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

James A. Planton

James Anthony "Jim" Planton, age 76 of Soudan died Saturday, July 22, 2023, in his home surrounded by his family. The Memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 2 at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower. Reverend Father Beau Braun will be the celebrant. A gathering time for family and friends will begin one hour prior to the service at the church.

Jim is survived by his wife: Becky, cousins, extended family, friends, and his canine companion

Luna.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and sister, Jane Planton.

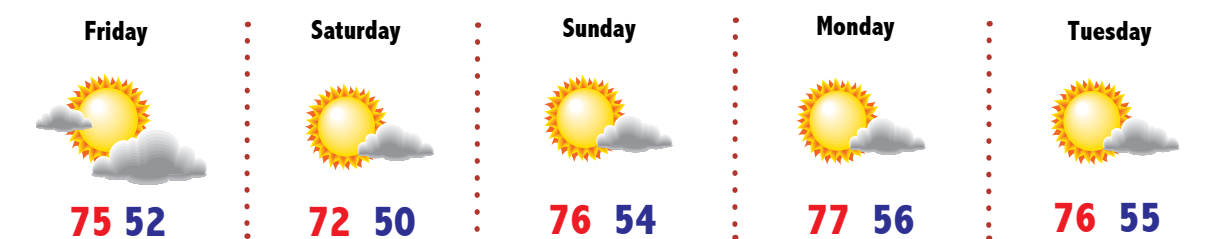
Family services were provided by Bauman-Vermilion, A Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower. The full obituary will be printed in the Aug. 4 paper.

Angela M. McClelland

Angela Marie Zumbrunnen McClelland 49, of Fort Ripley, originally of Embarrass, tragically passed away on Sunday, June 25, 2023. A celebration of life was held on July 22 at Nelson-Doran Funeral Home in Brainerd. Interment will take place at a later date in Gilbert.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



Location	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
Ely	75	52	0.57	
Cook	65	52	0.04	
Orr	64	54	0.00	
Tower	61	51	0.56	

NEW VEHICLE SHOWCASE!

2024 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT AWD
Heated seats, remote start, power liftgate
\$33,340

2023 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN RST 4X4
Power sunroof, luxury pkg, adaptive cruise control
\$75,590

2023 CHEVROLET MALIBU 2LT
Power sunroof
\$33,490

2023 CHEVROLET COLORADO Z71 CREW CAB 4x4
Heated seats, advanced trailering pkg, stowflex tailgate
\$44,285

View Our Full Inventory at www.waschke.com
WASCHKE FAMILY CHEVROLET•COOK Hrs: M-F 8am-6pm, Sat. 9am-2pm 126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, MN 218-666-5901 • 1-800-238-4545

Cook VFW POST 1757
HAPPY HOUR • 4-6 PM
MON, WED, THURS, FRI, SAT, SUN
(CLOSED TUESDAYS)
FRIDAY BURGER NIGHT • 4:30-7 PM
Take-Out 666-0500
206 1st St SW, Cook, MN

PET FOOD
HIBBING FEED and SEED
262-3049

Call 753-2950 to subscribe to the Timberjay!

CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

- CLEAN**
 - Boats, PWCs, trailers, and gear
 - Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, skis, wakeboards, ropes, and life jackets before leaving
- DRAIN**
 - Water from boat, bilge, motor, ballast tanks, and bladders. PWCs - run motor for 10 seconds to blow water out of jet drive
 - Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
 - Trash unused bait
- DRY**
 - Everything at least five days before going to other waters
 - (Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

STOP INVASIVE SPECIES! LEARN MORE AT CLEANDRAIN.DRY.ORG



Blueberry/Art Festival

July 28, 29, 30

Whiteside Park, Ely

Fri & Sat 9 AM-6 PM, Sun 10 AM-4 PM

Third-generation woodworker continues tradition of his Swedish grandfather

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Ben Pawlak inherited his love of woodworking from his Swedish grandfather, who brought his tools with him when he came to America. Pawlak also inherited his grandfather's tools, which he still keeps in the big wooden box his grandfather carried them in on his voyage to a new life.

"The only two power tools he had were a drill and a skilsaw. Everything else was by hand, and so that's where I got my interest in woodworking," said Pawlak.

Pawlak keeps his grandfather's tool chest in his shop, which is across the road from his home overlooking Burntside Lake. The shop is filled with Pawlak's creations, like cutting boards, cribbage boards, clipboards, mushroom and tree-shaped knickknacks, goblets, cups, bowls, and footstools. Retired from five decades of cabinet making, Pawlak now concentrates on his craft pieces.

"I'm really enjoying what I'm doing," Pawlak commented, conceding that he likes to "keep busy."

Pawlak sells his woodcraft mainly through Art and Soul Gallery in Ely, at the Harvest Moon Festival in September, and at the Blueberry/Art Festival.

"I've been selling at the Harvest Moon for the last six of seven years," Pawlak remarked. "Last year was the first year I sold at Blueberry."

Five decades of wood

"I've been in one end of the woodworking industry since probably 1972,"



Ben Pawlak of Rusty Nail Woodcraft, shown here with his immigrant grandfather's chest of woodworking hand tools from Sweden.

photo by C. Clark

Pawlak said, "so quite a few years. The cabinet-making business intrigued me and I enjoyed it. It was a good way to make a living."

Starting out, Pawlak worked in three different cabinet shops in the Twin Cities. Then he got what he described as a gift. "My last employer said I could start my own business and do my work in his shop on evenings and weekends, using his equipment, to get a base going for my own cabinet shop. You can't turn down anything like that."

With that gift from his last employ-

er, Pawlak opened his cabinet shop in Minnetonka in 1985. "In 35 years of business, I did three pieces of new construction, and everything else was a remodel, which was a real challenge, but I worked with some good people."

While Pawlak made and installed some cabinet work "up here" in the Arrowhead region, most of his cabinet making was based out of his shop in Minnetonka.

See...ARTIST pg. 2B

Blueberry/Art Festival: three days of fun

9 a.m. opening on Friday and Saturday this year

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Over 200 art, craft, and food vendors will assemble in Ely's Whiteside Park this weekend for the Blueberry/Art Festival (BAF).

The festival begins on Friday, July 28 at 9 a.m., and ends on Sunday, July 30 at 4 p.m. Festival hours are Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Chamber of Commerce office manager and BAF organizer, Kristen Switajewski, has spent hundreds of hours planning the event, which features many of the festival's favorite vendors plus more than 40 new ones. The festival is a juried show, so each new applicant has been reviewed by a panel of area artists and crafters.

On Friday, a panel of jurors will judge the BAF vendors to pick the top three winners in both the art and craft categories.

"We are excited to have a very diverse group of artists and crafters; there is something for everyone," said Switajewski. "We have Shawn Bina of Guild of the Gilded Hilt, who does hand-crafted fantasy swords; Brian and

See...FESTIVAL pg. 5B

Barb Hegg
Associate Broker, GRI
barb@vermillionland.com



Office: 218-666-6183 • Home Office: 218-666-0144
Mobile: 218-742-2369

"Barb was very professional and attentive; we'd recommend her to anyone." client



Choose An Agent Who Is...
Experienced, Professional, Knowledgeable

- **BARB is:** Honest, hardworking and reliable
- **BARB does:** Professional photography and drone videos
- **BARB offers:** Virtual tours
- **BARB offers:** Advice on staging
- **BARB is:** A Full-time agent
- **BARB does:** Advertising on social media, and in national magazines

Member of the Range MLS, LSAR MLS (Lake Superior area), and Northstar MLS (Mpls/St. Paul area)



CONTACT BARB
for a
FREE MARKET ANALYSIS!
218-742-2369 or
barb@vermillionland.com

PO Box 518, 210 S. Highway 53, Cook, MN 55723

PATTI STEGER'S ANNUAL GARAGE SALE!!!

**BIG DISCOUNTS OFF
FLAWED BOOTS!
20% OFF DISCONTINUED STYLES!
STEGER MUKLUKS & MOCCASINS**



**ONE DAY ONLY JULY 29TH
AT THE FACTORY • 100 MINERS DR
9AM TO 2PM**

OPEN DAILY • 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



VISIT WOLF.ORG TO SEE OUR
DAILY PROGRAM SCHEDULE

DISCOVER ARCTIC WOLVES!

Daily Programs • Exhibits • Live Wolves

Visit us
during
Blueberry
Art Festival!



New
arctic
exhibit!

1396 Highway 169, Ely • 218-365-4695

ARTIST...Continued from page 1B

The 47-year move

Pawlak grew up in Minnetonka but a part of him has been planted in Ely since 1961.

As a boy, his family frequented YMCA's Camp du Nord, located just a few miles from where he eventually built his Ely home. Pawlak has been involved with Camp du Nord, where he still volunteers, ever since.

Pawlak liked the Ely area so much, he began the process of moving up here in the 70s. He bought his property on Burntside Lake in 1974 and began to build with the intent to move up here permanently. "I built (my shop) in the 70s and early 80s with the intention to move up here, live out of one-half (of the building), and work out of the other."

Life threw a wrench into Pawlak's plans. "Then the economy died, so I stayed home and I met my wife. She liked it here, too, which is a good thing. We used the living quarters (of the shop building) for probably 25 years. We had a wood stove for heat, a refrigerator, and an electric stove. What more do you need?"

Along the way, the Pawlaks had a son, Daniel, in 1990. Daniel is now a park ranger at Grand Canyon National Park.

Pawlak and his wife Sandy built their home overlooking the lake in 2007. "Then we had to rent it out for nine summers so we could afford the taxes and utilities," he said. He was selling his woodcraft at the Harvest Moon Festival several years before he moved up here permanently.

Finally, in 2021, after 47 years of planning and building,

Pawlak was able to move to the Ely area as a full-time resident.

Craft business

The Rusty Nail Woodcraft workshop is exactly what you would expect from a master woodworker, with the requisite planer, drill press, saw, and other woodworking machines. An impressive dust collection system captures the sawdust from the planer, powered by a large squirrel cage fan. Hanging in neat racks along the wall are enough wood clamps of all sizes to supply every hardware store in Ely.

The pride of the shop is the free-standing Robust brand wood lathe where Pawlak does the turning work. "I bought that when I was still in the cities from Woodcraft (a woodworking store). It's built in Wisconsin. To my knowledge, it's the only USA-made lathe... Robust lathes are well-thought-out, well-built, and my son (when he inherits it) will be able to use it for the rest of his life."

Gouges, chisels, and other turning tools are arrayed in two racks mounted on the wall next to the lathe. "This one cuts rings," Pawlak said as he demonstrated an unusual gouge. He uses the tool to create a pile of free-floating wood rings trapped along the stem of wood goblets.

Pawlak showed off a goblet waiting for its final finish with five rings piled on its base. The goblet itself was buckthorn, which is an invasive species in Minnesota.

On the table just inside the door of the shop, Pawlak made a



Woodworker Ben Pawlak of Rusty Nail Woodcraft at his lathe in his Ely area workshop. Below: Some of Pawlak's wares that will be for sale at the festival. photos by C. Clark

display of the wares he will have available at Blueberry, including the goblets with free-floating rings, bottle holders, clipboards, footstools, and nickknacks, with decorative layouts of differently colored wood.

Pawlak will have all of these and more for sale at this weekend's festival. Pawlak was surprised when he was selected as the featured artist for this year's festival. "I've only been up here (full-time) for a couple of years. I didn't expect this, but I am honored that they chose me."



MEALEY'S
GIFT & SAUNA SHOP
ELY, MINNESOTA
Est. 1987

BLUEBERRY SPECIAL
10% OFF • All in-stock
Polywood Outdoor Furniture

BEST • LARGE • SELECTION
IS NOW!

Watch for
Music...
Saturday
July 29
starting at
1 PM

124 N. Central Ave., Ely • 218.365.3639
MealeysInEly.com • Open: Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4

INSULA

LUNCH~DINNER
Full Bar featuring MN Spirits~Beers~Wine
Gift Cards Available
~Open year round~

145 E. Sheridan St. Ely, MN • 218-365-4855

ELY BIKE & KICKSLED
REPAIR SALES

Summer Hours:
Tues-Sat 9 AM-5 PM

Weekly Group Rides
See Our Website
elybikeandkicksled.com

125 North Central Ave. • Ely, MN
218.365.BIKE (2453)

Call
753-2950
to subscribe
to the
Timberjay!

EST. 1951
ELY SURPLUS
and Outdoor

HOURS: MON-SAT: 9 AM-5 PM
SUNDAY: 10 AM-4 PM

**SUPER BLUEBERRY
SIDEWALK SALE!**

Your Carhart Headquarters
Gift Certificates Available

129 N. Central Ave., Ely • 218.365.4653
ElySurplus.com

ANOVA GALLERY

1311 E. SHERIDAN ST.

OPEN 11 - 6
**BLUEBERRY
FESTIVAL
WEEKEND**

**COME MEET THE
ARTIST**

SEE THE NEW
PRODUCT LINE
ONLY IN ELY!

Northwoods Screams

Wintergreen
NORTHERN WEAR
Quality Outdoor Clothing
Handmade in MN

Coming this Blueberry Arts
Festival weekend -

NEW
Sustainability Edition
Teal Fleece Anoraks!
Quality warmth at a discount!

Stop in our store or shop online from
7/28/23-7/30/23 for **even more deals!**

WintergreenNorthernWear.com

"Simply the Finest" in GIFTS, RUGS & SEATING

Nordic Home North

GIFTS
GOURMET & DECOR

RECLINERS & RELAXERS
SCANDINAVIAN COMFORT

LUNA CHAIRS
WE LOVE RELAXATION

RUGS
CUSTOM SIZES & COLORS

303 Main St, TOWER • 218-753-3313 • www.NordicHomeNorth.com • marit@nordic-home.com

Uffda Thrifts & Gifts

Cards • Gifts • Puzzles • T-shirts
Souvenirs • Games • Toys

New & Used: Clothing, Tools,
Household, Decor, Books, DVDs

Open Daily, Year-Round 10-5
Next to Ubetcha Antiques & Uniques • 603 Main St, Tower

Collectibles • Vintage • Artisan • Old Stuff

**UBETCHA
ANTIQUES**
TOWER, MN

ubetchashop.com
"for Up-North shopping from home!"

FIND IT IN TOWER!

Open Daily, Year-Round 10-5
601 Main St, Tower • 218-753-3422

MOBILE SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE



Lundgren's

218-744-4821



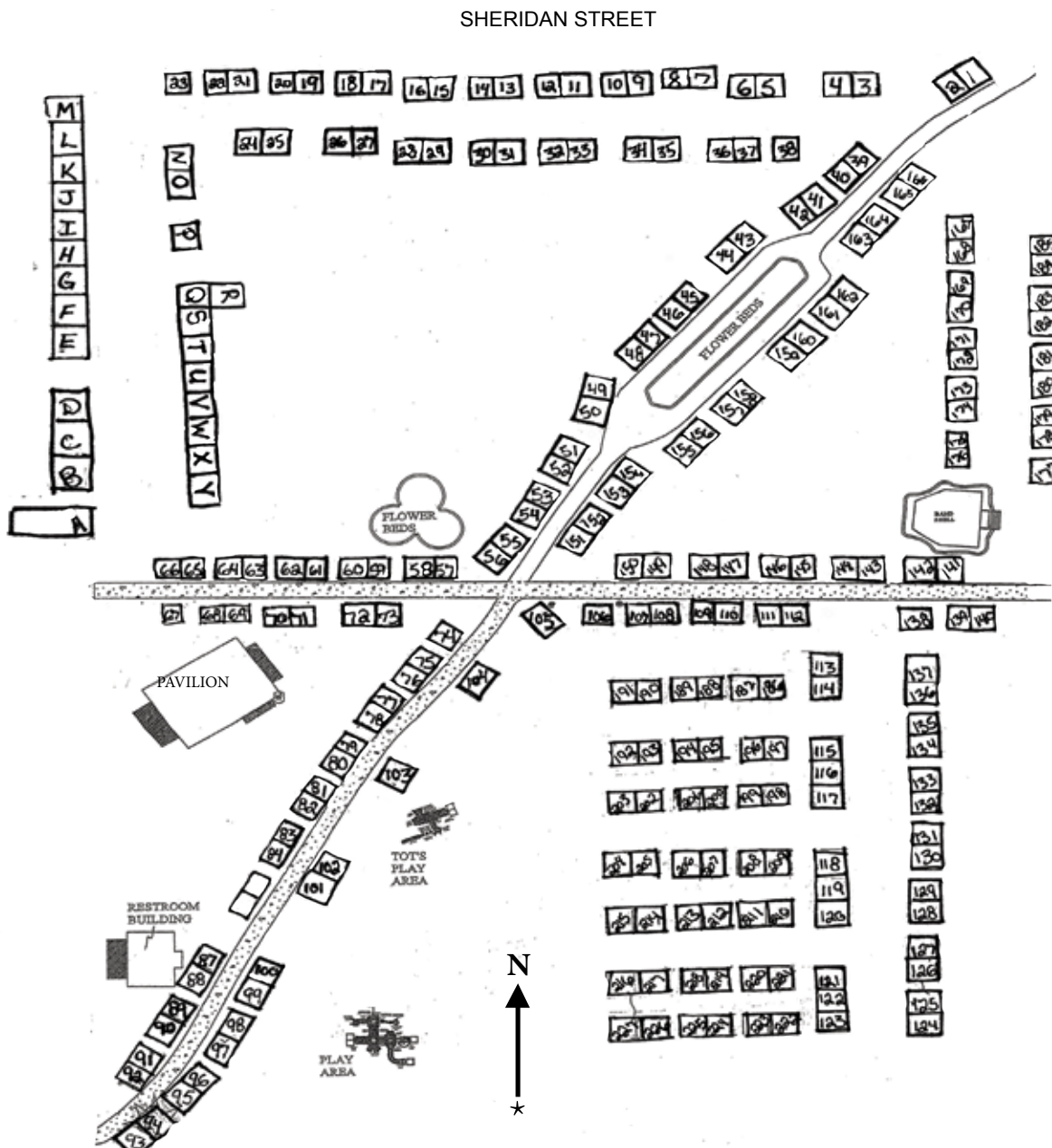
900 Old Highway 53, Eveleth, MN 55734
lundgrenford.com



Your guide to the 2023 Blueberry/Art Festival

Use the map below to locate all your favorite artists and food booths

Organization	Booth#
Enchante	1.2
Gio Stay Alive	3
Vug Jewels	4
P & L Construction	5
Horn Dog Maps	6
Superior Photographs	7.8
Prairie Sun Design	9
Ledge Wood	
Creations	10
Phoenix Fire Jewelry	11
Carlson Pillow	12
Wise Guyz Gadgets	13
Enkoos Handmade	14
Sota Table Company	15
Berglund Skalar	16
Tom Soucek	17
Redfield River Pottery	18
Made by Cy LLC (Raivo Metalwork)	19.20
Buckthorn & Birch	21
TC Hollister	22
Mr. G I s Legacy	23
Woven Tuna	24
Artistic Mud Pottery	25
Ryan's Rustic Railings & Furniture	26
Shelly Sells Sea Shells by the Sea	
Shore	27
Rusty Nail Woodcraft	28
Burly Babe	29
Flock Duluth LLC	30
David Johnson Cabinet Maker	31
Arkstone	32
Arkstone 2	33
Keepsakes	34.35
Origami By Kannika	36
Big Aspen Design Co	37
Felixery, L.L.C.	38
Cloughs Wooden Bird Art	39
Moon Dog Studio	40
Richard Yacelga	41.42
Smokey Photo	43.44
Raucous Jewelry	45
Jenifer LeClair, Author	46
Jim the Carver	47
Kari Townsdin Art	48
Bedangled	49
Morning Glory Creations	50
Jeff Renner Wildlife Art	51
Walking Wood	52
Cyrus The Potter	53
Simi Company	54
Mystic Sparrow LLC	55
Dafne Caruso	
Artist & Jeweler	56
Ely Northern Stitches	57
Spinning Wheels Publishing	58
LHR Images	59
The Lollipop Shop	60
Pengal's Basswood	
Trading Co	61
Spahr Mercantile	62
Dakota Mae Design	63
Homespun Traditions	64
Wild Fern	
Herbal Soaps	65
Ely Hoop Club	66
Angry Tomato Salsa	67
Jim Schnortz Photography	68
Sassy Girl Studios	69
Transform Treasure	70.71
Superior Sweets	72



Iron Range Custom Lures	180
Fredrick's Forest	181
Legends of Africa	182.183
Simply Homemade Southwest	184.185
Expressions	186
Wren Pottery	187
Quilts for Zoey	188
Sunde Sound	189
Ely Winter Festival Blended Memories	190
Digital Transfer	191
Rustic River Mosaics	192.193
Dragonflies and Cards	194
Sweet Mana	195
Poppo Tree Creek Farms	196
Rock Country Masonry	197
The Little Love Shoppe	198
JD's Salsa in Seconds	199
V is for Victoria Ely's Historic State Theater	200
MN Nice Dog co	201
Guild of the Gilded Hilt	202
Natural Inspiration by Cindy Bina	203
Trailblazer Food Co	206.207
Prairie Heartwood Artisan Furniture	208
AK's Homemade Treats	209
Studio Candle Co.	210.211.212
Ely Kiwanis Club	Pavilion
Becky's Oriental Foods	A
The Rolling Yo	B
Mario's	C
Finn Loki's Funnel Cakes	D
Orange Treet	E.F
Schweiby's Concessions	G.H
Now That's Waffles, LLC	I.J
BoB-a-Q	K.L.M
QFI - Quality Food International	N.O
Best Way	P
Ely Fire Department	Q.R
Kettle Mania	S
SB Concessions	T
Oasis Del Norte	U.V
Curbside Crepes	W.X
Beyond Nuts	Y.Z

SHERIDAN STREET			HARVEY STREET		
BKS Designs	73	Boundary Water	102	Monkey Bandit Shop	133
Pharr Thrown Pottery	75.76	Connect	102	Masterpieces	134
True Vivid Stone	77	North American Bear Center	103	Elizabeth x2	135
Winding River	78	A& B Lawn and Deck Furn.	104	UNEK Tie-Dye Apparel	136.137
Natural Expressions	79	Ely Chamber of Commerce Info.	105	Raven Knives	138
Elevated Spores	80	Bear Island Art	106	Millie's Corner Gifts	139
Ink Line Color	81	Factory LLC	106	Treeghost, LLC	140
Caricatures by Dorinda	82	Leather Eagle Customs	107	Gifts Made By Hand	141
Boundary Waters Journal	83	Kristin Webster Art Studio	108	Crafted by Amalia	142
Listening Point Foundation	84	Heavenly Designs Woodworking	109	Betts Pottery	143.144
Watercolors by Bonnie	85	Naena Jewelry	110	Suz's Country Candles	145
Brian Dean Miller Glass	86	Levandowski Pottery	111.112	Hidden Grains Creations	146
DeerTshirts.com	87.88	Flying Carpet	113.114	Reduce, Reinvent, Relove	147
WICOLA	89	Katie Bromme Watercolor	115	Cici's Creations	148
PYNG Paint Your Nails Girl	90	Pretty's N Paw's	116	Wearable Coinage	149.150
Simple - Trends	91	Ellie Maureen	117	Christian's Maple Syrup	151
Ely Rotary Club	92	Meghan Parnell Art	119	Fairhaven Honey	152
EBCH Foundation	93	Emilie Taylor	120	Silverfish 'N' Things	153.154
Ely Bloomenson Well Being Development	94	Joy Cooley	121.122	Nyquist Photography & Woodworking	155
Felicity's Closet	95.96	Ultra Bubbles	123	Nature's Harmony	156
Pretty Doll	97	Heim-Made	124.125	Steve Carves Wood	157
Collections	97	316 Stone	126.127	Harpstone	158
Minnesota Mist (Woolderness)	98	Diamond Willow		CHB Custom Fillet	
Classic Creations	99.100	Dreams	128.129	Knives, LLC	159
International Wolf Center	101	The Root of Craft	130	Suz and Roo	160
		Charmed Custom Candles	131	Topside	161
		Dank Artistry	132	Lake Superior Spice Company	162
				Bunyan's Reclaimed	

OPERATION BLUEBERRY
DRAW YOUR DISCOUNT SALE

ON IN-STORE PURCHASES JULY 27-30
2002 E Sheridan Street www.rootbeerlady.com

OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, JULY 30 11AM-2PM

"DONUTS AT DOROTHY'S"
WITH TREATS BY BRAINSTORM BAKERY!

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS
DOROTHY MOLTHER MUSEUM

BEARS

photo © Jim Stroner

And so much more!

NORTH AMERICAN BEAR CENTER
NORTHWOODS ECOLOGY HALL

1926 Hwy 169, Ely, Minnesota
1 mile west of Ely • 2 hours north of Duluth

Visit Bear.org for more info

Smaller incision.

MAXIMUM PRECISION.

Robotic-assisted surgery is at EBCH in Ely!
Advanced technology is now available right here in Ely with the da Vinci surgical system. Our highly-experienced experts can provide robotic-assisted surgery for hernias, gallbladders, and appendectomies, giving surgeons greater control - so our patients have better outcomes.

PATIENT BENEFITS

- Faster recovery times
- Lower rates of complication or infection
- Less pain and scarring

EBCH
Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital

Avoid unnecessary travel and find out how we make scheduling easy by calling 218-365-8724 or visit ebch.org to see if robotic surgery is right for you.

NEXT TIME COME HOME!

JANISCH REALTY 218-780-6644



See Virtual Tours & Every Agency's Property Listings On Our Easy Map Search!



"The finest Realtor I've ever worked with in my life." - Tim K.



TOWER, MN Furnished like-new dream home at waters edge w/sunset sand beach, gradual yard, island studied views! Kohler baths, 2 kitchens, fireplaces, decks & docks, att 3 stall gar. & sauna/wet boathouse.

OFFERED AT	\$1,698,500
DETAILS	4 BD/4 BTH 4,153 SF 150 ft shoreline 0.71 acres



ELY, MN Ideal setting for secluded island retreat w/warm S. exposure & panoramic faraway views set in towering pines & rock outcroppings on beloved Burntside Lake, short boat ride to mainland.

OFFERED AT	\$325,000
DETAILS	290 ft shoreline 4.5 acres



TOWER, MN Pvt estate on Lake Vermilion's coveted Indian Point commands sunrise to sunset views. 20 mi to Ely. Yr-rnd guest cabin, sauna, 3 stall gar, boathouse, 2 docks. Granite/Wolf kitchen w/island.

OFFERED AT	\$1,495,000
DETAILS	3 BD/3 BTH 2,240 SF 690 ft shoreline 4.6 acres



ELY, MN Secluded estate on Burntside offers ultimate privacy in sheltered bay, epic views through towering pines, Opp shoreline pristine wilderness. Waters edge guest cabin, sauna, boathouse, garage.

OFFERED AT	\$2,998,500
DETAILS	3 BD/3 BTH 3,710 SF 2,100 ft shoreline 57 acres



ELY, MN PRIVATE ISLAND: Secluded retreat w/mesmerizing views set in towering pines & rock outcroppings on Shagawa Lake. Knotty pine cabin w/lakeside deck connecting kitchen cabin. Dock.

OFFERED AT	\$498,500
DETAILS	2 BD/PRIVY 560 SF 900 ft shoreline 1.75 acres



COOK, MN One of a kind pvt waterfront estate on Lake Vermilion. Incl. pvt island, pvt bay, one mile of shoreline, 46 acres adj St forest, cabins at waters edge, elec, new septic. Potential to divide.

OFFERED AT	\$1,973,000
DETAILS	4 BD/1 BTH 2,080 SF 5,288 ft shoreline 46 acres



ELY, MN Pvt pt retreat at waters edge, White Iron w/BWCA access! Open lot w/gentle slope to excellent swimming shore, 5 mi to Ely. Lakefront LR w/doors to wraparound porch. Kitch, dining & BD's all lakeside.

OFFERED AT	\$798,500
DETAILS	3 BD/1 BTH 1,210 SF 550 ft shoreline 1.3 acres



ORR, MN Rare historic resort on Vermilion River & view of pristine forest. Yr-rnd home, 8 cabins, dock. Rd access & gen for power. Most of river is wild w/very little development. Adj 38 acres also for sale.

OFFERED AT	\$749,500
DETAILS	8 CABINS - BOAT LAUNCH 703 ft riverfront 7.25 acres



ELY, MN Burntside handscripted log home in pvt bay at end of granite fjord. A park-like forest at edge of the BWCA. Open great rm w/fp & windows showcasing panoramic views. Well, septic, elec & dock.

OFFERED AT	\$985,000
DETAILS	1 BD/1 BTH 800 SF 1,703 ft shoreline 38 acres



HOVLAND, MN Exceptional Lake Superior lot! Gorgeous building site, pvt location offers gradual slope to ledge rock & boulder shoreline. 18 Mi to Grand Marais. Community septic, lake well, electricity.

OFFERED AT	\$499,500
DETAILS	255 ft shoreline 1.3 acres



ELY, MN 1 level lake living on White Iron at edge of BWCA. Excellent swimming shore & gradual lot, 5 mi to Ely & 3 to airport. Vaulted LR w/fp & covered lakefront deck. 2 garages, boathouse & dock.

OFFERED AT	\$749,500
DETAILS	3 BD/3 BTH 2,882 SF 232 ft shoreline 2 acres



COOK, MN Gorgeous Vermilion timber frame home w/beach, pvt gradual lot. Frazer Bay. 2 stall gar, 2 stall boathouse w/guest quarters over water. Wlkout LL.

OFFERED AT	\$1,495,000
DETAILS	4 BD/4 BTH 3,129 SF 175 ft shoreline 1 acre



FESTIVAL...Continued from page 1B

Jill Siegel from Mystic Sparrow, who create wonderful gemstone jewelry and paintings; Katie Bromme with her wonderful watercolors inspired by the Minnesota landscape; Fredrick's Forest who features wood crafts; and many more. Wade Pharr from Pharr Thrown Pottery is offering pottery wheel demonstrations and selling his work in the park during the festival."

Switajewski added, "Our food court is filled with many vendors offering tasty treats, including turkey legs, fresh seafood, corn dogs, brats, cheese curds, authentic Mexican food, BBQ, waffles, funnel cakes, Oriental food, and frozen yogurt. The Ely Kiwanis will be in the pavilion with their delicious blueberry pies, ice cream, and sandwiches. The beer tent is back this year, and the proceeds will go to support the Ely Fire Department. There is something for everyone."

The annual must-have BAF T-shirts and sweat-shirts will be available at Pengal's Basswood Trading.

In addition to the BAF activities in the park, the fourth annual Operation Blueberry event kicks off on Thursday, July 27. Fifteen businesses across Ely are offering a variety of mini-events during the day. A map and list of participating businesses are available on the Ely Chamber of Commerce social media pages, the Ely.org website, at the Chamber of Commerce office, and at the Chamber's festival booth. The Chamber's booth will also have the coveted "Blueberry List" featuring blueberry art, crafts, food, and many other items offered by vendors at the festival.

Ely Winter Festival
FEB 1-11 2024
NOBODY celebrates WINTER BETTER
 10 days of winter fun
 Snow Sculpting Symposium
 Ely ArtWalk
 Ely Film Festival
 and so much more
 Come Explore

Spirit of the Wilderness
Crafting Your Needs
Blueberry Art Festival
 Giftware & Books
ANNUAL SHOE SALE
20-30% Off
 Sandals, Walking Shoes, Water Shoes
Summer Sale
CAMPING & PADDLING GEAR
15-20% Off
 Hammocks, Sleeping Pads, Canoe, Kayak & SUP Paddles, Kayak/Canoe Vests, Canoe Chairs, Selected Accessories
SUMMER CLEARANCE
20-30% Off
 Waterproof-Breathable Rainwear, Shorts, Zip-Off Pants, Sport Shirts, Ladies Tops
 2030 E Sheridan St, Ely • 218-365-3149

Troll Our Way...
 Includes continental breakfast!
Vermillion Park Inn
 • Cozy Rooms
 • Historic Site!
 Fishing get-away comfort!
 Reserve on our website:
 vermillionparkinn.com
 1 mile from the boat landing on Lake Vermillion!
 218.753.2333 • 30 Center St., Soudan MN

Scenic Rivers
HEALTH SERVICES
 Providing Quality and Compassionate Care
 FOR
 Every Patient at Every Visit
COOK MEDICAL 20 5th St SE, Cook MN
 Open Monday - Saturday
 (218) 666-5941
COOK DENTAL 12 S River Street, Cook MN
 Open Monday - Friday
 (218) 666-5958
TOWER CLINICS 415 N 2nd St, Suite 2, Tower MN
 Former High School Building
 Open Monday through Friday
MEDICAL (218) 753-2405
DENTAL (218) 753-6061
Your Local Providers
 Matthew Holmes, MD Charles Tietz, MD-GYN Services Timothy Sprouls, DDS
 Nicholas Vidor, MD Cynthia Sandberg, NP James Marzella, DDS
 Eric Elleby, MD Erin Thielbar, NP Krista Kukarans, DDS
 Rachel Beldo, APRN Kristen Dombovy, DNP Michael Talberg, DDS
 Amy Banks, MD Amanda Perkovich, NP Teresa Bushnell, ADT
 Celin Williams, LICSW Benjamin DeVries, PA-C
 Covid-19 testing and vaccinations available.
 1-877-541-2817
 www.ScenicRiversHealth.org 24 Hour Emergency Care Available Through Cook Hospital

ELY FLOWER & SEED
SALE! 25% OFF
 Yard Art, Bird Baths, Statues, Windchimes & Spinners, Lawn & Garden Decor & Wall Art! Feeders & Houses, Indoor & Outdoor Containers, Colorful Animal Water Cans, Stepping Stones, Flags
SALE!
 Sale runs July 22 through August 5
ELLY FLOWER & SEED
 HOURS: M-Sat: 9-5:30; Sun: 9-1
 145 W Camp St, Ely • 365-6555

VERMILLION ROOFING.com

WE DO FREE ESTIMATES!
VERMILLION ROOFING
 • We Use Cook Building Center & Voyageur Lumber of Ely Products
 • Premium Shingles & Metal Roofing Options
 • We do Commercial Flat roof EPDM (Rubber) roofing.
218-350-3550
 Open by appointment or chance
 Malarkey Roofing Products, Owens Corning, TAMKO ROOFING PRODUCTS, GAF, TIMBERLINE HD
 Insured • License #BC785662
 "Serving the entire Iron Range"
 VermillionRoofing@gmail.com

VERMILLION ROOFING
VERMILLION ROOFING.COM
 Serving the Ely, Tower and Vermillion Areas
 FREE ESTIMATES

COUPON • CLIP-N-USE
 Coupon Screen Shot Acceptable
\$500 OFF
COMPLETE ROOF INSTALLS OF 1,000 SQ FT ON ESTIMATES COMPLETED BY SEPT. 4, 2023
 One Per Customer • TJ Blueberry Edition

EMPLOYMENT



We're Hiring!

Piragis Northwoods Co. is seeking Retail Staff for August & September 2023

Full and Part-time positions available between 6 am - 9 pm daily. Flexible work schedule

Apply in-person, online application at www.piragis.com or send a resume to jay@piragis.com.

Town of Embarrass

Embarrass Township is looking for a PART TIME / PERMANENT MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEE

Applicants must apply and hand in application/resume by August 1, 12:00 noon to be interviewed.

Published in the Timberjay, July 28, 2023

Project Manager

Closes: 08/18/2023

Position Purpose: The Project Manager provides project management services to the Bois Forte Tribal Government...

Excellent Benefits:

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

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

Published in the Timberjay, July 28, Aug. 4 & 11

PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Tower Opening

Tower Economic Development Authority Board Member

See https://cityoftower.com/positions-available or City Hall to apply

Published in the Timberjay, July 21 & 28, 2023

STAFF OPENINGS



Vermilion Country School (VCS) is an innovative educational program that provides project-based environmental education as a Minnesota public school.

All roles listed below are full time 1.0 and provide benefits, including PTO

We recently received grant funding to increase our staffing and have several new roles we are hiring for:

- SpEd Teacher (Licensed)
SpEd Social Worker (Licensed)
Science Interdisciplinary Teacher (Licensed)

- Unlicensed Positions:
Paraprofessional (SpEd)
Check and Connect Coordinator (2142 partnership)
Student Success Specialist

VCS can support candidates with a B.A. to attain licensure in teaching - if you have interest and appropriate experience...

All applications and questions can be sent to info@vermillioncountry.org or by calling 218-248-2485



COME JOIN OUR TEAM!

Waschke Family Chevrolet is currently seeking an Auto Body Technician and an Automotive Detailer.

WANTED!

Waschke Family Chevrolet is currently seeking an A/B technician. Prefer GM Certified but will train.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Town of Embarrass Special Meeting August 1, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Items on the agenda include: Interviews for maintenance position; Hiring discussion of maintenance employee; Potential bid for boulder placement at Visitor Center.

Jennifer Boese, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, July 28, 2023

City of Tower Opening

Tower Economic Development Authority Secretary (non-Board Member, monthly stipend)

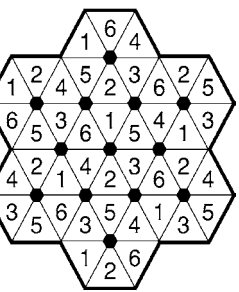
See https://cityoftower.com/positions-available or City Hall to apply

Published in the Timberjay, July 21 & 28, 2023

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

SNOWFLAKES

solution



Subscribe to the TIMBERJAY! Call 218-753-2950



Eveleth Virginia Airport Authority - Hangar Building Sites Available -

The Eveleth Virginia Airport has hangar building sites available at located at 4280 Miller Trunk Road, Eveleth MN 55734.

The Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority will be taking in applications for these sites through August 30, 2023.

*In the event there is more than one applicant for each building site, there will be a lottery style drawing. This lottery drawing will be conducted at an official Eveleth - Virginia Airport Authority Board Meeting...

Please review the Minimum Applicant Requirements and the Hangar Site Application at:

https://www.virginiamn.us/live/advisory_boards_and_commissions/eveleth-virginia_airport_authority.php

For further information please contact:

Kris Marafioti Airport Coordinator 218-744-7563

e-vairportauthority@virginiamn.us

7/28



OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Business Office

AR/Collections Technician (Wage starting at \$18.55)

Care Center

FT & PT Nursing Assistant (Wage starting at \$17.79/hr., \$1,500 sign-on bonus) PT Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse (Wage starting at \$36.22/hr. \$4,000 sign-on bonus)

Hospital/ER

Casual Unit Clerk/Nursing Assistant (Wage starting at \$17.79/NA certification or EMT required)

Environmental Services

PT & Casual (Environmental Tech I) Housekeeping and Laundry Aide Casual Laundry Aide

Radiology

FT Radiologic Technologist (\$4,000 sign-on bonus) Casual Ultrasound Tech (Independent Contractor) Casual Radiologic Tech (Independent Contractor, weekend only)

Dietary

PT Dietary Aide/Cook

Rehab

Casual Rehab Secretary

TO APPLY:

www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/

More Info? Contact Human Resources

218-666-6220

humanresources@cookhospital.org

The Cook Hospital is an equal opportunity provider and employer

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

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Satan's purchase
5 Chest protector
8 Ski lift type
12 Old U.S. gas brand
13 Piercing tool
14 Hindu royal
15 Pub potables
16 King, in Cannes
17 Choir voice
18 New
20 Pal of Pooh
22 Stephen of "Still Crazy"
23 Hobbyist's abbr.
24 Mineral-hardness scale name
27 Tot's train
32 Rock's Brian
33 Science room
34 Klutz
35 Folks from Indiana
38 Garrison
39 Flop
40 Ostrich's kin
42 Exhibited ennui
45 In a way
49 "Metamorphoses" poet
50 Hosp. hook-ups
52 Carry on

11x11 crossword grid with numbers 1-58 and blacked-out cells.

- 53 Ms. Rowlands
6 - Jima
7 Radar dot
8 Dire
9 Hype
10 Pot starter
11 Laugh-a-minute
19 Concerning
21 Altar vow
24 "I'm not impressed"
25 Music's Yoko
26 Snooker
28 Guffaw syllable
29 Fanatical
30 Rowing need
31 Frequently
36 Half the weekend
37 Chemical suffix
38 Groove
41 Kansas City's st.
42 Quotable Berra
43 Opposite of "sans"
44 Bubblehead
46 O'Hara estate
47 Cameo shape
48 Fedora fabric
51 Victory sign

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in some cells.

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

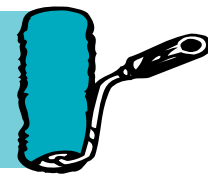
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.



HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



All Things New

CUSTOM WOODWORK, RESTORATION AND CREATION

JARRETT SCHOTTMULLER 218-780-9723
 atn.customwoodwork@gmail.com / atn.customwoodwork
 All Things New: custom woodwork, restoration and creation

July Deck Special



8x12 Deck Platform \$499.99
 16x12 Deck Platform \$999.99



Phone/Fax: 218.666.5344
 Hours: Mon. Fri: 7-5, Sat: 8-12
 eric@cookbuildingcenter.com

YOU CALL, WE HAUL!

Cement Trucks, Building Materials
 Septic-pumping Trucks, Dirt
 Well-drilling Equipment
 Propane Delivery

Carl Anderson

Anderson Barging, Inc.

Cell 218-780-4955

www.andersonbarging.com

Covering all of Lake Vermilion

FOREST CONCRETE PRODUCTS

Delivered Redi-Mix Concrete Septic Tanks

We have: Concrete Steps & Sidewalk Pavers, Crushed & Washed Rock, Sand, Garden Soil, Crushed & Screened Gravel, Different Types of Concrete Blocks. **FREE ESTIMATES** for site development, roads, fill and excavations.



From Ely to Tower-Soudan and Virginia, using local gravel pits to support all your needs.

FOREST CONCRETE PRODUCTS



1715 E. Sheridan, Ely, MN 55731
 office 218-365-6161 • plant 218-365-4030
 fax 218-365-6985 • cell 218-341-3197

Your Source For Roofing



Serving Cook, Tower and Ely Areas

- METAL ROOFING
- ARCHITECTURAL SHINGLES

Bryan (218) 269-1039
 Karl (612) 418-8953

Licensed • Insured BC# 785662
 VermillionRoofing.com | VermillionRoofing@gmail.com

PLUMBING & HEATING SOLUTIONS. INC.

Here for all your Plumbing and Heating needs, Plumbing and Heating Service, Repairs, and New.

Brandon Stone • 218-590-5294

Your All-Season Project Headquarters

- ✓ Lumber
- ✓ Hardware
- ✓ Tools
- ✓ Paint
- ✓ Friendly Service

"We've Got What You Need!"



VERMILION LUMBER

HOME OF THE PROFESSIONALS
 218-753-2230
 302 Main St., Tower, MN
 M-F: 8 AM-5 PM; Sat: 8 AM-Noon



Specialty Carpet & Upholstery
 Commercial & Residential
 • Powerful Truck Mounted System
 • Water Damage Specialists

Call for Estimates: Braschko Family

218-365-7672

raymondbraschko@gmail.com

Specialty Carpet Cleaning • Celebrating 35 Years!

Designer Tile & Flooring Center

value • quality • beauty • service



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: www.floortoceilingvirginia.com

BIG Enough to Serve you; small Enough to Know You



8401 Enterprise Drive N., Virginia/Mt. Iron
 (1/2 Mile West on Highway 169) • 741-6690



HOURS:
 8-5:30 M-F



Find us on:



RANGE L.P. GAS

Call Us For All Your LP Gas Needs!

Hoover Rd, Virginia
 741-7393
 1613 E. Camp St., Ely
 365-8888

24 Hour Emergency Service

• Toll Free •
 1-800-862-8628

PETERSEN DRILLING

Since 1948
 Wells
 Water Systems

- PUMPS
- WELLS
- HYDRO-FRACKING

1-800-662-5700

Spring Park Rd.
 Mt. Iron, MN 55768

A FESTIVAL OF SAVINGS!

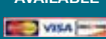
Clean, minimalist modern styles for your office



All furniture may not be as shown.

ANDERSON FURNITURE
 AndersonFurnitureCompany.com
 214 2nd Ave. S, Virginia, MN • 218-741-9356

INTEREST FREE FINANCING AND LAYAWAY AVAILABLE



NATIONAL DEBT RELIEF

BECOME DEBT FREE IN AS LITTLE AS 24-48 MONTHS

If you owe more than \$10,000 in credit card or other unsecured debt, see how National Debt Relief can help resolve your debt for a fraction of what you owe.

Call today:

+1 (844) 205-5439



844-605-7368

BOGO 40% OFF

ENDS 10/31



RENEWAL by ANDERSEN
 FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

Read us online

timberjay.com

(218) 753-2950