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The **TIMBERJAY**



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LAKE VERMILION

Unpermitted campground prompts complaint

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook/Orr Editor

LAKE VERMILION- A proposed Black Bay campground to serve disabled veterans that was denied a rezoning request for the business in May has opened for business anyway, sparking a complaint to the county Planning Commission.

At a May 11 Planning Commission meeting,

Rough-N-It, a Britt non-profit organized by Christine Wyrobek, sought to have the 44.8-acre water-access-only site and two .32-acre mainland lots to be used for parking rezoned from residential to shoreland multiple use to accommodate the campground. A commercial planned development such as the proposed Rough-N-It campground is not an allowed use in areas zoned

for residential use.

The rezoning request was rejected on a 7-1 vote, but that apparently didn't stop Wyrobek from moving ahead with development of the campground. In an Aug. 17 post to the Rough-N-It Facebook page, Wyrobek declared the campground open for business.

"We are excited to offer an introductory glamping experience in Superior

Right: The twin peninsulas at the entrance to Black Bay on Lake Vermilion are the site of a new campground that appears to lack county approval.

National Forest and on the doorstep of the Boundary Waters on beautiful Lake Vermilion, Cook Minnesota.

See...**CAMP** pg. 9



EMBARRASS REGION FAIR

FAMILY FAIR FUN



Best turnout in years at Embarrass's big event

by **JODI SUMMIT**
Tower-Soudan Editor

EMBARRASS- A lot of things have changed in Embarrass over the last 84 years, but one thing that has remained the same is the Embarrass Region Fair. And this year, thanks to a rather energetic group of fair organizers, the fair was bigger and

Top: Puppeteer Tricia Haynes leads Amara Timmerman and Izzy Royer in the Hokey Pokey.

Above right: Emerson Mirau enjoys lo mein at the fair.

Right: Runners take part in the Flying Finn 5K.



See...**FAIR** pg. 10

ELY AMBULANCE JPB

Ely hospital commissions ambulance service study

Hospital agrees to fund some ambulance hall costs

by **CATIE CLARK**
Ely Editor

ELY- Patti Banks, CEO of the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital told the Ely Area Ambulance Joint Powers Board on Tuesday that the hospital is funding a \$70,000 study that hospital officials hope will provide options for successfully operating the struggling ambulance service.

She also informed the joint powers board that the hospital would be contributing to cover the operating costs of the ambulance service facility, purchased by the joint powers board last year.

The ambulance study is tasked with answering "how to set up an ambulance service for success," and it will look beyond Ely for that answer, potentially encompassing other area services in northern St. Louis and Lake counties. "I will be meeting with some of those entities (like Tower, Babbitt, Eagle's Nest, etc.) on Sept. 12," said Banks.

Banks stated that EBCH felt things had changed a great deal since the JPB was set up and that potential solutions have to involve more than additional funding from area communities. "We have to dig further than just money and funding. And we know, we all know how quick the Legislature moves, so we have

See...**AMBULANCE** pg. 10

TRANSITIONS

Mark Phillips, former IRRR commissioner dies at 73

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Mark Phillips, who retired in December after serving eight years as commissioner of the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, died at home on Wednesday,

Aug. 23, after a six-year-long battle with cancer.

Phillips, who was 73, was born in Eveleth and remained fiercely loyal to the Iron Range throughout his career. He worked in the private sector, both for Minnesota Power and Kraus-Anderson, but made his biggest mark in the

public sector, working initially as commissioner of the Department of Employment and Economic Development and later as IRRR commissioner.

While every IRRR commissioner puts their stamp on the state agency, Phillips, whose eight-years at the

Right: Mark Phillips at his home on Lake Vermilion. Phillips died last week after a six-year-long battle with cancer.

agency's helm was tied for the longest tenure of any commissioner in the IRRR's 80-year

See... **PHILLIPS** pg. 9



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Community notices

Ladies of Kaleva to meet on Monday, Sept. 11 in Virginia

VIRGINIA- Lokka Tupa #1, Ladies of Kaleva, will meet at noon on Monday, Sept. 11 at Kaleva Hall in Virginia.

Finnish Immigration is topic for Sept. 5 meeting of Finnish Americans and Friends

HIBBING - Noted genealogist Mary Lukkari-la will present a program on Finnish immigration patterns Tuesday, Sept. 5 at 2 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 4010 9th Avenue W. in Hibbing.

Coffee and are part of the event; everyone is invited.

Veterans on the Lake Resort to host 40-year anniversary event Sept. 9

ELY - Veterans on the Lake Resort is offering live music and more Saturday, Sept. 9 in celebration of their 40th anniversary. The day's events run from 2-7 p.m. and include POW/MIA hot air balloon rides, food and performances by Hank Thunander at 5 p.m., Pat & Donna Surface at 6 p.m., and the Minnesota Army National Guard Boots and Bass Band taking the stage at 7 p.m. This event is free and open to the public with a freewill donation suggested for music.

Sisu Heritage to host concert of celebration Saturday, Sept. 2

A community celebration concert will take place at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 2 at the Embarrass Apostolic Lutheran Church. Eli Bissonett and Robin Anders will present a folk music concert, and there will be coffee and goodies served for attendees to enjoy. Cost for the concert is \$8 for Sisu Heritage members and \$10 donation for adults. Children under 12 are free. All proceeds will go to further upkeep of the church. All from the community are invited to come out to help celebrate another Embarrass milestone of historical preservation.

Classic Boat Show set for Sunday

LAKE VERMILION- The 31st Annual Antique and Classic Boat Show on Lake Vermilion will be held on Sunday, Sept. 3, from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at The Landing Restaurant, 3096 Vermilion Dr. in Cook.

The event is being sponsored by the Vermilion Lake Association and the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade.

This show is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to come see the docks full of beautiful wooden and antique boats, and chat with the owners. Attendees are all welcome to vote for their favorite boat. Food is available to purchase at The Landing, and there will be live music. Awards will be presented at 4 p.m.

FALL FESTIVAL

Ely's Harvest Moon Festival begins Sept. 8

ELY- The Harvest Moon Festival is just days away. This year's festival will feature 100 booths filled with arts, crafts, and food. The festival runs from Friday, Sept. 8 through Sunday, Sept. 10.

"We have a great line-up of artists and crafters this year. Our featured artist is Larry Ricker of LHR Images. Returning artists include Good Wolf Bowls, Raucous Jewelry, Watercolors by Bonnie, and Pharr Thrown Pottery - just to name a few. We also have a great assortment of new artists including Kristin Webster Art Studio, Finns Way Books, Christian's Maple Syrup, and Burly Babe.

Of course, the Kiwanis are in the Pavilion with their delicious pies, ice cream, and beverages. Becky's Oriental, SB Concessions, Bob-O-Que Smokehouse and Grill are just a few of the returning food court favorites, and joining them are several new food trucks; MeeMa's Coffee, Frozen Tundra, Beyond Nuts, and Nacho Bizness," said Kristen Switajewski, festival coordinator.



"Our fall festival is a favorite with smaller crowds, cooler temperatures, and our amazing group of artists, crafters, and food vendors. We hope everyone will stop by Whiteside Park and enjoy the festivities."

Running in conjunction with the Harvest Moon Festival is Harvest Days featuring area business-

es, highlighting their locally-made products, product lines, special events, and more. Harvest Days start on Thursday, Sept. 7 through Sunday, Sept. 10. A map for Harvest Days will be available starting on Wednesday, Sept. 6 at Ely.org or at the Ely Chamber of Commerce office.

WolfTrack Classic kick-off at Harvest Moon Festival

ELY- Think Snow! Think Sled Dogs! The Ely Chamber of Commerce is kicking off the WolfTrack Classic Sled Dog Race 2024 race season at the Harvest Moon Festival Sept. 8-10.

Look for the WolfTrack Classic booth next to the Ely Chamber of Commerce festival information booth. We have information available on the race and all the events that will be happening in conjunction with the race from now through race weekend Feb. 24-25, 2024,

including on volunteering, sponsorships, and race info.

We will be announcing our Musher Registration and "Dollars for Doggies" online auction. "Dollars for Doggies" is our fund raiser that helps fund our musher purse. Dollars for Doggies runs Oct. 8-16, 2023.

Race weekend, Saturday, Feb. 24, the dog teams roll into town. Everything happens at Minnesota North College Vermilion Campus. Teams will be available for public

viewing in the campus lower parking lot until the musher dinner in the campus dining hall.

Race day is Sunday, Feb. 25, the race starts and finishes at the Ely Softball Complex on Old Airport Road. Two races are scheduled, the six-dog, 30-mile race and the eight-dog, 50-mile race.

Volunteers, spectators, and sponsors are all needed, contact the Ely Chamber for information.

EMBARRASS HERITAGE

Community Night Out set for Sept. 10

EMBARRASS- Sisu Heritage of Embarrass is celebrating their annual Community Night Out on Sunday, Sept. 10 from 4-6:30 p.m. at the historic Seitaniemi Homestead. Big T and the Growlers will provide the music. Get ready for the best era of American rock 'n' roll - cassettes. Come for the free outdoor concert and a tour of the restored house-barn at this family-friendly event.

Chili, pie, and coffee will be available. Bring



Big T and the Growlers will be performing at the Community Night Out event on Sunday, Sept. 10

your own beverage, blanket, and lawn chair. Free-will donations are gladly accepted. Proceeds go to Sisu's restoration projects in Embarrass and the surrounding area.

The Seitaniemi Homestead is located on Comet Road in Waasa, between Embarrass and Babbitt. Watch for signs on Hwy 21. Call 218-984-3012 or visit sisuheritage.org for more information.

COOK

Cook Hospital hosting health fair on Sept. 16

COOK- Now that the pandemic is over the Cook Hospital is pleased to announce the return of our Health Fair, Saturday Sept. 16 from 9 a.m. - 12 noon.

There will be many vendors and informational booths, such as North Memorial Aircare with their helicopter, the Cook Fire Department,

AEOA, and many more.

Prizes include the grand prize of a Traeger grill, second prize is two \$500 gift cards, one for Zup's and one for F&D, and third prize is a \$250 gift card for Zup's.

There will be food, a kids' area with special guest Mrs. Petite USA, music by Eric Pederson, and much

more.

The goal of the health fair is to inform, enlighten and inspire all who attend to make health and wellness a priority in their lives and to provide tools and information needed to get and stay healthy.

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ELY

Ely-Bloomenson voted top Minnesota hospital

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor



the *Timberjay*. The hospital won the gold for best hospital, best medical practice and best physical therapy. To be in the running for the Minnesota Best list, a business or service must first be nominated. The public can then vote for those nominated during April and May. The winners with the most votes received the top ranking of gold. Those with the second and third

highest amounts of votes receive silver and bronze rankings. "We knew we had won another gold," said Martin, "right after the voting." Because of the embargo agreement with the *Star Tribune*, hospital staff spent the summer knowing about the award but couldn't reveal it to anyone. The press embargo was lifted on Aug. 14, when this year's "Minnesota Best 2023" magazine was published by the *Star Tribune*. "We never know who keeps nominating us," said EBCH CEO Patti Banks. Martin added, "We are thankful to our community that keeps voting for us."

Babbitt clerk-treasurer resigns

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

BABBITT- In a move that caught many by surprise, Babbitt's clerk-treasurer, Kathy Vraa, submitted a letter of resignation with 30-days notice. Vraa, who submitted her resignation on Aug. 17, took on the position full-time last May. The Babbitt City Council held a special meeting on Thursday, Aug. 24, where it accepted Vraa's resignation and voted to post for a new clerk-treasurer. At that same meeting, the council also voted down a motion by Mayor

Duane Lossing to form a committee "to look into interim help, job descriptions, and resumés to make recommendation to the council for the best fit replacement and description of duties." The motion failed on a 1-4 vote, with the council members all opposing the mayor. Babbitt has not had an easy time keeping top city officials in recent months, starting with the tragic death of its deputy clerk-treasurer, Debbie Marinaro, in May 2022. At the time, the city's clerk-treasurer, Cathy Hoheisel, was scheduled to

retire over that summer. To address the situation, Vraa was promoted from administrative assistant at city hall to clerk-treasurer, to overlap with Hoheisel's last few months. The city then hired a new administrative assistant and deputy clerk-treasurer. Babbitt also gave Hoheisel a contract to train city hall staff. Hoheisel gave

30-days-notice at the Aug. 15 city council meeting to end that contract. As Hoheisel pointed out in a recent letter to the *New Babbitt Weekly News*, the turnover in the clerk-treasurer positions took the collective experience of Babbitt's city hall staff from 62 years to four years.

News briefs

Ely man dies in Fernberg Road crash

ELY- A 62-year-old Ely man died Thursday, Aug. 24, as a result of a one-vehicle crash on Fernberg Rd., near the intersection of Summer Home Road. The sheriff's department received a call reporting the accident at 7:53 a.m.

The only occupant of the vehicle was Robert Oliva, who died at the scene. The accident is currently under investigation.

Responding to the scene were the Lake County Sheriff's Office, Lake County Highway-Fall Lake, Ely Area Ambulance, and Morse-Fall Lake Fire Department.

Florida man injured in Crane Lake ATV accident

CRANE LAKE- A Florida man was injured Aug. 23 in an ATV accident along Crane Lake Road in Crane Lake.

According to a release from the St. Louis County Sheriff's office, deputies responded to the 7400 block of Crane Lake Road at around 10 p.m. for a reported ATV crash with injuries. The ATV had been found in a ditch by a local resident, with the driver of the ATV, 51-year-old Matthew Thomas Metz, pinned beneath the machine. The resident called 911 and stayed with Metz until First Responders arrived.

Metz was subsequently transported to Cook Hospital by Orr Ambulance due to injuries received from the crash.

The sheriff's office was assisted by Crane Lake area first responders, Orr Ambulance service and Virginia Ambulance service.

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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

GOP and climate change

With the world running out of time, we can no longer afford unserious leaders

Democracy won't be the only existential issue on the presidential ballot come next year. It is clear from last week's GOP debate that the future of a livable planet is very much at stake.

In a summer that has seen unprecedented heat, unprecedented wildfires, and massive flooding, the GOP candidates seeking to challenge former President Donald Trump made it plain that they're committed to keeping their heads in the ever-hotter sand about climate change.

At a time when the world would benefit tremendously from U.S. leadership, the Republican Party appears committed to policies that will only exacerbate climate change by encouraging greater use of polluting fossil fuels.

It didn't use to be this way. Twenty years ago, there was bipartisan agreement on the need for action to address the increasingly extreme climate the world is now facing. But the GOP, buoyed by huge contributions from the oil and gas industry and a party base that seemed more than willing to lap up convenient falsehoods, opted for campaign cash and the perks of power over the rights of future generations to a livable world.

The party's wrong turn only worsened with the rise of Trump, who dismisses the reality of climate change as a Chinese hoax. Yet, it's no hoax that northern Minnesota has seen more air quality alerts in the past five years than in all previous years combined, the result of the rapidly increasing incidence of severe wildfire in the boreal forests of North America. It's no hoax that polar ice is melting at an unprecedented rate in both the Arctic and Antarctica, as are high altitude glaciers around the world. It's no hoax that ocean temperatures off the coast of Florida exceeded 100 degrees this summer, with effects that still aren't known. It's no hoax that cities across the South utterly destroyed previous all-time records for extreme heat this summer, leaving their populations all but trapped indoors for weeks on end. And twenty years from now, this will be considered a pleasantly mild summer without a concerted and sustained effort to address this global threat. We already lost four critical years with the Trump administration. We can't afford another four years of inaction on this critical issue.

Sadly, GOP candidates act as if addressing climate change entails some kind of sacrifice that the American people aren't ready to make. That's nonsense. Addressing climate change will make the U.S. far more prosperous as it creates

new industries and millions of new job opportunities that can't be outsourced or automated.

It's already happening. Policies advanced by the Biden administration and Democrats in Congress, with some support in the Senate from GOP moderates, helped create 114,000 new clean energy jobs last year, pushing the number of Americans employed in the clean energy sector to more than three million. That compares to approximately 118,000 American jobs in all of the oil and gas production sector. That means, in one year, the clean energy sector produced nearly as many new jobs as currently work in the entire oil and gas sector. And those clean energy jobs are more likely to be unionized and provide far better and safer working conditions in most cases than those in oil and gas. "Drill, baby, drill," may excite GOP crowds but it's as poor of an economic policy as it is bad for our environmental future.

This is the problem with the magical thinking that has come to so dominate the Republican Party base. Real things are dismissed as hoaxes, while nonsense like Q-Anon, stolen elections, and President Biden's purported and evidence-free corruption become the focus of almost obsessive attention. It's a party where vaccines are really poison, where only white people face discrimination, where tax cuts for the rich masquerade as economic policy, and where the federal debt only matters when the Democrats are in charge.

In Ron DeSantis's Florida, state officials have approved the use of right-wing propaganda in the state's schools that teach children that climate change isn't real and that solar panels will make life on Earth miserable. This from the state most at risk from the now ongoing rise in sea levels. As if climate change will disappear if we simply pretend it isn't real.

If there's one thing that the GOP debate demonstrated, it's that nothing has changed with the Republican Party. Which isn't to suggest that every Republican politician is crazy. Unfortunately, they're forced to pretend they are to generate support from a party base that has lost touch with reality thanks to the constant stream of misinformation emanating from the likes of Fox News and Donald Trump. Until the party's leaders are willing to challenge the nonsense, speak the truth to their voters, and support policies that are both reasonable and desperately needed, the party can't be allowed to wield power in Washington, or anywhere else. We've run out of time for unserious leaders.



Letters from Readers

A lesson learned at Cook's Country Connection

The other day my wife and I took our two-year-old granddaughter to the petting zoo at Cook's Country Connection. It was our second visit in as many days; little Arwa was enthralled with the menagerie and the many activities on offer for small children. It can be entertaining for adults, too, but after five years back in the U.S. after lives spent abroad, we noticed something strange: like people, poultry tends to stick to its own kind. A gaggle of turkeys have free range of the place while in the big pen guinea fowl forage with guinea fowl, chickens run with chickens and ducks waddle with ducks. Even the ducks segregated into two groups: Peking on the one hand and Muscovy on the other and just as there are hierarchies in human society, the Country Connection ducks have their own hierarchy with the white Pekings bullying the dark Muscovies.

Segregation may work for birds, and it may once have had survival value for our ancestors; but after 10,000 years of cultural evolution there is

no room for it in human society, particularly in this country. From almost four decades spent teaching children in Navajoland, Africa, Asia and the Middle East I have been infinitely enriched by the education that my native and foreign students have given me and I have learned two things: 1) the similarities that people share are far more profound than their differences, and 2) when it comes to intelligence and raw ability, every nation, every race, every religion produces children/people of equal virtue. Let's make America great again by embracing the diversity that made this country great in the first place and let's leave discrimination to the birds.

David Stanton
Cook

We're here with help for your clean energy project

As someone who works across Minnesota helping communities harness the benefits of clean energy, I am impressed by northwest Minnesota community clean energy efforts. Take the City of Warren, for example.

Recently, the city created

the "Design for Community Regeneration" (D4CR) as a way to plan their resilient future. The project lays out a plan for food, water, and energy securities. Support from the organization I work for, the Clean Energy Resource Teams, helped the city dig into the energy security aspects.

This is just one impressive project happening in northwest Minnesota's clean energy world, and I feel momentum is building for future projects. There are more EV charging stations in the region, innovative solar training at White Earth, and smart energy efficiency upgrades happening in partnership between businesses, schools, and their local utilities.

Lastly, a resource to share! If your organization is looking for dollars toward your clean energy project (big or small) check out CleanEnergyResourceTeams.org. The Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTS) distributes seed grant money to all kinds of community organizations, all over the state, doing great clean energy work.

Joel Haskard
Clean Energy Resource
Teams Co-Director
St. Paul

COLUMNIST

Faith in democracy is vital

Americans are pessimistic about our democracy, according to a recent poll. It's a worrisome finding. Of course, it's easy to watch the news and conclude our government isn't working. But we must not get to the point where we think we can't solve our problems in a democratic fashion. That's a danger line.

The poll, by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, found that majorities of American adults don't think our laws and policies represent what most people want. Only about one in 10 gave high



LEE
HAMILTON

ratings to democracy for working well. Disturbingly, 53 percent said Congress does a poor job of upholding democratic values while only 16 percent said it does a good job. That's hardly a show of faith in the representatives we have elected.

Another poll, by the Marist Center, found eight in 10

Americans believe democracy is under threat, but they disagree over who's at fault: Half blame Democrats and half blame Republicans. Finally, the long-running Pew election survey found trust in government at a near-record low. Only 20 percent of Americans trust the government to do the

right thing all or most of the time.

The findings aren't entirely surprising. Our politics are deeply polarized. Many Republicans don't want anything to do with Democrats, and many Democrats feel the same about Republicans. Social media and partisan cable TV networks have divided us into warring tribes.

And we have come through a difficult period. The COVID-19 pandemic caused a million deaths, increased social isolation, strained trust in medical authorities and gave rise to conspiracy theories. It pummeled the economy and drove millions from the workforce. Employment bounced back, but with it came the

See FAITH...pg. 5

The right to write: thoughts on our constitution

What is it that makes people write? Many writers say that they can't not write. Some people have to sing, some people have to dance, some people have to take apart cars. I am driven to write—to process my life, to vent, to laugh, to create. So, it's a good thing I get to write this column, which kicks me in the motivational behind to put pen



BETTY
FIRTH

to paper or fingers to keyboard. Short of vulgarity, attacks on people in town who have annoyed me, and personal plots of insurrection, I can let my imagination roam and write. I can pontificate about how the world is not living up to my expectations or how it is amusing me. I can let you know what I think you ought to be paying attention to and how you ought to be behaving. Regardless

of whether you're even reading my column, I can imagine you all nodding, and smiling: "Good point, Betty, how wise."

So, speaking of insurrection, is anyone else just plain tired of Trump? Really, it's just time for him to go away, preferably to jail. If he were reading the *Timberjay*, he might finally gain some enlightenment, but I don't believe he has a subscription, and I'm too cheap to send him one.

Here's the incredible beauty of that paragraph. I can say

things like that, even in writing about an ex-president, and because I live in America with a constitution that protects my freedom of speech, I can be confident that there will not be men breaking down my door, dragging me out of my house to be questioned, tortured, or left in heap on the front steps of the *Timberjay* office to teach the other writers a lesson.

In the movie "The American President", which was the pilot for "West Wing", President Andrew Shepherd (played by

Michael Douglas,) lambasted his opponent saying, "America isn't easy. America is advanced citizenship. You've gotta want it bad, 'cause it's gonna put up a fight. It's gonna say, 'You want free speech? Let's see you acknowledge a man whose words make your blood boil, who's standing center stage and advocating at the top of his lungs that which you would spend a lifetime opposing at the top of yours.'" The symbol of your

See RIGHTS...pg. 5

COMMENTARY

From away in Ely: reflecting on geographic exceptionalism

“From away.” That’s what natives of Maine call everyone else. It’s a succinct way of summarizing geographic exceptionalism. Geographic exceptionalism is everywhere, even in Minnesota.

I dislike geographic exceptionalism for the simple reason that its snobbery based solely on where you are from. It has nothing to do with merit or achievement or even good looks. It’s a way to feel superior to strangers based on where your parents decided to live when you were born.

New England is full of geographic exceptionalism. You’re nobody if you aren’t a native, born and raised there. It’s better if your family has been around for at least three generations. Having ancestors who fought in the American Revolution or came over with Governor Winthrop’s fleet is even better.

In Northern New England, “from away” means you’re a cheap import. You are “less than” because you don’t have roots in the place where you live.

As a form of discrimination, the “from away” stigma is subtle. Very few will disrespect you overtly for being from elsewhere. It manifests in the cold shoulders and the exclusion from the tight circles of old friends who are polite but seldom friendly — unless you’ve lived there for at least 20 years, and even then, it’s only a grudging acceptance.

“From away” effect

Growing up in New England, I’ve seen the “from away” effect up-close. My best example is from when we ran a business in Maine. About four years after moving to Maine, I volunteered for a committee with the local Chamber of Commerce. I got turned down by the chamber’s executive director, who was a native of the town where our business was located. The reason?

It was because I was “from away,” and would therefore not understand adequately the nuances of local business. The term “from away” was said to my face, but by someone who didn’t even realize how insulting it was.

The “from away” put-down wasn’t a positive, affirming experience. We did not renew our membership with the chamber of commerce. When it came time to decide if we would close the business or try to move it to the next level, one of the main factors in leaving Maine was the way the natives treated everyone born elsewhere as second-class citizens.

Canadian loan words

I once thought the expression “from away” was confined to Maine, which is where I first heard it. I have since learned that the expression has its roots in the Maritime provinces of Canada. It leaked into Maine from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

I’ve met quite a few folks from the Maritime provinces. The use in Canada isn’t as pejorative as its use in Maine, but it still has that us-versus-them character to it. What’s sad is that geographic exceptionalism shows up all over. It’s not exclusive to New England or the Maritimes.

“From away” in Ely

If you’re sharper than a marble, which includes everyone who reads *Timberjay*, you’ve likely guessed where this is going. Geographic exceptionalism is at the core of who is an Elyite and who gets to decide.

My opinion should be obvious by now. I believe a sense of superiority based on being born in a specific location is a pile a horse pucky. So, let’s look at what might motivate the “from away” effect, which is really the same phenomenon as those who think transplants (long dubbed “packsackers” here) can never be real Elyites.

Part of the “from away” effect is a simple pride of place. There’s nothing wrong with loving where you were born and raised, and nothing wrong with the sense of belonging to an established family or circle of long-standing friends.

The downside of local pride is the decay into a false belief that locally-born is always superior. I have often wondered if fear is behind such a belief. When enough new people move into an area, it can dilute local history. Long-term residents may fear that new folks will not value that sense of the past that

isn’t just history to a native of a place. It’s a form of local identity for those families who have lived in Ely since the mines were still in operation.

The “from away” effect is born out of local pride and local identity as well as fear that the world outside will not value the past that created the community and its unique culture.

Those nasty transplants

There’s another variable to the “from away” phenomenon and that’s the very real attitude of many new people who move to resort communities like Ely.

Ely is a lovely place next to a world-class wilderness attraction. It draws nature lovers from all over the globe, and many of them come—not because of Ely but because of the storied outdoors of the Boundary Waters.

The perception that the Boundary Waters should trump issues that affect Ely is an ugly belief. It’s a slap in the face for families that have been here for four or five generations, especially those who lost their guide or resort businesses or vacation cabin when the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness was created.

Long-standing residents of Ely share a common history of the federal government taking property through eminent domain and driving people out of their homes and businesses in the BWCAW. The resistance of one of those residents became well-known nationally and after she died, her friends created the Dorothy Molter Museum in her honor.

Since I moved here nine

months ago, I’ve observed some Elyite geographic exceptionalism in action. Some old Elyites believe that new residents lack an appreciation of Ely’s history and culture. Given how some new Elyites behave toward residents from the old mining families, the allegation has some real teeth. New Elyites could make an effort to understand the three-legged stool (iron ore, timber, tourism) that long formed the basis of the Ely economy. New Elyites could also profit to remember that not all old Elyites want to see copper-nickel mining.

There’s another flipside hiding here. It has to do with those old Elyites, the ones who don’t think anyone but descendants of the earliest Ely residents can call themselves a true Elyite. It’s a slippery stance given how old Ely isn’t, and it’s a turn-off for visitors and new residents. In a town that relies heavily on tourism, geographic exceptionalism can drive away customers and people looking to move and work here. It’s bad for business and it’s bad for the city’s reputation.

So, who then is an Elyite? The semantic answer is the correct one: an Elyite is someone from Ely. It’s that simple. If you live in Ely, you’re an Elyite, just like the great grandparents of all those old Elyites who never lived anywhere else.

In a great little city like Ely, no one should be “from away.”

FAITH...Continued from page 4

highest inflation in 40 years. Now inflation is down, but many Americans aren’t confident they can pay their bills. They give President Joe Biden low marks for his handling of the economy.

You would think Congress would work together to address these concerns. Instead, it seems to be bogged down in partisan stalemates. Gerrymandering of congressional districts has pushed Republicans to the right and Democrats to the left. There’s little common ground.

Donald Trump’s false claim

that the 2020 election was stolen further undermined faith in democracy. His attacks on election officials, the justice system and even the military — echoed by some of his political rivals — have weakened trust in government. Indictments charging Trump with mishandling classified documents and conspiring to overturn the election have outraged his supporters. As the Jan. 6, 2021, invasion of the Capitol showed, that kind of anger can be dangerous.

But it’s important to remem-

ber that the United States has come through extreme challenges in the past, with our democratic principles intact. The Civil War ruptured the country and killed an estimated 750,000 people, North and South. In the 20th century, we survived two world wars, the Great Depression, and the Cold War. And our democracy has grown stronger. At the nation’s founding, only white men who owned property could vote. Black Americans endured slavery followed by widespread segregation and disenfranchise-

ment. Women didn’t gain the vote until the 20th Amendment was ratified in 1920.

Martin Luther King Jr. famously said that the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice. The same could be said for American democracy.

Americans are, fundamentally, a practical and optimistic people. We believe in progress, and we believe in our capacity to overcome challenges. Republican or Democrat, we want the same things. We want to live in

a world that’s secure and prosperous. We want opportunity for ourselves and our children.

We need to maintain an underlying optimism about our ability to work together to solve problems. Democracy has served us well for nearly 250 years. It’s up to us to ensure it continues to thrive.

RIGHTS...Continued from page 4

country cannot just be a flag. The symbol also has to be one of its citizens exercising his right to burn that flag in protest. Now show me that, defend that, celebrate that in your classrooms. Then you can stand up and sing about the land of the free.”

So, Trump and his supporters have given me a tuition-free course in advanced citizenship. The unelected hoi polloi, of which we are all part, have a protected right to spout off about our beliefs, regardless of whether we actually have taken the time to garner any substantiating facts. We won’t go to jail for that. We have the privilege of free public education, unlike many countries, but we retain the right to remain uninformed and uneducated, boring everyone within earshot with our baseless opinions. Many have made my blood boil, and I may have made someone’s blood boil, too.

BUT, the President of the United States does not have the right to ignore the Constitution, which s/he has taken an oath to protect. President George W. Bush, also a personal blood-boiler, was another one with an inflated sense of his own authority who did not understand his responsibilities, didn’t read, and could barely put a spoken sentence together. He said the Constitu-

tion was “just a piece of paper.” A written memo from Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said that “he (the president) had a right to order Federal officials to violate Federal law.” Shades of Richard Nixon in the 28 hours of interviews with British journalist David Frost broadcast in 1977. Nixon defended the Huston Plan, which included illegal efforts to monitor anti-war and countercultural activists. (Some of us were on the other end of that!) Frost asked Nixon whether “the president could do something illegal in certain situations, such as against antiwar groups and others, if he decides it’s in the best interests of the nation or something.” Nixon replied: “Well, when the president does it, that means that it is not illegal.” Where do they find these guys? And why, or why, have we elected them?

I had the privilege of hearing Rep. Jamie Raskin speak when he was in Ely two weeks ago. He took some of his vacation time to speak to the Tuesday Group, which consistently presents good information on a wide variety of current topics. He chose to speak about one of the most polarizing issues in our country, gun control. (Marshall Helmsberger and Catie Clark wrote excellent articles about his pre-

sentation in the last two issues of the *Timberjay*, so please refer to those for more details.) As a professor of constitutional law, Rep. Raskin is quite a bit better-informed than the afore-mentioned presidents, the current iteration of the NRA (National Rifle Association), and its members/supporters.

The NRA used to champion gun safety and reasonable gun control, but it was co-opted by the right wingers for political reasons and now claims the 2nd Amendment supports an insurrectionist theory, the right of citizens to overthrow the government. Rep. Raskin is passionate about democracy and the importance of understanding and protecting the Constitution.

The short version of his argument is that there is only one crime specifically defined in the Constitution, that of treason. In Article III, Section 3, it reads: “Whoever, owing allegiance to the United States, levies war against them, or adheres to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort within the United States or elsewhere, is guilty of treason.” The Second Amendment has just 27 words: “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” That’s it.

A well regulated militia means it is an agency of the government, not an unruly mob threatening to kill Vice President Pence and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi while trying to overturn a valid, multiply-certified election because they didn’t like the results. It doesn’t mean individuals have the right to own assault weapons and stockpile weapons to overthrow the government. Rep. Raskin’s stream of logic makes it obvious: that the creators of the Constitution would not give or imply the rights in an amendment to commit a crime clearly defined as treason in its body. He said that some of his colleagues have accused him of wanting to get rid of the 2nd Amendment. He responded, “I don’t want them to get rid of it. I want them to read it!”

So, there you go. If you’ve read my columns, you know I’m a great advocate of reading, libraries, lifelong learning, and taking a break from screens. Give your eyes a break and bask in the beauty of the printed word. And here’s where I get to tell you what I think you could/should do: How about pouring yourself a libation, sink into your favorite chair, and tuck into the Constitution? It seems the reasonable thing to do if you are going to try to defend it or destroy it.



the
TIMBERJAY

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Week of Sept. 4

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 Sept. 19.

Greenwood Fire Dept.- Training meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Thursday

AA Meeting- Lake Vermilion 12x12 (Open) 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower. Use the rear side door entrance.

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at vermilioncountry.org.

**TSHS week 4 winner**

TOWER- The winner of week five Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash prize is Nancy Larson of Soudan. Nancy has generously donated the cash prize back to the Historic Fire Hall Restoration Fund.

History Tidbit: As reported by the *Tower Weekly News*, on June 5, 1915: On and after this day cattle may run at large at all times providing that all bells are removed from same between the hours of 7 p.m. and 5 a.m.

Vermilion Lake Township potluck on Sept. 17

VERMILION LAKE TWP- Vermilion Lake Township is hosting their annual potluck get-together on Sunday, Sept. 17 from 4 – 7 p.m. at the town hall. The township will be grilling polish, brats, and hot dogs, and those attending always make sure there are plenty of side dishes, casseroles, and desserts. Tableware, coffee and drinks will be provided. All township residents and friends are invited to attend.

Any questions, please contact town clerk Crystal Alaspa at 218-750-4752.

Correction

Ely Ambulance was not on the scene of the van versus moose accident. Virginia ALS was on scene. Breitung Fire Department and Greenwood Fire and EMS were also on scene.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Saying goodbye to Pastor Liz

Cheney moving to a new church after nine years at Immanuel Lutheran in Tower

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Pastor Liz Cheney is moving on to a new call. After nine years at Immanuel Lutheran in Tower, she has accepted the position of pastor to Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Virginia.

The move was not welcome news for many of Immanuel's members, who welcomed Pastor Liz to the congregation, and have watched as she grew from a newly-ordained pastor into an experienced and valued leader.

"Immanuel has a gift for nurturing new pastors," said Cheney, who was an elementary school teacher before changing her profession mid-career. "They are a joy-filled congregation, and they were amazing to work with through the pandemic."

Many congregants and community members came to say goodbye to Pastor Liz at a community meal hosted by the church on Aug. 23.

"We are sad to see her go," said Deb Setterberg. "But glad to see her on a new journey."

"I wanted to tell her she had to stay," said longtime congregation member Rosie Zimmerman.

"I do understand why she needed to move," said church member Doris Mosher, who noted that the entire congregation was going to miss Pastor Liz along with her family. Liz's children, Zac, age 20, and River, an incoming senior at North Woods High School, have both become valued members of the church community.

"This church has been an integral part of their lives," said Cheney, noting the congregation has watched them both grow up. Zac is now a union equipment operator working for Viita's Ex-



Above: Pastor Liz Cheney visited with church and community members during the church's community picnic. Left: Cheney spent some time on the floor playing with Boone and Hux Broten.

photos by J. Summit

cavating, and River is looking at colleges, where she is hoping to continue to play softball, and thinking about majoring in music therapy.

Cheney was a relatively new pastor when the pandemic hit and church life changed radically. She truly ached that she wasn't able to visit in person with parishioners and was spending so much time working on delivering a remote service each Sunday. The church still offers a livestream of the weekly service,

and for some members, it has become the new normal.

Church attendance is similar to when she started nine years ago, she said, with an average of 60-65 in attendance on Sundays. But attendance had grown to 100 in the summer and 85, on average, in the winter, just before the pandemic hit.

"It's been a challenge everywhere getting people back to church after the pandemic," she said.

Cheney said pastors these

days are typically moving onto new congregations every four years. Many pastors retired early after the pandemic, said Cheney, because of the added stresses put on church leaders.

The move to Our Savior's is actually a homecoming for Cheney, who grew up as a member of that congregation and now will be its sole pastor. "I am really excited to give back to that community that gave much to me," she said. "I have done a lot of praying and discerning the last year or so and have discovered that God is calling me to a new place, a new ministry, a new congregation."

In a farewell letter to her Immanuel parishioners, Cheney wrote: "You have done well in raising up a first call pastor who has found her wings and is ready to move on to a new journey with a new people in a new place."

She said she'll be forever grateful to Immanuel as the place she learned to fly! "You will do well as you seek a new pastor, as you take time to tell your story and rediscover who you are and who you want to become! We all are always changing and growing, and I know that God is up to something very good here and God has prepared the heart of a new leader who will come and join you and walk with you into a new time and place!"

Cheney noted that Immanuel remains a health and growing congregation that is willing to try new ideas, which bodes well for the congregation's future.

While Cheney is making a change, some things will stay the same. She said she'll continue to coach girls basketball at North Woods, something else she remains passionate about.



Tower-Soudan Elementary open house

TS Elementary held an open house on Tuesday, welcoming families back for the 2023-24 school year. School starts on Sept. 5. Top left: First-grader Azalya Deegan shares a laugh with paraprofessional Laura Rosendahl. Above right: Audrey Almeida checks out the new play kitchen in the Kindergarten room. Left: Kindergarten students Wyatt Hill and Zella Boshkaykin have fun in their new classroom.

TSHS Annual Meeting and dinner set for Thursday, Sept. 14

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Historical Society will host the organization's annual meeting on Thursday, Sept. 14 at the Tower Civic Center.

Check-in and social time will begin at 5 p.m. At that time the "Best Bid" silent auction will begin. The auction will feature a vintage map of the Pine Island, Birch Point, and Big Bay Area of Lake Vermilion. There will also be some lovely, framed photos of landmarks in the area, including a vintage photo of the Isle of Pine Bridge. "Best Bid" is where folks bid what they are willing to pay in order to buy the piece of art. The bidder places their bid in a sealed envelope. When the envelopes are opened at the end of

the auction the highest bid wins. Folks must be present to win, and the winners are announced at the end of the event.

At 5:30 p.m. there will be a free, and open to anyone wishing to attend, History Talk presented by Mary Palcich Keyes. Keyes is familiar to area residents for her "Years of Yore" articles on Iron Range history in the *Mesa-bi Tribune* and affiliated papers, and her history stories in the *Hometown Focus*. After graduation from Hibbing High School, she attended the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul. Her teaching career included four years of teaching classes about Minnesota history and research at the Minnesota Historical Society's

History Center in downtown St. Paul. Keyes holds leadership roles in the Hibbing Historical Society and represents the Society on the St. Louis County Historical society Board of Governors. She, with her husband Joe, also speaks to groups on various history topics, particularly about the Iron Range.

Keyes has prepared a special presentation for the TSHS about the story behind how Philadelphia Charlemagne Tower and his business partners and friends in Duluth and in the Minnesota state government worked together to create a railroad to carry iron ore to Lake Superior which would then enable the initiation of the first iron mining venture

on the Range in Soudan.

Afterwards, the TSHS will provide a delicious Italian dinner for \$25 per person for those who wish to stay. Those interested in attending the dinner should reserve their spot by Monday, Sept. 11, by calling 218-750-0193 or 715-558-5391.

After dinner the TSHS will hold a brief annual meeting followed by quick and fun games of History Trivia and History Jeopardy for those who want to win prizes for their knowledge of local history. After that, the winners of the "Best Bid" silent auction will be announced.

Thank You to the Tower Fire Department Relief Association

On behalf of McKinley Park Campground, we would like to thank you for your generous donation of two water mats for our beach! Our beach has been full of Tower-Soudan kids all summer, and they love to play on the "lily pads."

We are grateful for your donation.

Jerry & Susie Chiabotti

MUSICAL THEATER

Breaking the ice on the Frozen musical

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- "It's go time," Mike Rouse told the Timberjay over coffee, referring to the blizzard of activity that's about to arrive in Ely to stage "Disney's Frozen: The Broadway Musical."

Ely won the rights for three performances of "Disney's Frozen: The Broadway Musical." The high school can add to that number but will have to pay a fee for each extra performance.

The stage
The first obstacle the musical had to overcome had nothing to do with organization or community volunteers.

14 school board meeting, the district was not able to get bids soon enough to replace the floor before the start of the school year.

The volunteers
"Disney wants local involvement," Mike Rouse stated, talking about what he's been doing over the summer to organize the musical.

Rouse has already recruited several community volunteers and is adding more as the fall rehearsal season approaches.

Local musician and conductor Marsha Homer is the orchestral music director. Opera singer Elias Mokole is the vocal director.

This crew is already at work organizing the logistics of staging the complex musical with its pop-heavy score and intricate stage directions.

The Timberjay will be actively covering how Ely will be making the production of Frozen its own. Being in Minnesota will help with that.



Ray Cavalier working on the Washington Auditorium stage. photo by B. Rouse

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

- ELY - The Tuesday Group community educational lunch gathering meets every Tuesday at noon at the Grand Ely Lodge.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



storm clouds paint the sky heavy water floods the roads rain enveloping

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.

NLAA August art show: Scott King

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Local artist Scott King was the artist featured in the Northern Lakes Arts Association (NLAA) art show in August. NLAA held a reception for King on the evening of Friday, Aug. 25, at Ely's Historic State Theater where his work was displayed.

suggests dream worlds and the subconscious. Using colors that remind one of the psychedelic 60s at times." King described his works as often capturing a "disturbing portrait of the current climate of our time."

King is one of the oldest artists to display at an

NLAA show. King is 73 and has only been showing his works since retiring five years ago and moving to Ely fulltime.

"We have a cabin," King said. "We bought property around 20 years ago."

Before moving to Ely, King lived and worked in

the Twin Cities area. He originally attended vocational school. At the age of 45, he returned to school at the Minnesota College of Art and Design for a degree in fine arts.

Elyite on dean's list

DURANGO, Colo.- Brooke Pasmick of Ely was named to Fort Lewis College's dean's list for the spring 2023 semester.

To be eligible for dean's list, a student must carry a semester grade point average of 3.6 or better in no fewer than 15 credit hours of graded college-level work.

Elyite Graduate

BISMARCK, N.D.- Bismarck State College announced that Mike Scholz of Babbitt graduated with a certificate in Electric Power Technology during the college's 83rd commencement ceremony on May 12 at the Bismarck Event Center.



Ely artist Scott King at the Aug. 25 NLAA reception for his art show, "New mining: digging into dreams and the subconscious." photo by C. Clark

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Winton Park Fundraiser

WINTON- The Ely Winton Rod and Gun Club will sponsor a Winton Park Fundraiser at Samz' Place on Old Winton Rd., on Saturday, Sept. 2, from 1-4 p.m.

Ely Public Library

ELY- The library will be closed on Monday, Sept. 4, and Sept. 22-20.

The library board will hold its monthly meeting at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 6

The library will host a STEM night in collaboration with the Bell Museum. The event will be on Thursday, Sept. 7, at the library from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

The Friends of the Library Bookclub will meet on Monday, Sept. 11, from 3-4 p.m.

The Friends of the Library will have their monthly board meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 12, from 1-2 p.m.

The library will hold a party for the end of the Summer Reading Program for Adults, on Thursday, Sept. 14, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Preschool Storytime is held every Friday from 10:30-11 a.m.

All library events are at the Ely Public Library at 224 E. Chapman St.

Ely Community Health Center

ELY- The health center, which provides no-cost routine medical visits, referrals and teeth cleaning, will hold an open house on Wednesday, Sept. 6, from 4-6 p.m., at its new office at 33 E. Chapman Street.

Ely Trivia Night

ELY- Ely Trivia Night

will be on Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 6:30 p.m., upstairs at the Boathouse at 47 E. Sheridan St. Cost is \$5.

Root Beer Lady Musical

ELY- as one of the final events of the museum's 30th anniversary celebration, the museum is sponsoring The "Root Beer Lady: the Musical" at Ely's Historic State Theater.

Ladies' Chainsaw Workshop

FALL LAKE- The Minnesota Women's Woodland Network will hold a two-day chainsaw workshop for women on Sept. 16-17, at the

University of Minnesota Hubachek Wilderness Research Center at 425 Shady Ln., on the north shore of Fall Lake. The workshop will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

5k Race Fundraiser

ELY- The Northern Lights 5k Glow Run will be on Friday, Sept. 22, at 7 p.m. at Whiteside Park. The run is a fundraiser for the Northern Lights Clubhouse.

com/5k. Packet Pickup and race-day registration will begin at noon on Sept. 22. New registrations are welcome from 12:00-5:45 p.m.

ATV Ride Fundraiser

BABBITT- The Friends of Babbitt Recreation Fall ATV ride will be on Sept. 30, leaving the Babbitt ATV Clubhouse at 10 a.m.

List your event

Do you have an upcoming Babbitt, Ely, or Winton event? Email event details, location, time, place and event cost to C. Clark at catie.timberjay@gmail.com

HEALTH CARE

Hospital's rehab program is a life-changer

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- The Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program is alive and well, and the program's director, registered nurse Lori Brett, is excited to be writing a new chapter in her 16-year career at the hospital.

"I was an EMT for about 17 years up in Orr, and I'm a first responder with the Buyck Fire Department now," Brett said. "I've worked here for 16 years and started in the hospital emergency room. When this position became available, I applied for it and got it. I really enjoy working with people and one on one kind of. So it's a chance to really get to understand their health history and what they're going through. I love the patient contacts and being able to help them."

Brett said the program benefits patients in a number of ways.

"A big one is improving your quality of life," she said. "Strengthening your heart and lungs gives you endurance and you're able to do your activities of daily living and you're able to do more at home. It can ease depression and

anxiety. There are just so many benefits to it."

Patients are referred by their physicians to the program for a wide variety of heart and respiratory issues. Examples of cardiac conditions the rehab program works with include angina (chest pain), heart attacks, coronary bypass or valve surgery, angioplasty and stent placement, and congestive heart failure. Pulmonary rehab can benefit patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), post COVID conditions, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, asthma, pulmonary fibrosis, interstitial lung disease, and long cancer.

Brett said that patients have to meet certain criteria to be eligible for the program and for insurance coverage and she works with patients and doctors to determine their eligibility.

"When they are referred they can certainly reach out to their insurance provider," Brett said. "Otherwise, I have done some checking, too, and I have not had anybody ever turned down."

Brett said the current patient mix is skewed toward cardiac patients.



Left: Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehab Program Director Lori Brett, RN. Right: The hospital's fitness center has a wide array of cardiovascular, strength and flexibility equipment.



"Heart disease is the biggest thing out there, so right now it's more cardiac," she said. "But the education and things that I do are very similar for both programs."

The rehab program combines monitored exercise sessions, patient education and lifestyle coaching that are specifically tailored to each individual's specific condition. In addition to receiving health information from a person's physician, Brett conducts an extensive health history to better understand how to design a program specifically for them.

"We go over health history, medications, their diet, their lifestyle," Brett said. If she discovers a pa-

tient has had a diet rich in fried foods, for example, she'll provide nutritional education to promote healthier choices. Smoking cessation education is another area of emphasis.

"There are so many factors that we work on," Brett said. "I provide education or put them in contact with resources to help them change their lifestyle."

The rehabilitation activities take place in the hospital's well-outfitted fitness center, a facility that's also open to the general public for a monthly fee of \$25. The center features a wide array of treadmills and stationary bikes to promote cardiovascular fitness, as well as equipment for strength

training and flexibility. Each patient has their own unique mix of equipment and exercises.

"It's all tailored to their specific needs and disease state," Brett said. "A lot of people are on weight restrictions. We have several machines that are low impact, and I would start them off slowly on an easy level and wait until they are off weight restrictions to make it a little harder for them and start it out slow and easy and see how they tolerate it."

A typical cardiac rehabilitation program can range from 25 to 36 sessions, depending on what a doctor ordered, Brett said. Those sessions at Cook Hospital are con-

ducted on Mondays and Fridays. Pulmonary rehab programs can be more varied depending on what insurance will pay for, Brett said, but are usually about 18 sessions long. Pulmonary rehab sessions are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sessions are usually scheduled for the morning hours, but Brett said she has some flexibility with scheduling to accommodate individual needs.

The biggest rewards for Brett from working in the rehabilitation program has been the relationships she's developed with patients and seeing them thrive.

"Since I've started doing this, just to see the progress and the people that I've been working with, it's great," she said. "And they are all so happy."

For more information about the cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation program, call Cook Hospital at 218-666-5945. As a referral is required, patients are encouraged to speak with their physician if they feel the program would be beneficial for them.

COOK CITY COUNCIL

Ambulance service directed to seek help from Tower, Orr

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- In a Cook City Council meeting with a relatively light agenda last Thursday, the most weighty item could be found in the monthly ambulance report submitted by director Roland Shoen.

The ambulance service has not been able to staff shifts to provide 24/7 coverage as required, and has been "basically ordered" by the state Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board to take corrective action.

The EMSRB cited data showing that for the months of June and July there was only one day when there were sufficient staff to cover the entire day.

"So far this month we do not have a 24-hour shift covered either," Shoen wrote. "I am not sure this can be averted, as I know all our EMT/EMRs have other jobs and therefore it is hard to get this kind of coverage."

Shoen said that the service has been directed by EMSRB to develop contracts with Tower Ambulance and Orr Ambulance beyond the normal mutual aid agreements to help cover times when no Cook Ambulance crew members are available to cover a shift. The city attorney is drawing up the contracts and they should be available within a week or two, Shoen reported.

In an email to the *Timberjay* on Monday, Shoen emphasized that while the coverage has had gaps, service for those who have needed it hasn't been lacking when they needed it.

"Cook has not missed a call since February, so we are covering the calls that come in, we just are not filling our schedule regularly," Shoen said. "The state is working with us on ways to fill the calendar and we are looking for other way as well to secure Emergency Response in the future, but what that will look like I am not sure just yet."

In his report, Shoen detailed numerous things

that need to be considered when trying to attract more people to the Cook Ambulance service.

"One of the issues being housing in the city, which is almost nonexistent for rental or sale. Other areas would be budget review to see if the city can afford a full-time service; reaching out to lawmakers, commissioners to see what funding is available; creating more incentives like the education credit passed by the council last month; and looking at what we can do regionally for Cook, Orr, Tower, and Nett Lake. Discussion about 'volunteering' may be in the near future," Shoen wrote.

In other business, the council:

► Discussed policies and procedures regarding communication of adverse news affecting city staff with other city employees/officials.

► Approved payment of a \$8,550 invoice from JPI Engineering for work completed on North River Street drainage plans.

► Approved replacement of an air compressor integrated with the fire suppression system at the Last Chance Liquor Store. Summit Fire Protection, which submitted the \$2,399 bid, indicated they had supplied a temporary compressor to make sure the fire suppression sys-

tem remained operational.

► Approved pay invoices of \$7,568 for KGM Contractors and \$9,105 to S.E.H. for work on the taxiway at Cook Airport. The council also heard that 100 percent of the funding for the new weather system at the airport has been secured.

► Commented on the public open house held by St. Louis County Public Works to discuss the upcoming Vermilion Dr. resurfacing project.

► Approved signing a statutory liability tort waiver form for the city's new insurer, the Jon Krog Agency.

COMMUNITY NEWS

September to be busy at art gallery

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts has a number of things happening in September.

The public is invited to attend a reception celebrating the opening of the September monthly art exhibit on Friday, Sept. 8 from 5-7 p.m. at the NFWA Gallery. The dual exhibit, which includes "Drawings from Nature" by Jim DeVries and "Reflections on a Water Lily" by members of the Open Art Group, makes its debut on Wednesday, Sept. 6.

NFWA's monthly public board meeting at the gallery, Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 10:30 a.m.

Artists are welcome to drop in at the gallery for Open Art Mondays with Jody Feist. in the Wolfe Den classroom from 6-8 p.m. each Monday (not Labor Day). No registration required.

"Jewelry: Create A Beaded Necklace and Earrings" with instructor Cecilia Rolando will be offered Friday, Sept. 8 from 1 to 4 p.m. at NFWA. Registration is required by calling 218-666-2153.

"Painting Flowers With Tempera Paint," also with Rolando teaching, will be held on Friday, Sept. 29 from 1-4 p.m. Learn a variety of techniques to paint your interpretation of flowers. Registration is required by calling 218-666-2153.

In the class "Sew A Heart," learn Kathy Lovgren's technique for making this design easier and less cumbersome to construct. Fabric kits and twisted heart template supplied. The class will be Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 20-21. Registration is required by calling 218 666-2153.

The NFWA Gallery is located at 210 S. River St. Open hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.. Information about NFWA art classes and events are available online at Facebook and Instagram as well as www.nwfamn.org.

Cook Hospital to hold health fair on Sept. 16

COOK- Cook Hospital will stage a health fair at the hospital on Satur-

day, Sept. 16 from 9 a.m.-noon.

In addition to educational activities, the fair will feature food, vendors, a kids' area, and more. Come meet the fair's featured guest, Miss Petite USA Rachel Betterley.

Prizes offered at the event include the grand prize, a Traeger grill, and \$500 and \$250 gift cards from Zup's and a \$500 gift card from F&D Meats.

Trinity to worship at historic church

COOK- On Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 a.m. Trinity Lutheran Church of Cook will be holding its annual Sunday morning worship at the Little Fork Church on the corner of Wein Rd. and Samuelson Rd. in Field Township.

The gathering to worship at this picturesque Norwegian Lutheran church is to remember its importance in building

and nurturing the faith of pioneers as well as confessing the congregational belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

There is a handicapped accessible ramp in the back of the church. Coffee, treats and fellowship will be enjoyed after the service in this beautiful spot of God's creation. In case of rain, worship will be held at the church in Cook.

All friends, family,

and neighbors of Trinity Lutheran and the Little White Church in Field Township are welcome to attend. Please call the church office at 218-666-5965 if you need additional information.

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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CITY OF ELY

Ely EDA approves 2024 levy and budget

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely Economic Development Authority (EEDA) set its preliminary 2024 levy at approximately \$39,000 here on Tuesday, Aug. 29, and approved its 2024 budget at the same time.

Ely clerk-treasurer Harold Langowski explained that the EEDA receives revenues in addition to its levy from the rents from the city's building in the Ely Business Park at Miners Drive. "Those rents go to support the EEDA," Langowski said.

While the EEDA has sound financials, the loss of the city's former travel agency tenant has impacted EEDA's funding. While renting to the film company this spring worked out well and put money into the EEDA coffers, the EEDA's budget would be improved by finding a new long-term tenant, he said.

In other action, the EEDA:

► Voted to accept the written report from the EEDA's economic consultant, John Fedo, who was absent.

► Heard a report from

Langowski, who commented on EEDA priorities. He said that the city's three projects are actively involved in the bidding or planning stages. The Trailhead Development project is currently out for bid, with responses due by Sept. 14. Langowski said that site work could begin this fall, weather permitting.

Langowski also noted that the workforce housing project was sent out for bids earlier in August. The third project EEDA is following is the "funding and feasibility of the proposed Ely

Regional Community Complex," which is the facility the city transferred to the Ely Area Community Foundation (EACF).

► Heard the report that the city's Spaulding lots were selling well.

► Heard the report that the city will be pursuing grant funds for further business corridor funding for downtown Ely and for building more recreation trails in the Ely area.

► Heard a report regarding the shortage of childcare in Ely and the potential childcare facility

projected for the EACF building. "We're keeping an eye on this, to see where we can help," said Langowski.

► Approved a resolution for the EEDA to apply and accept funds from the 2023 U.S. Economic Development Administration partnership grant program.

► Approved paying the EEDA June bills for \$118,916.

CAMP...Continued from page 1

Regular Camper Package: \$100 per Night. US Veterans Package: \$10 per NIGHT!!!! Complimentary amenities can include a canvas tent, including cozy bedding for four, comfortable seating, cooking utensils, cooler with ice and water, loveable loo and solar shower, rowboat, dock, solar lighting, fish cleaning table, dish pans, cooking stove, pots and pans, French press for coffee and amazing secluded wilderness experience," the post said.

Accompanying the post were pictures of the campground, featuring one attractively appointed canvas tent atop a wooden platform, complete with a rug, couch, bed, dresser, and more. The high-end camping experience, known as "glamping" has become increasingly popular and it is a trend that Wyrobek is apparently hoping to tap into, despite the county's reluctance to rezone the site. Twelve campsites were available, the post said, although most remain more primitive than the site featured on Facebook. Wyrobek's original proposal, which the county rejected, called for building 47 campsites.

Strong opposition

According to the minutes of the May 11 meeting of the planning commission, naysayers far outweighed Wyrobek's supporters, with three speaking in favor of the proposal because of the intent to serve disabled veterans, while 42 members of the audience spoke against it. Of the 18 pieces of written correspondence received by the commission prior to the meeting, 17 were in opposition, according to Planning and Community Development senior planner Mark Lindhorst.

PHILLIPS...Continued from page 1

history, left a bigger impact than most.

In an interview with the *Timberjay* last December, Phillips talked about what he called the "four-prong mantra" that became his guiding philosophy at the IRRR. While the agency has long focused on job creation, Phillips pushed the agency to focus on quality over quantity.

"We were already beginning to face the workforce shortages at that time," he said late last year. "If you just create jobs, well, we're going to create more workforce problems for the existing businesses. But if people are leaving for better paying jobs, that's a good thing."

Phillips also worked to turn the agency away from what he often described as "chasing smokestacks," toward a greater emphasis on building communities on the Range that offered a high quality of life. Phillips said such an approach not only makes life better for existing residents but

One of the documents was a formal resolution from the Beatty Township town board opposing the campground. The board noted unanimous opposition at the annual town meeting in March supported by a petition of over 100 people against the campground. A major concern of the board was the increase in traffic the campground would bring to Raps Road, described as the most scenic but most dangerous road in the area, said town board supervisor Earl Grano. The resolution also expressed doubt about emergency services reaching the water-access-only campground in a timely manner in the event a disabled veteran would need them, particularly given possible adverse weather conditions and the site's steep slopes.

Wyrobek addressed the commissioners, stressing that the lots in question are in an area designated by the county's Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) for lakeshore development. Such areas are designated in the plan as ones that can reasonably be expected to support additional growth or redevelopment, she said. The CLUP is the governing document according to state statute, with zoning regulations merely serving as an administrative tool for implementation of the plan, Wyrobek argued. She said that the county must act in favor of the landowner in situations related to the CLUP. Those points were reiterated by Wyrobek's attorney, Julie Padilla, who said that the lakeshore development area clearly allowed the use proposed by Wyrobek. To not approve the rezoning in light of the CLUP could give rise to a legal challenge, she suggested.

Among the opponents to speak was Lori Melbostad, a Raps Rd. resident, who stated that she submitted the petition against the campground. She said 187 signatures were collected in only four days, and that if there had been more time the number would have been much larger. She said there wasn't one person in the group who does not support veterans, but that the decision should not be to the detriment of everyone in the area.

Numerous people talked about how rezoning for the campground would negatively affect their properties, threatening the quality of life they expect to have in a residentially zoned neighborhood. Others expressed concern that rezoning Wyrobek's property would open the door to some other type of business development, as the decision would not restrict the use to only a campground. Many suggested the rugged nature of the land was not suitable for the size or type of development proposed by Wyrobek. Safety issues regarding Raps Road were also reiterated.

Dick Nowlin, another nearby resident, said he has been a land use attorney for 45 years and countered Wyrobek's argument, saying that the CLUP does not control the issue. He also noted that veterans have the option of nine cabins at Whispering Winds resort and numerous other resorts that welcome veterans who come to Lake Vermilion, and that there was no need for additional property.

Several comments focused on a statement in the staff report developed for the hearing that said Wyrobek's request fell into the category of spot

zoning. Spot zoning is zoning to discriminate in favor of one lot or parcel out of harmony with surrounding lots or parcels and the comprehensive or land use plan, and without benefit to the community. Spot zoning is illegal under Minnesota law.

When commissioners began discussing the request, commission member Tom Coombe agreed that it was spot zoning and said that the commission should not make an unjustified change because it was illegal.

Commission member Dan Manick raised the issue of property ownership, noting that Padilla had acknowledged that one of the parcels in question was owned by someone other than Wyrobek, a party identified during public comment as Lutheran Social Services. Wyrobek is listed as the owner of record for the parcel, and she told the commission that they had encountered an issue because the land was an inheritance. She said she had a letter from the landowner supporting the rezoning request. Manick asked if it would have been better to wait until the ownership issue was settled before filing the rezoning request, and commission member Diana Werschay said she did not understand how someone could ask for rezoning of a property they do not own. While Wyrobek is the owner of record, Werschay said she did not know who owns the property.

Commission member Steve Filipovich, the sole member who voted for the request, said he believed that the property would be developed no matter what happened at the hearing. Filipovich said he was in favor of passing the request

makes area communities more attractive for new residents as well.

While his ideas sometimes challenged the conventional wisdom that had long guided the IRRR, he was able to make the case. Former state Rep. Rob Ecklund, who served for years on the IRRR board, credited Phillip's "outstanding people skills" for much of his success. "You couldn't have found a more even-keeled guy, or somebody who definitely cared for the people around him and the job he did," said Ecklund. "Once you talked to Mark, you walked away knowing you had a friend."

That wasn't just a public face with Phillips, who was exactly the same way in private, according to Patty Phillips, Mark's wife of 49 years. "He was wonderful as a husband. As good as it gets," she said. "He was a good father, a grandfather, and a pet lover. He was always very thoughtful and got his energy from being around

people."

Phillips was first diagnosed with bladder cancer in 2017, but never wavered from his belief he'd be able to beat it, until the very end. "He was always optimistic about everything," recalls Patty. "He always thought the Vikings were going to win."

And for a time, it seemed he had come out on top as he was found to be clear of cancer cells for a while, until about three years into his fight. That's when he learned that the cancer had reoccurred and spread outside his bladder. He continued with treatments for another two years, but received more bad news last November when his oncologist said the cancer had spread to his bones. Throughout it all, Patty said he remained hopeful and positive and continued to work. "He loved the people he worked with," she recalls.

He began another round of intensive chemotherapy and radiation

earlier this year but when subsequent tests showed little progress, the doctors said there was little more they could do.

He entered hospice at the end of July.

Patty described the hospice personnel as "wonderful" and said they helped make his final weeks a peaceful time, without pain. While he had the offer to spend his final days at a friend's home in Hawaii, Patty said he gratefully declined, wanting to spend his final days around family and friends at the home they shared on Lake Vermilion. A steady stream of visitors filled his sort time in hospice.

Looking back, Patty said she knows Mark had no regrets. "His legacy is exactly what he wanted it to be," she said, adding that she'll have much more to say at his celebration of life, now set for Saturday, Sept. 23, at 1 p.m., at the Virginia Elks Lodge.

and sending it on to the county board of commissioners to consider.

In their decision to reject the request, the commission noted that only the two mainland parcels fall within a lakeshore development area as the parcels used for the campground itself are in the forest and agriculture land use category. Those areas are not intended for future rural or urban development, according to the commission. They said the proposed use was not consistent with the CLUP and that a rezoning would constitute spot zoning because it would only benefit Wyrobek. The commission noted that there are ample areas zoned shoreline multiple use on Lake Vermilion already that would allow for new development, and no clear public need was evident to support the rezoning.

The *Timberjay* called Wyrobek on Tuesday morning to give her an opportunity to explain the rationale for her deci-

sion to begin campground development in spite of the commission's decision. She said she would provide a written statement to the newspaper, which she did that afternoon. She later rescinded her permission for the *Timberjay* to cite from it.

Current status

Senior planner Mark Lindhorst responded to an email from the *Timberjay* by saying that the county is aware of the situation and that they are following their standard compliance process once a complaint has been received.

"Resolution often does take some time," he said.

Because the compliance process has been initiated, Lindhorst said he is unable to share any additional information about the situation until a resolution of the matter has been reached.

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ANNUAL MEETING

September 14, 2023

Herb Lamppa Civic Center, Tower

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Social Time-5 pm
"Best Bid" Silent Auction Begins
Beautiful pieces of framed art and a vintage map of Lake Vermilion

🌿 🌿

History Talk-5:30 pm
by Mary Palcich Keyes
"Charlemagne Tower Made Tracks to the Future"
Free and open to the Public

🌿 🌿

Dinner-6:15 pm
"Special Italian Cuisine"
- Caesar Salad & Breadsticks
- Beef or Cheese Ravioli with Red Sauce
- Chicken and Broccoli with White Sauce
- Tiramisu

Catered by Chef Marko Stefanich and Pam Abrahamson

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\$25.00 per person payable at the door
Advance dinner reservations are required by September 11
Please call or text 218-750-0193 or 715-558-5391

Tower-Soudan Historical Society
Annual Meeting
Immediately following dinner
History Jeopardy and Announcement of "Best Bid" Winners
Win prizes with your knowledge of local history!

READ THE TIMBERJAY!

FAIR...Continued from page 1

better than ever.

Attendance topped 8,000, according to the preliminary counts, which would be just about double last year's fair attendance if the final numbers hold up.

"We ran out of admission wristbands both days," said Embarrass Region Fair Association (ERFA) Chair Tana Johnson. "Lots of people have been saying it was the best fair ever," said Johnson. "We exceeded all our expectations." Johnson said she talked to many people who were attending the fair for their first time.

The ERFA board updated their marketing efforts this year, put out a color brochure, and published an updated website that had all the needed information for each event, entry exhibits, and all the other information needed to plan a day at the fair. Nice weather didn't hurt, either. Saturday was overcast and pleasantly cool, while Sunday brought partly cloudy skies and slightly warmer temperatures.

The fair has about 40 "main" volunteers, covering each event, but then each of these volunteers recruits their own crew. Total volunteers probably



Oliver Thayer smiles as he takes part in the sawdust scramble at the Embarrass Fair.

photo by J. Summit

clock in at close to 200 people, she said. "We had people volunteering we didn't know were volunteering," she said. "The community really pours their hearts into this."

Fair organizers focused on bringing in new and returning events that would appeal to all ages. Bingo was back and turned out to be very popular, Johnson said. The kids' entertainment, with a magician and a musician/puppeteer, were also popular. Fair board members William Ramponi and Sarah Wallert-Ramponi hosted a booth with children's

activities, including martial arts demonstrations, how-to's, and lawn games. The animal barn, hosted again by the Johnson and Martin families, was filled with horses, piglets, ducks and geese, chickens, rabbits, and more. The ERFA board is looking for someone to be the livestock exhibit coordinator.

"We'd like to bring competition back to the livestock barn," said Johnson, who added it might not be feasible due to the numerous regulations including having a veterinarian on site during open hours.

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"We'd like to bring competition back to the livestock barn," said Johnson, who added it might not be feasible due to the numerous regulations including having a veterinarian on site during open hours.

The exhibit barn had plenty of entries, and the judging process went well, Johnson said.

"There were so many highlights this year," said former ERFA board member and this year's fair director Sue Beaton.

"The parade lasted 30 minutes," she said, which she is pretty sure is a record. Beaton herself didn't get to watch most of it, because she was honored as this year's Grand Marshal and rode in the front of the parade.

Beaton said there were 13 food vendors set up this year, and there was some concern there wouldn't be enough business for all of them. But "all did very well, and everybody was happy."

There were 83 entries in the classic car show, over 700 attendees at the mud run, and the demolition derby had many more entries than in previous years as well as large attendance.

The Lions Club went through 22 kegs of beer, up from 17 last year.

The Flying Finn 5K run and walk had a great turnout, and just about ran out of bib numbers for entrants.

Ava Redetzke was crowned Little Miss Embarrass Region Fair, Dallyce Hardy was first runner-up, and Lexa Barsness was Miss Congeniality. They were part of a group of young girls who sold raffle tickets for a fair fundraiser for this new event.

"Speaking for the whole association," said Beaton, "we are so grateful for all those who came out to support the fair."

The board still has plenty of work to do.

"Everything we knew about past fairs, we just blew by those records," said Johnson. "We didn't know what we didn't know. Now we know how to plan and provide for more things." Planning for more parking is near the top of that list since parking filled up early on both Saturday and Sunday.

"This was such an exciting weekend, but we are all drained," said Johnson, who noted that she had logged over 50 miles on her feet for the five days around the fair. "My feet are feeling it."

The group is looking for possibly as many as three volunteers to take over the role of fair direc-

tor, currently held by Sue Beaton.

The ERFA board currently consists of Tana Johnson, chair; Sarah Wallert-Ramponi, vice-chair; Jerry Meier, treasurer; Janine Patten, secretary; and directors Preston Tripp, Carissa Smith, Zane Beaton, and William Ramponi. The group is also seeking additional board members. Learn more about the association at <https://www.embarrassrfa.org/>.

Future plans for Timber Hall

The public is invited to give input into how to best use the Timber Hall event center building. On Saturday, Oct. 7, the ERFA board will be hosting a community meeting to discuss ideas and options from 3 - 5:30 p.m. at Timber Hall. Johnson noted that the community has really taken ownership of the fairgrounds and Timber Hall, but they are looking at ways to increase use of the hall and grounds. That day will also include a pancake breakfast starting at 8 a.m., and a community blood drive starting at 8:30 a.m.

AMBULANCE...Continued from page 1

to do something for sustainability and feasibility that will bring us quicker results (than waiting for the Legislature)." Banks summarized that the solution to the ambulance service concerns should involve looking at not just funding, but also "structural" and staffing issues. The study will explore all these issues, she added.

Al Forsman, who represents Ely on the JPB, thanked Banks and the hospital for taking the initiative and footing the cost of the ambulance study.

Hostile takeover?

Banks also addressed rumors that the hospital wanted to take over the ambulance service. She noted that the hospital's primary concern is that the area continues to have a viable ambulance service.

"The hospital will not and cannot allow the community to go without an ambulance service," Banks said. "We would like to work cooperatively with the existing ambulance service, but if that is not a possibility, we will move on a parallel track to be sure that those services remain."

But Banks said any change in the operation of the ambulance service will have to be undertaken with the full support of the nonprofit that currently operates the ambulance. "I wanted to address this because there has been a lot of talk about the hospital doing a hostile takeover," Banks said.

Banks detailed actions that the hospital has taken since the spring, including research into ambulance service

licensing. "I contacted the Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board (EMSRB), to ask about what license transfer (for the ambulance service) looks like."

But she noted that any license transfer back to the hospital would need the support of the existing nonprofit that currently operates the Ely ambulance. "It has to be done cooperatively," she said.

Her research looked into a second scenario as well. "For some reason, (if) the ambulance service dissolves on its own, for whatever reason... the hospital would need to work with the EMSRB and start an entirely new application process for an ambulance service. So those are the two options available."

Banks' comments contained two implications. First, that EBCH doesn't appear interested in running an ambulance service but is prepared to do so if necessary. The second is that EBCH is concerned about the financial health of the EAAS, which has been in dire financial straits over multiple years. The study of regional ambulance services is one of the ways that EBCH is exploring to improve EMS services locally.

Hospital donation

The EBCH will resume at least some of its support of ambulance-related costs. It will donate \$6,510 this week to the operating costs of the JPB-owned ambulance building. Ely clerk-treasurer Harold Langowski, who manages the bookkeeping for the JPB, sent out invoices on Aug. 7 for \$6,510 to Ely, Morse, Fall Lake, and EBCH, and an invoice for \$1,085 to Winton reflective of its lower, 4 percent ownership in the building.

Banks did not address whether EBCH will resume contributions to also support the ambulance service's operating expenses.

Pushback

Some of the ambulance service personnel at the JPB meeting had a different take on Banks' comments at the meeting.

"The hospital is actu-

ally costing the ambulance (service) a lot of money," stated Rhonda Prah, who works for the ambulance service, "and they're not paying anything to help the ambulance out." She outlined how certain transports responding at the hospital cause a cascade of EAAS costs when more crews are called in to continue EMS coverage of the Ely area.

Prah went on to add, "Why is everyone pissed at the ambulance over costing money... we provide the best service we can and it seems like we're just getting kicked. If the hospital wants to be a part of it, then they should donate and help us out with expenses."

JPB chair Marilyn Zorman pointed out that EBCH has donated, referring to the donations made up until April, and the renewed donations toward JPB building operation costs starting up again this week.

"They haven't yet that I know of," responded Prah, "and they said they weren't going to," apparently referring to the April letter from EBCH stating the hospital was halting its voluntary support of the ambulance service over both administrative and financial concerns. At this point in the meeting, the information that EBCH was resuming at least some of its voluntary support had already been disclosed publicly.

EAAS board member Chuck Novak's comments were more biting. He noted that the ambulance service was once part of EBCH and that the hospital helped create the ambulance service as its own non-profit in 2008 in response to changes in Medicare funding. He noted the irony of EBCH helping to form the JPB if the hospital took the ambulance service back over.

Invoking recent "disparaging reports" in the local press, Novak commented about the financial policies the JPB put into place last year "for funding the ambulance service" after the purchase of the new ambulance facility building, referring especially to the monthly invoicing for expenses.

Previous to the change made last year, the ambulance service would submit its request for subsidy from the JPB on a once-a-year basis, and the JPB would disburse the funds. The change made last October called for the JPB to approve the disbursements on a monthly basis instead. This practice is in keeping with most other local government bodies which approve their financials on a monthly basis.

Novak interpreted this as "treating the ambulance as an ugly stepchild," and sarcastically added, "Thanks for the trust."

Langowski stated that the purpose of the more frequent financial approvals was improved financial transparency. The change was also made because of the additional complexity added to the finances because of the purchase of the new building last year.

In other action, the JPB:

- Heard a report from Novak of the EAAS board that the audit of its finances was "still with the auditors" and the ambulance service has been "satisfying final questions from the auditors."

- Approved a fund balance of \$20,532, collected from the invoices sent out to Ely, Morse, Fall Lake and Winton. This amount will be augmented by \$6,510 when the EBCH contribution arrives this week. The JPB voted to disburse that money to EAAS.
- Set the next JPB meeting for Sept. 11 at the Winton Community Center.



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BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Speeders ticketed during July campaign

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SUDAN- In response to local complaints about speeding vehicles, the Breitung Police department wrote 16 tickets for speeding violations in July, as well as many warnings. The focus on violators was also part of a statewide push to reduce traffic speeds with a concerted enforcement effort.

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety reported over 20,000 speeding tickets were issued statewide during their speeding campaign during the month of July. "Whether you are late to work, rushing the kids to school or just trying to get

home, there is no good excuse for speeding," noted the DPS in a press statement. "Speed is a major contributing factor to fatal and life-changing crashes. Law enforcement partners worked together to stop speeders from endangering their own lives and the lives of others during a month-long extra speed enforcement and awareness campaign." As of July 31 there have been an estimated 63 speed-related deaths on Minnesota roads this year.

Breitung Police Chief Reing noted that many of those ticketed locally were going at least 20 miles above the posted limits. "Excessive speed can kill, please be safe,"

he stated.

The department responded to a total of 204 calls for service in July, issuing 18 citations including one for driving after revocation and one citation and arrest for domestic assault. They also responded to a string of thefts at Hoodoo Point Campground over the Fourth of July weekend.

Chief Reing attended a training in Kentucky for the Gang Resistance and Education and Training (GREAT) program. The program includes lessons on anti-bullying, conflict-resolution, communication, and ways to say "no" to peer pressure. Reing will be teaching the program at Vermilion Country School.

The department's Tacos with Cops fundraiser will be held on Saturday, Oct. 7. Last year the fundraiser was so well attended that the food ran out within the first hour, this year there will be much more to go around!

Reing presented four new department policies for the board's approval. A policy requiring officers to wear ballistic vests was approved, but three of the new policies will need further revisions. The policies included requiring officers to carry Narcan, naming an acting administrator if the chief were placed on leave, and requiring part-time officers to work a minimum

of one-weekend per summer.

In other news, The Breitung town board:

- Passed a motion to apply to IRRRB for \$75,000 for 2023 infrastructure work.
- Approved the \$5.6 million water filtration

plant project to go out for bids through the wastewater board.

- Set Big Truck Night for Sept. 26 from 4-6 p.m. at the Soudan playground, in partnership with the Tower-Soudan Elementary School's Early Childhood program.

- Passed a motion to pay \$157,413 for force main improvements, subject to wastewater board's approval.

The next Breitung Town Board meeting will be held Sept. 28 at the Breitung Community Center.



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VOLLEYBALL

Grizzlies debut with back-to-back wins

Survive tough test at I-Falls in five-set nailbiter

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

INT'L FALLS- The North Woods volleyball team shook off some mid-match doldrums on Tuesday to claim their second road win of the new season at International Falls.

The dominance the Grizzlies displayed while chalking up their first win at Mt. Iron-Buhl on Monday carried over into their first two sets against the Broncos. The

erves were popping, the spikes sizzling, and the bumps dropping for North Woods as they raced to set wins of 25-11 and 25-14, leaving I-Falls dazed and confused.

But volleyball is known as a game of streaks, and the Grizzlies four-game steak of dominance spanning two matches was about to come to a stumbling halt. The Broncos upped their hitting game in the third set, and with improved play at the net kept a slim advantage throughout. A block at the

Right: The Grizzlies' Madison Dantes focuses on the ball as she pulls out a dig from the backcourt.

photo by D. Colburn

net by Grizzlies' sophomore Isabel Pascuzzi got North Woods to within one at 20-19, but the Broncos countered with their own block to maintain the lead. Another North Woods sophomore, Lauren Burnett, put the Grizzlies in a

See NW GIRLS..pg. 2B



VOLLEYBALL

Strong start for Wolves

Top Northeast Range, Greenway in season opening matches

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY — The Timberwolves volleyball squad will have a tough time improving on last year's remarkable 30-2 season, but the reigning Section 7A champs got off to a solid start in their 2023 season debut on Monday by topping an improved Northeast Range team in the Vermilion college gym in straight sets.

Ely won 25-6, 25-15, and 25-13.

"We are all hoping for a successful season, but we are taking each game one at a time," said Ely Head Coach Megan Wognum.

The Wolves showed a balanced attack with solid statistics from a half dozen players. Hannah Penke led in kills with 12, along with seven digs and two aces. Lilli Rechichi added

Top: NER junior Maizy Sundblad goes up high for a spike attempt while Ely's Hannah Penke and Audrey Kallberg go for the block.

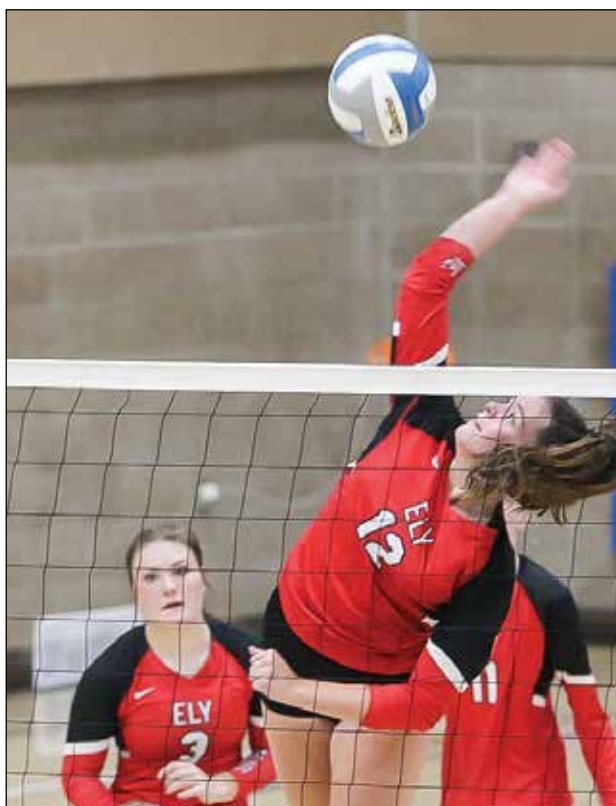
Right: Ely junior Lilli Rechichi eyes the ball on a kill attempt against Northeast Range.

photos by J. Greeney

seven kills, four digs, two solo blocks and as many blocking assists, while Audrey Kallberg added three kills, 13 digs, and two block assists. Clare Thomas posted six kills, five aces, four digs, and two blocking assists, while setter Sarah Visser marked 19 assists, three aces, and three digs.

The Wolves continued their winning ways on Tuesday, although it took four sets to send

See WOLVES..pg. 2B



FOOTBALL

Nine-man scrimmage gives Grizzlies a chance to assess

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

MT. IRON- The new-look nine-man North Woods football team had its first test of the season on Saturday at a multi-school scrimmage at Mt. Iron-Buhl.

The Grizzlies matched up against Mt. Iron-Buhl, Cook County, and Littlefork-Big Falls in a short field controlled format. Starting at the opponent's 35-yard line, each school got the chance to run 20 consecutive offensive plays against their opponents' defense.

Right: North Woods running back Nick Abramson prepares to run over a Littlefork-Big Falls defender during Saturday's scrimmage. photo by D. Colburn

For their first venture into the nine-man game in five years, Head Coach Joel Anderson was relatively pleased with how the Grizzlies performed.

"I thought we did a lot of good things," Anderson said. "I put together

See GRIZZLIES..pg. 2B



Orr native Jacob Skraba reaches an alpine meadow checkpoint in the grueling Leadville 100 run.
submitted photo

ULTRAMARATHON

Orr native excels in high altitude race

Skraba survives heat to finish 11th out of over 800 competitors

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Orr native Jacob Skraba is living proof that a person can come to love and excel in a pursuit they once despised.

On Aug. 19, Skraba tested his endurance against the high elevations of the Colorado Rockies by running in the grueling Leadville 100 ultramarathon, widely considered one of the toughest races in the world. It's one of the five contests that make up the Grand Slam of ultra running.

Skraba has always been athletic, participating in football at North Woods School, where he graduated in 2016, and holding down a spot on the University of Minnesota rowing team during his years there. And although he loved the outdoors, running was never something that held any appeal for him, at least not until he moved to Eugene, Ore., in the fall of 2020 to attend graduate school in architecture.

Studying in a town considered by many to be the mecca of track and field and distance running in the U.S., a city that claims legendary U.S. record holder and Olympian runner Steve Prefontaine among its favorite sons, Eugene is known as "The City where Everyone Runs," and that soon included Skraba.

"I picked up running while I was out there," Skraba said. "It's hard to not run there. After being a self-professed 'I hate running, I would never run' person, I quickly fell in love with it."

What sparked Skraba's 180-degree turnaround was discovering trail running, which took him into the outdoors that he'd loved so much growing up in Orr.

"I think the access to the outdoors was something I just took for granted

See SKRABA...pg. 2B

LIVE THEATER

“These Shining Lives” to be on stage at LVCC

TOWER- Stages of the Range Players is producing the play “These Shining Lives” by Melanie Marnich in September. Performances of the play will be in Tower at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center, and Gilbert at the City Auditorium.

The play was commissioned by Northlight Theatre in Skokie, Ill. It was performed in Baltimore, New York City, Palo Alto, and in St. Paul at The History Theatre.

“These Shining Lives” chronicles the strength and determination of women considered expendable in their day, the early decades of the 20th Century.

Catharine Donohue (played by Sarah Packa) is a young wife and mother when she takes a job at Radium Dial. Working alongside three other women she quickly gets up to speed painting watch and clock dials for eight cents apiece. At the time, radium was considered

the cure for all kinds of ailments and, in the beginning, no one thought it was dangerous.

The women who painted the fine numbers on the time pieces learned the lines would be neater if they rolled the tip of their brushes between their lips to get a really fine point. They were artists at their craft. Catherine excelled at it and took pride in her work. She never would have quit. But, as the company denied it, the women on the job started becoming ill and dying. Doctor after doctor took the side of the company, until one doctor would risk his name to say out loud that the severe symptoms the women had were caused by radium.

The women in Stages of the Range Players’ production, Catherine, Frances (played by Tavia Melhus), Charlotte (played by Marlys Goerd), and Pearl (played by Jamie Atterson), become fast friends and support each other through the



Sarah Packa (left) and Marlys Goerdt rehearsing a scene.

doubts, illness, and the trials. The Company may have stolen their health, but they couldn’t take their spirits.

Other cast members include Sam Papin playing Catherine’s husband, Tom Donahue, Tom Moe playing the women’s boss and other characters, and Pete Pellinen.

Stages of the Range Players is a nomadic theater company that presents and produces live theater at various venues across the Iron Range. With over 20 years of experience in Virginia under different company identities, Stages of the Range Players produces dinner theater experiences, radio plays at care

centers and elsewhere, and now stages plays in area auditoriums and community centers.

The production of “These Shining Lives” by Stages of the Range Players is made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature’s general fund.

Performances will be at the Vermilion Cultural Center, 705 Main Street in Tower, on Sunday, Sept. 10 at 2:30 p.m., and on Monday Sept. 11, and Tuesday Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. Performances in Gilbert will be at the City Auditorium, 17 Broadway on Friday Sept. 22, and Saturday Sept. 23 at 7 p.m., and Sunday Sept. 24 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$17 plus processing fee when pre-purchased at <https://www.onthestage.tickets/stages-of-the-range-players>, or \$20 at the door while seats are available.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Mark R. Phillips

Mark Raymond Phillips, beloved husband, dad, grandpa, brother, uncle, cousin, brother-in-law, dog-lover, storyteller, public servant, strategic thinker, compassionate leader, economic and community developer, and friend peacefully passed away in his sleep on Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023, at his home on Lake Vermilion in Tower, after spending the day enveloped in the love and caring support of his wife, kids, and hospice angels.

The family is grateful to Dr. Bret Friday, nurses and staff at Essential Health-Virginia; Dr. Lance Pagliaro and Dr. Aaron Potretzke at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester; and Dr. Keith Peterson, nurses and staff at Essential Health Hospice for their expertise, care and compassion.

A celebration of Mark’s life will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23 at the Virginia Elks Club, 220 N 5th Ave. W in Virginia. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Mark grew up in Eveleth where he was born on June 30, 1950, to William Raymond and Annie (Bennetts) Phillips. After graduating from Eveleth High School in 1968, he attended Gustavus Adolphus College for three years and then transferred to the University of Minnesota-Duluth, where he met his future wife, Patty Pocrnich, and graduated with a degree in Business Administration.

Mark was a visionary leader and a savvy dealmaker who worked tirelessly to balance financial benefit with positive community impact and whose professional legacy lives in the numerous improvements in the communities he served in Northeastern Minnesota and beyond. A recipient of the Economic Development Association of Minnesota’s Career Achievement Award, Mark had

forty years of leadership experience in economic and community development. He served as Commissioner of the IRRRB for eight years under both Governors Mark Dayton and Tim Walz, Commissioner of the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development, Director of Corporate Relations at Minnesota Power (Allete), Director of Business Development at Kraus Anderson Construction, Vice President of Northeast Ventures Corporation, Vice President of Business Banking for Norwest Bank (Wells Fargo) in Virginia and Director of Economic Development for the IRRRB. He also held leadership positions on corporate and non-profit boards, including the University of Minnesota Alumni Association National Board, UMD’s Labovitz School of Business, Northland Foundation of Duluth and the Virginia Foundation.

73 years young, Mark lived a good story and to quote him, “a wonderful life with no regrets.” He was a loving family man who enjoyed every second spent with his adult children, grandchildren and grand-dogs. He had a huge circle of friends and was loved and respected wherever he worked. He had a lifelong love affair with Lake Vermilion and enjoyed boating and viewing its beautiful sunsets and sunrises, first as a young boy at his family’s cabin on Daisy Bay and later, at his cabin and then his retirement home on Frazer Bay.

Mark is survived by his wife of 49 years, Patty; daughter, Jessica and grandsons Vincent and Miles; son, Joe and grand-dog, Nacho; sisters, Prudence Wirtz and Constance (George) Walters; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Mark and Suzanne (Wenstrom) Pocrnich; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Nancy R. Mihm

Nancy R. Maki Mihm, 88, of Cook, died peacefully at home on Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023. A memorial service was held on Thursday, Aug. 31 at Trinity Lutheran Church. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

She will be deeply missed by her daughter, Susan (Peter) Stone; son, Greg (Coralee) Mihm;

grandchildren, Chad (Connie) Stone, Brandi (Max) Embacher, Justin (Stephanie) Mihm and Brandon (Amber Wilke) Mihm; great-grandchildren, Steven (Alli Sandberg) Stone, Makenzie (Justin) Huberty, Hailey (Michael Anderson) Embacher, Kate (Drake Zible) Stone, Devin Embacher, Hunter Mihm, Mason Mihm and Addison Mihm; great-great-grandchildren, Braelynn and Sutton; and best friend, Barb.



Loren G. Sampson

Loren Gene Sampson, 83, of Babbitt, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, Aug. 20, 2023. A graveside service was held on Monday, Aug. 28 at the Argo Cemetery. After the burial, a celebration of life was held at the Junction Hotel Conference Room in Babbitt. Arrangements were with Range Funeral Home of Virginia.

Loren was born on March 9, 1940, in Brocton. He was the oldest of three children born to George Sampson and Lorraine Kalland Sampson. He attended the Ely High School and graduated in 1959. Loren married the love of his life, Roxyann

Christeck, on June 26, 1965. The couple raised two foster girls, Linda and Colleen Olson, and had four children, Larry, Sally, Tammy and Wayne. They made their home in Babbitt.

Loren was a hard-working man. He worked at Reserve Mining until its closure, and then had many side jobs, including Dublin Plumbing, Dr. Udovich and Riverpoint Resort.

And he also worked for the City of Babbitt Street Department. He enjoyed his breakfasts and drives around town at noon. And you could expect to see him around the evening cruising in his old cars, playing the oldies but goodies.

Loren is survived by wife of 58 years, Roxyann; children, Larry (Lisa) Sampson, Sally (Red) Orutt, Wayne Sampson

and Tammy (Craig) Lasart; grandchildren, Malory Reichenberger, Kyle Orutt, Chelsey Orutt, Shelby (Jordan) Lasart, Kerensa (Cody) Lasart, Joscelyn Lasart, Jacob (Tamara) Brown, Karl Brown and Kyle Brown; and thirteen great-grandchildren. He will be missed by family and many friends.

ESTATE AUCTION

- of George M. Rosandich; Peg Bateman-Executor

THURSDAY, SEPT. 7
10 AM
5290 Hwy. 100, Aurora, MN 55705

40 WOODED ACRES WITH BUILDINGS- Aurora, MN-(To be auctioned at 12:00) High land w/ sandy soil and has a plantation regrowth of pine trees. Ideal recreational land or several future building sites. Three access driveways- one to the original older, story and a half home, 3 bedroom/1 bath, on full basement. Appliances included. Home was recently re-roofed and neatly kept inside. Propane furnace. Needs exterior TLC. Has frontage on Hwy 100 and adjoins NW Paper Co. to the east. Also, 2-stall garage, newer metal roof, with storage addn on north end. Sauna on slab. North two driveways access small block bldg on slab, (workshop), and large collapsed steel-span bldg on slab. To settle the Estate, this property will auctioned “As Is” with clear title. Non-contingent sale. Septic and well are non-functioning. Buyer will assume all financial obligations for septic and well as deemed necessary by St. Louis County. St. Louis Co. PID: 570-0024-00220, -00240, and -00230

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by Melanie Marnich

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<https://tinyurl.com/SRPTheater>
\$20 at the door
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Lake Vermilion Cultural Center
705 Main Street, Tower, MN
and
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Gilbert City Auditorium
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This activity is made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to appropriations from Minnesota State Legislature’s General Fund.



Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

BEAR HUNTING

Advantage goes to bears as season opens Friday

Abundant natural foods should be a factor limiting hunter success

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—Cautious optimism is the general rule for area bear guides, even as the abundance of natural foods in the woods appears to be reducing interest in their baits. The bear season gets underway this Friday, Sept. 1 and runs through Oct. 15.

Late August is a time of intense activity for bears

as they feed aggressively to put on weight ahead of their winter hibernation. Hunters and guides typically start baiting in mid-August in hopes of establishing regular visits from a harvestable bear near their hunting stands. That can be a tougher task in years when natural foods are found in abundance.

And that's been the story this summer, with good crops of juneberries, blueberries and raspberries beginning

in July, followed by a huge crop of chokecherries and wild plums.

"The juneberries were totally awesome," said long-time bear guide Dennis Udovich, who was preparing this week for the start of the season. He'll be hosting 12 clients this year and said he'll be urging patience. While he's seeing good numbers of bears, like most area guides, he strongly urges his clients to be selective about the bears

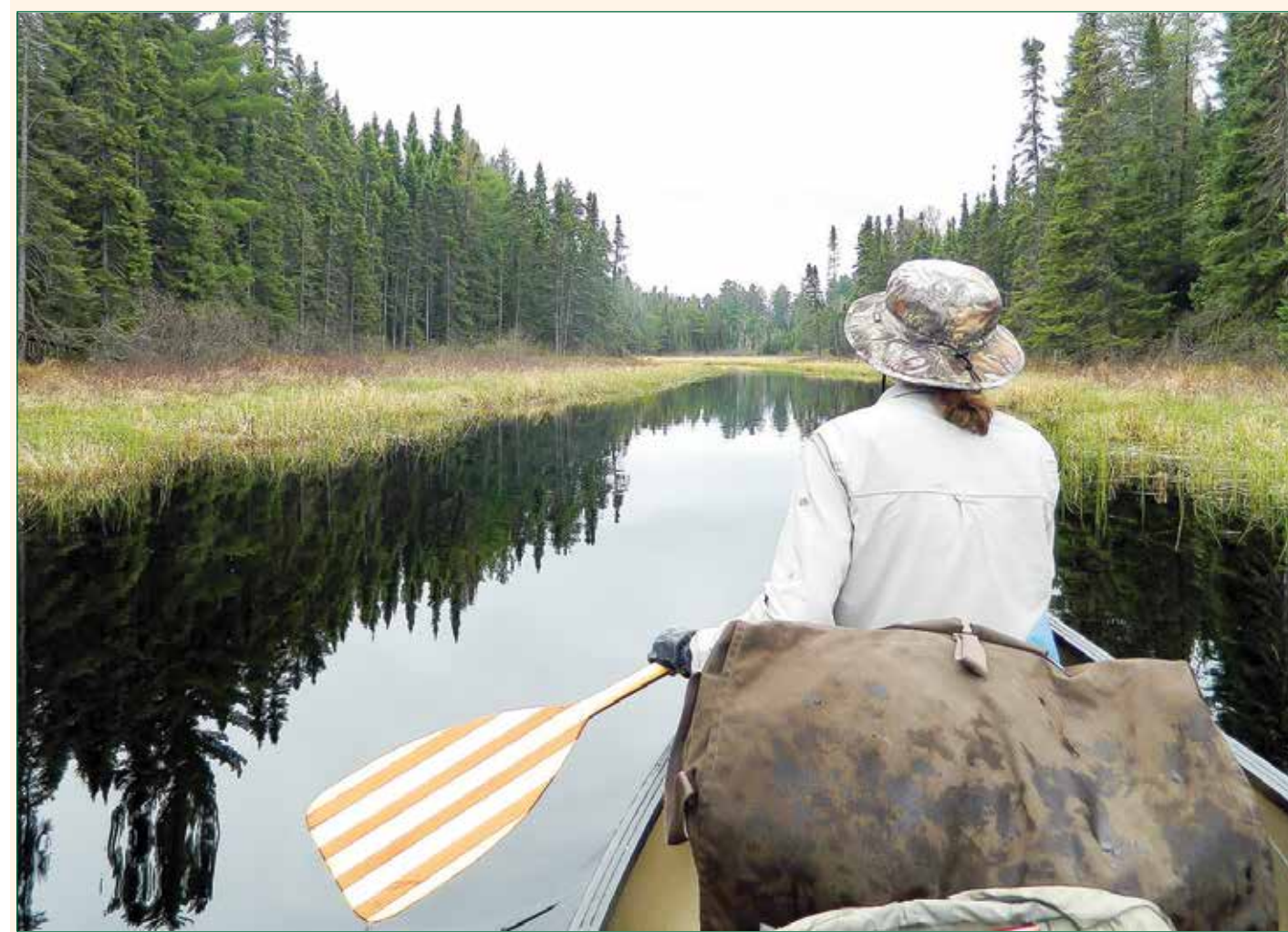
Bear hunters might be in for a challenging season this fall, as bears aren't as attracted to baiting because there are plentiful berries in the wild.

file photo

they take, avoiding females with cubs and young bears.

Cook area bear guide Jesse Brunner, who is maintaining baits for seven clients, said he's finding some inter-

See BEARS...pg. 5B



BOUNDARY WATERS VISITORSHIP

BW usage returns to pre-pandemic levels

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—Visitor use in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness returned largely to pre-pandemic levels last year, according to a recently released visitor use report for the year 2018-2022, released last week by the U.S. Forest Service.

Visits to the wilderness declined by nine percent last year over the 2021 pandemic peak, when visitation swelled to 166,374 people.

A total of 150,842 individuals visited the 1.1-million-acre wilderness in 2022, a

nine percent drop over the previous year. That put visitation more in line with pre-pandemic levels. A total of 143,140 individuals visited the wilderness in 2019, the year before the COVID-19 outbreak reached the U.S. A total of 150,714 visited the BWCAW in 2018.

"Our wilderness rangers, volunteers, and partners work hard year around to preserve wilderness character and ensure that over 150,000 visitors from across the nation have the opportunity to experience the BWCAW," said Ann Schwaller, wilderness program manager on the Superior. Forest Service officials say the return

to more typical use levels is beneficial in helping the forest staff to restore the many campsites and portages that saw extraordinarily high levels of use, and misuse in some cases, during the pandemic years.

Forest Service officials note that BWCAW permit usage varies from year to year and can be due to changes in weather, drought, floods, blow-down, wildfires, the economy, public health crises, Canadian border closures, crowding, and even the timing of insects hatching.

The new report noted the following:

►Cancellations of over-

night paddle permits more than doubled in 2021 and 2022, over levels experienced in 2018 and 2019, although it isn't clear why. Canceled permits are generally returned to the pool of available permits, so they don't necessarily limit wilderness usage. Cancellations of other types of permits saw much more limited increases.

►The number of no-shows increased as well, from 1,727 for all permit types in 2018, to 4,277 last year. The number of no-shows for day-use motor permits saw the biggest jump,

See VISITORS...pg. 5B

Center recommends more collaboration over BWCAW management

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—A national organization hired by the Superior National Forest is recommending the creation of a sustained effort at collaboration with a wide range of area stakeholders to address issues surrounding the management of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

The John McCain National

Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution, a program of the Udall Foundation, held extended interviews with more than 250 stakeholders with connections to the BWCAW. Among the many questions explored, the interviewers found that there was broad support for a more collaborative approach by the Forest Service when it comes to BWCAW management.

"Participants focused on

a variety of management and communication issues, including visitor use patterns, campsite and trail maintenance, and how to prevent and enforce "Leave No Trace" violations," noted the center in its 39-page report. In addition, participants expressed concern about "permit system challenges, access to and availability of opportunities to experience the BWCAW, motorized and non-motorized

use issues, current and future environmental impacts."

Those interviewed also recommended that the Forest Service update its education and resource materials to better encourage wilderness visitors to be responsible during their visits.

"Most participants support the idea of purposeful and focused collaboration to

See CENTER...pg. 5B

Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower
FLAT-TOPPED ASTER



It's the season of the asters and one of the most distinctive members of this family here in the North Country is the **Flat-topped Aster**, *Doellingeria umbellata*, which can be found nearly anywhere in our region in woodland habitats.

Its cream-colored flowers, usually less than a half-inch across, grow in a flat-topped cluster, or umbel, atop an unbranched stem that grows anywhere from two-to-five-foot high. They're easiest to find in more open patches in the woods, and they seem partial to wet grassy meadows.

They'll be blooming for a few weeks yet, typically through September.

Fishing reports

Ely area

Walleye fishing has remained strong on many area lakes this last week. Anglers continue to find walleyes deep, in 12-20 feet of water. More and more anglers are looking to minnows and trolling crankbaits to catch their walleyes. Anglers fishing minnows are working them on a jig, around current areas, windy humps, windy shorelines and windblown points. Anglers trolling crankbaits have been trolling baits over large flats, again in 12-20 feet of water, during the day.

Smallies continue to be found more and more out on sunken islands, mixed in with walleyes. Paddle tails and flukes on heavy 1/2oz jigs seem to be doing the trick. Anglers can still find smallies around shorelines, downed trees and in large rivers. Anglers fishing here have been throwing topwater lures, Ned rigs, wacky worms and in-line spinners for active smallies.

Crappies continue to be a popular choice for anglers and for good reason. Crappies are being found in thick stands of cabbage, or around downed trees. Evening hours seems to be the most consistent bite for anglers using jig/twisters, beetle spins and crappie minnows. Anglers are finding sunnies in the same areas, but anglers are catching them on live bait more than artificial.

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

KNOCK DOWN DRAG OUT

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

						Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday																			
						81 58	84 61	89 63	87 63	79 56																			
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.					
08/21	68	55	0.06		08/21	69	52	0.10		08/21	67	55	0.06		08/21	59	55	0.00		08/21	68	54	0.10						
08/22	70	55	0.05		08/22	62	55	0.15		08/22	60	55	0.05		08/22	64	59	0.14		08/22	60	55	0.10						
08/23	61	57	0.10		08/23	64	56	0.00		08/23	64	57	0.03		08/23	68	61	0.09		08/23	64	57	0.00						
08/24	64	59	0.04		08/24	70	58	0.00		08/24	68	59	0.04		08/24	75	61	0.07		08/24	68	58	0.00						
08/25	73	48	0.17		08/25	76	55	0.00		08/25	76	59	0.03		08/25	70	61	1.15		08/25	75	56	0.40						
08/26	76	55	0.00		08/26	79	56	0.00		08/26	76	58	0.02		08/26	64	55	0.00		08/26	77	56	0.00						
08/27	59	44	0.00		08/27	65	40	0.00		08/27	68	47	0.00		08/27	72	48	0.00		08/27	60	40	0.00						
YTD Total					YTD Total					YTD Total					YTD Total														
					16.61					16.54					12.33					NA					16.03				



A national-level archer for North Woods School, sixth-grader Clark Danielson, of Cook, is pretty good with a rod and reel, too, as evidenced by this 30-lb. barred muskie he caught on Thursday, Aug. 24 using a black and white spoon and what appears to have been some hand-to-fin combat. In true seasoned angler fashion, Clark declined to share the “secret location” where he made the big catch, although the Timberjay has confirmed it was somewhere along Bear River.

submitted photo

BEARS...Continued from page 4B

ested bears, but not the level of interest as in some years. “About 95 percent of my baits are being hit, but they just come in and take some. They can pick and choose this year.”

Bob Derr, who guides hunters in the Ely area, said he was initially optimistic with the number of hits on the 24 baits he’s maintaining for his eight clients, until he put trail cams where he had hits and found they were mostly yearlings and sows with cubs. He’s since found a few nicer bears coming in as well, which has buoyed his optimism. He said interest in baits typically increases as August winds down and bears kick their already aggressive search for food into higher gear.

Derr said interest in his baits hasn’t been limited to bears. “Pretty much every bait is being hit by wolves,” he said. While many guides use a mix of scents, sweets, and grease, to attract bears, he said wolves are often more than happy to eat cookies and candy. “They’re just like a dog,” he said. While other animals will often take an interest in bear baits, Derr said that can actually help his cause, since they spread some of the scents he uses around the woods as they come and go.

Hunters can probably use the help this year. “Locally, we have had

pretty good bear foods,” said Jessica Holmes, Tower area DNR wildlife manager. That’s been good news for wildlife managers so far this year. “Our nuisance bear complaints have declined dramatically since mid-June,” said Holmes. “It’s going to be a bit harder for hunters,” she added, predicting that the harvest will be impacted. That could put it in line with last year’s harvest numbers, which was another strong food year for bears.

“Hunters should be flexible in the types of baits they use,” said Holmes. “And they’ll need to be patient.”

As with most hunting, the weather can play a significant role and the forecast of temperatures in the 80s for the first five days of the season is giving the guides pause. “When it’s hot the bears don’t move around as much,” said Brunner. Udovich agrees, and said hot weather can push bears to be more active at night, after legal hours.

“That’s the kind of thing that keeps me up at night,” said Udovich.

Outdoors briefly

Apply by Oct. 1 to become a U Of M Extension Master Gardener

REGIONAL— If you’ve ever thought of becoming a University of Minnesota Master Gardener, the application period is open through Oct. 1.

Extension Master Gardeners bring science-based horticulture knowledge and practices to Minnesota, promoting healthy landscapes and building communities through volunteer efforts.

“Our understanding of the benefits of gardening is expanding

to include personal and community wellbeing, pollinator health, the importance of climate resilient landscapes and more. Becoming a Master Gardener volunteer is a great way to invest time and energy in local activities and efforts that support healthy people and a healthy planet,” said Tim Kenny, statewide director of the Master Gardener program. Master Gardeners are respected as reliable sources of gardening information for Minnesotans. What many don’t know is that becoming a Master Gardener gives volunteers a chance to expand their interests in areas including sustainability, local foods, pollinators and climate change. Master Gardeners also put their skills to work conserving green spaces, native plants and clean water. The University of Minnesota

has trained thousands of Master Gardeners and each year, they contribute more than 140,000 hours of service in Minnesota communities.

This year, the training will be all online and spread out over 14 weeks, making the program more student-friendly than ever.

To become a Master Gardener, individuals commit to complete online training and 50 hours of volunteering in the first year. After the first year, they commit 25 hours to annual volunteer work and many choose to devote more time to the program.

Master Gardeners come from all ages and backgrounds. To learn more about the program and apply, visit z.umn.edu/master-gardener or call 612-625-9864.

VISITORS...Continued from page 4B

with 1,316 no-shows last year, compared to 528 in 2018. Overnight paddle no-shows doubled from 1,256 in 2019 to 2,572 in 2022. According to the Forest Service, no-shows are factored into the distribution and quota system related to campsite availability and are expected.

In 2022, 93 percent of all visitors traveled to the wilderness between May 1 and September 30 during mandatory quota season. Only seven percent of visitors traveled to the BWCAW from October 1-April 30, when quotas are no

longer in effect. Overnight paddling continues to dominate overnight use, still slightly higher in 2022 than in 2018 and 2019, at 21,097. Day use motorboat permits exempted from the quota (exempt permits issued to resorts and homeowners on lakes partially inside the wilderness) increased substantially over the five-year period, from 163 in 2018 to 1,747 in 2022. Most of those exempt motorboats were found on Moose, Fall, and Snowbank lakes on the west side of the BWCAW and Saganaga and

Seagull lakes on the east side. Adults made up the vast majority of BWCAW users throughout the five-year period examined in the report, and adult use during the quota period increased from 62,853 in 2018 to 86,825 in 2022. Adult use peaked in 2020 at 97,599. Youth numbers held remarkably steady during the period. The average group size dropped in 2020, but otherwise remained very close to the average of four.

CENTER...Continued from page 4B

increase understanding and to explore possibilities to preserve, protect, and improve a unique wilderness area they all care deeply about.”

Participants interviewed for the analysis included federal, state, county, and Canadian agency staff, tourism board staff, youth program staff, researchers and academics, environmental and conservation group staff, cooperators, outfitters

and guides, along with unaffiliated Boundary Waters users. “The results of the report highlight a wide range of stakeholder interests and views about the Boundary Waters and how it is managed,” says Seth Cohen, Senior Program Manager for the center. “Most assessment participants would like to see Superior National Forest explore collaboration opportunities to address challenging man-

agement issues. We look forward to continuing to support SNF staff as they consider new opportunities to engage interested parties.” SNF officials indicated that they plan to take the center’s advice. “We look forward to moving into next steps— the development of a collaborative group and working proactively on BWCAW issues,” said Forest Supervisor Tom Hall.

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- ✓ Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
- ✓ Trash unused bait

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- ✓ Everything at least five days before going to other waters
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SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

King Crossword

Solution time: 24 mins.
ABBA WES SCOT
BEET HEW HUGE
CRABCAKE EELS
STUART DULCET
TEN ELLA
PAC WOK TERSE
IDOL WIG DDAY
POLOS MET STE
DOOM NAB
HECKLE TRUSTS
ALAS CLEARCUT
MILE CEE ROBE
SALE AIL OWEN

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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

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

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Super Crossword MILK-AND-HONEY POOCHES

ACROSS

- 1 Web page directories
- 9 Espressos, e.g.
- 16 Basic lessons
- 20 Open to suggestion
- 21 Solar or lunar phenomenon
- 22 U.S. island territory
- 23 Start of a riddle
- 25 Paree "to be"
- 26 Tar's "Help!"
- 27 Wrinkly tangelo variety
- 28 Cavaliers' org.
- 29 Stuff expelled from a volcano
- 31 West Aleutian island
- 33 Brand of contact lens solution
- 35 Outbreak of zits
- 37 Reply to "Which girl?"
- 38 Mom on "The Cosby Show"
- 41 Riddle, part 2
- 45 Old-style "Yay!"
- 47 Voguish Christian
- 48 — kwon do
- 49 Was the father of
- 50 — Lady of Guadalupe
- 51 Eager kids' question
- 53 Pinkish red
- 55 Not even one
- 56 Riddle, part 3
- 61 Aykroyd of film
- 62 Favorite son of Isaac
- 63 Beard on grain
- 64 Eyes lewdly
- 65 Fissure
- 67 Great joy
- 69 Remedies
- 70 Cross the mind of
- 74 — T (exactly)
- 75 Boring carpentry tool
- 76 Oology subject
- 77 Bert who played a lion
- 78 Spike on a film set
- 81 Riddle, part 4
- 85 Grease-laden
- 87 Diarist Nin
- 88 Snares, e.g.
- 89 Previous to, in verse
- 90 Canonized fifth-cen. pope
- 92 Barely manage, with "out"
- 93 Canadian gas brand
- 95 Ancient Greek lyric poet
- 97 End of the riddle
- 101 Campus complexes
- 102 Commanded
- 103 — Mawr College
- 104 — a one (zilch)
- 105 Rival of Lyft
- 107 Threat ender
- 109 Windows 10 runners, e.g.
- 110 A few
- 112 Ewe noise
- 115 Viva —
- 116 Riddle's answer
- 122 Slaughter of baseball
- 123 Racked up
- 124 Anticlimactic happening
- 125 Muralist José María —
- 126 Rodent-catching cats
- 127 With two-channel sound

DOWN

- 1 Plank cutters
- 2 Modest "I think," online
- 3 Alternatives to 9-Across
- 4 Suffix with absorb
- 5 Bucko
- 6 In re
- 7 Put a stopper in
- 8 Vend
- 9 Ron of the 1970s
- 10 First female Supreme Court justice
- 11 Viral cause of a winter woe, informally
- 12 It funds Soc. Security
- 13 Pollution-control gp.
- 14 U.S. immigrants' class
- 15 Gomez of "Getaway"
- 16 Old Time film critic James
- 17 Totally bungled
- 18 The late 1970s, politically
- 19 Applied, as finger paint
- 24 Makes soiled
- 30 787s, e.g.
- 31 Lung filler
- 32 Pamphlet
- 34 Old name for Tokyo
- 35 Classic game consoles
- 36 Bamboozle
- 38 Had grub
- 39 Thelma's film sidekick
- 40 Of a major blood vessel
- 42 Astronomer
- 43 Furry scarves
- 44 Musical set in Oz, with "The"
- 46 "Ver-r-r-ry funny"
- 52 Salamander
- 53 V8 vegetable
- 54 Charley horse, e.g.
- 57 French for "eight"
- 58 Areas on a golf course
- 59 Be in accord
- 60 Bodily pouch
- 66 Pooch with a corded coat
- 68 Pai — poker (casino game)
- 69 Adorable kids
- 70 Waikiki's island
- 71 Like many gory movies
- 72 Constellation
- 73 Mandates
- 75 Skywalker of "Star Wars"
- 76 Scandalous corporation of 2001
- 78 Old sweetsies
- 79 Whichever of the two
- 80 Alternative magazine to House Beautiful
- 82 Rival
- 83 "Sounds right to me"
- 84 Back of a 45 record
- 86 "Dam tootin'!"
- 91 Poetic eyes
- 93 "Roots" Emmy winner
- 94 35mm camera inits.
- 96 Fish-fowl linkup
- 98 Coal mine vehicle
- 99 Put in a crate
- 100 Burden with one's problems
- 106 Pintos, e.g.
- 108 For fear that
- 109 Bygone
- 111 Bygone Dodge
- 112 Dutch South African
- 113 Novelist Rice
- 114 In re
- 117 Doc's org.
- 118 Rebel Turner
- 119 Jewel box inserts
- 120 Tennis barrier
- 121 "Now — seen it all!"

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CryptoQuote
answer
It's always been the woman's disadvantage to be older, never the man's.
— Jane Fonda

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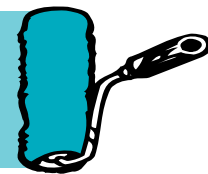
Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
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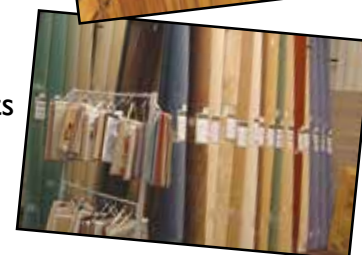
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