

Inside: Blueberry festival starts soon... See /3 Don't miss the rodeo... See /3Taking care in the cemetery... See /1B Henpecked and bothered... See /2B

TIMBERJAY Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989 VOL. 35, ISSUE 28 July 19, 2024

THE BWCAW

State to sell 80,000 acres of school trust lands

DNR and USFS cancel longstanding plan for a land exchange

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL- The U.S. Forest Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources have abandoned their longstanding effort to engineer a massive land exchange for approximately 80,000 acres of state school trust property located within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Instead, the DNR is now asking the forest service to purchase the land, for an as-yet undetermined amount of money. The sale, which is expected to be completed over the next two years, would allow the state to generate revenue for the state's school trust lands, which provide an ongoing source of funding for Minnesota schools.

"The resolution of this longstand-

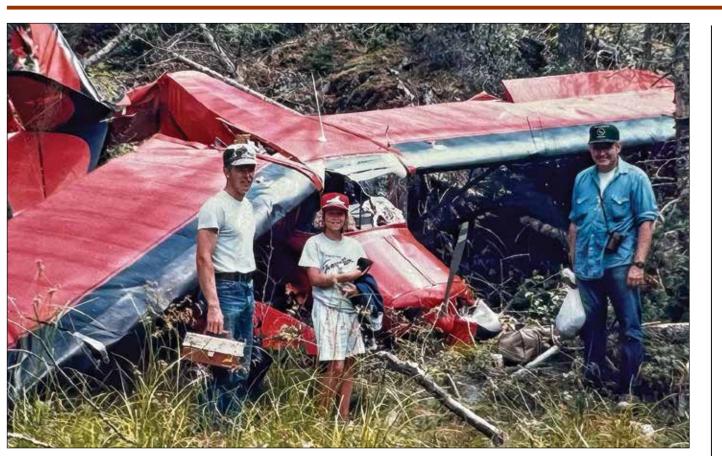
Right: Paddlers in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. file photo

ing land management issue is a major win for Minnesota's public-school students," said Aaron Vande Linde, director of the state's office of school trust lands. "The project's culmina-

See...LANDS pg. 9



\$1⁵⁰



FILLING IN THE DETAILS

Cook dental clinic on the road to recovery

FLOOD IMPACTS

by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

COOK - As Scenic Rivers Health Services CEO Keith Harvey has learned the hard way, there are two truisms related to floods - a little water can do a lot of damage, and recovery takes longer than expected.

The Scenic Rivers Dental Clinic on River St. had only three to four inches of water in the building, Harvey told the Timberjay on Tuesday, but the damage was extensive and will be expensive to repair.

"It pretty much just destroyed the flooring, and took a lot of the walls out," he said, "but the biggest thing is it damaged our dental equipment. The vast majority of our dental equipment is not salvageable.' Working closely with dental equipment supplier Patterson Dental, the damage assessment was grim. While the water didn't rise high enough to infiltrate the seats of the dental chairs, the bases were submerged, causing damage to critical electrical components. While four remain functional, Harvey said, all will have to be replaced over time. The sterilization equipment was a complete loss, and the cabinetry, some of it essential for housing components of the suction

Giving thanks for a long-ago rescue

Former game warden Lloyd Steen and a friend responded when a small plane went down

CITY OF ELY

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Thirty-seven years ago, a float plane carrying a father and his ten-year-old daughter fell from the sky and crashed in Voyageurs National Park.

Last week, that now grown-up girl made a softer and far happier landing in the heart of one of the men who rescued her that day.

Former game warden Lloyd Steen and his wife Glenda were waiting on the front porch of their home in Ray last Thursday

morning for the arrival of Jennifer Vändersøl, who made the long trip from her North Carolina home to meet Steen in person for the first time since fate unexpectedly brought them together on July 10, 1987 beside the crumpled wreckage of a red single-engine Taylorcraft float plane. Their plane had just crashed near Loiten Lake, about three miles northeast of the Ellsworth Rock Gardens.

After exchanging joyful long hugs, Vändersøl and the Steen adjourned to the kitchen, where the conversation flowed warmly and freely for nearly three hours, covering far more than just memories of the plane crash and rescue as they learned about each other's families, careers, and more.

Going fishing

Fishing was uppermost in the minds of both Steen and Vändersøl on that fateful Friday.

Vändersøl and her rescuers, game father, Delano Skeim, were

See...THANKS pg. 10

Above: Tenyear-old Jennifer Vändersøl stands in front of the mangled wreckage of her father's float plane in Voyageurs **National Park** in 1987 with her warden Lloyd Steen, left, and Tom Carlstrom.

See...CLINIC pg. 12

Council weighs support for ECR LaTourell's named 2024 Ely Volunteers of the Year

by CATIE CLARK Ely Editor

ELY- The city council here, on Tuesday, agreed to consider a request for onetime financial assistance from Ely Community Resource, to help them through their tem-

porary financial bottleneck. The nonprofit group provides afterschool activities, summer programs, student mentoring, homework help, basic needs support, and other youth programming. It is one of Ely's oldest service organizations, founded in 1978.

As ECR explained in its letter to the council, "The state determined to redirect much of its youth program funding into a newly formed department. Unfortunately for ECR and many other youth programs in

See...COUNCIL pg. 9

Right: Bob and Alison LaTourell, owners of LaTourell's Resort and **Outfitters on Moose** Lake, were named the 2024 Ely Volunteers of the Year for their many years of work and support on behalf of the Ely Hoop Club and Ely's basketball teams. They are pictured at right after accepting the honor.

photo by C. Clark





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Community notices

Road construction on Stuntz Bay Rd. in August, road closures, delays expected

BREITUNG TWP- Stuntz Bay Road, which provides access to Stuntz Bay landing and boathouses is in need of major road work, and contractors estimate that this work will be taking place in August. Stuntz Bay Road will be closed to all traffic for a period of up to one continuous week during the month of August – exact dates are still to be determined. People should also expect delays and one-way traffic while the road is being repaired throughout the month of August. The Township of Breitung will make every effort to provide notice of these dates as soon as possible; notice will be made in local newspapers (if possible), at www.breitungtownship.org, and on Facebook at Breitung Township MN.

United Way to host two golf events

REGIONAL- United Way of Northeastern MN invites you to two golf-themed events next month. On Aug. 1 at 6 p.m., UWNEMN is putting on a \$10,000 golf ball drop at Eshquaguma Country Club. Ticket holders are invited to the club to see 1,000 golf balls dropped on to the course, determining cash prize winners. All proceeds benefit UWNEMN's Buddy Backpacks program. \$20 tickets still available; call or text 218-295-2424 for more information.

On Aug. 8, UWNEMN is hosting Veterans Connections at Greens on Foreteenth on at 4 p.m. Local Veterans, servicemembers, and their families are invited for a free round of mini golf and dinner courtesy of United Way of Northeastern Minnesota's United for Veterans program. Limit four golfers per hole. Advance registration required; register at www. unitedwaynemn.org/ufv-minigolf.

Minnesota North College removes non-resident tuition rates

HIBBING- Minnesota North College has announced the removal of non-resident tuition rates for the 2024-2025 academic year. This means that all students, regardless of their state of residence, will now pay tuition rates that are no more than resident students. However, students from reciprocity states such as Wisconsin, North Dakota, Manitoba, Canada, and those that fall under the tuition adjustment with Ontario, Canada per the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board Policy, may still benefit from existing agreements that allow students to receive reduced tuition rates as long as they comply and are approved through current application processes.

South Dakota has announced their intent to terminate the Minnesota-South Dakota Public Higher Education Reciprocity Agreement beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year. South Dakota students currently enrolled at Minnesota North under the program shall continue to receive the reciprocity rate in order to complete the degree program in which they are enrolled at the date of termination.

In the 2023-24 academic year, there were 364 non-resident, non-reciprocity students at Minnesota North College who were affected by this non-resident tuition differential.

For more information about Minnesota North College, please contact Annika Freiburger at annika. freiburger@minnesotanorth.edu.

Ely Watercolor Club show end on July 21

ELY- Members of the Ely Watercolor Club will present hundreds of their paintings, gift bags, and greeting cards this summer at the Miner's Dry building on Wednesday, July 17, through Sunday, July 21, from 10 a.m to 5:30 p.m. Their paintings include a great variety of subjects and techniques and have held the interest of the public over the years. The 2023 show had over 1,200 guests perusing nearly 1,000 works of varied subjects and techniques.

New pedal pontoon cruises open on Lake Vermilion

RECREATION

TOWER- Footloose Cycle Cruise held an open house on Wednesday, July 10, at Fortune Bay Resort Casino's Marina from 3-6 p.m. for complimentary 20-minute cruises on Lake Vermilion on their new pedal pontoon "Ariel." The open house showcased a new partnership between Footloose Cycle Cruise and Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

"This one-of-a-kind lake cruising adventure features a stunning 35foot cycle cruise boat, boasting 12 pedal stations that propel a 6-foot pedal wheel," said Footloose owner Bill Cox. "With certified captains at the helm, passengers can enjoy the ride worry-free while taking in the beautiful surroundings."

And if you prefer to kick back and not pedal, no worries—the vessel has a four-stroke 70 horsepower motor to take you on a memorable cruise on Lake Vermilion.

Footloose Cycle Cruise and Fortune Bay Resort Casino staff have been busy booking group tours leading up to the open house. "We've already had

several inquiries, plus our



"Ariel" was captained by Christine Schlotec on Wednesday, July 10, with her first mate Kyle Littlewolf. photo by S. Roeser

sales team is pitching the Footloose Cycle Cruise to groups that are coming up north," said Fortune Bay's Brian K. Anderson. "We even have a bachelor party that wants to try it out, so we think this partnership will be a win-win for both of us."

The Footloose Cycle Cruise is fully equipped with a 16-foot glossy bar that includes several builtin ice coolers, USB ports for charging devices, and vibrant LED-lit cup holders. Guests can enjoy the 100-watt stereo system and speakers, which connect directly to Bluetooth devices, allowing passengers to control their music while they enjoy frosty beverages and food from Fortune Bay Resort Casino's culinary team.

Guests have the option to pre-purchase delicious food and drinks through the Footloose Cycle Cruise website. Fortune Bay Resort Casino's team will deliver food and beverages directly to the boat, ensuring convenience and enjoyment throughout your cruise experience. For the safety and comfort of all guests, only non-glass beverage containers are allowed onboard. This ensures a secure environment while you have fun on the water.

"Footloose Cycle Cruise caters to everyone from ages 6 years old and up who want to cruise Lake Vermilion," Cox said. "The cruises are perfect for corporate events, parties, celebrations, and anyone interested in exploring the lake in a fun and unique way."

For more information about Footloose Cycle Cruise, visit their website at www. footloosecyclecruise.com.

LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER

Crystal singing bowl concert at cultural center in Tower on Aug. 1

TOWER- Sara Alexander will perform a crystal singing bowl concert at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center on Aug. 1 at 7 p.m.

Alexander is a multi-instrumentalist who performs and teaches music in northern Minnesota. She uses seven singing bowls, a wind gong, Koshi chimes, a steel pan drum and other relaxing instruments during the sound bath.

Participants may bring a yoga mat, pillow or blanket. A freewill donation will be accepted as admission.

The LVCC is dedicated to community enrichment through education and the arts by offering quality programming and providing opportunities to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the

area. To learn more about the LVCC or to donate, visit their website vermilionculturalcenter.org.

This unique musical experience is set for Thursday, Aug. 1 at the cultural center in Tower. submitted



They group meets monthly at Fransden Bank to share recent work and plan the big exhibit and sale.



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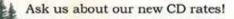
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SUMMER EVENTS

Operation Blueberry starts on July 25

ELY- The excitement is building as the 44th annual Blueberry/Art Festival approaches. This year's festival features 237 booths filled with artists, crafters, and makers, plus a couple of favorite attractions, such as the International Wolf Center and North American Bear Center.

Festival hours are 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, July 26-27, and 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 28. The festival map and vendor list will be available online at Ely.org on the Events page and will also be published in the *Timberjay's* July 26 issue.

Operation Blueberry starts on Thursday, July 25, and runs through Sunday, July 28, in the storefront businesses. Operation Blueberry starts a day ahead of the festival so our visiting vendors can have time to shop. There are sales, special events, and featured products as part of the Operation Blueberry business event. A map with participating stores is available on the ely.org website on the Blueberry/Art Festival page.

This year's festival features many long-time favorites, including Raucous Jewelry, Bear



A vendor at the 2023 Blueberry/Art Festival making giant bubbles. file photo

Island Art Factory, Keepsakes, and Jim the Carver. Some new vendors are Lakota Made, Moonlight Musings Studio, Dug Designs, and Polly Noll Pottery. These are just some of the new and returning vendors. You never know who you might see.

The food court features Bob-B-Que, Becky's Oriental, SB Concessions, and many other favorites. The food court is full of delicious offerings and the Ely Fire Department will host the beer tent, plus have their pork chops on a stick and other savory favorites. The Kiwanis are in the Pavilion dishing delicious pie (blueberry of course), coffee, ice cream, and other treats.

"We have a new layout for the park's southern end that creates a better flow than last year," said Kristen Switajewski, festival coordinator. "We also have a new kid's section near the playground. We have Frozen Tundra with cold beverages, bobas and cotton candy, Minnesota Marshmallows, kids book authors, hand-crafted toys, and more."

Another new feature is a Parent Station sponsored by the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. The nursing and diaper change station allows parents a quiet, shaded area for feeding and changing infants and toddlers. The tent is located at the intersection of the park walkways and will be marked with banners.

"There are changes to our booth judging. In the past, we only reviewed art and craft vendors and did not have maker or marketplace categories. We do this year," Said Switajewski. "In addition, we have an option for the public to select their favorite food vendor using QR Code voting. Food vendor voting closes on Saturday, July 27 at 5 p.m., and awards are announced on Sunday morning."

A final addition to the festival includes a People's Choice – Best of Show award. The public can purchase a People's Choice Judge button and ballot for \$5. A portion of the proceeds go to the top three artist, crafter, maker, or marketplace vendors. Each ballot has three spots to list the judge's favorites. Voting ends at 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 27. Awards will be announced on Sunday morning.

Watch for the *Timberjay's* special Blueberry/Art Festival section in our July 26 paper, on the newstand on July 25.

North Star Stampede returns for 69th annual event

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

EFFIE- The countdown is on for the 69th annual North Star Stampede the weekend of July 26-28 in Effie. It's the country's oldest family-run rodeo continuously operating in the same arena, and this year promises another full slate of rodeo excitement for the whole family.

Preparations have been somewhat hampered by frequent rains this summer, but organizer Cimarron Pitzen assures fans and riders alike that everything will be in top notch condition when the event has its unofficial kickoff on Thursday, July 25 with the slack competition beginning at noon.

"We're a little bit behind, but we're getting there," Pitzen said on Tuesday. "The arena is starting to dry up, the campground is starting to dry up, so we'll be in good shape."

After the stampede begins in earnest on Friday at 5 p.m. with the colorful cavalcade of horses and flags, spectators will be treated to a full three-day slate of traditional events, including around 75 bronc riders and 80 bull riders who have

signed up for the event.

"That's how many we've got entered, of course there's no guarantee they're all going to show up," Pitzen said.

The North Star Stampede typically draws top riders from throughout the Midwest, and they'll have some new challenges to face this year as Pitzen has brought in a number of new broncs.

"I picked up several new broncs since last year out in Grassy Butte, N.D., down in Oklahoma City at the big bucking horse sale and out in Miles City, Mont. this spring," Pitzen said.

Pitzen leases his bulls for the stampede from 3T Bucking Bulls, another family-owned business, and expects there will be a few new additions to that stock as well.

Adding to the fun this year will be award-winning rodeo clown John "Lefty" Kee of Park Hills, Mo. Drawing on the comedic traditions of the Red Skelton Show and Hee Haw, Kee bills himself as an old-school rodeo clown who "puts on his baggies, applies his makeup, and keeps the crowd entertained."

Folks will find everything they've come to love about the stampede, with a couple of fan-friendly additions this



The featured ring entertainer at this year's North Star Stampede in Effie will be award-winning rodeo clown John "Lefty" Kee of Missouri. courtesy photo

year. Pitzen said that traffic flow will be improved with a new entrance for spectators that's separate from the one used for the campground. And campers with three-day passes have the option to leave some of their food behind as a hearty breakfast menu will be available on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 8-11 a.m. to complement the usual dining options available during stampede sessions. People should be prepared to pay cash for items purchased from vendors at the event, as electronic payments aren't available at the site.

"Other than that, it's the same old rodeo," Pitzen said. "I've been doing it for so long now everybody knows what's going on."

Single day admission is \$18 for adults and \$10 for children ages six to 13. Three-day passes, which are required for campers, are \$45 for adults and \$20 for children. Friday evening's session will start at 5 p.m., while festivities on Saturday and Sunday will begin at 2 p.m. The rodeo is located about two miles north of Effie on Itasca Co. Rd. 5.

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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

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More information please

The lack of details on hospital's ambulance proposal won't help the idea advance

The Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital Board deserves credit for commissioning the analysis by SafeTech Solutions exploring alternative methods for administering area ambulance services. While the one-time state funding approved this year by the Legislature has helped backfill recent financial losses in Tower and Ely and a number of other ambulance services in the region, it won't address the ongoing gap between the payments the ambulance services receive and the expenses of operating those services.

That's why an informed discussion of alternatives is certainly worthwhile.

SafeTech's proposal for a regionalized service capable of consistently providing advanced life support is worthwhile as far as it goes.

Consolidation of services has long been touted as a cure-all, but such approaches have yielded mixed results, and it's not clear how consolidation of an ambulance service provides substantial cost savings. School consolidations typically involve closure of community schools and bussing students long distances to a centralized facility, but that's not a viable option for an ambulance service in a rural area like ours since response time is so critical when it comes to emergency medical services. That means maintaining ambulance halls and staffing in each community is critical.

The proposal by SafeTech envisions halls in Ely, Tower, and Babbitt, each staffed with an EMT and a paramedic. That's good, but the plan would seemingly more than double the payroll costs associated with the Tower and Babbitt services. With Tower already operating in the red and Babbitt running just above break-even, it's unclear how an enormous jump in payroll expenses is financially viable.

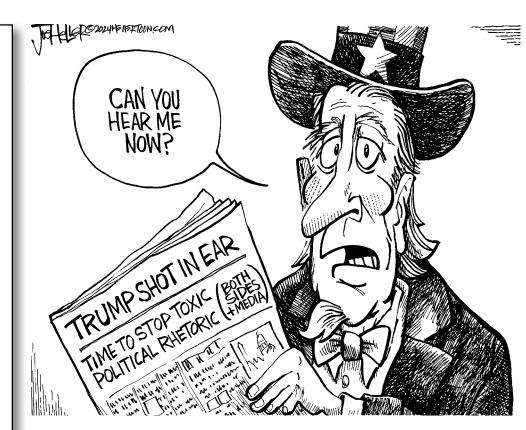
SafeTech argues that a threeway consolidation of Ely, Tower, and Babbitt, and a new ambulance entity run from the Elv hospital, could help cover those costs through a higher reimbursement for Medicare-qualified runs. Ambulance services operated by critical access hospitals, like Ely-Bloomenson, can qualify for reimbursement at 101 percent of reasonable costs if there is no other ambulance service within 35 miles. But that qualifier would only apply if all three communities agree to a merger. That's far from a guarantee at this point.

qualified for the higher Medicare reimbursement, how much additional revenue will it generate than at current reimbursement rates? How many ambulances would the service keep stationed at the various halls? How many additional inter-hospital transfers would be needed to fill the funding gap? If, as seems likely, a merged system is unable to operate in the black, who fills the funding gap? Unlike Cook, Ely-Bloomenson doesn't currently have a hospital district that it can levy against to cover funding shortfalls. Is that something that might be proposed as part of a funding package for a new merged ambulance system?

These are the kinds of questions that are typically addressed with the release of a study because such proposals would normally come with detailed financial projections and assumptions. It was disappointing that neither the study nor the financial projections were made available during a public presentation of the plan last month. Ely-Bloomenson's requirement that the presentation not be filmed or broadcast over local access television was highly unusual.

We reached out to hospital officials last week hoping to get more information about the proposal but were told: "There isn't more information to share. Conversations will be to decide if the communities are willing to move forward with a regional approach. Then next steps will be determined."

That's disappointing. While there is certainly some willingness in the three communities to sit down and discuss the proposal, there is a recognition that the information presented to date is far too sketchy at this point for any community to make a decision on whether to move forward. If the hospital isn't willing to provide more information as part of any discussions surrounding the proposal, it seems unlikely to advance. As we reported last week, officials in Babbitt were mostly cool to openly opposed to participating in a regional system given that their ambulance service still operates in the black. Without Babbitt, the entire model proposed by SafeTech is a non-starter since the service would not see enhanced Medicare reimbursement. As SafeTech noted, there is already an element of mistrust between some of the key parties involved in emergency medical services in the area. The hospital's unwillingness to release information critical to any reasonable assessment of the proposal isn't the way to rebuild that trust.



Letters from Readers

Paradise.

Mr. Johnson

lesson

needs a history

In the July 5 issue of

the Timberjay, Mr. Johnson

expresses anger at the U.S.

for many things, including

the deaths of Palestinians in

Gaza. However, Mr. John-

son is pointing his finger in

the wrong direction. The

responsibility for deaths

in Gaza lies primarily with

Hamas, the rulers of Gaza

since 2007, who used bil-

lions in foreign aid not to

improve the lives of their

people, but rather to dig

tunnels, buy rockets and

other weapons, and prepare

for a war that would ensure

the deaths of many women

and children as part of their

strategy to stoke outrage in

the international commu-

nity and calls for Israel to

stop defending itself. It is

Hamas, not the U.S. or the

Israeli Defense Force, that is

committing the war crimes

terest in improving the lives

of Palestinians in Gaza, as

Hamas has no real in-

that cause those deaths.

How does one defend itself against such an enemy? Israel does it by working hard and risking the lives of its own soldiers to minimize casualties among non-combatants. The allegation of "genocide" is absurd in the extreme. According to John Spencer, Chair of Urban Warfare Studies at West Point, who has analyzed the verifiable figures on deaths in Gaza, the IDF has used extreme caution and has achieved an unprecedented low number of civilian to combatant casualties. In warfare, even when the enemy doesn't intentionally imperil its own civilians, it is common for there to be nine civilian deaths for each combatant killed. In Gaza, the figure is around 1.0-1.5 according to Spencer's analysis

Mr. Johnson also mischaracterizes what happened in 1948 and parrots the Palestinian narrative. The idea that the "Palestinians" (basically Arabs who lived, or whose ancestors lived, in what was once designated the Palestinian Mandate of Great Britain) had their land stolen to create the state of Israel is factually incorrect. Arabs living within that mandate never experienced sovereignty or had a state of their own. They lived mainly in tribal bands alongside Jews in the area. The area had been the homeland of the Jews for about 3,000 years, and although most of the Jews were expelled by force from time to time, some always remained there. When Great Britain

and the U.N. decided to create a Jewish homeland, they designated a small area for Israel and gave most of the mandate to the Arabs, creating the Kingdom of Jordan. In 1948, 32 percent of the population of the mandate were Jews, and most of them lived in the area that was designated for Israel. While the Jews accepted this small bit of land, the Arabs did not, and waged war to drive out the Jews. They failed. The creation of the state of Israel was legitimate in that: (1) It was accepted by international agreement, (2) was defended by the citizens, and (3) the citizens improved the land, created a viable economy, and a stable, democratic government. There is no clearer way to establish a legitimate state.

What we have here is a land dispute, with both Jews and Arabs claiming rights to the same territory. But that was settled decisively in 1948, just never accepted by the Palestinians, who to this day continue to insist that all of the territory, including all Israel is rightfully theirs. Charles Marsden Elv

While the study makes a reasonable starting point for discussions, many unanswered questions remain. Even if a merged system

proven by their behavior since taking control in 2007. Their goal is not an independent Palestinian state. Their 1988 founding charter explains Hamas is committed to Holy War aimed at killing Jews, destruction of the state of Israel, and killing or driving from the area any Jews who remain. As explained in interviews with Hamas fighters, they are prepared to die for Allah and to have their wives and children die because they will have the blessing of going straight to

We welcome your letters

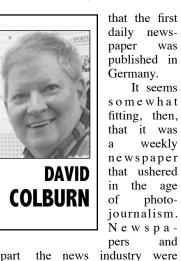
The Timberjay encourages letters to the editor. You can submit letters by mail at PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790, or email letters to marshall@timberjay.com.

COMMENTARY

Could a photojournalist have changed the course of history?

Readers of Timberjay the and other weekly newspapers may not realize it, but every time they open our pages, via the print edition or online, they're reaching back to the beginning very of journalism as we know it today. The very first modern newspapers were week-

lies, due in no small part to the tedious process involved in producing them. Handwritten weekly periodicals appeared in Italy as early as 1566, while those produced with moveable type printing presses began to flourish in the early 1600s. It wasn't until 1650



an engraving painstakingly reproduced by etching the photo on a wooden block. Photojournalism really came into its own in the early 20th century with advances in both cameras and photo reproduction technology.

was

It seems

weekly

the age

photo-

and

were

forever changed on July

1, 1848 when the weekly

French newspaper L'Illus-

tration printed a photo of

barricades in the streets of

Paris to accompany a story

about the June Days upris-

ings. The image wasn't the

photo itself but was rather

It is impossible today to imagine a significant news story that isn't accompanied by photos that place the reader in the midst of the story itself, conveying as only pictures can, the real-time events, and most importantly, the emotions that accompany them. And those pictures are conveyed to us in real time through video broadcasts and in almost real time by photos than can be uploaded to the internet within moments after capture with a digital camera.

Some images are so impactful that they have changed history. Take two iconic photos from the Vietnam War era as examples. Intensely emotional photos showing Mary Ann Vecchio screaming beside the body of Jeffrey Miller, a student who was shot by the National Guard during a protest at Kent State University, and a young Vietnamese girl, Phan Thi Kim Phuc, running naked down a road after being severely burned by napalm, intensified and solidified the anti-war sentiment in the U.S. that contributed to the war's end.

Photojournalists don't seek to change history, they're there only to document it, but the potential for an image to shift the perceptions of the public in a meaningful way is always present. Who would argue that the images of George Floyd pinned to the ground by Derek Chauvin's knee on his neck, taken by a bystander but widely circulated by the press, didn't inflame the civil unrest that followed? Floyd was surely not the first Black man who died from a fateful encounter with a white officer, but the images made this incident all too real.

This past weekend, Associated Press photographer Evan Vucci was in position to snap what has fast become one of the most iconic photos in American political history, his stunning shot of Donald Trump immediately after his attempted assassination in Pennsylvania on Saturday.

Among all of the pho-

tos captured in the stunning moments after the shots were fired, Vucci's photo is from a photographic standpoint the most perfect of them all. A bloodied but defiant Trump standing in a crowd of Secret Service agents with his fist upraised dominates the foreground, while a waving American flag fills the right third of the photo. The framing of Trump against the deep blue sky between the angular lines of the flagpole and flag couldn't have been imagined any better if this had been a staged studio shot rather than a candid photo taken in the moment. The Atlantic's Tyler Austin Harper echoed many of his journalism colleagues,

See HISTORY....pg. 5

COMMENTARY

Ely Braver Angels attempts to bridge the political divide

So how about that presidential debate?! Did that add to your peace of mind about the upcoming election? Did you think, "Well, no matter who wins, we'll still have a functioning government and maybe there will be better choices in four years?" Did you get excited about casting your vote for your favorite candidate?

Or are you among the 87-percent of Americans who say our presidential campaign does not make them proud of our country? Are you tired of the exaggerated, inflammatory, polarizing language that is characteristic of America's political campaigns? Do you wish the candidates would spend less time, energy, and money blaming one another for the challenges America faces and more time talking about how they will collaborate with the other side to find solutions?

Or perhaps you firmly believe "your" side has the solutions and nothing about "their" side is worth considering. Whether you are conservative or liberal in your political outlook, do you view your side as absolutely right and the others as absolutely wrong? Are you certain that if the other



JOHNNA HYDE

side wins, America will be in big trouble and may cease to function as the democracy that has seen us through wars, economic hardship, and political corruption in the past? Are you more

fearful than hopeful? Have you found calm only by withdrawing from political conversation, social media posts, and even some family and friends?

As you consider these questions and your own position regarding today's political climate, think for a moment how it would feel to have a respectful conversation that led to someone with whom you disagree understanding your hopes and fears. They really listen to what you're saying, your story, your history, what led you to the beliefs you hold. They ask questions, not to challenge you, but to better understand your thoughts and feelings.

You feel safe with them and curious about why the two of you are on different sides, so you ask them to share their hopes and fears. Instead of challenging their beliefs, you ask about their upbringing, education, and what

news outlets they use, seeking to figure out how they came to their opinions. As the conversation winds down, you both realize that, in spite of having very different ideas, you both care deeply about the injustices you see around you, the values your kids are developing, and the area's emergency services economic troubles.

On these topics, and perhaps a few others you'll consider later, you have areas of agreement that could create workable solutions. You decide to have further discussions after consulting with other citizens involved in these areas. You go to the next ambulance meeting. They ask a school board member about the policy on parental rights regarding curriculum. You both volunteer for a shift at the food shelf to see if you can learn more about the cause of economic inequities.

All right - that sounds a little pie-in-the-sky for one conversation, no matter how civil. But increase it to several conversations over a couple months and it's more realistic. Expand that to more people having dozens of conversations over a year, with the people becoming more comfortable with hot topics, better at listening to opposing views, and more engaged in civic matters, and you have a base for some positive changes in the community- a reduction of rancor and polarization and an upward spiral of citizen engagement and civic renewal.

In Ely, this is the goal of the Ely Braver Angels Alliance. In spite of hearing people on both sides say things like "I can't even be in the same room with those people," Braver Angels is encouraging Ely citizens to talk respectfully to each other about controversial topics on which they disagree, to listen with the simple goal of understanding, and to let go of any desire to change the other person's mind. That's not easy. Americans are out of practice. Even casual conversation has given way to sound bites on social media; and opinions on hot topics are expressed by clever memes that can be read in three seconds or less.

Conversations with substance that touch on strongly-held convictions between people with different perspectives too often end in slammed doors, damaged relationships, and a vow never to talk about such things again. Braver Angels is helping people learn to engage without the rancor. Through practical workshops, creating a safe place to

share opinions and practice listening, and facilitated discussions, people who have attended the Ely Braver Angels gatherings have learned skills to delve into such issues as abortion, the media, and voting methods. It may sound serious, but there is a lot of laughter and camaraderie, as well as homemade cookies.

The next Ely Braver Angels event is a Happy Hour (actually two hours) at SamZ Place (1225 Winton Rd, Ely) on July 24, 5-7 p.m. to simply socialize with some of "those people" who are on "the other side." Admission, food, and beer is free. There will be a fish fry, door prizes, corn hole and other lawn games. The goal is to meet one another, have a good time, and not take ourselves too seriously.

If you want to learn more about Braver Angels, visit the national organization's website at BraverAngels.org. You'll find helpful hints for interacting with family and friends, ways to become aware of your own polarization, and podcasts, film discussions, and much more to help you bring hope back to your political positions.

Liberals are the primary purveyors of violence in the U.S.

In his Oval Office address to the nation, Biden said, "We can't allow this violence to be normalized." Vice President Harris was raising money to bail out and defend BLM terrorists who created mayhem while burning down and looting businesses in Minneapolis. Democrats gave liberal rioters a pass when they attacked and occupied federal buildings or destroyed police headquarters or created illegal autonomous zones in cities.

I could delineate gaslighting comments by Corey Booker, Maxine Waters, and other Democrats. It is the Democrat liberal left that harasses, intimidates, and threatens conservative SCOTUS jusOval Office speech did not include what he personally was going to do to stop his own political rancor and smearing half of America or the violence inducing attacks on "former" Trump. He did say (twice) the decision for the future of America should be decided at the "battle" box.

We can continue Trump trashing and Biden bashing or we can, as a community, come together for civil dialogue about our politics. I previously gave a personal invite to the publisher and editor of this publication and now all of you to come to a Braver Angels gathering for civil dialogue on all subjects.

We have a Braver Angels social gathering planned for Wednesday, July 24 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Samz Place just outside of Winton with free beer, a fish fry, finger food, and healthy non-accusatory conversations. Though, obviously I am a rare conservative voice at the Timberjay, I hope that more conservatives feel comfortable enough to come. However, the offer is for everyone, including left and right leaning, purple centrists, ultra-liberals and Ultra-MAGA's, everyone is welcome!

mained unclear as of our deadline and, as is sometimes the case with political assassinations, may not have been politically motivated at all.

the shooter's motives re-

A false god is convincing many of his lies

Even as the former was just shot at, his first words were, 'fight, fight, fight,' with raised fist. One other dead and two wounded as a Republican 20-year-old shooter attempted to take out the ex-President. Now, what importance shall be placed on *this* incident? Shall we call it 'fake news,' as is so often referred to of the Jan. 6 events? Just a regular day at a typical political rally? The situation at the Capitol, propelled by the felonious executive, we are to believe was a walk in the park. This recent act of violence, by a single shooter- could be compared, although not equally, to the vicious Jan. 6 attack which intended to reverse the results of the Biden election, to find and kill Nancy Pelosi and Vice President Pence. So many dignitaries first claimed it as an insurrection then reversed their assessment to just an ordinary day in Washington, though the true unlawful nature of it was recorded and can be seen on YouTube in all its vicious reality! Therefore, let's just suggest that the little nip to the former's ear be considered retribution, the result of the violence he promotes daily and somehow then predictably attributes to his opponent, the current President.

More Letters...

But of course, no – I suspect much more will be placed on the value of the former's golden ear than that of anyone threatened or harmed on Jan. 6, or at this rally. Why is that?

Madness reigns now in politics. We no longer know what is true. Denial makes anything reversible. The former president and his supporters wish to claim this country as their own with little respect for anyone who disagrees. As voters we need to evaluate all, before we vote in November. Do we wish to welcome in a leader who pals with questionable world figures? How will our lives change with the dictates of the 922 pages of Project 2025?

Having never really thought about the meaning of "You shall have no gods before me," the first of the Ten Commandments, it seems a false god is convincing many that greed and untruths are acceptable. It is a pity what is occurring; as voters we have the option to correct the situation. **Cecilia Rolando** Ely

executive orders and agency regulations that could be used to quickly implement the policies that the project is advocating once Trump takes office." (Source: https://www.reuters.com/ world/us/project-2025what-is-it-who-is-behindit-how-is-it-connectedtrump-2024-07-12/)

Who's responsible for Project 2025?

"The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, stepped up efforts to boost its Project 2025 initiative by ramping up grants to the venture aimed at creating a 'government-in-waiting' for the next Republican presidential administration, according to a new tax filing.

"The foundation distributed over \$1.67 million in grants in 2022 - including a total of \$965,000 to organizations on the advisory board of Project 2025, tax records show. These donations accounted for 58 percent of Heritage's total grant-making in 2022. It also distribut-

ed \$400,000 to its political arm, Heritage Action America." (Source: for https://www.nbcnews.com/ politics/2024-election/ donations-surged-groupslinked-conservative-project-2025-rcna125638)

The plan replaces civil servants with 20,000 carefully vetted, politically chosen employees who do not need Congressional confirmation and will be loyal to and answerable only to the president—one who is now immune from prosecution for wrongdoing for any official acts.

Most of Project 2025 doesn't depend on Congress to pass laws. Its aim is to radically expand executive control. That can be done without the approval of Congress. All it takes is a president who has disdain for the rule of law, scorn for principles of basic morality, and lacks human decency.

So, it should be clear that this playbook is tailor-made for Trump.

Leah Rogne Gheen

tices.

Unity president Biden says to tone down rhetoric when on July 8 he said, "We are done talking about the debate. It is time to put Trump in a bullseye," with his staff passing along the quote to journalists, viewing this as part of the Biden campaign message and not another gaffe. Biden calls half of America a threat to democracy and that Trump is going to destroy democracy. Democrats call Trump a Nazi and Hitler.

Now, Democrat politicians are aghast somehow that someone took action based on their rhetoric in an attempt to assassinate President Trump?

Biden's disappointing

Mike Banovetz Ely Chapter of **Braver Angels**

Editor's Note: As of this writing, there is NO evidence that the individual who shot former President Trump was motivated in any way by the rhetoric of the Biden campaign. Mr. Banovetz is engaging in reckless speculation when he claims otherwise. Despite intense investigation,

How Project 2025 could harm America

If you haven't heard about Project 2025, here's a short primer about the reactionary playbook for the next GOP administration.

Global news agency Reuters, states:

"At its heart, Project 2025 is a series of detailed policy proposals put together by hundreds of high-profile conservatives that the project's participants hope Trump adopts if elected. Behind the scenes, the project's affiliates are drafting

HISTORY...Cont. from page 4

wrote, "However you feel about the man at its center, it is undeniably one of the great compositions in U.S. photographic history."

And it's not hyperbole when Philip Kennicott, the senior art and architecture critic for The Washington Post, wrote, "It is a photograph that could change America forever."

Indeed, within hours after the shooting, the image began popping up on merchandise in online stores, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and mugs galore with captions such as "Bullet Proof," "Fight," and "Legends Never Die." Never mind that Vucci and the AP own the rights to the photo

- when has copyright ever gotten in the way of swiping a news photo to make a few bucks? Shirtmakers in China were even getting in on the frenzy.

galvanizing Beyond Trump's already extreme MAGA base, the image will serve as a rallying point for Republicans throughout the rest of the campaign. It's all too easy to envision this image being central to a late October/early November get out the vote push for Republicans, and in a tight election where every vote matters, it's entirely plausible that this image could tip the scales in Trump's favor, forever changing American history.

And the image takes on even greater significance at a time when the Biden campaign is reeling from the deluge of images showing the president as fragile and bewildered in the aftermath of his disastrous debate performance. Like it or not, Vucci's image evokes feelings of power, strength, and vitality, qualities Democrats are deeply concerned about with Biden as they consider dumping him for another candidate.

Trump already stood to benefit from the traditional post-convention boost in the polls this week, and the assassination attempt alone will likely amplify that. But you can surely bet that

Trump will be shown at the convention with Vucci's photo as a prominent backdrop, adding to the frenzied excitement of the delegates and potential voters. Going second, the Democratic convention will likely tip the polls back in their nominee's direction, but with Trump already holding an edge in most polls, will it be enough to make a difference?

It's said a picture is worth a thousand words. Is this picture worth thousands of votes? Only time will tell, but surely this is an image that won't disappear for decades to come.

ŤIMBERJAY

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TOWER-SOUDAN LOCAL NEWS

Week of July 22

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. New location in the old St. James Church bulding. Next food shelf day is Aug. 20. 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.



TSHS weekly winner

TOWER- The Week 51 winner of a \$100 cash prize of the Charlemagne's 52 Club is Kevin Norby of Tower.

History Tidbit: Friday, Aug. 1, 1884, had been designated by mining company president Charlemagne Tower, Jr., as the date when the first train would make its run immediately following completion of the laying of the single track. However, widespread superstition at the time considered Friday to be bad luck, and Thursday, July 31, was given the signal honor.

Children's Day at **Tower Farmers** Market on Friday, July 26

TOWER- The Tower Farmers Market will host their annual children's day on Friday, July 26 from 4-6 p.m. LuAnn Zuadtke will be hosting karaoke. Children are invited to come in costume, and there will be prizes for the best children's and adult's costume.

St. Paul's VBS set for Aug. 5-8

SOUDAN- St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church will host Vacation Bible School on Monday through Thursday, Aug. 5-8, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. each day for all area children ages 4-13. Counselors from Camp Onomia will be leading four days of music, crafts, and fun. Snacks and lunch provided. Sponsored by St. Paul's and Soudan Baptist churches. Preregistration is apprecicated by calling 218-753-3047.

TRADITION

Old Settlers Picnic set for Saturday, July 20

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. Booyah is a beef, pork, and vegetable stew, cooked outdoors over a wood fire in huge cast iron pots that are over 100 years old. Booyah is served until it runs out, so don't be late.

Volunteers assemble the afternoon before the picnic to chop up the hundreds of pounds of potatoes, cabbage, carrots, celery, onions, and green peppers that go into the pots.

Memberships are \$10 and can be pur-

chased the day of the picnic. Each membership gets you and your family the best booyah one can imagine, along with bread and butter and coffee. Families round out the meal with their own picnic fixings and desserts. Attendees need to bring a pot to put their steaming hot booyah in, and their own bowls and dinnerware. Families are welcome to bring their own folding table and chairs, but there is also plenty of picnic style seating available under shaded pavilions.

Take-outs are available, but the fun of the day is staying for the picnic, live music, and raffles.

FOURTH OF JULY

Membership in Old Settlers is open to anyone born or living on the Vermilion Iron Range. Guests are also welcome at \$10 per person. Old Settlers is an annual tradition, started back in the day when the mining company put on a day-long event for the mine employees and their families.

Cold drinks can be purchased at the campground store. Children will be able to try out the brand-new playground equipment. McKinley Park also has a swimming beach, changing rooms, and showers.



Tower-Soudan Fourth of July children's races results

Boys 8-9: Micah Van Egndom, Owen

Girls 8-9: Allie Vesel, Emma Overbye, Ta-

Boys 10-11: George Rofido, Hollis Collier,

Girls 10-11: Mariah Johnson, Brenless

Boys 12-13: Isaac Licari, Aiden Luuk-

Girls 12-13: Addison Lobe, Ingrid Huber,

Boys 14-15: Kaston Clarke, Robbie Beutz,

Girls 14-15: Aubrie Takanen, Zoe Amborn,

Boys 7-8: Knox Roseland, PJ Goodsky,

Girls 7-8: Tayah Stellmach, Eveleyn Riihi-

Boys 9-10: Kai Standish, Tyler Peterson,

Girls 9-10: Allie Vesel, Flora Erickson

Boys 11-12: Louis Fink, Thomas Stell-

Girls 11-12: Ellie Licari, Mariah Johnson,

Boys 13-14: Nate Crow, Luke Toll, Dalton

Girls 13-14: Ingrid Huber, Gigi Rosati,

50-Yard Dash

Rumpl, Holden Clarke

Hackenmueller, Jacy Meinzer

konen, Dalton Hutchinson

yah Stellmach

Behr Schroeder

Bella Raj

Nate Crow

Etta Woodford

Luke Hampson

Will Peterson

Addison Lobe

Etta Woodford

Hutchinson

Sack Race

luoma, Everest Peters

Christian, Emma Overbye

mach, Cameron Greenwaldt

TOWER- There was a great turnout this year for the sawdust scramble and children's races after the Fourth of July parade. Winners listed in order, first, second, third. All winners received cash prizes.

Please excuse any name misspellings, winners were all handwritten immediately after each race...

6-Yard Dash

- Boys 2-3: Rudy Dehmer, Lucas Vraa, Callahan Larson
- Girls 2-3: June Wycoff, Cora Boes, Hadley Smith

Backwards Race

- Boys 2-3: Finn Suihkonen, Jackson Kepler, Nicholas Sheehan
- Girls 2-3: Hadley Smith, Eva Scherer, Isla Swanson
- Boys 4-5: Jack Siebert, Wyatt Dehmer, Penn Anderson
- Girls 4-5: Emery Roseland, Emma Purkat, Sawyer Suihkonen
- Boys 6: Hudson Kosiek, Braydan Kralich, Brooks Anderson
- Girls 6: Deim Dreemwaldt, Shayla Howard, Colpie Stellmach **10-Yard Dash**
- Boys 4-5: Leif Lamppa, Wyatt Dehmar, Jack Siebert
- Girls 4-5: Emma Purkat, Emery Roseland, Layla Vraa

20-Yard Dash

- Boys 6-7: David Beutz, PJ Goodsky, Boone Wachlaronicz
 - Girls 6-7: Norah Zubke, Harper Olson,

Wheelbarrow Boys 7-8: Luke Hampson & Ellis Oliver, Vincent Vesel & David Beutz, Finn Bennett & Gavin Bialke & Cara Santelli Lincoln Bennett

Girls 7-8: Evelyn Riihiluoma & Sara Lossing, Noelle Dietz & Stella Siebert, Ellie Semo & Seija Snyder

Boys 9-10: Bode Hutchinson & Cormac Oliver, Kai Standish & Ayden Davris, Cade Jorgenson & Jay Lobe

Girls 9-10: Emma Overbye & Ellie Licari, Hailey Omuim & Emmi Clow, Elizabeth Beutz & Liv Hampson

boys 11-12: Lachlan Robideau & Charlie Loftus, Harrison Rosch & George Rofidahl, Ryden Amborn & Ethan Ziegler

Girls 11-12: Addison Lobe & Olivia Jorgenson, Lauren Pettinelli & Ada Osmundson, Lauren Hampson & Autumn Ulmer

Boys 13-14: Ian Crow & Nate Crow, Luke Toll & Noah Toll, Dalton Hutchinson & Cameron Burgess

Girls 13-14: Amelia Osmundson & Anna Pettinelli, Lucy Rofidal & Ingrid Huber, Gigi Rosati & Charlottte Rosata

Adult 50-Yard Dash

- Men 15-25: Noah Lamson, Owen Lamson Women 15-25: Ava Fink, Allison Fink
- Men 26+: Garrett Lamppa, Adam Kugel Women 26+: Amanda Trunzon, Leah Er-

ickson He/She Sack Race

- Ages15-25: Kensie Moeckel & Noah Toll,
- Ava Fink & Jace Westebur
- Ages 26+: Regina Kugel & Adam Kugel, Greg Dietz & Alanna Dietz
- Water Balloon Toss
- Ages 15-25: Ava Fink & Jace Westerbur, Emily Majerle & Caston Clark

Ages 26+: Amanda Trunzo & Jeff Standish,

Free community meal at Immanuel

TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran Church is hosting a free community meal on Wednesday, July 24 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., or until the food is gone. The meal this month is shredded pork, coleslaw, and buns. Dine-in or carry-outs available.

Ice cream social in **Embarrass July 21**

EMBARRASS- The Embarrass Fair Association is hosting a free ice cream social on Sunday, July 21 from 1-3 p.m. at Timber Hall. There will also be a blood drive from $12 \operatorname{noon} - 3 \operatorname{p.m.}$, with the Memorial Blood Center bloodmobile at the Timber Hall parking lot. Schedule your appointment online at www.mbc.org/searchdrives with sponsor code 5046, or by contacting bonnie_overton@yahoo. com or 218-780-3058 to schedule your donation.

BREITUNG COMMUNITY PICNIC



Above: Amelia, Zoey, and Paisley Koski. **Right: Tori Tomsich at the** Tower parade. Below: Aili Rauk got a huge balloon sculpture flower from Chimpy Tuominen.







This year's Breitung Community Picnic featured family fun plus a very popular dunk tank. Above: Fire department member Brian Zak got dunked by his daughter Amelie. Left: Brooklynn Jensen served up a selection of orange and root beer floats. photos by J. Summit

In Brief

Tuesday Group

NEW BUSINESS IN ELY Nostalgia Antiques and Thrift

by CATIE CLARK Ely Editor

ELY- The retail space at the corner of Second Ave. and Sheridan St. is back open as Nostalgia Antiques and Thrift. Curt Miles, the building owner and the shop's proprietor, says he's long been a fan of collectibles and antiques.

"I'm motivated to collect things that I enjoy," he said. "I buy estate sales and unique items. I've collected all over the world, which is why you'll see things in my shop from all over, especially Asia." Before opening Nostalgia, Miles sold antiques and collectibles at Ubetcha Antiques & Uffda Gifts in Tower.

The new store is packed with a wide range of interesting items, including used clothes, artwork, antique fishing lures, games, old books, old kitchen wares, dishes, household collectibles, and over 25,000 records. The store is split into two halves, with the front half dedicated to antiques and collectibles. The back half is a thrift store.

"The way the thrift portion works is I will donate the proceeds of the thrift sales to a different Ely area nonprofit every month," Miles explained. "The store needs donations. But don't leave any donations on the sidewalk. Bring them inside, please.



Owner Curt Miles inside his new Ely retail store, Nostalgia Antiques and Thrift at 204 E. Sheridan St. photo by C. Clark

Anyone bringing donations to the thrift half of the store will receive coupons for money off their purchases."

Nostalgia is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day except Wednesday through the first week of August. The store will then close temporarily and reopen in March.

World traveler

While Nostalgia is closed, Miles will be at his house in Manila with his family. "I have a wife and a six-year-old in the Philippines. She's pregnant and has a birth date in September." While Miles is in Manila, he will also be working on the visa paperwork he needs to bring his family to Ely. "Everything dealing with visas has become so slow since the pandemic," Miles remarked. "What used to take months now takes two to three years."

Miles should know about visas and traveling because he has traveled around the world in his previous career in the film and television industry.

Miles grew up in St. Louis, Mo. He graduated from UCLA in 1994, then studied at the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts. Based out of the Los Angeles area, Miles then traveled the world "working on the camera and sound side of the business."

He also worked as a producer of television shows, including the "Small Town Secrets" show for the Country Music Television channel. "I've filmed a lot of big bands in concert, inclding Fleetwood Mac and Bon Jovi."

Moving to Ely

Miles wanted to make a change when the COVID-19 pandemic arrived and ultimately decided that Ely was where he wanted to live. As a Boy Scout leader, he had been bringing his scouts up to the Northern Tier High Adventure Scout Base for over a decade before he moved here.

"I've been coming up here in the summer with the scouts for years," Miles said, attracted by Ely's small-town ambiance and natural surroundings.

When he made the move to Ely, Miles didn't just come to live, he invested. "I own this and several other buildings in town," he explained. "I'm also remodeling two houses in Ely."

For now, Miles is running Nostalgia on his own. He doesn't plan on hiring help at the store until he returns in March. While newly opened, the store has been busy this summer, according to Miles. "My first week was insane," he said.



Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

➤ July 23: Info session about the McKnight Artist Fellowship Program with Dana Kassel and Melanie Pankau

→July 30: Paul Helstrom, Renewable Energy Program Lead at Minnesota Power



search for blueberries but first june berries and such

fruits of rain and warmth

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: 218-8	27-3345

Support groups



AROUND TOWN



Left: Bob Hendrickson (left) of the Grand Ely Lodge pulls the winning raffle ticket from the ticket cage manned by Rob

Wilmunen of the Ely Event Events Group at the drawing of the group's Independence Week Raffle on July 15. The winner of the \$5,000 raffle prize is Nancy Przybylski of Ely. Right: Ann Glover performs at Open Mic Night on Tuesday at Ely's Historic State Theater. The theater is hosting a free open mic every Tuesday evening from 5:30-7:30 p.m. through Aug. 27. photos by C. Clark

Free Live Music

ELY- Ely's Historic State Theater, at the corner of Third and Sheridan, will continue its series of free live music events throughout July. All events will start at 5:30 p.m. On Friday, July 19, the theater will host Marshmallow Chaos. On Friday, July 26, the Shagawa Shorty Threesome will perform. Ely's ever popular Irene Hartfield is on the roster for Thursday, Aug. 1, followed by Aaron Kaercher & Friends on Friday, Aug. 2. On Friday, Aug. 9, Ely's Chickadee-dee-dee trio will perform.

Open Mic Nights

ELY- Ely's Historic State Theater, 238 E. Sheridan, holds an open mic night every Tuesday evening from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Come bring your stuff and perform. This event runs through Aug. 27.

Ely City Band

ELY- Now on its 135th season, the Ely City Band has two more performances this summer, for free, at Whiteside Park. The band will play on Tuesday, July 23, and again on Tuesday, July 30. Both performances will be at 6 p.m. The July 30 performance will feature the premier of a new composition for wind trio and band, commissioned by the nationally acclaimed Sonora Winds from Minneapolis.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Free Beer and Fish Fry

WINTON- The Ely chapter of the Braver Angel's Alliance is throwing a get-together fish fry with free beer at SamZ Place, 1225 Winton Rd., on Wednesday, July 24, from 5-7 p.m. The event will also feature "snacks, a raffle, games, and conversation."

Blueberry Bazaar

ELY- The Ely Senior Center, 27 S. First Ave. E., will host a 20 vendor craft bazaar with a bake sale and raffles on Friday and Saturday, July 26-27, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days.

Donuts at Dorothy's

ELY- The Dorothy Molter Museum will hold its "Donuts at Dorothy's" open house on Sunday, July 28, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. with free admission to the museum all day. The open house will serve baked goods donated by Brainstorm Bakery with Ely's own Gene Hick's Gourmet Coffee.

The Hub Open House

ELY- The Ely Area Community Foundation will host an open house for its new community building, The Hub, located at 760 Miners Dr., on July 31, beginning at 4 p.m. The event will include music, food trucks, and a formal ribbon cutting at 5:15 p.m.

Ely Public Library

ELY- The spice for July is turmeric. Pick up a spice sample and recipes, available while supplies last.

The July take-and-make project is a paper lantern, available while supplies last.

The library will host an afternoon of board games for all ages on Friday, July 19, from 1-3 p.m. Bring a game you love to play or try something different with games provided by the library.

The library will host a "kid tested, parent approved, and teacher recommended" concert by Will Hale and the Tadpole Parade on Monday, July 22, at 3 p.m. This activity is for all ages and features fun audience participation.

The Library Scientists group will meet on Thursday, July 25, from 11 a.m.-noon to explore sound waves. Using hands-on experiments, learn how you can "see" sound happen and use sound to estimate distances. This activity is for all ages with adult help. Register in advance for this event so the library can order enough supplies for participants.

The library will host peregrine falcon researcher Jackie Fallon and her live falcons in council chambers across the street at Ely City Hall, on Wednesday, July 31, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. This activity is for ages seven and older. Adults do not need to come with a kid if they want to attend. Don't forget a camera.

The library will hold on online Kahoot trivia game on the first four books of L. M. Montgomery's classic Anne of Green Gables books. The Kahoot will start at 3 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 1, and end at 8 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 5. Register in advance so the library can email the link to the game.

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.

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.

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 by close-of business on the Tuesday the week before the event takes place for a free notice. 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 pretest 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.

LOOKING FOR RELIEF

Questions, not answers, at Cook business flood meeting Frustration simmers to the top in IRRR information gathering session

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Local business owners who came to a meeting on Tuesday at Cook Community Center looking for thus far elusive answers to the question of what financial assistance is available for their flood-ravaged establishments left only with a promise that help would be on the way soon.

To be sure, the meeting announcement circulated on social media encouraged business owners "to meet with staff members from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation to discuss your recovery needs," and said nothing about assistance programs, but with only promises of help in their pockets nearly a month after the flood, many came expecting to hear about assistance they could apply for now. But the meeting was intended instead to be a listening session for the IRRR reps to gather information about the extent of damages that they can use to develop the agency's plans for future assistance.

In addition to the five IRRR staffers at the meeting, representatives of the Entrepreneurship Fund, a Duluth-based lending organization, the Small Business Development Office, and state Sen. Grant Hauschild's office were also on hand to get a better handle on what assistance business owners need.

"We're here to talk a little bit about on the business end what kind of program we may have," said Matt Sjoberg, IRRR Executive Director of Development. "The first step, of course, is to ascertain where the needs are to come up with some sort of a program. We don't know what it looks like right now. That's why we're here today to listen

to you."

Before moving into meeting individually with business owners, Sjoberg asked if there were any questions. After a brief pause, Guy Albertson was

the first to speak. "I do have a question," he said. "At this point, you have nothing set up, you have no program set up, and there's no single point of resource for people to go to because you don't have a plan. Is that correct?"

"Correct," Sjoberg responded. "This is the first step, to determine where the needs are. The commissioner (Ida Rukavina) is very motivated to help, and whatever form that takes would likely require a meeting of the IRRR board, and the commissioner is ready to call a special meeting once we determine both on the business end and the community end what the needs are."

Albertson noted that people had filled out forms several weeks ago for the county asking what their needs were, and that given past disasters in the state, there should be some sort of a plan in place already.

"You'd think there would be a template, as opposed to sending roughly ten people up here to find out what the problem is," he said. "From my standpoint, that's the biggest disappointment, that there's still no planning. Normally when something happens you develop a plan so the next time it happens you have a plan for how you're going to attack it."

Chris Ismil, another IRRR representative, responded.

"We're trying to gather (information) because what you need is different than what he needs, and we need to understand that so that we don't create a cookie cutter response that goes 'Here's our pro-



Cook business owners listen to a panel of agency representatives respond to questions at a Tuesday meeting facilitated by the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation to get information about the need for flood relief assistance in Cook. photo by D. Colburn

gram' and it helps only two businesses instead of ten businesses," he said.

As Hauschild's legislative assistant Jamie Hysjulien commented about research she's been doing to identify possible federal assistance programs, it became clear that there was confusion about what information businesses owners needed to be reporting to what agencies. Hysjulien's remarks gave the impression that in addition to the county reporting form, damage reports should be made to FEMA and to the state's emergency center.

"I'm using those reports right now to try to research what different programs we have and how we can plug different things in, and what you reported to FEMA is what we're going to use," she said.

Albertson gave voice to the confusion that was clearly rippling through the crowd.

"You're telling me now that there's three reportings that we should have filled out and I only filled out the one," he said. "We don't all know where to go to and there's no one-stop shop, there's no clear instructions. That's a major problem. Nobody knows how to do anything."

"I'm not sure whether or not the one you did with St. Louis County is already connected to FEMA now," Hysjulien said. "I'm trying to learn as much as I can."

Sjoberg noted that the IRRR was venturing into foreign territory when it comes to flood relief assistance.

"I can tell you that I've been with the agency for 34 years now and this is certainly unprecedented as far as number one, the disaster, and number two the agency's response," he said. "We've never had anything like this in the last three and a half decades."

Ismil reinforced the point.

"This is foreign to us because it's just nothing we have dealt with," he said. "It's a journey for us and were just getting started and getting into it, too, with anything we can get. We need to know exactly what you need to be operational. Are you closing your doors permanently, or no, we're going to stay open but we

need this kind of help." Ismil also said that unlike other government agencies, the IRRR is "nimble" and can respond faster to needs.

"This isn't a three months later you're going to hear from us," he said. "If there's going to be a program to help, we can turn that around pretty quick. The commissioner will call an emergency meeting and we'll get things approved."

Another audience member tried to provide some context for the collective sense of discouragement.

"We're expressing frustration to you because we're not able to get any answers from anyone else," they said. "That form that we filled out for the tax abatement was a very minor form, and I don't know how they could come up with a total number (for a damage estimate) based on the information they would take from that. I don't think we're trying to yell at you guys, but I think there's frustration because I don't think we're all sure where we're going."

Sjoberg tried to give a bit more information

about what business owners might expect from the IRRR.

"Just to temper expectations, the agency is not set up to make grants to businesses," he said. "Our grants typically are run through a municipality and those are for infrastructure type things. This is a very unique situation. In all likelihood, any kind of program that we have would be a loan payment program with very good terms."

Northland Small Business Development Center Regional Director Vicki Hagberg told attendees that their consultants can be helping hands as business owners navigate the uncharted course through the maze of getting assistance. She said they can not only assist with calculating physical damage to property, but also with estimating the economic toll of losing business during the peak of tourism season.

"It's all the information hopefully that you're going to need in one spot," she said. "We can't do it for you, but we can help guide you through that process. We're all going to help you out, we're all going to make sure that you get paired up with the resources you need to help. This is our community, too, and we're here to help."

At that point the meeting transitioned into individual meetings with business owners, who answered a prepared set of questions to provide the information the IRRR was seeking.

Another IRRR-sponsored meeting will be held next week, this one for community stakeholders to assess needs for public assistance, which will almost surely be another target for IRRR assistance.

SD 2142 will restrict student cellphone use

REGIONAL- ISD 2142 St. Louis County Schools students and parents are being given time to prepare for a policy change that may come as a shock to some and relief to others – students won't have access to their cellphones for most of the school day when classes resume in September.

The ISD 2142 school board signed off on the basic policy at its June regular meeting, and Superintendent Reggie Engebritson said on Tuesday that more details will be worked out when district principals return to work in August. Parents will receive the completed policy by mid-August, Engebritson said.

What's known about the change can be found in a notice to parents posted to the social media pages of the district's schools. Students will not be allowed to use or have cellphones out during class or instructional activities but may use them during lunch.

The rationale for the policy is to minimize the impact of cell phone use on student behavior, mental health, and academic achievement. The notice referenced research showing that excessive phone use affects concentration, increases negative behaviors, and harms mental health.

Last spring the Minnesota Legislature passed an education bill that included a provision that all school districts must adopt a cellphone policy by Spring 2025, although it did not prescribe what should be in the policy. Model policies are being developed by principal associations, but school districts will not be required to adopt them.

Propane bids

Board members reviewed and approved propane fuel bids for the upcoming school year, once again having to settle for higher prices at schools with tanks the district does not own.

Ferrellgas owns the tanks at Cherry and Tower-Soudan, and other companies won't bid on those sites, by default relieving Ferrellgas from submitting a competitive bid.

The district will pay Ferrellgas \$1.19 per gallon for propane at Cherry and T-S, 14 cents per gallon higher than at the district's other three attendance centers. Superior Fuel submitted the winning low bid for South Ridge at \$1.047 per gallon. Lakes Gas was the low bidder for service at North Woods and Northeast Range at \$1.05 per gallon.

In other business, the board:

► Approved over three dozen policy revisions recommended by the Minnesota School Boards Assocation to align with changes in laws from the last legislative session.

► Approved resolutions for memberships in the Minnesota State High School League.

Adopted a resolution encouraging the state to expand broadband accees to reach more of the district's students and families.

► Hired Sydney Webb as a full-time ECFE/ECSE with the assignment split between NER and T-S.

➤ Hired Laura Saarela as a part-time PreK/ECFE at NW.

➤ Hired Alli Sandberg as a full-time special education teacher at T-S.

→Hired Amos Kolodji as a full-time math teacher at NER.

➤Hired Andrew Jugovich as a four-fifths time Elementary STEM/ Science teacher at NW.

► Hired Shayla Zaverl as a full-time special education teacher at NW.

➤Hired Lorenda Daugherty as a four-fifths time music teacher at NW.

➤Hired Blake Scofield as a full-time elementary teacher at NW.

► Hired Jacob Rosin

as a full-time special education teacher at NER.

➤Hired Paul Zollinger as a full-time science teacher at NER.

➤ Hired Adam Hagen as a two-tenths time elementary physical education teacher at NER.

➤Hired Malania Madill as a full-time elementary teacher at NER.

► Hired Krystal Rynders as a part-time paraprofessional at T-S.

→Hired Timothy Johnson as full-time afternoon custodian at NER.

➤Hired Kara Baker as assistant volleyball coach at NW at half stipend.

► Hired Camryn Meyer as assistant volleyball coach at NER.

Accepted retirements from van drivers John Zaitz and Mary Groh.

Cook-Orr Calendar

Cook-Orr healthcare district filings open on July 30

COOK- Filings will open for the following positions on the Cook-Orr Healthcare District Board of Directors on July 30 and close on Aug. 13, 2024. Positions are for healthcare district bpstf members in Angora, Cook, Orr, Crane Lake, Owens, Portage, and Willow Valley. Residents need to file with respective city or township clerks and with proper affidavit of candidacy. Terms of office are four years. Election date is Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Wings and Things returns on July 27

COOK-Planning is continuing for the Cook Friends of the Parks Wings and Things on Saturday, July 27 at the Cook VFW, beginning at noon.

Proceeds will go toward resurfacing the ice rink at the Doug Johnson Recreation Center, replacing the boards, and making the facility multi-purpose by turning it into pickleball courts in the warmer months.

How many wings can you eat? If you want to find out, be sure to mark the date on your calendar! We will be selling wings from noon - 7 p.m.

However, Wings and Things is not just about wings. Bingo will be played from noon-2 p.m., numerous basket raffles will be available to take a chance at, and general raffles will be called throughout the day (ticket must be presented to win). In addition, we will have 52 card raffles, wine rack raffles, booze rack raffle, other ongoing raffles, and our main raffle drawing beginning at 7 p.m.

We are trying to continue with our event but know that our community has many needs right now. If anyone wants to donate a prize or basket, please contact the Friends of the Parks.

Clearwater Hot Tub to headline Music in the Park series

COOK- Classic and light-hearted Gypsy Jazz will be on tap in Cook City Park on Wednesday, July 24, as the Sam Miltich trio, "The Clearwater Hot Club," will perform at Music in the Park from 6-8 p.m. Gypsy Jazz is a musical idiom inspired by the Romani jazz guitarist Jean "Django" Reinhardt (1910–1953), in conjunction with the French jazz violinist, Stéphane Grappelli. It has been said that this form of jazz is easy to learn but can take a lifetime to master.

In case of rain, the concert will be moved to the Cook VFW Post 1757 near the park.

LANDS....Continued from page 1 –

tion will result in millions of dollars deposited into the Permanent School Fund. This investment will support the state's public education system in perpetuity, fulfilling our fiduciary duty to ensure that both current and future beneficiaries receive maximum economic returns from school trust assets."

The designation of the Boundary Waters as a federal wilderness has, for decades, sharply limited the state's ability to generate revenue from the trust lands located within the wilderness boundaries. Traditionally, the state has generated revenues from school trust land either through the sale of the land itself, from the sale of timber, or the leasing of mineral rights. Given that logging and mining have been prohibited in the BWCAW for decades, the sale of the land is the most straightforward means of generating income for the school trust.

regularly prompted pushback from local lawmakers, who argued that the school trust would be better served by a land exchange, through which the state would obtain federal lands outside the wilderness, where extractive activities would be encouraged. The DNR and the forest service agreed to pursue the exchange back in 2012, but the effort languished for multiple reasons, according to Vande Linde. "This was the largest land exchange project in the nation, with a lot of very intricate issues in the Boundary Waters that we had to work through,"

he said. All three parties involved in the exchange the DNR, the forest service, and The Conservation Fund, a nationwide nonprofit, had invested considerable time in the process and commissioned several different appraisals in an effort to find an exchange of equal value but could never reach agreement on the valuations. More recently, said Vande Linde, during federal consultation with the three 1854 bands, including Fond du Lac, Bois Forte, and Grand Portage, it became clear that the exchange was not going to meet tribal goals for the affected lands. "So, we opted to go in a different direction," Vande Linde said.

While some lawmakers had argued in the past that an exchange would ultimately yield a better return to the school trust, Vande Linde strongly disputes that suggestion. "It comes down to the time value of money," he said. "The trust will receive cash on the barrel and be able to invest it straight-away." According to Vande Linde, it would take many decades, likely even more than a century, to generate enough revenue through timber sales on the exchanged lands to even match the original purchase price the school trust will receive once the sale is completed. By that time, through investment, the school trust will have earned many times that amount, thereby meeting the trust's obligation to maximize revenue generation.

"The state's school trust lands are designated to maximize long-term economic return for the Permanent School Fund and provide a continual source of funding for every K-12 public school district in the state," said DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen. "This important land transaction ensures that the DNR can fulfill its fiduciary responsibility to the school trust.

The deal will also benefit the forest service, according to Tom Hall, forest supervisor on the Superior National Forest, where the trust lands are located. "The purchase of these lands will help reduce administrative issues the state and the forest service have faced for a long time," he said.

The proposal is also backed by the 1854 bands

as well as environmental groups. "This is a good day for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Minnesota students," said Ingrid Lyons, executive director of Save the Boundary Waters. "It solves a key issue that has been unresolved for thirty vears."

Third District Sen. Grant Hauschild had no immediate comment on the proposal, but said he planned to meet soon with DNR officials for a briefing on the plan.

Moving forward

Completing the sale won't happen overnight. The state is constitutionally prohibited from selling school trust lands, except at public auction, so a massive, pre-arranged sale to the U.S. Forest Service will require a different process. According to Vande Linde, the state will need to pursue a condemnation proceeding involving the 80,000 acres of trust land in the wilderness, which will remove the trust status from the lands, making it possible to sell it to the federal government.

The condemnation proceedings will need to include a new appraisal, which will be used as a basis for a final agreement on the purchase price. The forest service is expected to tap funding from the federal Land and Water Conservation Funds to complete the acquisition.

With the cancellation of the land exchange, the forest service may end up acquiring additional lands within the boundaries of the national forest. The Conservation Fund is now proposing to sell up to 15,000 acres, located outside the BWCAW to the forest service. At the same time, the DNR is evaluating some of the nonprofit's lands in consultation with the forest service, local counties, and 1854 bands, to identify parcels suitable for state acquisition.

But talk of a sale had

COUNCIL...Continued from page 1

our state, that new department will not be functional and awarding grants until after July 1, 2025. That has left us with an unanticipated \$200,000 gap in our funding for 2024 ... For those of you that can help us, we need you now."

After reading ECR's letter, city council member Al Forsman contacted the local lawmakers.

"I immediately sent an email to our representatives asking how this happened," Forsman said. "This is the response I got ... from Senator Grant Hauschild: 'I assure you this is the first time I'm hearing these concerns on the shift to the new agency for children and their families. I have not been made aware of any delays or changes in funding. And if that's the case, I will definitely look into it.""

City council member Paul Kess remarked, "I think it's time we stepped up and did the right thing. Our finances are good ... I propose \$25,000 to help them get through this crisis."

The council approved sending Kess' proposal to the budget committee, which next meets on July 22 at 4 p.m. Mayor Heidi Omerza emphasized that helping ECR will take more than just the city."As a teacher," she said, "I see firsthand all the good things that ECR does. As a mayor, I would like to reiterate that we cannot (bail out ECR) all by ourselves as the city of Ely. We will definitely do our part. I have no problem saying that. But we need everyone in Ely to step up to the plate as well." ECR is a 501(c)(3)nonprofit organization. Readers can send donations by check to Ely Community Resource, 111 S. 4th Ave. E., Ely, MN, 55731.Readers can also use the QR code on the ECR website to donate, at elycommunityresource.org.

moratorium, which will be held in council chambers at Ely City Hall on July 23 at 10 a.m.

Klun, in response to a question from the mayor, told the council that the language of the moratorium passed by the Ely council on July 2 was "pretty darn close" to the language of the county's measure.

2023 Audit

The city received the audit of its 2023 books. The audit report was given by accountant Tom Kelly of Walker, Giroux, and Hahne. Overall, the results of the audit were similar to the previous two audits for 2021 and 2022. Ely received the auditor's highest evaluation available, "the financial statements were fairly presented in all material respects," noting that the city had overall good performance, a healthy general fund, and healthy cash flow.

Kelly remarked that the difference in the budget for the 2023 general fund and the actual revenues and expenditures was less than one percent. Ely budgeted \$4 million in revenue and \$3.91 million in expenditures. Revenues exceeded the budget by \$40,997 while expenditures exceeded the budget by \$30,484. Kelly noted that 97 percent of the general fund was unassigned and available for spending on the city's operations. "Such a high percentage is a good indicator of a healthy cash flow." Kelly noted that Ely still suffered from the same two problems identified last year and the year before. "These problems are nothing new," Kelly remarked, "but it's our job as auditors to point these out to you."

First, Ely has inadequate segregation of duties in its accounting practices. He also noted that this is a persistent condition in Ely because the city can't afford to hire enough staff to completely segregate accounting tasks.

Second, the auditors recommended that the city adjust how much it levies for debt service. "While it appears the city is levying an appropriate amount for debt service obligations not paid by other revenue sources, the city should specify an amount on the final levy that exceeds (debt service) obligations by five percent."

The auditing firm added a new recommendation this year. "Since 2020, Ely's residential loan and economic programs have ramped up significantly," Kelly pointed out. "It is important that loan balances, disbursements, and receipts, are reconciled regularly." To make reconciliations easier, the auditors recommended that all receipts and expenditures be coded to their own specific accounts "in which no other transactions are coded." It is important to note that audits of local governments are not designed nor intended to be forensic tools to find fraud. Audits are to ensure that local governments are following

both generally accepted accounting procedures and state laws regarding budgeting.

In other business, the council:

▶ Heard from Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski that the train depot redevelopment project failed to get the grant for the remediation of contaminated soils on the site. "We will reapply again to the Department of **Employment and Economic** Development in the fall. The owner of the property is still responsible for the costs of the cleanup, but if we can get the grant, we'll be able to reimburse some of those."

➤ Approved advertising for bids for the excavation and removal of contaminated soils at the train depot site.

> Accepted the \$11,000 donation of six park benches and the cost of the labor and materials to set them up. The benches are the gift of the Sherpa running app, which is also the principal sponsor of the Ely Marathon. The benches, which will be green, will be placed in different locations around Ely, including in Whiteside Park, Trezona Trail, and Pillow Rock. The donation includes the \$650 cost to the city to pour the concrete pad for each bench, according to Langowski. > Approved the following claims for payment: \$104,828 for the city of Ely and the Ely Utilities Commission through July 16; \$126,282 for pay estimate No. 1 from Max Gray Construction for the Ely Regional Trailhead Building; \$12,330 for change order No. 1 and final pay estimate No. 2 from Low Impact Excavators Inc. for the 9th Avenue East Project; \$4,146 for invoices Nos. 96026 and 96037 from AE2S for the Wastewater Treatment Improvements Project and general consulting services from AE2S.

➤ Approved a lease of vacant land between the city of Ely and Robert and Sharon Mattila for the placement of a residential dock.

► Accepted the resignation of James F. Beaty from the Heritage

Preservation Commission.

➤ A p p r o v e d Resolution 2024-029 allowing Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters to apply for a raffle permit.

A p p r o v e d Resolution 2024-030 allowing the Ely Blue Line Club to apply for a raffle permit.

➤ A p p r o v e d Resolution 2024-031 to appoint Scott Kochendorfer as a temporary deputy clerk for the 2024 absentee ballot election periods for the primary and general elections this fall.

➤ Approved the work request for city labor from the Ely Chamber of Commerce for the Blueberry/Art Festival.



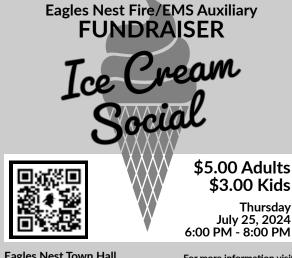
Cannabis hearing

The city council heard the report from Ely City Attorney Kelly Klun that St. Louis County is now considering its own county-wide moratorium prohibiting the registration and operation of cannabis businesses through the end of this year.

The county's liquor licensing committee recommended the moratorium to the county commissioners in June. The St. Louis County Board has now scheduled a public hearing on the proposed







Eagles Nest Town Hall 1552 Bear Head State Park Rd

For more information visit ENFEA.ORG

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



ANNUAL Fundraiser Event Saturday, August 3

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

This is a fabulous event to help support the Heiam's mission: *Through continued* growth of the endowment, is to support programs, services and facilities that serve the medical needs of Cook Health care area residents. To date the WC Heiam Foundation has given over \$840,000 to support the Cook Hospital.

We hope to see you at the event!

READ THE TIMBERJAY!

THANKS...Continued from page 1 -

on a family vacation at Lake Kabetogama from their home in Ramsey when they took off on a father-daughter fishing excursion to Loiten Lake. "I didn't want to go fishing that day, but he made me," Vändersøl said. "We fished all day. I remember that after we went fishing we put the fish in the floats, you know, because they're like storage."

Vändersøl paused to smile, then said, "And after that, I remember my dad wanted us to bring the darned fish back after the crash."

For Steen, his fishing trip with his buddy Tom Carlstrom was a coup of sorts.

"Tom was a good friend of mine, but he was a machinist, and he was not an outdoors guy," Steen said. "He didn't hunt, fish, trap, nothing. I said, 'Tom, I'm going to take you to an interior lake that's absolutely full of fish. You'll never see anybody back there, it'll be just you and me. You're going to catch a hundred bass. You're going to have a blast.""

The pair used more conventional modes of travel for the trek, taking Steen's 19-foot Lund Fisherman boat to the Locator Lake Trail Head, then hiking to the lake where they picked up a canoe Steen had rented for the day. The two had paddled to War Club Lake, where they tossed out their lines.

"We were both casting and catching bass and having a great time and I heard you guys land," Steen said to Vändersøl. "I didn't think anything of it because that happened from time to time."

The crash

Steen and Carlstrom were still catching bass when Delano Skeim and his daughter got in their plane to leave Loiten Lake.

"I remember hearing him throttle up," Steen said."There was no breeze, it was hot and dead calm. That's not what pilots like. They like a nice breeze and a little chop on the water, anything that breaks the friction a little bit, and you get more lift from a little breeze."

Moments later, both fishing trips were done.

takeoff attempt.

"The plane was so loud that you'd have to talk through your headsets," she said. "I just remember him screaming 'Jenny!' and we turned to miss a really big tree, and then we landed in the trees and he said get out. The plane wasn't on fire, thank goodness, but the radio didn't work. And it's Voyageurs National Park, right? So, at ten years old, I'm thinking like when are we going to get out of here? I was running around and I didn't see anyone. I was afraid we weren't going to be found."

Meanwhile, Steen and Carlstrom were racing to find them. They paddled to the east end of War Club Lake, made the portage to Quill Lake and paddled mightily again to reach the Loiten Lake portage, and they quickly spied the crashed plane as they ran down the trail.

"It must have taken us a half hour to get there," Steen said, talking to Vändersøl. "I remember as we're walking up there and your dad was saying, 'We're alright, we're alright.' I remember him saying he just couldn't get the lift. And then I saw you, a little girl, my Jennifer's age. "I was so glad to see you," Vändersøl said. "It was my angel."

After Vändersøl's father took some pictures, the quartet hiked down the trail to the canoe and made their way back to Locator Lake and the two-mile walk to Steen's boat. From there, it was a relatively quick trip back to Sandy Point Resort, where Vändersøl's adventure began. After another picture with her rescuers holding her stringer of fish, they parted ways. Vändersøl never learned their names that day and wouldn't for many years to come.

Reconnecting

In the years following the crash, her family never talked much about the incident, Vändersøl said.

"The funny thing is my dad when he died in 2007, we never really talked about it. I mean, he was just like it's one of those things like, it happened, and it's not like you forget about it, but you think you have all the time in the world with your parents and so we didn't really chat much. I didn't fill in the gaps. I didn't know who these two people in this picture were."



While visiting at the Steen's residence, Jennifer Vändersøl looks at an old photo of Glenda and Lloyd Steen's young son wearing the red hat Vändersøl gave to Steen on the day she was rescued. photo by D. Colburn

"It was 2017, my daughter was 17 and my two boys were already in college, so I was getting ready to be an empty nester, and I think you just have time to think about things when your kids leave. This was a major moment in my life and I didn't even know who rescued me, and I never even got to thank who rescued me."

So Vändersøl turned to social media. She posted the photo along with some others her sister had found and a copy of what appears to be the only brief newspaper account of the crash to Facebook. The post was shared almost 300 times, and with many Minnesota family and friends, it wasn't long before Vändersøl had names and then a connection with Steen's daughter, Jennifer. Steen and Vändersøl talked on the phone, but the chat was somehow incomplete.

"The phone conversation was great, but, well, we never really talked about it (the crash and rescue)," Vändersøl said. "I wanted to meet him in person. I've been meaning to come back here, but then my daughter graduated, then COVID hit, and I just haven't been back."

But a family reunion here in Minnesota this

past weekend provided the perfect opportunity for Vändersøl to make the trip serve another important purpose.

The meeting

Perhaps a good indicator of how well the meeting with Vändersøl and the Steens went could be seen in the center of the kitchen table, a large plate of chocolate-chip cookies that went untouched for well over an hour, as it appeared sharing stories absolutely took precedence over satisfying one's sweet tooth.

It became clear that the years had taken their toll on many details of the incident. When Vändersøl asked Steen what he remembered about her father, for example, he had little to say beyond his description of the crash scene.

"Your dad was very appreciative and thankful, I do remember that," Steen said.

The two also had gifts for each other. Steen gave Vändersøl one of his last remaining copies of "Border Warden," abiography about Steen filled with stories about his days as a game warden that's now out of print. When handing it to Vändersøl, Steen asked her to promise to tell him someday what her favorite story is. "I can't wait to read it," she said. "To answer your question about the favorite story? I already know it's this one. After I read the book, I will tell you my second favorite, though."

Vändersøl's gift to Steen was a framed copy of the picture her father took at the crash site with Steen, Carlstrom, and the happily rescued Vändersøl. The exchange sparked a lively conversation about the red hat Vändersøl was wearing, as she had given it to Steen later that day as a thank you. It was something the Steens went looking for before Vändersøl's visit. 'Glenda said, 'You know, I think I might still have that red hat," Steen said. "So yesterday and today, she looked for it in our attic in the garage. Even this morning, we went and looked in the attic up in our garage, because she thought she might have kept it. We couldn't find it."

But the Steen's had photographic proof the hat had been in their possession, a picture of their son as a young boy wearing it.

Steen also said the condition of the plane was much worse than he remembered it.

"You could have died," he said to Vändersøl. During the conversa-

tion, Steen appeared to gain a deeper understanding of just how important the word rescue is to Vändersøl's experience of the event. For her, the crash and prospect of being stranded in the wilderness were traumatic; for Steen, who discovered two survivors from what he thought would be a fatal crash, it was a happy outcome to a bad situation that didn't end up rising to the same level in his mind as some of the more tragic and difficult rescues he'd been involved in over the years.

"It was a joyous occasion," he said. "The Lord put me there for a reason. I never forgot about it, but in the scheme of life it didn't rise to the occasion like some of the ones that were horrendously terrible outcomes."

The former warden with a reputation for being "hard-nosed" turned out to be a real softie, Vändersøl said, and their emotions were on full display as their reunion wrapped up. Both agreed that there was divine intervention that led their paths to cross 37 years ago, and they promised to continue the path moving forward.

After the reunion, there was much to process, and Vändersøl said that she realized that the meeting wasn't just about having a chance to say thank you, something she shared in an email with Steen.

"No one close to me knew much about the crash," she said. "Even my stepdad said he never saw that picture and thought we had just missed a runway or something. I don't know if my dad minimized the story out of ego, guilt or fear - I'll never know. It was a major story and experience in my life that I held and processed alone. So in addition to thanking you for the rescue, I equally thank you for the opportunity to talk about the crash and fill in some details. This was healing for me and provided some closure to a traumatic experience."

"I expected to hear that little throttle back up over top when you can tell he lifted off and cleared the lake,"Steensaid."Suddenly I heard that whack, whack, whack, whack, whack, just a horrendous sound. Immediately I knew what had happened."

Vändersøl recalled her experience during the It would take another ten years before Vändersøl decided to make the effort to find the answer.

"I had this one photo (of the crash) after my dad passed away," she said.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 36 Church St., Soudan For ages 4–13

Counselors from Camp Onomia will be leading four days of music, crafts, and fun! Snacks and lunch provided.

Preregistration is preferred by calling 218-753-3047 Sponsored by St. Paul's and Soudan Baptist churches



2024 Blueberry Art Festival

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CLINIC...Continued from page 1 -

systems, was largely ruined and will have to be replaced.

"Two weeks ago, I would have said we'd be up and running within two weeks," Harvey said. "Now, I don't even want to say a date. By mid-August, or early August, we could possibly have three or four chairs up and running and patients being seen. Maybe that's an aggressive timeline, I don't know. We thought we could get by with some rolling carts, but the problem is that you have suction that comes up through the floor that you have to have connected to cabinets that are fixed, and we're going to have to replace a lot of that, and that takes time. You have to order it, they have to manufacture it and bring it, and that's probably a month out for a lot of that."

Harvey was glad to report that no one from the clinic has been laid off, as they've been spread around to other clinics for the time being.

But they did have to turn away two University of Minnesota dental students who were scheduled to work in the clinic for three weeks, beginning next Monday.

"That was a punch in the gut, because that is such a vital part of our service working with the university," Harvey said.

He was hopeful that they might be able to bring the students in after the clinic is back up and running, but that could be difficult depending on the timing related to the start of fall semester classes, he said. But the flood was a double-blow in that regard to Scenic Rivers, as the student internships are a key component of their recruitment efforts to bring additional dentists to the area.

Funding repairs

While the general public may see health care as an industry flush with cash, that's not the case for community health care centers like Scenic Rivers, Harvey said.

"We get a fairly significant grant from the federal government to support us because we're a federally qualified health center," Harvey said. "Thank God for that, because if we didn't have that funding, we would not exist, and that's a fact. We serve a community of underserved, low-income uninsured or underinsured folks, so we bear a significant burden of that cost. That's why we're a nonprofit organization. And we struggle like any other business." And while some similar community health care organizations get additional support from affiliated foundations and endowments, that's not the case for Scenic Rivers, Harvey said. A community fundraising program of some sort is likely in the future, Harvey said, but the current focus is on getting the dental clinic back in operation. "We're limited on what we can use our insurance for," Harvey said. "We have some flood insurance, but it only covers the building, it doesn't cover contents. We're reaching out to various organizations like the Delta Dental



Foundation, an organization called Direct Relief, and we'll certainly consider anything we can get from the state of Minnesota and FEMA and the federal government. We're also

looking at the IRRRB and we're going to talk to them about the possibility of helping us fund some of that cost."

And like some other businesses and individu-

als affected by the flood, Scenic Rivers has launched a crowdfunding campaign for people to donate to the cause. The campaign is set up on Spotfund, a slightly less familiar alternative Left: Extensive wall and floor damage at Scenic Rivers Dental Clinic will be covered by flood insurance, but costly medical equipment and other contents of the building will not.

photo courtesy Scenic Rivers

to GoFundMe, but one of the fastest growing crowdfunding sites today. Spotfund also has 4.8 rating out of five possible stars from Trustpilot, a consumer-driven company review site. The response thus far has been lukewarm, but Harvey hopes that when people understand the need more donations may come in.

Harvey said he's gratified by the response from the Cook community.

"It's just been fantas-

tic," he said. "People are very understanding, and our patients have been understanding. They're disappointed because we're not open and they have to reschedule appointments, but they've been patient. We're greatly appreciative of everything from the community and we are going to do what we can to get back up and running as quickly as possible. I'm confident that when we get through this we're going to be better off, we're going to have better equipment, we're going to have a nicer facility, and everything is going to be in pretty good shape. It's just going to take some time."

For dental clinic status updates, see the Scenic Rivers Health Services page on Facebook. To make a donation to the Spotfund campaign, go to http://spot. fund/23w3hsc.







Serving northern St. Louis County since 1989

RECOGNITION

Ely to be featured on PBS North's "Great Gardening"

by CATIE CLARK Ely Editor

ELY- Ely has some new television personalities, but they aren't talking. Given that they're a bunch of vegetables, they didn't have much to say when the *Timberjay* dropped by for an interview.

The produce of the community garden at the Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic on Miners Drive will be the featured guests in a segment of "Great Gardening," the only gardening show on PBS North Channel 8 out of Duluth. The channel describes "Great Gardening" as "the Northland's only TV show that's focused on the unique joys and challenges of gardening in Zone 3 and 4." Every episode features local gardening success stories, today's trends, and questions and answers with their panel of experts.

"The 'Great Gardening' show put out a call for gardens for their fall season," said Elybased Master Gardener Sally Koski. "We submitted and they contacted us."

"A. J. Larson from "Great

Gardening" visited Ely earlier this month to film the community garden for the show," Koski said. "We don't know when the segment on the garden will air. We'll let you know as soon as we find out ourselves."

A garden in progress

In fall 2022, a group of University of Minnesota master gardeners started a community giving garden on city property next to the Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic in Ely. One of the obligations for master gardeners is volunteer work in their communities, and maintaining and expanding the garden is currently the volunteer project for six local master gardeners, according to Koski.

The gardeners cleared and prepped the site for planting in fall 2022. In 2023, they planted for the first time with the goal of providing fresh produce for the veterans visiting the VA clinic.

The garden would not have been possible without the collaboration of the city, Koski said. "The city assisted with clearing the space, delivering mulch, and keeping the water barrels filled when there wasn't enough rainwater." The city also donated provided concrete planters, formerly used on Chapman St.

"The city of Ely has been great to work with," Koski added.

The garden's first full year was a success. "We had more produce than the veterans could use," Koski said.

This year, the master gardeners have expanded, adding more unused concrete planters from the city, adding fruit trees, and laying out a nature walk to

See GARDEN..pg. 4B



Cemetery upkeep now a family affair

For nearly half a century, John Zaitz has maintained Lakeview Cemetery with pride

 $\frac{by \; SETH \; ROESER}{Staff \; Writer}$

TOWER- Starting in the morning and working as long as the sun will allow,



Twenty years behind the bar



Friends and regulars turn out to toast Mickey Ferguson

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

members of the Zaitz family work as Lakeview Cemetery's primary caretakers. It's a role stretching back to May of 1977 when Chicago-born John Zaitz applied to be the cemetery's sexton supervisor. Initially a way to supplement his income during a miner's strike, caring for the final resting place for thousands of people has become a point of purpose in John's life and he has no plans of quitting any time soon. Now a grandfather of six, Zaitz has enlisted his family to help him care for the cemetery's rolling hills and thousands of gravesites.

"I'm still doing this, and I enjoy doing this," John Zaitz said. "It's a tough job at times because I've had to bury close friends, family, and even young children. And that's always been tough. But I don't want to say I get satisfaction out of it, it's just more of a good feeling that I'm able to help families."

The members of the Zaitz family mow, pick up branches, replace flags, bury urns and caskets, and gen-

Top: John Zaitz takes a break from his daily chores at the cemetery in Tower.

Above: Ethan (foreground) and Joey Zaitz wind through the headstones during a recent mowing at the Lakeview Cemetery. photos by S. Roeser

He applied for Lakeview's Sexton Supervisor position but didn't fully know what the job would entail.

"I said, 'Well,I'll take the supervisor job, but what is a sexton?"" he recalls.

After the now-late LakeviewCemeterySecretary TreasurerBobOlseninformed Zaitz that a sexton is in charge of funerals and burials, Zaitz was initially hesitant to accept the job.

"Nope, no way. Nuhuh," John recalled saying. But upon being told it would only be a temporary position,

See...ZAITZ pg. 4B

TOWER- Twenty years ago, when Mickey (Bristol) Ferguson first slid a drink across the bar at the newly-opened Good Ol' Days Bar and Grill, smoking was still permitted and the local cops were "very lenient," she recalls. Much has changed since, but Mickey remains a familiar face and a booming voice of authority to Good Ol' Days regulars.

Many of them turned out recently to mark Mickey's 20 years of service at the popular bar and grill, which gave her the opportunity to reminisce about her years of serving up beers and burgers to customers from every walk of life.

She had been working down the street as a server at Benchwarmers when friends Randy and Carol Semo hired her to help on the renovation crew for the building they had just purchased, with plans to open a 1950s-themed restaurant and bar.

"I was staining, painting, and helping get it all set up," she said.

Once open, Good Ol'Days proved a hit and it drew in a lively and mostly congenial crowd. "There seemed to be fewer fights and less stress than there is now," she said, noting the evening shift often got a bit wild. To

See **FERGUSON...**pg. 4B



Cemetery's more than 4,000

headstones. John estimates

the cemetery has around eight

football fields worth of grass

to cut and says he and his

family spend nearly 40 hours

a week in the summer months

on Lakeview's upkeep, often

finishing their mowing just as

Reserve Mining Company in

Babbitt in 1977, John looked

for additional income during

a six-month workers strike.

Working as a miner for

the sun sets.







Don Eisenhauer, a Vermilion Lake Association volunteer points out a loon during the July 8 loon count. Spotters sighted a total of 193 loons. submitted photo

LAKE VERMILION

Loon count results mixed

More adults sighted, but high water may have reduced chick numbers

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

LAKE VERMILION – Exceptionally high water levels stemming from the June 18 rainstorm may have contributed to a decline in the number of loon chicks sighted by volunteers here during the 2024 loon count. The count, which has been undertaken annually since the mid-1980s, is one of the longest-running loon counts in the state. The count, held July 8 this year, is overseen by the Vermilion Lake Association.

This year's total of 61 counters sighted 193 loons, a slight increase

over last year's total and the same result as two years ago. At the same time, however, the number of chicks sighted declined from 29 last year to just 13 in the most recent count, one of the lowest numbers in years.

A total of 64 loons, including six chicks, were sighted on the lake's west end, while spotters found 129 loons, including seven chicks on the east end.

Wildlife surveys are inherently "noisy," which means considerable variability is to be expected, even with a stable population. That's one reason that wildlife researchers emphasize the importance of multi-year trends over year-to-year variation.

Count organizer Claire Zweig noted that some volunteer counters had reported seeing loon pairs near their residences all spring but only spotted one adult on the morning of the count. That prompted speculation that the other adult might be sitting on a new nest. Loons will frequently re-nest, if the first nest of the season proves unsuccessful. Loons, which cannot walk on land, typically nest right at the water's edge. That makes them vulnerable to flooding when water levels rise suddenly, as occurred in the wake

See LOONS...pg. 3B



The arrival of the Cornish crosses leaves the hens in a tizzy

Wildflower Watch



This week's featured flower MARSH SKULLCAP

The **Marsh Skullcap**, *Scutellaria garlericulata*, is fairly common but often overlooked. It prefers wet feet and often grows amidst other dense vegetation.

It is best distinguished by its tubular, blue-to-violet blossoms, which grow on short stems from the leaf axils. The narrow, pointed leaves are opposite, seemingly without a stem. These are members of the mint family, so the square stem is another

The complaining started immediately, which was exactly what I was expecting. If there's one thing I've learned in the past year of raising chickens, it's that they don't suffer in silence.

Hens are talkative but I can't say that I normally understand the meaning of their various clucks and trills. It was their tone this past Saturday that expressed their horror as I moved 14 Cornish cross chicks, now a month old, from their brooder to the full-size coop with the adult hens.

My 11 laying hens—five barred rocks and six Rhode Island reds— had seen this movie before.

But this was the first batch of meat chickens for us since last fall, so my poor girls could have been excused for having assumed they would never again have to share their home with these obnoxious, food-obsessed creatures.

Cornish cross chickens are a testa-

ment to what can be accomplished through intensive breeding, in this case, a chicken that goes from hatching to a 6-7-pound bird ready to butcher in just eight weeks. Unlike other chickens these ones don't show much initiative or curiosity. They mostly lay around until feeding time, at which point they literally launch themselves at the feeder in a frenzy that reminds me of a school of feeding piranha. They gorge themselves, then plop onto their sides and grow, practically before your eyes.

MARSHALL

HELMBERGER

They're cute when they arrive in the mail, usually two days after hatching. Within a week, they're feathering out and growing noticeably plumper and uglier and the pace of all that just seems to acceler-



ate as the weeks drag on. This particular batch will spend about five weeks in the coop before it's time for butchering. By then, they'll be four times the size they are today and five times as obnoxious. The butchering comes as a relief.

Of course, my hens don't necessarily know the plan. All they know is that those awful birds are back and they aren't happy about it.

Fortunately, they don't have to interact with them, at least for now. The coop is large enough that I can fence off one section for the newcomers. They'll stay there for a couple weeks until they outgrow the space, at which point I'll roll up the fencing and give them all free rein in the coop and the adjacent outdoor run for the remaining three weeks.

But even having to be near the Cornish crosses seems to be too much for the hens to bear, as if these remarkably efficient meat machines give other chickens a bad name. One of the reds seemed so upset Top: Several of the laying hens look on in disgust at the Cornish cross chicks that were recently moved from their brooder to the main coop.

Above: The ugly, food-obsessed Cornish cross chickens arrange themselves around their feeder, frantically devouring their food.

photos by M. Helmberger

she went out to the run and started digging furiously. "I'm getting the heck out of here," she seemed to be saying.

The other hens just looked at me. One let out a loud and pathetic "braaaacckk!" in protest of the indignity. I felt for them... until I remembered they'd still be around next month to enjoy the luxury of their coop by themselves while the Cornish beasts would be sitting in the freezer. When it comes to the typical life of a chicken, these girls really have nothing to complain about. Yet if history is any guide, that won't stop them. good field mark of this species.

MANAGEMENT

Forest service issues LaCroix Project decision

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The Superior National Forest has published a draft decision notice that will impact future forest management efforts across a large portion of the LaCroix ranger district. Known as the LaCroix Landscape Project, the plan, if approved in its current form, will guide future actions across that portion of the LaCroix district located generally west of the Vermilion River.

It's a portion of the forest that is heavily interspersed with non-federal ownership, including state, county, and industry-owned lands. That portion of the forest is included within the Arrowhead Landscape Collaborative, a multi-agency effort that is taking an "all-lands" approach to forest management planning across half a million acres, which includes much of far northern St. Louis County.

Sunny Lucas, LaCroix district ranger, is proposing to implement alternative 2 as described in the draft decision notice, which describes a variety of harvesting, prescribed burning, fuel reduction, and reforestation efforts that are intended to better align the forest with the objectives laid out in the 2004 forest plan revision.

According to the public notice,

See LACROIX...pg. 3B

SUNSET SHOWER



A sunshower during a recent sunset turned the world near Lost Lake a remarkable orange for a few brief moments.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Trout Lake truck portage concession up for renewal

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER usda.gov. Managing Editor App

TROUTLAKE— The U.S. Forest Service is now accepting proposals for the operation of the motorized portage concession here. The portage, which was severely damaged in the June 18 storm, has since been rebuilt and is back in operation under the current concessionaire, who is completing his current ten-year term.

The forest service typically seeks proposals for the concession once every ten years. Those selected for the special use permit can operate for a five-year term with the option for a second five-year term.

The concession has been run by Lonnie Johnson for the past nine and a half years. His permit expires at the end of 2024.

The motorized portage facilitates the transfer of boats between Lake Vermilion and Trout Lake, which is located within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

A description of the portage and the operation is included in a prospectus that is available on the Superior National Forest's webpage, or by contacting Tim Engrav at 218-666-

Applicants must submit the required processing fee and business plan evaluation fee with their application.

The selected applicant may be responsible for the costs of preparing and issuing the permit. Additionally, the selected applicant will be required to undergo a Financial Ability Determination, or FAD, unless the Forest Service has conducted such an analysis for the applicant within the past year and no changes are necessary to bring it up to date.

All applications must be submitted via paper and received by the Superior National Forest no later than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024. Mail complete proposals to:

Attn: Sunny Lucas, LaCroix District Ranger LaCroix District 320 N Hwy 53 Cook, MN 55723 The district office is open from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday for in-person delivery of proposals.

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LACROIX...Continued from page 2B-

which includes a finding of no significant environmental impact, the plan is based on a landscape ecosystem concept, with objectives for vegetation composition, age, tree species diversity, and management indicator habitats. According to the decision, the LaCroix Landscape Project proposes a balanced approach of active management practices and natural processes and aims to increase efficiency and effectiveness in project planning, including compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

LOONS...Continued from page 2B

of the June storm.

Lake Vermilion has long been home to the largest documented loon population on any lake in Minnesota. It's 365 islands and The project will include management activities within potentially thousands of acres of designated old growth stands, although the plan calls for thinning, fuel reduction, and prescribed fire, while maintaining the existing canopy within those areas.

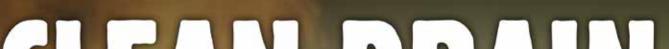
The implementation cycle for the plan includes five-year cycles of vegetation management, with opportunities for public participation and comment.

The Draft Decision Notice and other LaCroix Landscape Project

hundreds of miles of shoreline, much of it undeveloped, provides exceptional nesting habitat for loons. Loons are good indicators of water quality because they need clean, documents are available at www. fs.usda.gov/projects/superior/landmanagement/projects and select the LaCroix Landscape Project. The draft decision notice provides more information on how the proposed decision meets the purpose and need along with information on the pre-decisional objection period.

Anyone with questions on the LaCroix Landscape Project, please contact Mike Johnson, environmental coordinator, at michael.w.johnson@usda.gov.

clear water to catch food. They are also sensitive to disturbances such as lakeshore development and contaminants like mercury and lead in their environment.



0025 or timothy.engrav@



COOK VFW POST 1757 (218)666-0500 Open Daily: Noon to Closing (Closed Tuesday) HAPPY HOUR 3:30-6:30 PM Pull Tabs (Lic #00390) Thursday: BINGO

Opens: 5 PM Games Start: 6:30 PM Friday BURGER NIGHT• 4:30-7 Burgers starting at \$7 206 1st St SW, Cook, MN



CLEAN

🕑 Boats, trailers, and gear

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

DRAIN

Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well

Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices

7 Trash unused bait



Everything at least five days before going to other waters

O(Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

STOP INVASIVE SPECIES!









FLOODING ASSISTANCE

United Way has funds to help flood victims

CHISHOLM - As communities across the state continue to clean up and repair from June's flooding, United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN) is offering financial support to households in its service area to assist as they recover from the disaster.

Impacted residents can request up to \$1,500 to be applied to flood related bills, replace damaged appliances, or purchase building materials. An application is required, and individuals must be able to provide proof of residence at the time of flooding, verification of flood damage, and a demonstration of need.

Local suppliers who have committed to working with the program to date include: Cook Building Center, Keenan's TV and Appliance Center, Menards, Perpich TV, and Pohaki Lumber.

"So many of our neighbors have been absolutely devastated by the damage to their homes and are dealing with the aftermath," said **UWNEMN** Community Impact Director Crystal Royer. "We hope it brings

some solace to know that the entire region is uniting to support them."

UWNEMN's 2024 Flood Recovery fund application release comes after weeks of communication with local residents; city, county, and state leaders; and American Red Cross.

"As soon as flooding started, we sprang to action to do what we do best - fill gaps to meet critical needs," said UWNEMN Executive Director Erin Shay. "As members of our team were cleaning out their own basements, others began delivering supplies.'

"At the same time, we were coordinating with those affected and others taking action to determine what the biggest gap to fill would be," Shay said. "The feedback was resounding; the highest unmet need is financial assistance. Many impacted residents do not have adequate insurance coverage for their damages."

Spurred by a \$10,000 grant from the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation Disaster Relief Fund, UWNEMN set a goal of raising \$100,000 to be able to provide meaningful

gifts to as many impacted residents as possible.

To date, more than \$60,000 has been raised thanks to additional support from the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, Twin Metals, Pohaki Lumber, Park State Bank, Range Association of Realtors, and Z'up North Realty. UWNEMN will continue to raise funds while they distribute them to affected residents.

"We did not want to wait to reach our full goal before releasing assistance because we know people need help now," Royer said.

To apply for UWNEMN's 2024 Flood Recovery funding - or to donate to support the fundvisitwww.unitedwaynemn. org/floodhelp. To request a paper application, call 218-215-2420 or email crystal@ unitedwaynemn.org.

Donations can also be mailed directly to 608 East Drive, Chisholm, MN 55719. Donors are requested to specify their donation is for flood recovery.

ZAITZ...Continued from page 1B -

he relented.

"And lo and behold, here I am 47 years later, still doing it."

Being sexton supervisor of a small-town cemetery comes with its challenges, as John learned quickly.

"When I first took over this job, it was really hard because I got to know everybody so well," Zaitz said. "You know, one day you're talking to him in the street, and the next day you hear 'Oh, so-and-so passed away.' 'But I was just talking to him!' Back then it bothered me but now, it still bothers me but not like it used to. It's a job and somebody's got to do it."

Growing up in a Chicagoflat with his mother, John credits his work ethic to his grandmother. When his mother was at work, John's grandma Rose imparted her strict values onto him.

"My relationship to my grandmother was probably the best thing that could have happened to me back then," Zaitz said. "She was my everything back then, she was the world to me."

Zaitz said his mother and grandmother's kind and caring demeanors inspire him to try to be the same way.

"They were caring, very caring people, and they'd give everybody the shirt off their backs," Zaitz said.

John briefly moved to Tower in 1971 and worked at the Tower Municipal Liquor Store, or "The White House," as it was called back then since it was housed on the ground floor of the white-painted city hall. But John said finding jobs was tough, and Tower locals weren't a fan of the new "packsacker" in town. He moved back to Chicago in 1971 only to return to Tower once again in 1974, when he found a iob as a miner.

After mowing the grass and weed whacking around headstones for decades, Zaitz- once a complete stranger to the area-knows the layout of Lakeview Cemetery better than anyone else. It's not uncommon for people to ask Zaitz for the location of a headstone and, more

often than not, he can lead them right to it.

"Forty-seven years of cutting grass here and being around the cemetery, there's a lot of them I do remember," Zaitz said.

On June 1, Zaitz retired as a bus driver for Tower-Soudan Elementary School, a job he performed for 10 years in addition to his cemetery duties. Now, Zaitz is at Lakeview nearly every day, at least for a few minutes.

"There isn't a day that goes by that I'm not up here doing something, even by myself," Zaitz said. "Even if we're done cutting grass, I'll drive through. If I see a torn flag, because the flags get torn in the wind, I'll grab that flag and repair it. And if I can't repair it, I'll put a new one out there."

Once only displayed for Memorial Day, Zaitz felt that each veteran's headstone should have a flag all year round, a policy which he said has garnered compliments from many visitors. According to Zaitz, Lakeview has over 400 veteran headstones, some dating back to the Civil War and at least one from the Spanish-American War.

"It's showing respect to our veterans and family members who are buried here, and it looks good," Zaitz said. "I think it just makes the cemetery look beautiful, and it gets nothing but comments, good comments."

Surveying the flags was the first job the Zaitz grandsons did for their grandfather at Lakeview. Starting them out when he felt they were ready for the work, around 13 years old, John's grandsons Jordan Haburn and Ethan, Trevor, and L.R. Zaitz – as well as their friend Owen Koivisto started off replacing damaged flags and picking up branches. Over time, they graduated to more difficult tasks, like mowing and preparing plots for burials. It takes Zaitz and one of his grandsons about 30 minutes to dig a hole for a casket, and it takes him even less time to dig a hole for an urn.

Ethan Zaitz said his work with his grandfather helped him branch off into mowing other lawns on

the side, and he currently has about 20 clients. He also works as a welder at Lamppa Manufacturing, frequently heading to Lakeview after his 10-hour shifts to help his family with grounds maintenance. Ethan says working with John helped ease him into the idea of working at a cemetery.

'It helps it feel a bit easier, feel a bit more comfortable at work," Ethan said. "Oddly enough, now it's kind of normal. Some people would find it weird, but now it just feels like the everyday.'

Just as he was close to his grandmother, John now has the opportunity to work alongside his son and grandsons to maintain the cemetery for mourners and visitors. John described his relationship with his grandkids – four boys and two girls - as being very close.

"I don't want to say I smother them, but even at their age, I always worry about them," John said. "That's the way my mom and grandma were. I always make sure they're taken care of. They're my life, my grandkids. My family is my life, and that's the way it is." Taking refuge from

the summer sun, the Zaitz family share a cooler full of Gatorades in an old shed once used for storing the bodies of people who passed away over the wintertime. From the open garage door, John can see the plot he has set aside for himself, and while the thought of passing on fills many with uncertainty, Zaitz is confident about at least one thing.

"Someday, these guys will be digging a hole for me," Zaitz said. "And they know what to do."

Zaitz has no plans to stop caring for Lakeview anytime soon and said the cemetery has become an inseparable part of his life. To view cemetery records, visit cityoftower. com/cultural. Donations to the Tower Cemetery Association can be delivered to PO box 874 at the Tower post office.

FERGUSON..Continued from page 1B

avoid the ruckus of the night shift, she eventually moved to working the day shift, where there was more visiting and camaraderie at the bar.

Bartending means

Soudan High School. Her parents still live in Soudan, and her siblings and son aren't too far away, either.

While Mickey isn't as young and spry as she was when she first started out behind the bar, her customers haven't gotten any younger either, and that has changed some behavior.

"Greta and Dan are the sweetest people ever," she said. While the family-friendly bar atmosphere hasn't changed, the new owners have been doing some updates to the menu and the technology. The menu now includes more fresh foods, including hand-pattied burgers from Zup's, bakery buns, and more fresh ingredients. They have installed a new high-tech ordering system, something that is taking her a while to get the hang of.

The most popular meals, Ferguson said, are the burgers, Reuben sandwiches, and the iconic Italian sub, a menu item that dates back to the Sportsman's Bar and Grill, owned by the Carlon family.

as well as the Italian wrap.

Ferguson has not only worked at Good Ol' Days, but has lived in one of the apartments upstairs since 2005, which makes for a

short commute.

and often could be found in the kitchen, helping wash dishes, or out on the floor bussing tables.

"A lot of kids grew up in here," she said.

Ferguson is not plan-

getting to listen to lots of stories, she said, and she especially enjoys stories of the older times in Tower and Soudan.

"I love the history," she said.

Sometimes she sees that history unfold in front of her. She's been witness to a few marriage proposals, and one couple came back the following year to celebrate their first anniversary at the bar. The bar also features many photos of area veterans, and often family members will find one of their relatives up on the wall, which can prompt plenty of stories from their own good ol' days.

Living and working in the small town you grew up in means many of the customers are family, friends, or neighbors.

"My family likes to come and make me wait on them," she said. Ferguson grew up in Soudan and graduated from Tower-

The older crowd is happy to be home at a reasonable hour, she said. "Nobody wants to drink too much and drive. You can't risk it. Not just the DWI, but the possibility of hurting someone."

Two years ago, new owners, Dan and Greta Burandt purchased Good Ol' Days, and Ferguson stayed on, helping with the transition.

Greta said Ferguson's "outstanding personality" is a big draw at the bar. And she truly appreciates all the help they got from her when they first took over the business two years ago, with little restaurant experience.

"She loves interacting with our customers," she said, adding they really rely on all her knowledge and experience.

GARDEN..Continued from page 1B -

connect the new daycare center at the Community Hub Building to the garden space. The gardeners plan to add more garden space, signage, education displays, a pergola, and a picnic table donated by the Ely Rotary.

The newest and most eye-catching addition to the garden in 2024 is the donation of an old canoe from Outward Bound, now set up as a planter inside

a landscaped circle. The gardeners planted it with beans, lettuce, and squash. The rest of the garden hosts tomatoes, beans, herbs, rhubarb, raspberries, celery, and peppers.

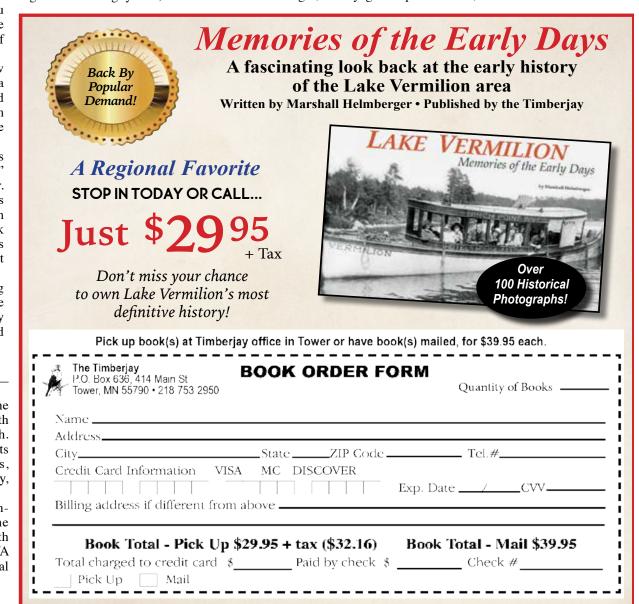
The master gardener volunteers share the produce they grow with the veterans visiting the VA Outpatient Clinic and local food shelves.

"This is a great place to come and eat," she said. Her personal favorites are a weekly special that includes an olive burger,

"Most of the time it is pretty convenient," she said. "And in the winters, when other staff can't make it in, I do feel like I have to fill in."

Her son Austin basically grew up at the bar,

ning on retiring anytime soon. "I'm not old enough to retire," she laughed. Besides, she said, she likes the people she works with. "I really love it here," she said.



Obituaries and Death Notices

Connie J. Skala

Connie Jeanne Skala, 72, a lifelong resident of Tower, died in her home on Thursday, July 11, 2024, with family at her side. Per Connie's wishes there will not be a formal service.

Connie was born on July 26, 1951, in the Soudan Hospital, the daughter of Oscar and Fern (Sarri) Johnson. She was a graduate of Tower-Soudan High School. Connie was united in marriage to Matthew James Skala on Oct. 21, 1967, at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower. She worked as a homemaker, but also worked at Fortune Bay Casino and the Tower-Soudan High School. Connie was a very kind and caring person who loved and treasured her family very much. She loved reading, cooking, and baking, which she was very good at. Connie and Matt spent 57 years doing everything together - boating, camping, road trips, and especially the many weeks spent at Superior Shores and Burlington Bay Resort near Two Harbors. Together they were wonderful grandparents. Connie will be missed so very much.

Connie is survived by her husband, Matt; son, Jess (Amy) Skala of Bemidji; daughter, Casie (Scott Chiabotti) Skala of Tower; three grandchildren, Brody (fiancée Tiffany) Skala, Adian Skala and Shea Skala; and numerous extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and two sisters, Carol Tuominen and Fern Pylka.



Kathleen J. Hoppa

Kathleen J. Hoppa, 82, died peacefully at New Journey Residence in Biwabik on Tuesday, July 9, 2024. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, August 5 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Virginia. Pastor Liz Cheney will officiate. Inurnment will take place in Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial contribution to Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virgina.

Kathy was born on Oct. 14, 1941, the daughter of Arnold and Emma Pearson, and grew up south of Tower at the Pearson homestead on Wahlsten Road. She was a graduate of what is now Northeast Range High School and Vermil-

ion Community College. Kathy worked in medical records at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth before marrying Dennis Hoppa in 1966.

Enjoying their new life together, the couple delivered supplies via snowmobile to Dorothy Molter in the winter and built award-winning floats for the annual Tower Fourth of July parade in the summer. In 1975 they adopted a son, Mark, who for many years competed at the Special Olympics. Kathy coached him in basketball, track and field, bowling, and speed skating, disciplines in which he won numerous medals. Not one to be idle, Kathy was the organist at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower for 42 years; was active in Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and was the longtime secretary and treasurer for the Vermilion Range Old Settlers Association. She also corresponded with pen pals from around the world. On Feb. 2, 1996, as a volunteer National Weather Service Observer, Kathy recorded a temperature of minus-60 degrees Fahrenheit in her backyard, a Minnesota record that stands to this day.

In 2003, the Hoppas moved to Wuori Township, where she volunteered at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Virginia, continued with the Special Olympics, and recorded rain and snowfall for the

VERMILION RUN

National Weather Service. Dennis passed away in 2015.

Kathy is survived by her son, Mark, who remembers his mother as having a wonderful sense of humor.

James P. Akins

James Patrick Akins, 82, passed away on Sunday, June 30, 2024, in Florence, Ariz. He was born on April 3, 1942, in Soudan, to John and Angela Akins.

Jim is survived by his wife of 48 years, Teri Rothdum; siblings, John (Leslie) Akins, Pat (David) Schmid, Stella Saraparu, Fred (Teri) Akins and Kathy (Gary) Salmela; children, Annette (Tony) Peden, Jason (Georgia) Akins, Keith (Tonya) Akins, Jared Akins, Rhonda Pande and Wayne Reichert; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Angela Akins; son, James Jr.; and sister, Mary Maki.

Lynne M. Sherman

Lynne Marie Marsyla Sherman, 68, of Babbitt, completed her battle with cancer on Friday, July 12, 2024, surrounded by her loving family. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Wednesday, July 17 at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Babbitt. Arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her husband, David of Babbitt; daughter, Amanda (Alexander) Castro of Marshall; and sister, Nancy Marsyla (Donald) Doll of Bovey.



Russell and Theresa Berg

A Memorial Mass in honor of Russ and Theresa Berg will be held on Sunday July 21 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower, with refreshments following in the church hall.

Frank A. Stella

Frank Anthony Stella, 94, of Silver Bay, formerly of Babbitt, died on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at the Lake View Hospital in Two Harbors. A private family burial will take place in the Argo Cemetery in Babbitt at a later date. Arrangements are with Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Aurora.

sons, Michael (Shriley) Stella of New Prague, James (Carol) Stella of Aurora and David (Kyle) Stella of Babbitt; grandchildren, Kari Allison, Mike Stella, Lindsey Doty and Kaite, Jeffery and Joey Stella; nine great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Frederick P. Erkkila

Frederick "Fred" Peter Erkkila, 80, of Orr, passed away on Saturday, June 29, 2024. Per Fred's request, a private family graveside service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

He is survived by his wife, Dana of Orr; brothers, Roderick of Wyoming, Eric of Duluth and Kendrich of Virginia; sister, Kathleen (Fred) Gabrielson of Orr; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Matthew G. Goggleye

Matthew Gerald Goggleye, 18, of Nett Lake, passed away on Sunday, July 7, 2024, at his residence. A funeral service was held on Thursday, July 11 at the Nett Lake Government Center. Burial was at the Bois Forte Cemetery. Arrangements were with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

Survivors include his

Another great turnout for the Vermilion Run

TOWER- The weather was cooperative, and the crowds showed up for this year's 41st annual Vermilion Run. Over 60 runners preregistered for the event and then the usual crowds showed up to register on race day. Thanks to amazing volunteers, everyone was registered before the races started at 8 a.m. Total participation was 180 in the 5K and 58 in the 10K, plus another 20 children who completed the one-mile fun run.

Several families competed this year's race, and runners



istration spot, and the Breitung Police Department for help with traffic control. The race is sponsored by Friends of Vermilion Country School and the Tower-Soudan Lake Events Vermilion Board. Funds raised support student and teacher needs at the charter school, such as helping with prom and yearbook

ranged in age from the single digits to over 70. One of the goals of the race is to encourage a love of running and outdoor activity, so kids 12 and under race for free, and the family rate allows all family members to race for the rate of two paid adults.

10K winners

Teenagers Max Molinaro, age 14, Charlie Bortnem, 16, and Soren Bortnem, 18 were the top three male finishers in the 10K event. Molinaro won the 5K race last year, while Soren took second and Charlie took fourth in the 10K last year.

Eve Anderson, 21, Lillian Beutz, 16, and Liz Haycraft, 52, were the top female finishers in the 10K. It was a repeat for both Anderson and Beutz, who finished first and second respectively in the 10K last year.

5K winners

Isaac Monroe, 21, Connor Matschiner, 19, and Dominic Cassetta, 15, were the top male finishers in the 5K event. Monroe finished fourth in 2023. Top female finishers were Kala Ziegler, 16, Anna Pettinelli, 13, and Christina Corniea, 21.

The top three male and female finishers in both races received a commemorative insulated water bottle. If a winner didn't pick up their bottle, please stop by the Timberjay office to get one. Also, we didn't get race stickers handed out to all our participants, so please stop by the *Timberjay* office to pick up some!

Race volunteers included Jodi Summit, Mary Shedd, Allie Heglin, Amy Heglin, Tracey



Dagen-Strong (whose family started the race back in 1982), Michelle Toutloff, Marshall Helmberger, Victoria Ranua, Paul Schoening, Aaron Kania,

Roxanne Tea, Marjorie Wood, Gabe Wood, Muriel Scott. Lynn Scott, Sam O'Brien, Barb Soderberg, Kurt Soderberg, Stephanie Ukkola, Ed and Dot

Swanson, Eric Norberg, Cade Gornick, and Kalee Bjorgo. Race organizers thank the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center for use of these grounds as the reg-

expenses, field trips, supplies for special projects, and other needs.

10K Results (top 50 finishe	rs)	No name	1:05:27.2	Ava Hoepner, 16	27:18.8
Max Molinaro, 14, Mendota Hts	34:37.4	Craig Stevens, 73, Virginia	1:10:29.9	Ella Erickson, 11, Lakeville	27:32.6
Charlie Bortnem, 16, Tower	35:29.1	Jimmy Haugen, 43, Wayzata	1:13:38.7	Luke Olsen, 20, Ham Lake	27:41.6
Soren Bortnem, 18, Tower	37:45.9	Shaun Myre, 39, Bemidji	1:13:39.5	Brian Kluever, 61, Tower	28:02.9
Lee Wiswell, 40, Aurora	39:26.8	Nick Myre, Cook	1:13:39.5	Kelly Fleming, 44,	28:07.1
Phillip Berk, 41, Duluth	39:45.5			Camille Corniea, 22, Maple Grove	28:16.7
Isaiah Anderson, 18, Mankato	42:12.3	5K Results (top 80 finishers	-)	Canon Gibson, 14, Stillwater	28:19.0
Eve Anderson, 21, Mankato	42:13.1	Isaac Monroe, 21, Plymouth	18:06.0	Macy Mohr, 29, Brighton	28:29.7
BJ Dinter, 39, Eagan	44:34.2	Connor Matschiner, 19, Gilbert	18:23.1	Jim Erickson, 50, Plymouth	28:31.8
Chris Johnson, 43, Plymouth	44:35.2	Dominic Casetta, 15, Grand Forks	18:25.1	Meghan Corniea, 25, Mpls	28:40.2
Chris Kolquist, 48, Leawood	45:05.0	Kyle Peterson, 17, Duluth	19:18.8	Spencer Johnson, 26, Mpls	28:42.0
Avery Lehman, 25, Coon Rapids	45:17.7	Will Peterson, 17, Virginia	19:18.8	Jason Jeaser, 44, Dayton	28:46.6
Nick Simonson, 45, Bismarck, ND	45:26.9	Juch Puyette, Duluth	20:06.8	Leah Erickson, 41, Dayton	28:46.9
Lillian Beutz, 16, Eden Prairie	45:34.4	Josh Swanson, 34, Hibbing	20:00.8	PJ Fleming, 9	28:50.4
Chad Vertin, 55, Fargo, ND	46:19.4	Drew Hatch, 41, Tower	20.11.5 21:03.6	Maia Kolquist, 18, Leawood	28:59.6
Greg Gossel, 41, Ellsworth	46:21.8	Travis Green, 50, Lincoln, Neb.	21:03.0	Drew Fanberg, 44, Hugo	29:09.5 29:10.2
Liz Haycraft, 52, Mahtomedi	46:24.0	Lucas Anderson, 11, Duluth	21:04.5	Devin Fanberg, 11, Hugo Joss Peterson, Duluth	29:10.2
Kris Anderson, 48, Mankato	46:41.7	Giovanni Casetta, 12, Grand Forks	21:17.0	Patti Hallback, 65, Tower	29:12.8
Lisa Garretson, 35, Embarrass	47:03.6	Max Anderson, 9, Duluth	21:35.2	Bryan Morcom, St. Paul	29:32.6
Casey Nelson, 41, Plymouth	47:10.7	Cody Petrack, 11, Virginia	21:40.0	Willow Kenesei	29:32.0
Pete Molinaro, 45, Mendota Hts	48:29.1	Kala Ziegler, 16, Tower	22:39.9	Liisa Kolquist, 48, Leawood	29:41.1
Alli Harasyn, 42, Maple Grove	49:18.4	Matt Anderson, 44, Duluth	22:46.0	Amber McCarter, 41, Embarrass	29:46.7
Larry LaTarte, 50, Ely	49:37.7	Leo Peterson, 13, Northfield	22:51.7	Ray Peterson, 51, Duluth	29:55.3
Jessica Hellman, 49, Ely	51:10.1	Sean Tierney, 13, Tower	23:02.6	Nina Sporier, 52, Tower	30:20.6
Barb Johnson, 43, Plymouth	51:15.6	Justin Pettinelli, 40, St. Paul	23:02.0	Dan Peterson, Duluth	30:31.0
Nick Myre, 29, Cook	51:17.0	Anna Pettinelli, 13, St. Paul	23:06.2	Justin Waldron, 42	30:55.1
Pat McDonald, 37, St. Paul	52:16.0	Will Tierney, 13, Tower	23:10.1	Alyssa Dvorak, 21, Richfield	30:56.2
Nichole Borell, 40, Columbus	52:31.4	Ben Peterson, 11, Britt	23:30.6	Cassie Schultz, 30, Shafer	30:56.7
Kaarin Nelson Schaffer, 46, Mpls	52:40.8	Jim Lodermeier, 60, Tower	23:44.5	Ellie Olsen, 15, Ham Lake	31:01.7
Isabelle Puhl, 21, Fargo, ND	53:09.2	Ryban Aish, 16, Bethel	23:57.5	Katiana Zak, 20, Bethel	31:06.9
Julia Puhl, 19, Fargo, ND	53:09.7	Christina Corniea, 21, Maple Grove	24:47.7	Alexander Betley, 31, Soudan	31:17.4
Kim Carlin, 59, Duluth	53:13.4	Jenifer Waldron, 43, Austin, Tex	24:48.8	Supama Mallla, 27, Soudan	31:18.2
Clara Zak, 17, Bethel	54:25.6	Brenda Lodermeier, 56, Tower	25:19.7	Sadie Molinaro, 12, Mendota Hts	31:30.5 31:32.2
Brian Norberg, 39, Iowa	54:49.2	Wyatt Petrack, 15, Virginia	25:28.7	Michael McTavish, 34, Brighton Kay Stinson, 77, Stillwater	31:32.2
Jack Wahl, 13, Brooklyn Park	54:58.3	Catie Petrack, 46, Virginia	25:29.5	Andrew Friedrich, 11, Jordan	31:51.1
Joshua Eggers, 41, Coon Rapids	56:09.6	Evelyn Molinaro, 10, Mendota Hts	25:43.0	Keith Reeves, 64, Esko	32:02.1
Todd Johnson, 54, St. Paul	56:31.1	John Molinaro, 43, Mendota Hts	25:43.4	Ruth Reeves, 65, Esko	32:02.6
Kate Olsen, 21, Ham Lake	59:10.9	Thomas Stellmach, 11, Stillwater	25:57.3	Kristine Olsen, 54, Ham Lake	32:11.0
Timothy Clement, 26, Mt. Iron	59:13.5	Ronnie Molinaro, 13, Mendota Hts	26:09.3	Ruth Doedigheimer, 63, Cloquet	32:33.6
Meghann Wahl, 44, Brooklyn Park	59:46.8	Gunnar Bruckner, 16	26:11.5	Rachel Gossel, 41, Ellsworth	32:55.6
Sara Alexander, 47, Virginia	1:03:09.6	Victoria Rund, 23, Ely	26:22.0	Mitchell Fleming, 43	32:59.2
Jerry Myre, 70, Tower	1:04:16.7	Joe Erickson, 16, Plymouth	26:31.0	Anna Erickson, 19, So. St. Paul	33:16.9
Maria Krebsbach, 30, Iron	1:04:36.3	Brynja Schaffer, 11, Golden Valley	26:37.8	Branda Franklin, 60, Grantsburg	33:2.1
Deann Dahl, 59, Duluth	1:05:11.5	Mitch Suzuki, 28, Los Ang., Calif	26:45.6	Jess Jensen, 42, Alexandria, Virg	33:41.2
Lisa Ledman, 60, Tower	1:05:20.7	Kate Molinaro, 10, Mendota Hts	26:56.4	John Lemons, 18, Maplewood	33:46.9
Elise Rice, 21, Walker	1:05:25.5	No name	27:04.0	· •	
Mike Rice, 54, Walker	1:05:26.2	Meg Norberg, 39, Iowa	27:17.1		
		0			

PUBLIC NOTICES

EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP FILING NOTICE

In the November 5, 2024 General Election, Eagles Nest Township will have the following offices on the ballot:

Sup C will be a 4-year term Sup B will be a 4-year term Sup E will be a 2-year term special election Clerk will be a 4-year term

The filing period for these offices will be July 30, 2024 through August 13, 2024. Filing office hours will be on August 9, 2024 from 8 AM to 12 PM. Appointments for filing are also available. The candidate withdrawal period will be August 13, 2024 and August 15, 2024, 12 PM to 5 PM.

Any person elected to the office of supervisor or clerk must, upon assuming the office, be an eligible voter, be 21 years of age, and have maintained residence in the town for at least 30 days. Please contact the Clerk at clerk@ eaglesnestmn.com or call 218-365-4573 with questions or to make an appointment to file.

Published in the Timberjay, July 12, 19 & 26, 2024

Notice to the Voters of **KUGLER TOWNSHIP**

The following offices are open for election at the November 5, 2024 General Election.

Affidavits of Candidacy may be filed with the Town Clerk by calling 218-248-0606. Filings are open beginning Tuesday, July 30 and ending on Tuesday, August 13, 2024. Hours on Tuesday, August 13 are between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm, for the offices of:

One Supervisor A – (4) Four-year term One Supervisor B – (4) Four-year term – (4) Four-year term One Clerk

Filing fee: \$2.00

Election hours will be 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. at Kugler Town Hall, 9072 Hwy. 135, Tower, MN 55790.

Chris Suihkonen. Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, July 12 & 19, 2024

EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP Notice of State Primary Election, August 13, 2024

Voters residing in Eagles Nest Township, St. Louis County will vote by mail in statewide elections as authorized by the township/city under MN Statute 204B.45.

All persons **registered** to vote as of June 28, 2024, in MAIL BALLOT precincts will automatically be sent a ballot at least 14 days prior to the election. If you are registered to vote and do not receive a ballot by July 30, 2024, please contact the St. Louis County Auditor's Office at one of the locations listed below or for more information or questions email: elections@stlouiscountymn.gov

Voted ballots may be returned by mail (stamped return envelopes are included with each MAIL BALLOT packet) or in person at one of the below listed locations. All returned ballots MUST BE RECEIVED by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day at one of the below listed Auditor's Office locations. Assistive voting equipment and witnessing of signatures is also available at the Auditor's Offices.

NOTE: If you live in one of the mail ballot areas and are eligible to vote but are not currently registered, you may apply to the Auditor's Office in person or by mail for ballots and registration materials.

Auditor, St. Louis County Courthouse OR 100 North 5th Avenue West, Room 214 Duluth, MN 55802 (218) 726-2385 FAX: (218) 725-5060

Virginia Government Services Building 201 South 3rd Ave West Virginia, MN 55792 (218) 749-7104

Published in the Timberjay, July 12, 19 & 26, 2024

King Crossword

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EMPLOYMENT

Newspaper Delivery-Thursday mornings (2 PT Openings)

The Timberjay in Tower is looking for two individuals to help with newspaper distribution on Thursday mornings, approx. 4 hours starting at 9 a.m. \$15/hour plus mileage. Two routes, one to Ely/Babbitt (72 miles roundtrip), and the other to Cook/Orr (90 miles roundtrip). Job duties include helping organize papers for the post office and newsstand sales, and then dropping them at area post offices and newsstand locations. Mileage paid at 50¢ per mile on top of hourly wage. The Timberjay does have a vehicle available if you do not have a eliable car. Job starts in mid-to-late August. Must be reliable. Our longtime helpers are moving out-of-state!

> Call Jodi at 218-753-2950 for information or to apply.

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP CUSTODIAL SERVICES NEEDED

Greenwood Township is seeking an individual for custodial services of our Town Hall and offices. Please submit proposal to Clerk@greenwoodtownshipmn.com or mail to: Greenwood Township, 3000 County Road 77, Tower, MN 55790, or bring in person. Office hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 9 a.m. 1 p.m.

Published in the Timberjay, July 19, 2024

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

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. Greasy dirt	M	Complain	P _
2. Inspect the ledger	T	Of the ear	0
3. An official order	C	PhD or BA	G
4. Household duty	E	Musical note combo	D
5. Nun	\$	Child care giver	T
6. Loner	Η	Henson's frog	К
7. Eye cosmetic	R	Napkin fabric	N
8. Harriet Beecher	W	Kitchen cooker	V
9. Frolic	A	Royal son	
10. Depart	L	Use a loom	W

CryptoQuip	CryptoQuote	
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: N equals Y	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.	
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BJKJBESN SZ HZXR QZW SIEXRC. DVD VECI!	RWFQLSLT, DCQ EGWA BWQW	
©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.	- ZGSLWPW OQCUWQY	9
Read us Online at www.timberjay.com	©2024 King Features Synd., IncSuper Crossword Answers	5
weekly edition online Wednesday afternoons	T W O S U M A B R A V A T S K N	
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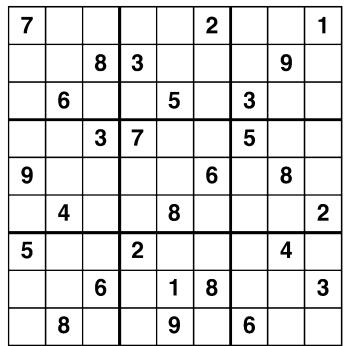
LATINS

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Timberjay!

Veekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

FFICULTY THIS WEEK:



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7B July 19, 2024 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.

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

WANTED

CHIMNEY

REPAIR

TIP

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**

SUPPORT GROUPS

Ely AA OPEN GROUP MEETINGS- in person meet-ings, 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 is a 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, tollfree 1-888-647-RAAN(7226).

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS



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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PEDAL BOAT PELICAN 4-SEATER PEDAL BOAT for sale. \$150 obo. Call Ron at 218-780-0492 7/26v



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.

3

2

5

6

2

4

6

East Range meetings and infor-mation, 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.

MEN'S PRIMARY PURPOSE meeting, Tuesdays at 7 p.m., First Presbyterian at 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 226 E Harvey St., Ely, 218-235-3819

CryptoQuip answer

Stop trying to convince me that female sheep have no capacity to long for things. Ewe wish!

Even Exchange

1.	Grime, Gripe	6.	Hermit, Kermit
2.	Audit, Audio	7.	Liner, Linen
3.	Decree, Degree	8.	Stowe, Stove
4.	Chore, Chord	9.	Prance, Prince
5.	Sister, Sitter	10.	Leave, Weave

CryptoQuote

answer

Do not confine your children to your own learning, for they were born in another time. Chinese proverb

– **King** Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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FEDERAL FLOOD AID

Help for homeowners, businesses still awaiting federal approval

Hauschild urges action on FEMA flood relief

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- District 3 Sen. Grant Hauschild, DFL-Hermantown, pressed the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to swiftly approve disaster assistance for homeowners and businesses in northeastern Minnesota in a letter he sent the agency Monday.

"The residents and communities in the

- Heiam-

Medical Foundation

Northland are resilient, and they've responded to this disaster by working together to help one another get back on their feet," said Sen. Hauschild. "While we're grateful for FEMA assistance for public infrastructure disaster relief, federal assistance for our homeowners and small business owners is essential to a full recov-

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

ery." June storms brought heavy rain and wind damage across wide swaths of the North Country, only to be followed by record-setting flooding that quickly inundated Cook and the surrounding region. While assessments of the damage are still ongoing, it is estimated that the final total will approach tens, if not hundreds, of millions of dollars.

Monday's letter calling for swift federal assistance was co-signed by District 3A Rep. Roger Skraba, R-Ely.

"We are grateful for the local, state, and federal emergency response that moved in following the immediate aftermath of this disaster, but the road to recovery will be long," Hauschild said. "I urge FEMA to accede to Minnesota's request for individual disaster assistance as soon as possible." Hauschild's letter am-

Hauschild's letter amplified the urgency he expressed during Gov. Tim Walz's June 21 visit to view the flood damage in Cook.

"You get to a community like this, and you talk to the folks that felt this devastation firsthand, the business owners, the families with water in their basement, they're homeless - we've got folks that are literally homeless right now unable to get back into their homes," Hauschild said. "Our local communities had each other's backs, our neighbors had each other's backs, and now the state has to have the back of Cook and the communities here in northern Minnesota. That's my job. So all hands on deck, we're here to support the community of Cook."

Additional work

Hauschild's legislative assistant Jamie Hysjulien was in Cook on Tuesday at a meeting for local business owners convened by the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, and she told the assembly about additional efforts she and Hauschild have been undertaking in regards to flood relief.

"We've been working at the state and federal levels to find all available funding for both public and private entities that need some form of relief," Hysjulien said. "We're still doing research to find all of the different programs. Grant has been pushing really hard for a special (legislative) session to pass additional dollars for flood relief.

A FEMA disaster declaration for homeowner and business relief would be for flood damages across the entire state, and Hysjulien noted in her remarks that the decision is based on a formula fed by data provided by the state in its application.

Hysjulien also praised the efforts of the IRRRB in responding to the area's needs. Hauschild and Skraba are both members of the IRRRB advisory board.

State FEMA request status

On Tuesday, the Timberjay received additional information about the FEMA process from Department of Public Safety Public Information Officer Oliver Schuster. At the request of Gov. Tim Walz, federal, state, county, and local officials are conducting damage assessments as part of the process to help determine if the damages meet the criteria for federal individual assistance. Determinations about eligibility for disaster assistance or a declaration are not made during the assessment process, Schuster said.

Schuster encouraged residents and businesses to continue reporting damage to local officials, as damage assessment teams may not visit every property with damage. Reported damage will be used to help determine if the state meets the minimum FEMA threshold for individual assistance.

ANNUAL Fundraiser Event Saturday, August 3

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

This is a fabulous event to help support the Heiam's mission: *Through continued* growth of the endowment, is to support programs, services and facilities that serve the medical needs of Cook Health care area residents. To date the WC Heiam Foundation has given over \$840,000 to support the Cook Hospital.

We hope to see you at the event!



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Old time fiddle championships

MT. IRON

MT. IRON- The 42nd annual Minnesota State Old Time Fiddle Championships will take place on Saturday, Aug. 3, at Mt. Iron's Merritt School Auditorium. The contest is open to all U.S. and Canadian fiddlers as well as all other stringed instrumentalists and the championship division is certified by the National Oldtime Fiddlers' Association.

Walk-on registration for contestants starts at 10:30 a.m. with the show starting at 1 p.m. Emily







Hospital Connection EBCH Board Opportunity

Q: How is EBCH governed?

A: EBCH is governed by a nine-member Board made up of diverse individuals from throughout our service area. The hospital's CEO reports directly to the Board, and together, they develop the long-term strategic vision of Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH).

Q: What is the commitment to being on the EBCH Board?

A: The EBCH Board of Directors meets monthly, with information distributed prior to the meeting in a Board packet, including an agenda and action items for review. Board members participate annually in a two-day strategic planning session that is held off-campus to help facilitate open discussion. Various committees are also part of the board structure, and Directors are asked to participate in committee work. These committees include such areas as community relations, investments, and quality. Individuals are also encouraged to seek education and certification through the MN Hospital Association's Trustee program; however, this is not required. Terms for Directors run for three years, and individuals are eligible to run for three consecutive terms for a total commitment of nine years.

Q: What if I am interested in becoming an EBCH Board member?

A: We are always looking for individuals interested in learning more about becoming a board member at EBCH. To seek election to the board, you must be a "member" of the EBCH Foundation. This includes purchasing a \$100 membership. We also have our Nominating Committee work through an application process and a meet and greet with any interested individuals before the committee puts forth the names to the entire board for approval to be placed on the ballot for a vote. Votes are tabulated during the Annual Meeting in December, and results are announced that night. Terms start with the January meeting. If you are interested in learning more about becoming an EBCH board member, please contact Jodi Martin at 218-365-8739 or Mary Wognum at 218-365-8751, and they will connect you with a member of the Nominating Committee.

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



Fiddlers of all ages will be competing in Mt. Iron on Aug. 3. submitted

LaPlant, the guitar accompanist, will be on hand to start rehearsing with folks at 10:30 a.m. The non-fiddle and twin fiddle divisions are open to all ages and all bowed and plucked stringed instruments. Contestants will each play a waltz, a hoedown, and a tune of choice, except for twin fiddlers who only need to play a tune of choice.

Rules, online preregistration, and contact information can be found at www.mesabisymphonyorchestra. org/FiddleContest. The show is open to the public for a fee of \$10. There will be \$2,000 in cash and prizes given away.

These activities are made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature's general and arts and cultural heritage funds, and in part by a grant from Minnesota State Fiddlers Association.



Call 218-993-2295 for RESERVATIONS

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- · Enjoy our rustic yet elegant dining room.
- Enjoy delicious home cooked cuisine.
- Breads and desserts are baked daily.

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CRIME

Cop-biting man sent to prison for probation violations

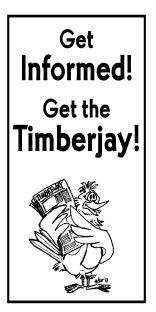
REGIONAL-The Minnesota Sixth District Court sent Travis William Mattila, the man who bit an Ely cop last month, to the St. Cloud state prison on Monday for probation violations.

In a combined pre-trial, omnibus, and probation violation hearing in Virginia, Judge Andrew Peterson dismissed all the charges against Mattila from the June 18 cop-biting incident. However, Mattila's actions on that day also violated the conditions of his probation for three previous convictions, which prompted Peterson to order that Mattila serve the remainder of his time for the three convictions from 2023 and 2024.

The longest of Mattila's sentences is 21 months for felony threats of violence made against a Virginia couple on April 26, 2023. He was credited for serving 259 days of confinement, so the remainder of his time in prison for this offense is approximately 12 and a third months.

Mattila will serve his sentence for the April 2023 felony concurrently with two other lesser sentences, including an 18-month sentence for felony threats of violence made against Ely and Virginia police officers in an incident on March 29, 2023. He will again receive credit for 259 days served, making the remainder of this sentence nine and a third months.

The second sentence is for 90 days for a conviction of misdemeanor disorderly conduct from an incident on May 24, 2024, in Ely. He has already served 28 days of that sentence.





Travis Mattila

Cop biting incident Mattila was arrested on June 18 for two felony counts of assault and one misdemeanor for obstructing a public roadway. After the passage of the June 18 storm, an allegedly drunk and disorderly Mattila was walking in the middle of the intersection of Seventh Ave. and Sheridan St., shouting at passing motorists. According to court documents, when the Ely Police Department asked him to leave

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the area, Mattila allegedly committed assault while being arrested, including biting one officer on the hand. Mattila's June 18 arrest was covered in detail in the June 28 edition of the Timberjay.

History repeats itself

The June 18 incident is remarkable for its resemblance to Mattila's actions on March 29, 2023, which led to the felony conviction for threats of violence described above. In the March 29 incident, an Ely resident reported Mattila jumping in front of his daughter's car at the intersection of 14th Ave. and Conan St. and blocking her from driving away. Carrying and drinking a six-pack with him, Mattila then moved to the intersection of 10th and Sheridan where witnesses reported he was stopping cars, yelling obscenities, and throwing beer cans at

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Due to Mattila's "vulgar screaming in a public setting," Ely police officers attempted to place him in a squad car, which he resisted. Mattila's actions during his arrest and transport led to his felony conviction for threats of violence against Ely and Virginia law enforcement personnel.

The June 18 incident also parallels Mattila's arrest and subsequent conviction for a gross misdemeanor of disorderly conduct on Aug. 2, 2021. This occasion started when an Ely police officer received a report of Mattila "yelling and acting strangely," near Ninth Ave. and Conan St. The officer

also heard Mattila yelling when he arrived to speak to the reporting party. He found Mattila at his garage in the alley between White and Conan and said he wanted to speak with him, at which time Mattila fled. When stopped by the officer, he again launched into loud insults and vulgarities and physically resisted arrest.

Two and a half weeks later on Aug. 19, 2021, Mattila was once again exercising his lungs in the middle of an Ely street at 6:39 a.m., as he screamed obscenities and yelled that he had women for sale. A resident in Mattila's neighborhood reported that Mattila "was standing in the street yelling

and has been yelling since (11 p.m.) last night." The responding police officer observed Mattila had a strong odor of alcohol. In this incident, Mattila did not resist arrest, although he did verbally abuse the Ely police officer who arrested him.

The charge of disorderly conduct against Mattila for the Aug. 19, 2021, incident was dropped; however, Matilla was convicted of the petty misdemeanor of possessing drug paraphernalia because he attempted to light up a pipe of marijuana during his arrest.



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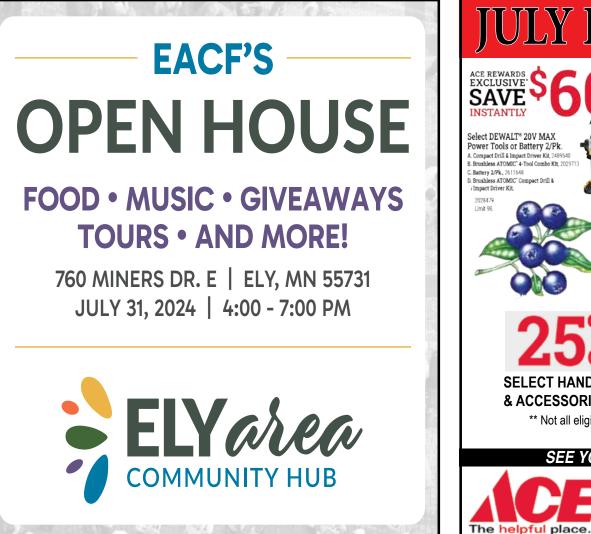
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