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The **TIMBERJAY**



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ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Bois Forte to explore sale of marijuana

Band taking a cautious approach but sees potential in production and sales of newly legalized product

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

VERMILION RESERVATION- When recreational marijuana became legal on Tuesday, hoards of eager buyers descended upon the state's only marijuana dispensary, Red Lake Nation's NativeCare facility.

Recognized as a sovereign nation in the state's

landmark marijuana law with the ability to set its own rules regarding recreational marijuana sales and use, Red Lake was positioned to take early advantage of sales because of a medicinal marijuana program they established in 2020. The band was able to parlay that production to supply the recreational market on day one.

Meanwhile, a big ques-

tion in the North Country is what this area's sovereign Native nation, the Bois Forte Band, is planning in hopes of tapping this potentially lucrative market. The *Timberjay* talked Tuesday with Mayan Beltran, CEO of the Bois Forte Development Corporation (BFDC), the business arm of the Band, to find out.

"We haven't gone down that recreational

Right: A new smoke shop at Fortune Bay Resort Casino is currently offering low-potency cannabis edibles but may have smokeable forms of marijuana available, if the Band pursues recreational marijuana.

submitted photo

road yet, although the tribe is looking very deeply into it," Beltran said. "I sent See...**SALES** pg. 10



MINING

Court overturns another critical NorthMet permit

Supreme Court remands to MPCA

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The proposed NorthMet copper-nickel mine near Hoyt Lakes has suffered another body blow, this time delivered by the state's Supreme Court, which has reversed the proposed mine's state-issued water discharge permit in a decision that could have implications for state regulatory agencies in the future.

The latest ruling comes on top of the recent decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to rescind the proposed mine's wetlands permit.

The mine had appeared ready to move forward back in 2018, when it received the last of its operating permits, but legal chal-

See...**NORTHMET** pg. 9

CITY OF ELY

New housing study predicts hot rental demand in Ely

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- A new housing study predicts that a planned workforce housing project here would be 50 percent pre-leased before completion and fully leased within six months after the doors open on the new homes. The study assumed that rents would be targeted for local workforce employees earning \$35,000 to \$50,000 annually.

The housing study updated the feasibility of the city's proposed townhouse development on city land near the Ely-

See... **HOUSING** pg. 9

See related **OPINION**

Solving the area housing shortage... **Page 5**



BRINGING HISTORY BACK TO LIFE

Labor of love

For restoration masons, it's all about bricks and mortar

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER— To most people, the work that's been underway for weeks at the former city and fire hall on Main Street here appears painstaking at best. Masons have been working brick-by-brick on the nearly 130-year-old building patiently drilling out all the old mortar, fitting in new bricks to replace missing or damaged pieces, and then carefully applying new mortar around every single piece.

Few of us would likely have the patience to undertake a task that could seem both tedious and exacting. But to those who toil at this work day-in and day-out, it's quite literally a labor of love.

"I just do what I love to do," said Lenny Bogucki, who has repaired brick buildings for 43 years. "I'm up on a wall and working. It's a good career. I've never had to look for work."

Another bonus of doing this type

See...**RESTORATION** pg. 10



Top: Chuck Cusano works to repair a collapsing doorway inside Tower's Old Fire Hall.

Left: Lenny Bogucki takes a quick breather from his work on the project.

Below: A multi-tool with a pointed blade helps remove old mortar.

photos by J. Summit



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Community notices

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. Details can also be found on at vlmcamps.org/all-programs-events/2023-sotn-fest.

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.

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.



Pickup Truck Opera to perform Romeo and Juliet, Aug. 11, 12, and 13 in our area

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.

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.

Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge 40 to hold family potluck picnic on Aug. 6

VIRGINIA- Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge 40 will hold its annual family potluck picnic Sunday, Aug. 6 at noon in the Kline/Cuppuloetti building at Olcott Park. Tableware and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. Setup and cleanup committee is Priscilla Hiipakka and Bernie Christiansen. Anyone interested in Norwegian culture and heritage is invited to attend.

ON STAGE
NLAA presents Reflections Dance Company summer show "Matters of the Heart"

ELY- "Matters of the Heart" tells the story of Gia, her sisters Alessia and Bella and their life near the edge of a magical forest. Their parents die in a tragic accident, and Gia, the youngest sister is heartbroken. Her sisters bring her into the magic forest to be healed by the nature fairy, but this is only a temporary fix.

Charlotte Hegman plays the lead character, Gia, and Deanna Tupy and Sarah Dunnom play Gia's sisters. The Boy will be played by Cora Olson, and the Nature Fairy is performed by Sidney Marshall. Gia's best friend Calli is played by Presly Marzella. Additional dancers will be performing the parts of the Forest Spirits, Gia's friends, Trees in the Magic Forest, and Death Spir-



The Death Spirits surround Gia, played by Charlotte Hegman in Reflections Dance Company's "Matters of the Heart".

its. The show is directed by Molly Olson, who choreographed most of the pieces in the show. Other choreographers include Linda Virr, Cora Olson, and Crystal Poppler. Live music will accompany the dances. Musical director Irene Hartfield leads the talented musicians on key-

boards and vocals. Other musicians include Joey Kenig (guitar and vocals), Alan Phillips (drums and vocals), and Jef Cerniak (bass).

The show is Aug. 11-12 at 7 p.m., and Aug. 13 at 2 p.m. at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater at the Minnesota North College

campus in Ely. Tickets are \$22 general admission, \$20 for NLAA members, and \$12 for youth, and can be purchased online at northernlakesarts.org or at the door. This activity is made possible in part through a grant from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust.

MORE THAN BOOKS

Puppet Showcase Legacy Tour at area libraries

REGIONAL - The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to host a puppet showcase tour with COMPAS Teaching Artist Christopher Lutter-Gardella. This free family-friendly program is being offered at the following locations:

- Tuesday, Aug. 8, 3:30 p.m. Int'l Falls Public Library
- Wednesday, Aug. 9, 10 a.m. Ely Public Library
- Wednesday, Aug. 9, 3:30 p.m. Babbitt Public Library
- Monday, Aug. 14, 10 a.m. Cook Public Library
- Tuesday, Aug. 15, 4 p.m. Aurora Public Library
- Wednesday, Aug. 16, 4 p.m.

Virginia Public Library COMPAS Teaching Artist Christopher Lutter-Gardella will set-up a traditional hand-puppet stage, provide puppet guidance, musical accompaniment and plain-ol' puppet comradery (with a hand-puppet of his own) to facilitate a spontaneous, highly improvised showcase of the unique puppet creations of the participants. Christopher will welcome any willing puppets onstage and will help them pluck up their puppetry confidence to perform for the audience. Program length is 60 minutes and is geared towards kids ages 8-13. If you received a Found Object Puppet Legacy Take & Cre-

ate Art Kit from your local library in July, feel free to bring any unused materials from your kits for a puppet-part swap!

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System and developed by COMPAS, is funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACFH). To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at www.alslib.info or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo.

DEADLINE

MA deadline extended for August renewals

REGIONAL- Minnesotans whose Medical Assistance (MA) renewal forms were originally due July 31 will have an extra month to turn in their paperwork.

People affected by this extension are urged to send in their renewal forms and any required documentation as soon as possible to keep insurance coverage.

"If your renewal is due, please send it in as soon as you can," said Interim Assistant Human Services Commissioner Julie Marquardt. "Help with paperwork is available through trained MNsure navigators, who are ready to assist in multiple languages."

Find a navigator near

you at mnsure.org/free-help.

Minnesota provided a similar extension to people whose Medical Assistance forms were originally due June 30. The state and its partners have been using the additional time to redouble outreach efforts and help more people through the renewal process. That group still faces a July 31 deadline to submit their forms.

The federal government is supportive of

states seeking to keep eligible people insured longer to avoid ending Medicaid coverage if they still qualify but need more help to renew. Medical Assistance is Minnesota's Medicaid program.

In the group with the newly extended deadline, people already determined ineligible for Medical Assistance will still lose coverage on Aug. 1, but have been referred to other insurance options if they don't already have

coverage from another source such as an employer. Some now qualify for MinnesotaCare. Others can get help finding insurance options through MNsure, Minnesota's health insurance marketplace. For more information about Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare renewals, including how to get free help filling out forms, visit mn.gov/dhs/renewmycoverage.



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COOK

Cook City Council debates weed

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

COOK— The legalization of marijuana for adult recreational use in Minnesota prompted extended discussion at the city council meeting here last Thursday. The meeting, held July 27, was just days before the Aug. 1 implementation date for legal weed in the state and Cook council members had plenty of questions about the ways in which they might be able to regulate, or even generate revenue from, the sale and use of marijuana.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Dawn Kehoe reported on a recent League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) webinar that she attended earlier in the week, which answered many of the questions that have been sparked by the change in the law.

Kehoe said it will likely take time before residents notice much of a change. She said the low-potency edibles and beverages that have been legal since last year, and are currently for sale in Cook, will still be available for sale, although retailers will now need to register with the state by Oct. 1. Those same products will now become available for sale in more locations, however, including in liquor stores or places where on-sale liquor is sold.

The actual sale of smokeable marijuana likely won't be legal in most of Minnesota for some time. The state's Office of Cannabis Management is in the formational process and isn't expected to have approved licenses for marijuana dispensaries much before Jan. 1, 2025, according to information provided by the LMC.

Licensing for marijuana dispensaries will be exclusively up to the state and cities won't be allowed to assess additional licensing fees on top of the fees charged by the state, although they may assess

a business registration fee. And sales will be assessed a ten-percent state tax, ten percent of which will go to the cities where the shops are located.

If the state receives an application for a retail license, it will consult with the city for zoning approval and other feedback. Cities will be required to conduct compliance checks a minimum of once a year and may suspend registrations if needed.

Some on the Cook council have expressed interest in marijuana sales as a source of additional city revenue and the council did note that the new law does authorize cities to sell marijuana through facilities like a municipal liquor store, although the LMC is currently seeking clarification of the rules that might pertain to those sales as well as the issues surrounding insurance liability.

"There are lots of details to discuss on that," said city administrator Theresa Martinson. "We'll stay on top of that as an issue."

Public use

While the new state law legalizes adult use of marijuana, it doesn't limit the ability of cities to regulate its use in public spaces and cities may impose a ban on marijuana use in public places, which will be up to cities to define. But will cities need to allow the use of marijuana in places where cigarette smoking is allowed? Cities could distinguish between using marijuana in smokable form versus in edible form, such as brownies. "We definitely need more education on this matter," said Martinson.

Other business

The council also approved a motion to solicit quotes on the production of a housing study for the city. "We really need an updated study to go to any funding agencies," said Martinson. She said that the city can apply for a one-to-one matching grant

from the IRRR to help pay for the study, which she estimated would likely run \$17,000-\$20,000. She said soil borings that might be needed as part of the study could push the total cost to around \$50,000. She noted that the city has received a \$10,000 anonymous donation that would help the city cover its share of the cost of the study.

The city has put housing at the top of its priority list in recent months and Martinson said a housing study is an important first step in developing a plan to address the need.

In related action, the council approved the sale of seven platted lots in Balliet's Addition to Jim Wright for \$8,500 for the construction of a new residence. The seven lots are currently listed by St. Louis County with an assessed value of \$13,600, but Wright noted at the meeting that at least half of the property in question was not buildable. Martinson agreed. Wright said he based his offer on the amount of buildable ground.

While the property is close to the CN rail line, Wright said that's actually a selling point for him. "I'm nuts about trains, which is why I want to be there," he said.

He said he plans to build a modest home there, of at least 700-800 square feet. Wright had originally offered \$7,500 for the lots but said he could go another \$1,000 if necessary. Council member Liz Storm didn't waste time, immediately motioning to accept \$8,500 for the property. Council member Eliza Root asked if the funds could be directed to the city's housing effort. "Thank you, I was planning to suggest that," said Martinson.

The council voted unanimously to sell the lots and welcomed Wright to Cook.

The city is also focusing on reducing blight in the community and

members of the city's new blight committee reported that the response to blight letters sent out to the owners of identified properties was productive. Mayor Harold Johnston said those who have cleaned up their properties received follow-up thank you letters, while those that ignored the initial letter "received a different letter."

"Overall, I think it's going very well and a lot of people have cleaned up their properties," said council member Jody Bixby.

In other action, the council:

► Approved a motion to provide market-based raises to liquor store staff in an effort to maintain staffing levels at the municipally owned Last Chance Liquors. Martinson said it has been challenging to maintain staff and that higher pay provides recognition of the city's appreciation for those who are putting in the hours to help operate the facility as well as provide a recruitment and retention incentive. Under the new pay structure, liquor store clerks will start at \$15/hour with a bump to \$15.46/hour after six months on the job.

► Approved a motion to retain Jake Aune to work on a rebranding effort for Last Chance Liquors, which will include an expanded focus on visuals and social media to encourage Cook residents and visitors to shop locally. Bixby said Aune is well qualified to do the work the city is seeking and that he would also train liquor store staff in how to update social media to keep a current online message. She said the effort will likely include more promotions and give-aways to generate interest in the store.

► Approved a motion to shift airport coordinator Doug McDuff from part-time to full-time. Martinson said the change was an effort to comply with

the city's employee handbook, which the council approved earlier this year.

► Approved a motion to implement the annexation of three city-owned parcels into the city limits. Those parcels include the community center and surrounding grounds, the site of the new city maintenance facility near Hill Wood Products, and the site of a planned new housing development.

► Approved the creation of a new educational scholarship for anyone interested in training to become an EMT for the Cook ambulance service. The city already pays for EMT training for those who agree to work for the city's ambulance service for two years. The new scholarship would provide up to \$1,500 toward any educational expenses. Mayor Johnston noted that the ambulance is in need of additional EMTs.

► Approved the propane bid of \$1.38 per gallon from Superior Fuel, which was substantially cheaper than the quote from Lakes Gas.

► Discussed but took

no immediate action on the suggestion from Liza Root that council meetings be moved to the evenings to make it easier for working people to attend.

► Heard that St. Louis County representatives will provide information on the planned improvements to Cty. Rd. 25 in the city at a public meeting set for 6:30 p.m., on Tuesday, Aug. 22.

► Heard that the city's volunteer appreciation event will be held on Thursday, Oct. 5. More information will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead. Expenses for the event will be covered through private donations, not city funds.

► Accepted the hiring of American Legal Publishing for updating the city's ordinance book. The council also accepted a donation toward that project.

► Approved the write-off of \$761.70 in unpaid utility bills due to a recent bankruptcy.

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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

Transfer mileage fee

The Tower Ambulance Commission should terminate this harmful assessment

Several area townships are looking for ways they can better support the Tower Area Ambulance Service, which has been struggling financially for a combination of reasons. The TAAS is certainly not alone—the economic model for rural ambulance services is breaking down and services around the region are struggling.

But the TAAS is in a unique position because it is the only area service that is forced by local townships to pay what is, in effect, a tax for undertaking inter-hospital transfers.

Under an agreement reached three years ago, the city of Tower, which owns and operates the ambulance service, must pay \$1.66 for every mile traveled by one of its ambulances on a transfer. This requirement has had two negative impacts on the TAAS. First, it detracts significantly from the operating revenue that the service achieves when it undertakes a transfer. Second, it means the TAAS undertakes fewer transfers, further slashing potential revenue.

While transfers are nowhere near as lucrative as purported by some former TAAS officials, on average a transfer can net the service about \$450, according to the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board, which analyzed the TAAS's financials. Do two of those a week and the service could net nearly \$47,000 annually, which could help bridge TAAS's financial gap.

Currently, undertaking transfers is the only viable way that ambulance services can generate additional revenue beyond the funds they generate from 911 emergency calls. But the TAAS isn't taking advantage of transfers for the most part because as much as half or more of that additional revenue would be siphoned away. The funds don't disappear, but under an agreement with area townships, the funds are directed into the service's ambulance replacement account, rather than paying for operating costs.

As with every other ambulance service, TAAS is paid for transfers based on the number of loaded miles, which means only the miles in which a patient is on board. For example, if TAAS transfers a patient from Ely-Bloomenson to St. Mary's in Duluth, the service is not paid for the trip to Ely nor for the trip from Duluth back to Tower. But the \$1.66 is assessed on every mile driven, which means the TAAS would need to pay almost \$375 to

the ambulance replacement fund. That's one reason that the EMSRB recommended scrapping the mileage charge in its entirety.

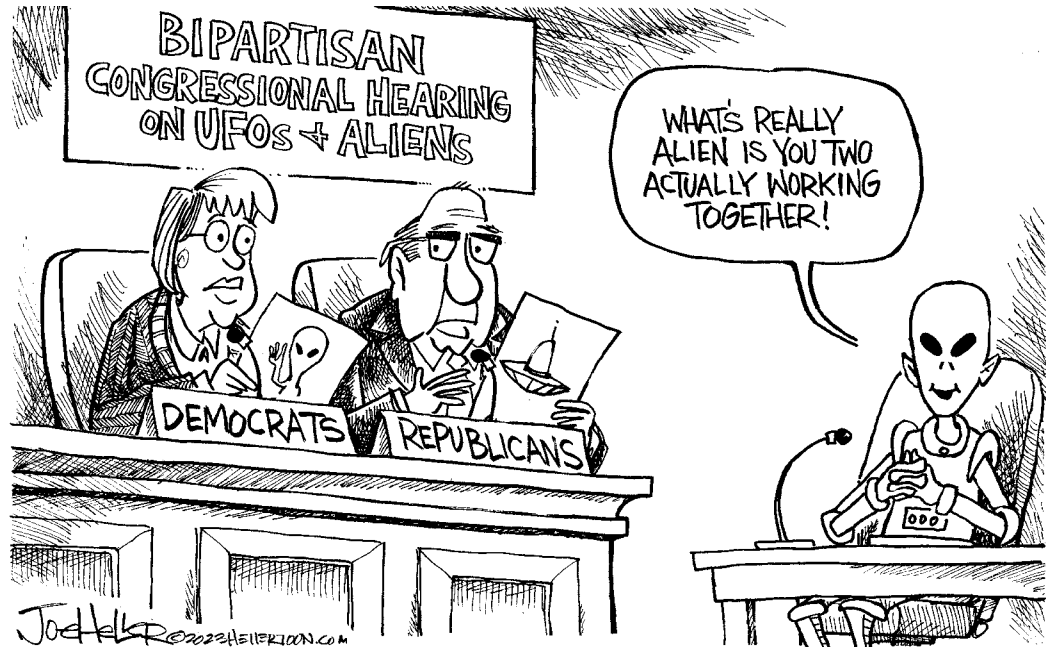
The conditions that led to the fee were understandable at the time. Back then, the ambulance service's financials were tracked much differently, and there was zero accounting for the large number of miles that the service was putting on its ambulances to undertake transfers at the time. The \$1.66 mileage fee served as a kind of stand-in for TAAS's failure to account for depreciation on its vehicles.

But TAAS was converted to an enterprise fund in 2020, which means depreciation is now accounted for, and it's a big number—\$54,430 last year according to the city's recent audit.

Throw in the nearly \$20,000 that the service accrued from the mileage charge and that totals just under \$75,000, or about three-quarters of the loss the service experienced in 2022.

By penalizing the TAAS for undertaking transfers, the mileage fee not only contributes to the service's operating expenses, it likely reduces the service's revenues because too many transfers simply aren't worth undertaking given the fee. Other services provide their staff financial incentives to agree to undertake transfers, but the mileage fee makes it difficult, if not impossible, for TAAS to offer those incentives since the margins on transfers are already substantially reduced. That means the TAAS has to turn down potentially money-making transfers because it can't find personnel to undertake them. Some TAAS personnel actually undertake transfers for other services that are able to provide financial incentives because they aren't assessed a mileage fee.

Even worse, because factors like the mileage fee, along with high payroll costs, have left the ambulance service cash-strapped, it often can't make its mileage payments on time, which at least one township has used to justify not making its own contribution to the ambulance replacement fund. The fee, which was implemented with the right intent, has become destructive to the TAAS and is no longer justifiable. The Tower Area Ambulance Commission should seriously consider ending the assessment. It's time has passed.



Letters from Readers

Three cheers for the Tower Ambulance team

On July 17, I learned to say the hardest word to say: “help!” I had fallen on the bathroom floor, projectile vomiting over every surface but the ceiling, leaving a terrible mess for Collette to clean. I tried to raise my head but couldn't. I tried to raise my hand then a finger and nothing would move. I whispered, “Call 911.”

I had waited much too long to ask for “help,” and there I was calling when I was totally helpless. Collette, my wife, made the call and soon the most wonderful help came from the Tower Ambulance. One woman from the Tower and a woman from Cook there to lift me onto the special chair that helps two people move patients from the scene of their helplessness to the ambulance, where immediate stabilizing medical care is given.

Any of my fear was washed away by the kind, soft, confident voices and touches that directed me. There, in moments I was connected to an intravenous bag that stabilized my condition, which would later be identified as a bleeding duodenal ulcer. The flying ride to the Ely hospital seemed ethereal as I watched the attendant working so very professionally, doing what needed to be done to stabilize me. She did so in such a loving way that I felt I was being carried by eternal love. I say this with the deepest appreciation and thanksgiving possible.

This is my message to the people of our community, “Why not stop fighting over this glorious healing institution and celebrate what we have when we have to say the most difficult word in the English language to say, “help.” There is magnificent help at our fingertips when we are

helpless. Thank you, a thousand times, to the Tower Ambulance !!!

I also celebrate the stabilizing care the Ely hospital gave along with the fastest ride I've ever had in the Ely Ambulance to Essentia in Duluth where I received healing from loving people.

Art Dale
Soudan

Republicans are forgetting the lessons of post-WWII Germany

It is ironic that I was just reading about the de-Nazification of the German people in Harald Jahner's “Aftermath: Life in the Fallout of the Third Reich, 1945-1955,” when the July 28 *Timberjay* arrived and I saw David Colburn's column “What the Florida Black history standards miss.” It is stunning to see that what America demanded of Germans after WWII is nearly the complete opposite of what Govs. DeSantis and Abbott and the legislators of some 18 Republican-controlled states have decreed.

The novelist/journalist Hans Habe, a naturalized Austro-Hungarian expatriate and major in the U.S. Army, was given the task of leading the public communications effort to de-Nazify. Among other efforts, he instituted 18 newspapers in occupied Germany, including the flagship *Neue Zeitung* (*New Newspaper*), which published disputes on ideas, something missing in the German press since 1933. Norwegian author and Nobel Prize winner Sigrid Undset, famous for her Kristin Lavransdatter trilogy of medieval Norway, and philosopher Karl Jaspers got into a debate on whether the German people were salvageable.

Undset rejected the possibility of German re-education since their deeds “had been committed on the basis

of German thought,” which was historically defined by “presumption, arrogance, and aggression.” In retrospect, the same could be said of many other countries, especially those with colonies. Jaspers disagreed: “Summarily condemning a people as a whole seems to me to run against the requirement of being human.” He considered the self-education of Germans to be possible, but one that required admitting responsibility, acknowledging the death of millions, and engaging in an open discussion of the past (*Die Neue Zeitung*, Oct. 25 and Nov. 4, 1945, as reported in *Aftermath*, pp. 247-248 and 352).

An open discussion of the past. Compare that to the hysteria over Black Lives Matter, Critical Race Theory, Wokeness, Diversity/Equality/Inclusion, and Affirmative Action. Governors and legislators have determined that no such discussion will be allowed. That puts them into the mindset of Europe's leaders prior to 1945, and it also speaks of a presumption of fragility in the American psyche, one that cannot tolerate uncomfortable but necessary discussion of history and the conflicts that occur in all societies.

Fred Schumacher
Gheen

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

Man's best friend...and woman's too

Melissa Fay Greene, an Atlanta-based journalist, is a new favorite author of mine. She has written a number of books on disparate subjects, which have in common her ability to write about complex subjects, shining a light onto various components and perspectives from

her research and experience. The results are informative, enlightening, often humorous, and always a good read. She would need a whole wall (or two?) to display the awards she has received.

The first book by her that I read was “Praying for Sheet-

rock,” when that title grabbed me. It is the true story an uneducated, unemployed black man, Thurnell Alston, who in the 70s challenged the prevailing powers in a county controlled by a racist, white sheriff and his cronies, in spite of civil rights legislation.

Delighted to find five other books of hers to read, my second read “No Biking in the House Without a Helmet,” which tells her personal story. She and her husband, Don Samuel, had four biological children and then adopted

five older children from international orphanages - one from Bulgaria and four from Ethiopia. It stretched my imagination to the brink to put my feet in that many shoes - with so many meals to prepare, clothes to wash, arguments to referee, but Greene manages to take the reader right into her kitchen making countless cupcakes for classrooms and in the plane with her as she navigates the world of international adoptions. Her forthright stories of the joys and challenges of sharing their home and the solid values she and her husband lived by should bring joy and wonder to your day.

The third book I delved into was “Underdogs,” which

the author describes as having three main components: what has been happening in modern science regarding research on animal behavior and feelings; the stories of wonderful service animals and the evolution of dogs to the modern day; and the children with disabilities, who are the underdogs of the title. Greene weaves all these stories and research together like a master tapestry weaver, bringing richness and color to every being described, whether they get around on two feet, four feet, crutches, wheels, or in someone's arms.

Karin Shirk is at the core of the story. Felled by myasthenia gravis (MG), a rare neuromus-

cular disease, at the age of 26, she was transformed from a healthy college student studying to be a social worker to living on a respirator, on long-term disability in nursing homes or assisted living, facing a bleak future. Karin had been sunk in depressed hopelessness for six years when her nurse suggested she get a service dog. She resisted her bossy nurse, who persisted, thinking it might bring Karin back to the land of the living. Karin had a lifelong love of dogs and did eventually seek out a dog, only to be rejected by agency after agency who

See FRIEND...pg. 5



BETTY FIRTH

COLUMNIST

Solving the housing shortage on the Iron Range

What does a thriving Iron Range mean to you? Many of us who grew up here in this region remember a more booming and flourishing time—with kids biking to school and playing afterwards in the street, with restaurants and movie theaters filled, with sporting events packing the bleachers and stands. We reminisce about those days, and most of us would like our populations to be where they once were. One of the ways we can do that, in addition to recruiting and growing business and job opportunities, is to address the housing shortage.



**IRRR COMMISSIONER
IDA RUKAVINA**

Many of our homes were built in the 1940s, 50s or 60s. Approximately 41-percent of the homes in northern St. Louis County were built prior to 1960, and about 7-percent were built after 2010. Some homes are aging beyond repair, and not enough new housing stock has been built to replace it. However, some of the older homes are excellent candidates for renovation to give

them a second life.

The housing shortage has been emerging throughout the past two decades, and circumstances during recent years seemed to accelerate it. The rise in demand was created by low interest rates, a surge in remote workers during the pandemic, and people relocating from metro to rural areas. The decrease in supply was influenced by a reduction and sometimes halt in new construction, and periodic shortages of building materials and labor (especially in the construction trades)

during the pandemic. The ability for seniors to age in place has kept them in their homes longer and impacted the resale inventory.

The regional housing shortage is a critical economic issue. Supply and choice of inventory are currently low, and demand is high. The shortage is not unique to our region; it is occurring throughout the state of Minnesota. The need for additional and more choices of housing on the Iron Range impacts employers,

employees, municipalities, families, school districts, seniors and new and existing residents.

Housing surveys, regional leaders and businesses in northern St. Louis County have indicated that there is a lack of housing—and that it is impacting the ability to attract and retain workers.

► Employers reported they could hire more employees if there were more or better housing options available.

► Employees reported they had difficulty finding housing close to their place of work—and that there is a lack of rental units for workers, and that housing is too expensive.

► Communities reported there is a lack of housing and variety available in their community.

According to Business Insider, the housing crisis and the labor shortage are connected. People cannot locate to an area and accept a job if nearby housing is unavailable. For our region to thrive, there must be both employment and housing opportunities. Jobs and housing go hand-in-hand.

In addition to the need for more housing options in our region, there are issues related to how much people are paying for housing and the subsequent burden created on families.

► 43-percent of the northern St. Louis County area renting households pay more than 30-percent of their incomes.

► 24-percent of the northern St. Louis County area owning (with mortgages) households pay more than 30-percent of their incomes.

As commissioner of northeastern Minnesota's economic development agency, I have made housing a high priority with a goal of building local housing capacity. Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation will be part of the housing shortage solution with a multi-faceted approach.

► Housing Grant: The agency's fiscal year 2024 budget includes \$5 million to fund a new Housing Grant for which cities, counties, nonprofits and tribal governments may apply. The grants awarded will assist projects or programs that result in the creation of new housing units or the rehabilitation of existing housing units.

► Identify Solutions: Agency staff will continue to engage regional public and private partners to work toward solutions. Partners include area employers, local governments and the construction industry.

► State and Federal Re-

sources: The agency will continue to explore state and federal resources to complement our localized strategy and investment. On a state level, Gov. Tim Walz included just over \$1 billion in his housing budget. He understands the housing shortage must be addressed, and a portion of the state's budget has been allocated as permanent funding to increase affordable housing.

On the Iron Range, there are many cities, townships, counties and tribal nations. Each community has unique circumstances and housing needs. Our agency looks forward to working with communities to respond in ways that meet their specific needs, decrease their housing shortage and best serve their businesses and residents.

The time to act is now. We will not be able to fix this problem alone. Instead, the region's communities and businesses can come together and overcome the housing shortage. By working collectively, we can make a positive impact to the people and economic health of the Iron Range.

Letters from Readers

Keep up the reporting on Voyageurs and ranger abuses

I want to thank you about your articles about the Voyageurs Park rangers, and specifically Mr. Ebel. This is a good example of how water sports of any kind, is going down due to the water patrolling.

It started out in many states, people drank too much, had an incident, and possibly a death. Since then, the enjoyment of being "free on the waterways", has turned into enforcement as if one was on land. There are far less incidents on water, than on

land, where law enforcement should be involved. Many of these situations as the case of Mr. Ebel, are handled by "wannabe cops," but thank God, they are not. They do not use their brains in trying to help in a situation, instead throw their authority around, stack up charges on the waterways, because they can't do it on land.

This behavior makes everyone scared to touch federal park areas, land or water, because of what might happen to them, if they innocently fail to follow a law/regulation they were unaware of. Would they be tackled, tased, or even shot, for something stupid. Appears the national park rangers would

rather see no one in the park's waterways to make their jobs easier, where they don't come in contact with anyone. In Mr. Ebel's situation, it appears, ALL of this was preventable, and could have been resolved by merely talking—after the rangers helped him in bringing the houseboat to safety, with its passengers. Just talking, no citations, no attacks, just talking about the situation. All the people involved would have been appreciative and had more respect for a service tax money pays for.

As it was, the question is whether these rangers are more harmful, than helpful. Most enforcement officers have a motto "to

protect and serve." Clearly this was not the case with the more than one encounters these rangers had with Mr. Ebel.

In the 1970s as a kid, we would go out on the water regularly. We had fun, and were outside and out of trouble. People respected people on their own on the water. There was not a handbook, and a license you had to get, it was a freedom one enjoyed. Now that freedom is tainted by regulations, laws, licenses, and what was a freedom is now a privilege if one goes through all the hoops to acquire it. Now, as driving on a highway, "they" patrol, making sure no one violates any laws in a

book larger than a driver's manual.

Please keep doing your reporting! Our freedom's, rights are slowly being taken away before our eyes. United we must stop this, return back to freedom and common sense. Scrap all these ridiculous laws, regulations, and go back to common sense, people having respect on the water without anyone being involved. Park rangers, water rangers, should only be there to help, serve people in need of help, not carry a ticket book, gun, taser, not to do law enforcement. They could assist with the state, if a known crime was committed on land, then resulted on water, or

if someone was committing an actual crime on water, putting others' lives at risk.

The majority of the time I have been on the water, others have always had consideration for others, wave at others, traveled in a safe manner, WITHOUT rules or laws.

Again, thank you for your reporting, and your articles. You do a great job. Have a great day, God bless, and God bless America.

**Gerry Slobe
Huntsville, Ala.**

FRIEND...Continued from page 4

responded: "We do not place our dogs with respirator-dependent individuals who will never lead a productive life" or "Others with greater abilities will make better use of our dogs in their reintegration into the community." Karin started saving up pills to end her life. Her nurse said, "Get your own damn dog!" And she did, a black German Shepherd puppy named Ben that forced her to get out of bed and into her wheelchair to make the Herculean effort to do everything that puppy care demands. Ben brought her back to life, and then there was no stopping her.

She found out that service animals were also not available to children. She decided that she would start her own training school to fill that niche, thinking she might train five or six dogs a year for people who had been rejected by the other agencies. She created 4 Paws for Mobility, hired a trainer when she saw it was going to grow beyond what she could handle. They adopted orphaned dogs of all breeds, learning which breeds were

better at the skills needed, and later bred puppies to maximize the characteristics needed in service animals. Service dogs can be trained to provide assistance with medical-alerts when a condition flares, hearing loss, mobility needs, nurturing attachment, multipurpose assistance, and tracking, often needed with autistic children who tend to take off and run. Karin's agency was the first in the country to train dogs to work with children and people with disabilities who used respirators and other challenging equipment, paving the way for other service agencies to see what was possible and expand their services. Since 1998, they have placed 1800 dogs in service.

For some children, their service dog is their first friend. Dealing with severe disabilities take up all a child's time. Even when out with other children, they may be ignored, partly because kids and adults can be shy about approaching; sometimes the equipment is scary, and people usually don't want to cause harm.

That problem disappears when there is a service dog. The child now becomes the cool kid with the amazing dog.

Some of the threads of this book's tapestry examine the evolution of dogs and their important relationships with us throughout human history. I was surprised to learn how recently the scientific community looked down on those scientists who pursued animal behavioral studies, which deterred some scientists from pursuing their interests and delayed more meaningful research. Even the research of Diane Goodall with gorillas and David Mech with wolves was considered "soft" science initially. Those "pure" scientists were quick to shout "an-

thropomorphism" if anyone dared suggest that animals have feelings, motivations, and interpersonal skills with their own kind and with other species, including us. Any dog owner could have set them straight, and service dogs in all shapes, sizes, and abilities prove them wrong every day.

The well-told stories about Karin, her dogs, other service dogs, the people they assist, and the children's parents reveal the resilience and courage of them all. These few paragraphs cannot do justice to those stories, so if you're interested in learning more, pick up the book or go to 4pawsforability.org. You won't regret it.

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the TIMBERJAY

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Week of Aug. 7

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.

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 8

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.

Raffle tickets available at Tower Farmers Market

TOWER- Raffle tickets for the Sharing the Harvest basket are now available every Friday at the Tower Farmers Market, from 4-6 p.m. at the Depot. Win a basket full of contributions from all the market vendors - meat, fresh produce, canned goods, pie, bread and other baked goods, flowers, and lots of other goodies. The drawing is in mid-September and you need not be present. Tickets are \$1 and proceeds go to support the Tower Area Food Shelf.

The Arrowhead Garage and the Peyla Family

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. Lampa 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.

Educators from Australia to speak at LVCC on Aug. 6

TOWER- The LVCC is pleased to present a program featuring two gifted educators from Australia at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 6 followed by an ice cream and pie social hosted by Shelby Vaske and other LVCC board members.

When Janny King, from Grand Rapids, emigrated to Australia more than 50 years ago to teach, she vowed to return to Minnesota every year that she could to keep touch with her home state.

There is no charge for the event, but a freewill offering will be taken. would be appreciated at vermilionculturalcenter.org.

TOWER FARMERS MARKET



The Tower Farmers Market held their annual children's day on July 21. Clockwise from above: The youngest market vendor, Ava Redetzke, selling her handmade jewelry. Matthew Wagoner made some bubbles. From left: Clair Jonas, Gabe Wight, and Khepra Hainey helped out selling the Jonas family's sourdough breads. Brynlee Bjorgo played with the chalk. Milo Strasser sold wild blueberries, freshly-picked from his secret spot. photos by J. Summit



TOWER-SOUDAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Train Tales to feature stories about bears on Aug. 9

TOWER- The next Train Tales storytelling time is set for Wednesday, Aug. 9 at 2:30 p.m. on the train in Tower. Retired teachers and Birch Point summer residents, Becky Peterson and Lauri Leonard will entertain the audience with whimsical stories about black bears in Minnesota, and will take listeners on an imaginary "Bear Hunt." Through the story-telling, the children will learn fun facts about bears and, at the end of the program, the storytellers will give out items to the children

donated by the North American Bear Center in Ely. The bookmobile will also be stopping in Tower that afternoon, so attendees can check out books after the storytime. The bookmobile will be at the civic center area from 3:45 - 4:30 p.m. Last month, Soudan Underground Mine State Park tour guide Karel Winkelaar (pictured at right) was the featured guest at Train Tales. Winkelaar, an immigrant himself, held the interest of over 30 parents and children

with tales of miners from across the globe who flocked to work in the local iron mines on the range during the late 1800s. Karel's wife, Brenda, co-owners of Sulu's, generously provided treats in the form of delicious cookies decorated with railroad tracks. Zup's donated juice boxes. The Arrowhead Bookmobile provided attendees with access to a wide range of books to check out and read at home at the conclusion of Train Tales.



Charlemagne's 52 Club fundraiser raffle drawings begin

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Historical Society's latest fundraising initiative, Charlemagne's 52 Club, kicked off with great success as 52 lucky winners were drawn on Aug. 1. This unique raffle guarantees 52 weeks of excitement, with each winner receiving a weekly check. Only 300 tickets were available for sale, and of those, 281 were purchased.

Participants who contributed to the restoration of the Historic Fire Hall will wait to see if their names are among the 52 lucky winners. The drawing was made even more special with Breitung Police Chief Dan Reing drawing each name. TSHS Treasurer Diane Meehan recorded the winners for each week, while TSHS Advisory Board member Louise Gately assisted Chief Reing in mixing up the ticket bin. TSHS President Nancy Larson en-

sured the entire process was digitally recorded, ensuring complete transparency.

To maintain the excitement throughout the year, the names of the lucky winners will be announced weekly in the *Timberjay*, as well as on the social media platforms of What's Up Tower and the Tower-Soudan Historical Society Facebook pages. The announcements will not only reveal the winners but will also include interesting history tidbits or questions, adding an educational element to the announcements.

Funds raised from this raffle will be used for the Historic Fire Hall restoration project.

Community members and history enthusiasts alike can witness the progress of the Historic Fire Hall restoration project through the TSHS Facebook page. The fire hall restoration exemplifies the commitment of the

Tower-Soudan-Lake Vermilion community, as well as the surrounding area, in preserving our historical treasures for generations to come.

History Tidbit and Charlemagne's 52 Club Winner for Aug. 1

TOWER- Scott Young of Aurora was the first week winner for the raffle, winning a \$100 cash prize.

The first schools in Tower and Soudan were private schools conducted in homes and stores. A petition to the State Department of Education for aid for a school was denied because "there was no need for a school way up in the woods." The district was organized in 1884 as a common school district and the first buildings were erected in 1885.



Embarrass High School Class of 1953 celebrates their 50th reunion

Members from the Embarrass High School Class of 1953 celebrated their 70th reunion on July 22, 2023 at the Northern Divide at the Virginia Golf Course. Pictured in front (from left) Evelyn (Koskela) Esala from Embarrass, Patricia (Arvola) Sundeen from Cook, Viola (Thompson) Salo, of New York Mills. Back row: Richard Lundstrom, of Hermantown, Elaine (Johnson) Wilson of Grand Rapids, Albert Haavisto of rural Virginia, and Raymond "Buddy" Niemi of Virginia.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Little Church meeting and service

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church Committee will meet on Saturday, Aug. 12 at 10 a.m.

There will also be a service on Sunday, Aug. 20 at 4 p.m., with a potluck after the service. We always welcome anyone and are looking for people interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and main-

tained in our community. The building hosts a men's group that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation. All are welcome. The Little Church is located in Vermilion Lake Township on Cty. Rd. 26/Wahlsten Rd. Any questions please contact, Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014, and leave a message.

Tower-Soudan-Embarrass Bookmobile Schedule

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Bookmobiles will be in the Tower-Soudan area on Wednesday, Aug. 9 & 30.

Stops include: Britt (Sand Lake Storage): 9 - 9:30 a.m.; Bois Forte (Boys & Girls Club): 11 - 11:30 a.m.; Greenwood (Town Hall): 12 - 1 p.m.; Soudan (Post Office area): 2:30 - 3:30

p.m.; Tower (Civic Center): 3:45 - 4:30 p.m.; and Embarrass (Hwy 135 & Hwy 21): 5 - 6 p.m.

More info online at alslib.info/services/bookmobile. For more information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, contact the Arrowhead Library System, 218-741-3840, email at als@alslib.info, or website at alslib.info.

LITERARY ARTS

Ely author book signing next week

ELY- Sally Childs, well-known to the arts community in Ely for her years of work with the Northern Lakes Arts Association (NLAA), will be in town next week for book signing and readings from her just-published memoir, "Running Uphill, a Minnesota Theater Memoir."

Childs will do readings and sign copies of her book on Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 8-9. On Tuesday, she will be at the Crapola Coffee House and Brainstorm Bakery, 402 E. Sheridan St., at noon. On Wednesday, she will be at the Piragis Book Store, 105 N. Central Ave., at 1 p.m.

Copies of her book can be purchased with cash or check only, on both days. Childs has a long history with Ely and Babbitt, teaching English from 1968-1980 in Babbitt, while living in Ely and participating in musicals directed by her husband, Don. Childs left Ely to

complete a Masters of Fine Arts at Mankato State University. She went on to found the Lyric Theater in Minneapolis in 1985. Between 2005 and 2016, Sally directed ten productions for the NLAA, including Jon Hassler's "Simon's Night," "On Golden Pond," "Church

Basement Ladies" and "To Whom it May Concern." "I'm excited to return to Ely," Childs said in a statement, "reacquaint with old friends, and make new ones through the publication of a book that took nearly eight years to write and publish. And I'm only 85!"

NOT the Blueberry/Art Festival



ELY- While Ely's Blueberry/Art Festival dominates the news, the roads, and Ely's street parking, the end of July was full of many other Ely events. The photos below capture some of the other things happening around the Ely area, including two of the three local art shows in town, happenings at the Dorothy Molter Museum, novel presentations at the Ely Public Library, and new developments at the museum at the Pioneer Mine.



Top: Ely artist Cecilia Rolando painting at the Ely Watercolor Club show on July 19 - 23.
Center left: Billie Rouse (seated, right) and Marsha Homer (seated, left) at the Dorothy Molter Museum open house on July 30. The two manned a table with information on the Disney musical "Frozen" which Ely High School will present this winter.
Center right: Geoff Atkins of Bubble Wonders demonstrating how to blow a soap bubble cube at the Ely Public Library on July 24.
Lower left: The foundation of the Ely Miners' Memorial at the Pioneer Mine has now been poured. According to the City of Ely, Laurentian Monument visited the foundation this week to take measurements for the granite plaques with the names of miners who died in Ely's iron mines.
Lower right: The Northern Lakes Arts Association held its first annual Art-A-Palooza art show for local artists on July 28-30 at the Miner's Dry Building.



Babbitt rollover

BABBITT- According to a statement from the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, a 22-year-old Babbitt woman suffered a single-vehicle crash on Monday around 9 a.m. just north of Babbitt in unorganized township 61R13. Morgan Alexa Heckman was driving on Highway 21 northbound when she swerved to avoid an animal. Her car left the roadway, striking a side road embankment. Her car then rolled and struck a tree. She was transported via Babbitt Ambulance to the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital where she was treated for non-life-threatening injuries and was later discharged.

Ely taxi

ELY- Some enterprising Elyite entrepreneurs have started up a taxi and ride service for the Ely-Winton area. The business is called Ely Ride'z, managed by Cheryl Boyes. The taxi is available within its service area, which is 5 miles around Ely/Winton. Hours for the service are daily 8 a.m. until 1:30 a.m. Rides are \$10. A lower rate of \$7 is available for rides within Ely city limits from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. only. To book a ride, call 218-288-RIDE (7433). For rides outside of the 5-mile service area, call for rates and availability.

Elyite on dean's list

NORTHFIELD - Lucy Stouffer of Ely has been named to the St. Olaf College dean's list for the spring 2023 semester. The dean's list recognizes students with a semester grade point average of 3.75 or higher on a 4-point scale.

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. 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
 > Sept. 5: Spruce Project with Randy Kolka

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



the heat continues warming the town up and down waiting for cool down

Libraries

Ely library

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Closed on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays Phone: 218-365-5140

Babbitt library

Monday 10 am-6 pm
 Tuesday 10 am-6 pm
 Wednesday 10 am-6 pm
 Thursday 10 am-6 pm
 Friday 10 am-6 pm
 Phone: 218-827-3345

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
OPEN AA - 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.
ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA - Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church.
AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.
BABBITT AL-ANON - Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.
CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step support group, 5:30 p.m. Thursdays, Wellbeing Development, 41 E Camp St. Ely.
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711.
CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living. Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital. Conference Room B.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Northeast Range School

BABBITT- The school supplies list for the 2023-24 school year is now posted at the school's website at www.northeastrangeschool.net.

Ely Public Library

ELY- The spice for August is celery seed. The Friends of the Library monthly board meeting will be on Tuesday, Aug. 8, from 1-2 p.m. The library will host a puppet showcase with hand puppets on Wednesday, Aug. 9, from 10-11 a.m. The program targets ages 8-13 and encourages attendee participation. See the calendar at elylibrary.org for more details. The library will hold a Kahoot trivia game on the "Keeper of the Lost Cities" series of books by Shannon Messenger. Preregister for the kahoot with an

email address so the library can send the link for the game. The kahoot will start on Thursday, Aug. 10 at 3 p.m. and end on Monday, Aug. 14 at 8 a.m. The library will host a Minnesota state-wide star party on Friday, Aug. 11, from 1-3 p.m. Participants will learn many aspects of watching the night sky and how to spot the Perseids meteor shower over the weekend. This program is for all ages. The Friends of the Library book club will meet on Monday, Aug. 14, from 3-4 p.m., to discuss "Lady Clementine" by Marie Benedict. There will be a tutu workshop for ages 3-6 on Wednesday, Aug. 16, from 11 a.m. to noon. Participants will create their own tutu. Adults should plan to attend and help their child craft a tutu. Please register in advance so the library can order enough supplies.

Preschool Storytime is held every Friday from 10:30-11 a.m. All library events are at the Ely Public Library at 224 E. Chapman St.
NLAA Gala
 The Northern Lake sArts Association will present its Broadway in the Boundary Waters Gala on Aug. 4-5. Both performances will be from 7-9 p.m. at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater at the Vermilion campus of Minnesota North College, featuring popular numbers from Broadway musicals. Tickets are available through northernlakesarts.org website.
Reflections Dance Company
 The Reflections Dance Company will present "Matters of the Heart," a tragic and magical tale told through movement

and song. Performances will be on Aug. 11-12 at 7 p.m., and Aug. 13 at 2 p.m., at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater at the Vermilion Campus of Minnesota North College. Tickets are available through northernlakesarts.org website.
Dorothy Molter Museum
 The Dorothy Molter Museum will host a supporter appreciation day open house on Sunday, Aug. 13, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to celebrate the museum's thirtieth year. The event will have special guests from the cast and crew of the "Root Beer Lady, the Musical." This is a free event. In honor of the thirtieth anniversary of the museum, there will be a free showing on Friday, Aug. 18, of the documentary, "Dorothy Molter, Living in the Boundary Waters,"

followed by a question and answer panel, at Ely's Historic State Theater. Doors open at 6 p.m., film at 7 p.m., Q&A panel at 8 p.m. Attendees under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. While there is no cost for this event, tickets must be reserved in advance. Tickets are available through the museum's website at <https://www.rootbeerlady.com/programs-events>.
Romeo and Juliet
 The Northern Lakes Arts Association will host the Mixed Precipitation's Pickup Truck Opera Company production of "Romeo and Juliet," which is a modern adaptation of Bellini's 1830 opera "I Capuleti e i Montecchi," featuring music by Bellini, Fleetwood Mac, The Fugees, and The Pixies. The opera will be performed on Saturday, Aug. 12, at 2 p.m., in Whiteside Park.

Crane Lake National Night Out



Tuesday night was National Night Out in Crane Lake, sponsored by Crane Lake Chapel to benefit the Crane Lake and Buyck Fire Departments.



Clockwise, from top left: People bidding on the many donated silent auction items; flags line the bridge into town; two-year-old Isla Johnson reacts with pure glee to her reflection in a Crane Lake fire engine mirror while seated atop her father Eric's shoulders; minnow racing was one of the more hotly contested events of the evening; David Tufte takes charge at the grill at a free food booth featuring hot dogs and watermelon sponsored by Norway Lodge, Pine Ridge Motel, and Anderson Outfitters.

photos by D. Colburn



GRAND CHAMPIONS



Baytree-Field 4-H member Alice Sopoci and Snickers, a two-year old American Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Australian Cattle Dog and German Shepard mix adopted from Northern Lakes Rescue, took Grand Champion honors in rally and obedience at the North St. Louis County 4-H Dog Show at the St. Louis County Fairgrounds in Chisholm on Sunday. The pair also won blue ribbons in all three categories they entered. They qualified for the state dog show but declined to participate, as Snickers would have had difficulty adapting to the unfamiliar environment.

submitted photo

RUNNERS UP



The Cook Majors baseball team took home second place last weekend in the International Falls 11-and-under Sandlot Tournament. Team members include, back row, from left, Coach Kelly Nuthak, Providence Ward, Brayden Amundson, Curtis Krecklau, Jordan Herdman, Luke Cheney and Assistant Coach Josh Krecklau; front row, Aiden Elkei, Reece Whitney, Jack Plimi and Landon Nuthak. submitted photo

Smith named top Iron Range golfer by Mesabi Tribune

COOK- 2023 North Woods graduate Eli Smith has been selected by the *Mesabi Tribune* and *Grand Rapids Herald-Review* as their All-Iron Range Boys' Golfer of the Year for the 2023 prep season.

Smith had a strong senior season, bagging three tourney titles and qualifying for the state meet with a fourth-place finish at regionals. Smith placed 43rd in a field of 86 golfers at the state meet at Pebble Creek Golf Club in Becker in mid-June, carding a 167 for the 36-hole event.

Book club to meet Tuesday at NWFA

COOK- The next meeting of the Cook area book club will be on Tuesday, Aug. 8 at 1 p.m. at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery. The book for discussion will be "Fresh Water for Flowers" by Valerie Perrin.

"Fresh Water for Flowers" slowly and delicately discloses the life of a French woman who begins with nothing, loses everything, and manages to rebuild her life. The journey includes mystery, romance, and a number of complex characters. The book and author have won awards in France. The book has been translated into over thirty languages, and even in English, is beautifully poetic.

The book for discussion in September will be "Underground" by Megan Marsnik.

Buyck Pork/Corn Auction is Saturday

BUYCK- Buyck is the place for meals and deals this coming Saturday, Aug. 5 with the annual Pork/Corn feed and auction to support Buyck Fire Department.

Festivities get underway at the fire hall at 11 a.m., and the auction will begin at noon. Fire Chief Kathy Weiland said this year's auction has plenty to offer.

"We have a lot of great stuff - a Polaris snowmobile in excellent condition, sailboard, 4-in-1 game table (like new), downrigger, lots of fishing equipment, gardening, patio furniture, barstools, antique furniture, church pews, jewelry, tools, and lots and lots more," she said.

There will also be a silent auction of "a lot of really nice donations."

Weiland said they usually shoot for dinner somewhere around 5 p.m., but the start time depends on when the auction is finished.

Park concert to feature R & B duo

COOK- Dan Boyer and Sharon Rowbottom will perform a mix of popular rhythm and blues selections at Cook's Music in the Park concert series on Wednesday, Aug. 9

from 6-8 p.m.

Beginning at 5:30 enjoy a burger or a brat provided by St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church.

The popular summer series brings a different sound of music to the gazebo in Cook City Park on River St. every Wednesday. In case of rain, the concert will be moved to the Cook VFW.

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

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.

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

► Open House Reception Friday, Aug. 4; 5-7 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 Monday.

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

► Annual concert, Friday, Aug. 11 featuring "The Blue Water Big Band" (from Duluth) and Cook's own "Beefeaters Brothers." A concert with dance space, food, beverages, snacks, silent auctions and raffles. Contact nwfamn.org@gmail.com for tickets or at the door of Cook Community Center on Gopher Dr.. beginning at 5 p.m.

► 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 Wa-

tercolor 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 Cecelia Rolando - Friday, Sept. 8 from 1-4 p.m. at NWFA Gallery. Materials fee. Must register. Call 218-666-2153.

► Painting with Flowers with Cecelia Rolando - Friday, Sept. 15 from 1-4 p.m.. Registration required.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Area St. Louis County Solid Waste and Recycling Facility site hours

Ash River Trail Canister Site 11391 Ash River Trail Summer Hours Wed: 1pm-4pm Sat: 2:30pm-5:30pm	Kabetogama Lake Canister Site 10150 Gamma Rd Summer Hours Mon. & Wed: 9am-noon Sat: 10:30am-1:30pm	Sturgeon Canister Site 8380 Hwy 73 Hours Sun: 8am-noon
Orr Canister Site 4038 Hwy 53 Summer Hours Tue: 9am-1pm, Thu: 2pm-7pm Sat: 8am-noon, Sun: 10am-2pm	Portage Canister Site 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Summer Hours Tue: 2pm-6pm; Thu: 10am-1pm, Sat: 1pm-5pm; Sun: 3pm-6pm	County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77 Summer Hours Tue: 1-6pm, Thu: 8am-1pm Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: noon-6pm
Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm	St. Louis County Environmental Services Department 1-800-450-9278 Office hours 8-4:30 Mon. thru Fri. stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle
Household Hazardous Waste Facilities 5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia Tue, Sat: 8am-1pm	3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing Sat: 8am-1pm	

Summer hours effective April 15th through September 30th

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NORTHMET...Continued from page 1

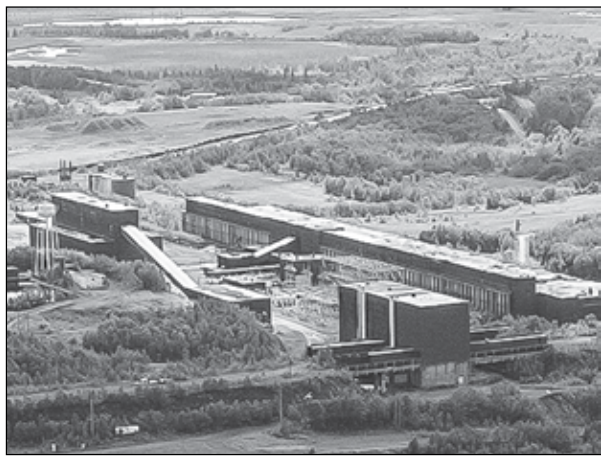
allenges to most of its key permits have been largely successful and have put the future of the proposed mining operation in serious doubt.

The courtroom deliberations have also revealed questionable decision-making by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, which appears to have bent over backward at times to accommodate the proposed mine, rather than serve as a watchdog and regulator.

That was a point made by the high court in its decision, issued Wednesday, which faulted the MPCA in reversing the permit.

“We conclude there are danger signals suggesting that the MPCA did not take a hard look at whether the permit complies with the Clean Water Act (CWA) and that the MPCA did not genuinely engage in reasoned decision-making in dealing with concerns that were raised by the EPA,” wrote the judges in their ruling. “We therefore conclude that the action taken by the MPCA in issuing the permit was arbitrary and capricious and remand to the MPCA for further proceedings.”

The high court took its action based on an appeal



Left: The former LTV processing facility, currently owned by PolyMet Mining, was intended to be a processing facility for the NorthMet mine. The future of the mine, however, appears increasingly in doubt.
file photo

by a coalition of environmental groups and the Fond du Lac Band who had found fault with an earlier ruling by the Court of Appeals that was more favorable to the MPCA and PolyMet Mining, which proposes to open the NorthMet mine. PolyMet began its review and permitting process for the mine back in 2005 but has faced a gauntlet of environmental and legal hurdles ever since. PolyMet has since formed a joint venture with Teck Resources, known as New Range Copper, which now owns the proposed mine plan.

In reversing the key permit, the high court left unresolved other issues surrounding the permit, which

will now need to be decided should the MPCA and New Range Copper begin the process of reviewing and eventually re-issuing the water discharge permit. That process could take years and could force major changes in the mine’s design and operational plan.

The Supreme Court also made it clear that the state’s top justices share concerns that copper-nickel mining, extracted from sulfide ore, poses unique risks to Minnesota’s water quality. “As we explained in a prior appeal involving different permits, the project ‘brings with it potential environmental impacts unique to this type of mining,’” wrote the

court. “In particular, the mine waste generated by extracting and processing sulfide ore has the potential to release acid rock drainage, which occurs if either the sulfide ore or waste rock is exposed to oxygen or water. If this exposure takes place, the sulfide ore and waste rock would release toxic metals and sulfate that could seep into nearby surface waters and groundwaters.”

Reaction is swift

Environmental plaintiffs in the case were elated by Wednesday’s ruling, and not just over the impact to the mine proposal itself. “It’s not only a good decision for clean water, but provided the opportunity, which the court took advantage of, to set a high standard for state agencies, which should have long-term benefit,” said Paula Maccabee, legal counsel

for Duluth-based Water Legacy. “It’s highly gratifying to not only make a good effort to protect water, but in trying and succeeding in setting a higher standard for regulatory integrity.”

The decision by the state’s MPCA to pressure the Trump-era EPA to nix its planned written comments taking issue with parts of the water discharge permit played a role in the permit’s undoing.

“Today the Minnesota Supreme Court recognized that what our state agencies do during permit review processes matters,” stated Joy Anderson, a staff attorney at the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. “Unfortunately, in the case of PolyMet, our state MPCA violated the public’s trust, and state law, when it suppressed crucial scientific concerns about the water permit. This decision is important not only for the PolyMet case, but to ensure that when our state agencies make any decision that affects Minnesotans, they do so openly and fairly.”

Maccabee said the decision proves an adage she’s long kept in mind when it comes to environmental regulation. “The

short cut is always the longest way around,” she said.

A future for NorthMet?

The road ahead is certain to be long and challenging if New Range Copper hopes to resolve the plethora of weighty issues and challenges the string of successful lawsuits have created.

“Each of these permits has its own set of factual issues,” noted Maccabee “and I think resolving any of these permits will be time-consuming. But the major ones, like the permit to mine or the water discharge permit, present different and significant issues and resolving them will not happen overnight, if it happens at all.”

While making it clear she isn’t speaking for New Range, Maccabee said the future must look pretty daunting. “Polymet has not said they’re ready to throw in the towel, but so many aspects of their permits were contrary to science and the law, that I hope they’re thinking about what they need to do differently or don’t do it at all.”

HOUSING...Continued from page 1

Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH). The city’s proposal is for a 22-unit rental townhome project, featuring 820 square-foot one-bedroom units and 1,068 square-foot two-bedroom units. Before the new study, the city suggested monthly rents from \$1,300 for one-bedroom units (\$1.59 per square foot) to \$1,500 for two-bedroom units, or \$1.40 psf.

The proposed site for the development is 25 acres owned by the city near the southwest corner of Pattison St. West and South 2nd Ave. West, south of the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, and north of the golf course.

Updated study

The Ely Clerk-Treasurer, Harold Langowski, reported at the March 21 city council meeting that the Minnesota Housing Authority recommended that the city update its most recent housing study done in 2019. The agency pointed out that a new study could help Ely with obtaining funding for housing projects.

The Ely Economic Development Authority approved \$8,200 for a new housing feasibility study for the city’s property near the hospital. Ely hired Maxfield Research and Consulting LLC of Roseville to conduct the study.

Maxfield has been in business for 32 years. The firm specializes in market

and feasibility studies for all submarkets of residential and commercial real estate. The city has had a relationship with Maxfield for many years. The business also did the 2015 and 2019 housing feasibility studies.

For the 2023 study, Maxfield researched local and regional market and economic conditions, using established sources such as the U.S. Census Bureau, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), St. Louis County property records, and several others. The firm also conducted interviews with local real estate professionals, city officials, landlords, and business owners needing to hire workforce employees. The report produced by Maxfield looked at Ely’s workforce economics and its residential rental supply, demand, and pricing. It also made recommendations that should help the city compete more favorably for state and federal workforce housing funds.

Study findings

Maxfield found the location of the 25 acres near EBCH to be “a quality location for the proposed development concept” of workforce rental housing, noting the appeal of the site next to the golf course, along with its convenient access to major arterial roads in Ely, its walking distance to downtown and short commutes to other

businesses, and the recreational amenities of the Ely area.

Defining workforce employees as those making 50 to 120 percent of the area median income (AMI), Maxfield determined that an estimated 2,955 or 60 percent of area households fell into that income range. The study noted, “Based on income guidelines for St. Louis County, the workforce housing household income band ranges from \$31,650 for a one-person household in a studio or one-bedroom unit at 50% AMI to \$143,040 for an eight-person household in a four-bedroom unit at 120% AMI.”

The number of renter households in Ely increased by five percent between 2010 and 2023, with the largest increases in the 35-to-44 and 25-to-34 age groups. Growth occurred in the household types that “typically comprise the target market for rental housing,” including single-person and non-family roommate households.

Maxfield found that demand in the Ely rental market is currently outstripping supply, remarking that the “Equilibrium vacancy rate for rental housing is considered to be 7 percent,” but that Ely’s actual vacancy rate for “market rate and affordable/subsidized housing,” was 1.9 percent, leading to “pent-up demand for new rental housing” for a wide range of incomes.

The study determined that the average rental rate across all market-rate properties in Ely is currently \$876 per month, which equates to \$0.95 psf. One-bedroom units rent for \$679 per month on average while two-bedroom units average \$961 per month and three-bedroom units rent for an average \$1,156 per month. These rates are about one-third lower than the rents originally suggested by the city.

Maxfield recommended rents of \$1,050 for one-bedroom units, which would be affordable for single people making \$42,000 annually, which is in the 60 to 70 percent AMI range in St. Louis County, stating, “This is consistent with the typical starting salary range for entry-level workers at the major employers in Ely (\$35,000 to \$50,000 depending on position) and would capture a larger portion of the workforce housing target market.”

The firm found that a 22-unit project would achieve maximum stabilized occupancy of 93 percent within three to five months after completion and would capture “21.1 percent of the workforce rental housing demand” in the Ely area rental market.

What next?

Langowski noted that the state of Minnesota has \$37 million for housing. Armed with an updated housing study, the city

intends to pursue some of that funding. “Applications become available in October,” Langowski noted, “and are due in December.”

While the receipt of the housing study was noted by the Ely Economic Development Authority at its July 25 meeting, the first serious discussions of the city strategy for funding and building a workforce rental project will commence next week at the monthly meeting of Ely’s Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), according to Ely City Council member Angela Campbell, who is the council’s representative

on the HRA.

“The housing study is not yet approved by the HRA,” Campbell told the *Timberjay*. “It will be presented to the HRA at our meeting next week.” As part of its agenda, the HRA will discuss how it wishes to proceed with the housing project and pursue funding. The meeting is open to the public. It will be held at the Pioneer Apartments, 114 N. 8th Ave E., on Tuesday, Aug. 8, at 10 a.m.

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RESTORATION...Continued from page 1

of work in Minnesota? You get winters off.

"It gets too cold," said Bogucki, who lives in Ogilvie. "So, I get laid off and have plenty of time for ice fishing."

Bogucki is certainly a veteran at his craft, but another member of the crew, Chuck Cusano, has him beat. Cusano, who hails from Blackburn, Mo., has been working in the trade since 1977. He started as a union apprentice and spent his career with brickwork. He did try retiring, but after his wife passed away, he decided to go back to work.

"This is so rewarding," he said. "I like working on these old buildings. We are bringing these buildings back to life."

Bogucki said it was a testament to the original masons that this building has stood solidly for over 100 years, especially through Tower's harsh winters.

"You have to love this old brickwork," he said. "It was very hard to do this so well back in the 1890s."

Bogucki started in the field doing chimney repair, but soon was working on all sorts of brick buildings.

"I used to hang off 30-story high buildings doing this type of work," he said. "But I can't do that anymore!" He's worked on historic mansions in St. Paul, the courthouse in Owatonna, and had a year-long gig at the Jefferson Memorial Courthouse, the building underneath the famous arch in St. Louis.

While Bogucki and Cusano are the veterans on the crew working to renovate Tower's historic



Left: The refinished front of the Old Fire Hall in Tower. Work continues on the building's interior.

photo by J. Summit

major project, starting with finding architectural firms with the expertise to design the work needed.

Before the masonry work could begin, testing was done on the original bricks and mortar, so that the materials used in the restoration were as authentic as possible.

"The mortar was made of pure lime," said Graf, "not the harder Portland cement that started coming into use in the later 1880s."

Portland cement set up faster than lime, which meant more bricks could be laid in a single day.

The new mortar installed was a modified lime mortar, which was a new type, and had to be approved by the MHS.

"They went through a full test to see how strong it was compared to the bricks," she said. "The mortar needs to be weaker than the bricks."

The bricks used in the building were considered "weak bricks," she said.

"Mortar has always been considered expendable," Graf said. "Bricks are considered permanent."

Foundation proves solid

The big wild card in the entire project was the condition of the building's foundation, which was only revealed this summer as the crew completed the exterior brick work. "I was really fearful of what they would find on

the foundation," Graf said. "I was having nightmares."

Larson echoed that concern, because as the grant writer for the project, she would have needed to find considerable new funding for any foundation repairs. But to everyone's relief, the foundation was in "wonderful" condition.

The main concern was on the west wall, which had shown the most brick damage. The building had only about a foot clearance between it and the now-demolished building that was adjacent. This meant that moisture tended to be trapped, leading to more freeze/thaw damage on the exterior, and a big question mark about what it meant for the foundation itself. When soil was removed to examine the foundation, they found the foundation of the adjacent building was set directly next to the fire hall's foundation, and the foundation was in good shape.

"It kept it stable," Graf said, noting that she is not sure modern engineers would have approved of such a situation.

"Their attitude might be to take it out and replace it with something they know," she said. "In Europe they run into these type of situations all the time, and understand it more."

What's to come

The interior and exterior masonry repairs will be completed this month, except for work needed on the rear/south wall, which needs extensive repair work. Plans are to install a large arched doorway,

to match the front, which would also allow the city's steam-powered fire engine, the Tippet, to be moved in and out.

"Future plans are to restore the Tippet," said Larson. "It's a city asset."

The goal would be to get the antique fire engine's metal wheels working again, so it could be pulled by horses, as it was designed to do, in the Fourth of July parade. The steam engine would also be on permanent display in the fire hall. But the building once completed, will not just tell the story of fire fighting.

"This is a much bigger story than a fire hall," said Larson. "This is a story about the beginning of the Iron Range."

Installing new heating and electrical systems in the building, as well as repairing the interior metal ceiling, are next on the list.

TSHS envisions using the building for community gatherings, history displays, as well as renting out some of the space for commercial businesses.

"This is the start of a new beginning for Tower," said Graf, who noted the planned developments in the harbor area will complement this work also.

With the repairs undertaken this summer, the building should continue to stand the test of time. Bogucki said it should easily stand strong for another 100-plus years. All of which makes the painstaking efforts of his crew well worth it.

SALES...Continued from page 1

out a request for proposals for a feasibility study. The deadline closed last Friday.

Once we get the feasibility study back from the company we're going to work with, we can get more information and do a community survey. We want to make sure we would be building it to the capacity of this region, you know, not under and not over, obviously. I wish we would have been ahead like (Red Lake) but our Band doesn't move as fast. We actually go through these discussions and surveys and feasibility studies to decide as a Band, is this a venture we want to go into?"

It's standard practice in the Bois Forte Band for members to be given the opportunity to vote on any new business venture leadership is proposing. A recent example of that is when Band members voted to approve building a new convenience store in Eveleth after having the opportunity to review and publicly discuss the feasibility study for that project. That endeavor recently went by the wayside after the cost of construction soared and the city of Eveleth demanded stipulations on the project that the Band found unacceptable.

Beltran stressed that input from Band members will be integral to the direction the Band will take with recreational marijuana.

"You know you're

never going to get 100 percent buy-in on anything," Beltran said. "What you want to do is be transparent and you want to give people the ability to voice their opinions. That doesn't mean you're going to be able to do everything everybody wants to do, but it gives them the ability to voice their opinions, and you can take that into consideration when making your decision. We're talking about cannabis and not everybody's going to be pro-cannabis. There are some people that have concerns about it. We have to address them, we have to listen, you know, we have to come up with solutions if it goes in a direction they're not happy with. There could be some dollars that go to drug and alcohol awareness programs, things like that that could help in that manner."

And while the Band isn't yet able to take advantage of the new law, should they decide to move ahead with recreational marijuana they will likely still be well ahead of the game. Minnesota's first recreational dispensaries outside reservations likely won't open until early 2025 after the state creates the Office of Cannabis Management and sets up a licensing system. If Band members give the go ahead, Beltran suggested they could be up and running within as little as four months.

"It may take maybe

four months to get something built, growing and then have our own products," he said. "You just have to throw up a greenhouse and you start production. Depending on what kind of strains of cannabis you're using, it could take three months to six months to grow those types of strains. So, depending on which ones it could be around four to five months, and we could already have product. We will be behind the two that are already ready (Red Lake and White Earth, which will open a medical dispensary this month and recently passed a recreational marijuana policy). But we would be ahead of any other state organization or business that would like to try to compete in that realm."

Cannabis edibles

The Band recently stepped into the cannabis-infused edibles and beverages market by opening a smoke shop featuring those products at Fortune Bay Resort Casino, and by offering them for sale at the Y-Store south of Tower and the C-Store at Nett Lake. "When the edible products, the hemp-derived products became legal in the state of Minnesota, the tribe reached out and said, hey, we probably should get into this market," Beltran said.

The smoke shop was greenlit in November by the Bois Forte Tribal Council at its BFDC meeting, allo-

cating \$150,000 for the project.

Situated on the casino's first floor, the 2,500-square-foot retail space required reconfiguration of a section of slot machines, resulting in a net loss of 17 machines that were returned to their vendors. The primary focus of the shop is on CBD and THC edibles and other products that align with the state-established ceilings for content and packaging.

"We didn't go too crazy with the smoke shop due to the possibility of recreational marijuana, but we did build it to be sort of a superstore, where we have more products and more variety than most that are distributing those type of products," Beltran said. "Obviously we have other things like glass products, paraphernalia, cigars and smoking tobacco products, and wellness products like CBD creams and oils and lotions and all that stuff."

Like many North Country businesses that have had challenges finding employees, Fortune Bay had some difficulty initially staffing the smoke shop. The shop has largely been in "soft opening" mode as more staff have been added and hours gradually expanded. Current days and hours of operation are Thursday, 1 p.m.-6 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 1 p.m.-10 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Unlike some other amenities at the resort, the smoke shop hasn't yet been given a unique name, and

that's by design, Beltran said. People are familiar with the term smoke shop and what they have to offer, he noted. And they're also waiting to see what direction the Band will take with recreational marijuana. The smoke shop could become the Band's dispensary, which could possibly influence naming. And sales of recreational marijuana would likely have a significant impact on sales of CBD and THC products.

"In the states that have recreational marijuana, about 90 percent of sales are flower. The other 10 percent are vape and edible products," Beltran said. "So, it's not going to be as prevalent and won't be that big of a market once recreational marijuana is in full swing in Minnesota."

But in the current marketplace, cannabis edibles are viable products, and Bois Forte has tried to capitalize on that market by expanding sales to the

Y-Store just before the Fourth of July and to the Nett Lake C-Store about two weeks ago. Interest in the products has been good at all three of the Band's sales sites, Beltran said.

"It's been really good actually, because we didn't really do a lot of advertising," he said. "People are walking in and just checking it out and our purchases, our average sales have gone up daily. And a lot of people are coming in just asking questions."

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CITY OF ELY

Council okays new cannabinoid rules

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely City Council approved the first reading of a new cannabinoid products ordinance at its Aug. 1 meeting. The proposed ordinance forbids the use of cannabis and cannabinoid products in Ely's public places. The city council will vote on whether to approve the ordinance at its next meeting.

On Tuesday, Aug. 1, it became legal in Minnesota for those 21 or older to possess and grow small amounts of cannabis for personal recreational use. Low-potency edibles made with THC from industrial hemp were legalized last year. All legal cannabis and cannabinoid products are now subject to a 10-percent tax since July 1.

"With the new cannabis law taking effect on Tuesday," city attorney Kelly Klun remarked, "many of Minnesota's cities are passing similar ordinances to this one."

The new ordinance, once passed, will prohibit the use of all cannabis and cannabinoid products on public property and in public places. According to the state of Minnesota, public places "are entities that provide goods, services, or facilities to the public such as a gas station, retail store, or coffee shop."

In other action, the council approved a trial of a bio-solids press at the city's wastewater treatment facility, most likely to be conducted in September or October. According

to Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski, the press could greatly reduce the volume of solid waste at the wastewater facility. "Othertowns on the Range, including Gilbert and Mt. Iron, are also looking into using a bio-solids press ... if things work out, it might be possible to go in cooperatively on a press with other local communities," said Langowski.

The council approved \$12,000 to fund the trial of the bio-solids equipment.

Other business

In other Aug. 1 action, the council:

- Voted to make the Ely Area Ambulance Joint Powers Board (EAAJPB) meeting on Aug. 7 a special city council meeting so council members can attend if they choose without violating Minnesota's open meeting law. The EAAJPB meeting will be at 4 p.m. on Monday, at the Winton Community Center.

- Approved the recommendation from city's Budget Committee to adopt the 2024 budget calendar, which governs the schedule for assembling the city's budget for next year.

- Approved the recommendation from the Budget Committee to approve the TKDA Professional Services Agreement for \$60,100 for the Fire Apparatus Building.

- Approved the recommendation from the Budget Committee to provide funding of up to \$48,616 in 2024 for the Ely ambulance service if Fall Lake and Morse Townships commit to matching the city

of Ely contribution in that amount. The city contribution will be no less than \$34,300, which is equal to the current year's funding level. If Ely and the two townships each contributed \$34,300, the total between the two townships and Ely would be \$102,900. If all three contribute \$48,616, the total amount would be \$145,848. The difference of the two amounts is \$42,948, which would cover the funds no longer donated by the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital to the EAAJPB for the Ely

Ambulance Service.

- Approved the recommendation from EUC to approve the Salvation Army Heat Share Program.

- Accepted the resignation of Ely Police Officer Ryan Mahoney and approved advertising an open patrolman position to replace him.

- Approved a temporary liquor license for the Dorothy Molter Museum for the 5k Glow Run and Ely Marathon on Sept. 22-23 at Whiteside Park.



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Briefly

Two teens injured in Cook car crash

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Excessive speed and alcohol are suspected to have contributed to a one-vehicle injury accident early Sunday morning in Cook, according to a report by the St. Louis County Sheriff's office.

On Sunday, July 30 at approximately 2:55 a.m., St. Louis County 911 dispatchers were notified via an automated iPhone 911 call that a user had been in a severe crash.

Members of the Cook Fire Department, Cook Ambulance, and St. Louis County Sheriff's deputies responded to the intersection of Vermillion Dr. and 2nd St. SE within the city of Cook.

First responders found a Chevy Impala that had crashed after crossing over the railroad crossing on 2nd St. SE. According to the sheriff's report, the

vehicle had apparently been traveling south at a high rate of speed, lost control after going over the railroad crossing, left the roadway and struck the crossing arm control on the south side of the crossing. The vehicle ultimately came to rest on its roof in the east ditch of 2nd St. SE. The crossing arm was disabled by the crash.

The driver, Anavay Goodsky-Spears, 18, and a 17-year-old male passenger were transported to the Cook Hospital by ambulance with what were believed to be minor injuries. It is unknown if either individual was wearing a seatbelt.

Goodsky-Spears is being investigated by the sheriff's office for criminal vehicular operation and driving while under the influence, as speed and alcohol appeared to be contributing factors to the accident.




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Correction

In the *Timberjay's* July 28 report about the Cook Fire Department merging with the Evergreen Fire Department, it was reported, based on information presented at a special Cook City Council meeting, that the minimum size for a volunteer fire department according to state regulations is 12 members.

In fact, regulations do not establish a minimum size for volunteer departments. According to State Fire Marshall Public Information Officer Amber Schindeldecker, the only reference to department size

is found on the application for state aid. Departments must have a minimum of 10 members to qualify for such aid.

"There are no other requirements or state regulations for volunteer fire departments regarding the number of firefighters they need to have on their roster," Schindeldecker said. "There are fire departments that report less than 10 firefighters on their roster to the Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education (MBFTE) annually for reimbursement purposes."



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FESTIVAL FUN

Blueberry/Art Festival another huge hit

Right: The Ely Folk School brought candy-filled blueberry piñatas to the 2023 Blueberry/Art Festival and set up in the bandstand for kids to smash them open. photos by C. Clark



Above: Ely artist Dafne Caruso (on the right) chats with a customer who was browsing her artwork.

Below: Wade Pharr of Pharr Thrown Pottery of Ely gave a pottery demonstration.



Watercolor artist Katie Bromme won the top judges prize in the artist category. photo by T. Trucano



With the line snaking out of the Whiteside Park pavilion all the way out to 7th Ave., the Ely Kiwanis Club did such a brisk business at the Blueberry/Art Festival that they sold out of their popular homemade blueberry pies late Saturday afternoon, though they still had awesome blueberry cheesecake ice cream to sell.

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NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES

Chosa takes part in international competition

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

NETT LAKE- Last winter, freshman Brynn Chosa was a spark plug for the North Woods Grizzlies girls basketball team, coming off the bench to drain key three-pointers, push the ball up the court, and add extra defensive intensity.

Last week, Chosa took her talents to the internation-

al stage at the 2023 North American Indigenous Games in Nova Scotia, the premier event showcasing young Native sporting talent from over 750 Indigenous nations across Turtle Island (North America).

Held every four years, NAIG attracts over 5,000 athletes, coaches, and team staff competing in 16 different sports in a festive celebration of both sporting ability and

Indigenous cultures.

Chosa was selected as a member of the 16 and under girls basketball squad for Team Mni-sota, and was the only Bois Forte Band representative in the state contingent of teams and athletes. She competed against other girls from around the state in tryouts last spring at Cass Lake, and was chosen by Head Coach Corey Littlewolf, who was somewhat familiar

Right: Brynn Chosa drives against a British Columbia player in the North American Indigenous Games bronze medal game.

with Chosa's basketball skills already through her participation on a Deer River AAU team, said her father, Brent

See CHOSA...pg. 2B



BREITUNG

Soudan inn has needed permit

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SLOUDAN- The Breitung Town Board is asking St. Louis County planning officials whether the Vermilion Park Inn has a conditional use permit, as appears to be required by current zoning regulations. The board discussed the issue at its July 27 meeting after a prospective buyer of the facility, Cathy Cerra-Harvieux, suggested that the facility may be operating without a conditional use permit.

Yet the *Timberjay* has confirmed that the inn does have a conditional use permit to operate as a commercial lodging facility. That's according to Mark Lindhorst, senior planner with the St. Louis County Planning Department. Lindhorst said the CUP was initially issued to Marian Zaudtke, who owned the facility prior to the current owners. According to Lindhorst, the CUP remains with the property as long as the use remains consistent with the permit.

At a meeting held at Vermilion Park Inn on July 9, Cathy Cerra-Harvieux, who hopes to buy the inn and convert it to a residential sober house, told the audience that Vermilion Park Inn did not have a current conditional use permit to operate as a bed and breakfast. Breitung Board Chair Tim Tomsich said that Cerra-Harvieux argued that because the Vermilion Park Inn did not have a conditional use permit, she was not required to have one either.

The board passed a motion to send a letter to the county's planning and zoning department to ask them to look into the issue. Zoning issues in Breitung Township, including Soudan, are overseen by St. Louis County.

Police report

Police Chief Dan Reing reported 162 service calls in June. The department made two arrests including for a DWI for an adult female where the suspect refused to test and an adult male who was arrested for domestic assault. Eight citations were given, including one for driving without a seatbelt, two for driving after revocation, one for driving after cancellation, and three for speed (66, 70,

See BREITUNG...pg. 2B



NORTH STAR STAMPEDE

THE COWBOY WAY

Riding and roping skills tested in Effie



Top: The cowboy grand entry parade at the North Star Stampede on Sunday in Effie.

Above left: Maija Peterson, of Embarrass, takes part in the barrel races.

Above: A brave young rider falls under the flailing hooves of a massive bull.

Left: Taya Weitalla, of Embarrass looks determined as she takes part in the barrel races.

EVENTS

Voyageurs to host Dark Sky party Aug. 10-12

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK- A three-day extravaganza highlighting the wonders of the heavens above is coming to Voyageurs National Park Aug. 10-12 with the third annual summer Star Party, sponsored by the National Park Service and Voyageurs Conservancy and other partners.

In December 2020, Voyageurs National Park became officially certified as an International Dark Sky Park. This certification from the International Dark Sky Association recognizes Voyageurs for the exceptional quality of its dark skies and its ongoing commitment to preserving darkness and educating the public about the night sky.

This three-day Star Party celebration featuring special speakers, telescope viewing sessions, guided constellation tours, ranger programs, and more will support the continued protection and enjoyment of the park's incredible night skies.

The activities kick off on Thursday, Aug. 10, with a family-friendly Stars and Space Storytime from 2-3:30 p.m. at the International Falls Library. Author Polly Carlson-Voiles and illustrator Consie Powell, both of Ely, will conduct a special storytime about their new book, "Star Party."

See DARK SKIES...pg. 2B



Festival of Skalds coming Aug. 12-13

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

ANGORA- It's time to polish your crowns and daggers, dust off your capes and wings. The Festival of Skalds is coming Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 12-13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Festival of Skalds is a weekend of Old Norse-themed merriment, complete with primitive archery, axe throwing, Viking food and games mixed with fantasy elements like mermaids and fairies. The festival celebrates the skalds who were the keepers of Viking history and great story tellers of their people.

The festival grounds are located at 8182 Carpenter Rd., in Angora. The entrance fee is a \$5 per person over the age of 13, children 12 and under cost \$1 or may enter free with the donation of a canned food item, which are donated to the

See FESTIVAL...pg. 2B

CHOSA..Continued from page 1B

Chosa. Brynn didn't hit the court cold in Nova Scotia. She hasn't skipped a beat with either basketball or volleyball this summer. According to Brent, she's been playing with a Minnesota North AAU hoops team, including a trip to Orlando last month for a national tournament. "She's been on the go all summer," Brent said. "The weekend before this I took her down to Minneapolis to a University of Minnesota volleyball camp. I don't even know how she finds all her energy." Brent coordinates all the scheduling and traveling with Brynn's mother, Amanda Goggeye, who made the trip to Nova Scotia with her, along with grandparents Turk and Jeneal Goggeye and Brynn's six-year-old brother Jarvis. And for those who pay attention to North Woods basketball, the name Goggeye holds significance that's rubbed off on Brynn. "Athletics is in the

family," Brent said. "You've got Cade Goggeye, that's her first cousin, and Robbie's her uncle. There's Darnell and Darius, the ones who went to state, they were all who she was watching and growing up with playing basketball. Plus, with me and her uncle she was constantly around sports, so she's a little tomboy." The family raised money for Brynn's participation by hosting a wild rice hot dish fundraiser. A basketball tournament was in the works, but Brent said the dinner was successful enough along with what family pitched in to cover the costs. Just like the Olympic Games, the NAIG kicked off with an opening ceremony, Panta'tumkl mita'mkl, on July 16, an event that showcased the Host Nation of Mi'kma'ki and the 5,000 plus who participated in the games. "We went to the opening ceremony, and it was amazing," Amanda said. "There weren't very

many United States teams, but there were teams from throughout Canada. They all walked down the street and into the building (Scotiabank Centre arena). It was the coolest thing ever." The NAIG has a dual focus of celebrating Indigenous athletes and also celebrating Indigenous culture, and toward that end a cultural village was set up in Halifax Commons with cultural demonstrations, vendors, and Indigenous performers that operated most of the week until record rainfall on Friday and Saturday forced it to shut down. Closing ceremonies scheduled to take place in Halifax Commons were also canceled. "In the cultural village they had a bunch of different shops with people selling beadwork and stuff to make ribbon skirts, and they had different performers performing at certain times of the day," Amanda said. "I don't really know how to explain it, but it was just a really cool experience, and

I'm glad Brynn got to go." When it came to competition, Brynn's team mostly had to find their rhythm and cohesiveness in the heat of battle. Unlike many of their opponents, they had only limited opportunities to practice together ahead of the games. "We had two practices in Cass Lake and one in Canada before our first game," Brynn said, and she knew the competition would be stiff. "Our coach told us it was going to be fast paced. We had only six girls and all the teams we played had full rosters." That lack of depth became even more challenging when one of Brynn's teammates got injured, forcing them to play with only five against teams with depth that could substitute freely and often. Nonetheless, Team Mni-sota got off to an encouraging start, defeating Saskatchewan in their opener 50-41, with Chosa tossing down 14 points. The team picked up a second

win in a dominant 66-28 romp over Nova Scotia. Chosa connected on a pair of treys for six points in that one. Chosa led Team Mni-sota with 19 points in a 62-27 quarterfinals victory over Eastern Door and the North, their third and what would turn out to be last win of the tournament. Team Mni-sota drew Alberta in the semifinals, a tall and talented team with twice the number of players, and Alberta breezed to a 73-36 win. Chosa's squad squared off against British Columbia in the bronze medal game but came up short, 75-49. Chosa had another good scoring effort in the finale, dropping in 14. While Chosa admitted she likes to score, with her team shorthanded she took on the role of point guard rather than scoring guard, concentrating on distributing the basketball to try to make things happen. "I think they really surprised a lot of people," Amanda said. "All those

other teams were bigger and they had more girls. If they would have had a couple more girls where they could have sat for a few minutes during each game they probably would have had a chance to win more." And as for her daughter's performance? "She really enjoyed it," Amanda said. "She likes to score, obviously, because everybody does. But she likes to see her teammates scoring and likes helping them score. I'm just really glad she got to go and experience it because it's kind of like a once in a lifetime opportunity. It was cool to see how many Native athletes there were." With a competitive age range of 13 to 19 years old, Brynn could possibly qualify to return to the next NAIG in 2027 with the 19 and under team, when she will be 19.

BREITUNG..Continued from page 1B

72 mph in a 50 mph zone.) Reing said there were 22 more calls during June than last year. Reing also warned of fraudulent calls. He said criminals have been calling and posing as police officers or other law enforcement staff and demanding money. He said police would not do that and if you do have legal fees to pay the courthouse is where you pay them. If a caller asks you to pay at ATMs

to third party services that is a red flag, warning you that this is not a legitimate call. If you suspect fraud call 911. In other news, the board: > Accepted a propane bid from Edwards Oil for \$1.345/gallon for a three-year term. The only other bid was \$1.565/gal from Lakes Gas. > Heard that the McKinley Park Campground build-

ing needs a new roof. Maintenance director Tom Gorsma is getting quotes for replacement. The roof was installed when the building was erected in 1994. > Heard that the wastewater board's project to add an additional wastewater pond is included in a House bonding bill for \$1 million. > Heard that 3 Jasper St. has been cleaned up and that the residents removed the refrigerator on their

own. Chief Reing said that there were still "excessive materials in the yard" but the materials had been covered and were much better, though he still considers it an "ongoing issue." Reing said that the other blight warnings that had been sent out similarly returned positive results and only one house on Poplar St. is still an issue. > Heard that the township did not receive grant funding for improvements

to the skating rink and park area from the DNR Outdoor Recreation grant program. > Passed resolutions to accept donations, first from the Tower-Soudan Agency for \$50 to support the Breitung Community Picnic and second from the Dan and Jim Hill families an amount of \$862.62 for the purchase of a bench with a plaque in honor of their parents James (Pete) and Donna Hill. > Passed a motion to

write a letter to the city of Tower in support of the city purchasing the county maintenance buildings on Marina Drive. > Passed a motion to pay \$52,305.79 to Jola and Sopp Excavating of Eveleth for forced main improvements. > Approved a purchase of \$1,984.55 for three ceiling fans in the township maintenance garage. Two of three existing fans are out of order.

FESTIVAL..Continued from page 1B

Cook Area Food Pantry. No alcohol is allowed at the event. Bladed weapons are allowed but must remain sheathed and peace-tied for the duration of the event. Festival attendees may come dressed up as themselves or in costume. Visitors will find many items for sale at the festival, including

weapons like handmade long bows, swords, knives, axes and spears, blacksmith tools and survival gear, as well as a wide variety of art and various goods, from leather-made products to herbs, candles, and willow baskets. And where else will you find things like nalebinded (Viking knitted) hats, mittens and

pouches or novelties like dragon eggs? There's great food and the entertainment includes primitive archery, axe throwing, Mustafa Ali the mystic, musician and poet, Dans Askina the Turkish dance ensemble. Dragon hunting classes will also be offered. The festival is kid-focused with activities ranging

from face painting, treasure hunting, quests, and the chance to win a variety of prizes. At admissions the children will receive a piece of twine. While the children are enjoying the festival they may inquire at the many vendors' tents to receive a bead. Once their twine is full of beads they may receive an award from

the fairy empress and take part in her ceremony. Volunteers are still needed for pre-event set up and during the event to help direct parking, admissions, and keeping the festival grounds tidy. If anyone would like to lend a golf cart for the weekend to transport disabled guests from the parking lot to the

festival grounds it would be greatly appreciated. For more information on volunteering contact Jacinda at 608-247-8704. The Festival of Skalds would also like to give thanks to their 2023 sponsors, the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club and St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Angola.

DARK SKIES..Continued from page 1B

During the event you can purchase their new illustrated childrens book and also pick up a free National Park Service Junior Ranger Night Explorer book and a Bell Museum scavenger hunt to begin your own dark sky adventures. The activity will shift to Ranier Community Hall at 5 p.m. for an hour-long presentation titled "Light Pollution Challenges and Solutions, and the Economic Opportunities of Astro-tourism." Join Dark Sky Delegate and Starry Skies North chapter president Todd Burlet as he explores light pollution and the economic opportunities it creates for still-dark locales. Learn about the sources of light pollution, the impact it has on human health and wellness, as well as the health of our plants, animals, and waters. Learn about simple things you can do as individuals, families, and communities to reduce light pollution while still enjoying quality outdoor lighting. Learn more about the economic opportunities of astro-tourism and how to tap into this growing market. Special speakers, including "Astro Bob", will offer stories and information and lead activities to inspire with the galaxies, planets, and stars above our heads. Once the park goes dark, attendees will enjoy guided telescope sessions and constellation tours. The speakers and activities are set for Friday, Aug. 11 at the Rainy Lake Visitor

Center and Saturday, Aug. 12, at the Lake Kabetogama Visitor Center. The activity schedule will be the same for both locations, and will include: > 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.: view solar scopes and ask astronomy questions as you explore the sky by day with "Astro Bob" King and Voyageurs Conservancy's Dark Sky Expert Educator Jesse Gates. > 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.: enjoy two showings of the film "Northern Nights, Starry Skies" inside the visitor centers. Co-produced with Hamline University Center for Global Environmental Education, this is a film experience that will transform your appreciation of the North Country's spectacular starry skies. Ojibwe and Dakota cultural astronomers, and other experts share the wonders of the heavens. > 7-9 p.m.: National Park Service Ranger-led programs including talks about the solar system and aurora borealis, as well as story time around the campfire with s'mores and opportunities to get on the water via canoe. > 7-11 p.m.: enjoy an evening paddle in the 10-person Canoe mobile provided by Wilderness Inquiry. No prior paddling experience is required. Personal flotation devices will be provided for all ages. > 9 p.m.: discover the night with astronomer and planetarium educator

"Astro" Bob King. Learn about August's celestial events and what makes Voyageurs National Park's dark skies so spectacular. > 10 p.m. - 12 a.m.: enjoy telescope sessions and constellation tours under Voyageurs' star-studded skies. Join "Astro Bob", Park Rangers, Voyageurs

Conservancy, and Starry Skies North to put your new night-watching skills to the test. View Jupiter and Saturn through a telescope, enjoy constellation tours over the park, learn about astro-photography, take an opportunity to view other galaxies through our new high-powered 18"

Observation Telescope. All are welcome to attend this event at Voyageurs National Park. There are no reservations required to attend the Star Party. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own supplies to this event. Seating is not provided so bring a camp chair or

blanket. Wear layers, bring water, pack bug spray, and keep in mind parking is limited. Eat dinner before you arrive or pack a picnic (and plan to pack your trash out with you). Be prepared to wait in line to park or walk a short distance from overflow parking.



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COUNTY SCHOOLS

ISD 2142 board gets ready for the new school year

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- The ISD 2142 school board took care of a number of personnel and operational items at their July 25 regular business meeting in preparation for the upcoming 2023-24 school year.

The district realized some savings from a hard line the board took at June's regular meeting regarding propane fuel bids from Ferrellgas. The board objected to the price quotes for propane at Cherry and Tower-Soudan schools, where Ferrellgas owns the tanks and therefore holds the right to service them. The bids submitted by Ferrellgas in June, \$1.13/gallon for Cherry and \$1.699/gallon for Tower-Soudan, were significantly higher than the bids of \$1.035 and \$1.009

submitted by Superior Fuel for South Ridge, North Woods, and Northeast Range. Board members elected not to approve the bids from Ferrellgas at that time and indicated they wanted to look into installing their own propane tanks in order to obtain more competitive bids.

At Tuesday's meeting, Ferrellgas came back with bids of \$1.08 for both locations, five cents a gallon cheaper for Cherry and almost 62 cents a gallon cheaper for Tower-Soudan. The board responded favorably to the adjustments by approving the bids.

Board members were presented with proposed changes to two dozen district policies, almost all of which were minor ones necessary to bring the policies in line with new laws passed by the Minnesota Legislature this past spring. Unlike new policies that

require multiple readings at multiple meetings to pass, the board had the authority to approve all revisions to existing policies at Tuesday's meeting.

- In other business, the board:
 - Approved a professional service contract with Range Mental Health Center to provide children's mental health services throughout the district. The contract establishes rates payable for specific kinds of mental health services, with the total paid over the duration of the one-year contract to be determined by the amount of services deemed necessary to provide for student needs.
 - Approved a memorandum of understanding for the bus drivers contract stipulating that assignments for time made up for lost duty days will be determined by the transportation director.
 - Approved the official 2023-24 school calendar.

- Approved the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance report.
- Hired Jessica Gillson for a 0.3 Special Education assignment at Tower-Soudan, which creates a full-time equivalent teacher position.
- Hired Jennifer Fredrickson as a 0.8 equivalent long-term special education substitute at Tower Soudan.
- Hired Dawn Merrill as a full-time language arts teacher at Northeast Range.
- Hired Rebecca Bundy as full-time site I secretary at North Woods.
- Hired Denise Balbach as a 37.5 hour per week nutrition employee at Tower-Soudan.
- Hired Lara Poderzay as assistant volleyball coach at Northeast Range.
- Hired Charissa Dahl as part-time community education coordinator at Tower-Soudan.

- Accepted resignations from North Woods preschool teaching assistant Rebecca Smith, NER library assistant Dawn Merrill, NER paraprofessional Paul Zollinger, North Woods Health/PE teacher Joshua Walls, and Tower-Soudan special education teacher Tim Herring.
- Noted the transfer of North Woods custodian Jessica Plassmeyer to Northeast Range.
- Terminated Northeast Range paraprofessionals Jon Evridge and Jacara Brown for failure to obtain a passing result on the ParaPro Assessment in the time required by their terms of employment.
- Recognized newly tenured teachers David Trandahl, North Woods special education, and Kristine Sorgenfrei, Tower-Soudan elementary.

Obituaries and Death Notices



James A. Planton
James Anthony "Jim" Planton, 76, of Soudan, died on Saturday, July 22, 2023, in his home surrounded by his family. A Memorial Mass was

held on Wednesday, Aug. 2 at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower with Reverend Father Beau Braun as celebrant. Memorials may be directed to Contented Critters, PO Box 444, Forbes, MN 55738. Family services were provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.
Jim was born on Sept. 27, 1946, in Virginia, the son of Anthony and Rose (Mertel) Planton. He attended Tower-Soudan High School, Mesaabi Community College, and received his Bachelor of Science Degree from

Bemidji State University. Jim married Rebecca Suihkonen on Aug. 7, 1976, in Tower. He was employed as an elementary school teacher in the St. Paul area and returned to the Range in 1978. He was employed by Minntac, LTV Steel, and Inland prior to his retirement in 2006. Jim was a member of St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower, and was an animal lover for all his pets. He was a huge NASCAR fan, collected car models, loved his 1966 Chevy SS Convertible, and cherished "lake life".
Jim is survived by his wife, Becky; cousins; ex-

tended family and friends; and his canine companion, Luna.
He was preceded in death by his parents; and sister, Jane Planton.
Dr. Valerie Wright
Dr. Valerie Lindbeck Wright, 54, originally of Ely, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, July 21, 2023, in Virginia. A celebration of life was held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Virginia on Saturday, July 29. Arrangements were with Range Funeral Home of Virginia.
She is survived by her mother, Carol Lesar Lindbeck; husband, Garland "Mick" Wright; daughter, Carlie (Chris) Schneider; other family and friends.

Leon, 88, originally of Ely, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 22, 2023, in Virginia. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, July 31 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Virginia. Interment was at Calvary Cemetery in Virginia.
She is survived by her loving nieces, Joan Burnett and Mary (Leon) Hilpisch; and nephews, John Burnett, Joe Leon, Ted Leon, Larry Leon and Matt Leon.
Atrina Koski
Atrina Koski, 77, of Embarrass, died on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at her home. Funeral arrangements are pending with Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Aurora.

Carole Niska
Carole Niska, 82, passed away on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, in the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.
Patricia Fello
Patricia Fello, 68, died on Sunday, July 30, 2023, in the Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely. Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.
Carl S. Schultz
Carl Selby Schultz, 79, of Angora, died on Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023, at the Cook Hospital in Cook. Arrangements are pending with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.



CONCERT FUNDRAISER





"The Blue Water Big Band" Cook Community Center
Friday, August 11 • 5 to 9 PM On Gopher Drive
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

The WC Heiam Foundation in Cook is announcing their....



ANNUAL Fundraiser Event

Saturday, August 12

The event will be at the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade Hall. All are welcome to attend for a fabulous evening of music, dinner (catered by Boomtown), libations and silent / live auctions. Please visit their website (Heiamfoundation.org) or (heiam.cbo.io) for more information and to purchase tickets.

This is a fabulous event to help support the Heiam'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.* To date the WC Heiam Foundation has given over \$800,000 to support the Cook Hospital. During their recent 2023 Spring Fund Drive, two new defibrillators were purchased with a total cost of \$28,215.

The Heiam Foundation would like to thank board member and executive secretary, Tiffany Briggs, for her hard work and dedication to helping run the successful day-to-day operations of the Foundation for the past 10 years. Tiffany, a life-long resident of Cook and teacher at Northwoods School, is now moving with her family to Rustburg, Virginia. We would like to wish her the best of luck in this next chapter in her life. She will be greatly missed by the Foundation and the Cook community as a whole.

The WC Heiam Medical Foundation would also like to announce Tiffany's replacement, Cook resident - Jessica Murray, to the board and secretarial position. Jessica has resided in Angora for the past 3 years along with her husband, Andrew, who own and operate Vermilion Design and Build. They also enjoy working on their farm with their 3 children. Jessica absolutely loves living here and is excited to be a part of the WC Heiam Foundation, giving our local community peace of mind that we have the medical services we need.

We are very pleased to announce the addition of two new board members; Vikki McKinney and Glenette Winter.

Vikki was born, raised and educated in Duluth before embarking upon her 30-year banking career during which she met her husband, David. David and his family have been coming up to Lake Vermilion since 1959 and David and Vikki are blessed to continue that legacy on Lake Vermilion with their family. The McKinney's have been enthusiastic supporters of the Heiam Foundation and deeply appreciate the outstanding medical staff and equipment that the Cook Hospital provides. Vikki notes that having a hospital of this caliber in a small community is the result of hard work by many to achieve this level of excellence. Vikki looks forward to rolling up her sleeves to support the mission of the WC Heiam Foundation.

Glenette Winter, a native Texan and Californian resident, is a summertime Minnesotan enjoying lake life and the tranquility it offers. In 1988 Glenette and her husband, Doug, met at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. Glenette was attending nursing school while Doug was completing his residency for anesthesia. Glenette and her family have been visiting Lake Vermilion since 1998. Her children always chose Lake Vermilion over other vacation options and have made many memories on the beach of Muskego Point Resort. After retiring in 2020, Glenette and Doug purchased a home on Lake Vermilion and Glenette was introduced to the Heiam Foundation. Wanting to contribute to the community in a meaningful way and knowing the ongoing need for continued quality healthcare, Glenette felt as though she could contribute by joining the board. Her medical background is an asset to the foundation and her desire to be active in the community and a small part of the Heiam legacy is a plus.

We hope to see you at the event!




August 15, 2023, at 4:00 pm - Marathon Prep Class

Join EBCH Physical Therapist Toni Dauwalter for an informational session for runners preparing for the upcoming Ely Marathon. This session includes education on self-management of common running overuse injuries, insight into training errors and training modifications, footwear selection, and the opportunity to have a quick running analysis on our treadmill. This session is **FREE** and open to the public.

Use EBCH Entrance #7 to enter the Therapy Department.

To learn more, contact the EBCH Therapy Department at 218-365-8755.



328 W. Conan St.
Ely, MN 55731
218-365-3271



Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

2023 DEER SEASON

Fewer doe permits in NE this fall

Deer population struggling after another winter of deep, dense snowcover

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—More hunters in northeastern Minnesota will be limited to bucks-only this year than at any time in the past several years. Last winter’s tough conditions, with extended deep and dense snow cover, took a toll on the deer herd in much of the region and that’s translating into fewer antlerless

permits virtually across the board.

Deer licenses for this fall’s hunt are now for sale through licensed vendors or online through the DNR. Hunters hoping to receive an antlerless permit will need to purchase their license by Thursday, Sept. 7 in order to be entered in the lottery.

Hunters in much of northern St. Louis and Lake counties won’t need to apply, since they’ll be limited to bucks-only during the 2023 regular firearms deer season. That includes

hunters in Permit Areas 119, 118, 130, and 132.

While other permit areas in the region will offer at least a few antlerless tags for this fall’s hunt, the numbers will be down significantly from prior years. In PA 177, which extends from the Lake Vermilion area to west of Cook, the DNR will issue just 400 antlerless tags, half the number it issued last year. In

See DEER SEASON...pg. 5B

Right: A mid-summer buck with a nice rack still developing. Hunters in most of the region will need to see antlers to take a deer this fall.

file photo



WALK WITH A NATURALIST

WHAT’S IN A NAME?

When it comes to the “popple,” there’s more than you might expect

What’s in a name? When it comes to the common name, “popple,” it can mean one of three distinct tree species in northern Minnesota.

My parents grew up in northwestern Minnesota so they were well-acquainted with the term popple, since that’s what everyone called these fast-growing trees with the light-colored bark and the leaves that wave in the slightest breeze. I learned that term from my parents until my naturalist days, when I was expected to leave generic, common names behind and be able to identify the individual species we tend to lump together under the term “popple.”



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

So how do you tell the popples apart? It’s pretty easy when you know the distinguishing features of our three common popples, all members of the genus *Populus*: the quaking aspen, the big-toothed aspen, and the balsam poplar.

Of these three, the quaking aspen, *Populus tremuloides* is by far the most common, at least in our portion of northern Minnesota. It’s actually the most widespread tree species in North America, with a range stretching from Newfoundland to westernmost Alaska, encompassing the northern tier of U.S. states and higher elevations in the Rockies as far south as Arizona and New Mexico.

It’s recognized by its relatively smooth, whitish-green bark and by its generally roundish, finely toothed leaf that comes to a fine point. The quaking aspen is often mistaken for paper birch, which is certainly possible from a distance, but up close, the two species are easy to distinguish. Paper birch bark peels off, like paper, while the aspen bark does not.



Top: A stand of quaking aspen, likely all stems from the same clone.

Above, above right and right: quaking aspen leaves, big-toothed aspen leaves, and balsam poplar leaves in that order.

Below: The smooth, greenish-orange bark of the big-toothed aspen.

Below right: The bark of the balsam poplar is typically rougher than the aspens.

photos by M. HelMBERGER



Wildflower Watch

This week’s featured flower
PEARLY EVERLASTING



Yes, we’re now in late summer, which means the **Pearly Everlasting**, *Anaphalis margaritacea*, is in full bloom just about everywhere in our area. This is a distinctive wildflower, with its soft, silvery foliage and its pearl-like flowers in a loose cluster at the top of 12-18” stems.

The flowers always remind me of a fried sunny side— a round white with a yellow yoke in the center.

As its name suggests, these flowers are excellent for use in dried flower arrangements. They can be cut and hung upside down to dry and will maintain their appearance for years.

They’re a member of the Aster family.

Fishing reports

Ely area

How skinny is too skinny for late July walleyes? Best reports this last week were from depths of 3- 10 feet. Seems the skinnier the water, the hotter the fishing. Leeches under a bobber, off your dock or campsite, during the evening hours, has been very effective. Spinner rigs tipped with crawlers and worked on weedlines, near timber, or rocky flats has also been very effective. Gold, orange and perch colors have been popular.

Smallmouth fishing cooled off this last week as a major cool front moved into the area. Topwater remains a popular choice, but the bite cooled off with the weather. Subsurface lures like in-line spinners, spinnerbaits and wacky worms were more effective this last week. Boulder flats, downed trees and current areas/rivers are good places to find active, aggressive smallies. Crayfish, white and bone were popular colors.

Sunnies and crappies have been active and popular with anglers this last week. Look for weedbeds and weedlines to find active sunnies. Anglerworms and wax worms fished under a bobber have been working well. Anglers have been finding crappies in and around downed trees. Anglers have been throwing jig/twister, beetle spins and thumper jigs in that timber to catch those crappies.

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

See POPLARS...pg. 5B

TAKE A KID FISHING

Thirty-inch walleye a hefty highlight of kids fishing event



Take A Kid Fishing participant Cass Nelson hoists the 30-inch walleye he caught after braving the showers that kept most other participants back on shore.

photo and story courtesy Brian K. Anderson

LAKEVERMILION— With rain steadily pelting the lakeside tent at Fortune Bay Resort Casino on a recent Wednesday morning, Phil Bakken announced to the 40-plus kids in attendance that the 2023 Take A Kid Fishing (TAKF) event would not go off as planned.

But some of the kids and assembled guides had other ideas, and one lucky young man, Cass Nelson, who opted to join his guide out on the water came back with a real fish story and the photo to prove it— a 30-inch walleye, the largest ever caught during a TAKF event.

Those who did stay behind had plenty of fun, as well, learning a lot about the sport of fishing, which is the driving force behind the event. They learned how to paint lures, how to tie knots, and information on aquatic invasive species that can wreak havoc on lakes. The kids were also treated to some colorful stories by renowned DNR officer Mike “Cold Front” Kurre, who always volunteers his time with events like this.

Kurre engaged the kids in trivia and handed out prizes to those who got the correct answer to questions like, “When did Lake Vermilion last host the Governor’s Fishing Opener?” The answer, of course, was 2015, and before that, it was 2005.

He also told the kids to

remember why they were here today, and that was to either fish or learn more about fishing if the weather kept them on the shoreline. They weren’t there to play on their smartphones or check social media.

“If you’re out there fishing, have them on vibrate,” said Kurre of the kids’ phones. “We are focusing on the fish—you have to think like a fish. These guides—they think like fish. Some of them even look like fish. That one over there does, his name is Bucky.” Bucky, of course, is Tim Lescarbeau, another longtime guide who was tasked back in 2015 to take out then Governor Mark Dayton for the Governor’s Fishing Opener.

Kurre also stressed that fishing is something kids can do all the time, not just during an annual event like TAKF.

“You know what the key is to fishing and keeping kids interested, besides staying busy and having fun? Doing it MORE THAN ONCE! One-time events like this are great to get the introduction, but it’s up to you to get these kids hooked on fishing—pardon the pun, but that is absolutely the truth!”

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
77 53					77 56					72 54					71 51					69 47				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
07/24	73	55	0.00		07/24	75	51	0.13		07/24	77	52	0.00		07/24	79	48	0.00		07/24	74	50	0.02	
07/25	77	55	0.00		07/25	80	47	0.00		07/25	81	52	0.00		07/25	82	52	0.00		07/25	79	47	0.00	
07/26	81	63	0.31		07/26	85	47	0.00		07/26	84	54	0.60		07/26	88	66	0.01		07/26	85	52	0.00	
07/27	86	54	0.22		07/27	88	64	0.08		07/27	88	63	0.58		07/27	81	61	0.18		07/27	87	64	0.75	
07/28	82	56	0.06		07/28	84	47	0.06		07/28	82	57	0.09		07/28	75	52	0.02		07/28	82	49	0.00	
07/29	77	57	0.00		07/29	80	47	0.00		07/29	80	54	0.00		07/29	72	52	0.00		07/29	79	57	0.00	
07/30	72	52	0.00		07/30	72	40	0.00		07/30	77	49	0.00		07/30	75	46	0.00		07/30	72	40	0.00	
YTD Total	14.48				YTD Total	15.22				YTD Total	10.87				YTD Total	NA				YTD Total	13.67			

DEER SEASON...Continued from page 4B

PA 176, located in central St. Louis County, the DNR is issuing just 25 antlerless permits, a small fraction of the 150 it issued in the zone in 2022. In northwestern St. Louis County, PA 109 will offer 25 antlerless tags, the same number as last year.

PA 117, which lies within the borders of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, will allow hunters to take a deer of either sex, but that’s a reflection of the tiny number of hunters who actually hunt in the wilderness, rather than the deer

population.

“Hunters in most of Minnesota can expect a season similar to last year in terms of how many deer they can harvest,” said Barb Keller, DNR big game program leader. “The lower bag limits in northeast and north-central Minnesota aim to allow deer populations to recover after back-to-back severe winters. Deer are resilient and we are hopeful deer populations there will gradually recover along with lower harvests, especially if we get some mild

winters.”

Deer season dates for 2023

Archery: Saturday, Sept. 16, through Sunday, Dec. 31

Youth and early antlerless: Thursday, Oct. 19, through Sunday, Oct. 22

Regular firearms in Zone 100 (NE MN): Saturday, Nov. 4 through Sunday, Nov. 19.

Muzzleloader: Saturday, Nov. 25, through Sunday, Dec. 10

POPLARS...Continued from page 4B

The quaking aspen got its name because their leaf stem is exceedingly narrow, which makes the leaves flutter in almost any breeze.

It’s a trait that the species shares with its close relative, the big-toothed aspen, *Populus grandidentata*, which has a much more limited range, running from the Canadian Maritimes to Minnesota, centered around the Great Lakes. It’s easy to confuse this species with its more common and widespread cousin, but there are a few good distinguishing characteristics that can help you tell the difference.

The first is the bark, which is more of an orangish-green than the whitish green of the quaking aspen. And as its name suggests, the big-toothed aspen will give itself away if you can get a look at their leaves, which are prominently toothed.

Two other characteristics are worth noting. This tree’s new leaves of spring are very frost sensitive, much like a black ash, so they are among the last of our native trees to leaf out in the spring, often appearing dead right up until June. And when those new leaves do start to develop, they are noticeably silver in color for the first week or two before shifting

to their summer green.

The quaking aspen, by contrast, is one of the earliest trees in the region to leaf out, occasionally popping as early as April in response to an early warm spell.

The third species colloquially dubbed popple in our area is the balsam poplar, or *Populus balsamifera*. This is a tree with other names as well, including Balm of Gilead for its resinous leaves, which have a strong and distinctive scent. Balm of Gilead has been shortened to “Bam” among most foresters and loggers in our region, which just goes to show that the common names of many species are frequently fluid as well as imprecise.

The balsam poplar can be distinguished from other popple in our area by its coarser bark, by its noticeable scent, and by its more pointed leaves that are thicker than its aspen cousins and definitely more resinous.

Balsam poplar generally grows better on damper sites and is not typically found in the drier rocky locations which tend to be favored by big-toothed aspen.

You typically don’t find these three species growing intermixed in a stand— and that’s because the

poplars grow in stands that are generally clones of each other, which are all interconnected through an often-extensive root system that can be hundreds or even thousands of years old and can extend for an acre or more. When you cut an aspen tree, you’re essentially pruning a branch of the original clone, and the organism responds by quickly sending up shoots to replace it.

As you spend time outdoors in the coming weeks, take a closer look at the “popple” around you and see if you can spot the differences I’ve mentioned here. And with autumn soon approaching, you can use the changes in leaf color to help distinguish these species. The quaking aspen is famous for its distinctly golden leaves, which hit their peak in the first week of October. The big-toothed aspen are more variable, ranging in color from gold to peach to red.

If you enjoy fall color, the balsam poplar will be a disappointment. Their leaves often drop early having turned brown with, at best, a hint of yellow.

CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

CLEAN

- Boats, trailers, and gear
- Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, nets, and gear before leaving boat landing

DRAIN

- Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well
- 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

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EMPLOYMENT

Project Manager

Closes: 08/18/2023

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

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



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, but don't yet have a teaching license, please apply!

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



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 PFR retirement, Health and Dental coverage, Life and LTD.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Breath fresheners
6 Jazzy style
9 Monk's title
12 Pub perch
13 Greek H
14 Yank's foe
15 Very beginning
16 Difficult
18 Imam's place
20 Conks out
21 Fluffy scarf
23 Drone
24 Leans
25 Has
27 Monastery
29 Past
31 Restitution
35 Travel papers
37 Nickelodeon's "Explorer"
38 Tack on
41 Dogpatch adjective
43 Recipe abbr.
44 Adhesive
45 Roman orator
47 "That's a lie!"
49 Jets and Sharks
52 Swelled head
53 Samovar
54 Full-length
55 Tax form ID
56 Mag. staff

11x11 crossword grid with numbers and black squares.

- 57 Devoutness
8 Bit of butter
9 Delicate
10 Stopwatch button
11 Void
17 Redacted
19 Campus areas
21 Short 'do
22 Have debts
24 Male turkey
26 Part of USSR
28 No-frills
30 Kibosh
32 Never
33 Hosp. work-ers
34 Enervate
36 Extraterrestrials
38 De Mille of dance
39 Whips
40 Japanese bedroll
42 Advantage
45 It gets in the whey
46 Hindu royal
48 Regret
50 Belly
51 Farm pen

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PUBLIC NOTICE

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP REQUEST FOR SEALED QUOTES FOR SNOW REMOVAL AT GREENWOOD TOWN HALL COMPLEX - 2023-2025 SEASON

The Greenwood Township Board is accepting sealed quotes for the snow removal at the Town Hall 2023-2025 season.

The contractor must provide a certificate of insurance as to general liability insurance coverage. Successful quotes must carry vehicle and general liability insurance for no less than \$1,000,000.00 for personal injury and property damage.

Sealed quotes are to be sent or delivered by Sept. 30, 2023 to JoAnn Bassing, Greenwood Township Clerk at 3000 Hwy 77, Tower MN 55790.

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 4, 2023

Environmental Services Worker I/II (County-Wide) \$17.33 - \$21.98 Hourly Apply by 08/09/23

www.stlouiscountymn.gov or call 218-726-2422

Building Maintenance Worker - NERCC \$21.92-\$27.11 Hourly Apply by 08/16/2023

www.stlouiscountymn.gov or call 218-726-2422

PUBLIC NOTICE

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP REQUEST FOR SEALED QUOTES FOR PROPANE AT GREENWOOD TOWN HALL COMPLEX - 2023-2024 SEASON

The Greenwood Township Board is accepting sealed quotes for propane at the Town Hall, 3000 Hwy 77, Tower MN 55790, for the 2023-2024 season.

Sealed quotes are to be sent or delivered by Sept. 30, 2023 to JoAnn Bassing, Greenwood Township Clerk at 3000 Hwy 77, Tower MN 55790.

The township reserves the right to reject any or all quotes, to waive any irregularities and to accept any quote deemed most advantageous to the Township.

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 4, 2023

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP SEEKING CLEANING SERVICE/ CLEANING PERSON

Greenwood Township is seeking a part time cleaning service/cleaning person for Greenwood Town Hall, 3000 Hwy 77, Tower, MN 55790.

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 4, 2023

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP REQUEST FOR SEALED QUOTES FOR TREE REMOVAL AT GREENWOOD TOWN HALL COMPLEX

The Greenwood Township Board is accepting sealed quotes for the removal of the marked trees at the Town Hall, 3000 Hwy 77, Tower MN 55790.

The contractor must provide a certificate of insurance as to general liability insurance coverage. Successful quotes must carry vehicle and general liability insurance for no less than \$1,000,000.00 for personal injury and property damage.

Sealed quotes are to be sent or delivered by Aug. 7, 2023 to JoAnn Bassing, Greenwood Township Clerk at 3000 Hwy 77, Tower MN 55790.

The township reserves the right to reject any or all quotes, to waive any irregularities and to accept any quote deemed most advantageous to the Township.

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Super Crossword

Answers

Answers grid for Super Crossword: STAYEDBACK, TAKEAWARDS, STEWS, PAGETURNER, TEXT, ARNIE, FRESHPAIROFEYES, TIDIED, etc.

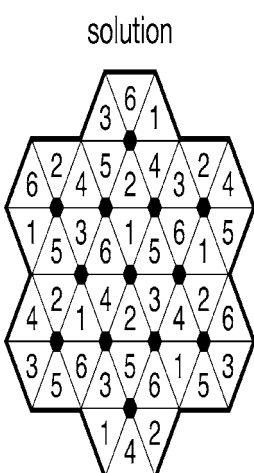
CryptoQuip answer

Why do most cartoon and picture captions seem to be insured? Because they are underwritten.

CryptoQuote answer

The two agencies that redistribute great fortunes are taxation and offspring. - Source Unknown

SNOWFLAKES solution



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9.

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

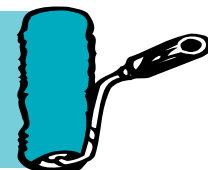
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

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

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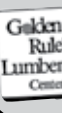


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