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The TIMBERJAY



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TORRENTIAL RAIN

Area hit by deluge

Widespread road damage, stranded campers, flooded basements among the many impacts from rainfall that ranged from four to nine inches across the area

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Torrential rains on Tuesday, the likes of which haven't been seen in the North Country in decades, created widespread flash flooding, extensive property damage, and wreaked havoc on state and county roads.

A line of thunderstorms pushed into the region late Tuesday morning and proceeded to hover over the area for much of the rest of the day, rarely letting up as it dumped an average of nearly an inch of rain an hour during the afternoon in some areas. Reported rainfall amounts varied from three to seven inches across the region, according to the Duluth National Weather Service office, although anecdotal reports from individuals ranged as high as nine inches. Official rainfall measurements included 4.6" south of Tower, 5.1" near Cook, 2.93" near Ely, 3.42" east of Orr, and 4.33" near Embarrass.

A major impact of the storm was to the area's transportation system, with flash flooding creating dangerous hazards and causing road-closing washouts.

According to MnDOT, as of 9 a.m. Wednesday:

►Hwy. 1 between Sassas Rd. and Brown Rd., 15 miles west of Tower, remained closed due to a severe washout on Tuesday. MnDOT indicated on its 511MN.org road conditions website that a detour would remain in place

See...STORM pg. 9



Top: Hwy. 1 was closed indefinitely about four miles east of Hwy. 53 in Angora after floodwaters washed away a section of the state highway. MnDOT currently estimates the road will be closed for at least a week for repair.

Above: Intense rainfall on Tuesday afternoon in Tower. Many unofficial reports suggested rainfall topping seven to eight inches in some places.

Right: A truck makes its way through floodwaters on Hwy. 169 just west of Tower. A section of Hwy. 169, near Karjala Road, remained closed as of Wednesday.

photos by M. Helmberger



AMBULANCE SERVICE

Study calls for three-way EMS merger

Plan would combine Ely, Tower, and Babbitt,

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital once owned the local ambulance service here but gave it up over financial concerns. Yet a recently completed study suggests that the most cost-effective future for area ambulance services may be for the hospital to return to the emergency medical transport business once again.

That's the conclusion of the analysis undertaken late last year by SafeTech

Solutions, a consulting firm specializing in rural EMS. Hospital officials hired the company to study ways to improve the troubled finances of Ely's ambulance service and explore ways that a regionalized approach could provide a solution for services in Tower and Babbitt as well.

SafeTech presented their results at a two-hour public meeting last Thursday at the Ely Senior Center. The

See...STUDY pg. 9



Ben Wasmund

WELL TROUBLE

Tower-Soudan's main well fails, back-up in place

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

BREITUNG TWP- A "catastrophic failure" of the pump shaft that operates Tower-Soudan's primary drinking water well over the weekend has the system running off the backup well, something that hasn't happened in the 26 years that Matt Tuchel has been in charge of the joint system for the neighboring communities.

"This is why we have backups," he said.

According to Tuchel, the 45-year-old shaft broke right where it comes out of the motor. Plant operators were notified of the problem on Sunday when the water level in the water tower got low. Once they identified the issue, they began pumping water from the backup well to fill the tower. Tuchel said they have been doing frequent testing of water quality, but so far, the water quality from the backup well is up to standards.

Both wells are scheduled to have major rehabilitative work done over the next year as part of the multi-million-dollar upgrades to the water fil-

See...WELL FAILS pg. 9



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THE COMMONWEALTH REQUIRES THE EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE AS A SAFEGUARD OF ORDER AND LIBERTY

The art of the Ely Memorial High School

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The now century-old Ely Memorial High School is the home of both unique artwork and architectural flourishes of note. The *Ely Miner* reported in October 1924 that the new school featured “Danville brick with cut stone facings [that] grace the exterior. Marble and plaster, concrete stairways, Kel-lastone composition floors and the finest of wood trimmings were utilized in the interior,” added the *Miner*. These features, for the most part, persist to this day.

In addition, the building itself features architectural details like marble ornamentation and decorative tilework in the entryway, a cast-bronze chandelier, fancy wood trim in the hallways and figured plaster moulding on the ceiling edges and supports.

The most striking feature of the school is its entrance, designed to inspire students as they marched up its marble-flanked stairs into the building. Going up the steps, above the gymnasium doors is a large sign proclaiming, “The commonwealth requires the education of the people as a safeguard of order and liberty.”

Two giant murals, installed in 1926, cover the walls on either side of the entrance stairway, representing the pursuits of peace, namely industry and education. The murals are original works by David Tice Workman, a famous 20th century Minnesota muralist, who also created the 120-foot-long murals of famous figures from history that once hung in the high school’s former library and currently hang in the hallway outside the media center in the new addition.

The two entryway murals and six other paintings were the gift of the Frank Lozar American Legion Post (now the Lozar-Mrace-Loushin Post 248), which decided in 1924 to give the school artwork displaying “not the horrors of war but the glories of peace.” The other six artworks are copies of works that are in the Library of Congress. Two of the paintings are copies of two wall mosaics by



German-American artist Frederick Dielman representing law and history. They hang in the right and left interior stairwells in the high school building. The other four paintings are cop-

ies of semicircular murals by American artist and illustrator Charles Sprague Pearce, representing religion, recreation, labor, and study. Labor and Study are mounted on either side of the

gymnasium doors. The painting of Recreation was found by music teacher Karl Kubiak in the basement of the high school who asked that it be mounted in the new band room, where it currently hangs. It appropriately shows a boy and a young woman playing musical instruments. Religion is currently mounted in the classroom used by English teacher James Lah.

Four presidents

Bought as gifts, the old high school building once hosted four life-size plaster-cast statues of American presidents. One of these statues, that of Teddy Roosevelt, still survives and is currently on display next to the office of the Ely-Winton Historical Society.

The statues were once on display “downstairs at the old high school building,” according to MaryAnne Lekatz of the Ely-Memorial Historical Society, who remembers seeing them.

The fate of the other three statues is unknown and they are likely lost. One of the statues was a plaster cast of the famous “Standing Lincoln” in Chicago by Augustus Saint Gaudens. It was a gift to the high school from the class of 1916 according to an article in the *Ely Miner*. The identity of the two other statues is unknown, and Lekatz can’t remember who they were. Given the time period, they may have been of Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, which would have given the high school the entire suite of presidents seen on the then recently completed Mount Rushmore.

If anyone has any information on the identity of the unidentified two presidential statues, please contact Catie Clark or David Colburn at the *Timberjay*.

The yearbook gap

One of the largest impediments to this project was the lack of Ely Memorial High School Yearbooks. The *Timberlane*, the current yearbook, appears not to have existed before 1950.

Lekatz told the *Timberjay* that the production of yearbooks was intermittent, based on her parents’ experience. “My mother graduated from Ely Memorial High School in 1930 and she had a yearbook. My father, who graduated in 1929, had none.”

If any of our readers have yearbooks from the high school for any years before 1950, please donate them to the Ely Public Schools Media Center or the Ely-Winton Historical Society.

As Ely gets ready to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Ely Memorial High School, the building’s unique artwork is worth stopping by to visit.

Above: The original mural by artist Workman depicting Industry. Left: Details from the original mosaic mural by Dielman in the Library of Congress, and below is the painted copy which is hanging in Ely Memorial High

gymnasium doors. The painting of Recreation was found by music teacher Karl Kubiak in the basement of the high school who asked that it be mounted in the new band room, where it currently hangs. It appropriately shows a boy and a young woman playing musical instruments. Religion is currently mounted in the classroom used by English teacher James Lah.

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ELY CITY COUNCIL

Ely doesn't want to lose its traffic lights

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

MnDOT's proposal for a roundabout at Sheridan and Third draws criticism

ELY- Will a roundabout replace the traffic light at the intersection of Third Ave. and Sheridan St. in Ely sometime soon? Not if city officials have anything to say about it.

Council members reacted strongly and negatively to the option proposed by MnDOT as a replacement for the existing traffic light.

"We all are supportive of keeping the signal lights ... We know how much we rely on them," said council member Al Forsman.

Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski reported that the city has mailed a postcard to the residents and businesses of the city informing them that MnDOT has a survey on their website regarding the two remaining traffic lights in Ely. Mayor Heidi Omerza urged everyone who lives in the Ely area to take the survey currently posted at mndot.gov/d1/projects/ely_ice. The public has until June 30 to fill out the survey.

Former Ely Mayor Chuck Novak expressed some dismay after the Monday hearing, especially after seeing a proposal for a roundabout at the intersection of Third and Sheridan.

"You'd never get a large semi through that intersection with a small roundabout on it. It just wouldn't be safe, and you can't reroute large-sized traffic through the city through the residential neighborhoods. Those aren't truck routes."

The exploration of options is underway as MnDOT has determined that the traffic lights at the intersections of Third and Central Aves., originally installed in 1942, have reached the end of their useful life. MnDOT is studying the intersections to determine what sort of traffic control should replace them. The two informational hearings were the beginning of MnDOT's process to investigate the issue.

The city's projects committee recommended at the end of May that the city council request that the two traffic lights be retained. Traffic lights provide a high level of traffic control compared to stop signs and roundabouts.

The city council and staff present at Tuesday's city council meeting were strongly and vocally in favor of retaining the two traffic lights at the two intersections. "The police depart-



John Jamnick of JPJ Engineering of Hibbing gave a presentation on the project to replace the city's aging water supply line at Tuesday's Ely City Council Meeting. photo by C. Clark

ment is 100 percent in favor of keeping both," remarked Police Chief Chad Houde.

Ely All Class Reunion

The Ely Memorial High School building is 100-years old and the upcoming All Class Reunion, which begins next week, will celebrate the build-

ing's birthday. In advance of the event, the city's Heritage Preservation Commission engaged in an oral history and videography project capturing the stories of 13 graduates from their time as students at the high school.

At Tuesday's meeting, the city council heard the report on the completed project, given by Pam Trumbull on behalf of the city's Heritage Preservation Commission. Trumbull showed a half-minute teaser of the oral history video for the council. The commission will show the video on Wednesday, June 26, at 7 p.m., at Ely's Historic State Theater, preceded by a meet-and-greet starting at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free. The video kicks off the activities for the multi-day reunion event in advance of the official June 29 start.

Other business

In other business, the city council:

► Held a public hearing on the replacement of the city's water supply line, which included a presentation on the proposed project and its funding by John Jamnick of JPJ Engineering. No members of the public

testified either for or against the project. The project will replace the 96-year old water supply line, which runs from Burntside Lake to the city's water treatment plant.

► Heard the report from the Mayor that the Ely Volunteer of the Year award recipient could not be at Tuesday's meeting to receive the honor. The recipient was unable to get to downtown from their residence because of the damage done by Tuesday afternoon's storm. The agenda item was dropped from the agenda by the council, with the expectation that the award will be given at the next council meeting.

► Voted to become the fiscal agent and partner for a grant application to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice by Well Being Development, which runs a variety of mental health services in Ely, including the Northern Lights Clubhouse. The grant is for three years and \$1 million. Well Being Development will use the money to support the payroll for staff to run their recovery residence project, currently in develop-

See ELY...pg. 5

BABBITT

YMCA camp in Babbitt loses kitchen-bunkhouse to fire

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

BABBITT- The YMCA Camp Northern Lights lost its kitchen and bunkhouse building Sunday to fire. The 2,000 square foot Orion building caught fire sometime before dawn. According to a Babbitt Police Office at the scene, one of the camp's staff called the fire into 911 around 7:10 a.m.

The Babbitt, Morse-Fall Lake and Ely fire departments responded to the fire. Upon arriving at the YMCA camp, the Babbitt Fire Department found the building to be a total loss and canceled the Ely department.

Babbitt Fire Chief Tony Chamberlin told the *Timberjay* that structure was found burned to the ground. "No one was at the camp when it caught

fire. It started burning way earlier. By the time we arrived, it was pretty much over," Chamberlin said. "We investigated the site, extinguished the remaining fire, cooled the structure, and went home."

Chamberlin commented that the structure was "too degraded" for the fire department to determine a cause. Both Babbitt and Morse-Fall Lake each responded with two tankers and an engine. Approximately 15 firefighters were on the scene.

A member of the camp's maintenance staff told the *Timberjay* that the Orion building housed the camp's kitchen plus several bedrooms.

The YMCA issued a statement Sunday afternoon, stating, "We experienced a fire overnight in the Orion building at Camp Northern Lights,

which serves as housing for our leadership development program participants and our main kitchen. No one was in the building during the fire and we are grateful that everyone is physically safe. We are also thankful for the response and assistance of local fire departments," said Michel Tigan, vice president of adventure and camp operations.

"Our team is working through solutions to the challenges posed by this situation and we are making preparations for adapting to continue to serve our camp families. We are directly contacting all affected participants and families to work through specific details," said Tigan. "We appreciate our community's ongoing support of Camp Northern Lights."



YMCA Camp Northern Lights lost its Orion Building to fire early Sunday morning. The structure housed the camp's kitchen and several bedrooms. The building was found burned to the ground. photo by C. Clark

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OPINION

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

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Editorial

A targeted prosecution

When it comes to unfair targeting, it's Hunter Biden who has the legitimate beef

The recent conviction of Hunter Biden for lying on a federal instant background check form for a gun purchase in 2018 prompted the *Timberjay* to research the laws surrounding drug use and guns in the United States. The results were eye-opening and suggest that similar violations of federal laws are widespread, but rarely prosecuted.

According to the 1968 federal Gun Control Act, it is illegal to purchase, transport, or even possess a firearm if you are a user of illegal drugs, specifically including marijuana.

According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the definition of an illegal drug user is anyone who has used drugs, including marijuana, within the last 12 months. Based on a recent federal study, about 5.6 percent of Americans reported using marijuana daily or nearly daily, which would compute to about 303,000 Minnesotans. Many more would likely be considered occasional users, who would also be prohibited from possessing a firearm under federal law.

Since Minnesota has legalized the use of marijuana, it has created a conflict between what is legal under state law and what is legal federally.

Keep in mind, the gun laws at issue here are federal, and the federal government has not taken steps to allow marijuana use under its statutes although the Biden administration has proposed to remove it from the list of Schedule I drugs. By itself, that step would not alter the language of the Gun Control Act, nor the 1993 Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, which created the instant background check and the question on it relating to illegal drug use.

Any user of marijuana in Minnesota who seeks to purchase a firearm and checks “no” on the box related to illegal drug use, would be committing the same crime as Hunter Biden and could be prosecuted by federal authorities.

We say “could be,” because the reality is virtually no one is ever prosecuted solely for lying on this form— Hunter Biden being a very notable exception.

Indeed, if anyone could make a claim that he is being subjected to unfair or politically driven prosecution, it is Hunter Biden, since he is currently being prosecuted in cases which are almost never filed against individuals in similar circumstances. It was the Trump Justice Department that appointed Republican David Weiss to serve as a “special attorney” to investigate and prosecute the younger Biden in 2018. That, in itself, was virtually unprecedented since such special pros-

ecutor-like investigations are typically reserved for those in government, not their children.

Weiss's team of investigators spent years trying to find evidence of things like money laundering or bribery before giving up due to a lack of evidence. In the end, they initially resorted to a plea bargain on his failure to pay federal taxes in a timely manner, and the conditioned dismissal of the background check charge were he to remain drug-free, which would have been a reasonable end result.

That deal soon broke down before a judge, however, after it became clear that Weiss had not revealed to Biden's attorneys that the plea would not end their multi-year probe into Biden.

The response of the Biden family, of course, has been the polar opposite of Trump's response to his criminal conviction for falsifying business records. While offering their support to their son, the Bidens have said they respect the recent guilty verdict in the gun case and President Biden has announced that he will not issue a pardon. Trump, meanwhile, has endlessly claimed victimhood, even suggesting he's a “political prisoner,” although he remains free. Contrary to his claims, Trump was hardly singled out in his New York criminal case. According to the *New York Law Journal*, the state of New York has prosecuted 9,974 cases of falsifying business records since 2015, or about 1,225 such cases every year. Trump, far from being singled out, had plenty of company.

By contrast, it's easy to argue that Hunter Biden was targeted for harsh prosecution. The Internal Revenue Service rarely prosecutes anyone for tax evasion, since the threat of prosecution is usually sufficient to gain compliance without having to press charges. Hunter Biden's back taxes and fines were paid off in full in 2020. Good luck finding a case where someone is prosecuted for tax evasion when their taxes and fines were paid in full four years earlier.

Of course, Weiss faced enormous political pressure from Republicans in Congress, who had exploded in anger over the plea deal, which would have resolved a politically embarrassing episode for the Biden family ahead of the 2024 election. Despite the obvious targeting of Hunter Biden by the Republican prosecutor and congressional Republicans, the Biden family has not vilified the process because they plainly recognize the damage such attacks inflict on our system.

If only others chose their words so carefully.



Joel Heller ©2024 THEJAY.COM

Letters from Readers

We need to stand up to defeat Trump

Donald Trump was found guilty by a jury of everyday Americans on 34 felony counts. He is finally being held accountable for one of his many illegal schemes to gain and hold onto power. His conviction is a reminder that no one — including a former president — is above the law. And it's another reminder that Trump still poses a major threat to our democracy.

When he was President, Trump attacked our fundamental freedoms, from our freedom to vote in 2020 when he attempted to overturn the will of the people, to appointing three extreme Supreme Court justices that overturned *Roe v. Wade* and abortion rights for millions of Americans.

The New York trial may be over, but Donald Trump still faces three additional indictments and 54 criminal charges for a litany of crimes, including federal charges for his efforts to incite violence and overturn the will of voters after he knew he'd lost the 2020 election. And on top of all that, he's STILL running for president.

Our fundamental freedoms are on the line. Don't let a convicted fraudster hold the highest office in our land. It's up to us to stand up and defeat Trump at the ballot box this November.

Steve L Voiles
Ely

Clean and affordable energy is in our future

Clean, affordable, reliable and safe is a good way to describe what renewable energy offers our families and communities.

A recent *NY Times* article detailed the amazing change that is happening in our U.S. (and global) energy systems. Our public utilities are responding to market forces and rapidly transitioning to affordable and reliable renewables (wind and solar) and away from increasingly more expensive and polluting fossil fuel energy.

“Since 2009, the cost of solar power has plunged by 83 percent, while the cost of producing wind power has fallen by more than half...Today, solar and wind power are the least expensive new sources of electricity in many markets, generating 12 percent of global electricity and rising. This year, for the first time, global investors are expected to pour more money into solar power — some \$380 billion — than into drilling for oil.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/08/12/climate/clean-energy-us-fossil-fuels.html?smid=url-share>.

Renewables provide an increasing percentage of our energy because of their growing cost-savings compared to fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas) and they make our grid more reliable than the fossil fuels vulnerable to severe-weather equipment failures:

<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/power-grid-failures-reveal-the-myth-of-fossil-fuel-reliability>.

Using electricity to power our lives; LEDs for lighting, heat pumps for heating and cooling, water-heating and clothes-drying, induction stoves for cooking and electric vehicles for transportation dramatically increases our energy efficiency and lowers our costs for energy. The benefits of renewables in cost-savings and eliminating greenhouse gas and other air pollution make this transition

a win-win-win for our family budgets, businesses, our environment and health.

The multiple advantages of moving from fossil fuels to electricity generated 100 percent from renewables to power our lives is called “Beneficial Electrification” helping every U.S. family and community. See RewiringAmerica.org to learn how the Inflation Reduction Act helps you benefit from Clean, Affordable, Reliable and Safe renewable energy.

Mike Overend
Two Harbors



Your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

Letters are a great way to offer your input to the *Timberjay's* editorial page. We want to know what you think!

COMMENTARY

When words don't convey one's intent

Across the many years I spent working in the realm of academe, nothing gave me more pleasure and affirmation than donning my academic regalia to celebrate graduation.



DAVID COLBURN

liberal arts field of applied behavior analysis, I was bestowed the right to wear a hood lined in fabric colored white, crimson and blue reflecting the achievement, a colorful and meaningful addition to the standard black

as academic purgatory, lost and uninspired, I felt a great sense of pride and accomplishment when I donned that regalia and walked in that graduation ceremony. I was the holder of an advanced degree, for everyone to see.

I felt that same sense in every college graduation I participated in over the years as a faculty member or administrator. My regalia was a visual sign of my place in the long-storied history of collegiate education,

as academic hoods trace their originals back centuries to the hooded robes worn by medieval monks who taught in the early universities. Wearing my regalia was a way to both acknowledge my identity as a scholar and to honor the achievements of those who were graduating. At community colleges where I worked that also sponsored GED programs, I made it a point to attend those graduations, too, in full regalia to recognize milestones many

never believed they would attain.

Anyone who attends a college or university graduation can attest that the procession of faculty and administrators is a colorful affair, as each wears regalia with colors reflective of their own academic disciplines. Velvet bars on the sleeves of the robes indicate levels of advanced study, and even the styling of the robes vary from bachelor's to master's to doctoral degrees. If you make the effort to read it,

academic regalia paints a unique portrait of both individual and institutional scholarship.

Regalia is a term that is also historically and culturally associated with royalty. If you've ever watched a royal coronation, you've seen the elaborate clothing and accessories that differentiate barons from dukes and princesses from queens. Their outfits represent

See WORDS...pg. 5

STATE REGULATIONS

Lawsuit seeking permission to sell homegrown cannabis

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Five Minnesota plaintiffs are seeking a declaratory judgment in a Ramsey County Court that could clear the way for individuals who grow cannabis at home to sell their product to the public without a license.

The plaintiffs, who have named Attorney General Keith Ellison and Charlene Briner, interim director of the state's Office of Cannabis Management, as defendants, are citing a provision of the Minnesota Constitution that allows home growers to sell their products directly to the public without a license.

Article 13, Sec. 7 of the state's constitution states: "Any person may sell or peddle the products of the farm or garden occupied and cultivated by him without obtaining a license therefor."

That provision of the constitution was adopted by the state's voters on Nov. 6, 1916, and has remained in place ever since. A subsequent 1918 advisory opinion by then-Assistant Attorney General James E. Markham, confirmed that the constitution-

al provision had rendered "nugatory" a broad state statute that seemingly required a local milk producer to obtain a license to sell his products to a distributor within the limits of a city. "Nugatory" is defined as "useless, futile, or of no value."

The opinion noted that the constitutional exception applied only to the milk producer himself, but not the distributor of the milk who was buying the product for resale to others.

The plaintiffs claim they are legally growing cannabis on their property under the state law enacted in 2023 and would like to sell excess production directly to the public to help offset the costs of their growing operations. The plaintiffs maintain that their grow operations are limited to the number of plants allowed to be grown at home under state law.

"We're not saying you can grow an entire field and sell it without a license. We're saying to the extent you can legally grow on your own without a license, you are entitled to sell that product," said attorney Jeffrey O'Brien, who is representing the plaintiffs.

The plaintiffs allege that they have sought an advisory

opinion from the Office of Cannabis Management but were told that the office does not issue advisory or declaratory opinions. Without such an opinion, the plaintiffs say they fear that exercising their rights under the state constitution could leave them subject to criminal prosecution for selling marijuana without a license.

"Defendant's inaction has chilled the exercise of plaintiff's constitutional right to sell the product of their cultivation," reads the lawsuit.

The court's decision in the case, should it issue one, could have significant ramifications on Minnesota's cannabis market and the state's ability to regulate and tax it. Under the new cannabis law in Minnesota, the sale of the product is limited to licensed retail distributors and those licenses likely won't be available for at least another year. If potentially thousands of Minnesotans could grow cannabis on their premises for direct sale to the public, potentially within months, that could significantly impact investment decisions related to larger grow operations and retail establishments as envisioned by the 2023 state law.

As reported by *MinnPost*,

legal direct sale from growers to the public is a scenario that some legalizations advocates have long envisioned. "Starting with the premise that cannabis is a plant, not a crime, we envision a peaceful community where growing a little hemp to smoke, share, or sell at farmers' markets is no more unusual than growing rutabagas or zinnias," wrote Grassroots - Legalize Cannabis Party founder Oliver Steinberg in response to a question about how he thinks the constitution will impact legal cannabis in Minnesota.

O'Brien said his clients' requests are being reasonable. "They are allowed to grow cannabis and they can even give their excess away," he said. "They should, under the constitution, be allowed to sell what they grow as long as the buyers are 21 or older. As long as we stay within the lanes that you set up in terms of rules and regs, as long as we limit it to what can be grown legally, it would seem straightforward that you're able to sell the products off of those plants per Article 13, Section 7 of the Constitution."

The case law on the issue is relatively thin. In 1996, Chris Wright was charged with the il-

legal sale of marijuana. Wright and his attorney Randall Tigue argued that Art. 13, Section 7 made the charge unconstitutional. While marijuana was illegal in 1996 when he was charged, when the constitutional amendment passed in 1906 it was "every bit as legal a substance in the State of Minnesota as wheat, corn, oats, and soybeans," Wright argued.

The state court of appeals disagreed, however, finding that because marijuana was illegal and because previous courts had upheld those statutes, the constitutional provision did not apply. With home growing of cannabis now legal in the state, that appellate reasoning would seem out of date.

In other cases, however, the courts have found that the sale of some otherwise legal farm products might seem able to evade the licensing requirement, state health and safety laws can sometimes be used to prohibit the sale of farm products, such as raw milk, considered unsafe.

MinnPost contributed reporting for this story.

MINING

Stauber amendment would give defense review on mining

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— An amendment approved in the U.S. House Rules Committee last week would require consultation with the Secretary of Defense as part of the environmental review of mining proposals, or any other proposal that has the potential to increase the availability of "strategic or critical" materials for the national defense stockpile.

The amendment, by Eighth District Rep. Pete Stauber, was one of five he attempted to attach to the must-pass National Defense Authorization measure, which is currently working its way through Congress. Stauber's attempt to attach his other four amendments, including one that would have rescinded the

current mineral withdrawal and prohibited future withdrawals affecting a portion of the Superior National Forest upstream of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, failed to pass the GOP-led committee.

The national defense stockpile, founded in the 1940s in the wake of World War II is a large reserve of a variety of materials, including minerals, of strategic value to the country's defense. Materials housed as part of the stockpile are typically purchased from a variety of sources, including foreign countries, at times when commodities are relatively inexpensive.

It's not clear how the measure passed by the committee would actually impact environmental review of a mining proposal, although it appears designed to give military officials

greater influence over mining projects. Environmental critics of the measure noted, however, that the amendment would have the effect of requiring consultation with the Defense Department for virtually any mining project, something that hasn't been required in the past.

"Every mine results in the increase of availability of what is being mined," noted Becky Rom, with the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. "This means that Interior and Agriculture, will now have the Secretary of Defense consulting on every mine review," she said. "There are no good reasons for this amendment."

The measure is consistent, however, with efforts by Rep. Stauber to advance the interests of Antofagasta, a Chilean-based mining corporation that is seek-

ing to build a sulfide-based copper-nickel mine upstream of the BWCAN. That project is on hold indefinitely in the wake of a decision by the Biden administration to rescind permits for the project. The administration's legal counsel concluded that the permits were illegally reissued by the Trump administration after the Obama administration allowed the two leases to expire shortly before Trump took office.

The Biden administration subsequently issued a 20-year ban on new mineral leasing within a 225,000-acre portion of the Superior National Forest, including the area that Antofagasta and their U.S. subsidiary Twin Metals, hopes to mine.

Stauber's actions have frustrated opponents of the mine, who argue that its potential

impact to the Boundary Waters could significantly undermine a vibrant local economy based on outdoor recreation. They cite a peer-reviewed Harvard study that concluded that the proposed mine would lead to fewer jobs and less local income within just a few years than under the current economic trajectory.

"While it's clear that Rep. Stauber is laser focused on opening up the headwaters of the Boundary Waters to toxic mining, his sneaky attack on America's most visited wilderness almost completely failed this week," said Alex Falconer, director of the Boundary Waters Action Fund. "Thankfully only one of them was voted on. Now it's up to the Senate to decide if these anti-wilderness poison pills sink or swim."

ELY...Continued from page 3

ment, and other substance abuse recovery activities. The grant program requires that a local government partner with a local agency or nonprofit and act as the fiscal agency for the receipt and dispersal of grant funds.

► Tabled and then approved a one-year moratorium on the issuance of cannabis cultivation only in areas zoned for industrial and commercial uses with an interim use permit.

► Approved an

"amended and restated" joint powers agreement for the Ely Area Lodging Tax Board. The new agreement reflects the withdrawal of Stony River Township from the joint powers board.

► Approved provid-

ing in-kind services for the Young Life organization to host activities in Whiteside Park on July Fourth.

► Approved a temporary liquor license for Ely Winton Rod and Gun Club for its events on July

WORDS...Cont. from page 4

centuries of history and culture, each uniquely styled to reflect elements of who they are within the royal constellation.

However, the significance of regalia is lost when a child, or for that matter, an adult, chooses to be a king or a queen for Halloween. Putting on costumes is an act of pretending to be something they're not. They've achieved no particular rank, achieved no special level of knowledge or skill, and don't identify in a meaningful way with the culture that their attire was plucked from. Theater directors and filmmakers go to great pains to create costumes that create the illusion that actors are someone other than who they are. Costumes are for make-believe.

Regalia, on the other hand, carries significant meanings associated with ceremonies and culture. That is most certainly the case when it comes to the

regalia worn by Native Americans when they observe culturally significant events, such as powwows.

The regalia worn by singers and dancers is a very personal expression of their identity as an Indigenous tribe member, reflecting personality, family, history, culture, and spirituality. Elements of regalia are often passed down in families, and a full wardrobe can literally be years in the making. Some regalia is made by the wearer, while others may avail themselves of articles made by others. However created or obtained, regalia represents a claim on one's historical and cultural legacy, one's identity as Native. There's nothing "pretend" about it whatsoever.

In last week's *Timberjay* we ran pictures of dancers at the SahGii-BahGah powwow at Nett Lake, a regular practice intended to honor the culture and history of the

Bois Forte Band and others who participate. However, as some readers have noted, we fell into a far too common error of calling the dancers' regalia "costumes." It is an error many, including this writer, find quite disrespectful. No one at that powwow, or any other, is trying to pretend to be something they're not. They're expressing a personal identity born of a rich and meaningful cultural history, collective expressions that should be celebrated and honored as such. Using the word costumes trivializes regalia and all that went into it and what it represents.

In journalism, the significance of word choice is paramount. Words are the primary tools we use to convey stories, shape narratives, and influence public perception. A single word can frame a subject in different ways, reflecting nuances of meaning that can either be benefi-

cial or detrimental. Language not only conveys information but serves as a medium through which respect, understanding, and dignity are communicated.

We slipped up last week in that responsibility. Rest assured that no disrespect was ever intended to our neighbors and friends, but disrespect was conveyed and felt, and for that we sincerely apologize. The *Timberjay* has throughout its history partnered with Bois Forte Band members to tell stories and share images about the Band's rich culture and history, reflecting our deep respect for the Band's place in the North Country region. We will continue to do so with a vigilant eye toward always giving such stories and images the honor and respect they rightfully deserve.



the TIMBERJAY

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

Week of June 24

Monday
Embarrass Al-Anon Family Group- Hope Lutheran Church, 5088 Hwy. 21, 6 p.m.

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is July 16.
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 weekly winner
TOWER- The winner of week 47 of the Charlemagne's 52 Club is Robert Carlson of Honolulu, Hawaii.

History Tidbit: The Soudan Mine, the oldest mine in Minnesota, at the time of its closing in 1962 was operated mostly by the sons, grandsons, or great-grandsons of the first Soudan miners who worked in operations nearly 80 years before.

Tower Farmers Market open on Fridays from 4-6 p.m.

TOWER- The Tower Farmers Market is now open for the season. Hours and location remain the same, 4-6 p.m. each Friday at the Depot. Favorite vendors are returning, and new vendors are always welcome. Call Janna at 218-780-6955 or Mickey at 218-404-9486 with any questions.

The Tower-Soudan Historical Society plans to keep the Depot Museum open during market hours and will host several events on Fridays. AEOA will be back with its Power of Produce, SNAP, and Market Bucks programs.

Lunch Bunch to meet June 21

COOK- The Lunch Bunch will be meeting for lunch at The Landing Restaurant and Bar in Cook on Friday, June 21 at 12:30 p.m. RSVP to Kathy at 218-753-2530. Everyone is welcomed to join us.

St. Martin's June Mass schedule

TOWER- There will be no daily Mass services at St. Martin's Catholic Church from June 10-28.

TOWER-SOUDAN EARLY CHILDHOOD



Tower-Soudan Early Childhood Family Education held their end of the school year picnic at the park in Soudan in May. Left: Matthew Wagoner worked on mastering blowing bubbles. Above: Julie Suihkonen with grandchildren Finn and Lorayne. Right: Mack and Dot Swanson rode their bikes to the park. photos by J. Summit



TOWER-SOUDAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

History Happy Hour at the Tower Farmers Market on June 28

TOWER- Starting off on June 28, the Tower-Soudan Historical Society will be passing out refreshing lemonade on the last Friday of the month at the Tower Farmers Market to show our appreciation for the community's support of our mission: Dedicated to community enrichment through education, preservation, and celebration of



the rich history and the heritage of the Tower-Soudan and Lake Vermilion community through people, artifacts and stories.

A special part of History

Happy Hour on June 28 will feature the kick-off of the Charlemagne's 52 Club raffle. Tickets will be available for sale to have 52 chances to win \$100 or \$250 each week throughout the year. Raffle tickets will be sold between June 28 through the TSHS Sept. 10 Annual Dinner meeting. Drawings for all 52 tickets will be on Sept. 11, 2024, at 1 p.m. at

the Train Depot Museum.

Raffle tickets will be on sale during History Happy Hour, at the Historic Train Depot Museum during open hours and from TSHS board members through Sept. 10, 2024. Only 300 tickets will be sold for 52 chances to win.

Fourth of July donations are needed now

TOWER-SOUDAN- The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board would like to thank the following donors for their contributions to the Tower-Soudan Fourth of July festivities:

- The Wilderness at Fortune Bay
- D'Erick's Tower Liquors
- Mary Lakoskey
- Eric & Carol Norberg
- UBetcha Antiques
- Pike Bay Lodge
- Tom & Kathy Tellepsen
- Lee & Greta Tuominen

Starkovich Distributing
The Timberjay
Steve & Barb Burgess
Northern Lights Salon
Vermilion Storage
Northern Lights Dental Care
Tower-Soudan Agency
Brotten Construction
Embarrass Vermillion
Federal Credit Union
Vermilion Land Office
As well as several donors that wished to remain anonymous.

These contributions will

help fund the parade, children's parade, and kids' races. We strive each year to add something new to the events; this year parade-goers can expect to enjoy multiple food vendors up and down Main Street, classic children's races and sawdust scramble, kid's participating in the kiddie parade will receive a goody bag with \$5 to spend in town, and we are hopeful that we will have some fun new parade participants!

Please consider donating to the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermil-

ion Events Board. The Fourth of July festivities are beneficial to Tower-Soudan and surrounding communities by boosting the economy and providing an opportunity for friends, family, and neighbors to come together as a community. If you're unable to help financially, the events board is always looking for volunteers.

Donations can be mailed to: Tower-Soudan Fourth of July, PO Box 461, Tower, MN 55790.

Summer yoga offered at Tower's Gathering Gallery

TOWER- This summer, yoga enthusiasts are invited to join two styles of yoga classes at the Tower's Gathering Gallery, located at 515 Main Street in the Pike River Products building. The classes will be held most Mondays and every Thursday during the months of July and August. Classes may extend into September if there is enough participation interest.

Gentle Yoga Flow and Stretch

Thursdays from 9 - 10:15 a.m. Dates are July 11, 18, 25; and Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. Pre-paid fee (2 months/8 sessions) is \$90 and drop-in fee is \$15.
Gentle Yoga Flow and

Stretch is designed to enhance flexibility, coordination, and strength through a series of asanas performed in coordination with mindful breathing. The class also includes meditation practices to promote relaxation and mental focus. Mats, straps, blocks, and blankets are available for drop-in participants.

Pre-registration is not required. Please arrive by 8:50 a.m. to set up your space. No entry after 9 a.m. so as to honor the quiet meditation time at beginning of class.

Restorative Yoga

Mondays from 9 - 10 a.m. Dates are July 1, 15, 22, 29; and Aug. 5, 19 and 26.
Pre-paid fee (2 months/7

sessions) is \$85 and drop-in fee is \$15.

Restorative Yoga is a gentle and relaxing style of yoga that focuses on achieving deep relaxation and balance. All poses are performed on the floor with the assistance of supportive props such as bolsters, blocks, blankets, and straps. The class incorporates breathing techniques and meditation to promote physical and mental well-being.

To ensure the class is held, a minimum of four participants is required. The pre-paid option secures your space for all classes. This option fills up fast. Drop-in pre-registration is required and must be completed by the Saturday before the class to confirm

space availability.

Please arrive by 8:50 a.m. to set up your space. No entry after 9 a.m. to honor the quiet meditation time at beginning of class.

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

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES

TS Class of '74 Reunion July 4-5

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Class of 1974

will celebrate their 50th class reunion on July 4 and 5. Classmates are invited to support our float in the July 4 parade by either riding or walking along the parade route. On July 5 there will be a social hour from 5 - 6 p.m. at Tavern in the Bay, 2077 Cty. Rd. 77, with dinner at 6 p.m. and a social hour following. For more information, please visit the Facebook group "Tower Soudan Class of '74." We welcome any TSHS alumni to join us for social hour before or after dinner.

Get your memberships now for Old Settlers Reunion and Picnic

BREITUNG TWP- The annual Vermilion Range Old Settlers Reunion and Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 20, at McKinley Park Campground. Booyah served at 12 noon sharp!

Memberships are \$10 paid in advance.

Please make checks payable to: Vermilion Range Old Settlers, PO Box 56, Soudan, MN 55782 (note new address).

Bring your own pot, bowls, dinnerware, and

picnic fixings. Booyah, bread and butter, and coffee served. Cold drinks can be purchased at the campground store. Memberships are also available the day of the picnic, but prepayment is preferred. Membership in Old Settlers is open to anyone born or living on the Vermilion Iron Range. Guests are also welcome at \$10 per person. Take-outs are available if you are unable to stay for the picnic, live music, and raffles.

TOWER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Please Donate:

Tower Cemetery Assn.

PO Box 874, Tower, MN 55790

THANK YOU!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ELY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

Ely Memorial High School dedicated in the dark

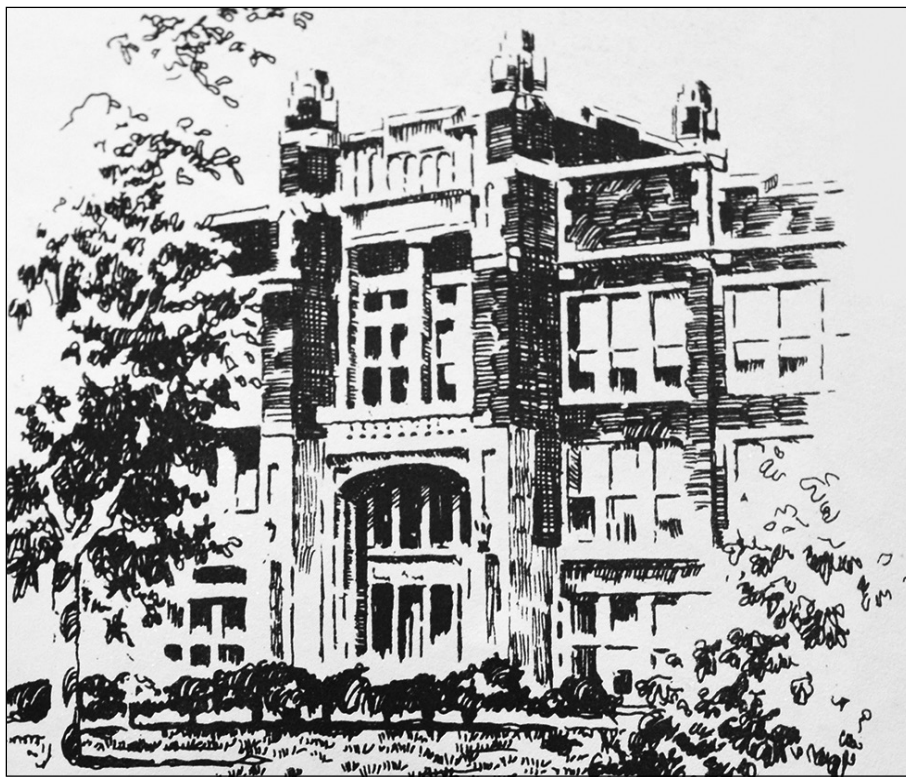
by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

This is the first of two articles in this week's Timberjay in celebration of the 100 year anniversary of Ely Memorial High School

ELY- Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Royal A. Stone gave the keynote address to an overflow audience that turned out here on Oct. 3, 1924, for the original dedication of Ely Memorial High School, which reaches the century mark this year. Stone, who served on the state's highest court from 1923 until his death in 1942, had just started his hour-long presentation on "Constitution and Citizenship" to a crowd of more than 1,500 people when the lights went out in the new gymnasium.

Undaunted, Stone finished his hour-long address with the aid of a flashlight to "salvos of applause," according to the report in the *Ely Miner*. As the applause died down, "Lavick's ten-piece orchestra," from Duluth, took over, playing "selection after selection" to keep the audience entertained while the school's staff searched for the electrical problem that had left them all in the dark.

It was a memorable, if not auspicious beginning



A pen-and-ink drawing of the front of Ely Memorial High School, made before the removal of 14 small ornamental turret-like caps on the facade.

for Ely's new high school, built at a total cost, including furnishings and fixtures, of nearly \$1 million.

The lights would eventually come back on, after the trouble was traced to a faulty transformer on a power pole close to the school. With repairs underway, the program continued by flashlight.

The dedication was reported to be a grand affair organized by the Frank Lozar Post of the

American Legion, whose local commander, E.W. Hanson, dedicated the new school to the memory of the Elyites who died in World War I.

Leonard Slabodnik, Chair of the Ely Board of Education, presented the building to the people of Ely and Superintendent W. E. Englund accepted it on their behalf.

The end of the dedication included a reading of the names of those who had lost their lives in

the recent war. A special arrangement of "Taps" followed, written especially for the dedication. "Mr. Solheim" performed the song accompanied by buglers placed in several parts of the building. After a long moment of silence in honor of the war dead, the dedication closed with the audience singing "America."

"The lights came on at about this time and the floor was cleared for dancing," the *Ely Miner*

reported. While around two hundred couples enjoyed the dancing music provided by the orchestra, an estimated 1,500 enjoyed a buffet lunch in the cafeteria "downstairs."

A major undertaking

The new high school was a project almost two years in the making. Ely's School District No. 12 hired architect W. T. Bray of Duluth on Dec. 10, 1922 to design the new school building and the board approved the plans in early 1923. Ely area voters approved an \$800,000 bond in a referendum held in March of that year.

The school board awarded the contract to build the new school building to Jacobson Bros. Construction as a cost of \$544,010. The *Ely Miner* reported "furnishings and fittings for the new building brought the cost to nearly \$1,000,000."

Though construction started in July 1923, the new high school wasn't completely done in time for the start of school in September. The Sept. 7, 1924, issue of the *Ely Miner* described a scene where classes were moving out of the old, cramped high school and into the new one, one classroom at a time.

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

► June 25: Lee Frelich of the University of Minnesota Center for Forest Ecology.

► July 2: Joe Friedrichs, author of Last Entry Point.

► July 9: Save the Boundary Waters Updates with Becky Rom.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



iris time again following the sweet lilac

summer artistry

Ely All Class Reunion

ELY- The Ely Memorial High School is 100 years old this year. The celebration of its birthday is an integral part of the All Class Reunion.

The reunion event will be July 29-July 7, with a pre-reunion kickoff event on Wednesday, June 26, when the city's Heritage Preservation Commission will show a short film of the oral histories of 13 graduates, the oldest of which is 102 and the youngest just graduated three weeks ago. The oral history film will have a meet-and-greet at 6:30 p.m., with the film starting at 7 p.m. at Ely's Historic

State Theater. The film is free.

The main reunion event is a nine-day affair with multiple activities. It is the first All Class Reunion since 2004. The cost for attending is \$25. Register for the reunion at elyallclassreunion.com. Registrations will be cut off on June 28, the day before the event. Reunion activities include concerts, a pickleball tournament, and Ely's traditional Fourth of July parade and celebration in Whiteside Park. A complete schedule of activities is available on the reunion website.



The new outside signage and interior Timberwolves murals went up at the Ely Public School campus last week, just in time for the reunion.

photo by C. Clark

Elyites earn collegiate honors

AMES, Iowa- Iowa State University recognized Elyite Courtney Eilrich by naming her to the Dean's List for spring semester 2024. Students named to the Dean's List must earn a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12

credit hours of graded course work.

MADISON, Wis.- The University of Wisconsin-Madison has named Rachel Coughlin and Phoebe Helms of Ely to the Dean's List for the College of Letters and Science for the spring se-

mester. To be eligible for the Dean's List at the College of Letters and Science, students must have a GPA of 3.5 or better and complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester.

BEMIDJI- Elyite Alexander Barker has earned

a place on the President's Honor Roll at Bemidji State University for the spring 2024 semester. To be eligible for the President's Honor Roll, students must earn a grade-point average of 4.0 for the semester and be enrolled in at least 12 credits of coursework.

Evan Rabe of Ely was named to the Dean's Lists at Bemidji State University for the spring 2024 semester. To be eligible for Dean's List, students must enroll in at least 12 credits and earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher for the semester.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Severe Weather Siren

ELY- Ely's severe weather siren is a three-minute steady tone which can be heard throughout the city. The city sounds the siren whenever the National Weather Service issues an alert for weather like tornadoes which are so severe that residents should take shelter. When the severe weather siren sounds, like it did on Tuesday, people should seek shelter in a basement or interior room. Avoid windows.

Ely City Band

ELY- The band rehearses on Monday and Tuesday nights during June from 6-8 p.m. in the band room in the new addition at the Ely Public Schools Campus, 600 E. Harvey St. Enter through

door No. 1 next to the Ely Public Schools sign and walk straight back through the commons space. The band room is the last door on the left. All are welcome to come play regardless of experience level or how many years it's been since you last played in high school or college band. Some loaner instruments may be available; contact Karl Kubiak at karlkubiak1@gmail.com for more detail.

Ely Public Library

ELY- The library will hold an online Kahoot trivia game for all ages on books nine through 16 of the Bad Kitty series of books by Nick Bruel. The Kahoot will start at 3 p.m. on Friday, June 21, and end at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, June 26. Participants must

preregister for the Kahoot so the library can email the link for the game.

The library will host Tuey the Juggler in a program for all ages on Monday, June 24, from 10-11 a.m.

The library will hold a preschool math fun event on Wednesday, June 26, from 11 a.m.-noon.

The Curiosity Cohort for teens and adults will hold a session on how to paint faces on Friday, June 28, from 2-3:30 p.m. Preregister for this event so the library can order enough supplies for participants.

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., unless otherwise noted.

Ely Library Book Sale

ELY- For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ely Friends of the Library is back on and in person. The sale will begin for Friends of the Library members on Thursday, June 20, at noon until 7 p.m. at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. First Ave. E. If you are not a member of the Friends of the Library, you can join at the door on Thursday. Memberships are \$5.

The book sale will be open to the general public on Friday, June 21, from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. and on Saturday, June 22, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- Comedy Magician Brodini will vis-

it the library on Monday, June 24, at 2 p.m. for a no-cost program for ages.

Preschool story time is every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. All library events are at the Babbitt Public Library, 71 South Dr., unless otherwise noted.

Dorothy Day

ELY- The Dorothy Molter Museum will hold its annual Dorothy Day Open House on Sunday, June 23, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The museum will be open for free to all comers.

List your event

Do you have an upcoming Babbitt, Ely, or Winton event? Email event details, location, time, place and event cost to catie.timberjay@gmail.com on the Tuesday the week before the event takes place for a free notice.

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 closed
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.

AA FRIDAYS - 7 p.m.

Fridays, First Presbyterian Church, 262 E. Harvey St., Ely.

ELY WOMEN'S OPEN

AA - Monday at noon at Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.

BABBITT AA - 7 p.m.

Thursdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church.

AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely.

BABBITT AL-ANON -

Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.

CO-DEPENDENTS'

12-step support group, 4:00 p.m. Tuesdays,

Wellbeing Development, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 712 S. Central Ave., Ely.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED

Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-

365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711.

CAREGIVER

SUPPORT GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd Monday of

Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living.

Ely: 4th Monday of

Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital.

Conference Room B.

STORMY WEATHER

Torrential rain, rising flood waters hammer Cook



Keeping up with the rising Little Fork River on Wednesday required an almost constant set of eyes to catch the many changes that took place from early morning through early afternoon.

Top left: This shot of the Cook Public Library looks like it has a placid reflecting pool.

Top right: This early morning shot of the bridge on North River St. was quite outdated as of early afternoon when water began flowing onto the bridge deck.

Second row, left to right: Flooding at Veterans Riverfront Park, Vermilion Dr., and the back of Cook Building Center early Wednesday morning.

Third row, left to right: A broader view of the flooding at Veterans Riverfront Park and additional views of the flooding behind Cook Building Center, all taken early Wednesday morning.

Left: When Timberjay photographer Marshall Helmberger snapped many of the pictures above on Wednesday morning, there was no water on River St. That had changed significantly by early afternoon, as the flood waters presented challenges to drivers and served as an enticement to waders.

photos by M. Helmberger and T. Briggs

Cook-Orr Calendar

Trinity to offer free meal on June 27

COOK- Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook will be hosting a free community meal on Thursday, June 27 from 4-5:30 p.m. The menu will be tacos, a side dish and dessert. Dine in or drive through options will be available and all are welcome.

The Divas return for Cook music series in park on June 26

COOK- The Wednesday, June 26th edition of Cook's Music in the Park will feature a series favorite, "The Divas."

This delightful Vegas style musical trio from

right here on the Iron Range will impress with their warm captivating harmonies. Shannon on the keyboards, Sharon with her guitar and drums, and Rosie with various instruments, have a wide variety of tunes in their repertoire and love performing together.

The concert will be from 6-8 p.m. at the gazebo at Cook City Park on River St. Concessions are provided by St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church. In case of rain the concert will move to the Cook VFW.

Music in the Park is made possible by the Cook Lions Club, Cook VFW Post 1757 and the

VFW Post 1757 Auxiliary, Northwoods Friends of the Arts and free will community donations during the concert.

Larmouth to reprise popular NWFA writer's workshop

COOK- Dr. Ellie Larmouth will lead a summer writers group meeting at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook from noon-2 p.m. on Friday, June 28. All interested writers are welcome.

Larmouth has conducted writers groups for NWFA since the inception of the organization. She is a retired university professor with lots of teaching

experience. Participants are encouraged to bring personal pieces of writing to share. Larmouth will also provide a time period and topic for participants to write about onsite. Writers may share what they write with one another.

There is no registration and you do not have to be a member of NWFA to attend. Just show up at the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St. and be ready for fun and inspiration.

Lovgren will teach hoop weaving at NWFA Gallery

COOK- Create your own unique hoop weav-

ing, using several different types of yarn and wool roving with experienced fabric artist Kathy Lovgren in a July 19 workshop sponsored by Northwoods Friends of the Arts.

Students will learn four different yarn manipulations as they create designs in 12-inch wooden hoops already strung with cotton warp threads. There will be many colors of yarn and charms to use. Supplies are included for the class. Students may bring their own yarn if they have favorites.

The workshop on Friday, July 19 will run from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the NWFA Gallery at 210 S.

River St. Register by calling Alberta at 218-666-2153 or drop by the Gallery during open hours.

Daily Mass paused through June 28 at Catholic churches

REGIONAL- St. Mary's Catholic Church in Cook, Holy Cross Catholic Church in Orr, and St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower will not be celebrating daily Masses from Monday, June 10 through Friday, June 28.

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL 2023-24 ACADEMIC AWARDS

President's Awards

*Must maintain 3.5 average over last 3 years.

12th grade

- Evelyn Brodeen
- Jonah Burnett
- Annabelle Calavera
- Brandon Cook
- Addy Hartway
- Evan Kajala
- Helen Koch
- Riley Las
- Zefrym Mankowski
- Victoria Olson
- Autumn Swanson
- Trinity Vidal

9th grade

- Alethea Bangs
- Corralyn Brodeen
- Kate Cheney
- Presley Chiabotti
- Emarie Gibson
- Andrew Hartway
- Carson Johnson
- Ella Kruse
- Sophia Mathys
- Aiyeshia Mohamed
- Michael Nuthak
- Victoria Phillips
- Hunter Schwarzenberger
- Kaycee Zupancich

Academic Excellence

*GPA of 3.667 and above in quarters 1, 2, and 3

7th Grade

- Olivia Baumgartner
- Anelise Brodeen
- Michaela Brunner
- Tessa Burnett
- Josie Gibson
- Laurin Glass

8th Grade

- Gage Aune
- Zoey Burckhardt
- Carsyn Burnett
- Colt Chosa

- Sawyer Glass
- Cyrus Johnson
- Joshua Long
- Aubrey Olson-Stoltenberg
- Vincent Pascuzzi
- Alice Sopoci

9th Grade

- Corralyn Brodeen
- Emarie Gibson
- Andrew Hartway
- Carson Johnson
- Ella Kruse
- Sophia Mathys
- Kaycee Zupancich

10th Grade

- Lincoln Antikainen
- Lauren Burnett
- John Danielson
- Victoria Mathys
- Isabel Pascuzzi

11th Grade

- John Carlson
- Ryder Gibson
- Amber Sopoci

12th Grade

- Jonah Burnett
- Brandon Cook
- Riley Las
- Cadense Nelson

- Victoria Olson
- Ella Smith
- Trinity Vidal
- Adriana Whiteman
- Jacob Whiteman

**Read It
HERE**

STUDY...Continued from page 1

consultants outlined three possible scenarios, but said they favored the one that calls for a unified regional system that would combine the Ely, Tower, and Babbitt ambulance services. They argued that creating one large EMS system could reduce redundant costs while maintaining or even improving on the level of service. The consultants also concluded that hospital ownership of a regional EMS was the most cost-effective business model of all those they studied.

The consultants and Ely-Bloomenson CEO Patti Banks acknowledged that the study results were not the end of the discussion but were intended as a starting point for further conversation.

Officials in Tower, several of whom attended last Thursday's presentation, expressed interest in exploring the regional concept further. The Tower Area Ambulance Service has faced operational deficits in recent years, funding gaps which taxpayers in Tower have had to fill.

"I thought it was a great idea," said Tower council member Kevin Norby, who has served on the city's ambulance commission for the past few years. "I would like to see the communities get together and take it seriously." Norby acknowledged there are many important details that would take time to work out, such as how such a regionalized service would be funded. "I would love to see the spreadsheet they used to test out the numbers and the assumptions," he said.

The study

The Ely hospital's board of directors has grown increasingly frustrated with the operations of the local ambulance service, which was spun off as a nonprofit after the hospital opted out of the service more than a decade ago. So, last August, the board voted to hire SafeTech Solutions of Isanti, Minn. to offer recommendations on "how to set up an ambulance service for success." At the time, Banks told the members of the Ely Area Ambulance Joint Powers Board that the study would "look beyond Ely for that answer, potentially encompassing other area services in northern St. Louis and Lake counties."

SafeTech interviewed and gathered data from the ambulance service in Ely, as well as Tower and Babbitt.

Ben Wasmund, who gave the bulk of the presentation last Thursday for SafeTech, said the firm looked at five-years of data for all three ambulance services and interviewed "20 to 30 people a day" over three days last fall. They collected information on staff rosters, experience, certification levels, service areas, call volumes, the

types of calls, when those calls come over time, equipment, and finances. SafeTech also profiled the hospital's needs for EMS, such as patient volume, the number of calls received by EBCH and the volume of transfers to other hospitals.

Wasmund acknowledged that the information collected wasn't perfect, or as complete as they wanted. For example, Wasmund explained, one of the services changed its billing company shortly after the study was commissioned. "The previous billing company that had five years of data wasn't willing to share data with us because (the ambulance service) wasn't using them anymore."

Another service did not provide five years of data so the consultants had to rely on the information they collected during interviews. After gathering data, SafeTech took the information and built a profile of EMS in the area covered by the Ely, Tower, and Babbitt ambulance services.

Based on the 2023 data, the three services saw 1,620 emergency dispatches combined, or an average of 3.6 calls per day. Ely experienced 1.5 calls per day on average, Tower had 1.3, and Babbitt had 0.8. The Ely hospital requested a total of 292 transfers, about two-thirds of which were handled by Ely.

Wasmund added one chilling statistic, "11 percent of the patients in this area that needed ambulance transport had to be sent by (personal vehicle) due to the lack of an ambulance available."

SafeTech emphasized that the way ambulance services are paid is at the heart of the financial woes for small town and rural EMS. Emergency calls are only reimbursed if they deliver a patient to a hospital, a fee-for-service model that may have worked 20 years ago, but no longer covers the total cost of equipment, training, staffing, and federally mandated on-call readiness. In rural EMS, where call volumes can be low, the cost of readiness can be disproportionately large compared to the amount a service can bill.

While transfers are typically profitable for most area ambulance services, that hasn't always been the case for Ely, which is charging less than the national average for transfers, leaving some badly needed revenue on the table.

At the same time, transfers in the local area are often to a facility 100 miles away, which can take an ambulance effectively out of service for four or more hours.

The results

SafeTech found that local ambulance services are facing many of the same problems that rural

ambulance services have throughout the nation—including declining volunteers, inadequate pay, evolving federal standards, and a broken fee-for-service model that doesn't cover the real costs of providing ambulance coverage in service areas with low population density.

Regardless of which of the study's three scenarios, if any, is eventually adopted, Wasmund pointed to challenges that are complicating the search for solutions. First, he said, "the tense and often confrontational relationships between some of the stakeholders is likely the single greatest challenge facing the current system and the development of a future system." He said such contention over EMS is not limited to the Ely, Babbitt, and Tower service areas, but is something they witness when working with clients across the country.

To move toward success, Wasmund said stakeholders must come together and agree on a model that can provide it. "There's a lack of consensus around the specifics of EMS in northern St. Louis and Lake counties: who funds it, who ensures the provision of services, who governs it, and who operates it," he said.

Once a new model is agreed upon, Wasmund said it should incentivize participation and not fund any service that chooses not to join. The adoption of the system must be planned, and the participating ambulance services must be supported during the transition. "You must assist unsustainable services in meeting immediate needs."

Finally, said Wasmund, "Interfacility transfers must be prioritized, valued, staffed, and resourced at the same level as 911 response." SafeTech identified transfers as lost revenue for local EMS because of north-eastern Minnesota's specific regional conditions. Capturing all the transfer volume and charging adequately for them was a large piece of the firm's recommendations.

A regional system

SafeTech's first scenario was to combine the three Primary Service Areas into one regional system, with seven ambulances distributed in three stations at Ely, Babbitt, and Tower. Four of the ambulances would be advanced life support rigs on duty around the clock, staffed with a paramedic and an EMT. Because this scenario uses full-time professionals without staff on-call, it has the highest yearly expenses, estimated at approximately \$1 million per ambulance.

SafeTech argued that such a regional system would eliminate duplication of equipment, staff, and services, thus saving money

at a time when federal reimbursements are falling and expenses are rising. Putting all the EMS staff into one system would eliminate the competition between the ambulance services and the hospital for the same pool of EMS staff.

To make a regional system "sustainable," Wasmund said, it should receive all the 911 calls and transfers in the service area and charge rates that maximize revenues. In comparing northeastern Minnesota rates, local EMS currently charges 30 to 60 percent less than national averages.

SafeTech preferred this scenario above all others. The staffing and resources of a regional EMS would cover demand "for some time" into the future, including the current burden of transfers.

The catch to the first scenario is that the hospital must own the regional EMS system to maximize cost savings. SafeTech suggested that ownership by a federally designated critical access hospital could exploit a potential loophole in the Medicare reimbursement rules which would allow hospitals to recover 101 percent of the costs of running an ambulance service.

The switch from fee-for-service to cost reimbursement would allow recovery of the expense of transfers, and generate a small but positive return. If a regional EMS system was unable to take advantage of the 101 percent reimbursement, it would lose around \$1.4 million annually according to SafeTech's financial models.

Nick Wognum, clerk for the Ely Area Ambulance Joint Powers Board asked what the profit would be with the 101 percent cost reimbursement.

"Our number was \$50,000 to \$75,000," Wasmund responded.

The other two scenarios

The other two scenarios were scaled down versions of the regional system model. Scenario two used two advanced life support ambulances in Ely, a paramedic in a quick response vehicle, and basic life support ambulances staffed with EMTs in Tower and Babbitt.

This scenario was slightly less expensive, costing \$3.5 million annually, with a loss of around \$833,000 if the owner of the EMS system could not take advantage of the 101 percent reimbursement for critical access hospitals. The biggest downside was that "you lose the timeliness of paramedics to the areas of Tower and Babbitt."

The third scenario, which was the cheapest, most profitable, and perhaps the most unrealistic option retains a similar level of service in

Ely, while replacing fully staffed basic life support ambulances in Tower and Babbitt for ones staffed with part-time and volunteer staff. This scenario does not address the timeliness of paramedic response to Tower and Babbitt, nor does it address the challenges of finding volunteers and staff willing to work on an on-call basis. It's upside was that it was the least expensive option, with expenses of approximately \$2 million and a positive margin of \$547,211 without the need to take advantage of a 101 percent cost reimbursement.

SafeTech did not present numbers for whether scenarios two and three would be in the red or the black if a new regional EMS system could take advantage of a 101 percent reimbursement rate instead of the current fee-for-service billing.

The caveats

All three of SafeTech's scenarios were built on one model: that of one large, unified EMS system. The consultants did acknowledge that even with a 101 percent cost reimbursement from Medicare, all of their scenarios might require addition subsidies from the area's communities.

Thomas Fennell of SafeTech presented detailed financial results. He explained that their financial modeling used the same assumptions for all the scenarios. That included the cost of an advanced life support ambulance at \$1 million/year, a basic life support ambulance at \$734,000/year, and starting wages for EMTs at \$19.25 and \$25.75 for paramedics with a 30 percent additional cost for benefits.

The assumptions also included rates of \$1,500 for a basic life support ambulance 911 call and \$2,500 for an advanced life support 911 call. Transport mileage was billed at \$40/mile. Administrative costs were calculated at 25 percent of expenses, though Fennell did not clarify if that was 25 percent of total expenses or 25 percent of non-administrative expenses.

The 101 percent reimbursement

The largest caveat was the assumption that the hospital could convert the locations of Tower and Babbitt EMS into remote stations that would be exempt from the 2006-2008 Medicare rules change that caused EBCH to divest itself of the Ely ambulance in the first place. The regulation specifically disallowed the 101 percent reimbursement rate if another ambulance service was closer than 35 miles from a critical access hospital like Ely's.

The SafeTech consultants presented the remote stations as one unified EMS system in Tower and Babbitt as a way to get

around the 2008 regulations. The loophole would use the hospital location in Ely as the address of the hospital-owned EMS to establish the 35-mile limit, and not the remote stations in Babbitt and Tower.

SafeTech did not provide evidence that this was a workable loophole, nor did they present any legal opinion on the viability of the potential loophole. The consultants did not give any examples of whether any other critical access hospital had successfully used such a way around the federal regulation.

Study results not released

Those who could not attend the Thursday, June 13, meeting currently have no way to view the presentation by SafeTech other than reading about it in the local press. Both area newspapers requested copies of the study ahead of the presentation. Such studies are commonly made available to news services and other stakeholders when requested.

But Banks told the *Timberjay* that the printed report was not available because of confidential information. She said even a redacted version of the report would not be made available without approval of the hospital board. The *Timberjay* and the city officials in Ely both requested a copy of the slide stack from the presentation after the meeting on Thursday, but Banks again said she would need approval from the hospital board before releasing the materials.

What's more, Banks told Todd Crego of Ely Area Television that he could not broadcast or record the meeting. City staff had asked Crego to record the meeting so it could air on the local access channel, but Banks wouldn't relent.

The meeting was well attended by local elected officials from Ely, Morse, Fall Lake, and Winton, as well EMS professionals from Babbitt and Tower. At least one ambulance service felt that it wanted more detailed information.

The board of the Ely Area Ambulance Service met on Monday. Board chair Chuck Novak told the *Timberjay*, "We didn't talk much about the presentation... We have more questions than answers right now. We feel we need more data because that was not there [at the presentation]. About the 101 percent reimbursement — it sounds good but we have questions. It's a dilemma but we will continue to provide the ambulance care we can. This is about patient care and that should never be political."

WELL FAILS...Continued from page 1

tration system. Work to be done includes replacing the pumps and motors, upgrading the electrical components, adding new valves and flow meters, and new piping. The new filtration plant has been designed to filter out byproducts of the water purification/chlorination process, which have tested at higher-than-acceptable levels in the past, though have been below EPA action level limits the past two years.

Tuchel is hoping that while the main well is down, some of these scheduled upgrades can be com-

pleted immediately, so they don't have to spend money on repairs that will just get replaced as part of the planned upgrade project. The contracts for the work were just signed last week.

"We will be asking the contractor to do work that isn't on their current work schedule," he said. Tuchel will be working with the contractor and project engineers. A preconstruction meeting and site visit was already set for June 24.

Both wells are relatively shallow and close to the East Two River, and sometimes draw in surface water,

which can have organic matter contaminants. The backup well is closer to the river than the main well, so Tuchel said frequent testing will be done to ensure water quality and safety.

The water filtration plant upgrades will most likely be completed in 2025, Tuchel said.

"The new filters will take at least four months to be built," he said.

A pilot plant set up several years ago determined the best way to filter the water, and a step filtration system was chosen as the most reliable and

cost-effective way to treat the water, remove minerals like manganese and iron, and trihalomethanes, a byproduct of chlorination.

Consumer confidence report

The 2023 Water Drinking Reports for both Tower and Breitung were recently released. Full copies of the reports are available at the Breitung Township Office and Tower City Hall if anyone is interested in the detailed information. Water testing for both systems showed no items of concern.

For the second year in a

row, levels of trihalomethanes came in below EPA limits, but still higher than plant operators would like. The average trihalomethanes for Tower were 62.5 ppb, and Breitung averaged 53.1 ppb. The action level set by the EPA is 80 ppb, with no ideal lower limit. The levels for haloacetic acid were 41 ppb for Tower and 45 ppb for Breitung. The action level is 60 ppb, also with no ideal lower limit.

Testing for lead and copper did not show any samples above acceptable limits for both Tower and

Breitung. Water in Breitung is also sampled for barium, which can be related to mining, and showed 0.03 ppm, under the EPA limit of 2 ppm.

The report for the city did note that water samples taken in August were invalidated. Tuchel said this was due to the water testing lab losing the samples, which had been dropped off, in person, at the testing lab. Subsequent tests done, which were outside the normal testing window, did not show any results above EPA limits.

STORM IMPACTS

Forest Service still assessing damage to BWCAW

by SETH ROESER
Staff Writer

Officials with the Superior National Forest are still assessing the impacts from torrential rains that hit the area on Tuesday.

Several inches of rain fell in a matter of hours, sending area rivers over

their banks and significantly raising lake levels as well. The impact to campsites, portages, and once calm rivers now turned into torrents in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, likely won't be fully understood for a few more days, according to Forest Service spokesperson Tim Engrav.

Forest Service crews are following up on reports made by visitors that the Echo Trail and other roads on the forest are washed out and impassable and some wilderness entry points have been flooded.

Some who were in the wilderness may not be able to get out, at least until water levels recede or

portages can be repaired.

"I know the Trout Lake Portage from Lake Vermilion to Trout Lake is severely washed out," Engrav said. "The portage there is not going to be able to bring boats out."

Engrav said people will be able to walk out, but may have to leave their boats until conditions improve.

Forest Service engineering is working on getting a contractor to clear culverts to lower the water levels and make roads accessible again.

Visitors who reserved Boundary Waters permits will receive a notice if their entry point is affected by the new conditions.

"Visitors who are still

going into the Boundary Waters entry points need to be careful around any of the rapids on rivers and any of the portages and take extra care to not get caught in the swift moving water," Engrav said.

STORM...Continued from page 1

until Wednesday, June 26.

► Hwy. 1 about six miles east of Ely was also closed due to a washout and a detour was being installed.

► Hwy. 169 between Karjala Rd. and Koski Rd. south of Tower was closed in both directions, although it was possible the road could be reopened by midday, according to the 511MN site.

Meanwhile, flooding was occurring on the northbound lanes of Hwy. 53 in the area of the junction with Hwy. 1 and further south, with drivers urged to exercise extreme caution.

St. Louis County Public Works officials were still scrambling Wednesday morning to assess the extent of damage to county roads. By early afternoon, public works announced that a total of 43 county roads were currently closed, 32 of them located in the northern third of the county.

Pictures posted to social media quickly spread the word about impassable washouts and major flooding on many county roads across the region, and also depicted serious damage to many private driveways, preventing residents from either leaving or returning to their homes.

The family of Jen McDonough, owner of the Tower Café, was one family affected by road issues. McDonough had Airbnb customers coming in late Tuesday evening, so she decided to spend the night in one of the rooms over the café. The gravel road her family lives on, like most of the other gravel roads in the Lake Vermilion area, was already flooded and impassable.

But plans changed when her adult son, who lives above the cafe and who has Type 2 diabetes, had his insulin pod fail and needed a new one, which was at the family home. Jen and her son drove to the turnoff to St. Odilla Beach Rd.

"It was like a waterfall," she said. "Our road was partly gone."

Her youngest son Remy ran down the road with the medication, meeting them partway.

The biggest challenge was the mosquitos, and according to Jen, she had never seen swarms so thick.

"I was wearing shorts and hopped out of my truck," she said. "I was just assaulted!"

When Jen heard that Hwy. 169 was closed south of the Y Store, she quickly called the incoming guests

telling them to take Hwy. 135 into Tower. A group of four young men arrived that evening, and then left early Wednesday morning for a weekend trip into the BWCAW.

Another Tower area road, Pike Bay Drive, was water covered with ditches overflowing on by Aronson Boat Works.

"We are thankful that nothing is wrecked," said Aronson's owner Gretchen Niemiste. "The yard is a mess and the driveway is impassable with four-foot

deep ruts, and we need to get it repaired before we can bring in the excavators and other equipment needed."

Niemiste said a few boats sank, but they are getting them back afloat, as well as pumping water out of all the other boats stored on land.

Customers have called to report boats floating away off boatlifts.

The lake level had risen nine inches in Pike Bay by Wednesday morning, and Niemiste is expecting it to rise further.

"I am just grateful there wasn't wind with the storm," she said. "The rain was devastating enough."

Smaller gravel roads off Pike Bay Drive are also impassable, with ruts deeper than four feet on private roads off of Hearthside Dr.

Town impacts

Stormwater drainage systems in towns across the region struggled to keep up with the downpour on Tuesday as flash flooding on streets was widespread. Basements of homes and

businesses experienced damage from flooding when sump pumps couldn't keep up with the inflow.

In Tower, there were multiple reports of serious flooding in basements, especially along North Second and North Third streets, where multiple houses reported upwards of eight inches of water, possibly the result of sewer lines backing up.

Numerous houses in Cook were threatened by flooding from the runoff on Tuesday, but Wednesday

concerns shifted to the rising water of the Little Fork River, which by midday was covering significant portions of Vermilion Dr., River St., and other city streets. Businesses along Vermilion Dr., including Cook Building Center and Frank's Pharmacy, were threatened by the flooding, and a sandbagging operation was observed at the Scenic Rivers Dental Clinic just south of the intersection with River St.



Clockwise from top: Water was continuing to rise in downtown Cook as floodwaters poured into the Little Fork River; Floodwaters had undermined a stretch of Sassas Rd. in Angora; A pickup hung up on an eroding roadway near Lake Vermilion; Barricades were up on Hwy. 169 on Wednesday morning due to a portion of the main highway remaining underwater; A car is partially submerged in floodwaters near Aronson Boat Works, which saw extensive flooding and erosion; Butch Davis and Bob Ranisate work to repair a Hoodoo Point dock in the wake of the flooding; The Rice River was well outside its banks on Wednesday morning, flooding a portion of Leander Rd. about four miles southeast of Cook.

Top photo by S. Kajala, other photos by Timberjay staff.



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VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK

Kabetogama crowd not happy with revised frozen lake plan

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

KABETOGRAMA- From the very first question Voyageurs National Park Superintendent Bob DeGross was asked at last Thursday's town hall meeting in Kabetogama to review the park's revised Frozen Lake Surface Use Plan, he got a clue as to the reception he would receive from the full house crowd.

Before DeGross could answer a question put to him about whether he could be counted on to listen, a voice in the room called out an emphatic "No!"

DeGross, however, let the comment pass, telling the crowd that the revisions to the initial proposal from last year were evidence that park officials had taken the public's feedback seriously and had tried to make modifications to reflect those concerns.

But the overriding sentiment among the attendees was that no frozen lake surface plan was necessary and that it represents an overreach of federal authorities to regulate waters that are owned by the state of Minnesota. Restrictions on motorized vehicle use in the plan would seriously limit the ability of resorts and other outdoor activity vendors to meet the needs of their customers, they contended, seriously impacting their ability to remain profitable.

The revised proposal

DeGross began by reviewing the proposed plan as it stands now, noting that information from the current public comment period would be utilized to make as many additional revisions as possible within Park Service regulations regarding motorized vehicle use.

Some of the changes to the original plan include:

- Abandonment of proposed moderate use and low use zones that would have had a significant impact on ice shelter transportation, placement and occupancy requirements.

- Establishment of a larger system of ice roads of up to 32 miles, to be staked when the ice is a minimum of eight inches thick, with up to 18 of those miles converted to plowed roads when the ice thickness reaches 12 inches.

- Parking areas along ice roads would be expanded from 300 to 500 feet from the center line, and also allowed along Lake Kabetogama's developed shoreline. Individuals would be allowed to plow in parking areas to facilitate placement of ice shelters.

- Any state-registered and/or licensed motor

Regulatory authority and individual rights remain issues



Unlike a similar meeting in International Falls that drew only three attendees, a large crowd turned out for the public comment meeting at Kabetogama Town Hall.

vehicle would be allowed to use plowed and staked ice roads as long as they adhere to weight restrictions.

- Permanent ice shelters that adhere to state regulations can be left unoccupied. Transportation of shelters by motor vehicles would be allowed along ice roads and within parking areas, while shelter transport not associated with an established ice road would require the use of a snowmobile.

DeGross emphasized that the plan focuses on regulation of motorized vehicles other than snowmobiles.

Conflicting positions

A conflict between federal regulations and state law appears to be central to the disagreement between citizens and park officials over any plan proposing to regulate motor vehicle use on VNP's frozen lake surfaces.

DeGross has repeatedly said that the proposed plan is intended to bring the park into compliance with federal regulations which state that motorized vehicles may only be operated on established roads and parking areas in national parks, and nowhere else. Historical practice of motorized vehicles having access to the vast areas of frozen lake surfaces is inconsistent with that rule, DeGross says, and must be regulated in some fashion.

The opposing view is rooted in the original legislation that transferred the property of the park from the state to the federal government. That law specifically states that the state did not cede ownership of the waters of the park to the feds, or the beds of those waters, and since the state still owns the lakes state regulations should apply. This position has found an advocate in the state Department of Natural Resources. Northeast Region Director Shelly Patton went on record in last year's public comment period, noting that the federal government did

not have the authority to implement a plan that would strip either the state or riparian property owners of their legal rights to access these frozen public waters because the Park Service does not own them. Frozen lakes are not considered extensions of land and remain public waters, in this case subject to the state's authority.

"This issue between the state's rights and the federal government's authority has been going on ever since the creation of the park," DeGross told the *Timberjay*. "And there have been a variety of different lawsuits that have been fought. If I'm not mistaken, four of them have been litigated in the courts. And three of those have come back saying that the federal government does have authority within the legislative boundaries of the park."

Patton, who said she's had a good working relationship with DeGross for years, also weighed in on the dispute.

"This is something where the state laws don't align with what they foresee as a federal regulation, a road regulation that they're applying to waters, and I don't really understand how that works," she said. "So, that's what we've got to get resolved. And I want to point out one important thing, that Minnesota is a riparian rights state. If you own land that abuts public

waters, you have a right to go on those waters, as long as you're not impeding or doing something illegal, and you have access to the whole surface of the water. The state says you can go all the way out to the other side of the lake. You have the free right to travel on those waters. That's been held up by the Supreme Court in Minnesota and the U.S., so that's an important right."

No exception

During the comment period, DeGross was asked whether the park could be exempted from the motorized vehicle regulation due to the park's unique nature as a water-based park. Commenters said they believed DeGross should be advocating for local accommodations rather than falling in line with existing NPS regulations.

DeGross indicated that he had tried to pursue workarounds with his superiors. One suggestion he said he made was a creative attempt at a solution.

"I went to park leadership and I said, 'Why don't we just call all of Lake Kabetogama a parking area, and all of the area on the west end of Rainy Lake where this motorized use takes place and call that a parking area?'" Defining those areas as such would allow unrestricted motorized vehicle use. But his suggestion didn't fly.

"I was shot down with that," he said.

DeGross told the *Timberjay* that his superiors are focused on creating an acceptable access plan that fits within the regulation.

"I have conveyed this issue to my supervisors and the management and leadership of the National Park Service in a manner that advised them that this is a very unique and controversial issue associated with Voyageurs National Park," DeGross said. "Actually, I encouraged us to really consider special rulemaking as it relates to this use at the park. And my direction was to come back and work through the process and identify what we would be able to allow within the regulation that's established."

One speaker said he appreciated DeGross's situation, but that the changes to the plan weren't responsive to the concerns citizens have expressed.

"I kind of do believe you are on our side and you're trying to figure out a way to do this. I don't know why, but I really do," he said. "But I think you're put in a really bad position right now. And you didn't hear us or your superiors didn't hear us."

DeGross and the crowd failed to find common ground on the need for a plan, given the historical use of the lakes in winter, the lack of any clear cultural or environmental resource impacts, and the continuing conflict over state versus federal jurisdiction.

Commenters maintained their position that the plan would infringe on their individual rights and negatively impact the local economy by depressing visitor use of the lakes.

After the meeting, DeGross said that the process moving forward would be to complete the public comment period by June 28 and incorporate the information gathered in an environmental analysis of the proposed plan, again making responsive modifications where possible. That analysis will be put out for yet another public comment period later this fall, after which a final plan will be developed by next spring.

"My objective is to clearly identify what is and is not allowed, and where it is and where it is not allowed, so that everyone knows the playing field, and that we provide reasonable access, we assure the protection of the natural and cultural resources, and that we follow the regulations that I'm responsible for following," DeGross said.

Patton stressed that people should continue to advocate for what they want.

"It's really important," she said. "People have this opportunity during the public comment period to say exactly what they want to see happen here, and hopefully they'll take that to heart and listen to what people have to say. But I think contacting your legislators, both state and U.S. legislators, will hopefully bring some movement to it, too."

There are no more public meetings scheduled, but people are still able to review the plan and submit their written comments through June 28. The plan is on the VNP website in the Frozen Lake Surface Use Plan documents list. Comments may be submitted online at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/VOYA-frozen>, or can be mailed to Frozen Lake Surface Use Plan, Voyageurs National Park, 360 Hwy 11 East, International Falls MN 56649.

EBCH
Ely-Bloomenson
Community Hospital

Hospital Connection

EMS Survey III

Q: What was presented at the meeting on June 13, 2024?
A: On June 13, 2024, community members, EBCH staff and board members, elected officials, and those close to the EMS community gathered at the Ely Senior Center to hear a presentation from SafeTech Solutions. SafeTech Solutions was hired by EBCH last fall to complete a comprehensive study of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) throughout our area. They collected data and talked with key stakeholders from Ely, Babbitt, and Tower. The presentation included background information on how the study was conducted, several key takeaways, and various EMS system models that could work within our service area. These potential models outlined various systems, such as a system owned by EBCH, a system owned by another local entity, and a system that implements a quick response vehicle.

Q: Why is the hospital a good solution now when they managed the ambulance previously?
A: The Ambulance was separated from the hospital approximately eighteen years ago. While the hospital leaders and board made their decisions with the best information available at that time, things have changed over time. This solution worked, until it didn't. We have seen the needs of our patients change over time. We have also seen the needs of the communities we serve change. Additionally, the current climate and regulations are quite different from the early 2000s. While finances are essential for long-term sustainability, caring for our patients and the communities we serve is perhaps the most important factor and can not be taken lightly.

Q: What are the next steps?
A: The presentation was not the end of the process; it was only the beginning. It ended one phase of preliminary research and began another phase of ongoing conversations. The next steps will include each entity involved agreeing on the possible solution. There are no simple answers. We know that this process will take time, and ongoing conversations to ensure the best possible solution for everyone affected.

Hospital Connection is an ongoing feature of Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH). We are excited to share our most recent updates and information in a question-and-answer format featuring a new topic each week. We will share important information about healthcare at local, state, and national levels, along with exciting information about EBCH, our services, and how we are a partner in the communities we serve. You can also find more information about EBCH by visiting our website at www.ebch.org. Like our Facebook page to keep up with current events and announcements.

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Thursday, July 4, 2024

Tower Civic Center

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Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage patties,
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LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER

Midsummer fundrasier celebrates a milestone

Renovations of the cultural center almost complete

TOWER- Sen. Grant Hauschild keyed this year's Midsummer fundraiser for the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center, which packed the Herbert R. Lamppa Civic Center this past Saturday evening. Hauschild, with support from state Reps. Dave Lislegard and Roger Skraba, was instrumental in passage of a \$100,000 earmark for the center in this year's tax bill. The funding, along with a \$25,000 matching grant from a separate IRRR fund, will help with the final interior renovations, completion of a heating system, new wiring, and finished bathrooms in time for an anticipated project completion next year.

"This is a grassroots community effort," Hauschild said, noting this project highlighted the importance of connection, community, and culture.

Hauschild said while the internet gives the illusion of a connected world, most of these connections are superficial. "We need true connections in our community," he said. "Community gives us a sense of belonging. When we come together as a community, it helps solve problems."

The third piece to connecting our communities is culture, he said.

"Culture is what breathes life into the world," he said. "It is our history beyond our own identity."

Hauschild said the Iron Range has its own unique culture, forged from the immigrant experience of its community members.

"We need to experience new ideas and cultures to create a strong community."

"This year's Midsummer really fit in with this description by Sen. Grant Hauschild," said Elaine McGillivray, chair of the cultural center board.

"This year's event was one of our best ones in that regard, not to mention the amazing finale program led by Jan Kimes."

Mary Batinich, president of the board, said specific parts of the project to be done by this fall include finishing the floors in the Halunen Lobby and Abrahamson Gallery, both on the main floor, along with finishing the walls in the gallery area. The two bathrooms will also be completed. Other parts of the project include installing a sprinkler system, finishing the ceilings



Clockwise from top left: Sen. Grant Hauschild was the featured speaker. Jan Kimes (at left) was presented with an appreciation award by board members Mary Batinich and Ryan Bajan. The Midsummer Singers. Board member Maddy Zupancich helped with the live auction, which featured two vacation opportunities. Deb Prutsman belted out "I Cain't Say No." Steve Solkela played Finlandia while JoAnn Halunen waltzed with Joe LaForte. photos by J. Summit

(which need to wait until the sprinkler system is installed), and connecting the heating and cooling system. Most of the plumbing work is already completed, Batinich said.

Batinich was excited for all the work that has gone into the project. She was also happy with this year's Midsummer.

"It's becoming a social event of the year," she said. "We are bringing people together."

What the annual event will look like next year is still undecided. With the "retirement" of musical director Jan Kimes, board members are looking to perhaps reimagine the annual fundraiser, because even though the major construction project will be completed, ongoing funds will always be needed for maintenance and upkeep.

"My hope is that next year's event meets the same goals, and personally, I hope it's still a dressy event," said McGillivray.

This year's Midsummer fundraiser for the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center featured highlights from the past 12

years of Midsummer performances, all written and directed by Jan Kimes (and her late husband Bill). The two dozen members of this year's Midsummer Singers performed songs that evoked the themes of past Midsummer shows, and included show-stopping solo performances by Steve Solkela, Amanda Chen,

Lynn Scott, Scarlet Stone, Deb Prutsman, Henry Dougherty, and Ryan and Linda Bajan.

The cultural center is hosting a slate of events throughout the summer, including a chamber music concert that is part of the Northern Lights Music Festival on Tuesday, July 9 at 7 p.m. Tickets will be \$15 and can be purchased at the door.

More information about events can be found at <https://vermilionculturalcenter.org/>. Many events and concerts are by freewill donation.



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LAKE VERMILION

New shore lunch site offers full accessibility

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

LAKE VERMILION— A new, fully accessible shore lunch location is now open at a former DNR campsite tucked into a quiet cove on Smart Bay.

The project is the culmination of more than 18 months of planning and site exploration by volunteers

with the Vermilion Lake Association, the nonprofit that maintains a number of shore lunch spots across the lake.

The new site provides a fully accessible shore lunch location that is centrally located on Lake Vermilion.

Many individuals, organizations, and businesses have been involved in creating the new site, including

the Lake Vermilion Guides League, Vermilion Barge and Gravel, Eagles Docks, and the Department of Natural Resources. The new site will be named in honor of Ray Harris, a former association president, along with his wife Vi.

While the Vermilion Lake Association has dedicated funds, the roughly \$50,000 project would

benefit from generous donations. You can contact Pat Michaelson at plmichaelson@gmail.com or 612-306-7702, or association treasurer Mark Schmidt at bigwalleye55@gmail.

Right: A newly completed shore lunch site on Smart Bay is fully accessible for wheelchair access.

submitted photo



YOUTH COMPETITION

It's all about the horses

St. Louis County Summer Series kicks off in Embarrass

Above: Maija Peterson and her horse Telsa kick up dust in the barrel races.

Below: They start 'em out young. Pam Frazee leads her two-year-old son Troy through the course on his miniature horse Buttercup.

Bottom right: Evelyn Henderson on her horse Roy in the pole race.

photos by S. Roeser

by SETH ROESER
Staff Writer

EMBARRASS - The first of three competitions in the St. Louis County Summer Series was held at the Timber Hall Event Center horse arena on Saturday, as a total of 31 riders, 17 years-old and younger participated in barrel races, pole bending and keyhole games for cash prizes and ribbons. The event was followed by a barrel race competition open to all ages.

“It’s geared for kids,” Summer Series organizer Karen Pender said. “We want them to get out on their horses and win a little ribbon and some money.”

The Summer Series, which has been around for nearly a decade, gives youth riders in the lead line, pee wee, junior and intermediate categories the opportunity to compete against other riders in their age groups. All proceeds

See **RACES**, pg. 2B



GOLF

Olson tops local golfers at state meet

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL - North Woods golfer Tori Olson completed her high school golf career on Wednesday by finishing 15th in her fifth trip to the two-day Class A state golf tournament, this year held at the Pebble Creek Golf Club in Becker.

The North Woods ace found herself 10 strokes off the pace in 13th position after the opening round on Tuesday.

Olson shot a 14-over-par 86, with identical nines of 43. Her round was five strokes better than last year’s opener at state, where she finished 22nd.

On Wednesday, Olson opened play on the back nine, where she struggled early before righting the ship and settling in for a solid string of pars. With golfers shifting places throughout the day, Olson flirted with breaking into the top ten before falling back to 15th at the end of the round. Due to weather and darkness, play was halted before all golfers were off the course, so all scores were adjusted to 16 holes rather than 18.

NER-Ely

District 7A champion NER-Ely was fifth in the eight-school team competition after Tuesday’s play, with their 395 total putting them in striking distance of fourth-place Heritage Christian Academy at 375, and they held onto that position at the end of the tourney.

Abby Koivisto led the way, finishing in a three-way tie for 17th at 28 over par, improving from her 24th position after the first day of play. The rest of the squad was well down the leaderboard, with Maizy Sunblad at 49th, Carena DeBeltz at 51st, Danica Sunblad at 69th, Cylvia DeBeltz at 75th. Ezra Chamberlin also teed it up for NER-Ely but withdrew on the second day of the tourney.

CAR CRASH

Ely man injured in single car accident

TOWER - Michael James Happala, age 38, of Ely, was injured when his 2010 Kia Soul traveling southbound on Hwy. 169 near Pike Bay Drive went into the ditch in the early afternoon on Wednesday, June 12. According to the state patrol, Haapala fell asleep before his car left the roadway. Haapala was treated at Essentia Virginia for non-life-threatening injuries. The driver was not wearing a seatbelt and alcohol was not a factor in the accident.



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SOUDAN UNDERGROUND MINE

The “Cadillac of Mines” reopens for public tours

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

SOUDAN— After a four-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a \$9.3 million reconstruction project, the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park re-opened tours of Minnesota’s oldest and deepest mine to the public late last month, and according to park officials the response has been strong. This marks the first time since 2020 that the attraction is fully operational for tours.

Visitors can travel nearly a half-mile underground to the 27th level of the mine, where temperatures remain a constant 51 degrees year-round. Since first opening for public tours in 1965, three years after the mine closed in 1962, the Soudan mine has become a landmark on the Iron Range, attracting about 35,000 visitors annually from around the world.

The Soudan Mine, which began operations in 1882 as open-pit mines before shifting over to deep underground tunnels, played a major role in the nation’s industrial development. The rich ore mined there was vital for forging steel used to build everything from buildings and bridges to military equipment. The mine operated for eight decades until it was no longer profitable due to the emergence of taconite, which could be mined and processed more efficiently.



Guide Reed Petersen, left, directs the loading of a train car for a tour.
photo by D. Colburn

“Most mines that close don’t continue operation because you have to use pumps to keep the mine dry and somebody has to pay for that,” Interpretive Supervisor Sarah Guy-Levar told a special media day gathering recently. “And most active mines certainly don’t offer tours because if you have people in your cages, you are not hauling ore out of the ground, so you’re not making money. So Soudan is an incredibly unique experience.”

The recent renovation project focused primarily on replacing 500 feet of the steel structure lining the mine shaft, some of which was over 100 years old. The mine shaft’s aging steel and concrete lining had started to degrade significantly, posing potential

safety risks. “Steel that’s been in a wet environment for 100 years was starting to degrade,” said Jim DeVries, assistant manager of the park. “We’re glad to get new steel in there, rebuild that piece so that we’re able to bring tourists down for generations to come.”

The reconstruction work, concentrated between levels 19 and 24 of the mine, followed similar work done on lower levels after a two-day fire in 2011. The fire, ignited by sparks from shaft maintenance work, required 70,000 gallons of fire-suppressing foam, which, along with the fire itself, caused significant damage. The recent project involved removing 70 dump truck loads of debris and thousands of square feet of concrete.

Contractors lowered 2,000-pound steel beams and tons of concrete to rebuild the shaft lining and steel infrastructure that supports the cages that lower visitors down the shaft for the tours.

“And now we have a very, very strong steel structure. We don’t have to worry about anything caving in,” Guy-Levar said. “And it is a smooth ride right now!”

The three-minute ride down the mine shaft in the confined, dim cages takes visitors to the 27th level. From there, they board a train for a nearly mile-long ride to the last and deepest area that was mined.

The improvements to the shaft are barely noticeable to visitors, but those who have been there before will find two outstanding surface exhibits

created during the renovations, a new eight-minute introductory video and a three-dimensional model of the entire mine. The model shows in scale the intricate network of 54 miles of tunnels that were excavated during the mine’s operation. Other items were added to the visitor center as well to create a more immersive and educational experience.

“We are so fortunate that we were able to, over the last two years, do a lot of research and development to have for the very first time a professionally created exhibit in this space,” Guy-Levar said. “Not only do visitors get to have a real experience, but they can come back here in the visitor center and fully understand the complexity of the mine.”

The narrated video walks visitors through the history of what was known as “the Cadillac of Mines” due to its relatively good working conditions compared to other operations in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The relative dryness of the tunnels and having good air ventilation clearly set the Soudan mine apart from its competitors. The voices and stories of former miners embellish the video narrative.

Aside from the renovations, little has changed since the mine closed in 1962. The historic 1924 electric hoist still lifts and lowers the elevator cages. The hoist ran around the clock during the recent

reconstruction to speed along the work.

A tour led by guide Reed Petersen included the cage descent, a ride through the dimly-lit mining tunnel, also called a drift, and an opportunity to explore the stope, the place where active mining took place. Petersen also treated his group to the same experience all visitors get, one of total darkness when guides briefly extinguish the stope’s electric lights.

“Whenever you ask people, ‘What do you remember from this tour?’ they always say, ‘I remember going down the mine shaft and I remember being in total darkness,’” Petersen said.

Later this summer, park staff will revive the popular science tours that include a visit to the underground laboratory space that once housed two large physics experiments, taking advantage of the mine’s insulation from cosmic radiation.

Guy-Levar emphasized that the tours are ADA-compliant and accessible to all with mobility challenges.

Visitors planning to tour the Soudan Mine are strongly encouraged to make advance reservations as time slots regularly fill up. Visitors are advised to wear a jacket and sturdy boots or shoes. Complete tour information, schedules, and reservations are available online at www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/tours/lake_vermillion_soudan.html.

RACES...Continued from page 1B

from the Summer Series go to the saddle club hosting the day’s event.

During Saturday’s competition, participants raced around three barrels for the fastest time. In pole bending, also called “poles,” riders maneuvered their horses through a line of six poles.

The keyhole game involved the six poles being in a narrow box pattern, two rows of three poles. Riders rode through the box and suddenly turned their horses to run through the box again.

If any pole or barrel was knocked down during the trials, the rider did not receive a time.

Two-year-old Troy Frazee rode in all three

of Saturday’s games. According to his mother Pam – who led Troy and his horse around the arena – Troy has been riding horses since he was born.

“When he was a baby, we put him in a little backpack and he’d ride with us,” Pam said.

Troy rode a 24-year-old horse named Buttercup, which was a gift for his second birthday. When asked if he had fun riding at the events, Troy got right to the point.

“Horsey,” he said.

The next event of the SLC Summer Series will be held on July 6 at the South St. Louis County Fair in Proctor. The grand finale is on Aug. 4 at the St. Louis County fairground in

Chisholm. Participants do not need to have attended this event to participate in the next ones. For more information, go to SLC Summer Series on Facebook.

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Cast
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Obituaries and Death Notices



Greta Mae Lindquist Stefanich

Greta Mae Lindquist Stefanich, age 91, passed away on June 11, 2024, in Silver Bay, Minn. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 57 Horn Blvd, Silver Bay. Private Interment at Lakeview Cemetery in Tower, Minn. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred. Condolences may be sent to: Mary Hoffman, 40 Arthur Circle, Silver Bay, MN 55614. To share a memory or leave an online condolence visit www.cavalinfuneralhome.com.

Greta was born on May 24, 1933, in Pine City, Minn. She was the youngest child of Allen Lindquist and Ruth (Scofield) Lindquist. She was educated in the Pine City Public Schools. After graduating high school, she moved to the Twin Cities to work. While working at First National Bank in Minneapolis, she met her husband, Louis Martin Stefanich. They married in Pine City on July 31, 1954 and began their life together on the Iron Range in Babbitt. After moving to Babbitt, she interviewed for a job but was told by the interviewer that as a young married woman, she should go home and have babies. That she did, eventually giving birth to seven children. After 15 months in Babbitt, she and Louis moved to Silver Bay. It is here that Greta lived her life as a dedicated wife and mother. After the children were grown, she and Louie moved to New Brighton, Minn. to be closer to them. In 2019, Greta returned to Silver Bay, moving to Carefree Living where she remained until her death.

Greta had a beautiful singing voice and enjoyed playing the piano. She

spent many nights soothing her children to sleep with beautiful songs. She was also a very good baker, with an especially delicious banana bread and a yummy Slovenian potica. It was these baked goods and salads that allowed her to share her love and compassion with many people. She once had a dream about her old, scuffed up golden serving bowl. In her dream, she was with many women at church and the bowl began to shine a radiant gold. She suddenly had an urge to speak. She told these women how the bowl had been taken to so many funerals, weddings, graduations, potlucks, picnics, neighbors and friends who were grieving or celebrating. It had been to so many places, always filled with love. That was one of Greta's secrets, doing small things with great love.

She was an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Silver Bay. She taught CCD classes, sang in the choir, was on the funeral committee, a lector and church secretary for nine years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, four siblings, father and mother-in-law, three brothers in-law and one sister-in-law.

She is survived by her seven children: Rebecca Orvik, Mary Hoffman, Susan Stefanich (Mark Roubinek), Timothy Stefanich (Pamela), Louis W. Stefanich (Monica Kocourek), Ruth Zouzouambe (Yves), and Matthew Stefanich (Dawn); grandchildren: Clay, Greg, Garrett, Megan (Willy), Daniel, Miranda, Alex, Stephane, Marcel, Zachary, Owen and Samuel; brother-in-law Je-

rome (Janice) Stefanich, sister in law Joyce Lindquist and many nieces and nephews.

Her children would like to thank the staff of Carefree Living in Silver Bay and Essentia Health Hospice. Their kindness, love and generosity went above and beyond.

Sheri L. Sawatzky

Sheri Lynn Olson Sawatzky, 60, of Cook, died on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, after a courageous battle with cancer. A celebration of life will be held on Friday, June 28 at Camp Vermilion in Cook. The visitation will be from 2 to 3 p.m. with a service at 3 p.m. followed by a meal. Memorials can be made to the Vermilion Lake Association. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

She is survived by her husband, Lauren "Bubba"; mother, Shirley Olson of Rice Lake, Wis.; brother, Jeff (Laurie) of Rice Lake, Wis.; sister, Robin (Jim) Nelson of Richland Center, Wis.; numerous nieces and nephews; and friends from all around the country.

Mary L. Bird

Mary Louise "Marylou" Boitz Bird, 75, of Cambridge, and formerly of Ely, died on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, in Encore Assisted Living in North Branch. Graveside services were held on Thursday, June 13 in the Ely Cemetery with Reverend Father Brandon Moravitz officiating. Memorials are preferred, and may be directed to heroes helping heroes at www.h3mn.org. Family services were provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family

Funeral Home in Tower.

She is survived by her husband, Dick of Cambridge; children, Patricia (Todd) Baker of Blaine, Richard (Sandra) Bird of Barnum and Justina (William Messerich) Bird of Ely; grandchildren, Alexys Olness, Anthony Olness, Jessica (Cole) Liimatainen, Jamie (Daniel) Gilchrist and Jordan Bird; great-grandchildren, Jace, Jayden and Grayson; brother-in-law: Don (Cindy) Bird; nieces and nephews, Corey (Katie) Bird and Melanie (Rick) Stickney; extended family and friends.

Deborah Minier

Deborah "Deb" Minier, 64, of Ely, passed away on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital surrounded by her family. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. funeral service on Saturday, June 22 at Grace Lutheran Church in Ely with Pastor Eric Thiele officiating. Burial will be at the Ely Cemetery. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her loving husband, Mike; daughter, Charlotte (Matthew) Roggenbuck; son, Wayne Minier; sister, Denise (Rob) Zollar; brother, Doug (Lorie) Wiermaa; brothers-in-law, Daniel (Linda) Minier and Edward Minier; sister-in-law, Debbie Minier; and many nieces and nephews.

Carlen L. Lamppa

Carlen Lloyd Lamppa, 76, of Aurora and formerly of Embarrass, died on Thursday, May 30, 2024, in Essentia St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth. A memorial service will be held at 2

p.m. on Saturday, June 22 at North Hope Church in Aurora. A gathering time for family and friends will begin one hour prior to the service at the church. Inurnment will take place in the Embarrass Cemetery. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his wife, Carol Sue Workman Lamppa; son, Brent "Skeeter" (Melissa) Lamppa of Hoyt Lakes; granddaughters, Maggie and Allie; siblings, Michael (Charlene) Lamppa of Savage, Bernadette "Berni" Bradshaw of Wichita, Kasn., and Russel (Melanie) Lamppa of New Hope; sister-in-law, Sandy (John) Workman Warner of Grand Island, Neb.; nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Cliff Pechacek

Cliff Pechacek, 80, of Ely, passed away on Thursday, June 13, 2024. The family would like to thank Dr. Friday, Dr. Jessica Lahta, Dr. Wilt and Dr. Montana, the hospital staff and hospice care for their outstanding care.

Per Cliff's wishes, there will be no service. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by

his wife, Joyce Voll Pechacek; daughters, Kim (Mike) Gheen and Tammy (Mike) Velcheff, both of Ely; sons, Chris (Amber) Pechacek of Ely and Scott (Marcia) Pechacek of Rush City; grandchildren, Casey Velcheff, Shianne Gheen, Jerod Gheen and Kelsey Velcheff, all of Ely; special sister-in-law, Karen Voll of Ely; brother-in-law, Arnie Beyer of Owatonna; and several nieces and nephews.

Alan P. Maxson

Alan Paul Maxson, 85, of Babbitt, passed away from complications of dementia on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. The family would like to express their gratitude to the entire staff at Babbitt Carefree Living for taking care of Alan in his last year.

He is survived by wife, Alice Maxson; children, Robin (John) Creighton of Eagan, Robert (Denise) Maxson of St. Ignace, Mich., Donald (Diane) Maxson of Babbitt, and Michael and James Crane of Duluth; 13 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; brother, Jack (Barb) Maxson of Bloomington; and numerous extended family and friends.

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Please Mail to: **TS 4th of July PO Box 461 Tower, MN 55790**

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If you live in a CenturyLink service area, visit <https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/community/community-development/lifeline.html> for additional information about applying for these programs or call 1-800-201-4099 with questions.

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Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

LIFE IN THE WOODS

The bird that won't leave my oak alone

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

I have a love/hate relationship with a yellow-bellied sapsucker. It's complicated, I know, and it has a long history.

For years, a sapsucker has been attracted to the two most coveted trees in my yard, both bur oaks that I grew from acorns harvested from a massive tree in the yard where I

Left: A male yellow-bellied sapsucker peeks around the trunk of my prized bur oak, which I grew from an acorn from a tree in the yard where I grew up.

photo by M. Helmberger

grew up near the Minnesota River in Bloomington.

The terrain here in the North Country is hardly ideal for bur oaks. The soil is shallow, although it's at least several feet to bedrock where the two trees are located. But we're outside their normal range and while the trees have survived and are growing reasonably well, there are signs they're struggling a bit at times.

While sapsuckers rarely kill trees, they have been known to weaken them and they tend to be attracted to trees that are already stressed. And the ones that show up here every year, to nest in a cavity in a large aspen just north of the house, have decided these are

their favorite honey pots.

Sapsuckers, as their name suggests, really do eat sap. They don't suck it, but they do lap it up with their brush-like tongues and sap comprises a significant amount of their diet. To access the sap, they drill small holes of varying depths. In the spring, the holes are a bit deeper and act just like a maple tap we humans use for the same purpose as they gather the sap moving up from underground that will eventually bring the tree out of winter dormancy. This time of year, sap is mostly flowing downward, storing food produced by the leaves in the

See SAPSUCKER...pg. 5B



PRIMITIVE PLANTS

The verdant ferns

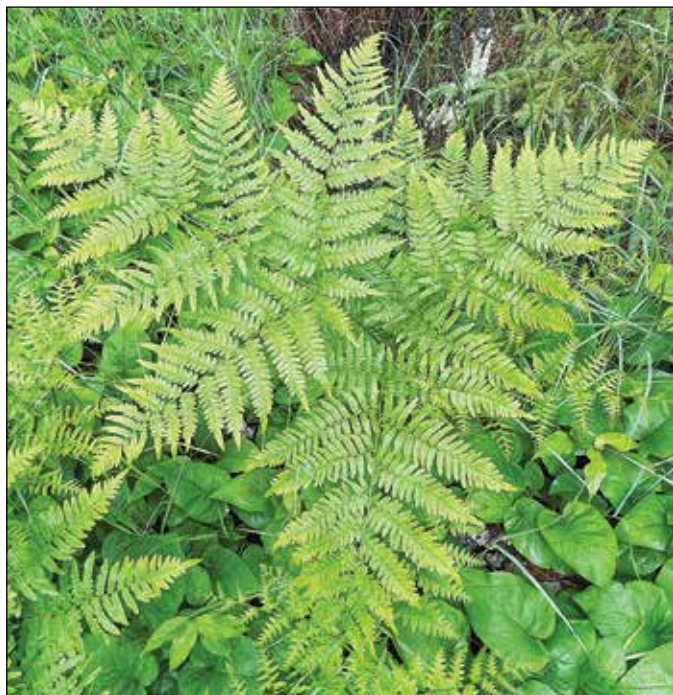
This spring's abundant rainfall has been a boon for more than just mosquitoes. Few of our native plants appreciate plentiful moisture more than the roughly 90 species of ferns that make their home in Minnesota.

Ferns are among the most common ground cover in northern Minnesota forests and are remarkably diverse in terms of the number of species of ferns found in our region, from the ostrich fern, our largest species, to the rare and tiny goblin fern, which grows barely two inches high.

Ferns are ancient, with examples in the fossil record dating back 300 million years. They were once a dominant form of plant on Earth and it is believed that their decomposition over the eons is responsible for the bulk of the oil and coal deposits in the world.

Given their earliest beginnings, ferns are a kind of missing link between the most primitive plants, such as mosses, and the more advanced flowering plants, which began to appear about 130 million years ago.

As plants evolved from small and primitive beginnings, they needed a way to transport food to different parts of the plant as they grew in size. Ferns were among the first plants to develop a vascular



Above: A clump of lady ferns surround the base of balsam poplar.

Left: The bracken fern is told by its tall leafless stem topped by three leaves that together form an equilateral triangle.

Below: One of our smallest ferns, the oak fern, is found in deep shade.

Bottom right: A clump of sensitive ferns, which are often found along roadsides.

Lower left: A clump of interrupted ferns, named for the sporangia that make up the lower part of each frond.

photos by M. Helmberger



MARSHALL HELMBERGER



Wildflower Watch



This week's featured flower
CANADA ANEMONE

The **Canada Anemone**, *Anemonastrum canadense*, is a sun-loving wildflower that's in bloom right now. It's found in moist meadows, thickets, streambanks, and lakeshores in our region, and spreads rapidly by underground rhizomes, which can make it an effective, native groundcover in sunny locations. Its five-petaled flowers are quite showy. It's a member of the buttercup family.

Outdoors briefly



Kayakers explore Lost Lake SNA during a previous outing.

Reserve your spot for a kayak tour of Lost Lake SNA

REGIONAL— If you'd like to explore the Lost Lake Peatland Scientific and Natural Area but don't know where to start, you'll want to take advantage of a planned kayak tour of the area set for Friday, July 26, from 7-9 p.m.

SNA naturalist Arika McGraw will lead the tour and those who would like to take part should bring their own kayak (or canoe) and reserve their spot as soon as possible. Participation will be capped at 20.

Participants will meet at the public landing on Lost Lake, located about seven miles west of Tower. From the lake, participants will be able to see parts of the SNA and may even catch a glimpse of some of the plants and wildlife that live in the peatland, all while enjoying a summer sunset.

Participants should dress for the weather and the presence of mosquitoes. Life jackets are required. There are no maintained trails or recreational facilities within the SNA.

To register, please email arika.mcgraw@state.mn.us.

See FERNS...pg. 5B



A large clump of bunchberry was at the peak of the spring bloom this week.

Outdoors briefly

Injured man airlifted from Forest Center

ISABELLA LAKE—An unidentified man bleeding heavily from his arm was airlifted by a Lifelink helicopter from the Forest Center landing zone near here, on Friday, June 14. He was transported by canoe to the wilderness entry point on Isabella Lake. Lake County Rescue

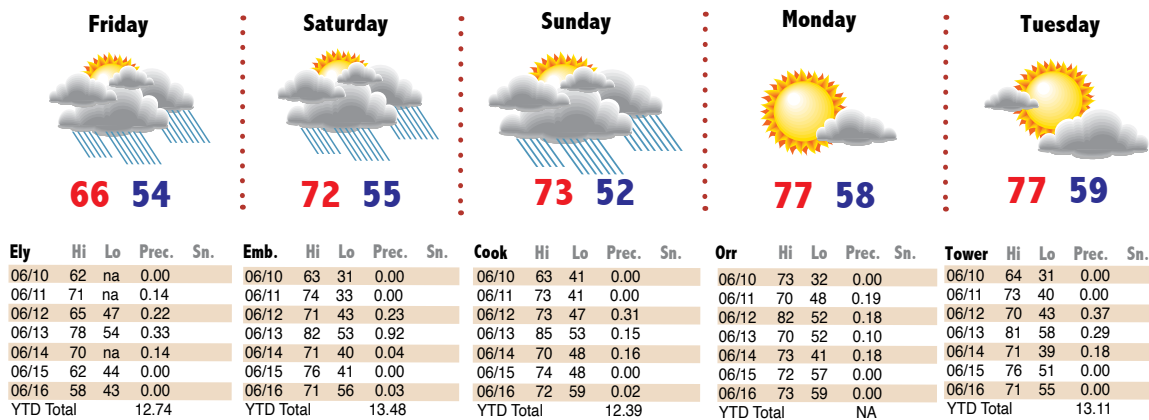
arrived at the entry point at 8:18 p.m. and transported the patient to the landing zone. The Lifelink helicopter had the man loaded and in the air by 8:33 p.m.

Other agencies assisting the Lake County Sheriff's Office during the incident were Lake County Ambulance and Babbitt Fire.

No additional information was available as of press time.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
06/10	62	na	0.00		06/10	63	31	0.00		06/10	63	41	0.00		06/10	73	32	0.00		06/10	64	31	0.00	
06/11	71	na	0.14		06/11	74	33	0.00		06/11	73	41	0.00		06/11	70	48	0.19		06/11	73	40	0.00	
06/12	65	47	0.22		06/12	71	43	0.23		06/12	73	47	0.31		06/12	82	52	0.18		06/12	70	43	0.37	
06/13	78	54	0.33		06/13	82	53	0.92		06/13	85	53	0.15		06/13	70	52	0.10		06/13	81	58	0.29	
06/14	70	na	0.14		06/14	71	40	0.04		06/14	70	48	0.16		06/14	73	41	0.18		06/14	71	39	0.18	
06/15	62	44	0.00		06/15	76	41	0.00		06/15	74	48	0.00		06/15	72	57	0.00		06/15	76	51	0.00	
06/16	58	43	0.00		06/16	71	56	0.03		06/16	72	59	0.02		06/16	73	59	0.00		06/16	71	55	0.00	
YTD Total			12.74		YTD Total			13.48		YTD Total			12.39		YTD Total			NA		YTD Total				13.11

FERNS...Continued from page 4B

structure that made this possible and it was a forerunner to the far more intricate vascular systems that allow such giants as sequoias or redwoods to bring food to their tallest branches.

While ferns made advances in terms of their vascular structure, they continued to utilize spores for reproduction since seeds wouldn't come along for hundreds of millions of years when the flowering plants, which produce seeds, finally evolved.

Seeds are a significant advance, because they include a complete set of chromosomes, the result of sexual reproduction accomplished through the use of pollen, which contain the male chromosomes and the pistil, which is the female part where the male and female genetic material combine before developing into a seed.

A fern spore, by contrast, contains only half of the needed genetic material, so a spore won't grow into the ferns with which we're familiar. Instead, assuming they land in a moist and protected location, they grow into a tiny heart-shaped structure about the size of a fingernail. The plant's sole purpose is to produce male and/or female genetic material, which is typically done on the underside of the plant's only leaf. Either dew or rain allows the male genetic material to combine with a female egg and combination results in the production of an embryo which develops into an actual fern. It's a cumbersome process, so you can see why flowering plants have come to dominate the planet.

While we tend to think of ferns as fairly delicate, that's not always

the case. While many of our ferns are frost sensitive, some are remarkably hardy. Polypody ferns, for example, which are generally found draped from vertical rock surfaces in our area, remain green all winter, simply going dormant until the return of warmer weather in the spring. That's in contrast to the sensitive fern, which is most common in our area in sunny locations like roadsides. It will wither with the slightest touch of frost.

While ferns definitely play second fiddle to the flowering plants these days, long ago, they once dominated Earth's landscape. Even today, they still know how to make an impression.

SAPSUCKER...Continued from page 4B

roots. That sap flows closer to the surface so the holes produced by sapsuckers this time of year tend to be quite shallow.

Generally, the trees are able to block the flow of the sap fairly quickly, which is one reason that sapsuckers tend to drill a lot of holes in trees they favor. Typically, in our area, they focus on birch and maple, but they've also taken a liking to my two bur oaks. One of them seems to have been unaffected by the daily attention from the sapsuckers. But the other regularly shows more dead branches than I would expect on a completely healthy tree.

When the less healthy tree was smaller, I would wrap the trunk in window screen in the spring to discourage the sapsuckers and it seemed like the tree's health improved. As the tree is now much larger, I've stopped wrapping it because it would just be too difficult to do.

I've occasionally discouraged

the sapsuckers by shooing them away if I happen to see them. I realize that's largely ineffectual since I'm often not around. And they've largely stopped reacting, other than simply moving to the opposite side of the tree, and occasionally peak around to see what I'm doing.

So, I've just let it go. I know some folks might have dispatched sapsuckers, but I'm definitely not going that route. I'll tend the trees as best I can and hope for the best, while reminding myself that yellow-bellied sapsuckers are an interesting species of woodpecker, one that's only around half the year. In large part because sapsuckers need their trees to be outside of dormancy, they don't spend the winters here in the north. In fact, they are the only group of woodpeckers that are migratory. They show up here, typically, in mid-April, and head south in the fall, generally in late September as the trees stop photosynthesizing. They

spend the winters in the far southern U.S., Mexico, and even as far south as Central America.

Once back on their breeding territory, the male sapsucker does most of the work excavating the cavity, which is often in an aspen in our region. Many aspen experience heart rot and sapsuckers key in on those trees since it makes the work of excavating a cavity that much easier. Once carved, the pair will tend to return to the same nest for the rest of their lives, and that could be several years. The pair near our house have been coming for at least the past four years.

While the male and female of the species do look quite similar, the male has a scarlet throat in addition to a red forehead, while the female's throat is a pale yellow. As birds go, they're pretty colorful. Even so, I'll be happy to see them move on.

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EMPLOYMENT

Position: Comptroller

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- LTD
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Published in the Timberjay, June 14, 21 & 28, 2024

Northern Tier Accounting Coordinator

We are seeking an individual to join our amazing team!

This individual would work independently, performing a variety of non-routine clerical accounting functions involved with posting to and balancing the general or subsidiary ledgers. Administers accounts payable, receivable, cost accounting, and other general accounting functions.

Education Level: High School Diploma or GED equivalency.

Experience: Minimum of five (5) years of experience in general accounting, including maintaining general ledgers and coordination of personnel.

Please submit your resume to jobs@ntier.org

6/21

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OPENINGS

Vermilion Country School (VCS) is seeking applicants for the following positions:

Vermilion Country is a project-based learning school seeking to expand our staffing. We are adding new positions! Now interviewing for positions for the 2024/25 school year for other licensed teaching positions. Currently open for interview on a rolling basis - call 218-248-2485 or email info@vermilioncountry.org for more information:

Positions and job descriptions for licensed teachers, school social workers (2 openings) and support staff listed online. Most positions are benefits-eligible.

<https://vermilioncountry.org/employment>

For inquiries, contact
info@vermilioncountry.org and/or 218-248-2485

PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Tower - Seeking Election Judges

The City of Tower needs election judges for the Primary Election on August 13, 2024, and the General Election on November 5, 2024.

Training provided. Pay: \$14/hour.

Interested? Contact City Hall at 218-753-4070 or clerk.treasurer@cityoftower.com.

Deadline: July 3, 2024.

Published in the Timberjay, June 21 & 28, 2024

2024-2025 and 2024-2026 Cook Hospital Bids For Propane

Two separate sealed propane bids will be accepted until 4:30 pm, June 24th with contracts to begin October 2024.

Propane Bid #1: 180,000 gallons for 2024-2025
Propane Bid #2: 360,000 gallons for 2024-2026

A contract for 24-hour emergency service and biannual maintenance of vaporizers must be included in Bid #1 and #2. Must be able to provide backup propane tank of 2,000 gallons or more and keep it filled in the event of an emergency or main propane tank failure.

The sealed bids must be marked "Propane Bid #1 and Propane Bid #2" and be delivered or mailed to Cook Hospital, Teresa Debevec, CEO, 10 Fifth Street SE, Cook, MN 55723.

Bids will be opened at the Board Executive Committee Meeting of the Cook-Orr Healthcare District on June 25th at 4:30 PM.



Published in the Timberjay June 14th & 21st, 2024

2024-2025 Cook Hospital Bids For Propane Maintenance Building

Sealed propane bids will be accepted until 4:30 pm, June 24th.

Propane Bid for Maintenance Building: 3,000 gallons for 2024-2025 with contract to begin September 2024.

The sealed bids must be marked "Propane Bid Maintenance Building" and be delivered or mailed to Cook Hospital, Teresa Debevec, CEO, 10 Fifth Street SE, Cook, MN 55723.

Bids will be opened at the Board Executive Committee Meeting of the Cook-Orr Healthcare District on June 25th at 4:30 PM.



Published in the Timberjay June 14th & 21st, 2024

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www.mnpublicnotice.com/

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: E equals W

ETSI EZLQN KZL YSQQ SYIXHUU

IZRQPW PJ THX TZRH EHXH

ZW S WSXXZE UPNH XZSN?

QPQK ZJ ITH SQQHK.

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Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1. Landowner | _____ E | Wiggle | _____ M |
| 2. River's entrance | M _____ | Child | Y _____ |
| 3. Carnival promoter | _____ R _____ | Moneylender | _____ N _____ |
| 4. High-pitched | _____ P _____ | Hammerhead, e.g. | _____ K _____ |
| 5. Walk a beat | _____ L _____ | Customer | _____ N _____ |
| 6. Kit or Johnny | C _____ | Preacher | P _____ |
| 7. At no time | N _____ | Prybar | L _____ |
| 8. Restaurant server | _____ A _____ | Author | _____ R _____ |
| 9. Stockpile | _____ R _____ | Pebble | _____ N _____ |
| 10. Bow treatment | _____ S _____ | Spring harbinger | _____ B _____ |

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
is **LONGFELLOW**

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

H ARHJX VLT Y HAQYKV HQ
JNA L UYGLUZHJE ARHJE.
ARY TNQA ONB ILJ QLO HQ
ARLA HA EYAQ ONB L QYLA
HJ UYQALBULJAQ.
— ZLSHZ FNGH

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weekly edition online
Wednesday afternoons

Super Crossword

Answers

A	N	A	N	I	A	S	A	M	A	A	S	P	A	B	H	O	R				
V	A	L	E	R	I	E	L	O	B	I	C	E	N	E	A	L	E				
I	F	T	H	E	R	E	W	E	R	E	M	A	R	C	L	U	E	D			
A	T	O	R	A	X	E	L	S	N	I	C	H	O	L	A	S					
A	S	U	P	E	R	V	I	L	L	A	I	N	W	H	O	L	E	N			
A	H	O	Y	L	V	I	I	R	N	A											
Y	T	T	R	I	U	M	A	M	B	L	I	N	G	C	E	S	A	R			
A	R	O	U	N	D	S	P	R	A	Y	I	N	G	S	L	Y					
Y	A	R	N	S	H	E	R	M	E	S	T	H	E	E	D	G	E				
G	N	U	S	T	A	N	C	E	B	O	A	R	E	E	R						
P	E	O	P	L	E	W	I	T	H	A	P	R	O	D	U	C	T	F	O	R	
E	D	U	L	I	A	R	N	E	E	S	O	N	O	E	R						
P	Y	T	H	O	N	S	R	O	S	E	T	O	L	I	N	G	O				
A	Y	E	R	E	M	O	V	I	N	G	M	I	L	D	E	W					
R	E	B	I	D	B	A	S	E	F	E	E	E	A	S	E	S	I	N			
A	C	E	P	R	I	O	R	A	N	I	L										
W	H	A	T	C	O	U	L	D	T	H	E	Y	N	A	M	E	H	I	M		
D	E	M	O	L	I	S	H	A	I	D	A	N	A	M	E	A	T	O	P		
A	L	I	N	E	H	U	M	T	I	L	E	X	L	U	T	H	O	R			
T	O	N	G	A	O	B	I	T	T	E	A	R	H	O	L	E					
A	N	G	S	T	N	S	A	T	S	A	S	O	N	A	T	A	S				

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

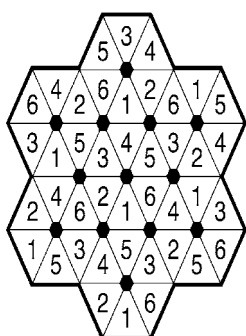
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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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.

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.

AA MEN'S PRIMARY PURPOSE meeting, Tuesdays at 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 226 E Harvey St., Ely, 218-235-38191

CryptoQuip

answer

What would you call actress

Tomlin if her home were on a narrow side road?
Lily of the alley.

CryptoQuote

answer

I think fame itself is not a rewarding thing. The most you can say is that it gets you a seat in restaurants.
- David Bowie

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

EARL	PHO	HTTP																	
CLOT	ION	OREL																	
HOT	DATES	TARA																	
OTC	GAS	ADMIN																	
HIS	CRO																		
PERON	WEIGHTS																		
IGOT	PAL	BOOT																	
COB	WEBS	PUPPY																	
HAS	BAN																		
PUGET	RED	TIA																	
ALOE	HOTS	TUFF																	
CARL	EMT	STAR																	
ONES	HAY	AUTO																	

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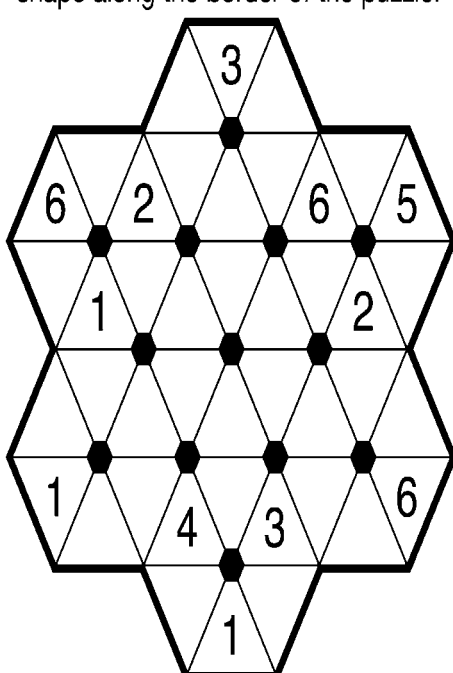
moccasinpointmarine.com



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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Even Exchange

answers

- Squire, Squirm
- Mouth, Youth
- Barker, Banker
- Sharp, Shark
- Patrol, Patron
- Carson, Parson
- Never, Lever
- Waiter, Writer
- Store, Stone
- Rosin, Robin

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

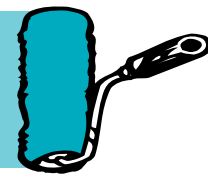
SINISTER SQUIRT

- ACROSS**
- Biblical figure slain for being a 69-Across
 - G.P.'s gp.
 - Dangerous snake
 - Detest
 - Actress Bertinelli
 - Throw slowly in a high arc
 - Cola-cooling cubes
 - Novelist Zora — Hurston
 - Start of a riddle
 - Blemish
 - Gave hints to
 - With 15-Down, no higher than
 - Skating feats
 - "Jolly old" saint
 - Riddle, part 2
 - "Hello, sailor!"
 - 58, to Nero
 - Viral gene material
 - Silvery metallic element
 - Moseying
 - TV "dog whisperer" Millan
 - Riddle, part 3
 - Sneaky
 - Knitters' supplies
 - Greek herald of the gods
 - Perilous thing to live on
 - Big antelope
 - Position while batting
 - Bristly swine
 - Always, to bards
 - Riddle, part 4
 - Academic URL ender
 - PERSON not telling the truth
 - Liam of "Schindler's List"
 - Above, to bards
 - Dangerous snakes
 - Met, as the challenge
 - Jargon
 - Pro vote
 - Riddle, part 5
 - Up one's auction offer
 - Starting charge, as on a utility bill
 - Enters warily
 - Master pilot
 - Former
 - Dark blue dye
 - End of the riddle
 - Completely destroy
 - "Reckless" actor Quinn
 - Above
 - Flaring dress
 - Noise from a beehive
 - Riddle's answer
 - Country east of Fiji
 - Geisha's sash
 - Old sitcom cousin
 - Opening in some helmets
 - Unsettled feeling
 - Hush-hush intel org.
 - Baggage inspection org.
 - 32 Beethoven piano pieces
- DOWN**
- Brand of sneakers
 - U.S.-Can.-Mex. treaty
 - Choir parts
 - First prime minister of India
 - Fury
 - Breathed-in stuff
 - Catch a glimpse of
 - Soccer Hall of Famer Lalas
 - Prized mushroom
 - Clear as —
 - Intention
 - Reading digitally
 - 18th-century powdered hairpiece
 - chili (pepper variety)
 - See 27-Across
 - Transporting trucks
 - David Mamet play or film
 - Antares or Arcturus
 - Like some permed hair
 - Mae (loan provider)
 - The Windy City, for short
 - Tylenol targets
 - Barak of Israel
 - CD- — (PC inserts)
 - Political columnist Molly
 - "Wahoo!"
 - Awful event
 - Detached roughly
 - Accumulate, as debts
 - "Well, — you special!"
 - Take part in a parade
 - Via
 - Deaf school co-founder Laurent
 - Body blinker
 - "Why Can't I?" singer Liz
 - "Hey Deanie" singer Cassidy
 - Hurry-scurry
 - Protects
 - 18th-century English king
 - Have it wrong
 - French river
 - not to be"
 - Particle in quantum mechanics
 - Lively spirit
 - Sir Andrew — Webber
 - Irk
 - Knot anew
 - Linen fabric
 - "Bali —" (show tune)
 - Turf new put on
 - Mafia's code of silence
 - Glove thread
 - Have
 - Major train terminals
 - Rowlands of "Hope Floats"
 - Hurt badly
 - Initial input to be processed
 - Level of command
 - Having a big smile
 - Apply with a bristly tool
 - Luau paste
 - Singer Murray
 - Salad bar utensil
 - Gripper on a shoe bottom
 - "Start playing the song!"
 - Revises
 - Crimean resort port
 - Kind of yoga
 - "Some Like —"
 - Cash, informally
 - Corp. honcho
 - Soccer Hall of Famer Hamm
 - Marks, as a ballot box
 - Philosopher — tzu
 - Big vase

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10		11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18		
19								20				21				22						
23								24				25				26						
27								28				29		30		31						
	32				33	34	35					36										
					37							38							39			
40	41	42	43						44	45	46					47	48					
49									50							51						
52									53							54			55	56	57	
	58					59	60								61				62			
63					64							65	66						67			
68					69							70							71			
72					73							74	75						76		77	
					78											80	81					
82	83	84						85								86						
87								88								89						
90				91	92							93	94	95					96	97	98	
99																				101		102
103									104	105	106					107	108	109				
110									111			112				113						
114									115							117						



HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



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HOURS: 8-5:30 M-F

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ELY TRACK CLUB'S

4 on the 4TH
Thursday, July 4, 2024

Miners Lake / Trezona Trailhead
4-Mile Run or Walk

- Online registration is available at RunSignUp.com
- Registration forms are available at the Ely Public Library
- Cost is \$30 through 6/30 and \$40 on race day

Questions, please email: jkdunn355@gmail.com

Parking & registration in the corner parking lot at Central Ave. & Miners Dr.

RACE INFORMATION

Race day registration: \$40
\$40-cash or check only • 6:40-7:40 AM
Kids 12 and under FREE
Run starts at 8 AM
Walk starts at 8:05 AM
Kid's 1-Mile Race (12 and under) 8 AM

Register by June 17 to get a T-shirt



41st Vermilion Walk & Run



Thursday, July 4 • Tower

- Main Street / Lake Vermilion Cultural Center
- 10K Run - 8 a.m. • 5K Run/Walk - 8:05 a.m.
- 1-Mile Kids Fun Run - 8:15 a.m.

Pre-register Email: jsummit@vermilioncountry.org for registration form or stop at Timberjay office.

Registrations accepted race day 6:30-7:45 a.m. sharp!
10K or 5K-\$15 per person in advance, \$20 on race day.
Kids 12 & under FREE with paid adult. Kids Fun-Run is FREE.
Limited number of t-shirts available on race day or order in advance to ensure we have your size.
Race course is the same as 2023, start/end a block off Main St. by old football field.

For more info. contact Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950 (Lv. message)

Sponsored by the Friends of Vermilion Country School and Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board