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The **TIMBERJAY**



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NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Norwegian CEO taps solar for home heating

Norsk BioVarme has developed a system for home heating that relies primarily on the sun, even in January

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

TOWER— Imagine using the sun to heat a house in northern Minnesota. In January. It may seem impossible, but Arne Weggum says he's found the right mix of technologies and know-how to make it happen.

Weggum was here last week to scope out the possibilities for his innovative approach to heating as part of the new development underway near the Marjo Motel.

Weggum is the CEO of the Norwegian company Norsk BioVarme AS, and the project in Tower would represent the firm's first venture into the U.S. market.

Weggum's company doesn't manufacture a product— it sells know-how, based on Weggum's



Arne Weggum

long history in biofuels. Originally a forester, Weggum later shifted into promoting the use of biofuels. He continues to see wood fuels, mostly pellets, as a reliable backup for home heating. But he has begun to emphasize solar water-heating panels as the greenest possible heating solution, one that he says is even effective in Norway, where day length in winter is far shorter than in Minnesota.

At the heart of the system, says Weggum, is a large, heavily

insulated accumulator tank, which stores the hot water that's generated through the solar panels.

"The tanks are the battery for the system," said Weggum. "It's the cheapest and best battery yet because it lasts as long as the tank, which often lasts as long as the house." The tank stores the hot water generated by the solar panels and from there the water is circulated through in-floor flexible tubing to warm the floor, providing radiant heat throughout

the home.

Using that heat as efficiently as possible is another key element to the system, and that's where Weggum has turned to another technology, developed in Austria. It's a floor panel, just over half an inch thick, formed out of gypsum and wood fibers. A pattern of indentations allows for the placement of the flexible tubing, which is then covered by a thin layer of a special type of concrete that

See...**SOLAR** pg. 10

DEVELOPMENT

Petition seeks EAW on Silver Rapids project

by **CATIE CLARK**
Ely Editor

FALL LAKE TWP- Public concerns over the potential impact of the proposed redevelopment of Silver Rapids Lodge has prompted a push for more environmental review. The nonprofit CURE, a Minnesota-focused rural advocacy group, has organized a petition seeking an environmental assessment worksheet, or EAW, on the two Silver Rapids land use applications currently before the Lake County Planning Commission.

The CURE petition, submitted to Lake County on July 30, asks the commission to require a completed EAW as a condition on the two land use applications.

"We owe it to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, other

See...**EAW PETITION** pg. 9

RELIEF FUNDING

IRRRB approves \$2.5 million for Cook recovery

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK- Business owners in Cook devastated by the June flood will be getting much-needed financial relief, as the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) approved a \$2.5 million financial aid package designed to support recovery efforts in the flood-ravaged business district during a special meeting on Monday.

More than nine inches of rain fell in Cook over 24 hours during the storm, causing the Little Fork River to overflow its banks and inundate the River St. business district and surrounding neighborhoods, causing extensive damage. Situated in a

See...**RECOVERY** pg. 9



TINTYPE PHOTOGRAPHY

The old-fashioned way

Artist revives one of the earliest forms of photography to capture timeless portraits

by **JODI SUMMIT**
Tower-Soudan Editor

ELY- Bailey McLinn-Belihar, of Ely, was more than excited to get a chance to preserve a likeness of her 14-month-old son Everett during a tintype artist's pop-up studio session at the Ely Folk School over Blueberry Festival weekend.

"This is just magic," she said, watching the image slowly darken to reveal her son's sparkling eyes and smile as it emerged from the pan holding the still wet black and white portrait.

Bailey said one of her relatives has a similar tintype portrait of his great-grandfather, a treasured family heirloom.

Tintype is a form of photography called wet-plate, as the photograph is created on a thin metal plate, which is coated in a wet silver halide solution (hence a wet plate). This type of

Above: Carla Alexandra Rodriguez sets up her large format tintype camera for a portrait last weekend in Ely.

Right: The image of one of Rodriguez's subjects, Caroline Herman and her dog Juniper, appears out of the developer.

photos by J. Summit

photograph dates back to the 1850s, and was used extensively to document the civil war, and then was a favorite for portraits. These photographs can last over 150 years, and the quality of the image is far greater than anything that can be captured by a regular present-day camera.

Carla Alexandra Rodriguez is a St. Paul-based artist, who fell in love with wet-plate photography while a student at the Minneapolis College of

See...**PHOTOGRAPHY** pg. 10



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Community notices

Embarrass Farmers Market opens Aug. 2 at the Embarrass Visitor Center

EMBARRASS- The Embarrass Farmers Market will be reopening on Friday, Aug. 2 at the Visitor Center at the intersection of MN 135 and Cty. Rd. 21 in Embarrass from 3-5 p.m. The Farmers Market meets on the first and third Friday of each month, August through October. Locally grown produce, baked goods, canned goods, handmade items, and more will be available. For more information, contact Nicole Schroeder at 218-290-1479.

Online defensive driving course on Aug. 19

REGIONAL- A defensive driving course for drivers age 55 and older is being held over Zoom on Monday, Aug. 19 from 5-9 p.m. Class materials need to be mailed, so early registration is recommended. Cost of the course is \$15 and the instructor is retired Minnesota State Trooper Mike Flatley. Preregister by calling 218-750-3189 or email mnflats@hotmail.com.

Statewide book club reads "Sharks in the Time of Saviors" through Sept. 22

REGIONAL- The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, as the Minnesota Center for the Book, announces the twelfth chapter of One Book | One Minnesota. This summer's featured title is "Sharks in the Time of Saviors" by Kawai Strong Washburn. From July 29 through Sept. 22, through their local libraries, Minnesotans will be invited to read "Sharks" and will have access to reading guides and virtual book club discussions. Readers can access the ebook and audiobook for free at Ebooks Minnesota on mackinvia.com for eight weeks. All Minnesotans are invited to participate in a statewide Zoom webinar with "Sharks in the Time of Saviors" author Kawai Strong Washburn on Aug. 21, at 7 p.m. The event is free and registration is required.

One Book | One Minnesota, a statewide book club that invites Minnesotans of all ages to read a common title and come together virtually to enjoy, reflect, and discuss. Presented in partnership with State Library Services, the program aims to bring Minnesotans together and highlight the role of libraries as community connectors.

Links and information can be found at www.the-friends.org/onebook. In addition to the digital format, hard copies of the book will be available at libraries across the state.

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK

Annual star gazing party on Aug. 9 and 10



REGIONAL- Experience the beauty and wonder of the night sky at the annual Star Party, featuring a series of free astronomy events taking place Aug. 9-10 at Voyageurs National Park.

This event is free and open to all ages and experiences, from amateur astronomers to first-time stargazers. Conservancy and ranger-led activities will be held at both Rainy Lake Visitor Center on Friday, Aug. 9 and Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center on Saturday, Aug. 10.

Attendees will enjoy special dark sky programs and learn how to view the Perseid Meteor Shower with expert guidance from local astronomers. Delight in campfire stories and s'mores, paddle on Rainy Lake with the Canoemobile, and enjoy space-themed songs under the stars. Once the park goes dark, attendees will enjoy guided telescope sessions and constellation tours under Voyageurs' star-studded skies. The schedule is the same for



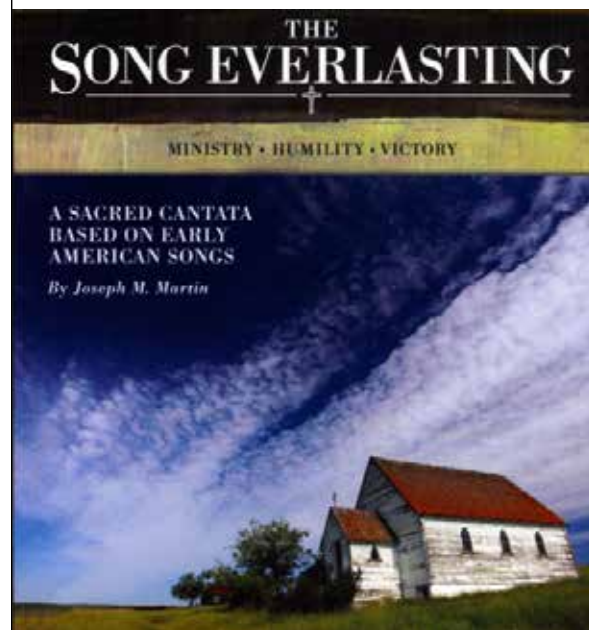
submitted photos

both Friday and Saturday with different locations. On Friday, Aug. 9 all activities and programs will be located at Voyageurs National Park's Rainy Lake Visitor Center. On Saturday, Aug. 10, all activities (except for the night sky boat

cruise) will be located at the park's Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center.

View the full schedule of events and the most up-to-date information at voyageurs.org/starparty.

The Ely Community Choir Performs



7pm, Saturday, August 10th
First Presbyterian Church
226 East Harvey St. Ely, MN

ANGORA

Festival of Skalds returns Aug. 10-11



ANGORA- The fifth annual Festival of Skalds will be held on Aug. 10 and 11 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 8182 Carpenter Rd. in Angora. View old world entertainment including ax throwing and primitive archery as well as browse goods with a Norse and Medieval twist from the 22 confirmed craft vendors. Admission for 13 years and older costs \$5. Child admission costs \$1 or is free with a canned good donation to the Cook food shelf. For more information, visit www.festivalofskalds.com. This is an alcohol free event.

Allison Herrlinger buying arrows with Kurtis Fultz during Festival of Skalds a few years ago. file photo

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PUBLIC LANDS

School trust land sale opposed by local lawmaker

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The recent announcement that state and federal officials have agreed on a strategy to facilitate the sale of 80,000 acres of school trust land is facing opposition from local state Rep. Roger Skraba, R-Ely. That should come as little surprise, given that northeastern Minnesota lawmakers have traditionally opposed a sale of the lands, which were effectively landlocked by the 1978 Boundary Waters Wilderness Act. That law prohibited road building, logging, and mining within the 1.1-million-acre wilderness area, effectively cutting off the state's access to its school trust lands. Those lands were granted to the state of Minnesota by the federal government at the time of statehood and the state's constitution requires the lands be managed to produce revenue for the state's school trust fund.

In opposing a sale of the lands, Skraba, currently in his first term representing District 3A, points to the 1964 Wilderness Act, which indicates that any state or private lands landlocked by the designation of a wilderness shall be acquired by a land exchange of equal value. That would seem to prohibit an outright purchase of the land in question.

Game, set, match? Not exactly, at least according to Tom Hall, the supervisor on the Superior National Forest. Hall doesn't dispute Skraba's contention that the 1964 law authorizes land exchange in order to acquire state or private properties isolated within the wilderness, but said that's not particularly relevant to the question. "We function based on authorities," said Hall, referring to the U.S. Forest Service. "Our general counsel tells us that the '64 law authorizes an exchange. But that

doesn't preclude other laws that authorize purchase of lands, such as the Weeks Act," he said.

The Weeks Act, signed into law in 1911, authorized the acquisition of lands in the eastern half of the country primarily for the protection of watersheds. "It's one of many different authorities, others including land and water conservation act authority," Hall added, although he acknowledged he anticipates using authority under the Weeks Act to ensure the purchase passes muster legally.

According to Hall, any final agreement on the proposed purchase would spell out the forest service's legal position. "That's incumbent on any proposal we offer," he said. "We do feel like there are authorities that allow us to move forward."

Aaron Vande Linde, who directs the state's office of school trust lands, agreed that the '64 law states that the forest service "shall" acquire state or private lands in the wilderness through exchange, he notes that it doesn't expressly prohibit other methods of acquisition. He said had Congress wanted to limit such acquisition to an equal exchange, it could easily have stated so.

He called Skraba's reading "wrong on the facts and wrong on the law."

But as a member of the Legislature, Skraba's interpretation, right or wrong, could potentially stand in the way of an outright sale of the school trust lands. While the Weeks Act does allow the forest service to purchase lands for conservation purposes, the law states that any such transfer shall not occur without the consent of the Legislature of the state in question. That could give Skraba a means to sink any such agreement on a possible sale, as long as he can generate sufficient backing to

oppose it.

Differing viewpoints

From Vande Linde's perspective, the rationale for a sale comes down to maximizing the return to the school trust, which is part of his charge.

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

Skraba says that argument comes with assumptions, including that the economy and investments based on it don't collapse. He argued that by consolidating the ownership of state lands outside the wilderness, both the forest service and the DNR can more efficiently manage their lands and that such efficiency will benefit communities that rely on the resources derived from the lands.

He also argued that the school trust lands within the Boundary Waters are worth more than the current estimated value of \$425 an acre. That would generate about \$34 million for the state's school trust were the two sides to agree on that value.

State and federal officials say years of effort to

agree on the parameters of one of the largest land exchanges ever attempted in the U.S. proved both costly and ultimately fruitless, and argue that a sale is likely to be far easier to arrange, although it will require several steps, including a condemnation proceeding in state court.

Rather than abandoning the effort, however, Skraba suggests that the parties involved try to work out smaller, less complex exchanges, one at a time, until the lands issue can be fully resolved.

The school trust

As of 2021, the corpus of the state's school trust was estimated at approximately \$1.9 billion, which is invested in a variety of financial instruments as determined by the Minnesota Board of Investment. Over the five-year period ending in 2021, the trust experienced an average annual return of 10.82 percent. At such a rate of return, \$34 million would generate approximately \$3.7 million in the first year, and larger amounts in each subsequent year as a result of compounding. Over 50 years, at a similar rate of return, the value of that \$34 million would grow to approximately \$242 million.

But Skraba argues there's more to the equation than money. He said the resources generated from the newly obtained state lands would help to sustain industries, like wood products, that create jobs in communities in the region. "Maybe it would generate more by selling it now," said Skraba. "But that shouldn't be the only goal."

That's an argument that's often made by industry groups, which note that resources like timber and minerals can generate many times their raw value in jobs, income, taxes, and other benefits to communities.



New Minnesota child safety law now in effect

REGIONAL— For those who drive with children in their cars or trucks, a new law that took effect on Thursday, Aug. 1 changes the way kids must be restrained for their safety.

Previously, Minnesota law required the use of car seats according to the manufacturer's instructions based on height and weight. The new legislation introduces updated guidelines emphasizing age and size-specific requirements for car seats, booster seats, and seat belts.

Children under 2 years old must be properly restrained in a rear-facing child passenger restraint system with an internal harness until they reach the weight or height limit specified by the manufacturer.

Once a child turns 2 years old and exceeds the rear-facing seat's weight or height limit, they may change to a forward-facing child passenger restraint system with an internal harness, continuing to use it until they reach the system's weight or height limit.

Children who are at least 4 years old and exceed the forward-facing seat's weight or height limit must use a booster seat secured with a safety belt. A booster seat is required until the child is nine years old.

Children who are at least 9 years old or exceed the booster seat's weight or height limit must use a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt. They must pass the five-step seat belt fit test:

- Shoulder belt should cross between the

shoulder and neck.

- Lower back should be against the vehicle seat.

- Lap belt should sit on their thighs.

- Knees should bend at the edge of the seat.

- Feet should be flat on the floor.

Whenever possible, children under 13 years of age must sit in the back seat.

General Requirement:

Drivers must ensure all children under 18 years old are in an appropriate child safety seat or restrained by a seat belt.

This law pertains to all vehicles originally equipped with factory-installed seat belts.

People traveling by motor vehicle through Minnesota from other states must also follow these requirements.

Children riding in a vehicle for hire, including a taxi, airport limousine, or bus do not have to be restrained according to the guidelines, but the requirements do apply to rented, leased, or borrowed vehicles.

These changes align with recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics and aim to prevent children from moving to the next level of restraint prematurely. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety reports that from 2019 to 2023, nearly 13,000 children aged birth to seven involved in crashes who were properly restrained had an 89 percent chance of remaining uninjured in the crash, while 10 percent suffered only minor injuries.

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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

The Bush years

The rehabilitation of the Bush presidencies ignores their dismal record

It's long been known that wine tends to improve with age. The same seems to hold true of Americans' perspectives on their former presidents.

Even the most disappointing presidents tend to undergo rehabilitation with time. They all seem to appear wiser, more capable, and more statesmanlike in the rear-view mirror. George W. Bush, for example, left office in 2009 with a 33-percent approval rating. Ten years later, he was viewed positively by two-thirds of Americans, according to polling and has probably only grown more popular since. His remarkable rehabilitation is far from justified.

What many Americans may not realize, is that we continue to live with the negative consequences of George W. Bush's maladministration, as well as that of his father, H.W. Bush, to a degree that is unusual. It is time to re-litigate the Bush years, because they were particularly bad for America.

It was George W. Bush, after all, who sent thousands of American servicemen and women to their deaths or permanent injury in Iraq over lies about weapons of mass destruction, while allowing the architect of 9/11, Osama bin Laden, to remain free.

The human cost of Bush's response to a terrorist attack that occurred on his watch is incalculable. The financial legacy of Bush's self-declared Global War on Terrorism, however, can be calculated, and the cost is staggering. A 2021 analysis by the Cost of War Project at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University, calculated that the first 20 years of Bush's war on terrorism had cost the U.S. \$8 trillion, including war-related increases to the Pentagon's base budget, care for veterans to date and in the future, Department of Homeland Security spending, and interest payments on all that deficit spending, which by itself constitutes nearly a quarter of America's \$34 trillion national debt.

And it gets worse. The Bush tax cuts, approved in 2001 and 2003, which went overwhelmingly to the wealthiest Americans, took a federal budget that was in surplus during President Bill Clinton's second term and set the stage for the biggest run-up in the national debt in the nation's history. An analysis by the Center for American Progress found that the Bush tax cuts had added another \$8 trillion to the nation's debt as of last year, and that number increases by close to \$400 billion each year since the cuts were made permanent. Between Bush's wars in Iraq and

Afghanistan and his tax cuts, his policies are directly responsible for just under half of our national debt. Add in the \$8 trillion added under President Trump and these two GOP presidents have accounted for three-quarters of our nation's debt. That's a legacy that will make life significantly poorer for future generations.

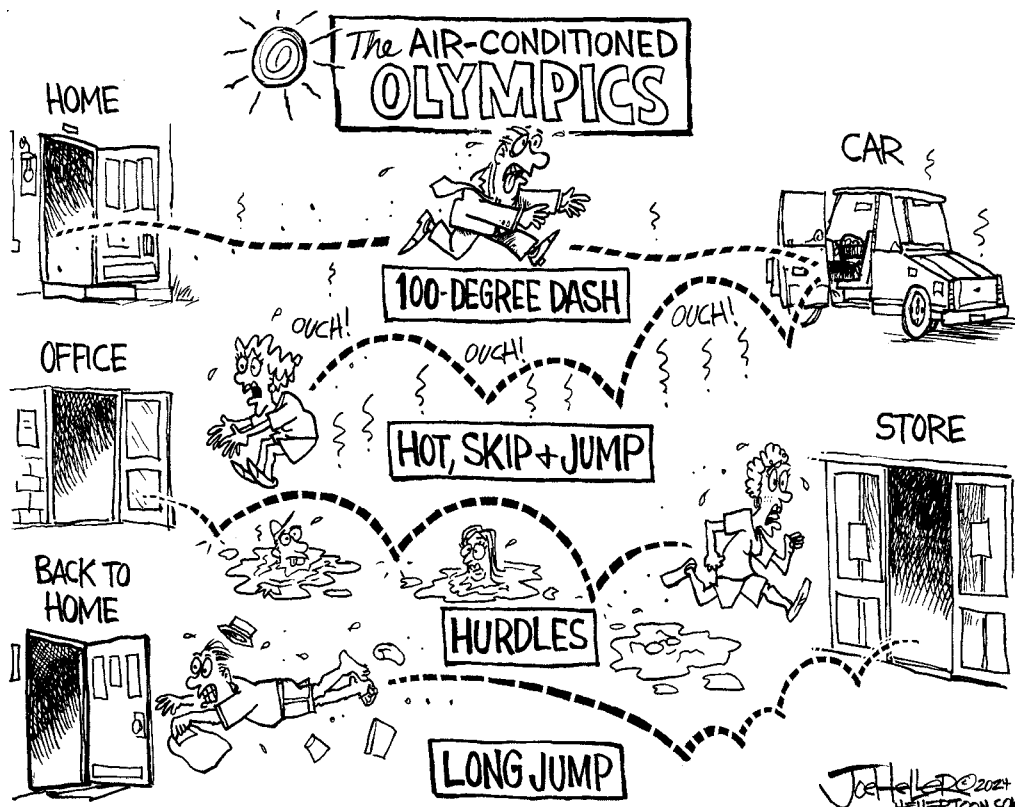
And writing of legacies, George H.W. Bush's can be seen in the rapidly diminishing respect for the U.S. Supreme Court. While President Donald Trump has received plenty of criticism for his three Supreme Court picks, all of whom are well outside the mainstream of American jurisprudence, the two most clearly partisan and arguably corrupt members of the high court, Justice Clarence Thomas and Justice Samuel Alito, were both nominees of the elder Bush.

For more than 30 years, Thomas has brought his insecurities, grudges, conflicts of interest, and intellectual mediocrity to the high court. Alito, similarly, most recently made the news over the flying of flags at his homes suggesting sympathy with the Jan. 6 insurrectionists. Nonetheless, he announced in a recent letter to Congress that he would not recuse himself from cases related to the 2021 attack on the Capitol. That's despite federal law that requires judges to recuse themselves for even the appearance of a conflict of interest or bias in a case.

Both Alito and Thomas have garnered additional headlines over the past year as financial gifts, of things like travel and luxury motor homes, have finally been exposed. None of these gifts, in many cases from individuals with regular business or strong interest in matters before the court, were reported at the time on required financial disclosures. This is simple, rank corruption and it has, rightfully, taken a toll on the reputation of the Roberts' court.

Both Alito and Thomas are known for their frequent partisan speeches (something judges are supposed to avoid) and for regularly undermining voting rights, civil rights, abortion rights, and their own credibility through written decisions that frequently offer up tortured legal justifications for what are plainly partisan political opinions, rather than principal or law.

It goes to show that it really does matter who we elect as president and the consequences can be both far-reaching and long-lasting. Let's not let the fog of time leave us blind to the reality of that fact.



Letters from Readers

Trump reveals his real plan

While giving a speech last week at Turning Point USA, Donald Trump finally admitted his true goal in running for president this time around.

After Trump's normal pattern of rants, name calling, lies, and hand gestures, he made a statement while on camera. If this statement is not a direct threat to America, and our Constitution, NOTHING IS!

Trump said, and I quote, "Just go out and vote THIS TIME. Because in four more years it will be FIXED. It will be fine, and you will NEVER HAVE TO VOTE AGAIN. Because we will fix it so good, that you'll NEVER have to vote again." End quote.

Does "fascist dictator" ring a bell? If not, it sure should!

Barry W. Tungseth
Ely

Don't be misled by the fear and hate

I have been watching TV today as Republican congressmen, who have all taken an oath when they entered office to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, say they want to impeach our vice-president because our southern border is still not secure. Let me just remind everyone that a bipartisan border bill, the one that was negotiated by Democrats and ultra-conservative Republicans, was never voted on because Donald Trump told the Speaker of the House not to bring it to the floor! And with the support of the

Republican MAGA crowd in Congress, of course he didn't.

On the other hand, Kamala Harris told her followers last night, "This campaign is not just about us versus Donald Trump." She asked "What kind of a country they wanted to live in? A country of freedom, compassion, and rule of law, or a country of fear and hate?"

Anyone who is reading this has assuredly read letters spewing fear and hate, published by this newspaper. Please don't be misled.

Kate Furness
Ely

Silver Rapids public comment period should remain open for now

I attended and spoke at the open planning and zoning commission meeting regarding the proposed project at Silver Rapids Lodge earlier this month. I was surprised and disappointed that, despite the overwhelming support of the approximately 90 people in attendance and the serious issues raised at the meeting as well as subsequent concerns raised in writing by numerous parties, the comment period regarding this project is now closed.

I would like to suggest that, given the following points, it seems more than appropriate and fair to reopen the comment period before the commission makes its final decision regarding this project. This project promises to have an extremely significant impact on all those living in the WICOLA chain as well as others in the Ely

area.

Reopening the comment period is indicated in this situation and would allow for:

1. New Information to be gathered and shared with the public in compliance with procedural fairness. At the earlier meeting, both speakers and the county staff raised substantial concerns that were not sufficiently addressed by the developers. Questions regarding water quality, traffic and pedestrian safety concerns, density and placement of housing units and boat slips, and legal questions regarding the current application all need to be adequately responded to by the proposers.

2. Respect for the high public interest evidenced by attendance at the planning and zoning meeting and the fact that announcement of the meeting was insufficiently advertised to those most immediately impacted by the project also support the reopening of a comment period. Key stakeholders, such as local businesses, environmental groups, and affected residents all deserve more time to prepare their comments.

The complexity of this ambitious and potentially contentious project suggests that reopening the comment period can ensure that all viewpoints are heard and definitely considered. Whatever the final decision, taking time to listen to all those concerned will lead to a more informed and equitable resolution.

Sharon Friedler
Ely

COMMENTARY

Modifiers in need of modification...

In the old comedy film "Animal Crackers," Groucho Marx famously declares: "One morning I shot an elephant in my pajamas. How he got in my pajamas, I don't know."



CATIE CLARK

Groucho should be the poster child for the misplaced modifier, which is English grammar's gift to the world of humor. For example, few would refrain from a good laugh after reading: "Cecilia

received a flyer about a workshop on making a canoe from an Ojibwe tribal elder." The issue wrapped up in the above sentence are immense. First, I would want to alert local law enforcement about the senior abuse and the potential felony threat of physical violence. A charge of attempted murder may also

be in the offing. The possibility of human trafficking cannot be discarded.

Horrific mayhem is looming at Cecilia's future canoe workshop, all because of a misplaced prepositional phrase. "From an Ojibwe tribal elder" looks like it modifies the gerund phrase "making a canoe." In reality, the prepositional phrase is adverbial and modifies the verb "received." The grammatical fix is to move the phrase closer to the thing it modifies, but that's not as fun as just laughing at the metaphorical foot in the

mouth presented by this sentence.

Now consider the following dangling modifier: "Upon entering the dentist's office, a five-foot-tall wooden molar caught my attention." When reading a sentence like that, all I can think of is the giant wooden tooth at an Ely dentist's office as it waxes at people after it walks into the waiting room. The opening clause is dangling because it has nothing to modify. The clause doesn't modify "molar" or "attention;" it wants to modify the narra-

tor, who is absent from the sentence.

Despite my own awareness of misplaced and dangling modifiers, I am not immune from making my own modifier mistakes. In a commentary I haven't finished yet about Ely's music scene, my first draft harbors this guilty sentence: "After gathering dust for 25 years, I finally had time to play my bass trombone."

Sentences like this bring home how transformative writing can be as a vehicle for self-revelation. After all, it was an epiph-

any to discover I had 25 years of dust on me, and I found this out only after taking up the base trombone again.

Some misplaced modifier mistakes are hard to catch. One sentence that comes to mind is, "Ely Memorial High School students got to meet the cast of 'Disney's Frozen, the Broadway Musical' on a field trip to Milwaukee." See the problem? It's similar to the first sentence on the canoe workshop. As the sentence is currently

COMMENTARY

Born in the Depression, my father watched as the world changed

My father, Richard Helmberger, died this past Monday, July 29, less than a month shy of his 100th birthday, one of the last of the generation that came of age in the Great Depression. He was born Aug. 26, 1924, in a farmhouse outside of Gary, S. D., the middle child in a family of 13 kids born to John and Mary Helmberger. It was subsistence farming for the most part, on land they could only afford to rent, with much of the production going to feed their family. They moved a few years later to a sandy farm just outside of Perham, which is the only home my father really remembered. It was the same life, however, only a change in scenery. They made a little money on occasion, as my grandfather broke wild horses for cash and sold excess milk and cream, and a little meat, from the farm. In the summer they sold produce to a resort on nearby Big Pine Lake.

We have a family photograph, that would have been taken about 1936. My grandmother would have still been in her late 30s but the toll of



MARSHALL
HELMBERGER

a very hard life was unmistakable in her face, her hands, and the posture of a woman much older than her years.

My father remembered sleeping three or four kids to a bed, in part to stay warm in the upstairs of an uninsulated farmhouse where frost would form on top of the covers on cold winter mornings.

My father, at a young age, proved to be a good shot with a .22 and the family kept him in ammunition as he brought home many squirrels and other small game to help put much needed food on the table. I still remember him talking with reverence about the squirrel gravy his mother made, to help stretch those precious vittles a little further. My father's skill as a marksman served him well later as he achieved an expert rating with a rifle during his stint in the Army during WWII.

Despite his humble beginnings, my father lived during a period in American history unsurpassed for the opportunities it made possible and he and his siblings

all found their way out of poverty and to varying degrees of success in life.

Many of those opportunities were made possible by federal policies adopted under Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and the former president was, not surprisingly, revered within the Helmberger household. While my father was too young to work in the CCC or the WPA, his older brothers were able to earn money during desperate times thanks to programs like these.

My father was, later, able to take advantage of the GI Bill, which Roosevelt signed into law in 1944, to earn a business degree and later start his own independent insurance agency in St. Louis Park in the 1950s. His brother John also used the GI Bill to obtain a PhD in economics and he spent decades as a well-respected professor at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities. Two other brothers followed John's path, one becoming a professor of agronomy at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, while the other researched and taught geophysics at Cal Tech, and was later inducted into the National Academy of Sciences.

This was an era when we, as a country, believed

that investing in the next generation was sound policy and, while it left some groups out, it resulted in the largest expansion and fairest distribution of wealth and opportunity in world history. Somewhere along the line we forgot about that success and the generation that we lifted up to better futures through funding of things like education, rural infrastructure, and affordable housing.

My father's lived experience was reflected in his political beliefs. He was a dyed-in-the-wool New Deal Democrat and he became particularly active in DFL politics in the 1960s and 70s when he helped organize opposition to the war in Vietnam and, in 1968, served as treasurer of Eugene McCarthy's presidential campaign in Minnesota.

The century that my father witnessed was a period of unprecedented change and I've often thought of how disorienting the world must have seemed to him in his later years. When he was a boy, they hitched the horse to a buggy or a sleigh when they headed into town and horses pulled the plow my grandfather used to till his fields well into the 1930s. My father was in his late teens when Roosevelt's

REA finally brought electricity to their Perham farmstead. It was only later that they managed indoor plumbing. Antibiotics were unknown and polio was an incurable scourge. Space travel, which had been the sole purview of comic books or science fiction when my father was a child, would become a reality with breathtaking speed. Less than 45 years after his birth, we had put a man on the moon.

The changes, at times, were more than my father wanted to recognize. While computers came into common usage by the late 1980s, my father, by choice, never entered the Computer Age. He preferred the familiar, like hunting and fishing, which occupied much of his life into his 80s. If he wanted to communicate, he picked up the phone.

He remained in excellent physical health into his late 90s but began to experience severe short-term memory loss at about 95. Four years ago, we determined he could no longer live independently but he resisted any talk of assisted living. And as one might expect from his life and his age, he was as stubborn as a mule.

So, in the fall of 2020, my sister brought him

north to Tower, ostensibly to enjoy the fall colors, while we swooped in right behind with a U-Haul and loaded up his belongings and set him up in a house two blocks from our office in Tower, with a variety of live-in support from then on. And that's where he lived for the past almost four years, remaining in relatively good physical health up until the past couple months, when he went downhill pretty quickly.

In so many ways, he was a remarkably lucky man, who outlived all of his siblings, except for one younger brother, and enjoyed a warm house and several dishes of ice cream every day, which seemed to be his biggest source of enjoyment in his final year. He grew up in poverty, but that was hardly unusual in his era, and like so many of the Greatest Generation, he made a success of himself, raising a family in a middle-class Twin Cities suburb in a comfortable home with a good public school just a block away. It was far more than a poor kid born in the 1920s on the South Dakota prairie could have ever expected.

More Letters from Readers

Why the Silver Rapids proposal demands an EAW

I commend you for your extensive coverage of the public hearing conducted by the Lake County Planning and Zoning Commission on July 18 regarding the Silver Rapids Lodge expansion project. This letter responds to certain claims by the developers in the meeting which you quoted in your article as follows:

"If you do the math... we're close to 57 units.... The density that we're proposing is very similar for what's there. ...the total number of units in the expanded resort will be 61."

The term "units" was carefully chosen. A unit could be a tent site or a four-season timeshare cabin. So, let's take a hard look at the "density" argument presented by the developers. The 49 new "cabins" are described in the application to the Commission as 1,500 square-foot quarter-interest timeshare cabins. But floor plans posted in the Silver Rapids Lodge disclose the actual plan is for four-season homes with almost 3,000 square feet of living space with three bedrooms, three baths, and bed sleeping capacity for eight people. (1,500 square feet is the main floor and does not include another 1,500 square feet of living space partially below grade.) These will provide accommodation for 392 people. Once you add in the other guest accommodations and worker cabins, the total on-site capacity is for 434 people. By way of comparison, the current population of Fall Lake Township is less than 600. The goal of timeshare owners is to

rent out their share weeks whenever they are not in residence themselves. Why are the developers not disclosing their true intentions to the Commission and the public?

In effect, we are asked to believe that replacing tent sites and RV hookups with four-season timeshares with almost 3,000 square feet of living space would be like-for-like in terms of density. As we all know, it is people, not "units," that create noise, create sewage, create garbage, demand water, and create road and boat traffic, safety issues, and operate boats, jet skis, ATVs, and snowmobiles. These are things that affect the quality of life for neighbors and other users of the lakes and impact the demand on local services which local taxpayers have to provide. The short and long-term impact on taxes is complex and also needs careful review.

I believe many local residents and others in the greater Ely area would welcome a properly-scaled first class resort, but a full review of the impact of the massive project being proposed is absolutely necessary. This is why a petition is circulating to demand an EAW (environmental assessment worksheet). An EAW is a brief document designed to lay out the basic facts of a project necessary to determine its full impact, including impact on roads, waterways, septic, etc. It also provides permit information and informs the public about the project. The EAW is not meant to approve or deny a project, but instead act as a source of information to guide other approvals and permitting decisions.

Charles Marsden
Ely

I'm also voting for a candidate who will support Israel

Referring to the letter of Mr. Holmbeck ("I'm voting for whoever supports Israel" - *Timberjay*, July 26) I have a few things to say. As a "well-trained" scientist, Mr. Holmbeck should know better than to base sweeping conclusions and important decisions on small sample sizes ("Dr. Shapiro, like most Jews was very intelligent.") and a few personal anecdotes ("One Jewish doctor was a co-member with me of the Hibbing Chapter of the Isaac [sic] Walton League.") On this limited basis Mr. Holmbeck intends to cast his vote in November, presumably for Donald Trump. Apparently, Mr. Holmbeck fails to understand that American support for Israel is systemic and automatic. It even predates May 14, 1948, when David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel followed by President Truman's official recognition of the new nation on the very same day. To completely cover American support for Israel over the past 76 years would require at least one lengthy book, but I venture it is perhaps the only issue on which Democrats and Republicans substantially agree. The only point of contention is how many billions

WORDS...Cont. from page 4

written, it's the cast of the musical that's on the field trip to Milwaukee, not the students.

Some bad modifiers need no introduction.

► "Applications are now being accepted for infant day care workers."

► "Law enforcement chased the bear in a squad car."

► "Michelle read the note taped to the wall."

in financial aid we should provide annually. So, the proclamation that Mr. Holmbeck makes is a little ambiguous. As long as he votes for a major candidate he will be voting for somebody who supports Israel. As final justification of his intentions, Mr. Holmbeck concludes with the statement: "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."


Let me refer Mr. Holmbeck to Exodus Chapter 20, Verses 13 "Thou shalt not kill" and 15 "Thou shalt not steal." For at least 76 years, Zionists have been killing Palestinians and stealing their land with U.S. support. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), "...the U.S. accounts for 69 percent of Israel's imports of major conventional arms between 2019 - 2023." In the past ten months the U.S. has stepped up its military support of Israel while that rogue nation has killed more than 40,000 Palestinians, most of whom were innocent civilians. Democrat or Republican we have blood on our hands. We will continue to as long as this nation insists on doing what is expedient rather than what is right.

We live in a nation of slogans and snap judgments, forming opinions without educating our-

selves. Yet we pat ourselves on the back for the acuity of our moral compasses while making important decisions based on fallacious premises. In November, I will also be voting for a candidate who supports Israel. Kamala Harris has no choice because this has been America's unwavering policy since we helped found Is-

rael almost eight decades ago. As a peace-loving, bleeding heart liberal who believes in justice for literally everybody, I support the candidate who I believe will make the greatest strides in that direction. God help the United States and the rest of the world if she loses.

David B. Stanton
Cook



**the
TIMBERJAY**

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

Week of August 5

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.

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.

Little Church meeting, service

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church will hold a business meeting on Saturday, Aug. 10 at 10 a.m. There will be service with Jon Salo on Sunday, Aug. 11 at 4 p.m. with a potluck to follow. The group welcomes anyone and is looking for people interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained in our community. The church hosts a men's group that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation. There is also a new women's group that will begin at 10:15 a.m. All are welcome. The Little Church is located on Cty. Rd. 26/ Wahlsten Rd. in Vermilion Lake Township. Any questions, contact/leave message for Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

Golden Eagles Class of 1959 holding 65th Reunion on Aug. 17

GREENWOOD TWP- Classmates and friends are invited to join the Tower-Soudan High School Class of 1959 on Saturday, Aug. 17, at the Vermilion Club at 2 p.m. The VC does not take reservations so it will be first come first served, that's why we are looking at 2 p.m. We will order off the menu. Please call Barb (George) Peyla at 218-410-7883 if you plan to attend so that we can reserve a table for the group. Hope to see you there.

STREET SALES



Tower-Soudan city-wide garage sales draw crowds

This year's Tower-Soudan City-Wide Garage Sales included over two dozen sale locations. Streets in Tower and Soudan were busy all day on Saturday, July 27, as carloads of shoppers of all ages hunted for bargains.

Sale organizer, and garage sale participant, Scarlet Stone was very happy with the success of the sales this year, and said plans are already underway for next summer's sale, which again will coincide with Blueberry/Art Festival weekend in Ely. She reported that many of those hosting garage sales reported great luck in selling their old belongings. photo by J. Summit

SPEND SOME TIME OUTDOORS

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

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 trailhead 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. Classic bikes and e-bikes are welcome. The Wagoner Trail Club maintains the Tower ski trails, along with other hiking trails in the area. **More outdoor activities** The Vermilion Area Activity Club, a new club formed this past year, offers group hikes, bike rides, snowshoe and ski outings year-round. For more information on this group, which offers a great way to get outdoors for those not as familiar with the area trails, follow them on Facebook.



FARMERS MARKET CHILDREN'S DAY



Farmers Market Children's Day fun for all ages

This year's Children's Day at the Tower Farmers Market drew quite a crowd, and it didn't depend on how old one was, because everyone joined in on the fun. Clockwise from top left: Leona Broten danced to the music provided by LuAnn Zaudtke. Karel Winkelaar told mining stories and posed for a photo with Vanessa and Remy Popilek (the dynamite was a prop!), John and Denise Lindquist sported Hawaiian Santa in July vibes. Vendors offered free treats for children. Many joined in for the "chicken dance." Janna Goerdt had garden-fresh vegetables for sale.



photos by J. Summit



Get Results!

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ELY BUSINESS

Firefly Vintage & Goods opens in Ely

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- A new Ely store has an familiar Ely face in it. The store is Firefly Vintage & Goods at 230 E. Sheridan St., which opened in July. The face belongs to Firefly's manager Dave Wigdahl, who despite his amused protestations that he should retire one of these years, is running another Ely retail venture.

Firefly Vintage & Goods is a bright and comfortable store filled with vintage furniture and snazzy collectibles like old kitchen tins and spice boxes. In a niche behind the main counter are early 20th-century hats with J.D. Mills labels inside.

The business shares space with the Ely Lakes & Pines Real Estate Partners of Keller Williams Classic Realty at 230 E. Sheridan St., in the former J. D. Mills clothing store building. Firefly's owner Lori Schulze bought the property in 2021, aiming to convert the former clothing store into offices for the real estate firm, which she manages. Schulze had



Dave Wigdahl, manager of Firefly Vintage & Goods, sitting on one of the store's inventory of vintage furniture. photo by C. Clark

the idea of using the rest of the building for an antique store.

"Once the office renovation was finished this winter, I started looking at what to do with the rest of the space," Schulze said. "I've been talking about it for years," Schulze said, referring to starting a store selling antiques and col-

lectibles.

Schulze soon brought Wigdahl into her plans. "Dave was the perfect person to make Firefly happen," she told the *Timberjay*. "It was something we wanted to do."

Wigdahl described himself as Firefly's "mastermind and entrepreneur." He has bought or managed

several Ely retail establishments since 1999. Firefly is Wigdahl's sixth business in Ely.

Wigdahl will be 74 in October. He moved to Ely in 1999 after a successful career selling office supplies in a five-state territory.

"I was living in the Twin Cities and making 50

trips to Ely every year, so I moved here. I was thinking I should buy property up here while I could still afford it."

A residence wasn't all he bought. Wigdahl also bought Ely Family Shoes, which his daughter ran for a year. Then, Wigdahl converted the space into the Timber Ridge Trading Co., selling rustic furniture and cabin goods. He helped his daughter and son-in-law start Insula in 2015.

Wigdahl includes the establishment of Ely's Historic State Theater as one of his "enterprises." Wigdahl was instrumental in setting up the nonprofit and served on its board until recently. He also founded the kitchen goods store Potluck on Chapman St. in 2018, which he sold last year.

Firefly occupies the front of 230 E. Sheridan St. while the real estate offices for Keller Williams use the back third of the space. The antique and collectibles store is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

AROUND TOWN



Mike Banovetz mans the raffle table at the Braver Angels' July 24 open house and fish fry at SamZ's in Winton. photo by C. Clark

Ely High School fall sports

ELY- The registration meeting for Ely Memorial High School will be on Monday, Aug. 5, at 6 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. The meeting will be for the football, volleyball, and boys and girls cross country teams. Participants in grades seven through 12 and their parents should attend.

Registration forms, schedules for games, meets and practices, and other information about the upcoming season will be available at the meeting. Coaches will also be present to answer questions. Fall sports practices begin the week of Aug. 12.

All athletes in grades seven through 12 must have a current physical examination on file to

participate. Anyone with questions about physical exams or needing to know if their physical exam is still current may contact athletic director Tom Coombe at Tcoombe@ely.k12.mn.us or 218-235-1025. Physicals are valid for three years. Most athletes completed them during their seventh and 10th grade years.

Girls swimming, which is part of a cooperative team with Northeast Range School, has already held its meeting in Babbitt. Anyone who missed the girls swimming meeting but has an interest in participating should contact Tom Coombe at either the phone number or email address above.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Ely's 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. Aaron Kaercher & Friends are the act on Friday, Aug. 2. On Friday, Aug. 9, Ely's Chicka-dee-dee-dee trio will perform, followed by American Pie: Pat & Donna Surface on Friday, Aug. 16.

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.

The Portage Land Music Festival will come to the theater in just over a month, on Sept. 6-7, featuring all the northland's favorite music acts including Ely's Chick-A-Dee-Dee-Dees and the Duluth Transit Authority. Festival passes are \$90; kids under 12 are free with a pass holder. Get tickets at northernlakesarts.org.

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.

Braver Angels

ELY- The Ely chapter of the Braver Angels Alliance will meet at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. First Ave. E., on Thursday, Aug. 15, at 6:30 p.m. The topic will be gun control.

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-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

Dorothy Molter Museum

ELY- The museum will hold its supporter appreciation day on Sunday, Aug. 18, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Admission is free during the open house.

Ely Public Library

ELY- The spice for August is cumin seed. Pick up a sample and recipes at the front desk while supplies last.

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.

The library will hold a book mending workshop for teens and adults on Tuesday, Aug. 6, from 11

a.m.-noon. Join the library staff to learn how to mend books and choose the right materials to do so. You can bring a book of your own to practice on. Register in advance so the library can order enough supplies for the workshop participants.

The library will host Ely's own Accidental Ensemble, with Keiko Williams on violin, Nina Van Gelder on flute, and Karen McManus on oboe, on Wednesday, Aug. 7, from 11 a.m.-noon. The performance is for all age groups.

The library board will meet on Wednesday, Aug. 7, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The Friends of the Library Book Club will meet on Monday, Aug. 12, from 3-4 p.m. The title for August is "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store," by James McBride.

The Friends of the Library monthly board meeting will be on Tuesday, Aug. 13, from 1-2 p.m.

The Curiosity Cohort for teens and adults will meet on Tuesday, Aug. 13, from 2-3 p.m. The August session will delve into plant propagation and will be part demonstration and part hands-on. Participants will go home with at least one new divided plant. Register in advance so the library can order enough supplies for the attendees.

The library will host the Celtic music duo "Willow Brae," on Wednesday, Aug. 14, from 10-11 a.m. This free program is 1 hour long and is appropriate for all ages.

The Get Crafty group will meet on Thursday, Aug. 15, starting at 11 a.m. to make tie-dyed pillowcases. This activity is for all ages but young children should be accompanied by an adult to help. The library will supply everything for participants to tie dye their own pillowcases. The activity will be outside, so it is weather dependent. Register in advance so the library can order enough supplies for everyone.

The library will hold an online Kahoot trivia game on the first three books of the "Court of Roses and Thorns" series by Sarah Maas. The Kahoot will start at 3 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 22, and end at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 27. Register in advance so the library can email the link to the game.

The Library Scientists group will meet on Friday, Aug. 23, from 1-2 p.m. This group is for all ages with adult help. In this session, participants will learn about optical illusions and how to make them. Register in advance so the library can order enough supplies for everyone.

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.

A program of fun, family-friendly music, "Will Sings Songs Live," will be at the library on Wednesday, Aug. 7, at 10:30 a.m.

The library will host the Celtic music duo "Willow Brae," on Wednesday, Aug. 14, from 3-4 p.m. This free program is 1 hour long and is geared towards audiences of all ages seven and older.

Gerry Mealy will play at the library on Thursday, Aug. 8, at 2 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

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.

List your event

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

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:

► Aug. 6: Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

► Aug. 13: Listening Point Foundation with Freja Alioth

► Aug. 20: Perpich Arts High School with Anne Johnson

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



mosquitos prevail

busy finding new victims

an end in august

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.

COOK CITY COUNCIL

Storm out, Bushbaum in in council shakeup

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK – Without fanfare or lengthy plaudits, the Cook City Council opened last Thursday’s meeting with the surprise resignation of longtime council member Elizabeth Storm.

Mayor Harold Johnston asked the council to accept Storm’s resignation, effective July 4, which they did unanimously with a simple recognition of her service. Storm was not present at the meeting, and Johnston gave no reason for her departure from the council. Storm had previously indicated that she would not be running for re-election and that she would be retiring from the council when her term expired in December, so her resignation months before then was unexpected.

At a time when city government is still grappling with the aftermath of June’s major flood, Johnston wasted no time in using his authority to fill the vacant seat, appointing Ron Bushbaum to fill out the unexpired term. Johnston’s recommendation was also approved unanimously.

Bushbaum is familiar to many homeowners in Cook in his capacity as a residential appraiser for St. Louis County, and

he’s been involved with the team making damage assessments of property for possible property tax abatements. Data from the damage assessments has also been used to support Minnesota’s request for federal emergency disaster assistance for individuals, a request that was approved on Tuesday.

Flood matters

City Administrator Theresa Martinson reported on several meetings involving IRRR and community stakeholders, FEMA and DNR, FEMA training, and review of insurance.

Martinson noted that regarding insurance they learned that 10 businesses or property owners did have flood insurance, four claims have been submitted and one has been paid out. Issues regarding insurance coverage continue to be confusing, Martinson said.

“There’s definitely some miscommunication,” she said. “We were told you’ll never get insurance in a floodplain area, and that is not what we were told by the DNR and FEMA, it’s quite the opposite. So we plan to do a meeting again with our insurance agent, because there’s definitely a lot of confusion on insurance policies and coverages.”

Council member Kim Brunner asked about cov-

erage for damage to the library.

“Is FEMA reimbursing you for the library or is our insurance?” she said.

“We did not have a specific flood insurance policy,” Martinson responded. “We anticipate getting 75 percent from FEMA for our assistance for expenses from the flood recovery and 25 percent is going to be covered by state funds.”

Martinson said that if the city had a flood policy, they would have been responsible for paying a deductible, but since they didn’t the costs will be covered 100 percent by federal and state aid.

Martinson and maintenance director Tim Lilya reviewed an assessment of water meters damaged by the flooding. Lilya said that when the meters were submerged many were rendered inoperable. Eight such meters have been identified, and the council voted to approve replacing those at a cost of \$2,728.

The city also continues to communicate with other agencies to identify other relief resources for businesses and homeowners, Martinson said. Bushbaum noted that 28 homes and 16 businesses were directly affected by floodwaters, although others may have experienced



Ron Bushbaum takes the oath of office as the newest member of the Cook City Council.
photo by D. Colburn

water-related damage.

Martinson said that the city staff should be able to handle the added responsibilities of working with the IRRR flood relief grant and loan program, which was approved on Monday of this week. The \$2.5 million will be granted to the city of Cook which will then work with an alternative lender to facilitate the long-term low interest loans that will be available.

Council members also approved invoices for flood-related expenses from Ulland Bros. for cleanup and repairs on the

North River St. project in the amount of \$9,961, and from Udovich Enterprises for rolloffs and debris removal in the amount of \$17,600.

The council did not discuss any additional details regarding the post-flood assessment of the city’s response to the flood emergency. At their regular June meeting several members expressed the need for an assessment to take place, and it was indicated that public input would be sought. Numerous community members have raised questions about a lack of effective

communication and coordination of response activities in the early stages of the flood, and council members have agreed that analyzing the response would allow them to refine the plans for any future disasters.

Other business

►Accepted a \$200 donation from the Town of Bearville for the library book fund.

►Received a report from library director Crystal Whitney detailing damage to the library from the flood, subsequent assessments, and the resumption of limited services.

►Received the monthly maintenance report from Tim Lilya.

►Approved Northeast Technical Services to conduct an asbestos inspection of the library at a cost of \$2,994.

►Approved paying SEH \$4,900 for conducting structural assessments of the Montana Café and the library.

►Approved an invoice for \$3,500 from Maxfield LLC for the housing needs assessment they have been conducting for the city.

►Heard from airport manager Doug McDuff about available funding for a siding project for the A/D building and the weather monitoring system upgrade.

SUMMER SENSATIONS



The Cook Majors Nanti League team captured a pair of second-place finishes in post-season tournament play, including the league tourney and the Rudy Lajoie Memorial in Superior. Pictured, from left: Jordan Herdman, Gunner Fultz, assistant coach Mike Fultz, Luke Cheney, Luke Pretti, Aiden Elkei, Kaleb Gornick, assistant coach Josh Krecklau, Silas Nurmi, Brayden Amundson, Reece Whitney, Jack Pliml, Curtis Krecklau, Weston Quam, Providence Ward and head coach Dan Manick. Sponsored by Spring Bay Resort, the squad swept through the regular season schedule with only two losses. submitted



The Cook Blue Minors Nanti League team earned the label "comback kids" for their effort in claiming the league tournament championship, rallying from a 0-4 deficit in late innings to win 6-4. Pictured are, center, Maverick Nurmi; front row, from left, Kyrie Rose, Kensie Herdman, Silas Nurmi, Cully Clark, Sawyer Quam, Ryker Nurmi, Brexton McCormick; back row, Everett Crain, head coach Ryan Manick, Ladd Pretti, Kallen Williams, Kamron Rose, assitant coach Jerrett Crain, assistant coach Dan Manick. submitted

Cook-Orr Calendar

Smokey Bear's 80th birthday party is Aug. 9 in Cook

COOK- Parents and kids of all ages are invited to help America’s favorite forest fire prevention expert, Smokey Bear, celebrate his 80th birthday with a party at the LaCroix Ranger District office in Cook on Friday, Aug. 9.



From 2-3 p.m., enjoy kids’ activities, cupcakes, and a grand appearance by the bear of the day, Smokey himself.

Smokey Bear first came to life as a char-

acter in an advertising campaign in 1944, but in 1950 an injured and orphaned bear cub was rescued from a New Mexico wildfire and became the live version of the mascot. He lived at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. until his death in 1976, but he continues to live on through his artful counterpart and his signature catchphrase “Only You Can Prevent Wildfires.”

The LaCroix Ranger District office is located at 320 Hwy. 53 in Cook.

Local student among graduates at UW-Eau Claire

EAU CLAIRE, Wis.- The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire has announced that Erin Kennedy, of Cook, was awarded a master of science degree in education and human sciences, with an emphasis in communication sciences and disorders, at the end of the May 2024 semester.

NWFA presents ceramic exhibit

COOK- Outstanding local artist Lyn Reed’s ceramic work will be featured in the August exhibit at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook.

“Out of Mud” features Reed’s new “totem sculpture” indoor/outdoor art, and will run from Wednesday, Aug. 7 to Friday, Aug. 30.

NWFA will hold a public reception at the gallery on Friday, Aug. 9 from 6-8 p.m. to honor the retired North Woods School art teacher. Reed and her husband Mark have been long active with NWFA and have previously displayed ceramics such as fish serving plates, mugs and bowls. Accomplished in many art forms and never done teaching, Reed often teaches art classes at NWFA as well.

In addition to the Friday reception, the exhibit is available for viewing during regular gallery hours on Wednesdays,

Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The gallery is located at 210 S River St.

NWFA is a nonprofit membership arts organization. The website is at www.nwfamn.org and the email address is nwfamn.org@gmail.com.

Night out in Crane Lake to showcase visitor center

CRANE LAKE- National Night Out has become a major event in Crane Lake, and this year’s edition on Tuesday, Aug. 6 will have even more incentive for participants with a concurrent open house and tour at the new Crane Lake Visitors Center.

The National Night Out event, sponsored by Crane Lake Chapel, benefits the volunteer fire departments in Buyck and Crane Lake and features free food, music, games, and a silent auction, all along Gold Coast Road.

The tour and open house is being billed as an “exclusive sneak peek” at the new visitor center, and will have representatives from Crane Lake, the Voyageurs Conservancy, and Voyageurs National Park available to talk about all that’s going on with the center. Brief remarks and project updates will be given at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Night sky exhibits and stickers and activity books for kids will also be available.

National Night Out festivities coming Aug. 6 to Cook

COOK- The Cook Fire Department will host a National Night Out celebration on Tuesday, Aug. 6 from 5-7 p.m. at the Cook Community Center.

The free family-oriented event for all ages will have food, children’s activities, and a variety of public service vehicles for show and tell.

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EMS

Tower area officials open to joint ambulance service

But say more financial information is needed to make a decision for or against

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Ely-Bloomenson Hospital CEO Patti Banks had a receptive audience here on Monday when she spoke to the Tower Ambulance Commission about the results of the SafeTech Solutions study, which calls for a single area ambulance service run by the hospital that would serve the Ely, Tower, and Babbitt area. The commission has been grappling for years with the financial challenges faced by the Tower Area Ambulance Service.

Banks acknowledged that the rollout of the study to the public hasn't always gone smoothly. But she noted that the hospital is a private nonprofit, operated by a volunteer board, whose goal is to maintain the organization's independent operations. She works at the direction of the board, she told commission members.

"This may be why there have been some stumbles with our communications," Banks said. "I have to follow our bylaws."

Banks admitted the plan has a big hill to climb, especially with the hospital's "contentious relationship" with the Ely Area Ambulance Service.

"It's been tough to communicate when there is staff turnover, conflicting rules, and regulations. We are not talking to the same person all the time," she said.

The hospital board chose to skip a subsidy payment to the Ely Ambulance Service last year, instead using that funding to pay for the SafeTech study.

Banks emphasized that having a financially-stable ambulance service is just as important to the hospital, as the local communities who need reliable ambulance service and hospital transfers.

said. "We can't just keep doing the same thing over and over again, that won't work."

Banks said that state and federal legislators have urged the hospital to come up with some innovative solutions.

"We need to find a different approach to emergency medical transportation," she said.

The option from the study, commissioned by the hospital, that made the most sense was the single license model, which would allow the hospital to leverage more funding, specifically from the federal government.

She admitted the plan being presented at this time does not include detailed financial data, for two reasons. Firstly, SafeTech did not receive enough financial data from both the Ely and Babbitt services. Tower, on the other hand, was very responsive and did share all requested information. Secondly, they were concerned that publishing incomplete financial data in the study would focus too much attention on that aspect of the study, and not on the overall conclusions.

"Cost-wise," she said, "I can tell you that for every dollar the hospital would invest in the ambulance service, we would be reimbursed 60 cents. I want to be upfront about that." And while Banks said the hospital is allowed to charge 101-percent of their costs, that doesn't mean they receive that much back in payments.

"We would still need some type of community support," she said. "But there is no way to predict what that would look like."

The Tower Area Ambulance Service, according to Ambulance Director Dena Suihkonen, is only getting 40 cents on the dollar reimbursement.

An ambulance service run

by the hospital would save money on drug costs, supplies and staffing, Banks said. There would also be the option to use on-call staff in the hospital, and for community-based health visits that could prevent the need for a hospital visit.

Banks said the hospital board is seeking to create a new vision, but it will not work unless all the entities involved are supportive.

If the joint plan does not get approved by the three ambulance services, Banks said the hospital would look into staffing their own ALS ambulance, to do transports.

"That would kill the Ely Ambulance," said TAAS commission member Matt Tuchel.

"This is not what we want to do," she said. "There is no guarantee it would be sustainable."

But the hospital, she said, needs to have reliable transfer service, and the joint plan would create opportunities for new services such as paramedicine, community medicine, and telemedicine perhaps installed right on the ambulance.

The hospital's main focus is providing emergency medicine, along with wilderness medicine, and their doctors are specially-trained in these fields.

"This is a requirement of our licensure," she said. "Our role is to triage, stabilize, and get people to the appropriate level of care. Sometimes they can stay with us. But we will never be doing cardiac surgery."

"We depend on ambulances," she said, and patients have been disappointed with the long wait for transfers to Duluth, often around six hours. Helicopters can only fly during certain weather conditions and are often not the first choice for patients in stable condition needing a transfer. "ALS is often the safest way to get a patient where they need to

be," she said.

Commission members had plenty of questions for Banks, including questioning the study's conclusion that only one ambulance needed to be stationed in Tower.

"We can look at that," said Banks.

John Bassing asked if this plan could get funded as part of the pilot project being funded by the state Legislature, but Banks said that wouldn't be an option. Banks said she is meeting with the University of Minnesota, which is funding their own pilot program, that might involve getting telemedicine resources onto an ALS ambulance, which would mean paramedics would be in real-time communication with medical experts and be able to bring patients exactly where they need to be to receive the highest level of care.

Banks said there would be start-up funding available, but for the plan to work, there would need to be a longer-term influx of funding of some sort from the area being served.

Tuchel urged the hospital to work with SafeTech to come up with a plan that includes more financial information.

"No one is going to sign up without seeing numbers," Tuchel said.

Tuchel, a longtime ambulance staffer and former director, said he would like to see some of the innovations that are in the plan.

"Even if we have one ambulance here," he said. "If we go out on a call, another ambulance area can fill in."

"People won't have an issue with paying a little more for a higher level of service," Tuchel said. Tuchel added that a joint service would provide better training for its staff, which would

mean a higher level of service for the area.

"That's my two cents," he said. "And I've been doing this for a very long time."

In answering another question, Banks said the ambulance would transport patients to whatever hospital made the most sense, not just to Ely.

The decision to support the plan would be made by the city of Tower, who holds the state licensure, but ambulance commission members said that input from the area townships would also be important.

"We would need to have everybody, or a majority, on board," Suihkonen told the *Timberjay* after the meeting. "I know not everyone will be in favor of this. But EMS needs to have something happen."

The Tower Area Ambulance Service has been operating at a deficit, which is being subsidized by the city of Tower.

Suihkonen said while the Tower service has been able to respond to their calls, some area services are struggling with staffing, which might be due to lower paid on-call rates, she said.

"I see longevity with the Ely plan," she said. "I don't know if I see that if our service stays in Tower."

Banks will be doing a similar presentation to the Babbitt Safety Commission on Aug. 19. Then they still need to meet with the Ely Ambulance Service.

In other news, the commission heard that Tower Ambulance's new rig will be delivered in mid-August. The commission will meet next on Monday, Aug. 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the Lappa Civic Center in Tower.

RECOVERY...Continued from page 1

floodplain, Cook is accused to minor flooding from the river, but a flood of this magnitude hadn't occurred in over 50 years. Local, state, and federal officials are exploring ways to mitigate future flooding.

IRRR Commissioner Ida Rukavina pledged to make agency funds available during visits to Cook with Gov. Tim Walz and U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, and the agency engaged in outreach efforts to affected business owners to formulate a plan that would meet their recovery needs.

To create the assistance package, the IRRR tapped a heretofore little-used pot of money called the Highway 1 Corridor Fund, established 18 years ago through the leadership of former Sen. Tom Bakk of Cook to address future economic development in Cook, Tower, and Ely. Cook Mayor Harold Johnston told the *Timberjay* on Tuesday that he was extremely grateful for the

IRRR's efforts to help the city.

"I'm very pleased," he said. "I didn't realize (the fund) existed. I'm very thankful to Tom Bakk for what he did 18 years ago. That money has been squirreled away and hidden for that period of time—nobody has touched it."

Funding plan

The IRRR package includes two primary components: Quick Start Economic Recovery Grants and Cook Economic Redevelopment Loans. Both are intended to help businesses get back on their feet and support long-term economic recovery.

To address immediate needs, grants of up to \$25,000 per business will be available to those who plan to reopen. The grants can be used to cover expenses for replacing lost inventory, machinery, equipment, furniture, supplies, and building rehabilitation. Grant funds can also be used for archi-

tectural and engineering services related to building repair, new construction, demolition, utility bills, and operational expenses.

Initially, the grant maximum was proposed at \$15,000, but was increased to \$25,000 after multiple IRRRB members raised concerns that the amount was likely too low.

"I'm a little concerned about \$15,000," Sen. Grant Hauschild, DFL-Hermantown, said. "Will it be enough to jump-start the Comet Theater, the cafe, the laundromat, and other places impacted?"

"Fifteen thousand doesn't go far nowadays," Sen. Justin Eichorn, R-Grand Rapids, added. "You don't hear a lot of kumbaya among Democrats and Republicans, but I agree with \$25,000. I want to ensure these businesses can get back on their feet and thrive."

Board member Bobby Champion, DFL-Minneapolis and president

of the Minnesota Senate, also advocated for the higher amount.

The \$2.2 million available for economic redevelopment loans is the plan's longer-term solution. The loans, which have the potential for forgiveness if a business remains open for five years, will be available to business owners who were operating in Cook at the time of the flood and plan to rebuild or rehabilitate their properties. Business owners must develop a viable recovery plan, with the loans supplementing state or federal relief programs, and ensure that future construction will be less vulnerable to flooding.

The IRRR funds will be managed by the city of Cook, which will work with an alternative lender to administer and service the loans. Loan repayments will be recaptured by the city for future economic development projects.

EAW PETITION...Continued from page 1

local resort owners, and the folks who live and work in the greater Ely area to get this right," said Hudson Kingston, the legal director for CURE.

The petition argues that the project is large enough to require an EAW, as was noted in the staff report completed by the Lake County Environmental Services Department. The proposed renovation of the resort includes the renovation of the resort's motel and the construction

of a new lodge building, a Tiki bar, 68 new boat slips and 49 1,488-square-foot cabins.

The planning commission held a public hearing on July 18, when it took public testimony on the renovation of the resort. After a grueling three-hour meeting, the commissioners tabled the two applications and asked the resort developers for more information on a variety of issues. They scheduled their next meeting on the subject

for Aug. 8 at 4 p.m. at the Fall Lake town hall.

CURE issued a statement following the July 18 meeting, arguing that the planning commission has little choice but to require an EAW. "Members of the Planning Commission appeared to suggest at the July 18 meeting that they would prefer to reach an outcome that avoids the need for an EAW and still protects the environment," read the statement. "While this is a commendable goal

... it is also plainly illegal to not conduct an environmental review required by law. Lake County should not shirk its duties when presented with the largest proposed resort in the Ely area."

CURE's website for the submitted petition is at curemn.org/silver-rapids-action-alert.

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Raffle Draw
On September 11, 2024, all 52 winning raffle tickets will be drawn, one for each week of the year, but the winners will not be immediately announced. There will be one announcement per week, each week, through September 3, 2025.

Holders of raffle tickets have the opportunity to win multiple times. Each time their ticket is drawn it is then returned to the ticket bin for subsequent drawings!!!

★ ★ ★

READ THE TIMBERJAY!

PHOTOGRAPHY...Continued from page 1

Art and Design, where she graduated in 2011. She was born and raised in Houston, Texas, but came to the Twin Cities for college and stayed.

While studying large format photography, which uses film, she took a class in historical photographic processes.

"I watched someone do a wet plate and I was just sold," she said. While there was no one at the college to teach her the techniques needed, she was determined to figure it out for herself.

"I am making my own film, essentially," she said.

That was over 10 years ago, and since then she has worked to learn the processes involved, and slowly assembled the equipment required.

"It's expensive and there is a steep learning curve," she said. There is a small community of tintype photographers, she said, and they are a very happy to provide tips and other information to fellow artists. This isn't a type of photography that can be learned from a book.

"There is not one way to do these photographs,"



Rodriguez prepares to take a portrait of Rosa Oesterreich, of rural Ely.

photo by J. Summit

Rodriguez said. "I've been taking workshops and networking with other artists online."

The hands-on nature of tintype photography is more like drawing or painting, than simply taking a photo, she said, something that really attracted her to the craft.

A Minnesota State Arts Board grant helped her purchase her first equipment. Her camera was built using a military-surplus survey-

ing camera.

But it took another year of experimenting to get consistent images.

"I am still learning," she said. "This is a very humbling process. There are many variables and finesse involved."

"Tintypes often have a mind of their own," she said. "Each image is unique."

She named her art studio, BLKK Hand, after one of the side effects of

working with the silver nitrate solution that creates these lasting images, her black-stained hands. The silver in the emulsion solution turns black when exposed to the light, and it doesn't wash off, just slowly wears off with your old skin. And no matter how careful one is, she said, you always manage to get some of the liquid on your hands and fingers.

Back in the 1800s and early 1900s, photographers

using wet-plate methods traveled from town to town offering portrait sessions, and with her pop-up studio events, she is continuing this tradition.

"I love traveling," she said, "but it is a lot of shlep around."

Rosa Oesterreich, a professional midwife who lives in rural Ely, stopped by to get a portrait taken to use for her new business cards. Rodriguez worked with her to get the type of professional image she was looking for, which did involve taking a series of two different tintypes.

And Caroline Herman, who spends her summers in Ely, stopped by for a portrait session with her dog Juniper.

Herman had heard about the opportunity from a friend. And she liked the idea of "having something special for us, that will last forever."

Rodriguez counts many of her photography subjects as friends.

"This process has brought a lot of people into my life," she said. "This is how I make friends. It is a real way to connect with

someone."

The images, once developed, are treated with a chemical "fixing" solution and then allowed to dry. Rodriguez then will coat them with shellac, which creates a highly-durable and shiny surface. So, clients have to wait a few days to take home their finished tintype. She also creates a high-quality digital scan of each image, to share with her clients, since this process creates a single photograph.

Rodriguez will be spending more time in Ely in the future (her partner now works year-round at the Voyager Outward Bound School and is buying a house in Ely), so she hopes to be setting up some more pop-up studio events in the future. She is also thinking about having a booth at next year's Blueberry/Art Festival. Find out more about the artist and her work at <https://www.blkkhand.com/>, or follow her on Instagram.

SOLAR...Continued from page 1

transfers heat more efficiently than standard U.S. products. That allows for comfortable heating with hot water that is several degrees cooler than would otherwise be necessary for traditional in-floor heating methods. In fact, he said, the system can effectively warm a room to 72 degrees with water temperatures around 78-80 degrees F, whereas traditional systems in the U.S. need water temperatures of 120 degrees or higher to effectively heat a room or an entire house.

According to Weggum, the thin layer also allows for more rapid adjustment of temperature, which is one of the more common downsides of most in-floor heating systems, particularly those that incorporate hot water tubing or electric cables within a several inch-thick slab of concrete. That lag time in heating and cooling of the slab can either leave a house



Norsk BioVarme CEO Arne Weggum points to the in-floor heating panels that he uses in his solar-powered home heating system.

photo by M. Helmberger

too cold or too warm, said Weggum, especially during shoulder seasons when outside temperatures tend to fluctuate significantly on a daily basis.

"If you want to change the temperature, this system does it in half an hour," said

Weggum.

That's opposed to several hours with many traditional in-floor heating technologies.

While the system Weggum designed is virtually unheard of in the U.S., it's already well-es-

tablished in many other western countries. "It's in 27 countries right now," said Weggum. It's in New Zealand, it's in Thailand. It's in most of the countries in Europe. But it's never been to the U.S."

That is, until now.

A slight variation on Weggum's system, which uses a heated interior skirting around the base of the home's walls, is currently being installed as part of a home renovation by Orlyn Kringstad on Tower's N. Second Street. The new residences being built near the Marjo Motel will incorporate the in-floor heating system. The installations will serve as a model and test case for how well the system works in northern Minnesota. It also demonstrates how Weggum is happy to use a variety of technologies to find a heating solution for every home.

Solar panels

While most solar panels produced today, which are known as photovoltaics, convert sunlight into electricity, panels designed to heat water are completely different. In colder climates, they use a fluid that won't freeze to circulate through the panels, transferring the heat that builds up in the process. While photovoltaics are able to convert maybe 10-15 percent of the sunlight that falls on them into electricity, solar heating panels are much more efficient, converting about 80-85 percent of the sunlight into heat energy. Even on a frigid day, sun can generate extremely high temperatures within the panels and that heat is transferred through a circulating pump into the accumulator tank for Weggum's system.

There are times when the sun doesn't shine, of course, particularly in winter here in northern Minnesota, and that can sharply limit the effectiveness of the system.

Weggum said a back-up method for keeping the water in the accumulator tank warm is essential to allow the system to work 100 percent of the time. In most cases, he said they'll install an electric element, just like in a hot water heater, that will keep the water at the temperature necessary to keep the house warm. The system could work that way without the solar panels, but the panels save about 12,000-13,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity annually, at least in Norway. Given that electric prices in Norway are far higher than here in Minnesota, the solar option saves about \$2,500 U.S.

per year versus heating the water solely with electricity. Given that electric prices are about half that in northern Minnesota, the annual savings likely won't be the same here as in Norway. Cheaper electricity would reduce the monetary savings, however, Weggum notes that there's substantially more sunlight in winter in Minnesota than back home in Norway, much of which is at the same latitude as northern Canada. That should help to boost the solar heating capacity of a system here versus one in Norway.

Weggum will be watching the systems he installs here closely to see how well they perform, and what kind of savings they can actually achieve.

While electricity is the most common source of backup heat for Weggum's systems, there are other options for heating the water as well, including pellet stoves. That's what Weggum said he uses at his home in Norway and the system is automatic, so other than removing ashes and filling the pellet reserve once a year, his system is virtually set-it-and-forget-it.

Sourcing options

While the components used in Weggum's system are currently sourced in Europe, he's already looking for U.S. suppliers for some of the products to reduce shipping costs. He met last week with a steel fabricator in Hibbing about manufacturing his accumulator tanks, which are the size of a large water heater, although they are made with much thicker steel. There are already more than half a dozen U.S.-based manufacturers of solar water-heating panels.

Fully installed, the systems aren't likely to be cheap, but the upfront costs should easily be made up for in energy savings. Once demonstrated, the systems might eventually qualify for rebates or tax credits that could significantly improve the return on investment.

For now, it's about proving the technology for the U.S. market and there are few places in the U.S. that would make a better test case for extreme cold temperatures than Tower.

EBCH

Ely-Bloomenson
Community Hospital

Hospital Connection

CrowdStrike

Q: Who is CrowdStrike?

A: CrowdStrike is a cybersecurity company that specializes in protecting against and responding to cyber threats, including those in the healthcare sector. Its services include threat detection, incident response, and protection against malware and other cyber attacks.

Q: How did the recent CrowdStrike situation affect healthcare entities, including EBCH?

A: CrowdStrike responded to the Universal Health Services (UHS) ransomware attack in September 2020. This attack significantly disrupted UHS's operations, shutting down its IT systems and affecting patient care. CrowdStrike helped investigate and manage the aftermath of that attack. More recently, you have seen CrowdStrike in the news when a security update that they were performing on Microsoft systems failed, causing disruptions across various industries, including healthcare. At EBCH, we experienced disruption to our patient's online payment system and with some of our internal functions, such as the software that the providers use for dictation.

Q: What do I need to know about cybersecurity and healthcare?

A: As healthcare systems become more digitized, strong cybersecurity measures are essential to protect patient data and ensure continuous operations. The impact of a cyberattack extends beyond immediate disruptions; it could affect patient care, financial stability, and overall trust in the healthcare system. Additionally, we should all monitor our healthcare information closely. Some tips include using strong passwords and not recycling the same password for multiple sites. Consider using 2FA, a two-factor authentication that provides a higher level of protection than passwords alone. This could include biometric authentication or secondary verification through email or text messages. Finally, be cautious with your accounts, avoid sharing your information, and monitor your accounts closely.

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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Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital is committed to caring for and enhancing the health and well-being of the community it serves.

JUDICIAL ELECTION

Five candidates vying for open Sixth District judge seat

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- While not as rare as a total solar eclipse, North Country voters will have the opportunity to experience an unusual sight when they go to the polls Aug. 13—a contested race for Sixth District court judge.

Five Duluth-area attorneys are vying for the seat being vacated by retiring Judge Dale Harris. The top two vote-getters will advance to the November general election.

“I think that we were all thrown a real curveball when the honorable Dale Harris decided not to seek reelection, which created a very rare open judicial election with multiple participants,” said candidate John Schulte at a recent candidate’s forum. “This is something that hasn’t happened in the district in, I believe, 14 years.”

The power of incumbency for district court judges in Minnesota is overwhelming. In 2022, 93 of 94 district court judge races were uncontested, and the incumbent prevailed in the other race. In an August 2022 Minnpost article it was reported that since 1996 only five incumbent judges had been defeated in elections. According to Herbert Kritzer, a professor emeritus at the University of Minnesota law school, the risks of running against an incumbent are extremely high.

“There’s a good reason local lawyers don’t challenge local judges,” he said. “If they challenge them and lose, they’re going to have to stand before those judges as a lawyer. That tends to be a pretty good disincentive.”

Sitting judges tend to resign before the end of their terms, and those seats are filled by appointment by the governor.

While the most visible part of the job for the general public is criminal cases, district judges also deal with a wide range of probate, juvenile, and family law matters. They also can hear appeals of civil disputes involving less than \$15,000 that were first adjudicated in conciliation court.

With no incumbent to face off against, the Sixth District seat, chambered in Duluth, is an exceptional occasion that has drawn a crowded field. Candidates



Gunnar Johnson Peter Raukar Shawn Reed John Schulte Gerald Wallace

Gunnar Johnson, Shawn Reed, Gerald Wallace, and Schulte participated in a candidate’s forum on July 10, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Duluth. The fifth candidate, Peter Raukar, was unable to attend, but provided a statement that was read at the forum.

Here’s a summary of the credentials and comments of the candidates at the forum.

Gunnar Johnson

Johnson, 56, has been an attorney for the past three decades. He attended UMD and earned his law degree from the American University College of Law in Washington, D.C. During his time in the nation’s capital, he worked as a law clerk for the U.S. Department of Justice. After starting his career in private practice, he joined the Minnesota attorney general’s staff, serving as counsel for the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation. Johnson was the Duluth city attorney for 12 years until he resigned in August 2020 after an investigation into complaints about his management of the office, according to an article in the *Duluth News Tribune*. The complaints over the course of several months were related to his personnel management style. Johnson told the *News Tribune* that he “strongly disagreed” with how the investigation was conducted and viewed the report as “inconclusive.”

“Other than some really minor items, the allegations were unsubstantiated,” he told the *News Tribune*. “However, it has become abundantly clear that this was going to be a distraction, and that is why I decided to move on.”

Johnson is currently in private practice with Overom Law, and serves as the attorney for Hermantown and numerous other governmental organizations.

Johnson told the forum audience that a desire to be

of service to the public is what led him to file for the position.

“I have a lot of public service work behind me, and I’ve really enjoyed that and found it very fulfilling,” he said. “I think my 30 years of experience will be very valuable in the position.”

Peter Raukar

Peter Raukar, who is a partner with Trial Group North in Duluth, is a Hibbing native who attended the University of St. Thomas and received his law degree from the Rutgers School of Law. He began his career as a clerk with the Michigan Court of Appeals and worked for another Duluth law firm for a time before moving to Trial Group North about six years ago. His primary focus there has been on civil litigation defense work, defending insured businesses in personal injury matters, employment law, product liability, and real estate disputes.

In the statement he provided for the forum, Raukar made his case for why he would be the best choice for the job.

“Having practiced before over 100 judges as a civil litigator and spoken with many district court appellate judges about their jobs, and having spent several years working for the Michigan Court of Appeals where I assisted the court in writing a plethora of opinions in various civil and criminal matters, I know the qualities needed to be a good judge. I believe that I possess these qualities. I have open-mindedness and a well-rounded understanding of the law to consider the arguments on each side of any given dispute that would come before me. I also have the patience, demeanor and right temperament to work through matters with prosecutors, public defenders and private counsel.”

Shawn Reed

Reed, 53, is a partner in the Bray and Reed law practice in Duluth. Originally from Esko, he attended

UMD and William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul. While attending law school, Reed worked in Ramsey and Hennepin counties as a prosecuting attorney. He began private practice in Duluth in 1997 and was with two other firms prior to forming Bray and Reed in 2020.

Reed touted his extensive experience as a trial lawyer as his primary qualification for the job.

“I’m a trial attorney and a hearing officer,” he said. “As a trial attorney I spend almost every day in court dealing with criminal and civil cases. In criminal law, I have experience as a prosecuting attorney, a special prosecutor and a private defense attorney. In civil law, I handle a range of cases including divorces, high conflict custody cases and civil suits. In my role as a hearing officer, I make tough decisions based off of facts and law that directly affect people’s lives. I have the necessary experience to serve as your next judge from day one.”

Reed made a pitch to get out the vote for a primary that will likely have low voter turnout, emphasizing the impact judges have on individual lives.

“In reality, a judge is going to be more likely to have a direct impact on your life than any other elected official,” he said. “Judges make decisions that affect a person’s liberty. Judges make a decision that impacts a person’s daily life. Judges make decisions that impact families, and they make decisions that impact property interests. Because of that, we need judges that are experienced, we need judges that are ready to serve. We need judges who are fair and impartial. We need judges that can weigh the evidence, apply the law and make the hard decisions. Well, I have that experience. I’m ready to serve.”

John Schulte

Schulte, 52, is an attorney with the Hanft Fride

Law Firm. He has been practicing law for 28 years and currently focuses on areas of family law, landlord-tenant law, and other general civil matters.

He earned his law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School. Schulte described some of the roles he’s had in the justice system that would inform his work as judge.

“I’ve practiced in family law, I’ve been a guardian ad litem, and I’m a mediator,” he said. And most importantly, I served as a judicial referee or a type of magistrate judge for eight years (in the Sixth District). So, I’ve worn the robe. I know what it takes.”

Schulte cited the breadth of his experience, including that as a judicial referee, as being well suited to the wide variety of cases heard by the court. “One of the reasons why this is such a unique and difficult job is one week you might be doing criminal arraignments, the next week you might be doing family law trials, the next week you might be doing several motions, and in the next week you might be presiding over your child protection calendar,” he said. “You literally sort of have to be the cliché as Jack of all trades. I’ve done a little bit of everything, which I think kind of lends itself perfectly to what a district court judge is tasked with doing on a day-to-day basis.”

Repeating a common theme, Schulte said that listening would be a cornerstone of his work.

“When they ask people their impressions of the court system, a lot of times the responses they give are less about the outcome, whether they’ve won or lost, but (more about) whether they felt like they were treated fairly, heard, and received their day in court. That’s what matters.”

Schulte’s second cornerstone would be following the law as it is written. “Sometimes that

sounds really simple,” he said. “And sometimes the law doesn’t provide a clear answer, which is why this is a hard job and you’d have to use some discretion. But we can’t substitute what we think the law should be or ought to be. We have to apply it as the statutes are drafted and as the legislature has given us that that framework.”

Gerald Wallace

The youngest candidate in the field, Wallace, 38, is a Duluth native who attended Hamline University and received his law degree from the University of Dayton School of Law. Returning to Duluth in 2013, he opened a private practice and works primarily in the area of criminal law, although his case load also includes family law, probate, and real estate. It’s that breadth of experience that Wallace said qualifies him for the position.

“The question gets asked why me,” he said. “The reason it’s me and maybe not some of my colleagues sitting next to me is because I have the necessary experience to do the job. The 2023 district court report indicates that about 80 percent of the cases that are heard by district court judges in a given year are cases that I’ve handled. I do the job every day, advising my clients as to what a court would find persuasive, what a jury will consider when deciding a case, and how a matter may be best resolved with the prosecutor with an opposing party.”

Echoing Reed, Wallace also talked about the impact judges have on individual lives when deciding cases.

“I can’t think of anything that’s more likely to be more impactful on a person’s life than who the judge is deciding the case or controversy that’s in front of them,” he said.

Editor’s Note: The photo of Gerald Wallace is courtesy of PACT-TV in Duluth.

Briefly

Eight-year-old hit by pickup in Ely

ELY — An eight-year-old child was struck and dragged by a pickup truck in Ely this past Thursday, July 25, but was reported in stable condition in the wake of the incident.

The accident happened around 8:15 a.m. at the intersection of Sheridan St. and Central Ave. According to the Ely Police Department, a westbound driver was turning left onto Central Ave., when the vehicle

struck the child, who was in the crosswalk. The truck dragged the child about 25-30 feet but the child was “conscious and able to get up from under the front of the vehicle and walk to the curb,” according to the report.

The child was transported to Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, which was “able to assess and stabilize the patient to be transported to a higher level of care.” On the evening of July 25, the family reported to the Ely

PD that the child was “in stable condition and being held overnight for observation.”

The incident is under investigation by the Minnesota State Patrol and the Ely Police Department.

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BLUEBERRY/ART FESTIVAL

Ely's biggest party draws a crowd

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Despite heat, humidity, some stiff wind, and the threat of thunderstorms, the 2024 Blueberry/Art Festival proved a success.

"Our vendors are telling us that sales are as good as last year, if not better," said Kristen Switajewski, the event coordinator for the Ely Chamber of Commerce. The chamber estimated over 30,000 people visited the festival over the three days of the event.

Changes made this year may have contributed to the festival's success. "We changed the layout on the south side of the park," Switajewski explained. "The flow last year didn't work, so we made a square on the south to promote circulation and spread things out. We also opened up the space between the food court and the booths on the north end. People are saying they liked it, that the festival felt less cramped compared to last year."

Dog walking

Whiteside Park, where the festival is held, does not permit

Right: Shoppers check out the wares on display by hundreds of artists and crafters. photo by C. Clark

dogs. The "no dogs" signs are prominently displayed at every walkway into the park. Despite this, the Blueberry/Art Festival was overrun with dogs this year — the inflatable kind designed to be walked on leashes.

The Minnesota Nice Dog Company brought inflatable dog balloons which were the size of

See **FESTIVAL**, pg. 4B



NORTH STAR STAMPEDE

Kickin' up dust



Top left: Tyme Weitalla, of Embarrass, makes a turn during Friday night's barrel racing competition.

Above: Arena director Cimarron Pitzen, standing, gives the signal for the parade of flags to begin for Saturday afternoon's session.

Left: Bralyn Lislegard, of Embarrass, breaks out of the chute on a bull during Friday night's opening session. Lislegard won the bull riding competition with a score of 73, taking home a trophy buckle and \$1,260 for his effort.

Below: The braided mane of Maija Peterson's horse flies wildly as the Tower rider races toward the first barrel in Friday's barrel racing event. photos by D. Colburn



FLOOD RELIEF

FEMA expands flood funding to individuals

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, has approved individual disaster assistance for residents in 19 Minnesota counties, including St. Louis, Itasca, Lake, and Cook, that were affected by this summer's heavy rainfall and flooding.

While word of the decision had already come out, Gov. Tim Walz and U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith made formal announcements of the aid on Tuesday.

"This assistance is going to make a world of difference for the individuals and businesses that were impacted," said Gov. Walz. "We aren't stopping until they get the support they need to recover."

"That individual relief is going to help people in a big way with their individual repairs," Sen. Klobuchar said during a press conference. "Minnesotans are still struggling with the aftermath of the severe flooding, and I appreciate the swift declaration from President Biden following our request for aid."

Sen. Smith echoed the sentiment. "These expanded resources for individuals in more counties in Minnesota will make a huge difference as communities work to rebuild."

While the initial disaster declaration for Minnesota was issued in late June, that only covered assistance needed by governmental units to address critical public infrastructure needs. More extensive damage assessments of individual properties over the ensuing weeks were necessary to establish that the state had enough monetary damage to meet FEMA's minimum threshold for the individual assistance program. Damage assessments are ongoing, and more counties may be added to the eligible list in the future.

In St. Louis County, assessors visited 716 private properties and inspected about 1,973 structures, according to Mary Garness, director of public records and property valuation. About 374 total structures on 332 separate parcels suffered damage that qualified for property tax relief, and the estimated amount of damage to private property owners totaled more than \$11.846 million.

"The June flood was devastating

See **FEMA**, pg. 4B

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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

LIFE ON THE ISLAND

Why I always try to make room for spiders

Okay, laugh all you want. I suppose it's a little weird, but I love spiders.

I say this because I did not grow up in a spider-loving family. My mother has great respect for all living things but spiders were pushing it, even for her. When they stayed outside that was marginally okay. Better



APRIL
WAMHOFF

if they stayed outside and a long way away from her.

Big, BIG spiders were particularly bad. Like the ones that used to, and still do, inhabit the outhouse. My dad would get the panicked call several times a summer to come and evict "Charlotte." They

were all Charlotte. And some poor, but giant spider would have to go.

Needless to say, spiders did not live in our home. Not spiders of any size. I'm pretty certain that when I was young the process of that eviction was pretty bad for the spider and probably involved some deadly tool. Like a fly swatter. When I got older, I would get the "Charlotte" call and I could evict her more humanely. I

would swoosh her on to a piece of paper and into a paper cup. Then I would kindly relocate her to the outside. Looking back on that time, I'm not so sure how excited the spiders would have been to be released and free when it was 20-below outside. Still, I allow myself to believe it was better than the fly swatter.

The island is home to lots and lots of spiders. We used to call the big ones in the outhouse

wolf spiders, although they are actually "fishing spiders." We have many wolf spiders here as well, but they are a lot smaller than fishing spiders. Both varieties are active hunters that do not spin webs. Instead, they actually find and chase down prey. According to Wikipedia, they are "agile and robust" hunters and have "excellent eyesight." I don't think

See **SPIDERS...** pg. 3B



HEGMAN LAKES

Looking past the pictographs

There is much more to see in this easy BWCAW day trip

Over the years, I've been into the Hegman lakes many times. Given my busy schedule, my journeys into the wilderness are limited mostly to day trips and the Hegman lakes provide a kind of compendium of Boundary Waters experiences, all accessible if you have a few hours to spare.

Which is why I wasn't surprised to see a steady parade of visitors coming and going on North and South Hegman lakes on a recent sunny and mild Wednesday afternoon. It was high season, after all, two days before the start of the Blueberry/Art Festival.

For many, it's a pilgrimage of sorts, to visit the well-known pictographs, located along the 150-foot-long palisade found just south of the narrows into Trease Lake. It's a destination for thousands of visitors a year I'd imagine, who come to view the famous drawings of a man-god, moose, and wolf.

Normally, after so many years, I barely glance at the pictographs, but I was there this time with a friend who had never seen them before and so we stopped to discuss them and their possible origins. But it was the rock face that held us spellbound, as it always does for me on each and every visit. The massive, overhanging edifice is, to me, one of the most dramatic features in the entire Boundary Waters, a beautiful and complex, multi-colored rock face that, like a great piece of art, seemingly offers something new on every visit.



MARSHALL
HELMBERGER



Top: The North Hegman Lake rock face where the well-known pictographs are found.

Above: The floating bog along the narrows between North Hegman and Trease Lake.

Right: The flowers of a pitcher plant stand like sentinels above the sphagnum.

photos by M. Helmberger

I wonder, however, how many visitors search for the pictographs without ever really noticing the stunning palisade that has served as their canvas for who knows how many generations.

My friend is a keen observer of nature patterns, so we had to take our time exploring and photographing the intricacies of the cliff's face.

There are more subtle treasures to be found there as well. Just north of the rock face, a floating bog arises on both sides of the narrows into Trease Lake and it's a great place to view the

See **HEGMAN...** pg. 3B



Wildflower Watch



This week's featured flower

WHITE MEADOWSWEET

The **White Meadowsweet**, *Spirea alba*, is a low shrub common along lake and river shores and bog edges in our region, often growing on floating muskeg. It's non-descript most of the year but stands out in summer with its showy white, somewhat pointed, flower clusters.

Meadowsweet is known to have medicinal uses, including for symptoms of colds, bronchitis, upset stomach, heartburn, peptic ulcer disease, and joint disorders including gout.

It typically blooms in the latter half of the summer and can often be found in flower through August. It's a member of the Rose family.

HUNTING

Unclaimed bear permits go on sale Aug. 6

REGIONAL— If you were unsuccessful in this year's bear hunting permit lottery, you may still be able to obtain a permit within the state of Minnesota's quota zone.

Those who were selected for a permit had until Thursday, Aug. 1 to actually purchase their license. Bear hunters who entered the lottery should have been notified by postcard that they were successful.

Unsold lottery-awarded licenses will be available to any eligible person who'd like to try their hand at bear hunting, beginning at noon on Tuesday, Aug. 6.

Bear baiting may begin Friday, Aug. 16 and the DNR reminds hunters that locations of baiting stations must be registered with the state. You can find a baiting form online at mndnr.gov/hunting/bear.

The 2024 bear hunting season gets underway on Sunday, Sept. 1, and runs through Sunday, Oct. 13. Hunters should note that the hunting season begins on a Sunday this year since that coincides with the statutory date for the opening of the bear season.

READ
the Timberjay!

HEGMAN...Continued from page 2B

three kinds of carnivorous plants that make their home in Minnesota. The large and unmistakable pitcher plants were in bloom, their flower stalks standing a foot-and-a-half above the rest of the muskeg. These plants have adapted to the nutrient-poor bog environment by laying a trap for insects within their tubular leaves. The leaves capture rainwater within them and downward pointing hairs on the interior of the trap allow insects to crawl in but they struggle to crawl out. Some eventually drown in the water and the plant excretes enzymes into the brew that digest the insects for their nutrients.

The bright yellow flowers of the bladderwort were also on display during our visit, alerting us to the presence of this other carnivore, which uses tiny, quick-expanding underwater bladders, triggered by movement, to suck up small invertebrates that live in the water.

Harder to spot, but even more abundant, were the round-leaved sundews, tiny plants that grow amidst the sphagnum and use sticky leaves to trap and eventually encircle insects before slowly digesting them. All three of these herbaceous carnivores were easily spotted from the seat of our canoes as we poked along the edge of the muskeg.

While carnivorous plants are always a point

of interest, it's the rocks that ultimately demand your attention on North Hegman. On the western shore, just south the lake's palisade, there's a maze of giant boulders that I've often wanted to wander through, although it looks almost impossibly rugged. Why the glacier dropped all these massive boulders in a jumble is a mystery, one that I invariably stop to contemplate on each visit.

On South Hegman, it's the lake's eastern bay, usually overlooked by the travelers headed to the pictographs, that holds more surprises. Those include the picturesque little waterfall that tumbles over a ledge when the water is high enough, creating a burbling brook that spills down another jumble of boulders, destination unknown. The open rock ledge that borders the tiny falls made a good place for a brief stop and an afternoon snack.

On the bay's opposite shore, there's the gigantic slab of granite that sheared off the ledgerrock and slipped down, creating a slot cavern that usually has signs of use by the local wildlife.

All told, our visit lasted less than three hours, and really only held time for the highlights. Fortunately, there are plenty of those on this easily accessible route.



Above: A closer view of the North Hegman rock face and reflections in the dark water.



Left: A small waterfall is part of an outlet from a bay on the southeast side of South Hegman Lake.

Below: You have to look close to see the sundew in the sphagnum moss.

photos by M. Helmberger



SPIDERS...Continued from page 2B

this would have been very comforting information to my mom.

We also have the web-building kind of spiders that build spider webs across the docks. These are much smaller spiders. I try to leave as many of their webs alone as I can when I'm on the docks but, geez, they are everywhere and they replace the webs every night! I think these must be about the same variety as the spiders that build webs across my potted plants. Have you ever seen anything as industrious as a spider!

Here is the really big thing I want you all to know about spiders. Listen close! Spiders eat mosquitos and flies. Should I repeat myself? It has been a year for the books, in my humble opinion, for mosquitos and biting flies. The repellent manufacturers must be working at top speed to produce the stuff. But, and here it is again, spiders eat mosquitos and flies. I say welcome the spiders.

I allow the spiders to winter in my house now. To be fair, I'm not sure what I would do if I had lots and lots of spiders that wanted to stay here. So far, it's not a problem. Guess I'll just cross that bridge, or spider-web-covered dock, when we get there. Meanwhile, get comfortable guys. It is likely to be a long, cold one.

So, bring on the spiders, big and little and here's a big welcome to ya! Oh, and make sure to have a big bite of mosquito or biting fly on your way in.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
89 59					85 57					79 53					77 55					75 54				
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.
07/22	75	55	0.01		07/22	77	54	0.00	07/22	82	50	0.00	07/22	72	57	0.02	07/22	78	54	0.00				
07/23	69	57	0.00	07/23	72	55	0.00	07/23	71	58	0.08	07/23	66	59	0.02	07/23	72	56	0.00					
07/24	66	54	0.00	07/24	66	45	0.00	07/24	66	54	0.00	07/24	75	48	0.00	07/24	71	47	0.00					
07/25	74	52	0.00	07/25	76	44	0.00	07/25	76	50	0.00	07/25	79	54	0.00	07/25	75	47	0.00					
07/26	78	59	0.00	07/26	79	44	0.00	07/26	78	50	0.00	07/26	82	61	0.00	07/26	79	48	0.00					
07/27	82	66	0.00	07/27	83	69	0.00	07/27	80	64	0.00	07/27	90	73	0.00	07/27	83	70	0.00					
07/28	88	72	0.00	07/28	90	72	0.00	07/28	90	70	0.00	07/28	81	70	0.05	07/28	89	73	0.00					
YTD Total	19.60				YTD Total	20.76				YTD Total	21.67				YTD Total	NA				YTD Total	21.88			

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DRAIN

- Water from boat, bilge, motor, ballast tanks, and bladders. PWCs - run motor for 10 seconds to blow water out of jet drive
- Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
- Trash unused bait

DRY

- Everything at least five days before going to other waters
- (Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120 F or warmer)

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ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Board passes new cannabis moratorium

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

REGIONAL- Concerned over the uncertainties of Minnesota's still-incomplete cannabis rules, St. Louis County approved a moratorium on the registration and operation of new cannabis businesses on Tuesday, July 23, after a public hearing at Ely City Hall. The moratorium will last until Jan. 1, 2025, or until the county passes its own cannabis business ordinances, whichever happens first. It does not affect either tribal governments or the low-potency hemp products retailers already selling in the county.

The moratorium was prompted by the expansion of Minnesota's cannabis statutes, enacted by the Legislature during its 2024 session. County attorney Kimberly Maki then explained more about the moratorium for the county commissioners at the July 23 hearing: "There's additional rulemaking pending right now (at the Office of Cannabis Management) and probably won't happen until after the first of the year. But in the interim, local (governmental) units are allowed to create local ordinances that place some restriction on registration of cannabis businesses within their jurisdictions."

"The county staff does have a draft ordinance that we will bring to your attention for review and approval in the coming months. But we're not sure that other local units of government within St. Louis County have started that process yet. We, as the county, look forward to reaching out to them to ensure that they understand what the law requires and to provide them with technical assistance as they go about that process."

The 2024 cannabis laws

The Legislature modified the state's cannabis and cannabinoid business laws during its 2024 session, legalizing adult use of cannabis to begin on the first of the year. The Legislature also updated the state's laws to establish thirteen types of cannabis business licenses where the number of licenses will be limited statewide.

The revised laws also created a special category for "social equity" business license applicants. Those who meet the social equity criteria can apply for a lottery for cannabis license preapprovals. The preapproval application period is from July 24 to Aug. 12.

Maki commented that the county's moratorium would affect anyone applying for the

license preapproval lotteries. "Social equity applicants will get a headstart," Maki remarked. "They will be almost all the way to the end of the process, but that's where they will stop — until the time that our moratorium expires at the end of the year."

Public testimony

Three people gave testimony at the public hearing. Two were prospective cannabis business owners who spoke in opposition to the moratorium because of the adverse effect it would have on their preapproval lottery applications. The third was Angela Campbell, Ely City Council member, who spoke in favor of the moratorium, saying that local governments needed the extra time to figure out how the new cannabis rules affected them.

Rob Palkovich of Babbitt, who wants to start a cannabis business, is eligible for a preapproval lottery. He explained that the state's application for the preapproval lotteries is long and complex, over 100 pages. The application also requires sign-offs by local government and law enforcement. In contrast, "a tobacco license is \$30 and a signature."

Palkovich told the commissioners that the county should have been more up to speed on its

cannabis rule making and that he saw no reason for a moratorium. "There's products already out there. Everything's already been sold. So banning it for three (sic) more months seems more of a hindrance in trying to do anything."

Richard Stuart of Morse Township testified that he's been working on starting a large-scale cannabis production business since 2023, stating he was currently doing due diligence on a 5,000-square-foot facility in Babbitt. He said he was looking at employing up to 60 people and generating projected revenues of \$7 million.

Stuart pointed out that he is also eligible for the social equity preapproval lotteries, "The application process is no exaggeration. It is one of the most challenging things I've ever faced as a 35-year business owner and professional. The application is going to be about 300 pages long, and that includes everything from standard operating procedures, security plans, accounting principles — and this is just to get into the lottery."

Stuart called the moratorium an additional "undue burden" for business. The state's rules on the preapproved licenses allow just 18 months for a new cannabis business to be up and running;

the state does not give any leeway for a business that must sit idle during a moratorium.

The moratorium vote

The county commissioners voted 6-1 to pause all new cannabis business registrations and operations for the rest of 2024. "There are a lot of details to sort through, and we need to make sure we do this properly," said County Board Chair Keith Nelson. "The legislation has undergone numerous changes and processes are still being finalized, so we felt the best option was to slow down to allow ourselves and the jurisdictions within our county more time to develop strategies that serve all our citizens."

Commissioner Ashley Grimm cast the dissenting vote.

"The primary question here today," Grimm said, "is whether or not we're going to support small businesses and social equity applicants to get a head start on the market, like the law was intended, in order to prevent large corporations from taking over the market."

Grimm explained she would not support the moratorium because it prevented those who met the social equity criteria from taking advantage of the preapproval lottery program.

FEMA...Continued from page 1B

for so many families and business owners," Garness said.

State Sen. Grant Hauschild, DFL-Hermantown, who urged FEMA to approve disaster claims swiftly in a letter cosigned by District 3A Rep. Roger Skraba, applauded the agency's prompt response. "This is great news for homeowners across the Northland who are trying to recover from

this devastation," Hauschild said. "This federal assistance is a gamechanger for the folks of Northeastern Minnesota."

Minnesotans will benefit from revisions to the FEMA individual assistance programs initiated by the Biden administration in March that are designed to cut red tape, provide funds faster, and give people more flexibility on how the funds are used.

The individual assistance program includes a new cash relief benefit called Serious Needs Assistance, which will provide a \$750 grant for evacuation costs, temporary housing, and basic household needs. Low-interest loans from FEMA will cover uninsured property losses, and the range of repairs allowed to be done with FEMA funds has been expanded. Determinations

of what specific assistance is available to individuals will be made from information submitted with their applications.

For those who may need additional assistance in applying, FEMA and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) division will establish disaster recovery centers to ensure residents and businesses

understand the available programs. Officials recently indicated that Virginia may be a potential location for such a center in this region, although no official determination has been made at this time.

Those impacted by flooding may apply for assistance online at disasterassistance.gov or by calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362, available seven days a week from 6

a.m. -10 p.m.

Emergency officials have noted that individual assistance is not a substitute for insurance and cannot compensate for all losses, but it can help meet basic needs and supplement disaster recovery efforts.

MPR News contributed to this report.

FESTIVAL...Continued from page 1B

a corgi. Each balloon had four expanding folding paper paws which bounced on the ground like real dog paws when the balloon was walked like a dog on its leash.

The balloons were an eye-catcher on all three days of the festival. The Minnesota Nice Dog Company did a great job of popularizing the doggie balloons by giving a number away to small children at the event.

Awards

The Blueberry/Art Festival handed out awards in four categories to this year's vendors.

► In the Market Place category, the first-place booth was AK's Homemade Treats. Second place was Fair Haven and third place was Fresh Dried Snacks.

► In the Crafts category, the first-place winner was the Guild of the Guilded Hilt. Second place in Crafts went to the Forging

Community and third place was Levandowski Pottery.

► First place in the Maker category was Morning Glory Creations. Second place went to Woven Tuna and third place was awarded to Northern Sights.

► In the Art category, first place went to Nyquist Photography. Second place was awarded to Steven Sutton and third place was taken by A Piece of Me Studios.

LOOKING FOR volunteers?

United Way of Northeastern Minnesota's new volunteer site is **FREE** to use for **ANY** local community group. Set up a profile and post your opportunities in minutes!

Start posting:

unitedwaynemn.org/volunteer





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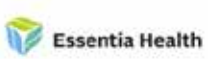
While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (833) 937-2593.

Get Connected. Volunteer.

United Way of
Northeastern MN



Provided with support from:




Obituaries and Death Notices



Richard Helmberger

Richard Adam Helmberger, 99, of Tower, died peacefully at the Virginia Hospital on Monday, July 29, 2024, less than one month shy of his 100th birthday. No public memorial service is planned. The family would like to thank the staff of Essentia Hospice and the Virginia Hospital for their care and support during Richard's final days. Arrangements are being handled by Bauman Vermilion Funeral Home of Tower.

Richard was born on

Aug. 26, 1924, in a farmhouse outside Gary, S.D., to John James Helmberger and Mary Magdaline Klein Helmberger. The family later moved to a farm outside of Perham, Minn., which is where he spent most of his childhood and had his fondest memories of his early years. As a boy, Richard worked every day on the farm, tending the livestock, milking cows, and working the fields along with his 12 siblings. He also spent considerable time hunting and fishing to help put food on the family table during the tough times of the Great Depression. He trapped as well, mostly muskrats, to earn money.

Richard served in the U.S. Army during WWII and was stationed in the Philippines and on Okinawa. He was slated for the invasion of Japan, which never came in the wake of Japan's surrender. After the war, thanks to the GI Bill, he attended the

University of Minnesota, where he earned a business degree and later began his own independent insurance agency, which he operated for over 30 years before selling the business to a friend. Shortly after, he went back to work part-time for the company, where he continued to handle his longtime accounts until finally retiring at age 87.

He met his future wife, Patricia Stave of Lengby, in the late 1950s and the couple married on May 27, 1960, eventually settling in Bloomington. They had three children, Marshall, Zachrey and Clair. Following their divorce, Richard later settled in Plymouth where he continued to enjoy hunting and fishing with friends well into his 80s and working in his large vegetable-garden. He had a long and loving relationship during his later years with Karen Krebsbach of Brooklyn Center, and he maintained

regular contact with her right up until the end.

Richard's children moved him to a house in Tower in 2020 after his loss of short-term memory made it impossible for him to live on his own without daily assistance. His children and a close friend assumed caregiving responsibilities from that time on.

Richard is survived by his children, Marshall and Clair, both of Tower, and Zachrey of El Prado, N.M.; daughter-in-law, Jodi Summit; grandson, Maxwell Helmberger; ex-wife, Patricia Helmberger of Tower; special friend, Karen Krebsbach; long-term caregiver, Victoria Ranua; brother, Peter of Madison, Wis.; and countless nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Mary; brothers, Leo, John, Clifford, Howard and Donald; and sisters, Lucille, Marie, Grace,

Sally, Millie and Kay.

and numerous nieces and nephews.

Darlene M. Hubbard

Darlene M. Anderson Hubbard, 96, of Mt. Iron, died on Sunday, July 28, 2024, at Diamond Willow Assisted Living in Mt. Iron. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 2 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Virginia. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will be in the Gilbert Cemetery. Arrangements are by Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Gilbert.

Survivors include her children, Linda (Tom) Heski of Cannon Falls, Terry (Debby) Hubbard of Waterford, Wis., Debby (Bill) McCormick of Duluth, Peggy (Ray) Makkyla of Embarrass, Jim (Sheryl) Hubbard of Bemidji, Cindy (Vern) Elg of Superior and Robert Hubbard of Eveleth; 12 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; two great-great granddaughters; son-in-law, John Fechner;

Sandra J. Boutto

Sandra J. "Sandi" Gustafson Boutto, 68, a lifelong resident of Cook, passed away on Friday, July 19, 2024, at Elmore Assisted Living in Elmore. A celebration of life will be held from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 17 at the VFW Club in Cook. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her husband, Jim; children, Rebecca and Michael; grandchildren, Brandi, Neiva and Eli; great-grandson, Elijah; siblings, Bev McGowen, Dave (Karen) Gustafson, Sherry Crego, Jeff (Linda) Gustafson and Greg (Dawn) Gustafson; numerous nieces and nephews; and her dog, Charlie.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Attention Greenwood Township Residents

Due to the Primary Election on August 13, 2024, the Greenwood Township Board will be holding their monthly meeting as a Special Meeting at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, August 14, 2024.

Debby Spicer, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 2, 2024

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST NOTICE

Pursuant to MN Statute 206.73, the Township Clerk and Judges, will conduct a test of the automatic tabulating equipment so that the equipment will correctly count the votes cast for all candidates on the ballots for the August 13, 2024, Primary Election. The test will be held at the Greenwood Town Hall, 3000 County Rd 77, Tower, MN, on Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at 1 pm.

Debby Spicer, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 2, 2024

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ELECTION

THE PRIMARY ELECTION WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024

POLLS AT THE GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP HALL WILL BE OPEN 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Debby Spicer, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 2, 2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST City of Tower, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public accuracy test of vote-counting equipment to be used in the August 13, 2024 Primary Election will be held on Wednesday, August 7, 2024 at 10:00 AM at the Tower City Hall, 602 Main Street, Tower, MN.

Michael Schultz, Clerk-Treasurer

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 2, 2024

NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION MORCOM TOWNSHIP State of Minnesota, County of St. Louis

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Primary Election will be held in all election precincts in Morcom Township

at the BEAR RIVER SCHOOL On Tuesday, August 13, 2024. Polling places will be open from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

FEDERAL OFFICES
United States Senator
United States Representative, District 8
STATE OFFICES
State Representative, District 7B
Judicial Offices Sixth District

NOTE: Local city, town, and school district offices/questions may also appear on ballots within their respective jurisdictions.

Sasha Lehto, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, August 2, 2024

NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION FIELD TOWNSHIP State of Minnesota, County of St. Louis

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Primary Election will be held in all election precincts in Field Township

at the Field Town Hall, 1627 Hwy. 25 On Tuesday, August 13, 2024. Polling places will be open from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

FEDERAL OFFICES
United States Senator
United States Representative, District 8
STATE OFFICES
Judicial Offices Sixth District
NOTE: Local city, town, and school district offices/questions may also appear on ballots within their respective jurisdictions.

Pat Chapman, Town Clerk.

Published in the Timberjay, August 2, 2024

NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION LEIDING TOWNSHIP CAMP 5 TOWNSHIP State of Minnesota, County of St. Louis

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Primary Election will be held in all election precincts in Leiding & Camp 5 Townships

at the LEIDING TOWN HALL On Tuesday, August 13, 2024. Polling places will be open from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

FEDERAL OFFICES
United States Senator
United States Representative, District 8
STATE OFFICES
Judicial Offices Sixth District
NOTE: Local city, town, and school district offices/questions may also appear on ballots within their respective jurisdictions.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk.

Published in the Timberjay, August 2, 2024

NOTICE TO VOTERS IN MAIL BALLOT PRECINCTS IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY 2024 STATE PRIMARY AND STATE GENERAL ELECTION VOTING PROCEDURES

Voters residing in most unorganized areas within St. Louis County, and the Townships of Brevator, Eagles Nest, Floodwood, Ness, Owens, Prairie Lake, and Willow Valley, and the Cities of Floodwood, Iron Junction, Leonidas, and McKinley will vote as MAIL BALLOT precincts in 2024. MAIL BALLOT precinct areas are indicated by the shaded areas on the adjoining map.

Unorganized areas **NOT** voting by MAIL BALLOT include:
Unorganized 14 (T57-R16) Votes at Lakeland Fire Hall, Gilbert
Unorganized 15 (T60-R18) Votes at Sand Lake Chapel, Britt
Unorganized 16 (T60-R19) Votes at Sand Lake Chapel, Britt
Unorganized 17 (T56-R16) Votes at Makinen Community Center
Unorganized 18 (T59-R16) Votes with Pike Township
Unorganized 24 (T64-R12 and R13, T65- R13 and R14) Votes with Morse Township

Notice of State Primary Election: August 13, 2024. 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.

Notice of State General Election: November 5, 2024. All persons **registered** to vote on September 20, 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 October 22, 2024, please contact the Auditor's Office at one of the locations listed below.

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
100 North 5th Avenue West, Room 214
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 726-2385

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

Email questions: elections@stlouiscountymn.gov

Business Hours:
Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 4:30 PM

Extended Hours for Mail Ballot Voting
Saturday, August 10, 2024 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Monday, August 12, 2024 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 26, 2024 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 29, 2024 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 2, 2024 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 3, 2024 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Monday, November 4, 2024 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The polling place will be at:
St. Louis County Courthouse
100 North 5th Avenue West, Room 214
Duluth, MN 55802

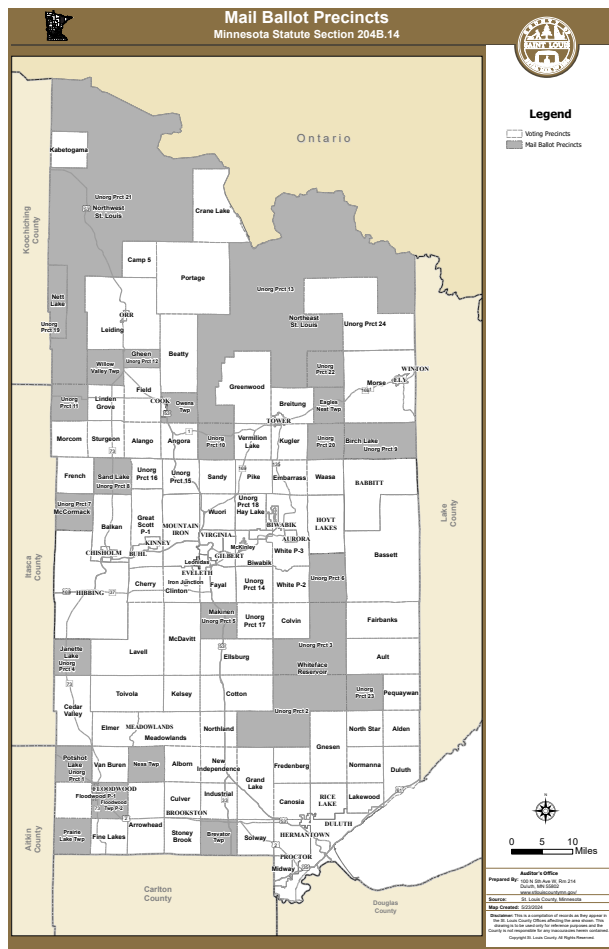
Virginia Government Services
Building
201 South 3rd Ave West
Virginia, MN 55792

The polls will be open:

State Primary Election: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
State General Election: Tuesday, November 5, 2024 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

NANCY NILSEN, ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER
By: Phil Chapman, Deputy Auditor

Published in the Timberjay, August 2, 2024



PUBLIC NOTICES

**VERMILION LAKE TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
ACCURACY TESTING**

The Vermilion Lake Town Board will conduct their Public Accuracy test of their vote-counting machine on Thursday, August 8, 2024, at 9 a.m. at the Vermilion Lake Town Hall.

Frank Zobitz, Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 2, 2024

**KUGLER TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
ACCURACY TESTING**

The Kugler Town Board will conduct their Public Accuracy test of their vote-counting machine on Monday, August 5, 2024, at 6 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall.

Christopher Suihkonen, Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 2, 2024

**LEIDING TOWNSHIP
CAMP 5 TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
ACCURACY TESTING**

The Leiding Town Board will conduct their Public Accuracy test of their vote-counting machine on Monday, August 5, 2024, at 11 a.m. at the Leiding Town Hall.

Marie Milan, Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 2, 2024

**LEIDING TOWNSHIP
MEETING CHANGE NOTICE**

The Leiding Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 14 at 6:30 p.m. Meeting date is changed due to the primary election on Aug. 13.

Marie Milan, Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 2, 2024

**KABETOGAMA TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
ACCURACY TESTING**

Kabetogama Township Public Accuracy Test will be held on Wednesday, August 7, 2024 at the Kabetogama Town Hall at 10:00 am. Mary Manninen, Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 2, 2024

EMPLOYMENT

**ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
POSITION OPENING
Temporary Part-Time Custodian**

Ely Public School District is looking for a Temporary Part-Time Custodian in the Washington/Memorial building for the 2024-2025 school year. We are an EC - Grade 12 district, seeking an energetic, self-starting, personable, and highly motivated individual. **Background check required.**

Required Qualifications:

- > High school diploma, with post-secondary training in facility maintenance preferred
 - > Ability to read basic operating instructions and write reports
 - > Demonstrate aptitude for successful completion of the tasks assigned
 - > Such alternatives to the above qualifications as the supervisor, administration, and board finds appropriate and acceptable
 - > Prior work experience demonstrating positive and effective interpersonal skills in the work place
 - > Demonstrated ability to perform assigned tasks without direct supervision
- Essential Functional Capacities:**
- > Ability to lift a minimum of 50 pounds
 - > Ability to climb ladders (at least 10 feet)
 - > Ability to withstand heights (up to 30 feet)
 - > Ability to climb 3 flights of stairs in 1 minute
 - > Pass physical exam per doctor's statement
 - > Visual and auditory acuity, corrected or non-corrected, at standard levels as established by appropriate medical standards
 - > Any other qualifications as deemed appropriate by the school board

Benefits include:

- > Paid sick leave, personal days and vacation
 - > Life insurance
 - > PERA retirement
- Starting Rate of Pay:** \$22.92/hour
Dates of Employment: September 3, 2024 – May 29, 2025
Hours: 4 hours/day, 5 days/week, student contact days (3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.)

Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us
 A complete application must include the following:

- > District Application
- > Resume
- > College Transcripts
- > 2 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email lwestrick@ely.k12.mn.us
Deadline to apply: August 5, 2024; open until filled.

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

**City of Tower
OPENING
Lake Vermilion Trail
Joint Powers Board**

Tower Representative (unpaid)

To apply: Submit a letter of interest to clerk.treasurer@cityoftower.com

Deadline: Friday, August 9

Published in the Timberjay, July 26 & Aug. 2, 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 50¢ 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.

**Blandin Foundation™
STRENGTHENING RURAL MINNESOTA
SENIOR GRANTS PROGRAM OFFICER**

Blandin Foundation is seeking a Senior Grants Program Officer with a drive to further the Foundation's strategic priority of Community Wealth Building. This position requires a passion for the impact that can be made in rural MN through a combination of grantmaking, community engagement, and coalition building. We are looking for candidates motivated to move rural places forward with 7 years of related experience, and a 4-year degree, preferred but not required. For a copy of the full position description and requirements, please visit our website at www.blandinfoundation.org/careers.

Application Deadline: August 25, 2024, or until position is filled. 8/23

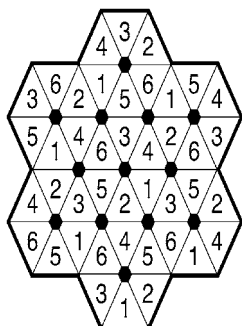
**NOW HIRING!
PART-TIME MANAGER
ELY WINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

YOU: Have a passion for history and a deep interest in community. Are an energetic, collaborative and resourceful individual who appreciates people, places and narratives of the past. Can nimbly move amongst a variety of responsibilities, from board meetings and greeting museum visitors to increasing public awareness and engagement.

US: A small nonprofit focused on preserving and interpreting the history of the Ely and Winton area. A committed volunteer board of directors. A part-time colleague for you in the form of a bookkeeper. A museum and artifacts requiring caretaking, organizing and interpretation support.

PART-TIME (up to 20 hours/weekly), \$15-\$18/hour (depending on qualifications). Full job description available at <https://www.elywintonhistory.org> and preference given to cover letters and resumes received by August 3, 2024. 8/2

solution



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**CITY OF TOWER
Annual Disclosure of Tax Increment Districts
for the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

TIF District Name: Tower Tax Increment District #2

Current net tax capacity	15,819
Original net tax capacity	391
Captured net tax capacity	15,428
Principal and interest payments due during current year	28,160
Tax increment received	31,690
Tax increment expended	29,190
Month and year of first tax increment receipt	Jul-07
Date of required decertification	12/31/2032

Increased property tax imposed on other properties as a result of fiscal disparities contribution * 0 **

* The fiscal disparities property tax law provides that the growth in commercial-industrial property tax values is shared throughout the area. In a tax increment financing district, this value sharing can either result in a decrease in tax increment financing district revenue or a tax increase for other properties in the municipality depending on whether the tax increment financing district contributes its share of the growth.

** Amounts displayed here indicate that the district did not contribute its growth in commercial-industrial property tax values and represent the resulting increase in taxes on other properties in the City for taxes payable in 2023.

Additional information regarding each district may be obtained from:

Michael Schultz, Clerk Treasurer
 PO Box 576 Tower, MN 55790
 (218) 753-4070, clerk.treasurer@cityoftower.com

published in the Timberjay, Aug. 2, 2024

**NOTICE OF VACANCY
ST. LOUIS COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE
COMMISSION**

The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners will be appointing a member to a three-year term on the St. Louis County Civil Service Commission. The Civil Service Commission oversees the administration of the County's merit system of employment by approving and enforcing rules, hearing appeals and complaints. Applicants cannot hold or be a candidate for public office, may not hold any public employment, or hold a position in a political party within two years immediately preceding appointment, and must be a resident of St. Louis County. There are usually two (2) meetings scheduled per month (1:30 pm - 2:00 pm on Mondays). At least four meetings per year are scheduled in range cities. Periodic hearings may be significantly longer. For additional information, please contact James R. Gottschald, Director of Human Resources and Administration for St. Louis County at 218-725-5066 or gottschaldj@stlouiscountymn.gov.

Persons interested in serving on this commission should submit an application to: Phil Chapman, Deputy County Auditor, St. Louis County Courthouse, Room 214, 100 North 5th Avenue West, Duluth, MN 55802. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. To apply online, go to www.stlouiscountymn.gov/clerk and click "Application for Citizen Advisory Committee."

Applications are also available in the County Auditor's Office in the Duluth Courthouse and the Government Services Center in Virginia, and in the Ely Government Services Building, or by emailing chapmanp@stlouiscountymn.gov or calling 218-726-2385.

NANCY J. NILSEN, COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER
 By: Phil Chapman, Deputy Auditor

Published in the Timberjay, August 2 & 9, 2024

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by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
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COOKING

TV chef cooks for Ely's Tasty Tuesday program

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Award-winning TV personality Stephanie Hansen was the guest at the Northwoods Partners' Tasty Tuesday program on Tuesday, July 16. Hansen packed the west room at the Ely Folk School for her presentation with over 30 attendees.

Hansen is the host of the "Taste Buds with Stephanie" program on KMSP-TV in Minneapolis, "The Weekly Dish" radio show on Talk 107.1, and the "Makers of Minnesota" podcast. She also appears regularly on "The Jason Show," a daily talk show on KMSP-TV. Hansen won a Regional Emmy award in 2023 for her TV programming.

Hansen is also the author of the "True North Cabin Cookbook," which features Minnesota recipes gathered over the



Tasty Tuesday program leader Kathleen Miller (left) and award-winning Minneapolis TV chef Stephanie Hansen (right) at the July Tasty Tuesday cooking class in Ely.

years from cooking at her family's cabin on Burnside Lake. Hansen related some of her cabin cooking experiences to the Tasty Tuesday group.

One incident highlighted the occasional downside of visiting with a TV chef. "My little niece asked, 'Why don't you make hot dogs like everybody else? And not the

kind from the Zup's either. I mean regular hot dogs.'"

Hansen prepared and presented four recipes in Ely with help from Tasty Tuesday program leader Kathleen Miller and kitchen volunteers Diane Thomsen and Liisa Norman.

The recipes were all from the "True North Cabin Cookbook": De-

lores' king ranch chicken, roasted beet salad with blueberry and balsamic dressing, cavatappi pasta salad with basil pesto, and salted coffee brownies. The 31 attendees were able to sample all four dishes.

Hansen wrapped up her Tasty Tuesday visit with a book signing session for her "True North Cabin Cookbook."

Tasty Tuesday

Tasty Tuesday is a free monthly program hosted by the nonprofit Northwoods Partners, that is aimed at older adults. Volunteer Kathleen Miller leads the group with the

in advance. "Participants expect a surprise each month," Miller said.

"(The Tasty Tuesday) class was particularly important to the older adult community as we emerged from the social isolation after COVID," Miller said. "The popularity of the program continues through word-of-mouth advertising."

Tasty Tuesday meets on the third Tuesday of the month. So they can order appropriate food quantities for each class, Northwoods Partners asks that those who want to attend to please register in advance.

To register, call 218-302-1778 and leave a message with your name, phone number and the class you wish attend. You can also send an email to tastytuesdayly@gmail.com. Northwoods Partners will confirm your registration.

Beginning in August, Tasty Tuesday will be held at the new Ely Community Hub located on Miners Drive.

help of a guest chef and culinary volunteers. Each class introduces three to four recipes, including a demonstration on how to prepare the dishes. The 90-minute program ends every month with generous samples of the completed recipes.

The program started in June 2021 as an Ely Community Health Center pilot project funded by the Northland Foundation. Tasty Tuesday's goal is to provide nutrition and cooking tips for those on a budget. Today, the program is sustained with smaller grants and other fundraising by Northwoods Partners. There is no cost to attend the class, however, donations are gratefully accepted.

Tasty Tuesday is usually focused on a key ingredient, a holiday, unique flavors or ingredients. The themes are not announced

MENTAL HEALTH

Delays still a problem for mental health treatment

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- A recent study by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Wilder Research reveals significant delays in the transfer and discharge of mental health and substance use disorder patients in Minnesota hospitals, causing widespread

concern among health officials, patients, and their families.

The two-week study examined 33 emergency departments and 13 inpatient units across the state. It found that 17 percent of patients being treated for mental health or substance use disorders experienced discharge delays, with an average wait of eight days per patient. The most common reason for these delays was the lack of available beds in safe settings such as inpatient psychiatric units and intensive residential treatment facilities.

In a news release, Health Commissioner Brooke Cunningham highlighted the need for additional receiving programs for these patients in the community.

"We know that people being treated for behavioral health disorders face more discharge delays than those without these conditions," she said. "This study suggests the need for more communi-

ty-based services, such as intensive residential treatment and chemical dependency recovery programs, to reduce these delays."

Socioeconomic differences

Seventy-five percent of patients experiencing discharge delays were covered by Medicaid or MinnesotaCare, despite these programs only accounting for 46 percent of patients with behavioral health diagnoses.

The study also found a disproportionate percentage of delays impacting Minnesotans of color, particularly those identifying as African American.

Sue Aberholden, executive director of NAMI Minnesota, was not surprised by the study's findings. "We know that youths and adults with mental illnesses often wait in ERs without adequate treatment and face long wait times for all levels of care," she said. "They stay

See...CARE.. pg. 9B

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HEALTH CARE

Essentia installs new check-in kiosks at Ely clinic

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Visitors to the Essentia Health Clinic in Ely will notice a large change at the check-in desk. Instead of a person, a large green countertop kiosk now takes up the center of the reception desk.

“A person is still there,” said Tonya Loken, the Community Relations Director of Essentia. “Patients can still talk to a receptionist if they want. What we’ve done with the new kiosks is to add more ways to check in.”

Patients coming to the clinic now have three ways to check in: through the new kiosk, through the MyChart app on a patient’s smart device, and through an iPad which will connect a patient via video to a receptionist.

“We now have different ways to check in for different people,” Loken explained. “We’ve reduced lines, saved time, and provided our patients with a choice.”

At the Ely clinic, while the kiosk is eye-catching, the smaller iPad at the clinic is easy to miss. The *Timberjay* tested both the kiosk and the iPad check-in. The iPad connected to a live



Rob Davenport, the operations director for the Essentia clinics in Ely and International Falls, stands next to Essentia’s new check-in kiosk at the Ely clinic. photo by C. Clark

receptionist in seconds with good video and audio quality. The kiosk, on the other hand, was mounted a bit on the high side for those of shorter stature, making the screen difficult to use and read.

Zero jobs lost

The *Timberjay* asked Essentia if the new kiosks would displace any clinic employees.

“Essentia is a people-oriented health care organization,” Loken said. “Zero jobs will be eliminated. A person will still be

there at reception for those who want to talk to a person.” The catch is that the person at the reception desk may be on the other end of the reception counter iPad.

“No one is going to lose their job because of the kiosks.”

Slow roll-out

Essentia investigated check-in kiosks for its clinics last year. “We talked about implementing this system for about two months,” wrote Essentia Media Relations Specialist Tony Matt in an email. “We then ran two pilot programs.”

The first pilot was in Fargo; it started in February and lasted two months. It was followed by a second pilot in March in Essentia’s eastern market, which lasted one month. The pilots tested kiosks made by Olea Kiosks Inc. of Cerritos, Calif. Olea manufactures kiosks that are already compatible with Epic and MyChart, the medical records software that Essentia uses.

Essentia considered the pilots to be successful. “We then decided to move forward with a full rollout after that,” said Matt.

Essentia Health plans to place check-in kiosks at all 79 clinics, including its new clinic in Staples, which opened this week. The health system hopes to have the new kiosks installed in all of its clinics before the end of September.

CARE...Continued from page 8B

in the highest levels of care longer than necessary due to a lack of community options.”

Abderholden called for increased reimbursement rates, addressing workforce shortages, and enhancing workforce diversity as possible solutions.

Patient impact

The emotional and economic costs of these delays are significant. For patients and families, the wait can be distressing, while hospitals face increased costs by having to keep patients who are ready to be transferred or discharged.

Kristin Dillon, asso-

ciate director of research with Wilder, says the reasons behind these delays need to be understood to address them effectively.

“We need to identify which parts of the behavioral health system can have the greatest impact on reducing these delays,” she said.

The study indicates

that creating additional post-hospital options and streamlining transfer and discharge processes are essential steps toward resolving the issue. Recommendations from a recent Minnesota Department of Human Services study also highlighted the importance of adequate payment rates to address

capacity issues.

The Legislature passed additional funding and policies during the spring session to help expedite hospital discharges and increase access to behavioral health services. These measures include adding more mental health beds to the state’s direct care and treatment system,

funding rate increases for some outpatient mental health and residential substance use disorder services through Medicaid and making policy changes to improve community support access.

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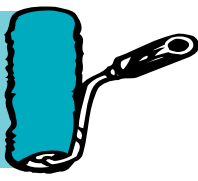
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