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# The **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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\$1<sup>50</sup>



The view down River Street in downtown Cook on Thursday.

## STORM AFTERMATH

# Flood devastates Cook

Numerous homes and businesses inundated by the rising Little Fork River

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK- Downtown Cook and surrounding neighborhoods were overwhelmed last week by a flash flood caused by torrential rains that fell on the city and the Little Fork River drainage basin last Tuesday. While floodwaters have since receded the town is facing a long and expensive period of recovery.

The impending disaster began on Tuesday with a low-pressure storm system that settled over the area and dumped intense rain across the North Country in amounts measuring up to nine inches in some areas. The deluge ravaged county roads and flooded both state highways and town streets with storm drainage systems that couldn't keep up with the massive flows.

As runoff poured into the Little Fork River basin, the river was soon outside its banks. The water began making its way into Cook mid-morning on Wednesday.

As has been the case in past high-water incidents, portions of Vermilion Dr. were the first to flood, but this time it wasn't long before the water began making its way farther into town.

At 9:30 a.m., a picture posted to social media showed "Cook's lakeside library," as 1st Ave. S in front of Cook Public Library was filled with water over its curbs.

An hour and 15 minutes later, at 10:45 a.m., the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office got the first report of flooding in Cook, according to undersheriff Jason Akerson. At the time the Emergency Management team was in Biwabik assessing washouts and river blockages. After being notified of the situation, they headed to Cook.

After they arrived, Emergency Operations Manager Josh Brinkman met with city staff and assessed the situation. According to Akerson,

See...STORM pg. 11



## GOVERNOR'S VISIT

# Walz tours flood-damaged city

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK— Gov. Tim Walz traveled to Cook on Friday with area legislators and other state officials to assess the damage from the flash flood that inundated the town on Wednesday after torrential rains on Tuesday.

Local residents and Mayor Harold Johnston moved to greet Walz when the motorcade arrived, and the governor quickly engaged in conversations to hear their stories and concerns.

Residents described the flood's rapid rise and its impact on their lives and livelihoods. Ashley Franks, who runs Franks Pharmacy, recounted how her building took on four feet of water, destroying up to 20 percent of her inventory.

Theresa Drift, a local homeless advocate, shared her harrowing experience.

"It went from completely dry to probably three or four feet of water by Wednesday evening," she said. "I had a really fast sump pump, but it couldn't keep up." Drift, now staying temporarily with a friend, added, "I work with homeless

Above: Gov. Tim Walz talks with Theresa Drift, whose home was flooded, during his recent visit to Cook.

Below: The governor and his entourage toured flooded parts of the city in county all-terrain vehicles.



people and now I'm homeless." John Jordan, co-owner of The Wash House laundromat, described a similar scene.

"Tuesday night, I had water coming  
See... WALZ VISIT pg. 10

## RESPONSE

# County puts wheels in motion for disaster aid

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The St. Louis County Board held an emergency meeting in Virginia this past Thursday to approve a local emergency declaration in the wake of Tuesday's torrential rain and subsequent flooding. The declaration will open the door to state and federal financial assistance to pay for repairs to area infrastructure, including hundreds of roads that experienced damage from the June 18 storm, which dropped anywhere from three-to-nine inches of rain across the region.

In a press conference after the meeting, board chair Keith Nelson offered a preliminary estimate of the damage to the county's infrastructure.

"I'm going to give you a rough idea, and I can tell you that my engineer will cringe when I do it," Nelson said. "But having been through this a couple of different times, I think we're somewhere north of \$50 million. The damage I witnessed firsthand in Cook is probably several million dollars. That's the back of the napkin, I guess, from my part, but some of the folks behind me here would tell you that I've been right in the past a couple of different times and just what I saw just in the 140

See...COUNTY pg. 9

## WHAT NEXT?

# Ely man bites police officer in altercation

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- A 32-year-old Ely man remained in custody in the St. Louis County Jail this week after he allegedly bit an Ely police officer who was trying to buckle him into a squad car.

Travis William Mattila was arrested on Tuesday, June 18, after he refused to leave the middle of Sheridan Street, where he was obstructing traffic and shouting at passing vehicles as rain continued during last week's storm.



Travis Mattila

Officer Bradley Roy responded to a 911 call about Mattila's behavior and found him at the intersection of Seventh Ave. and Sheridan St., where his presence in the road had stopped the flow of traffic.

When Roy approached Mattila, he accosted Roy with "obscenities and slurs" according to the statement of probable cause filed by the Ely

See...BITE pg. 9



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## Community notices

### Upcoming events at Ely State Theater

ELY- Historic State Theater Presents Open Mic Night Every Tuesday starting June 25 through Aug. 27 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the state theater lounge hosted by Christopher David Hanson.

American Pie: Pat & Donna Surface Live at the State Theater. Friday June 28 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Come see this unique tribute show with music from the 50s, 60s and 70s.

A variety of performances all summer long, check the Ely Historic State Theater website for more information. Beer, wine, snacks available for purchase. The events are free, donations encouraged.

### Online class to promote awareness of Medicare scams

The Senior LinkAge Line will offer two classes covering health care fraud, waste and abuse prevention on Wednesday, July 10, from 10-11:30 a.m. and from 2-3:30 p.m.

Attendees will learn how to detect and report potential errors, fraud, and abuse; review potential fraud and scams targeting older adults, learn how to read their Medicare paperwork, learn how to protect their Medicare beneficiary number, and how to protect/detect/report Medicare scams and fraud. This presentation includes information from the Senior Medicare Patrol, a federal education and prevention program.

Senior LinkAge Line is authorized to offer 1.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for your participation. Be sure to ask about this if you need the CEUs.

This class is offered online on Microsoft Teams. Preregister by going to [www.arrowheadaging.org/classes-workshops-trainings](http://www.arrowheadaging.org/classes-workshops-trainings) or by calling the Senior LinkAge Line at 800-333-2433. Please contact Dianne at [dkiser@ardc.org](mailto:dkiser@ardc.org) by July 5 for accommodation requests.

### Lake Vermilion Powwow set for June 28-30, Grand Entries at 1 p.m.

VERMILION RESERVATION- The Lake Vermilion Traditional Powwow will be held June 28, 29 and 30 at the Lake Vermilion Reservation in Tower co-hosted by the Lake Vermilion Singers and Night Sky Singers.

Warm ups are on Friday, June 28. Grand entries are on Saturday at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. and on Sunday at 1 p.m.

Participate in Saturday evening's two step contest for a chance to win \$500, a belt and a trophy. Other games include a musical chair contest with youth and adult divisions and a heads or tails competition happening all weekend long.

For more information, contact Muriel at 218-750-7772 or at [murieldeegan@yahoo.com](mailto:murieldeegan@yahoo.com) or contact Tracy at 218-780-1478. Camping options are available.

### St. Louis County disaster helpline

REGIONAL- St. Louis County Emergency Management is working with the MN Volunteer Organizations Aiding in Disaster to assist homeowners with cleanup. There has been a phone number established for homeowners in St. Louis County to call crisis cleanup and request assistance. The number is 218-288-2213 and will be open through July 5. If needed, this may be extended. Crisis Cleanup will connect residents with volunteers from local relief organizations, community groups and faith communities who may be able to assist with flood cleanup and muck out. All services are free, but service is not guaranteed due to the overwhelming need.

PLEASE NOTE: this hotline CANNOT assist with social services such as food, clothing, shelter, insurance, or questions about FEMA registration. Volunteers work free of charge and provide the tools and equipment necessary to complete the work.

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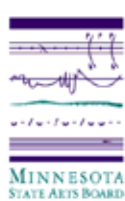
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**FESTIVE FOURTH! CONCERT**  
featuring Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, Veda Zuponcic, piano  
July 4 | Mesabi East, Aurora

CONCERTO WINNERS CONCERT  
with Concerto Soloists, NLMF Orchestra,  
Gavriel Heine, conductor  
July 18 | Historic Hibbing HS

Leonard Bernstein's  
**Candide**  
JULY 12 | Mesabi East, Aurora & JULY 14 | Chisholm HS Auditorium

FULL SETS, COSTUMES AND ORCHESTRA  
Conductor: Gavriel Heine  
Director: A Scott Parry  
Set Design: Bart Healy

CAST  
Voltaire/Pangloss Daniel Narducci  
Candide David Walton  
Cunegond Robin Steitz  
Maximilian/Captain Tim McDevitt



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

For A full Schedule Including Chamber Music Events Visit:  
[northernlightsmusic.org](http://northernlightsmusic.org)



## STAGES OF THE RANGE

# Stage reading set for July 1 in Tower



TOWER- Stages of the Range Players invites the community to join them at St. Mary's Hall on the campus of the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center for a special rehearsal/reading on Monday July 1, at 7 p.m. Admission is a free will donation.

Come see Tower resident Kar-el Winkelaar (pictured at left) and some other staff members of the Soudan mine read the script along with other actors.

In the play, Sam Storm has been the beloved mayor of Anderson, Ga. for the past 20 years. Loved by the community and his dotting wife, Sam is usually the only one on the ballot come election time, but when an embarrassing video of him is leaked, his seat in office is threatened. Sam has

some real competition when the last person he ever expected to run against him puts her name on the ballot: his wife Sophia.

Now it's down and dirty as husband and wife duke it out. Can their marriage withstand the political fisticuffs? And what happens when an unexpected third candidate enters the race? This fast-paced political comedy brings new meaning to the phrase "family politics."

Performance dates of the full play are at 7 p.m. on July 15, 16, 22, and 23, and 2 p.m. on July 14 and 21 at the Eveleth Auditorium 421 Jackson St., Eveleth. Tickets and more information are available at <https://our.show/srp-running-mates>.

# Flooding threatens private drinking water wells

REGIONAL- With the risk of flooding increasing in many parts of the state, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) urges private well users to prepare for the possibility that their wells might flood.

If you get your drinking water from a private well, taking these preventative actions now may help protect that water from becoming contaminated.

If your well is in a flood-prone area and you have time, consider contacting a licensed well contractor to check your well and make any necessary repairs or changes to help protect it from flooding. These changes may include repairing cracked or damaged casing, extending the well casing above the expected flood level, or temporarily replacing the vented well cap with a watertight cap or cover. You should also make sure that grading allows water to flow away from your well.

If you think your well might become flooded, store a supply of clean water that will last for at least a few days. Shut off power to the well pump to avoid having floodwater pumped into your plumbing system or home. If you only have a little time before a flood, you can cover the well with a heavy plastic bag or sheeting and secure it with electrical tape. This won't completely protect your well from contamination, but it will help reduce the amount of water and debris that could enter your



well, making cleanup easier.

If floodwater reached your well, assume your well is contaminated. Water from your well should not be used for drinking, cooking or brushing your teeth until the floodwater recedes. Also, avoid electrical shock. Do not approach a flooded well until it has been completely disconnected from its power source.

If floodwater covered your well or may have entered your well directly, have a licensed well contractor inspect the well, clean out sediment or debris and disinfect it with a chlorine solution. Using your well pump to remove sediment or debris could ruin the pump. To find a licensed well contractor check the Licensed Well and Boring Contractor Directory.

If floodwater reached your well, have a licensed well contractor disinfect your well – or complete the disinfection yourself – even if you don't think the floodwater entered the well. Detailed instructions are available on the MDH website. Search Disinfecting Flooded private water wells.

After you or the licensed well contractor disinfects your well and pumps out the chlorine solution, contact your county health depart-

ment or a laboratory accredited by MDH about how to get your well water tested for coliform bacteria. They will provide instructions on how to submit a

water sample for testing. Accredited Labs in Minnesota can be found on the MDH website. Search Accepting Samples from Private Well Owners.

If your well water test comes back positive for coliform bacteria, repeat the disinfection and testing process. You may need to disinfect and test your well several times before your well is free of bacterial contamination.

Do not use the water from your well until the lab has informed you that it is safe and free of bacterial contamination.

If floodwater came within 50 feet of your well – but did not reach the well – MDH recommends that you have your well water tested for coliform bacteria as a precaution. You do not need to disinfect your well before having it tested. If the test comes back positive for bacteria, however, the well needs to be disinfected.

For more information, please contact the Well Management Section at MDH at [health.wells@state.mn.us](mailto:health.wells@state.mn.us) or 651-201-4600 or 800-383-9808 or visit the Natural Disasters and Private Wells page on the MDH website.

## DULUTH

# FinnFest 2024 is heating up with sauna seminars on July 25

DULUTH- FinnFest 2024 will be held July 24-28 at the DECC in Duluth. New to this year's event is a daylong sauna seminar and raffle and FinnFest organizers have expanded the festival's sauna-related offerings. The sauna seminars on July 25 will celebrate all the phenomenal facets of the popular Finnish steam bath. The Thursday sem-



inars will feature knowledgeable and passionate presenters, including architects, authors, histori-

ans, entrepreneurs, builders, medical doctors and sauna evangelists.

The festival will also include an array of sauna-related exhibits and vendors selling everything from sauna soap to stoves. A variety of sauna experiences will be avail-

able at FinnFest's mobile sauna village, located on the grounds of the DECC. Additionally, Cedar and Stone's floating sauna in front of Pier B Hotel will be hot and available to the public during the festival.

One fortunate person will walk away with a sauna generously donated by Minnesota Timber and Millwork. More details about the schedule, registration, lodging, Tori booth rentals, volunteering and sponsorship opportunities can be found at [finnfest.us](http://finnfest.us).

# Pancake Breakfast

Thursday, July 4, 2024

Tower Civic Center

8-10:30 am

\$10 - adults

\$5 - children 12 years and under

Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage patties, orange juice and coffee



## GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

# Greenwood dumps Data Practices Act compliance

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

## Attorney's concerns trump promise of transparency

GREENWOOD TWP- In a short and contentious special meeting last Thursday, the Greenwood Town Board on a split vote rescinded their adoption of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA) that was approved at the May meeting.

The unanimous vote by the board in May to accept the act would possibly have brought an end to a history of allegations of secrecy of township officials refusing open public access to township records. While Thursday's special meeting agenda provided no opportunity for public comment, it was clear at the outset of the meeting that many present feared repeal of the action would lead to renewed resistance of transparency in township operations.

Board chair Lois Roskoski opened the meeting with a lengthy prepared statement delineating the rationale for repealing acceptance of the Data Practices Act, noting that repeal had been recommended by both Minnesota Association of Townships attorney Steve Fenske and township attorney Mike Couri. Language in Roskoski's statement reflected language from an MAT document on MGDPA describing in part why smaller townships outside the Twin Cities metro area such as Greenwood are not automatically covered by the act.

Roskoski highlighted the challenges of properly administering the act, citing the task of appropriately classifying data as an example. "The classification process is complex and time consuming, usually requiring the help of the town attorney or a well-trained responsible authority or other experienced consultants or employees," Roskoski said, quoting directly from the MAT document. "The association strongly recommends that townships do not attempt government data practice act compliance without experienced professional help. Townships should consult their attorney before adopting any model policy as it may not be appropriate for the township's need without modification. A town that adopts any of the model policies published by the State must notify the Data Practices Office of the town's action."

Roskoski pointed out additional challenges dealing with time needed to fulfill data requests, supervising review of data by individuals, and costs to the township.

Roskoski also emphasized that by adopting the MGDPA the township would subject itself to significant liability in the event of alleged violations.

"The Data Practices Act imposes both civil and criminal penalties for violations of its requirements," Roskoski

said. "A responsible authority or township which violates the Data Practices Act is liable to a person who suffers any damage because of the violation. If the responsible authority or township willfully violates the Data Practices Act, the township is also subject to punitive damages between \$1,000 to \$15,000 for each violation. The Data Practices Act includes possible criminal penalties for a person who violates the Data Practices Act. The criminal penalty is deemed a misdemeanor offense which carries the possibility of applying up to \$1,000 and up to 90 days in jail."

Acceptance of such liability risk could affect the township's insurance coverage through the MAT Insurance Trust, and by extension could have a ripple effect on other trust members as well, Roskoski argued.

The primary reason for passing board member John Bassing's motion to adopt the MGDPA in May was the assertion that compliance was necessary for certain grants, Roskoski said. She indicated that the board could selectively adopt the MGDPA for only those grants that require it without having the act adopted for the entirety of township operations.

After Roskoski made the motion to rescind the MGDPA, board member John Bassing prefaced his remarks by saying that reconsideration of an item

already passed by the board would need a two-thirds majority vote to pass.

"The MAT has constantly fought this because they don't want anybody complaining about them doing it," Bassing said. "If the little town of Orr at 214 people can do this, we can do this. And we are doing this. A court case came before Greenwood Township where we had to comply, so we have done it. We have information that's pertinent to this and we will have to follow it."

"I'm not saying we're not going to provide information because we're not going to follow this monstrosity of a law that is this Data Practices Act," Roskoski replied. "Our attorney Mike Couri has recommended that we rescind this immediately."

"No surprise to me," Bassing countered. "He's the one that came up with the 12-step information request system where nobody could get any information. In fact, one of our citizens was told that he couldn't even get the weather."

Bassing also amplified an allegation that the special meeting itself did not comply with the Open Meetings law.

"This is the gold standard of transparency, and you folks ran on transparency," he said. "This is the little bit hard part about transparency. You're using a violation of the Open Meetings

law to knock out transparency – that's what this is all about."

"I don't agree – I think we're being very transparent," Roskoski replied.

Board member Rick Stoehr reacted to Roskoski's comment.

"This is a violation of transparency, it certainly is," he said. "People should be able to ask for that information."

"They can ask, Rick, and we will provide it. We have nothing to hide," Roskoski replied.

"I'm not so sure that you're not trying to hide something," Stoehr retorted.

"What does that mean, Mr. Stoehr?" Roskoski said. She continued, "Are you accusing me ..." before Stoehr cut her off.

"It was said right away at these meetings that there's things wrong here," he said. "There's money missing and there were other accusations made."

At that point Roskoski called for a vote. In a roll call, Roskoski, Paul Skubic, and Craig Gilbert voted to rescind the MGDPA, and Bassing and Stoehr voted no.

After Roskoski declared that the motion had passed, Bassing immediately raised the procedural issue of needing a two-thirds majority.

"Not according to our attorney," Roskoski said.

The meeting then adjourned.

## ISD 696

# Ely School Board approves deficit spending for 24/25

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely School Board approved a 2024-25 budget on Monday that includes a \$133,457 deficit, marking a significant improvement from earlier projections of a half million-dollar budget shortfall.

Increasing salaries, which added an estimated \$375,000 to the district's payroll, plus other inflationary increases, combined with a drop in revenues due to enrollment declines as well as the expiration of federal COVID relief funds, accounted

for the district's budget gap.

The district has just over one million dollars in its unassigned general fund, so it can backfill this year's deficit from reserves.

The ISD 696 administration spent most of April looking for ways to increase revenues and cut costs without affecting the district's students. The board acted on the administration's recommendations earlier, whittling the shortfall down to around \$275,000 at the time.

The budget could not be finalized until the school received all of its quotes for next year and

finalized all of its negotiations with contractors and unionized bargaining units. The last of these were approved on Monday, at the same meeting that the board approved the budget.

The 2024-25 budget approved this week shows projected revenues of \$9.765 million, and projected expenses of \$9.898 million, resulting in a shortfall of \$133,457. The projected unassigned general fund balance at the end of next school year will be \$1.029 million, or 12.4 percent of the district's operating expenses.

In other business, the school board:

► Approved the 2024-2026 Master Principals' Agreement Between ISD 696 and the Ely Principal's Association.

► Approved the 2024-2026 Master Agreement between ISD 696 and the Ely Public School Confidential/Supervisory Employees Association.

► Approved the proposal and rates from IEA Inc. for environmental, health, and safety management services from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027.

► Approved the reimbursement of \$1,657 for Ely Track

Club participation fees.

► Approved the payment of \$1,652 for 2024-25 Minnesota Rural Education Association dues.

► Approved the payment of \$6,995 for 2024-25 Minnesota School Board Association dues.

► Approved the third reading and adoption of revised Minnesota School Board Association policies 402 on disability nondiscrimination, 406 on public and private personnel data, and 413 on harassment and violence.

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# OPINION

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

“CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW...ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;”  
The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

## Editorial

### Cook response

Last week's flooding suggests the city of Cook needs a better plan in place for the future

It will likely be weeks before residents and business owners in Cook have a handle on the cost to rebuild in the wake of last week's flood. Some businesses, particularly those without flood insurance, may never rebuild. Many homeowners, as well, face a long road to recovery, even with state and federal assistance.

While the floodwaters have receded, the impact of last week's flood will linger for months, even years, to come. Businesses could close permanently. Housing stock could be rendered unsalvageable, contributing to the city's already serious housing crunch. As the focus has now turned to the clean-up, it's worth asking why it was that the city of Cook seemed so remarkably unprepared for the rising waters and waited so long to engage emergency officials from St. Louis County. It was clear to many by late Tuesday afternoon that the torrential rains that set in earlier that day were going to have serious ramifications for the city of Cook, much of which is located within the floodplain of the flood-prone Little Fork River. Cook has a long history of floods—indeed, flood waters twice inundated large parts of the city as recently as the summer of 2018.

Given the regularity of flooding in Cook, the city should have contacted county officials and taken the initiative in addressing the rising waters, even before the rain had ended Tuesday evening. On Wednesday morning, River Street was still high and dry although the river was rising. Yet, according to the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, the city didn't reach out for help until 10:45 a.m. on Wednesday, when flood waters started to inundate the downtown. By that point, county officials determined it was too late to mount an effective sandbagging operation. Had a sandbagging operation gotten underway Tuesday evening, once the worst of the rain had ended, it could have made a big difference for many Cook home and business owners. But critical hours went by with no noticeable response from the city. That left businesses and homeowners largely to their own devices or reliant on help from community organizations, like the Lions Club, to do what they could to stave off the high water. Some contacted local contractors

to bring sand. Others bought out the local supply of plastic garbage bags because regular sandbags weren't available.

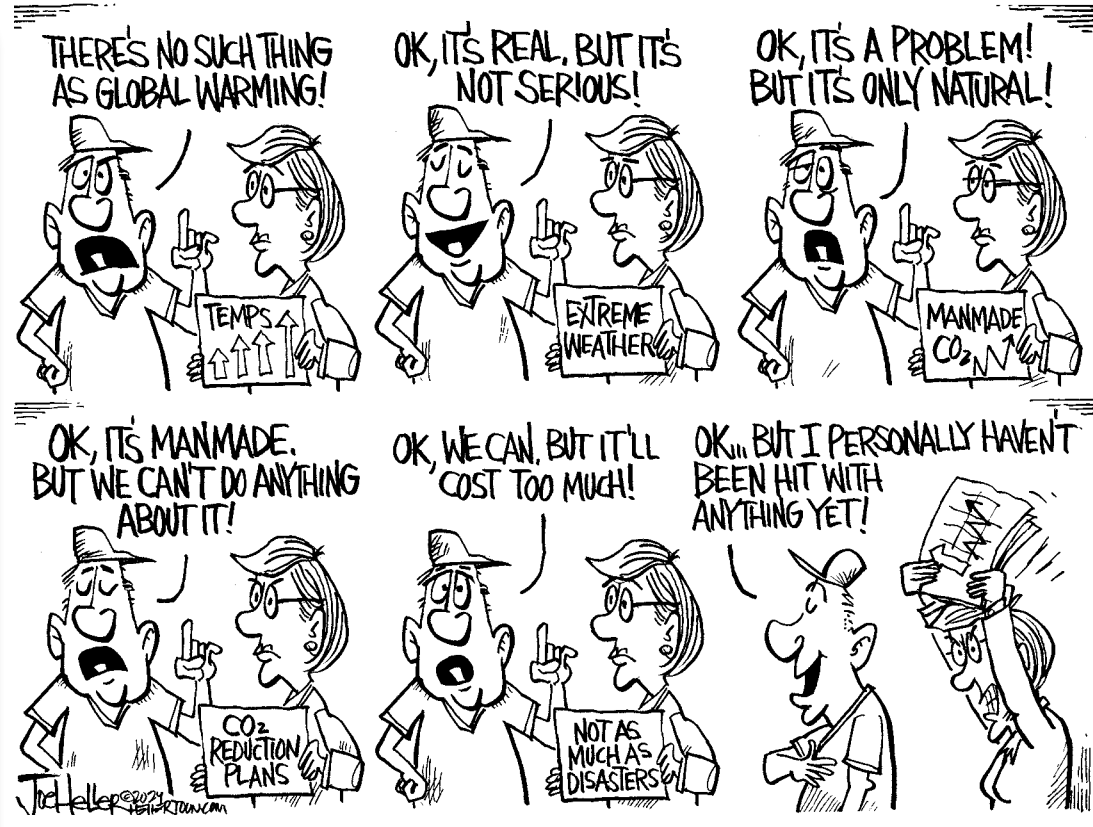
Huge numbers of volunteers turned out to help, as people in our area always do, but the efforts were organized by local groups, residents, or businesses, with little input or assistance from the city.

The incident response raises many questions. In a city that is unusually prone to flooding, why were sandbags not stockpiled ahead of time and quickly deployed for use by residents and business owners? Why didn't the city have a presence on social media to issue warnings and provide information to residents? There was information available on Facebook, but mostly because some local residents made a point of trying to keep their fellow community members informed.

Every incident such as this provides the opportunity to assess the response and take steps to ensure that the next flood won't have the same devastating impact. It's clear that if the city of Cook wants to encourage investment in repairing commercial buildings and housing stock in low-lying parts of the city, it needs to have a robust plan to protect those properties in the future.

As the state climatologist noted, the frequency of these storms that once qualified as 100-year or even 500-year events is increasing due to climate change. It's not a question of whether we'll see similar rainfall events or melting snowpack that sends the Little Fork outside of its banks in the future. It's only a question of when. If the most recent result is indicative of what Cook residents or business owners can anticipate during such future events, it's awfully discouraging.

The U.S. Geological Survey could play a role as well by installing a water level gauge further upstream from Cook. Currently, the closest is well downstream at Linden Grove. An upstream gauge could serve as an early warning indicator as water levels rise and give the city of Cook precious time to implement flood mitigation measures. If there's a potential silver lining in this disaster, it can only come if the city recognizes what went wrong this time and takes serious steps to guard against a similar result the next time the waters rise.



## Letters from Readers

### America is teetering on the edge of fascism

America is in danger of becoming a Fascist nation. If it can happen in Italy, Germany, and Spain within my lifetime it can happen here. Donald Trump, supported by his army of the wealthy who desire power, support a style of governance where the leader cannot fail, but only be the victim of fools. A government that demands loyalty to power from everyone and finally, the promise to use their power to eliminate the grievances of common people which when they get power eliminates the grievances of those in power only.

I just heard of Project 2025, a right-wing Republican plan by the Heritage Foundation for the President his first day in office. I did not read the 900 pages, but a summary was enough to prove to me that this group, supported by Donald Trump and his friends, desires Fascism in America. Project 2025 has been at work for a few years to build a plan for immediate action should Donald Trump be elected President. In his first term as president, Trump implemented two-thirds of his decisions based on the Heritage Foundation's policy, personnel, and training recommendations. Two of his former executive staff are authors of Project 2025.

Here is what Trump will do the moment he has presidential power January 2025: The Conservative Promise calls for draconian rollbacks of sexual health and reproductive rights, LGBTQ+ equality, racial equity, removal of the department of education, rollback of climate and environmental protections, all the while preferring an exclusionary interpretation

of Christianity and stripping rights from multiple communities.

On Trump's first day in office, we can count on these and a host of what is for democracy, draconian measures to be implemented. Am I ready to call this Fascism? Yes, I am. A vote for Donald Trump as President will be a vote for a Fascist and the army of Fascists behind him. The storm is gathering focusing on increasing the power of the president and disenfranchising the lower and middle classes. Check Project 2025 on the internet.

Art Dale Soudan

### Greenwood chair declares state law "a monstrosity"

Just over a month ago, the Greenwood Town Board adopted the gold standard of transparency in government, the MN Data Practices Act, and did so by a unanimous vote. The act gives citizens the right to obtain public data and all Minnesota cities, counties, school boards, and agencies, no matter how large or small, are subject to its provisions.

Only townships outside the seven-county metro area are exempt, mainly because many small townships lacked the resources (computers, printers, copiers, fax, email, internet) at the time this law passed in 1974. Certainly, Greenwood has the equipment and resources to comply as Tower, Orr, Virginia and all the small cities in our region have for decades.

There's no longer any reason that residents of Greenwood Township should be second class citizens when it comes to public access to records.

Then, Supervisors Roskoski and Skubic called a special

meeting on June 20 with the title "Mn Data Practices Act," but the notice lacked a stated purpose which is required by the Open Meeting Law. Supervisor Stoehr and I noted the meeting was in violation of the law and moved to adjourn but our motion failed. Supervisor Roskoski proceeded to make a motion to rescind the motion to comply with the Data Practices Act the board had passed just the previous month. I then informed Supervisor Roskoski such a motion would require a two-thirds vote, but Roskoski and Supervisors Skubic and Gilbert bullied their way through and passed the rescind motion by a simple majority, ignoring state law and common rules of order.

During the last Greenwood Township election, we heard from supervisor candidate Roskoski about how her 35 years of service to the city of Virginia and her desire for greater transparency were qualifications for her election. It should have also taught her something about the Data Practices Act (a law the city of Virginia has abided by for decades), but she described the Act as "a monstrosity of a law" at the special meeting. Her campaign rhetoric was good enough to get her elected, but it lacked something very important—conviction.

John Bassing Greenwood Township



## COMMENTARY

# Are we ready to face the inconvenient truth?

Inspired by the book by Al Gore published in 2006.

On June 18, while washing dishes, I glanced out the kitchen window and lamented another cloudy day. Seemed like ages since we'd had a good dose of sunshine. While still fighting off the blues, I noticed the wind kicking up. The sky darkened. I heard a distant rumble of thunder.



KATHLEEN MCQUILLAN

Suddenly there came a bright flash and an instantaneous window-rattling crash that shocked me out of my pity-pot. Then came rain. Lots of it! A torrent poured down for hours.

I've lived in northern Minnesota for over forty years. Weather patterns have changed. Disturbing reports of natural disasters are on the radio often, but in places

farther away. When I'm listening, I'm usually sitting safely in the comfort of my home, thanking my lucky stars. Yes, we have harsh winters, but we prepare for them. And the insects, while seemingly worse than ever before, haven't killed me yet. There hasn't been a forest fire licking at my front door. Or an insanely powerful tornado or hurricane. No heatwaves that won't simmer down.

Photos capture people's struggles but they are happening elsewhere. I feel sorrow and some-

times send money to help. But for the most part, I feel safe in my environment — up until last week. Suddenly, it was our turn.

People all across the northland were hit by the same storm I had witnessed outside my kitchen window. I watched safely sheltered in a stout house set on raised concrete footings. Water flowed swiftly well below the floor joists and down the slope to Plum Creek, further on to the Little Fork River. My creek along with countless other tributaries drain thousands of

acres of lowlands — perfect conditions for water levels rising in the Little Fork to breach its banks and flood the entire town of Cook. It rose so quickly that no one was prepared for the extent of the damage.

I just returned home after four days helping my son in the aftermath of this unexpected disaster. His family resides in Mt. Iron. As in umpteen other communities across the Iron Range, his basements were inundated by chest-deep water from the city's storm drains that

destroyed everything in its reach. He'd never seen anything like it.

Just days before, they'd been hit by a storm carrying high winds and golf-ball sized hail. It damaged windows, gardens, cars, ATV's, tools, equipment, everything parked or stored outdoors. Now, he was facing more mayhem indoors. Furnaces, water heaters, appliances, carpets, furniture, important papers, and treasured personal belongings, lost. He, like many people, did

See **STORM...** pg. 5

## Why Greenwood rescinded compliance with the data practices act

The Greenwood town board held a special meeting on June 20, to discuss the Minnesota Data Practices Act. The meeting was not covered by a newspaper reporter and it was not videotaped, since the board only approved videotaping regular meetings through the end of this year on a trial basis. Since rumors have already started about why we held the meeting, I thought I'd write a letter to let the public know what transpired.

At our May 14 board meeting, Supervisor Basing recommended that we adopt the MN Data Practices Act to help in obtaining grants and to be transparent. By unanimous vote, the town board did approve a motion to follow the act. Since that meeting, the clerk received several data requests in one week. After speaking to the township attorney Mike Couri and the MN Association of Township Attorney Steve Fenske, they both recommended that the board immediately rescind compliance with the Data Practices Act. I provided the following information at the special meeting:

Data practices is a complicated topic that requires organization of data, attention to a large body of state law, adoption of local policies and careful administration of those policies.

Townships usually need the help of their town attorney to properly administer these laws.

Townships outside the seven-country metro areas are NOT subject to the MN Data Practices Act.

The act is difficult and expensive to administer, requiring dedicated staff

and attorneys to properly manage.

As most townships operate with no employees and elected officials working part-time, these townships lack the expertise and resources to properly administer the act.

Towns that are not subject to the MN Data Practices Act still should provide data to the public as appropriate, but are allowed more flexibility in doing so.

The data practices act requires the town board to appoint a "Responsible Authority" and "Data Practices Compliance Officer."

The town board must adopt a procedure or policy describing the processes the township will use to comply with the act and consult their attorney before adopting any policy.

The MN Data Practices Act imposes both civil and criminal penalties for violations of the requirements of the act.

If an entity requires the township to be subject to the Data Practices Act for a grant, a resolution would be adopted for that one grant only.

Participating in the Data Practices Act would also likely have a negative impact on the insurance coverage with the MN Association of Townships Insurance Trust. Not only has Greenwood subjected itself to liability, they have subjected all other townships that are part of the insurance trust.

Because of these reasons that I reviewed at the June 20 special meeting, I made a motion to immediately rescind the motion adopting the data practices act. The motion was approved by myself, Supervisor Skubic and Supervisor Basing and Supervisor Stoehr voted against the motion, so the motion was adopted 3-2.

To date, the majority of the current Greenwood Town Board has worked hard to approve transpar-

ency. Agenda packets are provided on the Greenwood Township Website and on the Greenwood Township Facebook Page, prior to the meetings. Regular meetings are videotaped and available on the Greenwood Township Facebook Page. Cameras were turned back on at the Town Hall and two additional cameras were installed.

Please feel free to email me if you have any questions about Greenwood Township. My email is lois.roskoski@greenwoodtownshipmn.us.

**Lois Roskoski  
Chair, Greenwood  
Township**  
*Editor's note: Contrary to the board chair's statement, the Timberjay's David Colburn did attend the meeting, and see the story on page 3.*

## Modern ambulance service is now possible

SafeTech Solutions, the consultant hired by the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital to evaluate and make recommendations for EMS (ambulance) delivery in our region took a little longer than anticipated, but their product is well worth the wait. Their recommended System Design #1, where the EBCH owns the service, with Advanced Life Support ambulance stations in Ely, Babbitt and Tower, is the common sense, regional approach that will provide modern, sustainable ambulance service to our region. Now it is up to us citizens and our local governments to educate ourselves on this valuable recommendation and see it through, always keeping in mind that "the patient comes first." That's clearly how Safe-Tech and the EBCH approached it. I have to say that I'm excited about this and appreciate it. There is

light at the end of the tunnel!

**Lee Peterson  
Greenwood  
Township**

## Trump's history says a lot about our potential future

Trump has been a participant in over four thousand legal actions filed by him or against him and his organizations encompassing a variety of issues:

- ▶ Political campaigns
- ▶ Taxes
- ▶ Trump casinos
- ▶ Defamations
- ▶ Contract disputes
- ▶ Divorces
- ▶ Overtime pay
- ▶ Personal injuries
- ▶ Real Estate
- ▶ Mistreating women
- ▶ Trademarks
- ▶ Trump University
- ▶ Employment cases

At least 70 new cases have been filed since Trump announced his candidacy.

According to an article in the *Washington Post*, Trump's strategy is "Admit nothing, deny everything, lie, disassemble, and prevaricate. Make false and scurrilous accusations to demonize your adversary," as witnessed by the judge in Trump's recent criminal trial.

It is evident that, by his personal involvement in numerous and often unnecessary litigations, Trump does not have the patience or skills for negotiating consensus or compromise. He hires lawyers to litigate.

In the democratic process, as President, he needs the ability to accept "give and take" to frame workable and acceptable policies and legislation.

The same holds true in the international world of politics, by making unilateral decisions that impact other countries without consultation breeds lasting animosity and generates resentments. Trump withdrew from critical

and major agreements that took long periods to reach consensus, and in some, the security of the U.S. is now jeopardized.

He withdrew from the five nations agreement with Iran which enabled us to physically monitor their nuclear bomb building restrictions.

He refused to support Article 5 in North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, that supported the mutual defense clause.

He withdrew from the World Health Organization.

He withdrew from the Treaty of Open Skies that is setback for international arms control.

He withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership composed of 12 nations.

He withdrew from the climate Paris Agreement endorsed by 195 nations.

Trump's long-standing pattern of behavior of employing massive litigation and making quick, unilateral decisions does not bode well for America and our allies.

**Gerry Snyder  
Ely**

## Biden dismisses prospect of armed takeover

In 2021, Biden said, "If you wanted or if you think you need to have weapons to take on the government, you need F-15s and maybe some nuclear weapons."

In 2022, *American Military News* reported; "No, I'm not joking. Think about this. Think about the rationale we use, that's used to provide this, and who are they shooting at? And for those brave right-wing Americans who say [the Second Amendment] is all about keeping America independent and safe, if you want to fight against the country, you need an F-15. You need something more than a gun," Biden said, mocking Second Amendment advocates.

In 2023, *Military News* reported, "President Joe Biden once again mocked American gun owners, saying they'll need F-16s to fight back against government tyranny."

On June 11, 2024, at Every Town in Washington, D.C., Biden said, "And by the way, If you want to take on government when we get out of line, that they are talking again about, well guess what, they will need F-15's, they don't need a rifle." Biden then botched a Thomas Jefferson quote; "And I love people who say, the 'blood of liberty,' or excuse me, 'the tree of liberty is watered with the blood of patriots.' Well, guess what, man, I didn't see a whole lot of patriots that are out there walking around making sure that we have these weapons. And if you really want to worry about the government, you need an F-16."

Only a president acting like a fascist dictator threatens its civilian population.

KJP claimed pool videos showing Biden as a senile old man with a poor memory who has onset dementia issues are "cheap fakes." Liberal media amplified another lie and why they and Biden are the real threats to democracy.

**Mike Banovetz  
Ely**

## We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

## STORM...Cont. from page 4

not have flood insurance. Once the water was completely pumped from the house, he was devastated by what he saw.

We shared feelings for his neighbors, for farmers who'd lost their crops and for businesses, offices, libraries, and stores filling dumpsters with sodden inventory. A palpable sadness filled the air around us and our entire communities.

We worked together to empty the basements as quickly as we could to prevent mold growth, a major risk after a flood that can result in more costly repairs and serious illness. There were many moments of reflection on the root causes of the disaster. We discussed the endless climate change debates over the question, "Is it real or a hoax?" This was proof enough for us. The warming of the planet was certainly threatening life as we knew it. No more false sense of security. I was now much more aware of our human fragility. Ignoring the evidence would only keep speeding it up. No more just counting blessings. Action would be required. The flood placed a spotlight on an undeniable truth, the need to amp up our level of concern for the climate and make some real changes.

The rain has let up, at least for now. The river that was flowing under my house has subsided. Life

goes on. But I don't want to slip into complacency. I want to be doing something that can help us be better equipped if adversity strikes again and reduce the likelihood that it will.

I'm troubled by the "hundred-year flood" explanation. Disasters are occurring more frequently and building in intensity. Our way of life is among the main drivers of climate change. Our nation's economic success depends upon continually increasing production and consumption of goods and services. We know about the negative effects on our environment and it is not a sustainable model for a livable planet. This is serious and requires a major shift in the way we talk about this issue. We must ask, what isn't working and what will we do about it?

We can begin with redefining our "needs" and then committing to buying and wasting less. Recycle. Reduce single use plastic, disposables and items poorly made or over-packaged, trash that's quickly overwhelming landfills. Try to buy locally and in bulk whenever possible. Seek alternatives to toxics. They are harmful to people and the planet. Become aware of our infrastructure, currently under extreme pressure. Support policy changes that address failing systems and structures to help prevent catastrophes.

The truth is getting clearer. It's time to take a good look at our world close to home and do what we can, in concert with others, to make it a safer and more livable community. Even one small step a day helps make the world a better place. Resist climate denial, unhelpful excuses, false blaming, intentional distractions, and threats to "undo" the changes we are already making that we know are necessary to our survival. Get comfortable sharing your positivity for change.

I want to end with some concrete information to help readers who are in need of assistance. It was great to see that Governor Walz and several other elected officials traveled the region this week to witness firsthand the devastation in communities hit the hardest. He talked about measures being taken to obtain federal government assistance to augment state resources. St. Louis County has declared a state of emergency and is conducting an official count of people directly affected by the floods. You can go online to the State of MN Department of Commerce to find a form with instructions on how to report damage and apply for recovery assistance.

In addition to attending to one's physical and material needs, don't forget to pay attention to your emotional and psy-

chological needs. You may be carrying a heavy load of grief and anxiety. Experiences as traumatic as a natural disaster can trigger emotional and psychological responses like depression and post-traumatic stress syndrome. Take note of your mental health and reach out if you have concerns.

For families who need immediate relief, you can contact The Salvation Army Hotline at 1-800-842-7279 or the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767. For specific needs, call the United Way sponsored 2-1-1 Helpline. You can also google Flood Recovery Information MN, you'll find lots there from both government and non-governmental resources.

This devastating experience could help us see more clearly what's at stake for our future if we don't find new ways to do things. Ones that could help slow global warming trends. Time is of the essence. The water in my son's basement rose four feet in forty-five minutes — proof that time is a precious commodity, especially during a crisis. So let's move away from turning a blind eye, quibbling over the small stuff, or rehashing the past. There's work to be done. And a lot's at stake. Let's believe in ourselves. Our future depends on it!



## the TIMBERJAY

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

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

## Week of July 1

**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](http://vermilioncountry.org).

**TSHS weekly winner**

TOWER- The winner of week 48 Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash prize is Gretchen Niemiste of Tower. A big thank you to \$100 winners from previous Charlemagne's 52 Club weeks: Michelle Toutloff (Week 20); Helen Erchul (Week 32); and Bergetta Indihar (Week 37) who donated their winnings back to TSHS for the historic firehall restoration!

History Tidbit: Check out our new website at <https://towersoudanhistoricalry.com> to read a variety of history stories about Tower, Soudan and Lake Vermilion.

**Vermilion Lake Township approves spending for road repairs**

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Vermilion Lake Town Board held an emergency meeting on June 19 in response to the flooding after massive rains on June 18. The board approved spending up to \$500 on traffic cones and tape to mark road hazards, and then up to \$4,000 on gravel and heavy equipment to do temporary repairs. The township will then call for bids for permanent repair work. At this point, board members said the three major problem areas are on Koski, Lemppia, and Swieringa roads. The township does have a good supply of gravel on hand (purchased last year for this year's road maintenance), so will be able to start temporary repairs immediately. Anyone with questions can contact board member Tim Hughes at 218-753-3547.

# Get ready for the Fourth in Tower-Soudan

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER-SOUDAN- Why mess with something that is almost perfect? For the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board, the group behind the Tower-Soudan Fourth of July Celebration, the goal is to always make things just a little bit better. And this year, they have added a few new events to the holiday festivities. You can find the full schedule of events on page 12 of this week's paper.

A new event is a classic car show, at the Lamppa Civic Center, immediately following the parade. Classic car enthusiasts will be driving the parade route, and then circling back to the parking lot at the civic center, where cars will be on display. Anyone who wishes to participate should be at the civic center at 10 a.m. to get in the parade lineup, no pre-registration is necessary.

A team of Ghostbusters, based on the Iron Range, will be marching in the parade, making sure the route is ghost and monster free. This group raises funds for the Ronald McDonald House of the Upper Midwest and has participated in many other parades and events in the northland. These fans of the 1984 supernatural comedy franchise do their best to blur the lines of reality and Hollywood movie magic by use of uniforms, props, vehicles, and charismatic affluence, and are sure to charm both young and old on Thursday, July 4 in Tower.

**Grand Marshals**

This year's committee is honoring Chuck and Nancy Tekautz for their service to the Tower-Soudan community, and they will be



Above: Chuck and Nancy Tekautz  
Below: Ghostbusters North



leading the parade as this year's Grand Marshals. Chuck recently retired after 18 years on the Breitung Town Board, and before moving to Soudan from Tower, was a member of the Tower City Council. He served on the Tower-Breitung Waste Water Board, the Tower Ambulance Commission, and has volunteered along with Nancy on the Old Settlers Committee.

Both Chuck and Nancy were the first to volunteer for the onion cutting station, as the vegetables were being prepared for booyah, as well as volunteering the day of the event.

Nancy, a retired RN, worked in many different health care and community health

settings. She helped start one of the first hospice services on the Iron Range. She was a volunteer for the Tower Ambulance Service for 14 years, and is an active volunteer at St. Martin's, as well as many other community-focused organizations.

But for both of them, the focus of their lives is their family, including five children, 14 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren, many of who are now following in their parents and grandparents footsteps, and serving their community.

**Volunteer**

The committee is still seeking help running the children's games in the afternoon at the Tower School football field. Adults and teens are needed on July 4. Anyone able to help out can contact Jolene at 218-255-2131 or email [tseventsboard@gmail.com](mailto:tseventsboard@gmail.com).

**Events**

Fireworks will be on the east end (Big Bay) of Lake Vermilion at dusk on July 3, and west end (Niles Bay) on July 6.

Pancake breakfast at the Lamppa Civic Center from 8-10:30 a.m. on July 4.

Vermilion 5K/10K/Fun Run starts at 8 a.m. Race day registration from 6:45-7:45 a.m. by the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center. Starting/finish line is on North Second Street by the old football field.

Flag raising at Tower City Hall at 10:15 a.m.

Kiddie Parade is at 10:45 a.m. Parade starts at 11 a.m.

Car show at the Lamppa Civic Center following the parade.

Sawdust scramble and games at the Tower football field starting at 12:30 p.m.

Specials at area restaurants, food trucks, and vendors on Main Street all day.

Free Community Picnic in Soudan on Saturday, July 6, from 12 - 3 p.m.

## TOWER-SOUDAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Charlemagne's 52 Club raffle tickets sales now underway

TOWER-SOUDAN- The Tower-Soudan Historical Society has Charlemagne's 52 Club raffle tickets available for purchase. Tickets are available to purchase at various community events throughout the summer months, as well as at the Train Depot Museum during hours of operation Friday through Monday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tickets will be available to buy at History Happy Hour (last Friday

of each month) at the Tower Farmer's Market from 4 - 6 p.m. Tickets will be available at the Vermilion Old Settler's Picnic on July 20, and at Charlemagne's Attic Sale at the historic firehall at 504 Main Street on July 26 and 27. You can also contact Nancy Larson at 218-750-7514 to purchase tickets. Tickets will be sold through Sept. 10, or until all 300 tickets are sold.

Money raised through

### Fourth of July donations are still needed

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:*

Tower Fireman's Relief Association  
Mac McIntyre  
Vermilion Painting LLC  
Bergetta & Mike Indihar  
Robert & Theresa Holmes  
Abe Construction & Masonry  
Peter Esala  
McKinley Park Campground/Susan & Jerry Chiabotti  
Good Ol' Days  
Tower Soudan LP Gas - Bruce & Kathy Carlson  
Emanuel & Judith Sundahl

Ricky & Deann Dahl  
Robin & Dale Bjorgo  
These contributions will help fund the parade, 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!

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

this raffle will support the Historic Fire Hall Restoration Project.

On Sept. 11, all 52 winning raffle tickets will be drawn, one for each week of the year. Winners will be notified each week. The lucky weekly winner will receive a prize of \$100 during 49 weeks of the year, while three fortunate winners will receive an even larger prize of \$250. Holders of raffle tickets have the opportunity to win multiple times, as the ticket drawn is returned to the ticket bin for subsequent drawings. It is not a one draw-and done raffle.

Participants must be 18 years of age or older to purchase tickets or to be eligible for a prize. Only cash or check are accept-

ed as payment, no credit cards. Winners need not be present at the time of the drawing to claim their prize. The purchase price of the raffle ticket is not tax-deductible.

Winners will receive a check in the mail during their "winning week." Winners are announced weekly in the *Timberjay*, and on the Tower-Soudan Historical Society and What's Up Tower Facebook pages.

To join the excitement and support the Tower-Soudan Historical Society's restoration efforts, you can contact any of our Tower-Soudan Historical Society Board members to purchase tickets: Linda Folstad, Diane Meehan, Louise Gately, Kathy Siskar, Cliff Kos-

ki, Dick Peyla, Linda Haugen, Leon Anderson, Doug Workman, Richard Hanson, Cookie Bonicatto and Nancy Larson.

For further information or inquiries, please text or call Tower-Soudan Historical Society President Nancy Larson at 218-750-7514. The Tower-Soudan Historical Society is a dedicated organization committed to preserving and promoting the rich history of our community. Through various initiatives, the Society strives to protect historical landmarks, artifacts, and stories that showcase the unique heritage of Tower, Soudan and Lake Vermilion.

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

**St. Martin's summer luncheon on July 10**

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower is hosting a summer luncheon and silent auction on Wednesday, July 10. Doors open at 11 a.m. with lunch served from 11:30 - 12:45 p.m. Auction winners will be announced at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$10, with children five and under free. Tupperware, Norwex, and Pampered Chef will be at the luncheon. Proceeds go to youth activities and the charity fund.

**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 in-

formation, 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.

**History Happy Hour at the Tower Farmers Market on June 28**

TOWER- Starting 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.

**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!**

## ELY ENTREPRENEURSHIP

# The Meadows gallery opens this Friday

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- The Meadows, a new gallery with a twist, opens Friday, June 28, in Ely. The business is the brainchild of Elyites Abby Dare and John Scully. The front half of the store space will sell gifts, fair trade items, locally made crafts, and the work of area artists. The back half will host four rentable artists' studios.

The Meadows is located at 15 E. Sheridan St., a sweet spot for retail in Ely, one storefront up the hill from the corner of Sheridan and Central. "This is the place to be in Ely," Dare told the *Timberjay*. "It doesn't get better than this." Dare and Scully bought the premises last year.

The gallery portion of the space will feature the works of area artists, either for exhibition or for sale. "We're open to showing artists' works, so please, come talk with us," Scully added.

Art and photos are already up on the walls and Scully's ceramics populate several of the shelves and displays.

Dare and Scully conceived of the rentable studios while renovating the space. "We started working on the inside and saw the potential," Scully explained.

"There's not anything like this is Ely," Dare said, "so we decided to offer studio space. We'd like to create not just a space to work, but a community."

"We also would like to have our space available for small events," Scully added.



**Abby Dare and John Scully will open The Meadows in Ely on Friday, June 28. The Meadows is a gallery with rentable studio space, located at 15 E. Sheridan St.** photo by C. Clark

As the *Timberjay* was interviewing the owners, Ozzie Reif, another young Ely entrepreneur and owner of the Ely Mitten Project, stopped by to leave off two backpacks for Dare and Scully to sell. Reif made the backpacks using a retired nylon sailboat sail. The backpacks will be just some of the eclectic offerings for sale at The Meadows on Friday.

## The building

"When we started working on the insides," Scully remarked, "we found what's really a building inside a building." A small, perhaps one-room structure was built into the larger building it is

today. "It was expanded out front, and then the back half was added. Above the ceiling here is a roof, and then insulation, and then the current room."

Dare and Scully may have discovered the remains of the original business on this location, Charles Welsh's hamburger stand, which was open in the 1930s.

Welsh passed away in 1952, and the hamburger stand was replaced by the Voyageur Cafe. Dare and Scully have a photo of the cafe hanging on the wall. The cafe was a mainstay on Sheridan until 1973. The building hosted three other business up to 1989,

when it became the home of Hand-Done T-Shirts.

When the *Timberjay* visited The Meadows earlier this week, the owners were busy finishing the last touches before opening on Friday. The insides are bigger than they look from the street. The 1,850 square-foot gallery is spacious and comfortable, with ample room to view art and other items for sale.

## Business creation

"We received grants from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, conventional business loans, loans from the Entrepreneur Fund, and a commercial rehabilitation loan for the building from the city Ely," explained Dare. "The Entrepreneur Fund also provided some business mentorship. Another source of help was Lacey Squier of Boundary Waters Connect. She connected us with resources out there that we didn't know about. Lacey was super helpful."

Dare moved to Ely in 2012 after she graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She then worked at the Voyageur Outward Bound School for more than a decade before embarking on opening The Meadows.

Scully is a ceramic artist and licensed contractor. He was living and working in Washburn, Wis., when he met Dare online. He moved to Ely to be with her.

Dare and Scully will open the door at The Meadows at 10 a.m. on Friday.

## Ely July 4 schedule

ELY- The Fourth of July festivities will get underway bright and early with a 7 a.m. flag raising ceremony at the Ely Veterans Memorial, which is next to the Trezona trailhead at the corner of Miners Drive and Central Ave.

That will be the starting point, as well, for the Ely Track Club's "4 on the 4th" four-mile run around Miners Lake, which starts at 8 a.m., with separate starts for runners, walkers, and kids. Runners start at 8 a.m., walkers at 8:10 a.m., and kids at 8:15 a.m. Race-day registration is from 6:40-7:40 a.m. The entry fee is \$25 through

June 27 and \$35 afterward. Net profits support the Ely Track Club.

Ely's Fourth of July Parade begins at 1 p.m., with the parade route starting at Fourth Ave. and Harvey, heading west to Second Ave. E., where it turns right to Sheridan St., and then proceeds east on Sheridan to Whiteside Park.

The Ely City Band will play a concert after the parade at Whiteside Park. Ely Young Life will hold events for kids and families in the park from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

The fireworks will start at 10 p.m. over the

east end of Miners Lake.

The city of Ely and the Ely Events Committee need donations to support the cost of the Fourth of July activities, which are enjoyed by hundreds of families and visitors every year. Donations can be mailed to the Ely Events Committee, P.O. Box 231, Ely, MN., 55731

The city also needs volunteers for Fourth of July activities. If anyone is interested, please call the city clerk's office for more information at 218-365-3224, extension 1, or email [deputyclerk@ely.mn.us](mailto:deputyclerk@ely.mn.us).

## College honors for Elyites

WINONA- St. Mary's University of Minnesota announced the graduation of senior Nils DeRemee in May, and also named DeRemee to the Dean's List for the spring 2024 semester. The Dean's List includes undergraduate students who earned a grade point average of 3.60 or better on a 4.0 scale.

Nils DeRemee is the son of Bo DeRemee and Linda O'Neill DeRemee of Ely. He majored in criminal justice and interned with the St. Louis

County Sheriff's Office in the summer of 2023. He was also the recipient of a Minnesota Sheriffs' Association scholarship.

MORRIS- Abbie Rehbein of Ely has been named to the University of Minnesota Morris Dean's List for the spring 2024 semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must achieve a grade point average of 3.666 or higher while taking 12 or more, with no incompletes or non-satisfactory grades.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

### Free Live Music

ELY- Ely's Historic State Theater, at the corner of Third and Sheridan, will host free live music on Friday, June 28 at 5:30 p.m. with American Pie: Pat And Donna Surface; and on Friday, July 5, with the Christopher David Hanson Band.

### Rock the Park

ELY- The first Rock the Park music event is this Saturday, June 29, with seven hours of live music in Whiteside Park and the usual array of food trucks. The event will be from 4-11 p.m. Bring your chairs, blankets, kids, Grandma's, bug spray and cash. No coolers please.

The second Rock the Park will be on Saturday, July 6, from 4-11 p.m. The two events will mark the beginning and end of the Ely All Class Reunion. Admission to the two events is included as part of the reunion registration. Non-reunion concert goers can buy admission to both events with the purchase of a Rock the Park button for \$10, available at KJ's True Value Hardware and several other businesses around Ely.

### Braver Angels

ELY- Do you have political disagreements in the family? Then the next workshop at the Ely Chapter of the Braver Angels is for you. The workshop will be on how to disagree with your family about politics without wrecking your home, on Tuesday, July 2, at 6:30 p.m. at the Ely Senior Center. Braver Angels is a national non-profit consisting of people from both sides of the political divide who are seeking to restore civility to both local and national political discourse. The organization runs workshops, debates, and other events where participants attempt to better understand one another's positions and discover their shared values. The group recruits people of all political views because all views deserve to be heard with respect. Meetings are free and open to anyone who wishes to attend.

### Pancake Breakfast

ELY- The Knights of Columbus will hold a pancake breakfast at St. Anthony of Padua Church, 231 E. Camp St., on Saturday, July 6, from 8-11 a.m. Use the downstairs

door into the parish hall on Third Ave. Adult admission is \$10. Ages 5-12 are \$8. Kids 5 and under are free.

### Mining Heritage Day

ELY- The Ely All Class Reunion is sponsoring the Mining Heritage Day at the Pioneer Mine, 105 Miners Lake Landing Road, on Monday, July 1 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. It will feature live music by Solkela Polkela Band and Bernie Palcher, food and drink, a bake sale, and mine tours.

### Portageland Music Festival

ELY- Tickets are now on sale for the Portageland Music Festival. The festival will be on Sept. 6-7 in Whiteside Park and Ely's Historic State Theater and features acts by local and regional favorites like Ely's Chick-A-Dee-Dee-Dees and the Duluth Transit Authority. Full-festival passes are \$90. Individual act tickets are also available. Kids are free with a pass holder. Get tickets and passes at [northernlakesarts.org/portageland-music-festival](http://northernlakesarts.org/portageland-music-festival).

### Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- 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.

### Ely Public Library

ELY- The library will be closed on Thursday, July 4.

The library board meeting on Wednesday, July 3, is canceled.

The spice for June is turmeric. Pick up a spice kit with a sample and recipes at the circulation desk.

The library will hold a learning session taught by Tricia for preschoolers on Tuesday, July 2, from 11 a.m.-noon, on growing plants. The event will include some stories and activities centered on plants for ages 2-6.

The Friends of the Library Book Club will meet on Monday, July 8, from 3-4 p.m. The book for discussion is "Born Standing Up," by Steve Martin.

The Friends of the Library monthly board meeting will be on Tuesday, July 9, 1-2 p.m.

The library will hold

an online Kahoot trivia game for all adults on books 1-3 of the Chronicles of St. Mary's by Jodi Taylor. The Kahoot will start at 3 p.m. on Thursday, July 11, and end at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, July 17. Participants must pre-register for the Kahoot so the library can email the link for the game.

The Curiosity Cohort Group will host retired librarian Diana Sandberg for a basic introduction to researching genealogy on Friday, July 12, from 2-3:30 p.m. This program is for teens and adults.

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.

### 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](mailto:catie.timberjay@gmail.com) by close-of business on the Tuesday the week before the event takes place for a free notice.

## 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](mailto:ElyTuesdayGroup@gmail.com) or call her at 218-216-9141.

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

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

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

► July 16: Research at the Soudan Mine with Professor Brandy Toner

## Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



treacherous rainfall dumped an overnight deluge

the drought is broken

## 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.

## FLOOD FACT NOT FICTION

# Cook Public Library closes due to flood damage

## Book collection escapes mostly unscathed, but floor and walls are issues

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Last Wednesday, Juneteenth, the Cook Public Library was closed for the holiday, so while library director Crystal Whitney came by about 9 a.m., she didn't stay and wasn't there to watch the flood waters from the overflowing Little Fork River begin flooding the street outside.

But by the time she came back with help at about 1:30 p.m., the flood was fully underway.

"The waters were already coming up to the park," Whitney said. "So very quickly, I just came in and unplugged computers and moved tables back away from the window. We cut the electricity and unhooked the propane, which thank goodness because the tank is flipped over. It was a good thing that it was a holiday. I didn't have to evacuate people out of here because that's what would have ended up happening."

There wasn't time to do much more, and since the library doesn't use the bottom of its bookshelves for books, its collection would be safe from the rising waters.

Whitney wasn't able to get back into the library until Friday night at 6:30 p.m., still having to negotiate a bit of water to do so. And she found what she'd feared - water had gotten into the building,

perhaps six inches or so judging from the watermarks on the walls. Looking around, she knew there would be much work to do on Saturday.

Recruiting help from both the library board and the Friends of the Library, job one the next day was removing the soggy carpet, a task made more difficult because the large custom-built oak bookshelves filled with books would have to be moved to accomplish the task.

Clearing the shelves by moving books to carts, tables, and counters, volunteers lifted the oak bookshelves one by one so the carpet underneath could be removed. Getting all of the soggy carpet out and fans and dehumidifiers running as quickly as possible was essential, Whitney said, because the excess moisture posed the threat of fostering mold and mildew that could ruin some of the books.

The children's and young adult section, where books are kept lower, had books that got wet. "Curious George" was a casualty, and Whitney said they'd need to go through the books one by one to see what they could save.

An insurance adjuster was to come by to assess the damage soon, but Whitney already knew that the place that's a non-alcoholic version of the TV bar "Cheers," a place where every-



**A sticky tile floor, carts of books and empty shelves are all signs of the volunteer response to the six inches of water that seeped into the building during the flood. Removing the waterlogged carpet quickly was essential for protection the library's collection.** photo by D. Colburn

body knows your name and they're always glad you came, is going to be closed indefinitely.

"It was very hard for people to not be in this building during COVID," Whitney said. "I just know what's coming. 'People who come in here are connecting in here. I would say this is a magical place. I can't explain it. But people walk in here and say, 'We love your library, this is our favorite place.'"

People have been calling to find out if the library is open, some wanting to come in for books, others to use the computers or the printers, and Whitney has had to break

the bad news to them.

"We do a ton of printing, and fax services - we're like the only place that does that," Whitney said. "We do it all the time. That's the one who came by today. People who don't have computers who need to check email, people who are here seasonally who just need a space. And it's just nice to have a meeting space or a chair. We can't provide that."

But the library's Wi-Fi is operational and accessible outside for people to connect to, Whitney said.

And things won't come to a complete standstill. Whitney said

that they learned during COVID how to operate without a building, so many of the scheduled activities will still go on using different venues.

"We have two programs through the Arrowhead Library System coming up, and we'll have them at the community center," she said. "We have story times and we might be able to do something outside at some point."

As she walked through the building and talked, there were moments Whitney got a little choked up and emotional as she talked about how important the library is to the community and the

impact having it closed for a while will have.

"We are the most visited library per population in St. Louis County, so it's an important spot for the community," she said. "I think that's going to start hitting people, these things that aren't going to be here for a little bit. I think about the Montana Café, I think about the pharmacy, the dental clinic - it's not affecting people yet, but it will because we aren't going to be open immediately." "I think people don't think anything happened here," Whitney said. "And honestly, I kept looking for pictures to see where it was up on the building and wondering is it going to be OK? And when it wasn't, it was pretty devastating."

But standing there on the sticky floor in the midst of mayhem with the faint musty scent of moisture still lingering in the air, Whitney was able to find a small silver lining in the misfortune.

"If people were to see what this looks like right now they'd probably be devastated," she said. "But I think it's going to be OK. We have opportunities to look at our building and maybe reconfigure some space. We have no electrical outlets on one side of the building, so there's some opportunity to fix some of those building issues while it's being fixed."

### AT THE FIRE HALL



**A town hall meeting at the Cook Fire Hall drew a good-sized crowd looking for more information about the city's response to the flood. The hall has also been the site of volunteer sign-ups and cleaning materials distributions.**



**While the primary purpose for Cook Lions Club volunteers being at the fire hall on Monday was to unload cleaning supplies and other items bought on a trip to Virginia, they also took a moment to make a \$3,500 donation to the Cook Firemen's Relief Association.** photos by D. Colburn

# Orr gears up for annual July 3rd Fun Day festival

ORR- The North Country's celebration of the country's independence traditionally kicks off early with Orr's July 3rd Fun Day, and a dedicated crew of volunteers is carrying on that tradition with a full slate of activities to entertain old and young alike.

Pancakes and sausage will be flying off the Orr Community Center griddle beginning at 7 a.m., courtesy of the North Woods Travelers, who are raising funds for an upcoming trip. Adults can get all the pancakes they can eat for \$10, and kids 5-12 are \$5, with those under five eating for free.

Breakfast will be served until 10 a.m.

For those who need to work off some of those extra syrup calories from breakfast, and anyone else who doesn't, the annual 5K run, sponsored by the Orr Lions Club, will start at 9 a.m. Those who preregistered by June 23 are assured of receiving this year's race t-shirt, and organizers say extras will be in short supply. Shirts from prior years may be available for late and on-site registrants. Advance registration fees this year are \$25 for adults and \$20 for kids 13 and under. Race-day registration is \$5 more for

both age groups. All racers should check in prior to the race beginning at 8 a.m. Registration forms can be picked up at and returned to RE/MAX Lake Country in Orr. For questions, call 218-410-3532.

Festivities get underway in earnest at 11 a.m. when vendors will begin peddling their varied wares at the craft fair at the Community Center. That's also the time that Luke's Antique Tractor, Truck and Car Show, welcoming anything cool with wheels, gets started near the boat ramp. If you think what you have is unique or cool, they

want to see it at the show, which ends at 3 p.m., the same time that vendors will close up shop.

Also with an 11 a.m. start, the North Woods Travelers will be back in action serving fry bread with your choice of honey butter or cinnamon sugar for \$5 and fry bread tacos for \$10.

Additional craft and food vendors were being lined up by organizers to set up outside of the Community Center.

The most colorful and festive event of the day is the Kiddie Parade at noon. The parade always draws a large crowd of participants and spectators - be

sure to get there early for the best seats on the street.

A popular new attraction last year, an outdoor booth offering bicycle maintenance and minor repair, staffed by Tom Kennebeck and friends will be back again. Stop on by with your bikes and trikes for a tune-up.

After the parade, be sure the kiddos hang around for the sawdust dig for silver dollars at 3 p.m. and saddle up for a pony rides or play in the Orr Fire Bounce House.

Adults can catch a breath in the late afternoon before heading over to the Orr Muni at 5:30 p.m. to put their bean bag

toss skills to the test. Following the bean bag contest will be a street dance featuring Deep Tracks.

Folks will want to stake out a prime viewing spot along the Pelican Lake shoreline for the day's spectacular finale, one of the biggest and best fireworks displays in the North Country reflected in the shimmering lake waters, courtesy once again of the Orr-Pelican Lake Resort Association. The fireworks begin at dusk.

### Cook-Orr Calendar

#### New NWFA exhibit opens on July 3

COOK- Come enjoy the work of ten different artists in the Northwoods Friends of the Arts exhibit for July, "Summertime," featuring works by the Lyric Art Colony.

Opening to the public on Wednesday, July 3 at the NWFA Gallery, a formal opening reception for the exhibit will be held on Saturday July 6 from noon-2 p.m.

Don't miss this exciting exhibit featuring works by Pat Brascugli, Margie Kent, Sandra Markovich, Tracey Mattson, Kathy Merkel, Mary Peliska, Dianna Sainio, Pamela Schultz, Jane Wertenen and Tim Young.

The exhibit can be viewed at the gallery at 210 S. River St. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

through Saturday, July 27.

#### Park series guest is "BitterSweet" for July 3 concert

COOK- Popular Virginia duo BitterSweet, featuring Jay Hoiland on vocals and guitar and Mary Jo Grizzard-Menke, on keyboard will be performing in the gazebo at Cook City Park on Wednesday, July 3 for the Music in the Park series. They perform

blues and classic rock songs. Recently they have appeared at The Sawmill, The Vermilion Club, and The Wooden Table.

The concert will be from 6-8 p.m. St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church will provide concessions. In case of rain the concert will be moved to the Cook VFW near the park.

Music In The Park is made possible by the Cook Lions Club, Cook VFW Post and Auxil-

iary 1757, Northwoods Friends of the Arts, the Cook Chamber of Commerce, the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club and free will community donations during the concert.

#### Flood shifts dates of beading class

COOK- The two-day workshop Beading on a Loom scheduled for June 20-21 at Northwoods

Friends of the Arts Gallery has been re-scheduled for Thursday and Friday, July 11-12, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. each day

**Read It  
HERE**



## CRIME

# Duluth man sentenced to 17 years for Babbitt attack

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

**BABBITT-** St. Louis County District Judge Michelle Anderson sentenced Josiah David Delvecchio, of Duluth, to 204 months in state prison for his involvement in a conspiracy to murder the owner of a clothing business here in 2021. The 27-year-old Delvecchio, sentenced June 18, was the second of the three defendants in the case to be sentenced.

Delvecchio was charged along with Donald James Miller,

age 35, and Dylan Thomas Peterson, age 32, in the stabbing attack on the owner of a Babbitt clothing business on July 10, 2021.

Delvecchio was convicted in a jury trial this past January of conspiracy to commit first degree murder. Under the sentence, Anderson is requiring that Delvecchio serve a minimum term of 136 months and 68 months of supervised release.

After his conviction, Delvecchio petitioned the court for a lighter sentence, arguing he

had lesser involvement with the stabbing than the other two defendants, and that he had turned his life around since the incident. He requested 120 months followed by supervised release, which is less than Minnesota's sentencing guideline of 20 years.

According to court records, Miller and Peterson allegedly planned the murder, and Peterson recruited Delvecchio to help. Peterson allegedly performed the attack in Babbitt and Delvecchio aided with the get-away. Miller was convicted on March 10,

2023, and sentenced to 20 years by District Judge Robert C. Friday. He may become eligible for supervised release after two-thirds of his sentence has been served. Miller appealed his conviction, and the appellate court denied the appeal earlier this month. The Babbitt Police Department received a letter of commendation from the St. Louis County Attorney's Office for its work on the case.

Peterson, the third defendant, is scheduled for a jury trial starting Nov. 12, 2024.

Troy Bissonette, the Babbitt Police Chief, issued a statement last week thanking the St. Louis Sheriff's Office, the Ely Police Department, the East Range Police Department, the Gilbert Police Department, and the Eveleth Police Department for their assistance in response to the incident and the subsequent investigation. He also thanked the St. Louis County Attorney's Office for their prosecution of the case.

## NEW STATE LAW

# Walz signing highlights medical debt relief law

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

**REGIONAL-** Gov. Tim Walz joined Attorney General Keith Ellison and others last week for a ceremonial signing of the Debt Fairness Act, an act that promises to bring significant relief to Minnesota families struggling with medical debt.

The new law reforms medical debt collection, wage garnishment, and bankruptcy, including banning automatic transfer of medical debt to one's spouse, banning the reporting of medical debt to credit bureaus, and banning the denial of necessary medical care over unpaid bills.

Walz officially signed the legislation as part of a larger omnibus bill in May, but Monday's ceremony brought together the bill's authors, Sen. Liz Boldon, DFL-Rochester, and Rep. Liz Reyer, DFL-Eagan, along with a group of Minnesotans affected by medical debt to formally celebrate the landmark legislation.

"Life-saving cancer treatments or a trip to the emergency room shouldn't cause a tanked credit score or a lifetime of debt," Walz said. "Thanks to the work of the Attorney General, legislators, and Minnesotans who've shared

their stories, these reforms will help Minnesotans get the care they need, manage their medical debt, and feel protected in their most vulnerable moments."

Ellison, who testified in the Legislature during deliberations on the bill, heralded a new day in the way medical debt is handled in the state.

"With the passage and signing today of the Debt Fairness Act, we have a fairer, more dignified, and more just system for repaying debt than we did before," Ellison said. "We all agree that if you borrow money, you should pay it back. We also all agree that we shouldn't punish people for getting sick. We also agree that a debt-collection system that makes it harder for people to pay back what they owe does nobody any good. And we also agree that debt collection shouldn't create more debt. There is more work to do and we're not done yet — but today, Minnesotans facing debt, including medical debt, can rest easier in the knowledge that the law provides them with more protections than it did before."

During committee hearings, Reyer noted a study showing that nearly 60 percent of people with medical debt have chosen to

forego needed medical care due to cost. A statement provided to the House committee by the legal advocacy group Cancer Legal Care highlighted the challenges of medical debt for cancer patients:

► 42 percent of newly-diagnosed people over 50 will lose their life savings within two years of diagnosis.

► Cancer patients are, on average, 2.5 times more likely to file bankruptcy than those without cancer. Furthermore, cancer survivors who file for bankruptcy are 80 percent more likely to die than cancer patients who do not.

► 62 percent of personal bankruptcies filed are due in part to significant medical debt. Yet, of these bankruptcy filers, 78 percent had health insurance.

► 79 percent of oncology care providers are concerned with their cancer patients refusing treatment because of financial worries, and 49 percent have had a cancer patient refuse treatment because of a financial concern.

► From 2003-2006, more than two million cancer survivors in the United States did not get one or more needed medical services because of financial concerns.

Key provisions related to medical debt in the Debt Fairness

Act that take effect on Oct. 1, 2024, include:

► Spousal liability — Medical debt will no longer automatically transfer to a patient's spouse. Starting Oct. 1, 2024, a spouse will not be personally liable for a patient's medical debt. It is uncertain whether the law will apply to debt incurred before or only after the effective date. Creditors can still pursue the patient or their estate for debt collection.

► Medically necessary care — Medical providers cannot withhold necessary care from patients due to unpaid bills. This applies to both new and outstanding medical debt. Providers may require patients to enter into reasonable payment plans before receiving care.

► Billing disputes — Providers and health plans must follow a process for patients to dispute billing errors. Upon notification of a billing error, the provider or plan must review and correct any mistakes. During the review, billing for disputed charges is prohibited. Providers must notify patients of the review outcome within 30 days.

► Credit reporting — Medical providers can no longer report medical debt to credit bureaus,

which will protect patients' credit ratings from being affected by medical debt.

► Debt collection practices — Unethical debt collection practices have been curtailed.

► Transparency in debt collection — Medical providers are required to publish their debt collection practices, ensuring patients are informed about how and when recovery of medical debt may be pursued.

► Attorney's fees — Patients who successfully defend against medical debt lawsuits will be awarded attorney's fees.

The act also makes additional debt reforms, including:

► Establishing automatic income-based wage garnishment levels, ranging from 10 to 25 percent, rather than the flat 25 percent garnishment cap that previously existed.

► Extending Minnesota's wage garnishment protections to independent contractors and everyone living and working in Minnesota.

## EIGHTH DISTRICT

# Welty challenging Stauber in August GOP primary

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**REGIONAL-** Harry Welty, a former member of the Duluth School Board, a longtime Republican who calls himself a "Lincoln Democrat" has announced he will challenge Pete Stauber in the Aug. 13 Republican primary for the state's Eighth District congressional seat. Welty filed

papers with the Secretary of State on May 30.

Welty, who has challenged Stauber previously, said he is motivated this time by the congressman's continued support for Donald Trump, despite his actions that led to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the nation's capital.

"Unlike Pete Stauber who twice broke his oath

to God to defend our democracy, Harry Welty never thought treason was 'our way of life,'" stated Welty in a release announcing his candidacy. Welty has recently published a new book "Not your usual Republican," subtitled "Pro-Trump = Anti-Lincoln," sales of which will be used to finance the Welty campaign. The first

page of Welty's book notes that polls show that 65 percent of Americans fear for the nation's democracy, which is an issue Welty plans to raise throughout the campaign.

Welty is a household name in Duluth, a city that accounts for one third of the vast Eighth District's electorate. He has served on the Duluth School board

for three terms and brought a lawsuit against the school district when it denied voters a chance to vote on a half-billion-dollar school building plan in 2008. A locally celebrated snow sculptor, Welty is also a writer and active blogger at lincolndemocrat.com.

Minnesota has an open primary and Welty said if enough DFLers, indepen-

dents, and Trump-weary Republicans vote for him on Aug. 13, he could knock Stauber out of the race.

Currently, the DFL candidate, Jen Schultz, has no opposition for the party's nomination for the seat.

## COUNTY...Continued from page 1

miles I put on yesterday up north I'm confident (in that number)."

That number will become more refined as county engineers fan out to inspect the 43 county roads that were closed in the wake of the flooding, 32 of them are in northern St. Louis County. The total estimate of damage will be far greater as local damage assessments are made.

"Every other organization out there... townships, cities will need to be doing that same thing of doing cost estimates and ultimate-

ly turning those into St. Louis County, so that we can determine what level of event this is," County Public Works Director Jim Foldesi said.

"We had a significant rain and storm event on June 18, and I think the total implications are still unfolding," County Administrator Kevin Gray told commissioners.

Foldesi said that signage and assessment of roads were the primary activities for public works personnel on Wednesday, although some road repairs

had also been initiated.

"Typically, we focus on the dead-end situations where people can't get out other than getting that repair done," Foldesi said. "We focus on temporary repairs to get the roads back in operation and then worry about more permanent repairs later."

While there is damage across the county, the majority of the impact is in the northern third of the county, Foldesi said.

Commissioner Paul McDonald talked about the flooding in Cook.

"Talking about major flooding with the Little Fork River in the city of Cook we have people up there," he said. "Sheriff's deputies and rescue squad people are all up in that area going door-to-door making sure elderly residents are in a good spot. The (National) Weather Service was up there yesterday talking about when they think the river is going to crest."

Nelson emphasized during the press conference that despite the impact the storm has had, the county is "still open for business."

"I think our resorts and everyone want that message out there — don't change your plans," Nelson said. "There are certainly some impacts. I've seen a closure list for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and some other things. But again, we're doing everything we can to address that. This is the peak season coming for the resort industry and peak season coming for tourists. We're open for business, we want people to come here. We are going to be dealing with all of the issues that are in front of us as

quickly and as responsibly as we can. But we want people to continue to come north and visit us because it's an integral part of our economy."

In addition to the county positioning itself to access emergency funding from the state and federal government, it was reported that Gov. Tim Walz was working on a statewide disaster declaration that would make even more funds available for the response.

## BITE...Continued from page 1

Police Department. "Roy observed that Mattila had bloodshot, watery eyes, and had an odor of alcoholic beverages coming from his person," continued the statement. Roy asked Mattila to leave the area, "but Mattila began doing

'karate' moves."

Roy contacted Mattila's probation officer, who asked Roy to administer a preliminary breath test. Mattila refused and Roy informed him he was under arrest.

Mattila allegedly

resisted arrest and it took Roy and two other police officers to take him into custody. According to police records, when Roy reached into the squad vehicle to buckle Mattila's seat belt, Mattila bit Roy on the right hand, "leaving

marks."

The St. Louis County Jail roster lists multiple counts lodged against Mattila, including fourth degree felony assault of a police officer with demonstrable bodily harm, and fifth degree felony assault

with two or more prior convictions. He also faces a felony probation violation, and misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct, using a false name, and obstructing a public road.

Prior to last week's incident, Mattila had three

felony and 18 petty, gross, or plain misdemeanor convictions. Two of the felony convictions were for making violent threats, once in Virginia and once in Ely, in 2023.

FLOOD RECOVERY

# Volunteers step up to aid in Cook cleanup

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK - Like so many others, Missy Bakker Roach just wanted to help when she came to Cook last Friday. Little did she know that she would wind up helping others to help.

Roach said she mentioned to Cook City Administrator Theresa Martinson that there were a lot of people asking about volunteering. She said to give her a call if she could help. It wasn't long before she got a call from Martinson.

"She called me and said, 'Come back and can you help with volunteer organizing?'" Roach said. "I said sure. And I was lucky, because one of the next people who walked through the door was Alexa Scrivna...she has FEMA training and she's a nurse."

The pair worked with city departments to set up an incident command center at the Cook Fire Hall, then made connections with the Red Cross and the United Way of Northeastern Minnesota, which promoted the volunteer endeavor through their Facebook page.

"We tried to get streamlined



Missy Bakker Roach points to a sign-up sheet at the Cook Fire Hall, where volunteers gather for deployment to various parts of the city. photo by D. Colburn

information out there for volunteers and set up some safety parameters," Roach said. "We're kind of learning as we go, but hopefully providing some structure and relief to residents."

Volunteer registration got underway Saturday at 8 a.m.,

and by mid-morning Roach was pleased with the turnout.

"I know it's early, but there has been an outpouring of donations," she said. "People have been calling and texting wanting to sign up to help. It's been really heartwarming. I'm really grate-

ful for the community to be so helpful, and it's far beyond just our little town. People are coming up from Virginia and Chisholm and Aurora. We've received quite a few inquiries for volunteering from the United Way. I've even had people from the (Twin) cities

offering to come up and help. It's been cool to see how much people really like and love the town of Cook."

Managing the volunteer effort is important not only for safety, but to get the most out of the folks who sign up.

"Volunteers have to sign in and sign out because we have to ensure their safety," Roach said. "We also have to do an assessment of the residents and their needs, and if they need volunteer help how to go about getting that for them."

Roach said she had the sense that the community was on track in responding to the flood.

"I think this community is finding their feet and we're putting one foot in front of the other," Roach said. "Everybody is doing the best that they can and they are coordinating efforts the best they can. Everybody's learning together and I hope that this spirit continues as we get further in the cleanup effort."

For current information on the volunteer program, call the City of Cook at 218-666-2210 or Roach at 218-969-6872.

## WALZ VISIT...Continued from page 1

into the laundromat. We stopped it," he said. "Wednesday morning the place was dry, I had customers and by the afternoon I was underwater. The community really depends on that laundromat, and I have no idea when I'll be able to open again so the community can use it."

Walz heard comments from citizens about deficiencies they perceived in the initial response to the flood, including lack of communication and sandbagging.

"We should have been sandbagging on Wednesday," Drift said. "We had flooding in 2018, we should have known better."

Resident Dan Manick was also critical of the lack of sandbagging.

"St. Louis County did not bring sandbags," he said. "There's not one load of sand that came from St. Louis County. Private contractors started dropping sand off. We had citizens bagging 1,500 sandbags that came from U.S. Steel. They could have done something in the morning. I know people are going to be here saying thanks everybody for what you did - they didn't do a damn thing for us."

The flooding that left a large portion of Cook submerged mid-week had started to recede by the time Walz arrived at noon Friday, but there was still plenty to see as the governor and others in his party climbed into two St. Louis County Rescue Squad Sherp amphibious vehicles for a close-up tour of the flooded business district and neighborhoods.

Afterwards, Walz delivered remarks to the crowd and media.

Walz praised the community spirit in the face of adversity, saying, "When you have a disaster like this happen, it's family helping neighbors. I want to thank everyone for keeping your neighbors safe, for being there to help them haul things out of their businesses as they're needed. It's just critically important."

Walz explained the process for getting a federal disaster declaration that would clear the way for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA. Officials will assess the damage in the coming days and weeks, with the state likely applying for a federal

disaster declaration. If the required financial damage threshold is reached, FEMA would reimburse the state for 75 percent of the cost to replace public infrastructure, with the state covering the balance through a disaster assistance contingency account. That account currently has \$26 million in it, but the Legislature authorized an additional \$50 million for the fund. Walz said they would move as quickly as they can.

"There's a real sense of urgency, fast, fast, fast is the way to go to try to get things up again," Walz said.

Walz made a plea to residents to care for their mental health and that of their neighbors.

"This initial part hits and then this is going to be weeks of recovery and things that you have to do," he said. "The mental aspect of this is keep an eye on each other. Think about this, this is very emotional. Folks have lost all of the things they own. They have lost precious keepsakes from their children when they were in kindergarten, those things are all real. We've seen this in these situations before - we need to keep an eye on each other."

Walz also encouraged citizens to participate in a review of the local response to the flood.

"This is an opportunity to do an after-action review on things that could have been done on the front end, things that maybe weren't there," he said. "Some folks talked about did we have enough sandbags? Are we getting the notices out fast enough? Those are all fair things as a community to think about."

MPR News contributed to this report.

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**STORM...**Continued from page 1

“it was apparent that the quick onset of floodwater would make it impossible to sandbag in time to protect property. Mayor Harold Johnston confirmed that decision on Friday.

“We didn’t have the time to do it,” he said. “It takes first of all sandbags, and it takes lots of people to fill them. And we have a lot of sandbagging to do if we’re going to protect the whole city. So that was not done. And our county emergency management guy, Josh (Brinkman), supported us on that decision.”

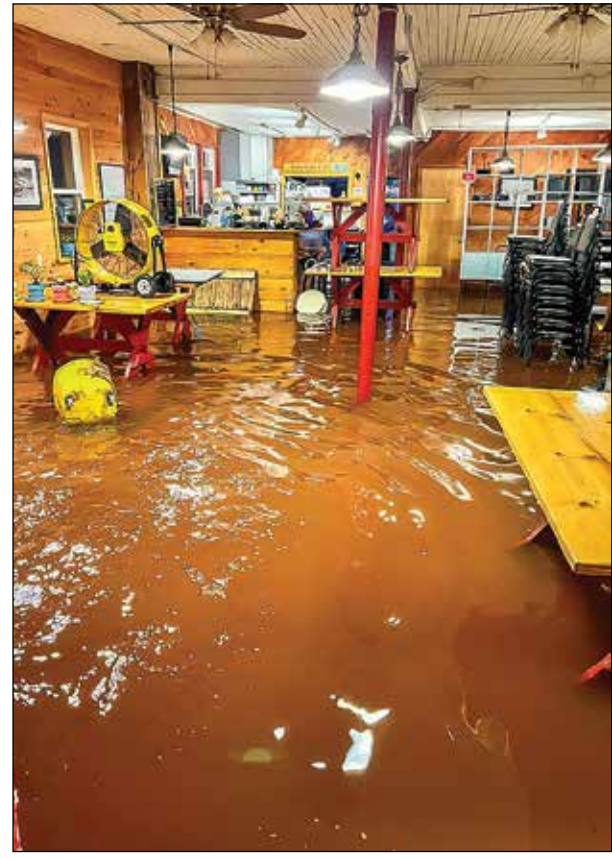
Meanwhile, the floodwaters kept rising as flood watchers used the disappearing legs of the moose statue in front of the city’s library as an unofficial flood gauge. By early afternoon, there was significant flooding occurring on River St., with numerous downtown businesses reporting floodwaters entering their stores. There were isolated attempts at sandbagging to stave off the waters.

Lois Pajari at Cook’s Country Connection initiated a sandbagging effort using a sand pit at her farm and many volunteers responded, as there was significant demand and need.

A flood inundation report from the Duluth NWS office issued at 5:42 p.m. indicated the Little Fork River would continue to rise through at least Saturday morning before starting to recede.

Another marker of the spread of the flood came at about 10 p.m. when Memory Malone, who lives at 128 2nd St. SE, across the street from the Northern Comfort Company, put out a plea on social media for sandbags, as the flood waters had reached her house. At about the same time, Pajari posted that, “As far as we have heard, all that needed sandbags have them,” and indicated there were sandbags available at the community center, the Country Store, and the fire hall.

On Thursday morning, Joe Paakkonen delivered a dump truck load of sand to the Country Store for a sandbagging site. Additional sites at the community center and the fire hall were operating during the day.



**Top left: A Cook resident looks out from his front steps, now serving as a dock amidst the floodwaters that inundated the city last week.**

**Above: Inside of the Montana Cafe, as floodwaters rose about a foot above floor level.**

**Left: A woman in Cook looks out forlornly at the floodwaters surrounding her home.**

photos by D. Colburn

It was also the morning the city of Cook issued its first of what would be daily information releases providing important information about the flood response. That and subsequent releases were posted to the city’s website, and since the city does not have a social media page the releases were shared on the Facebook pages of Cook Public Library and city council member Liza Root. They were also emailed to area media outlets for posting on websites and social media.

Thursday’s report noted that city operations had been moved from city hall to the community center, announced that Trinity Lutheran Church would serve as an evacuation site, said that floodwater was backing up through the storm water system, and discouraged travel in areas where flooding was present, stating that the waters were “dangerous

and posed health and safety risks.” No specific mention was made that due to the flooding the city’s wastewater disposal system had been overwhelmed and that sewage was combined with the flood waters.

Also on Thursday, the Red Cross provided a disaster relief unit that was stationed at the community center. The St. Louis County Rescue Squad provided door-to-door assessments of residences in the flooded area. City officials, staff, and area rescue organizations met to plan action steps as the flooding continued.

Water continued rising throughout the day, posing a possible threat to the Cook VFW building, which had been sandbagged. It was reported that the depth of the water in Franks Pharmacy reached four feet, while water rose nearly a foot above the stage at the Comet Theater.

Early Friday morning

multiple pictures posted to social media appeared to indicate that the flood had peaked ahead of the Saturday prediction, and that was confirmed throughout the morning, as the waters retreated from the intersection of River St. and 2nd Ave. SE to just south of the library. The dry street allowed barricades to be moved later in the morning to allow closer access for a motorcade carrying Gov. Tim Walz, numerous state officials connected with emergency response, and area legislators. Walz met with local residents and business owners, toured the flooded area in a St. Louis County Rescue Squad amphibious vehicle, and provided information and assurance about state and federal flood relief funding.

Activities throughout town shifted to the slow and tedious process of recovery in the ensuing days. Firefighters used

their equipment to pump water out of many homes and businesses, and people began pulling up carpet and flooring and moving affected furniture and appliances to curbsides and numerous roll-off dumpsters deployed around town.

An organized volunteer effort kicked off on Saturday at the Cook Fire Hall, with volunteers coming from towns across the Iron Range, and the city held public meetings on Saturday and Sunday at the hall to provide information on relief services that were available and important safety information for cleanup. The city council also met following Saturday’s meeting to approve a disaster declaration that will be formalized at this Thursday’s council meeting.

Flood relief fundraising got a boost when the Cook Lions Club announced on Saturday that they would serve as

the recipient for donations through an account at North Star Credit Union and kicked off the effort with a \$10,000 donation from Lions Clubs International. A fundraiser dinner conducted by the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade on Saturday evening collected over \$15,000 for relief efforts.

On Monday and Tuesday, Lions Club volunteers put the relief funds to good use by caravaning to Virginia to get cleaning supplies, protective gear, dehumidifiers, power washers, shop vacs and more for free distribution at the fire hall. L&M Supply and Menard’s supported the effort with donations and discounts. Meanwhile, volunteer crews could be seen throughout town with trucks and trailers, picking up sandbags and appliances, and city streets were declared free of water on Tuesday.



**We owe a huge thank-you to all these organizations who sponsored Cook's Annual Timber Days 2024! Many of these sponsors, especially those in the City of Cook and surrounding townships, now need our support as they begin recovery from last week's historic flooding.**

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STORM AFTERMATH

# Cook's historic Comet Theater faces major cleanup

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK- From her spot in the boutique and coffee shop of the Comet Theater, Shelly Hlavinka had a front row seat to the rising flood crawling toward her last Wednesday.

"It started getting higher and higher, so I called city hall and said, 'Hey, what do I do? I've never been in anything like this,'" Hlavinka said.

She said city administrator Theresa Martinson told her to start preparing by putting some sandbags in front of the door, which she borrowed from someone else.

"And then it kept coming up higher and higher and I called her again," Hlavinka said. "Theresa said to me, 'I should just start answering the phone Hello, Shelly,' because I called her like five times because it was coming up really bad. People were driving through and it was starting to wash up and make waves."

But Hlavinka learned that closing River St. wasn't the city's call, it was the county's. When the street finally was barricaded, people still kept driving through until the city positioned fire trucks on all four sides of the intersection to block traffic, Hlavinka said.

While Hlavinka was holding down the fort, the Comet's owners, Steph and Ryan Horner, were at the Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary doing their other jobs as executive director and chief operations manager, respectively.

"My mom was working at the coffee shop, and she sounded the alarm, letting us know just how bad it was getting and how fast it was rising," Steph Horner said. "My husband left right away, but I was still managing a team of interns and keeping them safe with the bears so I couldn't go right away. I think I got here about 2 p.m. There was just a little bit of water, and we were thinking we were going to be fine."

But as Hlavinka said, the water kept rising higher and higher, and suddenly the need to act became urgent.

And fortunately, the Horners had lots of help.

"People that we didn't even know were all helping us," Ryan Horner said. "It was just people from around town were coming in. I recognized faces, but I didn't



Left: Water inundated virtually all of the seating at the Comet Theater during this past week's flooding.

photo courtesy Comet Theater

Above: Sandbags were heaped against the front door of the theater in an effort to keep the worst of the flood at bay.

photo by D. Colburn

know names, and they were just coming in grabbing stuff and saying what do you need me to do? Can we help? It's been amazing with all the support that we've gotten from the community."

While Shelly, Steph, and some volunteers worked on moving merchandise in the boutique and coffee shop, Ryan got to work on a sandbagging effort.

"One of the neighbors said, 'Hey, let's go get some contractor bags. My friend has a sand pit and we'll go fill them there,'" Horner said. "Then this kid next door asked if we needed some help. We three were bagging and taking a truck full of 20 bags over at a time. We didn't know how serious it was. It was still coming up."

At about 3:30 p.m., Ryan decided to call in some reinforcements. He called the bear sanctuary and asked for eight or nine interns to come down to help.

"It was coming up super fast and we couldn't keep up," he said.

Meanwhile, starting out with the thought that it wouldn't get too bad, the crew in the boutique worked on moving up the lowest merchandise.

"There was just a little bit of water," Steph said. "Then more came in and it came really fast. Thankfully, I had about 10-15 people in here. Most of them I'd

never met in my life."

Horner said there was one volunteer in particular who insisted that the water was going to get much higher and that they needed to move all of the merchandise.

"Had we not listened to him, I would have lost a lot of merchandise," Horner said. "It's like \$50,000 to \$70,000 worth. Thankfully, we saved all of it."

Saving it all turned out to be a multistep process, however. They moved a lot to the stage in the theater, which was also filling up with flood water. Ryan said that someone with the county came by about 4 p.m. to assess the situation and said he believed the water would not reach the stage, but would come close.

But as it had been doing all day, the waters kept getting higher and higher, and the Horners and their crew of volunteers moved everything off the stage into trailers outside the back door, and then they watched as the water covered the stage and kept rising. "It got almost a foot above the stage," Ryan said.

The theater, inclined to run below ground level to accommodate the seating, looked like a swimming pool. The back row of seats were covered above their armrests, with most of the rest of the rows completely submerged.

out by Friday afternoon."

When the Horners purchased the Comet last year, they embraced the notion that they weren't merely the new owners, but were the caretakers for a beloved community historical landmark, the oldest continuously operating movie theater in the state.

"That's the part that's hard," Ryan said. "But we'll be open again."

A GoFundMe campaign has been established for those who would like to make a donation to help the Horners restore the Comet. You can donate at <https://gofund.me/8ffd977b>.

A GoFundMe representative emailed the *Timberjay* on Monday with a list of additional campaigns for individuals and businesses who experienced catastrophic flood damage. All campaigns related to Cook have been gathered together on a special topic page for Midwest flooding fundraisers. To see those campaigns, go to <https://www.gofundme.com/c/act/flood-relief> and scroll down to the Minnesota section. All campaigns appearing in the Midwest flooding section have been verified as legitimate by GoFundMe, which has a team of specialists that work to prevent and fraudulent campaigns set up by scammers.

The Cook Fire Department pumped nearly 300,000 gallons out of the theater, Ryan said. A steel tank built to hold that much water would be about 50 feet in diameter and 21 feet high.

They had hoped to salvage the cushioned seats through a combination of power washing, steam cleaning, and kiln drying, but on Tuesday they declared them a lost cause.

"None of the seats are salvageable so we will need to replace those," Steph wrote in an email update. "We have to take all of the theater walls off at least up to the top of the red (which appears to be well over six feet). All of the floors will need replacing. We are now estimating that we won't have the theater portion open this summer at all and are desperately trying to prepare the coffee shop and boutique to reopen sometime this summer."

The Horners have gotten much more help cleaning up the Comet as best they can in the days following the flood.

"The Cook Lions Club has been a big help, not just for us but for everyone in town," Ryan said. "Steve (Kajala) knows what I need and he's been working his butt off trying to find stuff for that. And a big shout out to the fire department. We were trying to pump it out after the governor was here and the fire department came and pumped it out. It was all

YOU CAN HELP

# Cook Lions Club seeks donations for flood relief

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK—The Cook Lions Club has announced they are providing ways for people to make monetary donations for flood relief in the wake of this week's devastating flood in Cook.

The club has set up an account at North Star Credit Union to receive donations and checks payable to "Cook Lions Club" can be dropped off or mailed to: North Star Credit Union, 24 South River St., PO Box 1058, Cook MN 55723.

Be sure to write "Flood support" on the notation line on your check.

Those wanting to make a donation online can use the PayPal service, which requires signing up for an account. Once you have an account you will be able to send your donation to [cookmnlions@gmail.com](mailto:cookmnlions@gmail.com). You can sign up for the service at [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com). The Lions have also set up an account with Venmo to



Left: Relief supplies purchased by the Lions Club were assembled at the Cook Fire Hall this week.

photo by D. Colburn

International, which through its foundation supports disaster relief efforts around the globe. Within hours, according to Cook Lions Club president Steve Kajala, \$10,000 was on its way to the Cook club.

Meanwhile, last Saturday the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade held a pork roast dinner and silent auction originally planned to raise funds for the brigade, but those plans changed in the wake of the flood. The brigade turned the event into a free community dinner for "our friends and neighbors." Donations originally intended for the fundraiser were redirected to flood relief efforts. The brigade announced the results Tuesday on social media.

"A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and supported the pork roast on Saturday evening at LVFB Hall," the post said. "We're thrilled to announce that you raised \$15,000 for the flood relief effort in Cook, with donations still coming in. The funds have been donated to the Cook Lions Club and Cook Fire Relief Association, who continue to provide much-needed support and resources to those affected by the flood. Your support not only showcases the strength and compassion of our community- it also makes a tangible difference in the lives of our neighbors. We're deeply grateful."

And two anonymous individuals offered to match donations to the relief fund in the amounts of \$1,000 and \$1,750.

receive electronic donations. Once again, donors will need to have a Venmo account to use the service to donate. Users should direct their donation to @cookmnlions.

Yet another way to donate, although available to a limited number of people, is through the Benevity program spon-

sored by participating employers. Ask your employer if they participate in Benevity, and if so, they will be able to help you make a donation to the Lions Club through that platform.

**Major donations**  
Two groups that have

made major donations to the flood relief efforts that are the *Timberjay* is aware of are the Cook Lions Club and the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade.

At the outset of the disaster, the Lions Club reached out to its parent organization, Lions Clubs

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## STORM AFTERMATH

# Flooding halts underground mine tours at Soudan

by **SETH ROESER**  
Staff Writer

**SOUDAN**—The Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park has indefinitely suspended underground tours of the Soudan mine due to flooding from the torrential rains that hit the area June 18.

Underground tours made a brief public return on May 25 following a four-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a reconstruction project concentrated between the 19th and 24th levels. The mine is outfitted with water pumps on the 12th, 22nd and 27th levels, but a

suspected lightning strike during last week's storm left the mine without power for an estimated 11 to 12 hours.

"So much water was coming in that pumps on levels 12 and 22 weren't able to keep up, and 27 got all the excess water," mine assistant manager Jim DeVries said. "Then 27's pumps were submerged and shorted out."

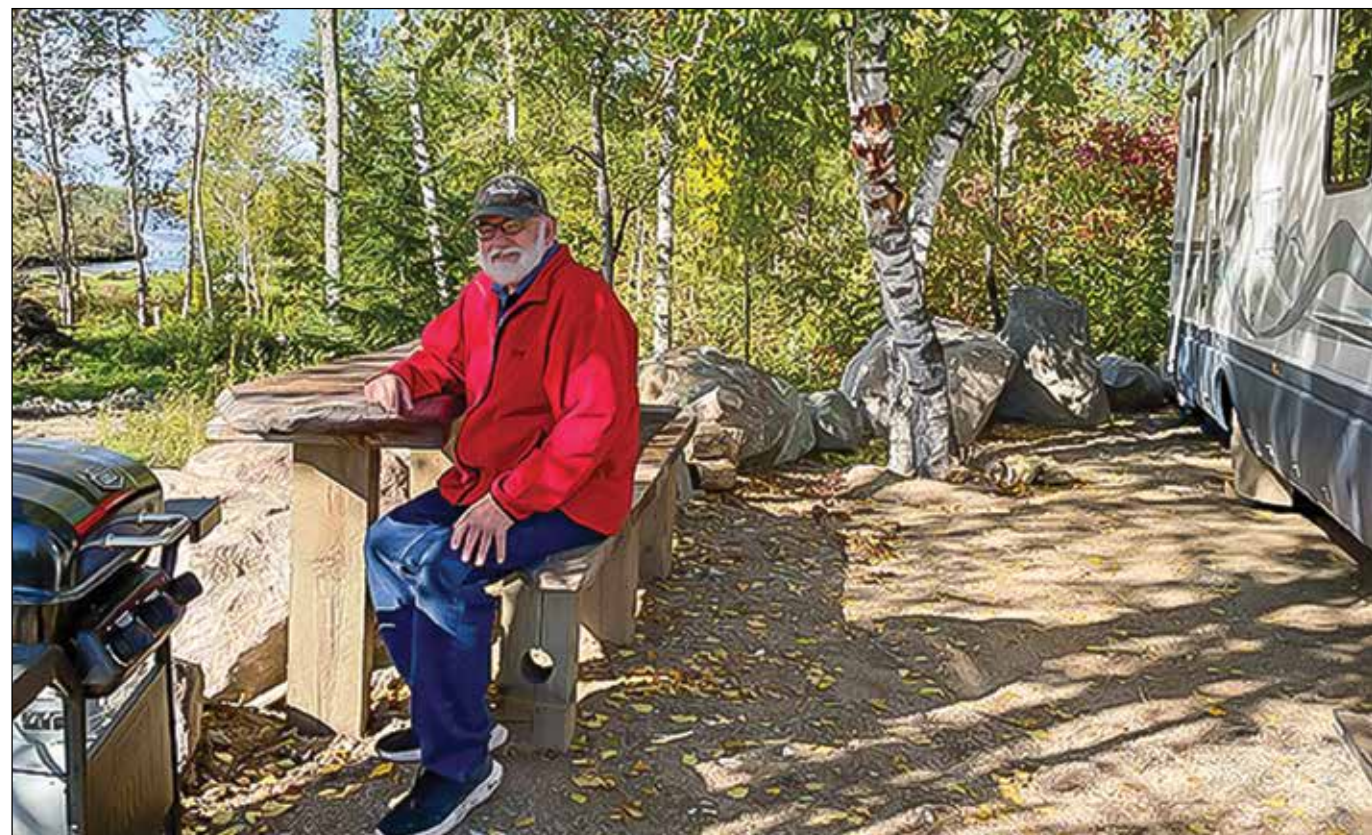
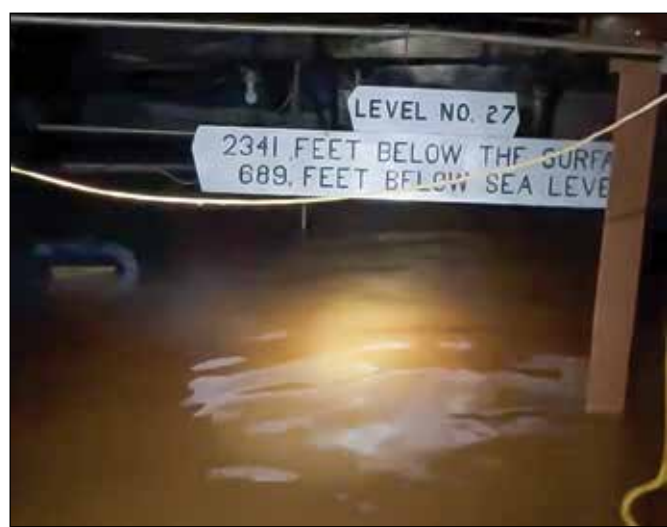
Workers assessing the flooded mine descended atop the cage—the mine's elevator—to the 27th level to stay above the water, a slight slope in the ceiling making it possible for workers to see down into the mine from their elevated position.

**Right: The sign at the bottom of the Soudan mine hangs just a couple feet above floodwaters that inundated the mine during last week's torrential rains.**

photo courtesy MNDNR

DeVries said the 12th and 22nd levels are once again operational and water levels are controlled, but the potential damage to the 27th level—which is nearly half a mile underground—is unknown. Park officials said the 27th level still had about seven to eight feet of water

See **TOURS**, pg. 4B



## TOWER RV RESORT

# Delayed opening sparks concern

RV park had expected to open early last year, but has faced issues with sewer lines

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**  
Managing Editor

**TOWER**—It's been one step forward, one step back lately for Dave Rose and his not-yet-completed Tower RV Resort on the East Two River—and the frustration among would-be residents of the park has been building.

A year and a half ago, it seemed that Rose's seven-year battle to create his RV park was finally nearing its end. He had sewer lines installed and water lines set to go in as well. After final landscaping, he expected to be officially open in spring of 2023 at that was the story he told prospective buyers of the 32 lots he was creating within the roughly five-acre park.

But, as has often been the case with Rose since he began sinking his life savings into the project, things have not always gone according to plan.

While Rose had the sewer lines installed almost two years ago, they remain unconnected from the city's main line that will eventually serve as the conduit for the park's effluent. The system actually was connected, for a time, but Rose's contractor connected it in error and the city later ordered it disconnected and capped. Since then, it turned out the sewer line had a leak, which

has taken months to try to locate.

"Here's the truth. The 100 percent King James, Gideon Bible version of it," said Rose. "We've had multiple contractors in to look for the leak but they can't locate it."

He now believes he's pinpointed the leak and that repairs

“I don't want no hard feelings. I'm willing to give them their money back.”

RV park owner Dave Rose

should be made within days. Then, he'll need to get the system pressure tested and if it passes, he'll be one step closer to getting the certificate of occupancy he needs to finally open the park to its would-be residents, many of whom plunked down more than \$30,000 two or three years ago on the promise the park would be open by the spring of 2023. Now, with barely two months remaining in the summer of 2024, Rose acknowledges everyone's patience is wearing thin.



So far, he said he's only had to refund the sale price of one lot. And given the demand for RV spaces, he said he was able to resell the site for considerably more than the amount he had to refund the previous buyers. Rose said the money he's taken in from buyers is sitting in an escrow account and he said he's offered to refund money from other impatient buyers. "I've said to them, I don't want no hard feelings. 'I'm willing to give them their

See **RV PARK**, pg. 4B

**Top: RV park developer Dave Rose was all smiles in 2022, expecting that his RV park would be officially open by the following spring.**

**Above: The resort sign has been in place for the past two years but the resort has yet to receive its certificate of occupancy.**

photos by M. HelMBERGER

## NEW BOOK



**Author Nicholas DeShaw holds his son Magnus with one hand and his new children's book about powwows at the SahGiiBahGah powwow at Nett Lake earlier this month.** photo by D. Colburn

# Cat leads readers on journey of discovery

by **DAVID COLBURN**  
Cook-Orr Editor

**REGIONAL-** Have you ever wondered what a powwow is like but weren't sure who to ask? Well, Nicholas Bimibatoo Mishtadim DeShaw has a unique answer—ask a cat.

But not just any cat will do. The cat DeShaw has in mind is the star of his new children's book "Loaf the Cat Goes to the Powwow."

DeShaw is the outreach coordinator for the University of Minnesota American Indian Studies Department, specializing in the Ojibwe language, Native American history, and Indigenous games, and is a regular contributing writer to the website A Tribe Called Geek, a site devoted to Indigenous pop culture, STEM, and advancing the visibility of Native and Indigenous contributions to the world.

Although DeShaw grew up away from Nett Lake, his Bois Forte Ojibwe heritage through his father has been of intense interest since he graduated high school in 2008, he said.

"It's a place we always talked about in the family, and when I graduated high school, I wanted to come here to reconnect with my relatives and reconnect with that side of my family and culture," DeShaw told

See **BOOK**, pg. 4B



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# Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

STORM IMPACTS

## Extensive damage to area ATV trails

Washouts and deep and extensive trail rutting are just some of the issues

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — County roads weren't the only travel corridors to take a pounding from last week's torrential rain. ATV trails across the area were hit just as hard, with widespread damage to slopes and numerous washouts.

The Prospector Trail, which recently completed a connecting trail to the Pfeiffer Lake area, between Tower and Cook, saw some of the worst damage. "The Pfeiffer Lake area is bad," said Ron Potter, with the Prospector ATV Trail Alliance. But the damage to the trail system spans an enormous area, notes Potter. "Pretty much any slope of a ten percent grade

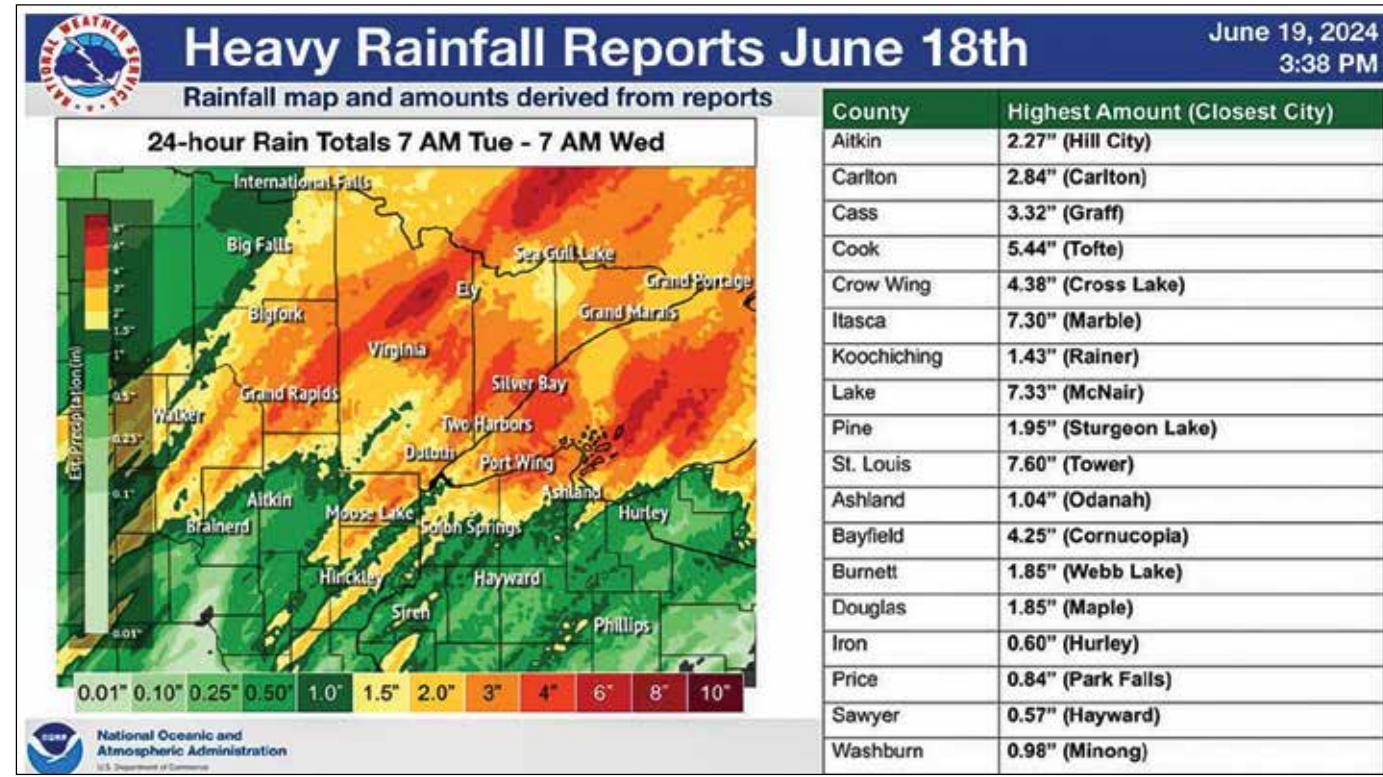
or more is pretty much down to rock," he said. "A lot of the fines are gone." The trail system, which runs from west of Tower to Ely, Babbitt and beyond, experienced several complete washouts from the storm, which dropped anywhere from three to eight-plus inches across the region. The portion of the

Right: A river runs through it, in this case, through a section of the Prospector Trail about a mile east of the Murray Road. The washout was one of several making portions of the ATV trail impassable.

photo by M. Helmberger

trail that runs along the old DM&IR rail grade between

See DAMAGE...pg. 3B



WIDESPREAD DAMAGE

## Storm of the century?

A narrow band across north-central St. Louis County saw truly historic rainfall

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — While last week's storm poured immense amounts of rain all across the Arrowhead, some areas received much more than others. Tucked within a broad swath of generally two-to-four inches of rain, were narrow bands that received significantly more, in some cases as much as eight to nine inches, and those areas typically experienced the most significant damage as a result.

A rainfall map produced by the National Weather Service's Duluth office late last week showed the highest rainfall totals in a narrow band stretching from roughly Big Rice Lake, north of Virginia, to the northeast, extending through the center of the Trout Lake portion of the Boundary Waters. Areas around Pfeiffer Lake, Lost Lake, central Lake Vermilion, to Pine Lake in the BWCWA, were within this swath of the highest intensity rainfall.

The map is based primarily on estimates from radar, which provide a quick and initial estimate, which climatologists then attempt to "ground-truth" through other data, including reports from observers, which take more time to assemble.

Among the official reports from on-the-ground rainfall observers, the highest total came from near Tower, where an official observer reported 7.6 inches. Some unofficial reports from just west of Tower suggested even higher amounts, in excess of eight inches. Those reports line up well with some of the most extensive damage to roads, including a major washout of a portion of Hwy. 1, which collapsed the roadway about five miles east of the intersection with Hwy. 53.

State climatologist Kenny Blumenthal said for places in northern St. Louis County, the threshold for a 100-year-rain event is 5.91 inches. For

See STORM...pg. 3B



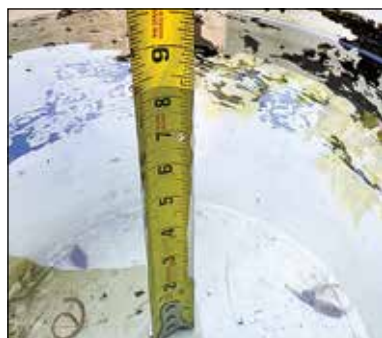
Top: A rainfall map and accompanying chart pinpoints the heaviest rain in a narrow swath across north-central St. Louis County.

Above: Logs and other debris washed down the Little Fork River is pushed up against Cty. Rd. 24 in Cook.

Right: Rushing water sliced deep cuts like these in hundreds of county and township roads as well as driveways across the area.

Below: A previously empty, straight-sided bucket near Lost Lake, shows eight and a quarter inches of rain on June 18.

photos by Timberjay staff



### Wildflower Watch



This week's featured flower  
**ROUND-LEAVED DOGWOOD**

One of our region's most spectacular flowering plants is actually a shrub that forms dense thickets and outstanding habitat for birds. The **Round-leaved Dogwood**, *Cornus rugosa*, is a showstopper in the late spring, when its cream-colored flowers seem to glow amidst the round, prominently veined leaves. Come late summer, their berries attract a wide range of birds, from vireos to thrushes. And come fall, their leaves turn a gorgeous shade of scarlet.

This is definitely a shrub that's worth saving if you're fortunate enough to have a thicket or two growing on your property.

### Outdoors briefly



### Torrential rain sends area rivers into flood stage

REGIONAL — Most area rivers remained in flood stage as of Monday, nearly a week after torrential downpours brought anywhere from three to nine inches of rain to the region. The Little Fork River saw the most dramatic rise, as some of the heaviest rain fell in the upper reaches of its watershed. The day before last week's storm, the Little Fork was running at 1,210 cubic feet per second at the gauge in the city of Littlefork.

As of Monday this week, the river's flow had jumped more than ten times, to 15,100 cfs, prompting significant flooding.

The Rainy River was also in flood stage, with a reading at Manitou Rapids of 47,100 cfs, up from 29,700 cfs the week before. The Vermilion River, at Crane Lake, was in flood stage as well as of Monday, with a flow of 3,520 cfs, up from 1,280 cfs the day before the storm.

The Basswood River was running high at 4,980 cfs, up from 2,960 cfs the week before.

**STORM...**Continued from page 2B

those places that received in excess of seven inches, he said the storm likely qualified as a 500-year event. "It was a big, big storm that definitely exceeded the 100-year threshold in a lot of places," he said.

Intense rainfall and a long period of heavy rain combined to create the conditions for the extreme event, said Blumenthal. While heavy rainfall associated with the passage of a summer cold front is not unusual, Blumenthal said winds typically run perpendicular to cold fronts and help to push storms through an area relatively quickly, which limits the duration of intense rainfall. He said this particular cold front was slow-moving and the winds were aligned roughly parallel to the



front, which pushed storms along the nearly stationary front for hours. "It was a very effective moisture delivery mechanism," he said. "There was a lot of tropical moisture in the

atmosphere and it created a train of storms that sat over the area."

While June thunderstorms can often bring high winds and hail, Blumenthal said this event was largely

limited to rain. There were no reports of hail nor significant wind damage. "When we get flash flooding, it tends to be just a rain event," he said.

While last week's



**Left: A boat landing access road at Big Lake, north of Ely, was washed away down to boulders.**

photo courtesy of USFS

**Docks in the Tower harbor were left tilted and partially underwater in the wake of the June 18 rain.**

photo by J. Summit

deluge was a rarity, Blumenthal said the likelihood of such events is continuing to rise as the climate warms. "It's not

turning the former 100-year storm to a two-year storm," said Blumenthal, "but it is making such events more likely to occur."

**DAMAGE...**Continued from page 2B

Murray and Trygg roads in Breitung Township, is currently impassable due to a washout. Other major washouts near Babbitt and points south and east from there are in various states of repair.

At this point, Potter said it appears that the bridges along the Prospector Trail network survived the flooding, even as some had water flowing over them in the wake of the heavy rain. According to Potter,

it appears that the bridge abutments remained in place, so that may help limit the need for more substantial repair work.

To the north, the Voyageur Country ATV trail saw damage, while trails near the north shore of Lake Superior were also hit hard.

**Competition for gravel**

Complicating the task of repairing the trail network is the sudden high demand for gravel. The

storm caused extensive damage to hundreds of county and township roads, as well as private driveways, and that's got public and private gravel haulers running ragged. And since the ATV trail groups often rely on county equipment for hauling gravel and other materials, repairs may not get underway in earnest until the county has a handle on its own road repairs. The county announced this week that

they have recorded more than 1,000 locations with damage, both on county and private roads, so repairs could take time.

Potter said he expects repairs to the ATV trail system will take weeks to complete.

At this point, he said the total price tag for repairs is unknown since some areas of the trail system remain underwater and can't be assessed. "Once the water goes down, we'll

take another look at it," said Potter.

**Mixed messages**

While some trail groups have closed their trails for now, Potter said the Prospector Trail isn't closed for now. "We're saying we're technically open but that we have a lot of damage and that some sections will be marked closed."

The group ATV Minnesota recently posted a notice advising the public

of the damage in the northeastern part of the state and noted that some clubs are urging riders to stay off the trails for the next couple weeks to allow them to dry out. That will be necessary to allow the kind of heavy equipment on the trails that will be needed to do most of the repairs.

Riders can find more information on trail conditions and closures at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohw/closures.html>.

**Fishing reports**

**Ely area**

Walleye fishing can't be fantastic all the time, even in the Ely area. Heavy rains and a heavy mayfly hatch has slowed the walleye bite down on many Ely area lakes. Heavy rains seemed to have pushed walleyes down to a depth of 20-25 feet over sand and mud flats. Lots of reports of mayflies hatching and anglers graphing clouds of them over mud. Walleyes have been right in with the mayflies. Medium size leeches fished under a bobber, jig or drop shot have been effective. Jig and half a crawler has also been worth noting. Pink/white, gold and green/chartreuse have been popular colors this last week.

Reports of smallies with spawn in them continue to come in from many area lakes. Unstable weather and water temps still fluctuating as low as 60 degrees seems to be the cause. Nonetheless anglers are enjoying excellent smallmouth fishing. All kinds of topwater baits continue to be very popular, but in-line spinners, Ned rigs, paddle tails and chatter baits also are producing good numbers of fish.

We're finally seeing some reports of good sunfish and crappie fishing action on many of the shallower panfish lakes in the Ely area. Crappies and sunnies have been hitting jig/twisters, beetle spins, angleworms or small leeches under a bobber in three to seven feet of water. Best crappie fishing has been the last hour or two of light on many lakes. Anglers should look to pencil reeds, shallow rock

and weedy bays for panfish. Rainbow trout have been taking full advantage of the mayfly hatch. Fly fishermen have also been taking advantage, throwing large mayfly imitations and simply letting them sit on the surface. For all you non-fly fisherman, a night crawler set about 5-10 feet under a bobber has been effective. Trolling small spoons and small crankbaits has also been efficient on rainbows this last week.

*Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors. See more at ArrowheadOutdoorsElyMN.com.*

**LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST**

from NOAA weather

Friday		Saturday		Sunday		Monday		Tuesday	
Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
68	50	63	42	71	48	65	53	72	57
<b>Ely</b>	<b>Hi Lo Prec. Sn.</b>	<b>Emb.</b>	<b>Hi Lo Prec. Sn.</b>	<b>Cook</b>	<b>Hi Lo Prec. Sn.</b>	<b>Orr</b>	<b>Hi Lo Prec. Sn.</b>	<b>Tower</b>	<b>Hi Lo Prec. Sn.</b>
06/17	62 40 0.00	06/17	77 46 0.00	06/17	72 52 0.01	06/17	72 52 0.00	06/17	77 46 0.00
06/18	71 55 0.29	06/18	73 49 0.53	06/18	71 52 0.12	06/18	66 57 0.64	06/18	71 51 0.25
06/19	70 54 2.68	06/19	74 58 4.33	06/19	67 57 5.10	06/19	66 48 3.00	06/19	73 57 4.60
06/20	58 50 0.00	06/20	67 48 0.00	06/20	69 51 0.00	06/20	70 46 0.00	06/20	66 51 0.00
06/21	67 na 0.00	06/21	68 47 0.00	06/21	72 49 0.00	06/21	75 48 0.00	06/21	70 46 0.00
06/22	74 na 0.00	06/22	76 51 0.00	06/22	79 45 0.00	06/22	70 55 0.00	06/22	75 53 0.00
06/23	71 53 0.00	06/23	74 52 0.01	06/23	69 52 0.06	06/23	73 55 0.00	06/23	72 50 0.09
YTD Total	15.71	YTD Total	18.35	YTD Total	17.68	YTD Total	NA	YTD Total	18.05

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EMBARRASS

# Community input sought on Timber Hall renovations

by SETH ROESER  
Staff Writer

EMBARRASS- A community input meeting to discuss proposed renovations to the Timber Hall Event Center will be held on Thursday, June 27 at 6 p.m. at

the event center. The Embarrass Region Fair Association will be presenting options for the facility and hearing opinions from the public about the building's future.

The association was awarded \$1.5 million from the 2023 state bonding bill to pay for updating

the building and ensuring it is structurally sound and sustainable. Event center plans were drawn up by Virginia firm DSGW Architecture.

Currently, there are no plans to update other buildings on the event center campus - such as

the cold storage sheds and horse arena - as part of the renovations.

The second half of Thursday's meeting will concern the Embarrass region's participation in the Empowering Small Minnesota Communities study conducted through the University

of Minnesota.

If community members can not attend Thursday's meeting but want to learn more, they can email the ERFA at info@embarrassrfa.org.

## TOURS...Continued from page 1B

as of earlier this week. A new pump was installed on the 27th level on Tuesday and workers will assess the damages done to the mine and the electrical system once the level is drained.

expect the pumping to last - That all depends on the efficiency of the new pump and that we do not get more rain water entering the mine," DeVries said in an email. "If all goes as we expect we hope to be

walking on the earth at level 27 in 14-21 days."

Tour guides who were conducting underground tours will be moved to work in other parts of the park, such as above ground tours and other interpretive

programming.

"The plan is to keep everyone employed doing interpretive work," DeVries said.

The state park canceled and refunded underground tour reservations through

July 23 as a preliminary measure, but DeVries said there is no official date for the return of the tours.

"In an ideal world, we'd have tours up and running by July 24, but it's not looking very likely,"

DeVries said.

Visitors can still take the free above ground tour of the mine from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, no reservation required.

## RV PARK...Continued from page 1B

money back."

John Holm, who bought one of the RV lots from Rose two years ago, said he's not upset over the delays, although he's heard from others who don't feel that way. "I know there are a lot of people who are very upset," he said. "It was supposed to be done three years ago."

Holm said he and his wife Amy bought it on a whim after selling their

house on Lake Vermilion a few years ago. They had already owned a winter residence in Florida and figured they could put an RV on the lot at Rose's park and spend summers there. They've changed their plans since and bought another home on the lake instead.

"Knowing Dave like I did, I wasn't expecting too much and I pretty much got what I expected."

Even so, assuming Rose finally gets his park open, Holm's lot will likely be worth considerably more than he paid for it. And, according to Rose, that's one of the factors that's prompted some of Rose's buyers to wait out the delays. Given that he was able to resell the one lot he had to take back for considerably more money, he said some of his buyers have accused him of delay-

ing the project on purpose in hopes that some of the early buyers take a refund, allowing Rose to sell the lots again for an even bigger payday.

Rose said that's not his plan and that he wants to see the project completed as badly as anyone. "That's my story and I'm sticking to it," he said.

### City eager for completion

Prospective residents

of the park aren't the only ones hoping Rose can finally bring his project to completion. "We want him to get it done, too," said Tower Clerk-Treasurer Michael Schultz. He said the city's biggest fear is that Rose could be sued, which could leave the project uncompleted, potentially for years.

While previous city administrations erected roadblocks to Rose's

project, that's not the case currently, said Schultz. "We're definitely not putting any brakes on it at this point," he said. "We're basically a thumbs up, here. We just need it to be done right."

The Timberjay contacted both state inspectors involved with Rose's project. Neither was willing to answer questions about the project.

## BOOK...Continued from page 1B

the Timberjay at the recent SahGiiBahGah powwow at Nett Lake. "Terry Goodsky and I got to know each other, and he takes me around and we drum a lot, so I got to know the powwow circuit. That led into one of my other passions, writing, and I created this children's book partially based on my experiences."

In the book, Loaf gets her name from looking like a loaf of bread when she sits, but DeShaw has another explanation for the curious cat's name.

"My wife, when we

got married, she had a cat named Sophia, and now it's my cat, too," he said. "And Sophia got shortened so that it became Loaf, and it became this silly nickname."

DeShaw described the story of Loaf.

"It's a story where the point of view is that of a cat who lives with a Native American family, kind of implied to be from around here," he said. "She loves her little boy Charlie, and he is creating regalia to dance in his first powwow. Then he disappears, and

she doesn't like that, so she goes out to find him and winds up making her way to a powwow. She sees all the sights and hears all the sounds and learns about powwows that way. The idea was that it's something that a Native kid could see themselves in, but a non-Native kid could also have a nice approach to contemporary Native American culture."

DeShaw got the opportunity to pitch the book to Nancy Paulsen of Nancy Paulsen Books, a brand of Penguin Publishing

specializing in children's literature.

"She thought it was great," DeShaw said. "We worked on it for about three years and it's finally out on the shelves now."

Goodsky served as a consultant when DeShaw was editing the book, and for the illustrations DeShaw connected with Tara Audibert, a Canadian Indigenous multidisciplinary artist and filmmaker with over two decades of experience in animation, comics, and fine art. She's illustrated the award-win-

ning JoJo Makoons series of books by Dawn Quigley and numerous other titles. Audibert's unique and colorful style works well to draw young and old readers alike into Loaf's relationship with Charlie and heightens the sense of excitement of Loaf's tale of discovery.

DeShaw's own journey into his culture and to the book is intimately wrapped up in his son, Magnus Meminogwaneyaash DeShaw. Four years ago, DeShaw traveled to Nett Lake to learn how to make

a cradleboard for his soon-to-be son, and on Saturday the two of them were back to introduce the book at the powwow.

"It means a lot to be here," DeShaw said. "It means a lot to do this with everybody and to share something that I worked so hard on. I hope it can be something families, especially kids, can enjoy."

The book, written in English, is available at bookstores and on Amazon.com in both hardback and Kindle versions.



## Memories of the Early Days

A fascinating look back at the early history of the Lake Vermilion area

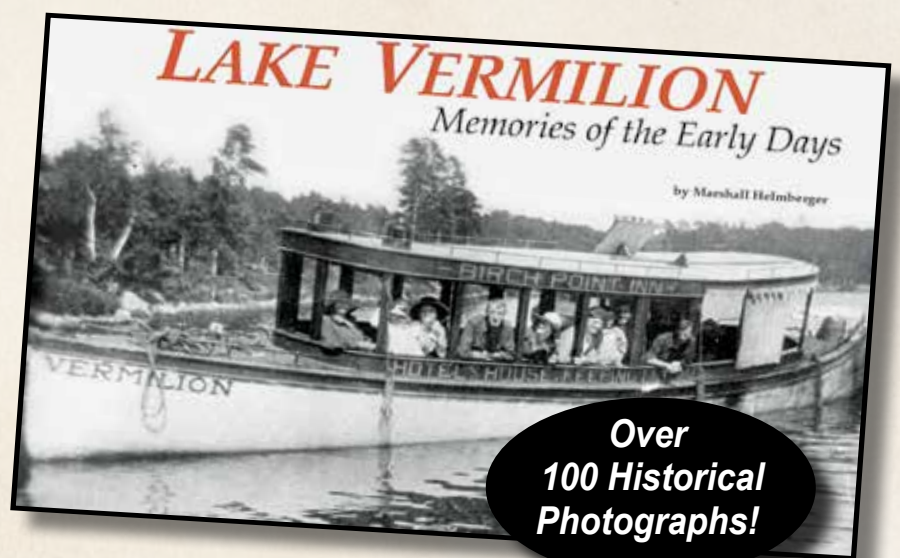
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## RECREATION

## Breitung Board open to new hiking trail route to McKinley

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

## Denies request to post existing portion of trail as non-motorized

Soudan- The Breitung Town Board, during their June 20 meeting, expressed support for a hiking trail connecting McKinley Park Campground to the Pine Ridges trail system, but they weren't willing to designate an existing trail as non-motorized for that purpose.

This decision follows the request at the April meeting by Wagoner Trails Club member Aaron Kania, which the board tabled. At the May meeting, several ATV users attended to ask that the request be denied citing the historic use of the trails in the area by ATVs.

Kania attended the June meeting and talked about the joint Tower-Breitung master trail plan, which envisioned the creation of more connections between the two communities. He told the board the trail map they were presenting had been developed in conjunction with the Tower Forestry Board, the trail club, and the Prospector Loop ATV Club. He said there are currently two trails that connect to McKinley, and that one could remain motorized with the other designated as non-motorized, creating a 5K route connecting Tower and Breitung by an unpaved hiking trail.

"I don't really think anyone is opposed to a hiking trail," said Soudan resident Craig Lenci.

In addition, Lenci said

many locals felt the area was the "last little place outside of the state park" for hunting and ATV riding. "A lot of people have kept up the ATV trails around here," he said, while also noting the area was a popular hiking spot, and the two uses had been co-existing. Lenci said it would be "awesome" to be able to hike from the Soudan Store to the Pine Ridges trail.

Brian Zak, of Soudan, expressed concern about how it would affect people who hunt in that area. He said that DNR rules prevent hunters from shooting from or over a designated trail. "Don't take away any more stuff for people who use that land," he said.

But after the meeting, a preliminary review of state hunting rules showed that such rules only apply to actual roads, not recreational-use trails.

Breitung Supervisor Matt Tichel noted that the request was for a very small section of trail, but even so, said the feedback from Breitung residents was against the request.

"I would be in favor of something new put in by the trail group," he said. "The township has helped the Prospectors with gravel. I think we would help with a hiking trail too."

"I love the idea of the 5K route," he added.

Barb Soderberg, who grew up in Tower but now lives in Ea-

gles Nest, talked about the time she spent hiking in that area with her father, the late DNR forester Howard Wagoner. "This was before ATVs were around," she said.

There was a general consensus that ATV use in the area was increasing, and often was not compatible with hikers on the trail.

"Don't shut out the runners, walkers, dog walkers, and birdwatchers," Soderberg said. "ATV trails are almost everywhere now." Soderberg also talked about the damage done to the Tower Ski Trail section that is now part of the Prospector Trail system.

Another resident, who is an off-road motorcycle enthusiast, said this area is one of the few remaining places where off-road motorcycles are permitted. He said off-road bikers want relatively rough trails to ride and aren't permitted on the Prospectors Trail.

"We had one challenging trail left that winds around Pine Ridges," he said. "They said it was abandoned and unused, but we had left brush and logs to make it difficult to ride on." That area is now designated as a non-motorized portion of the Pine Ridges trail system.

Breitung Chairman Tim Tomsich said the creation of the Lake Vermilion State Park was viewed by many locals as

a takeaway of the U.S. Steel lands, since many in the community had formerly used that land with little regulation by, or permission from U. S. Steel.

Supervisor Erin Peitso said she favored finding an alternative route for the hiking trail as she was opposed to terminating motorized use on either of the two existing trails.

"If they could find a way to add in a hiking trail that would be great," she said.

A motion to leave the trail system as is passed unanimously.

Kania said they would start scouting a possible new route for a hiking trail to connect to the campground, and come to the board for permission to build it.

## Hoodoo Mckinley paved loop trail

The township should hear by the end of this month if their grant request to the Blandin Foundation for planning and environmental review for completing the "loop" for the Breitung and Tower paved trails. The next step would be applying for funds for the actual construction. A little over a mile of this loop remains undeveloped but would most likely need to be constructed adjacent to the county road between McKinley Park and Hoodoo Point.

## Stuntz Bay road closure

The reconstruction of the Stuntz Bay Road is going to create headaches for lake-access residents for about a week at some point in August, when the road from the community hall to the state park rear entrance will need to be closed. The rest of the construction will be done with one lane of traffic always open. The state park will give permission for lake-access residents to access Stuntz Bay landing through the park, but they will need to request permission from park manager Jim Essig, and access will only be during regular park hours.

The board discussed the best way to inform Stuntz Bay users and will try to get a better idea of the exact dates of construction from the contractors. Information will be mailed to Stuntz Bay users, as well as posted at the landing, and on the township's website and Facebook page.

## Police report

Chief Dan Reing reported on a very busy May. The department focused on seatbelt and speeding enforcement. They are also seeing an increase in ATV traffic and have been responding to some issues relating to ATV use. They are also working with Breitung to identify blight and send notices out to property owners. Reing said they

See BREITUNG, pg. 9B

## Obituaries and Death Notices



## Barbara J. Matts

Barbara Jean "Barb" Matts, 87, of Cook, died peacefully on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at home, surrounded by her family. A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 13 at the Cook Community Center. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Barb was born on March 6, 1937, in Plymouth, Ill., to Roy and Sylvia Ballard. Her family moved to Cook when she was 14 years old. She attended the Cook Schools. She married John Gustafson on Aug. 27, 1953, and they had seven children. After 20 years of marriage, they went their separate ways. Barb married John Matts on July 9, 1977.

Barb worked as a dietary aide at the Cook Community Hospital for 30 years. Family and friends were important to Barb. She and John Matts created special memories with her children and grandchildren on Lake Vermilion - pontoon rides and sauna. Barb was especially proud of her grandchildren and she and John Matts traveled the world to visit their grandchildren serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Barb enjoyed gardening, sewing, knitting, puzzles, playing piano, and most of all, spending time with family and friends sitting out on the deck. Anyone could stop at her house and she'd have sweets and a drink ready to share. Many people created great memories with Barb to cherish forever and she will be deeply missed.

Barbara is survived by her daughters, Beverly McGowen (LeRoy), Sandra Boutto (James) and Sherry Crego; sons, David L Gustafson (Karen), Jeffrey Gustafson (Linda) and Gregory Gustafson (Dawn); grandchildren, Rebecca Sarazine (Mike), Michael Boutto, Eric McGowen (Jessica), Melissa Friederichs (James), Dawn Kehoe (Jason), Kelly Krueger (Jerrod), Mickey Gustafson (Angie), David B. Gustafson (Stefanie), Carrie Brown (Erik), Allen Gustafson (Barbie), Lyssa Tupy, Jessica Landers and Matt Turigney (Jennie); 24 great-grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; brother-in-law, Dennis Matts (Barb); sister-in-law, Karin Ballard; special family, Mike Smith, Gene and Vickie Ballard, Lawrence and Donna Gustafson, Sue and Rick Pliml, Kimberly Matts; and special friend, Audrey Armagost.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Roy and Sylvia Ballard; husband, John Matts; son, John "Butch" Gustafson Jr.; brother, Walter Ballard; and son-in-law, David Crego.



## Lawrence A. Klingsheim

Lawrence Anthony Klingsheim, 33, of Babbitt, died peacefully on the evening of Friday, June 21, 2024. His final days were spent surrounded by family at his home in Babbitt. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, June 28 at the Evangelical Free Church in Embarrass. A gathering for family and friends will

begin one hour prior to the service. Burial will be at the Embarrass Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials. Family services are provided by Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

Lawrence was born on Nov. 29, 1990, in Mora. At the age of 10, Lawrence came to a saving faith in Jesus Christ and in that growing faith, he later dedicated his life to the ministry of the gospel. In pursuit of that calling, he attended Oak Hills Christian College (2013), where he met his wife of 12 years, Ashley, and then attended Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (2015).

He was a gifted preacher, a caring counselor, a talented musician, and a fervent student of theology. Together, Ashley and Lawrence used their gifts to richly bless and faithfully minister to all those in their care. In his years of ministry, Lawrence served at Westgate Church (Youth Pastor), Two Harbors Evangelical Free Church (Pastor), Northern Bible Church (Pastor) and Embarrass Evangelical Free Church (Associate Pastor).

Lawrence found purpose and fulfillment in his God-given role as a faithful husband and loving father. His inquisitive mind and curiosity drove much of his interests and hobbies, but he found greater joy and satisfaction in sharing moments of learning and exploration with his family. He passed on that spirit of curiosity to his children and leaves with them a legacy of steadfast faith, loving care, and courageous leadership.

Lawrence is survived by his loving wife, Ashley; and their five children, Ellie (10), Emma (8), Nora (6), Owen (4) and Maggie (2). As a husband, father, son, brother and uncle, he loved and was dearly loved by all those whom he called family.



## Mark A. Lehto

Mark Alan Lehto, 68, longtime resident of Lake Vermilion-Tower, and formerly of Baxter and Staples, died on Monday, June 17, 2024, at home, of a massive heart attack. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 29 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower. Reverend Joel Guttormson will officiate.

Mark was born on Oct. 18, 1955, in Virginia, the son of Robert and Doris Salmela Lehto. He was raised in Embarrass and was a 1974 graduate of Babbitt High School. Mark earned his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Bemidji State University. Mark was united in marriage to Lynn Dee Jarnstrom on Sept. 8, 1984, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower.

Mark worked as an Industrial Technology/Shop Teacher at Virginia High School and Staples High School. In the early 1980's, Mark purchased the Vermilion Club and extensively remodeled the interior. Mark and Lynn Dee enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, traveling, boating, snowmobiling, and spending time at their cabin on Lake of The Woods at Sioux Narrows, Ontario, Canada.

Mark is survived by his loving wife, Lynn Dee; beloved mother, Doris Lehto of Moorhead, and formerly a lifelong resident of Embarrass; siblings, Craig (Mary Beth) Lehto of Highland Ranch, Colo., Sharon Kangas of Plymouth and Lori Lehto of Madison; nieces and nephews, Nicole Brown, Amanda Lahti, Kristen Kangas, Danielle Kolp, Jackie Lehto, Jen-

nifer Frank, Erik Lehto and Jamie Lehto; lifelong best friend, Bob (Suzie) Kari of Ocoee, Fla., and Bear Island Lake; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Jalmer and Ruth Nelimark Salmela; father, Robert Lehto; and brother-in-law, Herb Kangas.

## Trudi J. Shaw

Trudi J. Shaw, 80, of Soudan, passed away on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth. Funeral arrangements are pending with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

## Karen K. Lind

Karen Kristin Kjera Lind, 85, formerly of Cook, passed away on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at Edgewood Vista Memory Care in Virginia. A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, June 30 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Cook Community Center. Lunch will be served. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Cook Area Food Shelf or Caring Edge Hospice in Virginia.

She is survived by her children, Robyn (James) Anderson and Kristin Zigan; daughter-in-law, Paulette Bober-Lind; brother, Tom Bialke; grandchildren, Sara (Chad) Bohannon, Katie Lind, Jesse (Chelsea) Anderson, Brett (Brittany Bakken) Anderson and Jamie Lind-Christiansen; and great-grandchildren, Aiden, Blake, Asher, Harlow, Sawyer, Bryson and Brandon.

## Laura J. Chelesnik

Laura Jane Zbacnik Chelesnik, 83, of Ely, passed away on Sunday, June 16, 2024, at Essential Health-St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth. A service was held on Friday, June 21 from 6-8 p.m. at Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely. Memorials can be made to the Ely Chapter of the American Cancer Society or the Universi-

ty of Minnesota Baseball Program. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 65 years, Dave Chelesnik Sr. of Ely; son, Steven (Tamarra) and granddaughter, Alex, all of Eden Prairie; sister, Carol Norby; brother, Tom Zbacnik; and in-laws, John and Sandy Chelesnik, all of Ely; and many nieces and nephews.

## Bernard G. Novak

Bernard Gene "Bernie" Novak, 89, lifelong resident of Gheen, passed away in the comfort of his home on Friday, June 21, 2024. He will be deeply missed and forever cherished in memories. There will be no services per his wishes. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Barb Soger Novak; son, Shawn; daughter, Michelle (Joe) Manick; grandchildren, Emilee and Joshua Manick; and great-grandchildren, Addy and Tanner Manick.

## Russell and Theresa Berg

A funeral service for Russell and Theresa Berg, former residents of Eagles Nest Lake, will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, July 5, 2024, in St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower. There will be an informal gathering following the service at the family home on Eagles Nest Lake.

## Wayne E. Cheney

Wayne Edward Cheney, 81, of Cook, passed away on Monday, June 24, 2024. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, July 11 at the Cook Community Center. Visitation will be held one hour prior. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

# EMPLOYMENT

## Position: Comptroller

**Closes: 07/05/2024**

**Position Purpose:** Under the direction of the Chief Financial Officer, the Comptroller supervises assigned staff, performs professional accounting and fiscal analysis in the review and preparation, maintenance, and verification of the Tribe's fiscal and accounting records. Communicates with Tribal directors and staff regarding fiscal and compliance matters.

### Excellent Benefits:

- Single Medical & Dental - Free
- Annual Leave
- Sick Leave
- 401k match
- 15 paid holidays
- Flex Plan
- Life Insurance
- LTD
- Voluntary Benefits available by payroll deduction

**Website Address:** <https://boisforte.com/jobs/>

*Published in the Timberjay, June 14, 21 & 28, 2024*

## JOB OPENING – CITY OF ORR FULL-TIME BARTENDER

The City of Orr is accepting applications for a full-time Bartender at the Orr Municipal Liquor Store. This is a salaried position that includes a competitive benefit package with health insurance, life insurance, vacation, sick leave and retirement. Looking for individuals who can interact with customers in a professional, friendly manner. Must pass background check. The City of Orr is a drug-free workplace and Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications may be picked up at the Orr City Hall, 4429 Hwy 53, Orr, MN, M-F, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, or by contacting orrmn@centurytel.net. Please call City Hall at 218-757-3288 with any questions.

*Published in the Timberjay, June 28 & July 5, 2024*

## 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](mailto:info@vermilioncountry.org) for more information:

Positions and job descriptions are online. Still interviewing/hiring for Special Education Teacher, Dean of Students, School Social Worker (2 openings), paraprofessional, PT Office Assistant, Van Driver. Most positions are benefits-eligible.

<https://vermilioncountry.org/employment>

**For inquiries, contact**  
[info@vermilioncountry.org](mailto:info@vermilioncountry.org) and/or 218-248-2485

## Office Manager for Grace Lutheran Church, Ely

This is a part-time, 20 hours per week, position with a flexible work schedule. Your presence in the office is expected. The pay range is \$15-\$20/hour. Paid holidays, PTO, and sick time are available. A background check is required.

Grace Lutheran is seeking a reliable and detail-oriented person with people skills, office management skills, and the ability to represent Grace Lutheran as a welcoming church.

If interested in applying, please send or drop off a cover letter and resume to Pastor Eric Thiele, Grace Lutheran Church, 301 East Conan St, Ely, MN 55731 or [gracelutheranelymn@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranelymn@gmail.com)

For further information, please contact Pastor Eric Thiele at 218-365-5605. 7/5

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
ST. LOUIS COUNTY  
DISTRICT COURT  
SIXTH DISTRICT  
Court File No:  
69DU-PR-24-182  
Case Type: Formal  
Unsupervised**

Court prior to or raised at the hearing.

If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject of Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

**NOTICE AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

In re the Estate of KELLY ANN JAKUBEK, Deceased

**BY THE COURT:**  
Leslie Beiers  
District Court Judge  
June 3, 2024

Attorney for Personal Representative  
Tracey M. Kayoum  
3150 W 264<sup>th</sup> St.  
Northfield, MN 55057  
Telephone: 507-301-8333

It is ordered and notice is given that on July 16, 2024, at 1:45 p.m., a hearing will be held at Duluth, Minnesota, for the formal adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of: Name: Tracey M. Kayoum Address: 3150 264<sup>th</sup> St. W, Northfield, MN 55057 As Personal Representative of the Estate of Decedent in an unsupervised administration.

*Published in the Timberjay, June 28 and July 5, 2024*

Any objections to the petition should be filed with the

## 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](mailto:clerk.treasurer@cityoftower.com).

Deadline: July 3, 2024.

*Published in the Timberjay, June 21 & 28, 2024*

## 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.

S WUSFO XYJR-WGBOBUSOX

AYIUHXY S UL XG GROYP

UJGFY, AYIUHXY S UL OQY

WYBXGF S TFGN AYXO.

— RBSVU TUQJG

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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. Fake            | ___ _ _ _ Y   | Cell or landline  | ___ _ _ _ E   |
| 2. Confess         | ___ P ___ _   | Give in           | ___ L ___ _   |
| 3. Dapper          | ___ U ___ _   | Remove whiskers   | ___ H ___ _   |
| 4. Goddess of war  | ___ _ _ _ A   | Greek capital     | ___ _ _ _ S   |
| 5. Veranda         | ___ R ___ _   | Kangaroo's pocket | ___ U ___ _   |
| 6. Danube or Tiber | ___ _ _ _ R   | Rosie's pin       | ___ _ _ _ T   |
| 7. Deputy Fife     | ___ _ _ N ___ | Goes with hops    | ___ _ _ L ___ |
| 8. Swamp           | M ___ _ _     | Severe            | H ___ _ _     |
| 9. Forgive         | ___ _ _ D ___ | Singer Dolly      | ___ _ _ T ___ |
| 10. Designate      | ___ _ _ T ___ | Give permission   | ___ _ _ _ W   |

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## CryptoQuip

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

Clue: F equals T

Z'P OIYMPYAUCE FZMOV YR

WJNZIS IY TJMOOM JIV FWAU

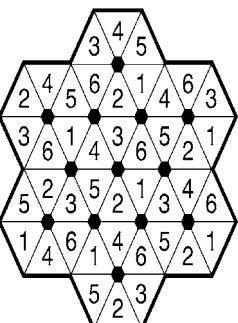
UFMASSCZIS RZIJITZJCCE.

Z IOOV J NYTJFZYI!

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## SNOWFLAKES

solution



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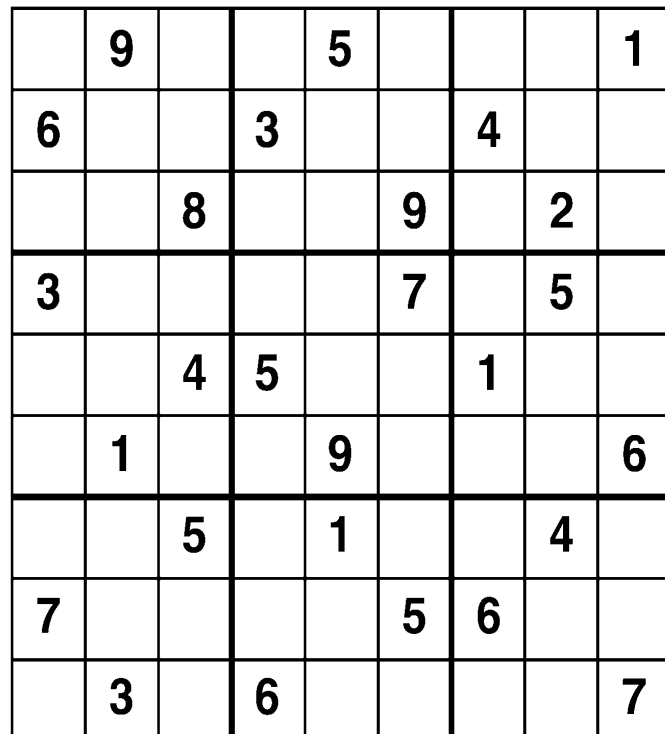
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**Wednesday afternoons**



## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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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# TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

Considerations of personal privacy, time and resources prevent the newspaper from investigating ads placed in the classified section. If you respond to an ad, we urge you to use the same care and prudence that you would use when conducting business in any other situation.

## AUTOMOTIVE

**Langevin Auto & Truck Repair**  
Full Service  
Auto Repair & Garage  
Hours: 8 AM-5 PM M-F  
2 Miles South of Tower  
218-749-0751

## HAIR CARE

DREAMWEAVER SALON & DAY SPA - Open Monday-Friday 8:30 - 6:30. 218-666-5594. tfn

## PET CREMATION

VISIT VermilionPetCremation.com or call 218-780-8069 for pet cremation details and rates.

## Try out the Timberjay classifieds

Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum. Classified ads can be run a second time at half price (private parties only). We now accept payment by Visa, Mastercard, AmEx, and Discover. Call your ad in to 218-753-2950. Display (boxed) classifieds are billed by the "inch"- please call for prices and information on discounts. Call Today - 218-753-2950

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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

## WANTED

SELIGA CANOES WANTED: We'll buy old Seligas in Good Shape. Turn your classic canoe into cash. Call Steve at 365-6745. tfn

## AUTOMOTIVE

2004 GMC SIERRA, 222K miles, good engine, new battery. \$1,234 obo. Call or text 712-899-2527. 6/28nc

## CANOE FOR SALE

30ft. HOMEMADE CANOE- Cedar strip with fiberglass. Located in Mankato. Make an offer, call 507-381-1443. 6/28p

## MOCCASIN POINT MARINE

4655 Moccasin Point Rd  
Lake Vermilion  
218-753-3319

Storage, Boat Rentals,  
Service/Repairs/Sales  
Mechanic on Duty

moccasinpointmarine.com



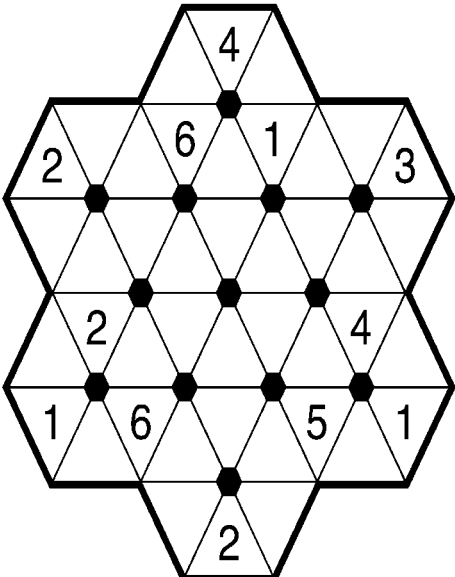
## LOST

BROWN CAMO BAG W/ CLOTHES lost between Soudan and south on Hwy. 169. Reward. Call 218-741-0972. 7/5nc

# 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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## FUNERAL SERVICES

### Range Funeral Home



Virginia 741-1481  
Hibbing 263-3276  
"Friends Helping Friends"

## Weekly SUDOKU

### Answer

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

## Super Crossword

- |                                 |  |   |  |                            |   |
|---------------------------------|--|---|--|----------------------------|---|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                   | 47 Higher-ranking                        | 97 "Auld Lang —"                                | 5 Nickname for Yale University             | 37 Barks shrilly           | 82 Pool cover                             |
| 1 Cha-cha's cousin              | 49 Ballet garb                           | 98 Police alert, for short                      | 6 Adobe file suffix                        | 38 Outer: Prefix           | 84 Bible division                         |
| 6 Chain selling dog chains      | 50 Emergency removal, for short          | 101 Flight travel                               | 7 Sooner than                              | 39 Paint crudely           | 85 Polite request                         |
| 11 Honeycomb unit               | 52 Construction girder                   | 105 Arab leaders                                | 8 Honky- — music                           | 40 Audio equipment brand   | 86 Cube creator                           |
| 15 Molar point                  | 56 Commoners, collectively               | 107 Really cold                                 | 9 Mozart's "— Fan Tutte"                   | 41 With a variety of hues  | 87 Valley                                 |
| 19 Ring around a lagoon         | 58 Transaction of business via e-devices | 108 Sparkly crown                               | 10 Loses one's inhibitions                 | 46 Like sumo stars         | 91 Agra dress                             |
| 20 Sag down                     | 61 Volcano in Japan                      | 109 Fitting retribution                         | 11 Iran- — Affair                          | 48 Ring official           | 94 Blunders                               |
| 21 Medley                       | 63 — Jose                                | 114 Composer Jean-Philippe —                    | 12 Race created by H.G. Wells              | 50 Israeli carrier         | 95 "Got a guess?"                         |
| 22 Concerning                   | 64 "Luck Be a Lady" composer Frank       | 118 Possess with shallow passion                | 13 "The Mod Squad" cop                     | 51 — cava                  | 96 Onset                                  |
| 23 Basketball guarding strategy | 65 Enter                                 | 119 Eight U.S. ones are featured in this puzzle | 14 Amor, for one                           | 53 Once, quaintly          | 98 Reach for the sky                      |
| 25 Not dependent on eyesight    | 69 Work contrasted with a desk job       | 122 Fishing spool                               | 15 Scouted before a heist                  | 54 PC brand                | 99 Gave a buzz                            |
| 27 U.S. Navy petty officers     | 73 To be, in Marseilles                  | 123 Eternally                                   | 16 Loan shark                              | 55 Paltry                  | 100 Belyached                             |
| 28 What a moving body has       | 74 Belly                                 | 124 Verdugo of "Panama Sal"                     | 17 Put on, as a play                       | 57 Part of Babylonia       | 102 Choir platforms                       |
| 30 Massey of movies             | 76 Mao — -tung                           | 125 Art film, often                             | 18 Corals, e.g.                            | 59 Dot in the sea          | 103 Behave                                |
| 33 Lith. was one until 1991     | 77 Investments for later yrs.            | 126 Water swirl                                 | 24 Cain's eldest                           | 60 Erin of "Happy Days"    | 104 Partner of Athos and Porthos          |
| 34 Run for a long football pass | 79 Nickname for Michigan                 | 127 Maple fluids                                | 26 Submitted by the deadline, say          | 62 Custodial worker        | 106 Rome's home                           |
| 35 Gym class                    | 83 Eggnog spice                          | 128 First-string athletic group                 | 29 PC panic button                         | 65 Stare stupidly          | 110 Joe in a mug                          |
| 42 Sts. and aves.               | 88 Typed (in)                            | 129 Ceases                                      | 31 Seagoing: Abbr.                         | 66 Double-reed woodwind    | 111 Lone Star sch.                        |
| 43 Remini of "Fired Up"         | 89 Trial run                             | <b>DOWN</b>                                     | 32 Egg-white protein                       | 67 In a lazy way           | 112 Ancient Brit                          |
| 44 Decorative wheel cover       | 90 Supplies with a staff                 | 1 Labyrinthine                                  | 35 Prune-to-be, perhaps                    | 68 Inventive               | 113 Duel sword                            |
| 45 Put an — (cease)             | 92 Oyster's prize                        | 2 Dip — in the water                            | 36 Acronym for many vacuum cleaner filters | 70 Salt Lake City athletes | 115 Prefix that's the opposite of 38-Down |
|                                 | 93 Cars for VIPs                         | 3 Part of MSG                                   |  | 71 Admin. aide             | 116 "Take — from me"                      |
|                                 | 95 Big arteries                          | 4 Ugly blotches                                 |  | 72 "À —" ("Adieu!")        | 117 Functions                             |
|                                 |  |   |  | 75 Press release packet    | 120 Comedian                              |
|                                 |  |   |  | 78 Have dinner             | Gasteyer                                  |
|                                 |  |   |  | 80 Hawk's home             | 121 Aries' symbol                         |
|                                 |  |   |  | 81 "Famous" cookie guy     |   |

## CryptoQuip answer

I'm enormously tired of having no career and thus struggling financially. I need a vocation!

## CryptoQuote answer

I paint self-portraits because I am so often alone, because I am the person I know best.  
— Frida Kahlo

## Even Exchange answers

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Phony, Phone   | 6. River, Rivet   |
| 2. Repent, Relent | 7. Barney, Barley |
| 3. Suave, Shave   | 8. Marsh, Harsh   |
| 4. Athena, Athens | 9. Pardon, Parton |
| 5. Porch, Pouch   | 10. Allot, Allow  |

## King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

REFI	DID	LTDS						
IRON	ROI	OREO						
PROSPECT	WACO							
ASTERS	TURNON							
TAD	OTIS							
SKI	MEG	ASEAT						
PENN	NAM	ECHO						
FADES	BID	TIN						
IMAC	MIS							
SERENE	OCULUS							
ARES	DESELECT							
RICE	ETA	KALE						
ACTS	SSS	SPAT						



# Spend 4th of July in Tower-Soudan

**Celebrate our Nation's Birthday in Tower-Soudan This Year**

## Parade – July 4th

*Judging begins at 10 a.m. at Tower Civic Center parking lot*

**Parade Marshals**  
Chuck & Nancy Tekautz

**Flag Raising at 10:15 a.m.**  
*at Tower City Hall.*

*Come join us and sing along as the Star Spangled Banner is played by a local musician LuAnn Zaudtke*

## Kiddie Parade at 10:45 a.m.

**Kiddie Parade lines up between UBetcha and the Birch & Main Bldg (across from City Hal.)**

*All participating children will receive \$5, a lanyard, vinyl sticker & flag. All children welcome to come march in the parade.*

*Decorations welcome but not required!*

*Kiddie Parade Gift Bags & Registration starts at 10:30 a.m.*

## Parade starts at 11 a.m.

### Adult Parade Prizes

*Best of Show \$450  
1st \$350 • 2nd \$250 • 3rd \$150  
Best Family Float \$100 • Most Patriotic Float \$100 • Best Business/Commercial \$100*

**Please Pre-Register Parade Floats/ Entries with Jolene Mroszak (218) 255-2131 or tseventsboard@gmail.com**

PLEASE: Do not throw candy from floats, but walkers allowed alongside floats to hand out candy. No silly string or confetti poppers, these get into our water supply!

## Thursday, July 4

### Pancake Breakfast

**Tower Civic Center**  
8 - 10:30 a.m. • \$10 adults, \$5 kids 12 & under  
Pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee  
*Sponsored by the Tower-Soudan Civic Club*

## July 4th

### FOOD, FOOD, FOOD...and more!

#### Benchwarmer Grille

*Cheeseburgers & Fries, (Full Menu Indoors)  
Green Machines, Special Drink Prices.*

#### D'Erick's Beer Garden

*Pulled Pork and Chicken Sandwiches,  
Hot Dogs, Green Machines, Beer, Pop & Water.  
Bloody Mary Garden, Beanbags all weekend.*

#### Sulu's Espresso Cafe

*9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Coffee drinks,  
baked good & scones inside*

#### Good Ol' Days

*Frozen Margaritas, Turkey Legs, Fresh  
Hamburger Patties, Hot dogs, Karaoke & Mini-Bar*

#### Vermilion Club

*Live music from 8 pm - midnight on June 29 with the Lake  
Vermilion All-Stars & on July 6 with Ranger Things.*

#### Tavern in the Bay

*Check out our Facebook page for  
holiday weekend music and specials.*

**Food, Merchandise & Specialty Items welcome.**

**We welcome all vendors.**

**City vendor permits are required.**

## Thursday, July 4th

**41st Vermilion Walk & Run Starts on Main Street • 8 a.m.**  
(Lake Vermilion Cultural Center lawn)

*10K Run- 8:00 a.m. • 5K Run/Walk 8:05 a.m.  
1-Mile Kids Fun Run- 8:15 a.m.*

*Race shirts for sale and Vermilion Run stickers for all participants. Race courses are the same as in 2023. Race will start/end at same spot!*

### Pre-register:

**Pick up a registration form at the Timberjay office or email [jsummit@vermilioncountry.org](mailto:jsummit@vermilioncountry.org) Questions, Call Jodi Summit at (218) 753-2950**

**Register on race day from 6:45-7:45 a.m.**

*10K or 5K \$15 (\$20 on race day)  
Kids Fun Run is FREE • 5K Family Rate is \$40.  
Kids 12 & under race free (5K or 10K) with paid adult.  
Sponsored by Friends of Vermilion Country School and the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board.*

## July 4th Children's Sawdust Scramble & Races

**12:30 p.m. – Sawdust Scramble at the football field (west end)**

*Children's Races at the school field – following the Sawdust Scramble  
Be sure to thank the race volunteers!*

- 6-yard dash ages 2-3 (boys & girls races)
- 10-yard dash ages 4-5 (boys & girls races)
- 20-yard dash ages 6-7 (boys & girls races)
- 50-yard dash ages 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 (boys & girls races)
- Backwards Race (boys & girls races) ages 2-3, 4-5, 6
- Wheelbarrow Race (boys & girls races) ages 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14
- Sack Race (boys & girls races) ages 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14
- **Adult Races:** Prizes for 1st, 2nd, ages 15-25 and 26 & up
- He/She Race, Water Balloon Toss

Actual races subject to change & new races may be added!

**NEW: Car Show at the Civic Center following the parade**

## FIREWORKS ON

### JULY 3 & 6

**At dusk on Big Bay (east end) on July 3 and Niles Bay (west end) on July 6. Please stay 150 ft. from barge launching the fireworks!**

*Fireworks sponsored by Lake Vermilion Resort & Tourism Assn.*

## Saturday, July 6

**from 12 - 3 p.m. Community Picnic Breitung Recreation Area in Soudan**

*Sponsored by Breitung Township  
Free community picnic, hot dogs, popcorn, root beer floats, games and fun for all ages.  
Dunk tank with Police Chief Dan Reing & others.*

**This Tower-Soudan Fourth of July schedule of events has been brought to you by these community-minded businesses:**

- Aronson Boat Works
- Bauman's Vermilion Funeral Home
- Benchwarmer Grille
- Bob's Service & Towing
- Breitung Township
- Brotten Construction
- Como Oil & Propane
- D'Erick's Tower Liquors
- Docks on Wheels
- Embarrass-Vermilion Federal Credit Union
- Fortune Bay Resort Casino
- Frandsen Bank - Tower
- Friends of Vermilion Country School
- Glenmore Resort
- Good Ol' Days
- Gruben's Marina & Village
- Harbor View Spa & Wellness
- Janisch Realty
- Lake Vermilion Houseboats
- Lake Vermilion Cultural Center
- Lamppa Mfg.
- Leanne's Beauty Salon
- Little Green Pantry & Flexspace
- Marjo Motel
- Nordic Home North
- Northern Lights Salon
- Northwoods True Value- Tower
- Pier 77 Mini-Golf
- Pike Bay Lodge
- Pike River Products
- St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Soudan
- Sulu's Espresso Cafe
- The Timberjay
- Tower-Soudan Agency
- Tower Cafe
- UBetcha Antiques & Uffda Thrift
- Vermilion Classic Boatworks
- Vermilion Club
- Vermilion Design Co.
- Vermilion Fuel & Food/ Soudan Store
- Vermilion Land Office
- Vermilion Park Inn
- Vermilion Senior Living
- Vermilion Storage
- Vermilion Roofing
- Y Store
- Your Boat Club
- Zup's Grocery - Tower

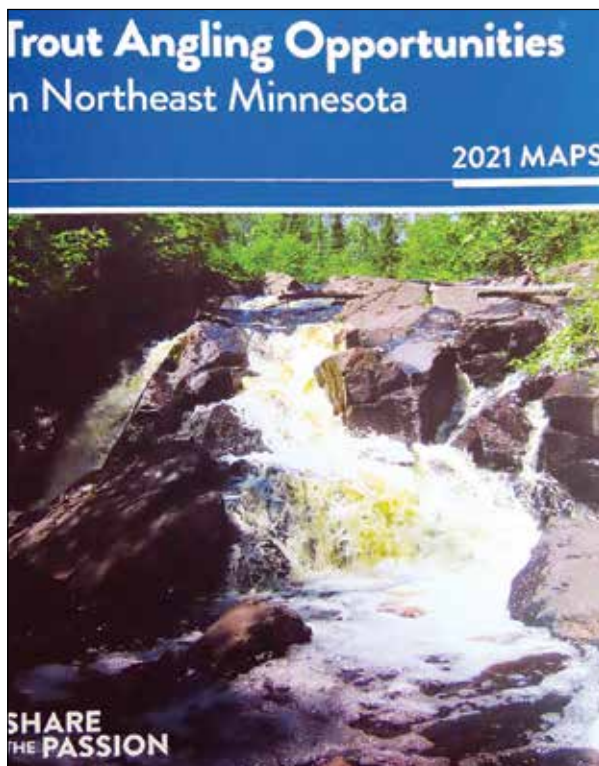
ELY FIELD NATURALISTS

# Nature nights talk in Ely to focus on trout management

ELY- On Wednesday, July 3, the first 2024 Nature Nights program, sponsored by the Ely Field Naturalists, will be presented by Tower Area Fisheries Supervisor, Keith Reeves. This free talk will be held at Minnesota North College, 1900 E. Camp St., Ely at 6:30 p.m. in Classroom CL 104.

Minnesota manages fish through regional fisheries offices and then into local area fisheries field offices. Lakes and rivers with fish and wildlife populations are of great interest and value in the Tower area which covers much of the Vermilion Range and Rainy Rivers Headwaters. This Nature Nights program will focus on trout streams and lakes. How many people can name the five trout found in our area?

Trout may be in large or small lakes and in streams and rivers. Which trout is native to the Tower area? What trout are stocked and surveyed and managed in what are often referred to as "stream trout lakes?" How many lakes in the Tower Fisher-



ies area are "stream trout lakes" and can you name them?

Reeves will present a slide show and provide information on the ecology, fish and management that make these lakes special. There will be resources and handouts available including posters of Minnesota Fish.

This program is free

with donations to the Ely Field Naturalists welcomed. Join in exploring and learning about life on the Vermilion Range, in the Rainy Rivers Headwaters, north of the Laurentian Divide.

## BREITUNG...Continued from page 5B

understand that mowing may be difficult due to the wet soils. The department had two arrests in May, an adult male arrested for disorderly conduct, and a juvenile male arrested on a felony warrant. They also issued 12 citations for driving after suspension, driving after revocation, five speeding citations including one for driving 92 in a 60 mph zone, and two for driving over 80 mph in a 60 zone. Four citations were issued for no seat belts.

### Other business

In other business, the town board:

- Heard from maintenance supervisor Tom Gorsma about work being done to repair damage from the flooding. Gorsma will work with township engineer John Jamnick to document damage and costs of repairs, which hopefully

will be reimbursed by state and federal emergency funding. Jamnick said they may need to look at upgrading infrastructure that was damaged, to help prevent similar damage from future storms.

- Set the continuation of the annual meeting (to set the levy) for Thursday, Aug. 15 at 7 p.m., following the regular board meeting.

- Discussed a proposed new ordinance on wastewater. The board is forwarding the ordinance to the water commission to make some changes.

- Heard a complaint about excessive speed from vehicles and ATVs on Jasper St.

- Heard an update on work to expand the wastewater ponds. Soil testing will be underway soon to see if there is a suitable site. Plant manager Matt Tichel and Tower Council Member Josh Zika toured two rapid infiltration

treatment plants in other parts of the state. Tichel said both were happy with the systems, which are a lower-cost treatment option compared to adding an additional treatment pond.

- Accepted a donation from Tower-Soudan Agency for the community picnic, as well as formally accepting donations from Friends of Bear Hunter Anderson, and Tower-Soudan Little League, to purchase two memorial benches and trees.



### Physical Therapy Clinics in Floodwood, Tower & Duluth

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#### For questions, contact:

Stephanie Maki

Chief Human Resources Officer

218-666-6220

smaki@cookhospital.org

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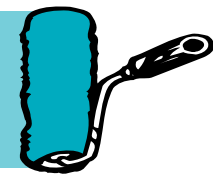
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**EBCH**  
Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital  
**Hospital Connection**  
EMS Survey IV  
**Q: Did EBCH complete this study because they have a "problem" with EAAS?**  
**A:** No. The EBCH Board commissioned the local EMS study based on two main factors.  
1.) Patient Care —The EBCH Emergency Department Physicians were incredibly concerned about being able to transport their patients to a higher level of care via ground transportation when needed. Since COVID, they have experienced a significant decrease in response times and the availability of local crews to take transports. EBCH's Chief Medical Officer (CMO) shared these concerns with the EBCH Administration and Board.  
2.) Sustainability —The current ambulance system across the region must be comprehensively restructured. Evidence nationwide consistently shows that EMS services are closing, highlighting the urgent need for reform to prevent system collapse.  
**Q: Why was Ely TV not allowed to film the EMS presentation?**  
**A:** Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital paid for and owns the presentation. The event at the Senior Center was intended to be held in person so individuals could hear firsthand the information presented in its original context. EBCH was not notified in advance of the meeting that Ely TV wished to be present, nor was it made aware that the Ely City Council had called a special meeting to allow for all council members to attend. Copies of the PowerPoint presentation are available upon request by visiting our website at [www.ebch.org/contact/](http://www.ebch.org/contact/). A video of the presentation should be available soon.  
**Q: What are the next steps?**  
**A:** Each community should talk with their EMS organization to discuss the potential consolidation into a regional service managed by a central agency. The discussions should include how we can best serve the communities we are responsible for and how we can provide the highest level of patient care.  
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](http://www.ebch.org). Like our Facebook page to keep up with current events and announcements.  
ebch.org  
328 W Conan St.  
Ely, MN 55731  
218-365-3271  
Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital is committed to caring for and enhancing the health and well being of the community it serves.



# HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



**Happy Birthday America**  
and enjoy the July 4th weekend everyone!

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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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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