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July 26, 27 & 28

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map, vendor info,
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The TIMBERJAY



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\$1⁵⁰

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT

Many questions over Silver Rapids expansion

Lake County Planning Commission tables action on CUP and plat

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

FALL LAKE- It was standing room only during a public hearing here last week when the Lake County Planning Commission took testimony on the proposed expansion of the Silver Rapids Lodge. The developers submitted two zoning applications for the proposed expansion of the resort property, located along the narrows

between Farm and White Iron lakes.

The first seeks a conditional use permit required by the county's land use ordinances for the expansion, which includes adding 68 boat slips to the 22 already on the property. The second application was for a preliminary plat to subdivide the property for 49 "one-quarter fractional share cabins." These privately-owned cabins would be used in a variation

Right: Christoph Ender makes a point during public testimony over the Silver Rapids proposal.

photo by C. Clark

of a time-share scheme where each cabin would be shared by four owners.

At the end of the hearing, which lasted three hours, the commission

See...SILVER RAPIDS pg. 11



ELY'S BLUEBERRY/ART FESTIVAL



Ely's biggest event of the year kicks off this Friday in Whiteside Park. The Blueberry/Art Festival will bring hundreds of artists and crafters to town along with dozens of food vendors as well as live music. It's fun for the whole family. See our special section beginning on page 1B.

CAMPAIGN TO SAVE THE BOUNDARY WATERS

Building the case for protection

Campaign using water quality data to roadblock future sulfide mining

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY—With each new sample of lake and stream water, organizers with the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters are building a database that could one day become the foundation for the permanent protection of the nation's most-visited wilderness area from the potential threat of a sulfide-based copper-nickel mine.

It's a long-term strategy designed to combine water quality test data with existing law to protect water quality that the state's Pollution Control Agency has described as "immaculate," and worthy of the highest level of protection. Becky Rom, national chair of the campaign, outlined the group's strategy during a Tuesday Group meeting in Ely



earlier this month.

The group laid the foundation for the effort several years ago, with the intent of thoroughly documenting the impact on water quality downstream of mining operations, including the current Northshore taconite mine and

the former Dunka pit, both near Babbitt. Their results, compiled by trained personnel and tested at independent laboratories, have demonstrated the group's ability to document major point sources of mining-related pollution and track the impacts of that

Left: Becky Rom, national chair of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters outlined the campaign's strategy at a recent meeting of the Tuesday Group in Ely.

photo by C. Clark

pollution for as much as 25 miles downstream. That places the pollution at the edge of the BWCAW.

The effort has already yielded a major win with the MPCA's decision last year to include Birch Lake on the draft list of the state's impaired waters, due to sulfate concentrations that exceed the state's allowable standard of 10 milligrams per liter, or mg/l, for wild rice waters. Rom, speaking to the Tuesday Group, noted that

See...PROTECTION pg. 9

STATE PARK



Just weeks after underground mine tours were restarted this spring, they've been suspended due to the June 18 flooding. file photo

Soudan Mine tours done for the season

Cleanup from June flood has proven too extensive to reopen this summer

by SETH ROESER
Staff Writer

SLOUDAN- The Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park has canceled underground mine tours until next spring due to an estimated nine-and-a-half-feet of standing water that remains in the mine's 27th level from torrential rains that hit the area on June 18.

"We've got a lot of work to do between now and then, but we should be back in business by next spring," said mine assistant manager Jim DeVries.

Water on the 27th level — where underground tours take place — is normally pumped directly to a sump on the mine's 22nd level, where it is then pumped to the 12th level and finally sent to the surface. But the sump on the 22nd level has filled with silt and gravel left behind by the flooding which was causing excessive wear on the pump that would normally drain the sump. With that pump on the 22nd level currently shut down, there's no way to remove the water from the 27th level.

A suspected lightning strike left the mine without power for an estimated 11 to 12 hours on June 18

See...TOURS pg. 9



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Community notices

Wagoner Trail Club to hold hike, bike ride, picnic on Aug. 10 at McKinley Park



Trail club volunteers working on a project earlier this year. submitted

BREITUNG TWP- The Howard Wagoner Trails Club is hosting a community picnic on Saturday, Aug. 10 at noon at McKinley Park Campground. There will be burgers, brats, hotdogs, and fixings available. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish to share.

Before the picnic, the group will meet at 10 a.m. at the south trail-head of the Wagoner Ski

Trails (south of Tower on Hwy. 135) for a 5K hike on the trails. At 2 p.m., after the picnic, everyone is invited to a group bike ride around the McKinley, Hoodoo, Tower loop trail, an approximately six mile route.

The Wagoner Trail Club maintains the Tower ski trails, along with other hiking trails in the area.

Tower-Soudan City-Wide garage sales on Saturday, July 27

TOWER-SOUDAN- Stop by Tower and Soudan on Saturday, July 27 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for city-wide garage sales. There are 24 participating locations including 13

in Tower and 11 in Soudan. Maps are available at Soudan Store, Tower Zup's, and online on the What's Up Tower MN Facebook page.

Bois Forte Band to host cardiovascular health events on July 31 and Aug. 1

REGIONAL- Bois Forte Band of Chippewa is hosting two cardiovascular health kickoff events on Wednesday, July 31 in the Fortune Bay Woodlands Ballroom and on Thursday, Aug. 1 in the Bois Forte RTG Building Eagle Room. Both events are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Band is a partnered organization with Minnesota's Action Plan to Address Cardiovascular Disease, Stroke and Diabetes 2035 (MN 2035). The events will include an introduction to the Minnesota Cardiovascular Health Innovation Project, a discussion on community issues such as food access and social determinants of health, and prize drawings. A free lunch will be provided.

The MN 2035 Plan is focused on the treatment, management, and prevention of diabetes and

cardiovascular disease through:

- Eliminating racial, geographic, and other health inequities

- Removing barriers to good health and well-being

- Increasing access to affordable and culturally appropriate prevention strategies, clinical services, and self-management options for those at risk of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and stroke

These events are open to all band and community members who use Bois Forte services. An RSVP is strongly encouraged. Register by emailing dmorrison-jr@boisforte-nsn.gov or melissa.hawk@boisforte-nsn.gov. For more information, call squid at 218-757-0087 or Melissa Hawk at 218-757-3650.

TEAM SPORTS

Wiffleball tournament in Embarrass



EMBARRASS- The 16th Annual Red Bear Wiffleball Tournament was held July 20 at the Bjornrud home in Embarrass. Six teams, from Embarrass, Hibbing, International Falls, St. Francis, and Virginia, participated. The "Alaspa Bunch" from Embarrass defeated "North Star" from Hibbing, 6-4, to take the championship title. This family-centered event started after the

Bjornrud family built a wiffleball court in their front yard, at the request of one of their children who wanted to play wiffleball during their high school graduation party. From there, it turned into a day-long community event, with many players and spectators, along with plenty of potluck style food during the day.

submitted photos

MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

Celtic music at Arrowhead libraries in August

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to host The Magic of Celtic Music with Willow Brae in August. Composed of Andrea Stern and Laura MacKenzie, the duo express the warm resonance of traditional music plus the joy and spark of Irish and Scottish dance tunes. Willow Brae features a unique and wide array of seldom-heard instruments, along with fascinating historical and cultural information about their music, all delivered with humor and skill. This free program is one hour long and is geared towards audiences ages 7 and up. The event is offered at the following locations:

- Monday, Aug. 12, at 5 p.m. Cook Community Center
- Tuesday, Aug. 13, at 3 p.m. International Falls Public Library
- Wednesday, Aug. 14, at 10 a.m. Ely Public Library
- Wednesday, Aug. 14, at 3 p.m. Babbitt Public Library
- Thursday, Aug. 15, at 11 a.m. Hoyt Lakes Public Library
- Thursday, Aug. 15, at 3 p.m. Aurora Public Library



Andrea Stern (left) plays Celtic harps in the musical duo Willow Brae. Laura Mackenzie (right) plays wooden flutes, a concertina, multiple bagpipes, whistles, and sings. submitted

- Monday, Aug. 19, at 6 p.m. Eveleth Public Library
- Tuesday, Aug. 20, at 11 a.m. Mountain Iron Public Library
- Tuesday, Aug. 20, at 3 p.m. Virginia Public Library

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

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LENDER

BREITUNG

Soudan's South St. took brunt of recent flooding

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

SOUDAN- At their regular meeting on July 18, the Breitung Town Board heard from several residents of South Street who experienced major sewer backups during the June 18 storm that dumped over seven inches of rain on the area. A sewer pump station, located at the intersection of Junction Rd. and South St. was overwhelmed by the water entering the system, and pressurized sewer water came up through toilets and shower drains in the basements of nearby homes.

"What can be done so this never happens again?" asked Karen Wellander, who lost everything in her basement during the storm, due to damage and contamination from the contaminated sewer water. She noted she had similar issues 26 years ago.

"It was amazing how fast the sewer water poured in," Wellander said. "It was just shooting up. There was no time to plan for anything."

Supervisor Matt Tuchel, who also oversees the community's wastewater system, said the basement flooding issue was directly correlated with the elevation of the basements on South Street, some of which are lower than the nearby lift station.

Tuchel noted that it was not township policy to reimburse homeowners for property damage due to sewer backups, but that homeowners' policies might cover the expenses, if it was part of their policy.

Kalee Bjorgo said she did have insurance for sewer backups, but it only paid the cost of cleaning up the mess. "There was nothing to reimburse us for everything that was in the basement," she said.

Tuchel said a long-term solution would be

expensive, perhaps as much as a million dollars. This would entail putting in an equalization basin, essentially a small pond adjacent to the lift station, that would hold excess rainwater until the lift station could process it. That solution was recently installed in Gilbert, Tuchel said.

Another option would be installing backflow prevention valves in individual homes, but Tuchel said more research is needed to determine if this is a solution that would work in that area. Another option is a manual valve that would need to be shut off if flooding was happening. But this option totally shuts the outflow, as well as inflow, of sewer, so when it is closed, drains in the house cannot work. These valves can require regular maintenance so they don't become stuck open, rendering them useless.

"There is nothing simple in solving this problem," Tuchel said.

"This level of storm hadn't been seen before," Tuchel said. "The entire town's water was coming to you, unfortunately."

Town chair Tim Tomsich said homeowners should keep track of the time they spent cleaning up, keep receipts of any purchases to clean and/or replace items, and to take plenty of photographs.

Tomsich said the township is looking at funding that would pay for up to 75-percent of the cost of doing improvements while replacing damaged infrastructure, such as increasing the size of culverts to handle increased water flow.

Township officials were set to attend a meeting with St. Louis County to discuss flood-related expense reimbursements for the township.

"We hope to find a solution before the next 100-year flood event," said Tomsich.

St. Louis County has

a website set up to help homeowners who had flood damage find resources and assistance. Visit <https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/>, and click on "Information for property owners affected by recent storms/flooding."

ATV, dirt bike complaints

A South Street resident asked the board if they would have the police conduct more enforcement on South St. and Junction Rd. for ATV and dirt bike traffic on the two gravel roads, both located south of Hwy. 169. The resident cited the danger to pedestrians and pets, as well as the danger to teenage drivers who were driving recklessly.

"I think they feel free rein at night," the resident said. "No cops are around. They are going up and down Junction Rd. I would like to see some enforcement."

They added they are mostly worried about the safety issue, and they understand that younger teens do need a place to safely ride.

Tomsich said he had seen the same behaviors on Church St. and the bike trail to the ballfield.

"We have asked the police department to work more off shifts," Tomsich said. "And they have been giving out tickets."

Part-time officer Jim Battin, who was at the meeting, said people should call 911 to report infractions. Battin said law enforcement needs to witness the infractions in person, they just can't rely on a video or photo.

"You can remain

anonymous, it's the state law," Battin said.

"A lot of kids believe since St. Louis County allows adults on county roads outside of municipalities, that kids can drive wherever they want," Battin said, who noted that the rule only applies to those with drivers' licenses.

The June Breitung Police Report did contain two citations for juveniles operating an off-road vehicle on the highway.

In other police department news, the department cited two drivers for speeding, one for 77mph in a 60mph zone, and one for 91 mph in a 60mph zone. An adult female was arrested for DWI on an outstanding warrant from another county.

Stuntz Bay Road

The contractor has informed Breitung Township that they will not be closing the Stuntz Bay Road during upcoming construction, but that people should expect delays, and sometimes these delays will be "significant." The contractor had previously told the township they wanted to close the state park rear access, which would have prevented those with lake access properties getting to and from the Stuntz Bay boat landing.

The road will be passable at night.

The start date for the project is still up in the air, and it may not be until late August or in September.

Animal ordinance

The board also approved changes to the township's animal ordinance. In Soudan proper, the ordinance permits up

to three animals per dwelling, and in addition up to 12 chickens (no roosters) or 24 quail per dwelling. No cows, horses, goats, sheep, mules or other domestic or barnyard animals are permitted without written application and a special permit from the township.

Animal licenses are required for cats and dogs and are available at the clerk's office. A new lifetime license has been adopted, which costs \$20 for a spayed/neutered cat or dog, or \$30 otherwise. Annual licenses are \$5 for spayed/neutered, or \$10 otherwise.

Bike trail

The township did receive a \$20,000 planning grant from the Blandin Foundation for work on completing the paved loop trail between Soudan and Tower. The loop includes the Mesabi Trail section between Tower and Soudan, Breitung's paved trail to the McKinley Park area, and then Tower's paved trail from Hoodoo Point back into Tower.

Currently there is a little over a mile of the 6.5-mile loop that goes along the Hoodoo Point Rd., which does not have a wide enough shoulder to safely ride a bicycle. The total cost estimate for engineering planning and environmental review is \$43,200. The township

will also be applying for a \$20,000 IRRR grant for this project. The remaining costs would be split between Breitung and Tower.

An application for construction costs for the extension of the paved trail will be submitted next year to the DNR and IRRR.

Other business

The board agreed to have a timber sale on an approximately 10-acre parcel by the McKinley Park gravel pit. The city of Tower will also be logging some city land in that area. The logging will help facilitate the test drilling needed to determine the suitability of the area for a rapid infiltration basin for wastewater treatment. The area should not be visible from the bike trail, but heavy equipment may need to cross the bike trail to access the site. The board will look into options to make sure the bike trail is not damaged. The wastewater board is also planning on logging an area by the water plant, to open up more area for a planned solar panel installation.

The board's next meeting is on Thursday, Aug. 15 at 6 p.m., with the continuation of the annual meeting and setting of the township's 2025 levy at 7 p.m.



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OPINION

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

Putting country first

Joe Biden's painful decision was necessary and may yet save the country from Trump

Joe Biden didn't come to his decision to abandon his bid for re-election as President of the United States easily. It took considerable soul-searching and a gentle shove from members of his own party. Yet, in the end, after assessing his prospects, Joe Biden opted to put the interests of the country first and allow the Democrats to select a new nominee, which as of this week appears almost certain to be Vice President Kamala Harris.

Joe Biden has presided over a remarkably successful administration, that passed more major legislation in his four years than any president in decades. If present trends continue, Biden will have overseen the creation of nearly three times as many jobs as former president Trump, and that's before COVID wiped out all of the jobs created during the Trump years.

The U.S. has seen faster economic growth and lower unemployment across the board than under the previous administration. The U.S. is even producing more oil and gas than at any time in history. Biden, to no surprise, was eager to run on his record and under different circumstances, he likely would have won a second term.

Joe Biden has overcome much in his life, from a childhood stutter to the tragic death of his first wife and daughter, and the later loss of his beloved son Beau, but he couldn't overcome the relentlessness of time and the inevitability of aging. And his increasingly apparent lapses had threatened to hand the White House back to the only president in America's history who sought to overturn a free and fair election through illegal means.

Being president is challenging enough for an elderly man. But the rigors of running a presidential campaign, particularly one as critical to our nation's future as the one we face this year, were simply too much. In the end, Biden made the right decision for his family, his legacy, his party, and the country.

In this election, the alternative to the eventual Democratic nominee is unthinkable. But don't take our word for it. Dozens of Trump's former White House staff, former Cabinet members, and even his former Vice President, say that Donald Trump is not fit to serve. These are conservatives all, who witnessed firsthand Trump's unhinged demeanor, his cruelty,

his lack of principle, and his ignorance of our own history and they recognize that another four years could be disastrous.

To understand the mind of Donald Trump, just consider his comment this past Sunday, moments after Biden announced he was abandoning his candidacy.

“Crooked Joe Biden was not fit to run for President, and is certainly not fit to serve — And never was!” Trump posted.

Never mind the falsity of Trump's statement, since Biden has always been more qualified than Trump to serve as president. If ever there was a time for graciousness, this was it. In announcing his decision, Joe Biden was engaged in a very human moment, acknowledging his vulnerability as an elderly man and the reality that his time on the stage was soon coming to an end. Just days earlier, Trump had claimed he wanted to unify the country, and this was the perfect opportunity to demonstrate that with words that set aside the cudgel of the campaign and, as a 78-year-old man, showed a little humility, perhaps even some decency.

A man who was truly interested in unifying the country would have used words designed to summon our better angels. He would have thanked Joe Biden for his years in public service and offered empathy for the losses he has suffered in his family life. He would have wished him well in his coming retirement. Instead, without any evidence whatsoever, he called him a “crook.”

Yet his words no longer shock our collective conscience because we have grown used to Donald Trump's desperate need to belittle others. Donald Trump has so debased our politics that we've come to believe that our politics has always been this way — that every politician puts only themselves first, without regard for the country or its future. That every politician is as mendacious as Donald Trump.

Thankfully for America that has never been true and it isn't true today. Sometimes, politicians stand up and do the right thing. Mike Pence did that on Jan. 6, 2021. And Joe Biden did that this past Sunday. They put country before self. That's something Donald Trump will never understand.



Letters from Readers

Silver Rapids expansion plan is much too large

Silver Rapids Lodge has been a good neighbor in the past. Upgrading the facility is welcome, and having experienced resort management is a plus. But the idea of expanding the resort to 62 1,500-square-foot time-share cabins and increasing dock spaces from 22 to 90 is highly objectionable for a number of reasons. Many concerns have been identified. One of our biggest is the impact on the water. The facility is located at the narrowest point in the entire White Iron chain of lakes, so the concentration of boat traffic in the narrow channel will be more like that on Lake Minnetonka than on Ely area lakes. To put it into perspective, 90 dock spaces is almost three times as many as exist today on all private property in the entire channel from the Silver Rapids bridge to the entrance to Garden Lake. And there is every reason to expect that boats moored at the lodge will be used much more frequently than those moored on private lots. There is good reason to expect the boat traffic in that channel to be more than quadrupled. The increase in congestion and noise, impact on wildlife and shorelines, hazard to paddlers, and disruption of fishing is completely unacceptable. This is a massive commercial project in the middle of a residential area that residents chose for its quiet waters and peaceful shores.

Why 90 dock spaces? The developers want to offer a dock for every cabin. That would mean 62 dock spaces.

The developers also want approval for 30 dock spaces for visitors to the on-site restaurant and Tiki bar (in addition to 40 parking spaces for that purpose). They claimed at the hearing that they don't intend to rent dock space to outsiders, but they would certainly be likely to do that if they have all those dock spaces. It could become a commercial marina unless restricted by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

When the Lake County Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing at the Fall Lake Town Hall on July 18, more than 90 residents showed up to a room with a stated capacity of 60, requiring a third of the attendees to stand outside and listen at open windows. (This turnout was despite the fact that notice of the meeting was sent only to residents very near the resort, while this project will affect every resident on the WICOLA chain.) About 20 people spoke, all expressing concerns and strong objections to the scale of the project. After three hours, the commission members voted to table the matter in order to do more study. The hearing will resume at the same much-too-small location on Aug. 8 at 4 p.m. The chair of the commission announced that the time for public comment was closed, but that should be reconsidered, especially since the commission failed to provide the public adequate information before the hearing. We also hope more residents will show up on Aug. 8 to register their concerns. Bring lawn chairs.

Charles and Marily Marsden, Ely

Stauber shouldn't throw stones

I am writing in response to Pete Stauber's most recent email in which he asks “all political leaders to take accountability for their words” and to “stop fueling the hatred and division.” Noble aspirations indeed. He goes on to ask that the Democrats should “reflect on their demonization of Trump.”

Political discourse is not demonization. Stating facts is not demonization. Excuse me, Mr. Stauber, but I am not the one endorsing a convicted felon for president who calls people “vermin.” A man who promises to “be a dictator on day one.” A man who has routinely called for violence and bloodshed throughout his political history. A man who calls those who attacked police and ransacked the Capitol on Jan. 6, “political prisoners” and “patriots.” It is not surprising to me that his endorsed candidate for governor of North Carolina, Mark Robinson, said, just a few weeks ago, in a church no less, that “some folks need killing.” Where was the Republican condemnation for that statement?

I would suggest that you look to your own house for accountability for the hatred and division that is so rampant in our country at present. As the saying goes, “people in glass houses...”

Michele Jackman Virginia

COMMENTARY

A call to action that is as relevant today as in the 1960s

“Ask not what your country can do for you.

Ask what you can do for your country.”

The memory is of a young and vibrant newly elected president, John F. Kennedy, standing at a podium giving his inaugural address. My family was ecstatic over his successful bid for the White House. He was a Democrat, handsome, Irish and a Catholic! Their admiration for him and their hope for the future was infectious. I was seven years old. Kennedy



KATHLEEN MCQUILLAN

became my hero and his words stuck in my innocent mind like glue. Now several decades and presidential election cycles later, his words inspire me once again.

These are turbulent times. We have a highly charged, tempestuous campaign going on. Our society is deeply divided on many important issues, and polarized to such an extreme that we cannot even agree on what is a fact. And I, like many, feel a visceral anxiety over the

potential outcomes of this year's November election. This eloquent “call to action” is as relevant today as ever.

Recently, I walked the streets of some nearby communities, knocking on doors talking to people in my district and sharing the bio's of two candidates for political office who have garnered my respect and trust. I hadn't canvassed in many years and so was a little nervous. I wasn't sure how my visit would be received. I knew how controversial some issues were and how volatile the atmosphere has become. Many families and friends have even quit speaking to one another. Oodles of

doom and gloom stories are circulating. And a lot of people are reporting feeling depressed, overcome with fear or anger, or all of the above. I know what they're talking about. I feel helpless at times, too. I agreed to canvass for these candidates because I care a lot about the future. I thought maybe doing something might help me sleep better at night.

Last weekend I met with a small group of folks in Ely, most of them strangers to me, to partner up and go knocking on doors. We would briefly introduce ourselves, say why we were visiting, and then ask people what

they were most worried about and wanted to see and hear from those running for public office. We would also be frank about our preferred candidates. First, Harley Droba, the current Mayor of International Falls who is seeking the Minnesota House seat representing District 3A. And then, former member of Minnesota's House of Representatives Jen Schultz who is now running for the Eighth District Congressional seat in the House of Representatives.

It was a hot steamy summer day and many doors weren't answered. We figured many were gone to the lake, enjoy-

ing BBQ and cool breezes while we were beating the pavement looking for some opened doors with open-minded people inside who'd be willing to engage in a brief conversation about what mattered to us. We listened to ideas and opinions on what would make our communities more functional, about issues at the state and national levels and answered their questions about Harley and Jen. We left them with a piece of campaign literature and a heartfelt message that our votes in November do matter! Not one person

See ACTION...pg. 5

More Letters from Readers

Heat is also a climate change problem

We think of climate change as causing flooding, drought, physical destruction, wildfires, and hurricanes, blackouts and health issues for humans.

Extreme heat, however, is the number one climate change killer in the U.S. More people die from extreme heat than floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes combined. Heat waves around the world are becoming hotter, more frequent, and longer. High temperatures cause multiple health issues such as heat stroke, cramps, exhaustion and death. Moreover, heat waves reduce agricultural crops and milk production and increases cattle mortality. These diminishing resources contribute to inflation.

The Biden Administration has drafted regulations to protect workers exposed to extreme heat on the job by establishing safety standards for excess heat in working places.

Severe temperatures impact transportation systems. Helicopters can handle wind, fog, and smoke, but cannot fly during soaring temperatures on rescue missions or transport medical patients to other hospitals. When air gets hot, it has less density. It is difficult for planes to take off in "thin" air, especially for helicopters.

Ground transportation is affected by extreme temperatures. Trains move slower due to the heat because tracks overheat and buckle forcing major reduction in speed to avoid derailments. Oppressive heat has curtailed travel for trucks and cars on highways due to expansion, warp, and buckle of the roads. Delayed delivery times and possible spoilage add to inflation costs.

Perhaps the most chilling aspect to man-made severe global heat-

ing is the acceleration of the life cycles and expanded range of mosquitoes carrying the dengue virus from tropical areas northward to primarily Texas and Florida. Cases have also been reported in Arizona, California, New York, New Jersey, and one case in Hennepin County, here in Minnesota.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, up to 400 million people have gotten infected with dengue, 100 million got sick from infection, and 40,000 died from severe dengue. There is no cure for the virus.

Raising Earth's temperature is caused by greenhouse emissions of heat-trapping gas pollutants primarily from carbon products of oil and gas. Yet the major companies responsible for heating of the atmosphere have avoided curtailing their carbon production and keep drilling for more oil with no consideration of alternatives.

They support the presidential candidate who thinks global warming is a hoax. If Trump becomes President, he immediately plans to roll back environmental and climate regulations to the detriment of our planet.

**Gerry Snyder
Ely**

I'm voting for whoever supports Israel

While sitting in our library and reading opinion letters in the *Timberjay*, I noticed a letter from an Ely resident, who formerly lived among Palestinians, but now wants a two-state, Mideast solution. And other writers who seem excessively worried about the threat of global warming to mankind's future. I'm a retired state employee who considered myself a public servant, not a supporter of a big government, like we seem to especially have in Minnesota. For 14 years, I

worked as a DNR ecologist, having worked in all seven northeastern Minnesota counties, including St. Louis County.

I'm also a former resident of Hibbing, where a lot of Jews lived. They were good people and added a lot to our village; but preferred religious separateness by worshiping at their synagogue. Many were merchants but some were lawyers and doctors. One Jewish doctor was a co-member with me in the Hibbing Chapter of the Izaak Walton League. In 1968, I took limnology at the University of Minnesota from Professor Joseph Shapiro. Dr. Shapiro, like most Jews, was very intelligent; and from him, I learned that lake sediments in Little Bass Lake, northeast of Coonassett, contain pollen that document a very warm lengthy period, and treeless prairie west of Grand Rapids (Medieval warm period). As a well-trained ecologist, I'm concerned with many peoples' obsession with Mother Nature. But I'm more concerned with antisemitic protests happening on university campuses, including my alma mater. The Bible states that the Jews will be a blessing to all Gentiles with their knowledge and Biblical values; and that's why I'm voting for the party that unequivocally supports Israel.

**David G. Holmbeck
Grand Rapids**

Skraba is wrong on the sale of school trust lands

Thank you for the excellent and informative news story about the sale to the federal government of Minnesota's school trust lands located within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. State Rep. Roger Skraba has announced that he opposes the sale; his stated reasons are misguided and ill-informed. A sale/purchase would be in the

best financial interest of Minnesota's school children. It would certainly be legal.

School trust lands were granted to the state of Minnesota upon statehood for the purpose of funding education. Over time most of Minnesota's school trust lands were sold. The sale proceeds, in addition to income from retained lands, were deposited in a Permanent School Fund. The Permanent School Fund is managed by the state Board of Investment to provide public education funding in perpetuity. Fifty-one million dollars for public education was distributed from the Permanent School Fund for the 2023-24 school year.

More than 30 years ago, a sale of school trust lands within the Boundary Waters was proposed. Over the years, a sale has been frustrated because of opposition from some northern Minnesotan lawmakers.

Financial analyses time and again have shown that the students would be better off if the school trust lands in the Boundary Waters were sold to the federal government and the proceeds deposited into the Permanent School Fund. A land exchange for federal lands outside the Boundary Waters and development of such newly acquired state lands for logging and mining returns less financial reward than a sale.

You might ask, then, why someone would oppose the best financial outcome for students and education? It seems that some northern lawmakers prefer to cater to their logging and mining buddies. Perhaps there is also a desire to shrink the Superior National Forest in an anti-federal public lands fever.

Skraba claims a sale to the federal government is not authorized by law. Not so. On Sept. 3, 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signed two bills into law. The first bill was the

Wilderness Act, which designated the Boundary Waters as National Wilderness. The second bill he signed established the Land & Water Conservation Fund, which funds federal acquisition of lands, including Minnesota's school trust lands within the Boundary Waters.

Minnesotans should fully support the proposal by the state of Minnesota and the U.S. Forest Service to sell Minnesota's school trust lands within the Boundary Waters to the federal government as in the best interests of education and our children. An important lesson learned is to never seek financial or legal advice from Roger Skraba.

**Becky Rom
Ely**

I support a party that shares my values

A Republican friend asked, "How can you be 100% behind Biden last week and now be 100% behind Harris this week?" At first this question confused me, but I think the answer lies with that for many Republicans the choice of which candidate to vote for is based on the appeal of the one person who most boldly "takes strong and loud positions against those that believe differently than the voter" and most aggressively "advocates actions or threats to others that are threatening to the voter's held values and concerns." Maybe they seek someone to speak loudly and act aggressively addressing their fears, values and concerns. I can understand that, when I was a lot younger, I decided based on who I thought was the "best person."

Now I vote for the "party" that I trust holds the same values as I, and who will uphold those values. Since I have decided that the Democrats generally hold the values that I

hold, and that candidates in the Democratic Party will generally faithfully vote with those values, it doesn't matter to me who the specific person is.

If a candidate consistently exhibits sustained personal alignment with party values, generally votes in a way that shows they adhere to those values, and exhibits personal humbleness that party is before personal gains, I can fully support that candidate.

I knew what Joe Biden stood for as he served humbly for decades working in the best interest of his constituency over personal gain.

The California Secretary of State reported Donald Trump contributed \$5,000 to Harris when she was California's top prosecutor and was investigating ongoing fraud allegations against Trump University. The *Sacramento Bee* reported she gave away the entire contribution to a civil rights nonprofit working in Central America.

I am comfortable Harris will represent my values.

**Keith and Amy
Steva, Cook**

Cellphones in schools

Given the plague of guns and school shooters, parents and kids may want phones in the classrooms. We adults forget that kids these days are like a hive, and see that as a feature, not a bug.

Even if the phones won't protect the kids, at least they can share their last moments with each other and/or their parents.

It's against federal law to block cellphone signals, which is easily done. But you can use enough copper in a building's design to make it into a Faraday Cage, which does the trick.

**Dave Porter
Minneapolis**

ACTION...Cont. from page 4

was rude or dismissive. I began the day with reluctance and ended with more hope, trust, and faith in my community than when I'd started.

I was proud to be talking about two candidates who exhibit the qualities we long for in political leaders — competency, honesty, compassion, and an ability to listen and learn from others — people who make door-knocking a pleasure. The hard work and energy they were investing to get elected, not for their personal gain but for the common good, got me off my couch to do something that might help. Getting out there dispelled my fears and connected me with other caring people. I could share a positive message with others and discovered others doing the same for me. Two thumbs up!

I've been politically active, in one form or another, throughout my life. My mom enlisted me to help organize a neighborhood clean-up effort on the very first Earth Day in 1970. We hung posters on lampposts with an invitation and the simple instruction, "Bring a rake." My mom supplied big bags and some neighborhood ladies set up a table with cold drinks and snacks. A bunch of kids and parents showed up and everyone had a blast. Our neighbor-

hood needed the TLC and we were proud of what we'd accomplished.

That fall, I was the first girl to be elected president of my high school senior class. My best friend was elected president for Student Council. She also was a first. Rumors spread, trying to explain how this had happened, but whatever it was, for us it felt "historic." We had broken a "glass ceiling" before we even knew they existed.

While a student at Eastern Michigan University, a new "third party" was forming in Washtenaw County. They were seeking candidates to run in city councils and county commissioner races. I was drafted by a small group of peers and ran for Ypsilanti's city council. After a grueling three-way race between myself, the Republican incumbent, and a Democrat, I lost by a mere eight votes. I'd vowed to knock on every door in my ward and although I wasn't elected, at an early

age I'd learned first-hand how our electoral process works plus I'd listened to a lot of people, learning about how we think and form opinions on our issues. Most of all, I realized that as long as we have a democracy, we will need well-intentioned, honest and thoughtful, committed and courageous people to run for public office.

I'm a firm believer in our democracy. I know it's far from perfect. And it's been sorely undermined in recent years by a flood of "fake" information, manipulation, exclusion, and cynicism. It's hard to remain hopeful when there are so many complicated and critical issues, and decisions to be made in really tough conditions, even threats to our security. But I want to reiterate that knocking on doors, meeting my fellow citizens who are struggling to decide if our political system is even worth taking part in, was such an important and worthwhile way to spend some precious time.

I learned that we really can be a nation primarily composed of thoughtful and caring people.

The words of President John F. Kennedy are as inspiring today as they were decades ago. I'll wrap this up with another message I adopted from my past. It came from a San Francisco radio news host named Wes "Scoop" Nisker. He'd sign off his regular evening broadcast with these words. "If you don't like the news, go out and make some of your own."

There's about a hundred days before November 7. Let's get out there and make some good news!

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TOWER FARMERS MARKET
VARIETY LOCAL FRESH

**Fridays
4-6 PM
at the Train Depot**

KID'S DAY • July 26
Karaoke with LuAnn
Prizes
for Costumes

the
TIMBERJAY

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Week of July 29

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 building. 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 52 winner of a \$100 cash prize of the Charlemagne's 52 Club is David Desannoy of Tower.

This is the final 52-week drawing winner announcement for for the first year of the Charlemagne's 52 Club fundraiser. Be sure to purchase tickets for the second year of this fun fundraiser by Sept. 10. Only 300 tickets are for sale. Drawings will be held on Sept. 11.

History Tidbit: On July 31, 1884, 240 tons of vermillion lump ore, the highest grade ore in the world, was extracted from the Soudan mine and shipped by rail on Engine No. 8, a hand-fired wood burner, and five wooden cars of 20-ton capacity, without air brakes or automatic couplers. Engine No. 8 negotiated 68 miles of newly-laid track through the extreme wilderness lining the route from Soudan to Two Harbors. The people of Two Harbors, as excited as the people of Tower and Soudan, let out a tremendous whoop at the first sighting of No. 8. At Two Harbors, the steamer Hecla was waiting in port, ready to depart for the smelting plants on Lake Erie and Lake Michigan. Thus began an industry that shaped the economic and social growth of Minnesota.

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 appreciated by calling 218-753-3047.

Chase Mathis graduates from UW-Madison

MADISON, Wis.- Chase Mathis, of Tower, graduated University of Wisconsin- Madison from the College of Engineering, with a Bachelor of Science-Computer Engineering this spring. He graduated with Highest Distinction.

RECREATION

Greenwood Pickleball Courts construction begins



GREENWOOD TWP- Lake Vermilion Pickleball Association members gathered Tuesday to watch as construction began on the new pickleball courts at Greenwood Town Hall. The four-court area is expected to be paved by Aug. 1, with fencing installed sometime in August. The courts are being installed adjacent to the pavilion, bocce ball, and playground area. The grounds at the town hall also include a tennis court, which can be used as two pickleball courts. The project is being funded by a \$25,000 donation by the township, grant funding, and many private donations. An upcoming fundraiser is set for Aug. 22 at Tavern in the Bay from 6 - 9 p.m. Donation is \$10 at the door. There will be raffles, prizes, free appetizers, and live music with the Beefeater Brothers. submitted photo

TOWER FARMERS MARKET

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. The afternoon includes fun for children and adults of all ages. 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.



History Happy Hour at Tower Farmers Market on Friday, July 26

TOWER- Local residents are invited to enjoy free lemonade passed out by the Tower-Soudan Historical Society this Friday, July 26, from 4-5 p.m. at the Tower Farmer's Market. Raffle tickets for Charlemagne's 52 Club will also be for sale. Only 300 will be sold so be sure to buy yours now.

TOWER-SOUDAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Charlemagne's Attic Sale July 26-27

TOWER- Stop by Tower's Historic Fire Hall on Friday and Saturday, July 26-27. This will be the last chance to browse the collection of antique and vintage items for sale. The sale features unusual and often one-of-a-kind vintage and antique items, and is a fundraiser for the Tower-Soudan Historical Society to raise money to renovate Tower's 1895 Historic Fire Hall, the oldest civic building on the Iron Range that housed the jail, the mayor's office, city hall, and the fire engine way back when Tower was just

getting started. The sale, named for Charlemagne Tower, also offers the opportunity for tours by TSHS Board President Nancy Larson and a chance to understand the importance of the building in local history. "This Attic Sale will be our last," said Larson. "We will be moving forward on the renovation and the first thing we will do is create restrooms in the two jail cells. The original jail cell bars will remain in place in the restrooms."

Doors will open from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Friday

and 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday. "In addition to the always unique and interesting items featured in past Charlemagne's Attic sales, there will be newer quality garage sale items, art, a refrigerator, and more for sale," said Larson. "What's more, we want to totally empty the building, so the shoppers will enjoy discounted prices. It's a good way to show our appreciation for the support the TSHS has gotten from the community."

Train Tales arrives at the Tower Train Depot on Wednesday

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Historical Society invites all children and their adults to another fun-filled Train Tales experience on Wednesday, July 31 at 3:15 p.m. Seasoned storytellers Becky Peterson and Lauri Leonard, who are both former teachers, will team up to read stories, recite poems, and sing songs about bugs, insects, caterpillars, ladybugs, (and more) from books by Eric Carle, who wrote the class and well-loved books, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and "The Grouchy Ladybug", among others.

Children are encouraged to come early. They can search for a book to take home after Train Tales. Each



Henry Etlicher and his mom Kelly reads a new book he picked out at the last Train Tales event The family was spending their vacation at Everett Bay Lodge on Lake Vermilion. photo by J. Summit

child can choose their very own from over 100 gently-used books that vary in reading level from infant to 12 years old. Children will also be able to take home a brand new stuffed animal of their choice.

Home-baked cookies

will be provided to children and their adults as well as refreshing lemonade.

When it's time to disembark from Car 81, the Arrowhead Library System Bookmobile will await attendees in the civic center parking lot.



VCS graduate Hannah Johnson awarded scholarship

TOWER- Vermilion Country School graduating senior Hannah Johnson, of Embarrass, was awarded a \$1,000 EMPOWER scholarship, funded by the EMPOWER group of women in Ely.

Hannah was chosen for the scholarship by her teachers, based on her hard work to complete her high school credits while working part-time, and the essay she wrote to qualify for the scholarship. She plans on attending the veterinary technician program at Minnesota North College in Ely.

Bookmobile stops

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Bookmobile will be in the Tower-Soudan area on Wednesdays: Jul 31, Aug 21, Sept. 11, Oct. 2 and 23, Nov. 13, and Dec. 4, 2024.

Stops include: Britt (Sand Lake Storage): 9 - 9:30 a.m.; Bois Forte (Boys & Girls Club): 11 - 11:30 a.m.; Greenwood (Town Hall): 12 - 1 p.m.; Soudan (Post Office area): 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.; Tower (Civic Center): 3:45 - 4:30 p.m.; and Embarrass (Hwy 135 & Hwy 21): 5 - 6 p.m.

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



The owner of Britton's Café, Bonnie Jacobson (right), and her daughter, Samantha Jax (left). photo by C. Clark

Paralyzed veterans fundraiser at Britton's

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- One of Ely's most popular eating spots, Britton's Café, has covered its walls with red, white, and blue cards and would like to add more. Each card represents a donation supporting the annual visit of the Paralyzed Veterans of America at the nonprofit Veterans on the Lake Resort.

"No donation is too small," said Bonnie Jacobson, the owner and cook at Britton's. "All the proceeds go to support the visitors from PVA while they are at Veterans on the Lake."

This is the fourth year that

Britton's has run its fundraiser. The donations help defray incidental costs the veterans may have like equipment rental and fishing bait. Britton's does the cooking for the PVA group while they are at the resort.

This year, the PVA will bring around twenty veterans to Veterans on the Lake for the week starting on Aug. 23. Without the efforts of groups like the PVA and Veterans on the Lake, these veterans would not be able to have a disability-accessible, lakeside vacation in Minnesota's north woods.



ATV accident victim in ditch all night

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

MORSE TWP- A 19-year-old ATV driver was flown to a Duluth hospital on Wednesday morning after landing his vehicle in a ditch along the 3000 block of Wolf Lake Rd. in Morse Township. The driver failed to navigate a left turn on the road. The ATV left the road and entered the ditch where it struck a tree. The driver was thrown from the vehicle, sustaining serious but non-life-threatening injuries. A St. Louis Sheriff's Office statement related that the driver did not appear to be wearing a helmet at the time of the accident.

According to St. Louis County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Sergeant K. Hanegmon, the driver believed he went off the road around 3 a.m. Since the time of the accident, he pulled himself out of the ditch to where he could be seen. "He was out there for about four hours before someone saw him," Hanegmon told the *Timberjay*.

The St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, Morse-Fall Lake Fire Department, Morse First Responders, and Ely Area Ambulance responded to the accident at 7:19 a.m. after the driver was found by passers-by. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ISD 696 looks at a capital project levy

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely School Board will hold a special meeting on Monday, Aug. 5, at 6 p.m., to discuss a new capital project levy. Minnesota's election timeline for a new levy is the reason for the special meeting date. If the school board decides to pursue a capital project levy, it must file with the Minnesota Department of Education by Aug. 7 and formally adopt a resolution calling for a ballot on the new levy by Aug. 13.

Addressing the shortfall

As previously reported, ISD 696 has a half-million-dollar budget shortfall for the 2024-25 school year. To make up for the gap, the school board opted to spread the shortfall across the next two fiscal years to lessen the impact on students. The district also found ways to cut expenses and increase revenues to slice the shortfall in half during this fiscal year.

That leaves the Ely Public Schools with a quarter million shortfall to make up in 2025-26. "We need to do something," said Superintendent Anne Oelke. "Without more revenue, we will need to make more cuts."

A capital project levy

As part of its efforts to address the shortfall, the school board considered adding a capital project levy to the November ballot for the voters to approve or reject. The advantage of such a levy is that it uses a larger tax base than an operational levy, which lowers the cost to residents. A capital project levy would help alleviate the shortfall by shifting technology and building-related expenses out of the general fund, allowing

more general fund dollars to be used for operations.

The district invited its municipal financing and debt advisory consultants from Ehlers Public Finance Advisors to present the financial numbers and timeline at the school board's July 22 study session.

ISD 696 currently has an operational levy in place, which it intends to renew. The problem with an operation levy, however, is that it places a greater burden on year-round residents.

"Seasonal recreation (properties) are not included in operating referendum levies," Beth Downes of Ehlers noted. Capital project levies do tax seasonal properties, which makes the tax burden on residents far less.

"For a home with a \$200,000 estimated market value, a capital project levy providing \$350,000 of annual revenue would add \$61 in taxes," said Ehlers' Jodie Zesbaugh.

Why all the levies?

As the Ehlers consultants explained, more and more Minnesota school districts are resorting to new operations and capital project levies to close the funding gap in state funds. Before last year, Minnesota's school funding formula did not have any indexing for inflation. Zesbaugh presented an inflation analysis, starting with 2003. The result explained much of why Minnesota public schools have been struggling.

"Had the funding allowing increased by the rate of inflation every year since 2003, the allowance per student would be \$8,645," Zesbaugh said. The 2024-25 allowance from Minnesota is \$7,281 per student, which is a gap of \$1,365 compared to what schools received in 2003.

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

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

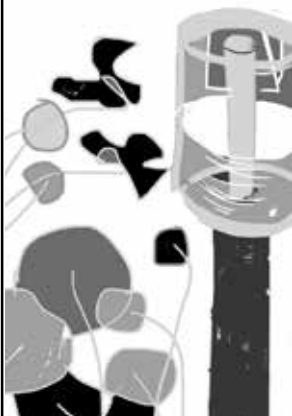
Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

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

► Aug. 6: Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



nasturtiums flower moisture fuels growth and beauty

rain gauge monitors

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
OPEN AA - 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.
AA FRIDAYS - 7 p.m. Fridays, First Presbyterian Church, 262 E. Harvey St., Ely.

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

BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Thursdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church.

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

BABBITT AL-ANON - Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.

CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step support group, 4:00 p.m. Tuesdays, Wellbeing Development, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 712 S. Central Ave., Ely.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living. Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital. Conference Room B.

AROUND TOWN



Cecilia Rolando demonstrates painting with watercolors at the annual Ely Watercolor Club Show, which ran from July 17-21 at the Miner's Dry Building. photo by C. Clark

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Ely's Historic State Theater

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 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.

The theater also 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.

Summer Olympics

ELY- Ely's Historic State Theater will show the Summer Olympics in the lobby and lounge starting on Friday, July 26. Watching the Olympics at the theater is free anytime the theater is open for business.

Ely City Band

ELY- The Ely City Band will play on Tuesday, July 30, at 6 p.m. The performance will feature the premier of a new composition for wind trio and band, commissioned by the nationally acclaimed Sonora Winds from Minneapolis, who will play with the band.

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.

Fire Department Block Party

WINTON- The Morse-Fall Lake Fire and Rescue Auxiliary will throw a block party on Saturday, July 27, from noon until 11 p.m., at the HD Winton Roadhouse, 252 Main St. The event will feature live music by Justin Champa from 4-7 p.m., and Stoney River from 7-11 p.m. The cost is \$12 for "burgers, hot

dogs, and bands." The food portion of the event includes a side of beans, chips, and water.

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.

Reflections Dance Company

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association's Reflections Dance Company will present their summer dance production, "Constant Changes," at Ely's Historic State Theater on Aug. 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m., and on Aug. 18 at 2 p.m. General admission is \$25. This full-length dance concert features live music led by the Chicka-dee-dees. A special piece

choreographed by guest artists Amanda Sachs and Elena Hollenhorst will be part of the show. Tickets are available at www.northernlakesarts.org

Ely Public Library

ELY- 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 an 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- The library has take-home Bell Museum science and nature activities kits to take home. Each kit contains step-by-step instructions and materials for four different activities. These are free while supplies last. Kits are limited to one per family.

The library will host a free art class for kids in grades Kindergarten through 12 on Wednesday, Aug. 21, from 1-2 p.m., using water-miscible oil pastel painting. Call 218-827-3345 or stop by the library to register for this class.

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.

FLOOD RELIEF

Donations keep coming in to Lions relief center

COOK- More than a month after the June flood that inundated Cook, people needing cleaning supplies and equipment are still getting those needs met by dropping by the Cook Lions Club Flood Recovery Donation Center.

"A lot of stuff has come in and a good number of items have gone out," said Lions Club President Steve Kajala. "We continue to get a few pickups and drop offs every day."

Kajala said a lull in

activity was expected due to the challenge of arranging for contractors to rehab flood-damaged homes, with homeowners needing to get floors replaced before putting in new furniture and appliances.

Kajala expressed gratitude for the volunteers who've been manning the center.

"I know over half of the Lions have served in there already," he said. "And we've had a number of people who are just people that are seasonal

visitors that have said, 'Can we help, too?' Of course you can."

Kajala said the center could use more modern furniture items, appliances, and home furnishings.

Kajala also said the center will be changing hours next week.

"We're going to be going down to Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and then Saturday and Sunday mornings," he said.

Check the Cook MN Lions Club Facebook page for center updates.



Some of the donated household items at the Cook Lions Club Flood Recovery Donation Center available for flood victims to have for free as they recover from the June flood. photo by D. Colburn

Path laid out for student cellphone policy

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- In a light agenda at Tuesday's regular meeting, the ISD 2142 school board heard about progress being made on the district's new cellphone policy for students, approved the renewal of a cooperative service agreement with the Bois Forte Head Start Program, and reviewed the projects and budget for long term facilities maintenance.

Superintendent Reggie Engebritson reported that the state's principals' associations had released model cellphone policies per the direction of the state Legislature, setting the stage for the next step of the process. While districts aren't required by state law to have a policy in place until March 2025, Engebritson is moving to have one in place before classes start in September.

Engebritson told board members that the need to determine how

restricted student cellphone use might be, and for that she wants to get feedback from parents. "My thoughts tentatively are to put a survey out for parents, just to get some feedback, because they're going to have to partner with us with whatever policy, whether it's not using cellphones at all, from the first bell to the last bell in the day, or allowing it during passing time and lunch," she said. "There's pros and cons to each, so I just would like parents to weigh in."

Engebritson discussed a number of different procedural issues as to how cellphones might be kept off and away from students during restricted periods. She also discussed the research considered by legislators when they passed the policy requirement, noting the detrimental effects of excessive cellphone usage on students' academic and socialemotional abilities.

Engebritson said af-

ter getting parent feedback the district principals would meet in August to further review and refine the policy, with the intent that the board would ratify the final product at the end of August.

District Finance Director Kim Johnson walked the board through a detailed spreadsheet of facilities projects. The first project on the list was for Northeast Range.

"We have got to do the siding in the Northeast Range courtyard because the damage is getting so bad it's going to start impacting the windows and everything else," Johnson said.

The district has an old estimate of about \$350,000 for the work, and Johnson said they were in the process of getting a firmer update. The project would be done next summer.

Also on tap for next summer is a boiler upgrade at Tower-Soudan, and roofing repairs are

needed at Cherry, NER, and Tower-Soudan.

The most costly projects are the upgrades to the wastewater facilities at South Ridge and North Woods. Last February the board approved a bid of roughly \$1 million for the South Ridge project. With financial support from the Legislature, Johnson said the district's share of the cost will be far less.

"Our cost sharing is \$200,000," Johnson said. "And the rest is going to be covered by bonding - same thing at North Woods."

There's money set aside in the budget for upgrades to the district's sports fields, with Johnson noting that the North Woods fields needed more work. "And there really isn't anything else big that's out there," she said. "The past few years it's been pretty wild and crazy. There's not a lot going on out there right now."

The cooperative

agreement with the Bois Forte Head Start Program has been in place for many years, and primarily focuses on how they will collaborate in identifying children with disabilities and providing appropriate educational services for them. The agreement also has steps to ease the transition of Head Start students into kindergarten. The renewal was passed unanimously.

In other business, the board:

►Hired Dawn Merrill for a two-tenths time elementary media position at NER.

►Hired Paul Adcock as a bus driver at North Woods.

►Hired the following coaches at North Woods - head football coach Joel Anderson, assistants Mark Fabish, Daniel Reing, and Matt Koch; assistant cross country coach Daniel Squires; and head cheerleading coach Rachel Johnson.

►Hired the following coaches at NER - head swimming coach Cheri DeBeltz and assistant Sue Pasmick; assistant cross country coach Adam Hagen; and head volleyball coach Misty Roseth and assistant Sena Bissonette.

►Accepted three resignations from NER, including paraprofessionals Melissa Schroeter and Lara Poderzay and ECFE teacher aide Kaitlyn Clemmer.

►Hired Jean Virant as a full-time Title I teacher with a split assignment at North Woods and Cherry.

►Hired Tarryn Bayliss as a half-time elemen-

tary teacher at NER.

►Hired Dawn Merrill for a two-tenths time elementary media position at NER.

►Hired Paul Adcock as a bus driver at North Woods.

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►Accepted three resignations from NER, including paraprofessionals Melissa Schroeter and Lara Poderzay and ECFE teacher aide Kaitlyn Clemmer.

Obituaries

Mary H. Krause

Mary Helen Krause, age 96, of Eveleth, formerly of Parkville, passed away on Thursday, May 30, 2024 at The Water-view Woods in Eveleth, Minn. A gathering of family and friends will be held on Friday, Aug. 2, 2024, from 1 - 3 p.m. at the Range Funeral Home in Virginia. Pastor Liz Cheney will officiate. Interment to follow at the Greenwood Cemetery in Virginia. Arrangements are made with the Range Funeral Home in Virginia. To send condolences or to



Mary Helen Krause

sign the online guestbook, please visit www.rangefuneralhomes.com.

Mary was born on March 21, 1928 to Harry and Florence (Mc-

Cullough) Jones in Hope, North Dakota. She attended Fargo Central High School, graduating in 1945. Following high school, she attended Moorhead Teacher College and earned her teaching certificate. While raising her family, she later completed her degree at the University of Minnesota Duluth taking night classes.

Mary taught at schools in Black Duck, Virginia, Mt. Iron; and ultimately ended up teaching in Eveleth at the Franklin Elementary for over 20 years.

She married Walter Krause on June 13, 1950, in Duluth. The family raised their four children in Parkville.

She enjoyed spending time at the cabin at Ash-Ka-Nam Resort where they made many friends. It was here that she and Walt started their morning habit of playing a few rounds of cards. In the winter, she and Walt spent their time in Lake Havasu City enjoying the warmer weather and time by the pool. Mary's favorite day was Tuesdays when she would take the shuttle

bus to Laughlin to see if she could win any money - which she did quite often. No matter the location, Mary enjoyed cooking, making ceramics, and spending time with family and friends.

Mary is survived by her children: Susan Krause (John Kauppila), Cathy Peritz, James (Terri) Krause, and Jerome Krause (Patrick Peralta); grandchildren: Alex Peritz, Brian Krause, Kelli Krause, and Tim (Lizzie); as well as several cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Mary is preceded

in death by her parents; husband, Walter in 2018; sister and brother-in-law, Patti and George Pratt; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Donald and Marianne Krause; and son-in-law, Gary Peritz.

**Read It
HERE**

NWFA announces upcoming events

COOK- Saturday, July 27 is the last chance to see the colorful July exhibit "Summertime" at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook, 210 S River St. by the members of the Virginia Lyric Art Colony.

The featured exhibit in August will be "Out of Mud", a ceramics exhibit by Lyn Reed, beginning Aug. 7. Reed displays her usual colorful dishes and introduces her "Totem Sculpture" indoor/outdoor art.

Tickets are on sale for

NWFA's annual concert and fundraiser on Sunday, Aug. 18. "4 Blue Teardrops" are featured at this concert with dance space available. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. For advance tickets call Shawna Kishel at 218-780-6510 or Lauren Nelson at 218-750-1989.

Buyck pork and corn feed is Aug. 3

BUYCK- The Buyck Fire Department's annual pork and corn feed and auction is coming up

on Saturday, Aug. 3 starting at 11 a.m. This year's event features the return of the whole-roasted pig.

Along with the silent auction and regular auction, new tumblers with 2024 support stickers and hats will be available.

Park music on July 31

COOK- Cook's Music in the Park will welcome fan favorites The Hutter Bunch on Wednesday, July 31 at 6 p.m. in Cook City Park.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Assault on officer sends tourist to county jail

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- A recent visitor here found himself taking an unscheduled trip to the St. Louis County Jail on July 13. Dylan Scott Williams of Centre, Ala., age 31, was staying at the Grand Ely Lodge, according to court documents, when he became belligerent, first assaulting family members before allegedly kicking St. Louis County Deputy Micah Hughes in the face while resisting arrest.

He now faces a charge of felony assault of a peace officer.



Dylan Scott Williams

Williams was in town for a wedding along with his parents, wife, and baby. In the statement of probable cause filed by the Ely Police Department, his parents said that Williams “had

too much to drink at the wedding,” and that he had been “extremely agitated in the lobby and was not making sense.” His parents were trying to get him to his room after walking back to the hotel from the wedding reception.

The family’s statements indicated that Williams’ wife returned earlier to their room to put their child to bed. As Williams’ mother went to knock on the door of her son’s room, he came up behind her and “was about to pound on the door.” His mother moved him back, concerned that he would wake the baby. Williams

then pushed his mother to the ground. His father tried to restrain his son when Williams began to punch him, including twice in the head. At this point, other people came to help restrain Williams.

At 9:12 p.m., the Ely Police Department responded to the scene, finding a “large crowd of people” trying to restrain William, who was “yelling incoherently and attempting to fight with the people present.” Williams was “uncooperative” while officers handcuffed him. When placed in a squad car, he “refused to put his legs inside.” According to court

paperwork, when Hughes tried to put Williams’ legs inside, Williams kicked him in the face. “Deputy Hughes sustained a cut to his lip and bruising to his right eye. Additionally, Deputy Hughes’ nose is crooked and will need to be X-rayed for a possible broken nose.”

Ely Police officer Christian Debrey took over from Hughes and was kicked “several times in his leg” before law enforcement personnel secured Williams inside the vehicle.

Williams was released from jail after posting a bond for \$10,000 on July 16. In addition to the charge

of assault on a peace officer, Williams faces two gross misdemeanor counts of assault and obstruction, and three misdemeanor counts of domestic assault.

Williams has an upcoming hearing in court on July 29. His online case record annotates the hearing as “Initial Appearance – Rule 8.” The note may indicate that Williams intends to enter a guilty plea since that is the only plea permitted at a Rule 8 hearing. If he does not plead guilty, he will be arraigned at a subsequent omnibus hearing.

PROTECTION...Continued from page 1

the federal Environmental Protection Agency, had also approved of that listing in May, clearing the way for Birch Lake’s impairment to be made final.

Rom said the group began its research effort by testing conductivity, which is a measure of certain ions in water that are typically connected to industrial pollution. “What we found was that there were hot spots,” Rom said. Those hot spots were at the mouth of the Dunka River and, particularly, Unnamed Creek, which flows into Birch Lake’s Bob Bay. That began a much larger and more methodical analysis that gathered thousands of samples from across Birch Lake as well as from all of its tributaries as well as tributaries to downstream waters, including the White Iron chain of lakes, all of which drain into the

BWCAW.

Test results from the tributaries that were unimpacted by mining showed sulfate concentrations ranging from 0.6 mg/l to 1.6 mg/l, noted Rom. “It’s what our lakes would have been like had we not had these two mines,” she said.

By contrast, the results from Unnamed Creek, located downstream of the Dunka pit, saw concentrations of sulfate at well over 300 mg/l, while the levels at the outlet of the Dunka River run about 100 mg/l.

Unnamed Creek discharges acid rock drainage left over from sulfide-bearing overburden that was removed by LTV back in the 1960s to access a taconite deposit underneath. Toxic runoff from the site is partially mitigated by tarps covering the waste rock stockpile and a series of engineered wetlands

that were built to control discharges, but the site continues to discharge effluent that exceeds state and federal water quality standards.

The Dunka River is connected to the Peter Mitchell pit, a taconite mine, which typically generates less sulfate than a sulfide ore body.

While the sulfate concentrations downstream from these two point sources are significantly diluted, elevated sulfate levels, well above the natural background, can be found more than 20 miles downstream from these locations, according to Rom. While mining only affects about 13 percent of the Birch Lake watershed, the impact on sulfate levels has been dramatic. “It has led to a 3,000 percent increase in sulfate,” said Rom.

Rom noted that the impact of that sulfate goes beyond its effects on wild rice, noting that it also plays a role in the methylation of mercury, which is the process by which less toxic forms of mercury are converted to a more toxic form that is readily absorbed and concentrated into fish tissues.

Why it matters

Building an enormous water quality database can be a powerful evidentiary footing for the campaign as it seeks to head off future sulfide mining within the upper reaches of the Rainy River watershed. Its value may become even more apparent depending on the outcome of the November election, given that Project 2025, the handbook developed by the Heritage Foundation for a second Trump term, calls for the reversal of previous

decisions to terminate two key federal mineral leases for Twin Metals. That’s the company seeking to open a sulfide-based copper-nickel mine near the BWCAW.

With its federal leases gone, at least for now, Twin Metals has focused on exploration of mineral rights near Birch Lake’s Bob Bay. Depending on the outcome of that process, the campaign’s water quality test data could prove invaluable in keeping sulfide-based mining out of the watershed.

“Because Birch Lake is officially recognized as a wild rice lake impaired for sulfate, no regulatory agency can approve industrial discharge permits that cause a net increase in loading of sulfates,” said Rom.

In that sense, the campaign’s test data and the MPCA’s listing of Birch

Lake as impaired for sulfate are potential shots across the bow to Twin Metals, that are likely to bolster any future legal or regulatory challenges to a potential mine, which would almost certainly increase sulfate discharges into Birch Lake.

Rom said the state of Minnesota may also prove a bulwark against a Twin Metals mine, and that’s another way that the campaign’s hard science can play a key role. The campaign is currently citing its findings in its push to convince the state to update its mining rules to be more protective of water quality. According to Rom, the data makes the case. “By allowing mining in the headwaters of the Boundary Waters, Minnesota rules are inadequate to protect the Boundary Waters from pollution and impairment,” she said.

TOURS...Continued from page 1

as torrential rains hit the area. In that downtime, the pump on the 27th level was submerged and shorted out and by the time the power was back on, the 27th level was flooded.

As reported by the Timberjay, a new pump on the 27th level was installed on June 25 to drain the flood water, but until the 22nd level’s sump is cleared of silt and gravel, water from the 27th level will have nowhere to go. Activating the 22nd level’s pump at this point would further wear the pump’s components down quickly, as was discovered after a pump failure.

“We had a failure of a pump on 22 and discov-

ered that the silt that is in that system was actually destroying the impellers on the pump and wearing down the shaft,” DeVries said.

DeVries says the mine’s 27th level hasn’t lost or gained much water since June’s torrential rains and believes attempting to pump water out of the 22nd and 27th levels would be short-sighted at this point.

“We could put another pump in right away, but it would last maybe three weeks, and then we’d be back to buying a new pump,” DeVries said. “They’re way too expensive, they’re not disposable. So the better option would be to clean out that silt, so

we have clean water going in there, then we can take that water up and out.”

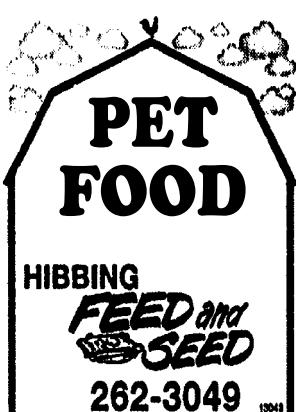
Cleaning the sump is proving to be a laborious process. For now, park officials are scooping and shoveling silt and gravel from the 22nd level’s sump into five-gallon buckets, passing them down a line of workers until the buckets can be dumped onto a conveyor belt, which will dump its contents into a tub on the mine’s elevator. Once brought to the surface, the silt will be stored at the edge of the mine, in open pits that were dug in the mine’s early days.

“It’ll be stored on the edge of the mine so that if it does wash back, it’ll

wash back towards the mine itself,” DeVries said. “That way, it does not leave the property. It’s the easiest and correct way to deal with it.”

In an email, DeVries said it’s too early to tell what challenges park officials will face when it is time to drain the 27th level. Workers are unable to do a damage assessment of the level until the water is drained.

Interpreters who worked as underground guides are now conducting tours above ground, explaining the history of the park, the roles of its buildings, and other park features. Free tours are conducted daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The tour season typically ends on the third weekend of October.



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Obituaries and Death Notices

**Vernon Amundson**

Vernon Amundson, 87, of Tower and Sarasota, Fla., passed away peacefully at his lake home in Tower on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, with family at his side holding his hands. His life will be celebrated at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Duluth at 1 p.m. on Friday, July 26. Visitors are welcome to gather at the church at 12 p.m. prior to the service and then at 2 p.m. for fellowship afterward. Interment at Forest Hill Cemetery in Duluth will occur at a future date. Funeral arrangements are provided by Dougherty Funeral Home of Duluth.

The family is grateful to the entire team of St. Mary's East Range Hospice of Virginia. Their care of Vernon exceeded all expectations of dedication, kindness and expertise. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Rotary Foundation, the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, or St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Duluth. Vernon was a lifelong member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Duluth, and a seasonal member of St. Boniface Episcopal Church in Sarasota.

Vernon was a Duluthian by birth, the son of Benjamin and Esther Amundson, and lived and worked there until his retirement. Vernon married his Duluth East High School sweetheart, Nancy Lydia Piper, in 1959, and they celebrated 44 years together. He was a

Golden Gopher and graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. Following graduation, he served as a captain at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Mont., during the Cuban missile crisis period. Although he did not serve in active duty, he had the experience of flying a fighter jet with an Air Force pilot colleague also at the controls. He and Nancy returned to Duluth to establish their home, and he joined his father, two brothers and sister in the Amundson Family dental practice. They raised a family of four children.

Vernon was a philanthropist with his time for both civic groups and dental organizations. He was an Eagle Scout, and he enjoyed participating in the Duluth Rotary Club. He served as chairman of the board of WDSE Public TV in Duluth, chairman of the board of the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce, and chairman of the board of the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC). He was recognized professionally as a Fellow of the American College of Dentistry and a Fellow of the International College of Dentistry. His professional contributions included being president of the North East District Dental Society, president of the Duluth Dental Forum study club, president of the Minnesota State Dental Association, and a delegate to the American Dental Association.

Once retired, Vernon and Nancy became snowbirds and spent colder months in Sarasota, in a community populated by family and friends from Duluth and beyond. They returned to Tower every spring to spend the warm months at a cabin on Lake Vermilion that they literally built together. It was a labor of love for the family to create this marvelous home.

Nancy passed away unexpectedly in 2004. Vernon remarried a lifelong friend, Barbara Peil, and enjoyed her companionship for a short period of time until she passed away from a long-standing illness in 2008. He later became reacquainted with Joanne Enquist, who he had known through the dental community. They married at sea off the coast of Greece in 2013, and celebrated their 11th wedding anniversary just days before Vernon passed away. He admired Joanne's beauty and her deep fund of knowledge.

Vernon had a gift of creating fellowship and conversation, always wanting to talk on the phone or in person with family and friends. He had the ability to connect and become friends with strangers he had just met. Hard work, perseverance, and optimism guided him throughout his life and he passed these ethics along to others. He was known as a carpenter, a fisherman, a photographer, and a golfer. Vernon wore an amazing collection of colorful golf pants in his younger years and flashy ties in his later years, and these became his clothing trademarks. Of late, the movies "Home Alone" and "Vacation" gave him chuckles. Music filled his life, and he shared this joy with everyone he knew. His home was never complete without a piano to play. As a young man, he was honored to sing "It's a Blue World" backstage at a concert with The Four Freshman. Vern enjoyed any music that was melodic or filled with harmony, and nothing moved him more than "Moon River" by Henri Mancini.

Filled with grace and appreciation, Vernon continued to express this message to those around him. He would squeeze hands, hug, wink, and smile when words were few.

Vernon is survived by his wife, Joanne; children, Brock, Brett, Brook Amundson de Carvalho e Silva, and Blake (Kim); grandchildren, Fletcher, Kyle, Matthew, Joseph "Joey" and Lauren; brother, Gordon (Mary); a large extended family and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Benjamin and Esther Holmstrom Amundson; wife and mother of his children, Nancy Piper Amundson; second wife, Barbara Peil Amundson; siblings, Dale (Elaine) Amundson and Pauline (John) Dahl; sister-in-law, Ruth Amundson; and son-in-law, José Carlos Neiva de Carvalho e Silva.

**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, Aug. 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 Virginia.

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 Vermilion 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 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.

Gary D. Albertson

Gary Duane Albertson, 83, of Cook, longtime editor of the *Cook News-Herald*, passed away in his sleep, at home, on Saturday, July 13, 2024, due to heart failure. There will be a celebration of life on Saturday, Sept. 7 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook. Visitation will start at 10:30 a.m. followed by the service at 11 a.m. A reception will follow at a location yet to be determined. A spring 2025 memorial will be held in Minneapolis and will be announced. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

He is survived by wife, Edna; children, Guy and Jodi (Warren); grandchildren, Isaiah, Gabrielle, Olivia and Zoe; and siblings, Myrna (Larry), Jimmy (Jean), Ginger (Dale) and Cindy (Fred).

James A. Holm

James Arthur Holm, 63, of Babbitt, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, July 7, 2024, at Essentia Health St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth. A celebration of life will be held at the Hideaway Bar in Babbitt on Saturday, July 27 from 1 to 4 p.m. A funeral service will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Dawn; children, Mike Holm of Chisholm and Benjamin Holm of Babbitt; grandchild, Sebastian Holm of El Paso, Texas; siblings, Mary Stalcar of Eden Prairie, Gayle (Tom) Uren of Coon Rapids, Terry Holm of Babbitt, Mike (Susan) Holm of Savannah, Ga., and Carolyn Holm of Babbitt; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Lawrence M. McCue

Lawrence Malcolm McCue, 93, longtime resident of Bear River, departed from this earthly realm on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, in the loving embrace of his daughters. The McCue

family would like to thank the staff at Edgewood Vista Memory Care in Cook for their wonderful care of Lawrence over the last two years. A celebration of life with military honors will be held at 12 noon on Friday, July 26 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be at 11 a.m. Lunch will follow the service at the VFW in Cook.

He is survived by his children, Teresa Thompson, Kelly (Sue) McCue, Clayton (Ann) McCue and Susan (John) Mankus; grandchildren, Kelli Sue McCue, Conor (Nichole) McCue, Amber Phelps, Preston McCue, Neil (Lindsey) McCue, Myles (Ellen) Mankus and Tessa (Derek) Judnick; 14 great-grandchildren and one on the way; sister, Barbara Seopa; and sisters-in-law, Karen McCue and Carol McCue.

Olive M. Connor

Olive Marie Villebrun Connor, 88, of Tower, passed away on Friday, July 19, 2024. A wake was held on Tuesday, July 23 and a traditional service was held on Wednesday, July 24, both at the Bois Forte Government and Services Center.

She is survived by her children, Lawrence Connor Jr., Lois Graham (Howard), Ann Dorr (Randy Dahlquist), Darrell Connor (Tina Shackleton), Karen Connor, Kay Connor, Kelly Rutar and Ruth Connor; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Rodney L. Villebrun Sr.

Rodney Lee Villebrun Sr., 60, of Minneapolis, passed away on Tuesday, July 16, 2024. A private family interment will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Sandra J. Boutto

Sandra J. "Sandi" Boutto, 68, of Cook, passed away on Friday, July 19, 2024, at Elmore Assisted Living in Elmore. Funeral arrangements are pending with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Phyllis D. Salvhus

Phyllis Darlene Salvhus, 90, of Cook, passed away peacefully at home with her family on Sunday, July 21, 2024. A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorials in the name of Essentia Hospice or the Cook Lions may be sent to Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.

She is survived by her life partner, Mark Eyre; daughter, Brenda (Don) Kotnik; sister, Sandi Salvhus; grandson, Brandon (Stacey) Kotnik; granddaughter, Danielle Jance; great-granddaughter, Haley Kotnik; and several nieces and nephews.

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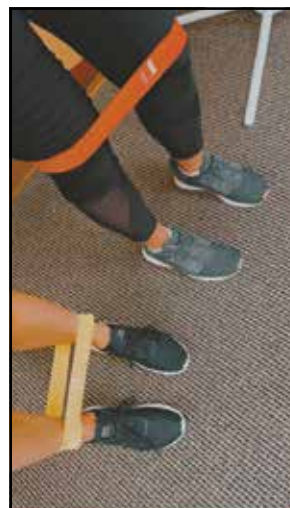
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FALL PREVENTION

SILVER RAPIDS...Continued from page 1

tabled action on the two applications pending more information from the developers. They also scheduled their next meeting on the subject for Aug. 8 at 4 p.m. to review any new material provided by the developers and to consider the applications. The meeting will be held at the Fall Lake Town Hall. Public testimony will not be taken at the Aug. 8 meeting.

A major change proposed

The year-round Silver Rapids Lodge currently includes a main lodge with a restaurant, an 11-unit motel, a boathouse, bathhouse, playground, boat ramp, 12 cabins, 15 full hook-up RV sites, four interior camping sites, 21 lakeside camping sites, and nine docks with 22 boat slips. The resort, spread across 62 acres, has one water well and one septic system.

The developers propose to update the resort facilities as well as subdivide much of the resort's unused property to build and sell the 49 fractional cabins, each with a footprint of 1,488-square-feet, including a balcony. These would be built on the bluffs overlooking the two lakes, with the balconies oriented to provide lake views.

The current proposal would develop the property in three phases. According to the plat application, phase one includes construction of 15 new fractional cabins, new lakeside restrooms, and a Tiki bar. It also would include tearing down and replacing the lodge building, remodeling the motel and six of the existing rental cabins, and removing all RVs and stationary trailers and razing the rest of the existing cabins and the bathhouse.

Phase two includes 18 new fractional cabins and an activities building. Phase three would see 16 new fractional cabins built, along with five units of workforce housing, two boat storage buildings and an overflow trailer parking lot.

Based on the application paperwork, the development will add 68 new boat slips on 30 docks. The two applications did not detail how many docks or slips would be added during each phase.

Each one-quarter fractional share cabin would receive one slip. The remodeled rental cabins would have five slips and the motel would have six. The remaining 30 slips would be allocated to the restaurant and transient boat traffic. During the hearing, Sandy Hoff, speaking for the developers, said that 12 of the 30 remaining slips would be for boat rentals.

On the conceptual plan prepared for the developers by SAS Associates of Duluth, nineteen docks are on the resort's Farm Lake shoreline. The eastern side of Farm Lake is part of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, two miles from the resort.

The developers

The expansion of Silver Rapids is a project of the Silver Rapids Lodge SPE LLC, which is a joint venture of the current resort owners and Storie Co. Indianapolis-based Storie Co. bills itself as "a hotel investment, asset management, and development firm specializing in hotel and resort properties in select secondary and tertiary drive-to markets that possess unique appeal and demand drivers."

The preliminary plat application states that the current resort management



Members of the Lake County Planning Commission and county staff listen to the three hours of testimony at last week's public hearing.

photo by C. Clark

company running Silver Rapids, Leisure Hotels & Resorts, will be retained to manage the expanded and revamped resort.

The hearing

More than 90 people attended last week's hearing, which overwhelmed the town hall's 60-person occupancy limit, prompting commissioners to ask some of the attendees to leave the building. Many of those who did leave stood outside and listened to the three-hour hearing through open windows. Two of the people who testified came in from outside to do so.

The commissioners heard from nineteen members of the public from Fall Lake and surrounding communities, none of whom were in favor of the resort expansion in its current form.

Mary Zimmerman has just one property between her home and the resort. She expressed concerns over the large scale of the project that many others at the hearing shared. Zimmerman listed the virtues of the quiet lakes and woods, contrasting that with the noise, congestion, and negative environmental impacts an expanded resort might produce.

"I will never hear another loon once this project has been completed, and I think that that should be a concern," she said. "We can't just look at the money involved ... Once you start this project, (the area) will never return to what it was before. We've lost it forever. I'm not opposed to renovating Silver Rapids. People in my family have stayed there. But this is way too much."

Other comments echoed those themes. Three of those who testified stated their fear that the introduction of large corporate-run resorts in the area will turn the local lakes into something resembling Lake Minnetonka with properties most people can't afford.

Tony Porthan, who owns a cabin on White Iron Lake, spoke about concerns that the resort expansion will raise tax assessments. "You have million dollar (time share cabins) at \$250,000 for a quarter share. I want to know what that's going to do all of us in this room. I don't think it's going to be pretty because we're going to be taxed out of our places ... We're excited to see something happen with Silver Rapids but the scale of what is happening will tax most people out of this room."

Residents also worried the scale of the development would bring in people who don't live here and won't treasure the area's unique assets and lifestyle.

Amy Stewart, who lives on the other side of the bridge from the resort, said she fears excessive boat traffic and speed. "These people have no investment in this community," she said. "So, they are not going to be slowing down when the rest of our boats and docks are at risk, and our shoreline is at risk." Stewart also mentioned the resort

contributing to light pollution in one of the few dark sky sanctuaries in the U.S., increasing the noise pollution on the lakes, increasing the amount of trash, introducing pesticides, and degrading water quality, all because of the size of the proposed expansion.

In addition to the 19 people who spoke to the planning commission, 25 people sent written communications about the resort expansion. Lake County Environmental Services Director Christine McCarthy summarized the highlights of the written testimony. "The majority of the concerns were density (of the development), aquatic invasive species, boat traffic and jet skis ... and traffic on Kawishiwi (Trail)."

When the hearing was done, planning commissioner Mike Hoops remarked "I never expected this amount of testimony."

The staff report

Every land use application is reviewed by the county's technical staff for its compliance with the requirements of the county's ordinances and state law, and those reports often include recommendations and findings. In their written report to the board, the county staff noted that the applications appeared to require the completion of a state Environmental Assessment Worksheet, or EAW, and that water supply issues seemed to be unresolved. The report also recommends that the county request more information on pedestrian safety and road traffic.

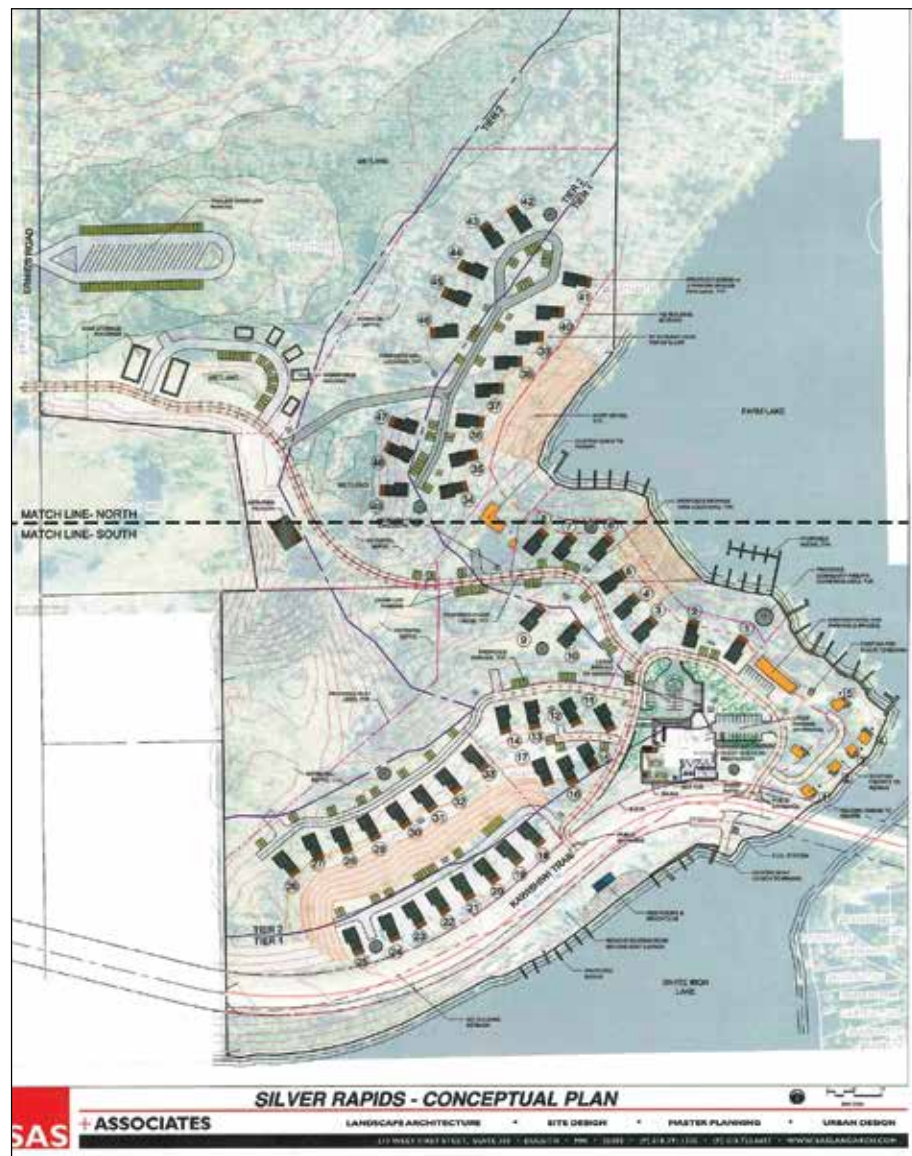
The need for an EAW was based on the number of new units proposed. As the county's assistant environmental services director Tanya Feldkamp explained during the hearing, an EAW is mandatory for a resort expansion if the number of new units along non-sensitive lakes is more than 50. She noted that the choice to build 49 units may have been due to this EAW limit. Feldkamp added, however, that the proposed workforce housing "kind of plumps up the total number of units to over 50."

McCarthy highlighted problems regarding water supply, casting doubt on the ability of the resort to rely on well water.

"We want to be very careful," McCarthy said, "that any wells are not going to draw down anybody else's. We also have the lake. Is there going to be some lake water supply? And if it exceeds a million gallons per year, the water appropriation needs to be considered."

The staff report noted that water use over one million gallons per year requires a water appropriations permit from the Department of Natural Resources. The permitting process may require an aquifer study.

Sewage treatment was also an area of concern. In the second phase of development, sewage flows would exceed 10,000 gallons per day, a level of flow that requires a state



permit.

The report went on to note several different ways that traffic and pedestrian information could be improved, including conducting a trip generation analysis and a traffic study to determine if a turn lane was necessary.

The rebuttal

Luke Sydow, a landscape architect from SAS Associates of Duluth, spoke on behalf of the developers after the close of the public testimony. Though others spoke after him, Sydow covered most of the points made by the development team to present the project as a benefit to the community.

Sydow said that when all the current RV sites, trailer homes, cabins, and motel rooms on the property are counted up, the number of lodging units isn't very different from the number of proposed units of the expanded resort.

"If you do the math on that, we're close to 57 units," said Sydow. "The density that we're proposing is very similar for what's there. We're not proposing a huge density increase, what we're doing is cleaning up." With the 49 shared cabins, the rental cabins, and the remodeled motel, the total number of units in the expanded resort will be 61.

Sydow argued that the expansion will clean up the waterfront by removing the RV sites, trailers, and camping sites. "We're also proposing to move a good majority of the cabins on Farm Lake to be inside of the (300-foot) setback. We're also proposing to restore the existing gravel mining operation, to revegetate that and use a portion of that in phase one home sites."

Sydow said the expansion also includes the restoration of shoreline vegetation at the RV sites on White Iron Lake. The developers will also use dark sky friendly lighting. "I would never propose anything that's not dark sky compliant," he said.

Sydow also said that the expansion is "not something that's going to happen overnight." The phased approach would evolve the site gradually. He mentioned adding the docks would also evolve. "There's no intent to put all the docks in on day one. The intent is to build the docks as we need them."

Sydow also addressed some of the storm water

runoff concerns, pointing out that creating the 300-foot vegetative buffer would provide stormwater improvements.

He also touched on traffic concerns, stating the renovation of the property included a one-way traffic circle off of the Kawishiwi Trail around the lodge and removing the camping sites to improve traffic flow. He was open to the idea of a pedestrian underpass on the bridge.

Others spoke on behalf of the developers, including Alex Bushey who described himself as "a member of the development team." Bushey is part of the Duluth office of F. I. Salter Real Estate. "We're limiting our access to Kawishiwi Trail to limit traffic flow. There are improvements we take seriously in communities like this where we've been before. This isn't a fly by night operation. We've done the studies."

The planning commission also grilled Bob Whitmyer, the developers' wastewater engineer on the new septic system currently being installed on the site and the plans to expand the sewage treatment systems in the future to meet the projected increase in wastewater flows.

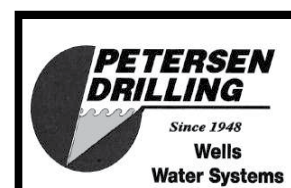
Commission response

The planning commission members peppered the developers for close to two hours on their plans, asking questions on boat

traffic, slip density, fuel storage, the boat launch, and traffic control. The commissioners also noted the lack of storm water, water supply, and traffic control information in the applications.

"We usually have a lot more information when we get to this point. The issues are not with the conditional use permit. It's the plat."

The commissioners voted to table consideration of the two applications until the Aug. 8 meeting. In the interim, they directed the developers to provide more information on their plans on multiple items, including for storm water, water supply, boat slips and docks, boat traffic, pedestrian traffic, and road traffic.



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TRADITION

Old Settlers Reunion brings families together

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

SOUDAN— Over 200 “old settlers” and friends showed up to picnic and enjoy music, booyah, and fun at the 110th annual Old Settlers picnic held here last Saturday. McKinley Park was ready for the crowd, with a brand-new playground area, more seating, and a new sound system. And the weather was just about perfect.

For one area family, this year’s Vermilion Range Old Settlers Reunion and Picnic truly was a family reunion, and at that, an unexpected one.

Brian Torma, who grew up right next to McKinley Park Campground, but who now lives in Orcas Island in Washington state, showed up with his two sons Sam and Archar, to the surprise of the rest of his siblings, Sherry, Gary, Dale, David, Brian, and Kristine. Brian flew in for the weekend without giving his siblings a heads up, reuniting all the siblings for the first time in many years.

While they all attended the picnic as children, this was the first time since they were all grown up that all six of them had made it back for the annu-



Hoppa, who recently passed away. “Kathy had a sassy wit and tenacity,” said volunteer Jennifer (Korpi) Fredrickson, who acted as master of ceremonies and rang the gong in memory of those old settlers who had passed away.

Clockwise from top left: Josiah Jonas stirring the booyah. Nancy Tekautz serving the booya. Erin Peitso with her four-month-old granddaughter Laina. Brian Torma with his two-year old son Archar.

photos by J. Summit

This year’s president Matt Tichel introduced incoming president Ari (Suihkonen) Picard. Kristine (Torma) Jonas is now the first vice president and Gary Torma is vice president. Secretary/Treasurer is Joe Morin.

al event.

This made for a bit of a hectic reunion for some of the Torma siblings and their children, since Gary is a long-time booyah stirrer and Kristine organizes the raffle prize drawings. Volunteering at the event is a family affair, with two of Kristine’s children helping out—Josiah stirring the hot booyah all morning, and Clair helping organize the raffle prize giveaway. The Tormas are one of several

families that boast long-time volunteers, in addition to the Suihkonen and Tekautz families, among many others throughout the years.

This year’s picnic went off without a hitch. About 15 volunteers assembled the evening before to chop up the buckets and buckets of vegetables that go into the meat and vegetable soup.

“You can’t really screw up a soup,” said longtime booyah chef

Nick Tekautz, who now is more of a booyah consultant, having trained in the new crew of younger volunteers, including Josiah Jonas, Steve Tekautz (the new head chef), Jerry Chiabotti, Gary Torma, Tom Pustovar, and Brian Anderson.

Nick speculates the distinctive flavor of the booyah has as much to do with the iron pots as the wood fires burning be-

neath them. “The inside of the pot is burning hot,” he said. “You can’t get that taste at home.”

The five iron pots, reportedly all at least 100 years old, are only used once a year at the picnic. In all, they hold 200 gallons of booyah, which was served out quickly to all in attendance.

Old Settlers organizers had a special remembrance of longtime secretary-treasurer Kathy

The youngest and oldest attendees were introduced. Laina Peitso, at four months, was the youngest, and Margie Zupancich, at 98, the oldest. Towards the end of the picnic, Hayley Lilya stopped by with her two-week-old son Henry, to visit his great-grandmother Gwen Lilya, who was not quite the oldest at the picnic, still only in her mid-80s.

Man assaulted by juveniles in Tower

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

TOWER- An unidentified adult male needed medical attention after he was randomly attacked by four juveniles in Tower on Monday.

According to Breitung Police Chief Dan Reing, Breitung police, assisted by the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office, the Babbitt Police Department, and the Ely Police Department were dis-

patched at approximately 9:30 p.m. for a report of an assault. An adult male victim was found to have sustained numerous injuries after being attacked by four juvenile males with improvised weapons. Officers fanned out across the surrounding neighborhood looking for one of the objects used in the attack, believed to be a baseball bat, according to a brief conversation between Reing and a *Timberjay* reporter as the search was progressing.

All four suspects are currently in custody at the Arrowhead Juvenile Center awaiting a court appearance. The victim was transported to Essentia Hospital in Virginia where he was treated and released. The suspects and the victim did not know each other prior to the assault, Reing said, and this is believed to be a random assault. Reing said there is no threat to the public at this time.



Some of the Torma family at Old Settlers this year (from left) Gary, Brian, David, Sherry Carlson, Kristine Jonas, Gabe Adkisson, and Dale. submitted

Hospital Connection

Community Benefit

Q: What is Community Benefit?
A: Community Benefit refers to the range of programs and services that hospitals and healthcare organizations provide to improve the health and well-being of the communities they serve. These initiatives typically address unmet community health needs, promote health equity, and enhance the overall health of the communities served.

Q: Why are hospitals required to provide Community Benefits?
A: There are several reasons why hospitals must work on Community Benefit projects. Like many hospitals, EBCH is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In exchange for the financial benefits of tax exemption, we are expected to demonstrate how we benefit our communities. In 2010, The Affordable Care Act (ACA) introduced requirements for tax-exempt hospitals to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every three years and to develop an implementation plan to address identified needs. Community Benefit programs can help address health disparities by providing free or subsidized care for low-income patients, health education programs, preventive care initiatives, and community outreach efforts.

Q: What does EBCH provide for Community Benefit?
A: Over the past several years, EBCH has worked hard to provide several opportunities for Community Benefit projects. In addition to internal activities that the public may not see or be aware of, such as providing charity care and financial assistance programs for low-income patients, EBCH has worked hard to increase its community presence. We have expanded our annual vaccination clinics to offer free flu shots throughout the community at events each fall. We collaborate with many community organizations to address social drivers of health, such as housing, food insecurity, daycare, EMS services, and isolation. EBCH offers a “Blessings Backpack” program for housing insecure individuals who may lack belongings; we provide scholarships through the Ely Chamber of Commerce to help local businesses purchase AEDs, and this weekend, we are sponsoring a family comfort tent at the Blueberry Arts Festival that will allow for a safe, clean environment for families to nurse, change diapers, or give kids a break from overstimulation. To learn more about our current Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) or implementation plan, visit www.ebch.org.

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

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SHOWCASE

Open house set for Ely's new Community Hub



by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- A dream many years in the making is about to come true for the Ely Area Community Foundation. On Aug. 1, the EACF will officially open the Community Hub, a 16,000-square-foot

Left: Happy Days staff member Desiree Smith in one of the daycare facility's classrooms.

photo by C. Clark

facility at 760 Miners Drive. The facility will have a mix of commercial and nonprofit tenants who focus on community health and wellness.

To celebrate its success after years of effort, the EACF will hold an open house next Wednesday, July 31, from 4-7 p.m. at the hub. The opening ceremony is set for 5:15 p.m. and staff from U.S. Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith,

will be on hand to present remarks from the senators at the event.

"The open house is open to the public," said Jeff Sundell, chair of the EACF board of directors. "We will have food and live music provided by Andy Messerschmidt and his band. EACF has also hired two food trucks to serve the food for the event."

Those attending the open house can tour the

facility before the tenants open for business the next day.

The Community Hub

Earlier this week, the new Community Hub was, quite literally, a hub of activity, with Ely's building and fire inspectors at work as tenants moved in and construction workers finished up last-minute details.

See...HUB pg.14



SERVING TOWER-SOUDAN

Food shelf now open in new home

Good turnout for open house at the former Presbyterian church

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- It was opening day for the new Tower Food Shelf, Tuesday, and the public was invited to tour the new facility before the formal food shelf hours began. The food shelf, which had been in the basement of the *Timberjay* building for more than 25 years, now has its own home in the building that formerly housed St. James Presbyterian Church.

New food shelf director Kate Smith was excited to show off the new facility, which will allow the food pantry to stock more refrigerated and frozen food and meat options, along with the larger selection of canned and shelf-stable foods. They are hoping to be able to offer more fresh items, like bread and produce as well.

"A lot of our community members showed up for the open house," said Smith, who said many former members of the church stopped by to see the repurposed building and were happy to see it filling such an important community need.

"A lot of our community members showed up for the open house."

Food shelf director Kate Smith

A little over halfway through the official food shelf hours, the pantry had served 30 families and given out 1,614 pounds of food.

"That's 54 pounds per family," said food shelf volunteer Frannie Wood. Frannie and her husband Hugh are the former food shelf directors who helped spearhead the effort for the new food shelf, and along with other food shelf volunteers, did most of the work necessary to convert the building to its new use.

The new food shelf has a more

See...FOOD SHELF pg.14

Above: Outgoing food shelf co-director Hugh Wood (l) is handing over the reins to the food shelf to Kate Smith, of Angora, where she and her husband Tj operate Valhalla Ridge Farms. Tj also restores bikes for kids, which will now be available for free during days the food shelf is distributing.

Below: Some of the bikes that were given away at the recent open house.



HOME

Report: Housing increasingly unaffordable

St. Louis County has second highest cost burden for renters

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- A statewide crisis with the lack of affordable housing has not been a quietly kept secret in recent years, as the state Legislature in its past two sessions has devoted funding to try to address a portion of those needs.

But the problem is growing, says a report by the Minnesota Housing Partnership, and renters in particular are feeling the burden of housing costs beyond their means.

The 2024 State of the State's Housing report states that housing is unaffordable for half of all renters in the state, a cost burden greater than at any time in the past decade. Over 300,000 renters pay more than 30 percent of their income for rent. The burden falls heaviest on seniors and those considered low income – 66 percent of seniors pay more than they should, and 86 percent of renters earning under \$35,000 a year are cost-burdened. Twenty-five percent of renters statewide are considered to be severely cost burdened, spending more than half of their monthly income on rent.

The report identifies seven counties in the Arrowhead region as the Northland region, including St. Louis County, and this region has the highest percentage of both cost-burdened renters, 52 percent, and severely cost burdened renters, 27 percent, in the state. St. Louis and Itasca counties are in the top five counties in the state for highest renter cost burden at 53 percent and 60 percent, respectively. No county in the state has a higher percentage of severe renter cost burdened household than Itasca County, where 35 percent of renters pay more than half of their income

See...HOUSING pg.14



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HOUSING...Continued from page 13

for rent. Forty-nine percent of people in the region with severely low incomes have no housing options they can afford. Taking a look at the state's five most in-demand jobs – home health and personal care aides, retail salespersons, registered

nurses, cashiers, and fast food/counter workers – only registered nurses make enough money to reasonably afford a two-bedroom apartment, and none of those occupations earns enough money to afford a median-priced home. As a result, evictions statewide are up 44 percent

over pre-COVID levels and eight percent from 2022 to 2023. That eight percent translates into 24,211 individuals and families who were evicted. On any given night, 19,600 Minnesotans are homeless, with 7,232 of them families with children and another 1,659 of them children who are experi-

encing homelessness on their own. The problem is less grim but still significant for homeowners. Twenty percent of homeowners are paying more than 30 percent of their monthly income for mortgage payments. Overall, the percentage

of cost burdened renters and homeowners increased by nine percent from 2021 to 2022, to 641,549, and a primary cause is that incomes have not kept up with price increases for housing. For homeowners, the report says, median incomes rose by two percent over five years,

while median home values rose 19 percent at \$328,600. Renter incomes rose three percent, while the cost of rent rose seven percent to a median level of \$1,200 a month over the same time period.

FOOD SHELF...Continued from page 13

people-friendly layout, including a separate small office space for families to register before shopping. "We can fit more people shopping at the same time," Smith said. Smith said they are planning on offering cooking classes monthly

at the new facility and will feature tips and tricks on preparing healthy and delicious meals using the types of food usually found at the food pantry. These classes will be free and open to anyone in the community. Class information will be posted in the paper once

they are scheduled. Smith said that Jackie Clay, a homesteader and writer from Angora (seedtreasures.com), will be teaching some of the classes. The Tower Food Shelf is open the third Tuesday of each month from 2:30-5 p.m., and is located in the

old St. James Church building, on the corner of Spruce and N Second St. (kitty corner from the school). Kate Smith and her husband TJ operate Valhalla Ridge Farm in Angora, and TJ restores and gives away hundreds of bicycles through their

Bike's in Need, Bike's Indeed program. Of the ten children's bikes brought over on Tuesday, all clean and shiny, most found new homes with the food shelf's clientele, and Kate said more bikes are always available for anyone in the community who needs one.

Funders for the new Tower Food Shelf project included Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless, Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, and the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation.

HUB...Continued from page 13

Converting the building into a multi-use facility focused on community health and wellbeing is a departure from the facility's original use. The building began life as an office building for the Minnesota Department of Revenue, but the state moved its workers out of the building to work remotely during the COVID pandemic and they never returned. The Department of Revenue converted its Ely employees to remote workers and put the facility on the surplus property list in December 2022.

Ely to buy the building directly from the state without going to auction. On the same day that Ely bought the building, Dec. 8, 2022, it sold it immediately to EACF. EACF already had a day care and a gym lined up as tenants when they assumed ownership of the building. The group has since added two more tenants, the nonprofits Well Being Development and Northwoods Partners. Happy Days Learning Center is a nonprofit daycare provider. The move into the Community Hub allowed Happy Days to expand its capacity to

40 children. Its new space gives the daycare provider three classrooms, offices, utility spaces, a fenced playground, and access to the Hub's kitchen. The center will open its new location on Aug. 1. Local gym Functional Fitness will move into a suite of rooms in the northeast corner of the building. The largest room at the gym will house its exercise equipment. The gym will also include a yoga and exercise space, two therapy rooms, and a smoothie bar. Well Being Development will move into a suite of two offices and a conference room in the

center of the Community Hub. The nonprofit provides a variety of mental health services to the Ely area. The group's office has moved twice in less than two years. Moving into the Community Hub will give Well Being Development a permanent, comfortable office for the first time in several years. The nonprofit Northwoods Partners provides services to seniors and their caregivers in Ely, Winton, Babbitt, Tower, Soudan, and surrounding areas. The nonprofit is moving into a suite in the southeast corner of the Community Hub with two

offices and a large conference room. For the group's activities like the Tasty Tuesdays cooking classes, Northwoods Partners will use the Hub's kitchen. Between Functional Fitness and Happy Days, the Community Hub has one large unleased 2,800-square-foot space. "There isn't another large space like this in Ely," Sundell explained. "We would welcome groups wanting to use this space for meetings and events." **Years of waiting** The Community Hub isn't the first building EACF wanted to purchase. In 2019, the nonprofit had

its eyes on a similar facility near the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital and had already entered into a memo of understanding for its acquisition. "Then COVID hit and destroyed all that," Jeff Sundell, the EACF board chair told the *Timberjay* in November 2022. The organization still had access to a \$5 million donation made several years earlier which made it possible to move forward on securing the Revenue Building instead.



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from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
83 65					87 66					84 62					83 60					85 62				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
07/15	80	59	0.00		07/15	81	52	0.00		07/15	82	49	0.00		07/15	72	57			07/15	79	58	0.00	
07/16	71	58	0.15		07/16	76	52	0.00		07/16	73	59	0.21		07/16	68	55	No		07/16	72	55	0.27	
07/17	69	50	0.06		07/17	70	45	0.07		07/17	69	51	0.04		07/17	68	46	precip		07/17	68	41	0.00	
07/18	67	51	0.00		07/18	69	39	0.00		07/18	67	50	0.00		07/18	75	43	data		07/18	75	46	0.00	
07/19	74	55	0.00		07/19	76	40	0.00		07/19	75	48	0.00		07/19	81	52	at press-		07/19	80	52	0.00	
07/20	79	60	0.00		07/20	80	52	0.00		07/20	82	48	0.00		07/20	81	55	time		07/20	80	52	0.05	
07/21	81	54	0.37		07/21	82	51	0.03		07/21	82	56	0.10		07/21	79	59			07/21	77	54	0.00	
YTD Total	19.59				YTD Total	20.76				YTD Total	21.59				YTD Total	NA				YTD Total	21.88			



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Briefly

Learn more about invasive species at Aug. 3 workshop

ELY— If you'd like to learn how to identify and respond to invasive plants in the area, you'll want to mark Saturday, Aug. 3 on your calendar. That's when the North St. Louis and Lake counties soil and water conservation districts will host a free workshop to spread the word about the risks to the environment posed by invasive species and what you can do to help stop their spread.

The event will feature demonstrations and speakers from the Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Forest Service, Ely Field Naturalists, along with experts from the soil and water conservation districts.

Funding is available to assist private landowners seeking to remove priority invasive species on their property and this workshop will help you understand if you qualify.

Registration begins at 9:45 a.m., with presentations from 10 a.m.-noon, followed by a provided lunch. A presentation on aquatic invasive species gets underway at 12:30 p.m., followed by a field visit, led by Bill Tefft of Ely Field Naturalists, to see invasive species firsthand. The event wraps up at 2 p.m.

The event will be held in Room CC 109 at the Vermilion campus of the Minnesota North College, located at 1900 E. Camp St. in Ely.

BLUEBERRY/ART FESTIVAL

Whiteside Park • Sheridan Street • Ely

July 26, 27 & 28

Jewelry maker takes inspiration from the natural world around her

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The North Country's natural environment has long fueled Cindy Bina's artistic creativity and she's used that inspiration in the designs that she'll be featuring at this year's Blueberry/Art Festival, which kicks off Friday morning at Whiteside Park.

Bina, of rural Ely, crafts jewelry using silver clay, one of several varieties of precious metal clay invented in the 1990s in Japan.

Precious metal clays contain microscopic bits of precious metals or their alloys mixed with water and a non-toxic organic binder. The binder bakes off when the clay is heated in a kiln, leaving a solid metal piece behind. This new medium allows a jeweler like Bina to craft detailed works without the expensive equipment and hazardous materials needed for lost wax or carved mold casting. Other than using precious metal clays, casting is the only way to create jewelry with delicate details and shapes.

For Bina, most of her jewelry designs come straight from nature, highlighting dragonflies, flowers, leaves, and many other natural themes. More recently she's begun experimenting with other styles, including Art Nouveau, Medieval, and Victorian designs— and she also does custom work, which can vary significantly depending on the customer. No matter the style or the inspiration, it's the satisfaction she gets from creating for others that continues to fuel her passion for her art.

"I get a lot of fulfillment from people



Blueberry/Art Festival artist Cindy Bina, shown here in her studio. Bina creates silver jewelry using a precious metal clay developed in Japan. photo by C. Clark

being excited about wearing something I designed and made," Bina said. "For me, making jewelry is very personal. A bit of my heart goes into everything I make. When I sell a piece to someone, a part of me goes out to that person."

Bina's custom work has focused on family and memorial pieces.

At the 2024 Blueberry/Art Festival, Bina will have a selection of earrings,

necklaces, and bracelets, some of which incorporate semi-precious stones or leather. "Each piece is a one-of-a-kind creation," Bina explained, "different than any other, with an artisan feel and organic charm."

See...ARTIST pg. 2B

Blueberry/Art Festival: three days of fun

Operation Blueberry starts on July 25; festival opens on July 26

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The area's biggest summer event officially kicks off at 9 a.m. this Friday at Whiteside Park, marking three days of music and food, along with hundreds of artists and crafters displaying their wares, all in recognition of the North Country's iconic wild food— the blueberry.

This year's Blueberry/Art Festival features 237 booths filled with artists and crafters, including long-time favorites like Raucous Jewelry, Bear Island Art Factory, Keepsakes, and Jim the Carver. Some new vendors include 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 Ely Fire Department will host the beer tent, and will once again serve their pork chops on a stick and other savory favorites. The Kiwanis are in the park 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

See...FESTIVAL pg. 5B



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Artists | Crafters | Food Court
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Ely.org

ARTIST...Continued from page 1B

Second career

While Bina has artistic roots, she hasn't always been a jewelry designer and artisan. Her father was a watercolorist, so she grew up knowing how hard it is to make a living in the arts.

She attended Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, where she initially majored in art, with a focus on ceramics, but eventually changed her majors to psychology and religion, with her eyes on a career in counseling.

Bina completed a master's degree in counseling from Northern Illinois University. Then, she and her husband Shawn moved to Ely in 1994 while she was pregnant with her first child. They moved into a house within walking distance of Burnside Lake and have been there ever since.

"We moved here so I could take a counseling job at Vermilion Community College." Working at Vermilion was a family affair since Shawn taught math at Vermilion and later became its provost.

Bina planned to retire in 2019 after 25 years at the

college. In 2017, she began looking for something to do I retirement. "I knew I wanted to do something artistic, but I wanted it to be completely different from anything I had done before." Then she spotted a class on precious metal clays given over a weekend. She took the class and was hooked.

In 2019, Bina applied for and received a grant from the Gardner Humanities Trust for in-person instruction with a precious metals clay teacher in the Twin Cities. She said those lessons "opened the door" for her and she knew she wanted to pursue crafting in silver clay seriously.

Bina went on to increase her knowledge in silver clay jewelry with online classes, funded by two grants from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council in 2022 and 2023.

From hobby to business

After Bina started making silver clay jewelry, she soon passed the point where her production outstripped the confines of



From left-to-right: A silver clay botanical pendant in progress by jeweler Cindy Bina and the purple mold Bina made to create the pendant's impression, plus three pendants with rustic camping themes and cubic zirconium crystals ready to be killed. Below: A selection of silver necklaces.



family and friends. "I held a party at a friend's house over the (winter) holidays in 2019," Bina said, talking about her decision to start selling. "I called it my coming out party because I was coming out as a jewelry designer."

Bina set up an Etsy shop online, where she sells her works under her company name, Natural Inspiration CB. She also began to sell at small local shows around the Ely area, like the craft shows which are frequently held at the Ely Senior Center. She also sells at Arts in the Park on Tuesday afternoons in Whiteside Park when she isn't on the road selling at a larger show elsewhere in the region.

Bina and her husband Shawn started selling at larger events and festivals last year. Shawn sells dec-

orative knives and other metalwork which he etches himself. The two share booth space for selling their wares.

Last year's Blueberry/Art Festival was Bina's first appearance at Ely's biggest annual festival. This year, she's at booth 163, on the Eighth Ave. side of the park.

You can also find her work at her Etsy shop at etsy.com/shop/

Natural Inspiration CB where she displays dozens of different jewelry designs at surprisingly affordable prices. If you miss her at this weekend's festival, Bina's jewelry is also sold Wintergreen Northern Wear on 205 E. Sheridan St.

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Your guide to the 2024 Blueberry/Art Festival

Use the map below to locate all your favorite artists and food booths

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Cook, MN Gorgeous Lake Vermilion timber frame home with swimming Beach. Central location on lake, out of the wind behind the islands on Frazer Bay. Wet boathouse guest quarters over the water.

OFFERED AT \$1,495,000
DETAILS 4 BD/4 BTH 3,129 SF
175 ft shoreline 1 acre



FESTIVAL...Continued from page 1B

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 as well," said Switajewski. "In the past, we only reviewed art and craft vendors and did not have maker or marketplace categories. We do this year. 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 artists, crafters, makers, 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.

And for those who want to explore Ely's many treasures beyond the confines of the park, Operation Blueberry starts on Thursday, July 25, and runs through Sunday, July 28, in the many storefront businesses in town. Operation Blueberry starts a day ahead of the festival to allow visiting vendors 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.

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 can also be found on page 3B in this week's paper.

Spirit of the Wilderness
Outfitting Your Needs

Blueberry Art Festival

Giftware & Books

ANNUAL SHOE SALE
20-30% Off
Sandals, Walking Shoes, Water Shoes

ITVS
Columbia

Summer Sale

CAMPING & PADDLING GEAR
15-20% Off
Hammocks, Sleeping Pads, Canoe, Kayak & SUP Paddles, Kayak/Canoe Vests, Canoe Chairs, Selected Accessories

SUMMER CLEARANCE
20-30% Off
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"DONUTS AT DOROTHY'S" OPEN HOUSE
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WITH TREATS BY BRAINSTORM BAKERY 11AM-2PM

OPEN DAILY 10-5

DOROTHY MOLTER MUSEUM

Ely
Winter Festival

Gateway 2025

NOBODY celebrates WINTER BETTER

FEB 6-18 2025

Wintergreen
NORTHERN WEAR

BLUEBERRY ARTS FESTIVAL SALE
15% OFF
ALL WINTERGREEN MADE ITEMS
PLUS 25% OFF
OUTLET ITEMS, A GIVEAWAY & MORE AT OUR ELY STORE!
7/26/24 - 7/28/24



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PUBLIC NOTICES

**MORCOM TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY
TESTING**

The Morcom Town Board will conduct their Public Accuracy Testing for the upcoming primary election on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Bear River School.

Sasha Lehto, Clerk
Published in the Timberjay, July 26, 2024

**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

**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 Virginia Government Services Building
100 North 5th Avenue West, Room 214 Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 726-2385
FAX: (218) 725-5060
201 South 3rd Ave West Virginia, MN 55792
(218) 749-7104

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

EMPLOYMENT

**MINNESOTA DNR -
JOB OPPORTUNITY**

Full Time with great benefits package!
**Laborer-Trades & Equipment,
Parks & Trails - Job ID: 78431**
Tower, MN

• This is a great opportunity to work on a variety of projects throughout a large area in northeastern Minnesota. Work includes grooming snowmobile trails, constructing and maintaining ATV trails, constructing and maintaining water access sites and fishing piers, and constructing and maintaining a variety of trails and State water trails. Operating a variety of equipment.

• Salary Range: \$25.57 - \$29.49/hourly
• Posting closes 08/07/2024

**For more information call 218-300-7842 or
To apply visit: <https://mn.gov/careers/>**

Published in the Timberjay, July 26 & Aug. 2, 2024

**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 50c per mile on top of hourly wage. The Timberjay does have a vehicle available if you do not have a reliable 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.**

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

FUNERAL SERVICES

Range Funeral Home



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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Pequod captain
- 5 "Big Blue"
- 8 Driver with a handle
- 12 Sci-fi prefix
- 13 Rep.'s rival
- 14 Sea predator
- 15 Be overly sweet
- 16 The Stars and Stripes
- 18 A cause of pay inequity
- 20 Political meeting
- 21 - butter
- 23 SUV maker
- 24 Veterans
- 28 Snack
- 31 Museum-funding org.
- 32 TV, radio, etc.
- 34 Fib
- 35 Lummoxes
- 37 Celtic language
- 39 Bear hair
- 41 Architect Saarinen
- 42 "Alfie" singer Warwick
- 45 Painter Georges
- 49 It may be hard to break
- 51 Sushi fish
- 52 India's continent

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13			14			
15					16		17				
18				19		20					
				21		22		23			
24	25	26				27		28	29	30	
31				32			33		34		
35			36		37			38			
			39		40		41				
42	43				44		45		46	47	48
49						50			51		
52						53			54		
55						56			57		

- 53 High card
- 54 "Zounds!"
- 55 Corn seasoning
- 56 Shriill bark
- 57 Swift jets
- 7 Roman 2600
- 8 Newspaper piece
- 9 Veggie with florets
- 10 Beige
- 11 Sunbeams
- 17 Joke
- 19 Counterfeit
- 22 Confuse
- 24 Plastic - Band
- 25 Grazing land
- 26 Yellow flower
- 27 Avoid
- 29 Bro's sib
- 30 Sly chuckle
- 33 Suffix for billion
- 36 Baby's beachwear
- 38 Courses
- 40 Genetic letters
- 42 "- I say!"
- 43 "Casablanca" role
- 44 Online auction site
- 46 Carpets
- 47 Body sci.
- 48 Tiny amounts
- 50 Here, to Henri

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuote

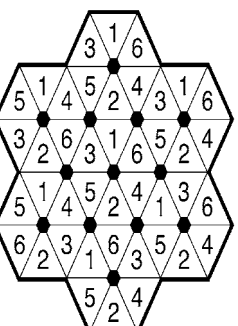
AXYDLBAAXR
is **LONGFELLOW**

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

KB OGSKKQL SAP OBGGBY
BKDQLI, YFKDBNK XQFAC
OGSKKQLQP SAP OBGGBYQP
FA KNLA, FI XNK S IKSQ
BO DSGO QAVBRTQAK.
- VSAQ SNIKQA

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(SNOWFLAKES)
solution



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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.

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Full Service
Auto Repair & Garage
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2 Miles South of Tower
218-749-0751

HAIR CARE

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

PET CREMATION

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

Try out the Timberjay classifieds

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

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SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WANTED

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

CHIMNEY REPAIR

TIP TOP CHIMNEY LLC- Chimney repairs and service. Sales and installation of gas and wood stoves, and chimney liners. Call or text 218-290-5370. 7/26

PEDAL BOAT

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

PT WORKERS

AGE 55+ WORKERS needed for PT light custodial/groundskeeping at the Lake Vermilion State Park. Contact Green View at 651-639-1913. 8/2

MOCCASIN POINT MARINE

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Mechanic on Duty
moccasinpointmarine.com



SEWING

ALTERATION & CREATION- "I Fix Everything!" 25 years experience. Call 218-404-9488. 10/11

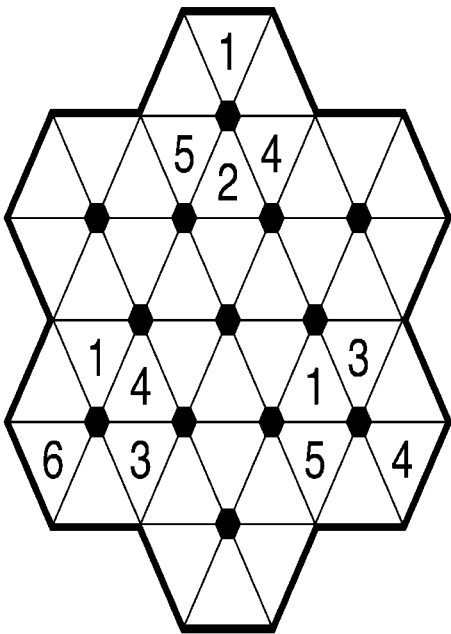
SOUDAN's Scarlet is having a SALE!

Saturday, July 27, 8-3.
30 First Ave & corner of Superior Street.
Clever things, jewelry, shoes, purses, nice goddess sized clothing, fabric, vintage table cloths, books.
Check out all 24 sales in Tower & Soudan this Saturday! List & map for sales at Tower Zups and Soudan Store.

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

- ACROSS
1 Abolished
10 Helical shape
16 — Tzu (toy dog)
20 "General Hospital," for one
21 Pre-euro Spanish currency
22 Joking Jay
23 Marcels hit sung by members of an old German kingdom?
25 "Frozen" heroine
26 NBC hit since '75
27 — Vegas Raiders
28 Gallery stuff
29 Further down
31 Bing Crosby hit sung by a skeleton?
37 "One L" novelist Scott
40 Munch on
41 Lift up
42 Enzyme suffix
43 And the like: Abbr.
44 Sharif of film
46 R.E.M. frontman Michael
48 — Martin (British auto)
50 Prince hit sung by kings and queens?
53 Many TikTok users
54 Rotation stat
55 Cash cache, for short
56 Spanish article
57 Mother bird
58 Garlicky sauce
60 Cafe offerings
63 "— careful out there"
66 Ancient Roman poet
70 Beatles hit sung by small finches?
74 Cuts short
75 Puts a question to
76 Artifact
77 Hunger may cause them
78 Syrup base
80 Penpoint
81 Penpoint, e.g.
83 Before, to
84 Oasis animal
87 Rolling Stones hit sung by coffee lovers?
93 Novelist Mario Vargas —
94 Everything considered
95 Bazillions
96 — accompli
97 Mo. #4
98 Scornful look
100 Old JFK flier
101 Podiatric problems
102 John Cougar Mellencamp hit sung by electric eels?
108 Old Turkish bigwigs
109 "Where — begin?"
110 Sewer rodent
111 Overwhelm
114 Luxury Swiss watch brand
115 Alannah Myles hit sung by roofers?
122 Move, in Realtor-speak
123 From above, as a photo
124 Most upbeat
125 Eye affliction
126 In an amiable way
127 Chose by ballot
DOWN
1 Viper types
2 Brought into the world
3 Cuban leader
4 CIA missions, e.g.
5 Drive at 10 mph, say
6 Concerning bees
7 Toy with
8 Suffix with south
9 Light pat
10 Brief burst
11 Former NFL quarterback
12 Suffix with 104-Down
13 Rock's — Speedwagon
14 — Z (total)
15 "Trading Places" director John
16 lcy precipitation
17 Beneficial companion, as a spouse
18 Ripe for the market
19 Turns laryngitic
24 Café au —
30 Lordly home
31 Weapon swung by a gaucho
32 Be dressed in
33 Lyre's cousin
34 — Pet (1980s fad)
35 Pueblo people
36 Nothing, in France
37 Stone patio
38 Like a perfect world
39 "Perry Mason" star Burr
44 Decide (to)
45 "The — Curse" (1944 horror film)
46 Related to sight, touch, etc.
47 — la la
49 Mexican wife
51 Forest abode
52 Quiet period
57 Stitched edge
59 Scottish girls
61 "Eww, a mouse!"
62 Gore and Roker
63 Fast internet svc.
64 Yes, in Dijon
65 Second flagship U.K. TV network
67 It may be balsamic
68 Implant firmly
69 Arid areas
71 Shrink bark
72 "Dragnet" star Jack
73 Galaxy and iPhone buys
79 Nome's home
80 Ducks' and Devils' org.
82 Motel relative
84 People in an embrace, e.g.
85 Language's letters
86 In a sullen way
87 Appearance
88 Blood type, informally
89 Nitpick
90 Overhasty
91 Painter Dix
92 ET's ships
99 Altima maker
100 Brand of power tools
101 "Glory of Love" singer Peter
103 Sevigny of "Big Love"
104 Perfect
105 In a majestic manner
106 Nerd on "Family Matters"
107 Preserved
111 2004 Chevy debut
112 Part of NNW
113 Suffix with major
116 Maui garland
117 Bit of a circle
118 Connect (to)
119 German cry
120 — Guevara
121 Actress Tyler

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20									21							22				
23								24								25				
26				27				28					29	30						
			31				32	33			34	35	36							
37	38	39					40				41						42			
43						44	45			46	47					48	49			
50					51					52						53				
54					55					56						57				
58			59			60	61	62			63	64	65			66	67	68	69	
70						71					72					73				
74						75				76						77				
						78	79			80				81	82			83		
84	85	86					87	88	89			90	91					92		
93							94					95						96		
97						98	99					100						101		
102										104	105			106	107					
108										109				110				111	112	113
114										115	116	117	118			119	120			121
122										123						124				
125										126						127				

CryptoQuip answer

If a doctor tests your physical fitness level, I reckon he is looking at the vigor picture.

CryptoQuote answer

To flatter and follow others, without being flattered and followed in turn, is but a state of half enjoyment.
— Jane Austen

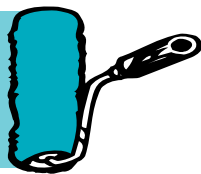
King Crossword

Solution time: 22 mins.

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



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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: **W** equals L

KH E FYXC YJ COBCB AYTJ
UPABKXEW HKCROBB WOZOW,
K JOXQYR PO KB WYYQKRS EC
CPO ZKSYJ UKXCTJO.

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