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The **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

VOL. 35, ISSUE 33

August 23, 2024

\$1⁵⁰

MINING

NewRange Copper seeking to advance new mine plan

PolyMet and Teck Resources joint venture mounts new effort to tap NorthMet and Mesaba deposits

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — NewRange Copper Nickel’s long road to a potential copper-nickel mine near Hoyt Lakes took a step forward this past week with the announcement that the joint venture partners are embarking on four key studies to assess whether

new mining technology and other changes can lead to eventual permitting that can withstand legal challenges as the venture seeks to pick up where PolyMet Mining fell short.

PolyMet’s nearly two-decade-long effort to develop its NorthMet deposit seemed headed for the goal line after it received all of its permit-

ting several years ago. But a series of lawsuits led to the reversal of several key permits and the project had seemed increasingly in doubt in recent months.

PolyMet subsequently joined forces with Teck Resources Limited in a 50:50 joint venture in hopes the combined efforts of the two companies can lead to the

Right: The former LTV processing facility, currently owned by PolyMet, would be repurposed for ore processing as part of a new mine plan now in the study phase.

file photo

eventual development of the NorthMet deposit, controlled

See...**MINING** pg. 9



IT'S FAIR TIME

Summer’s last hurrah

The Embarrass Region Fair is one of the last of its kind

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

EMBARRASS- Local fairs are a tradition going back centuries, but they’ve increasingly faded from the scene in our modern era. The Embarrass Region Fair, which celebrates its 85th year beginning this Friday, Aug. 23, is one of the exceptions.

The fair kicks off at 2 p.m. and runs until 10 p.m. on

Friday night. Saturday hours are 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., and from 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Sunday.

This year’s fair will include many of the old favorite activities along with some new ones.

Among the changes is a different twist on what used to be the “animal barn.” Pet adoptions will be available on Saturday and a petting zoo will entertain the young

and old on Sunday. Other animal events include a mutton busting competition on Friday, K9 and agility demonstrations on Saturday, and horse games on Sunday. Pony rides will be available all weekend.

Honkytonks and Hangovers take the stage Friday evening and Swamp Donkey is featured on Saturday. Both shows begin at 7 p.m.

Above: Judging flower arrangements at last year’s Embarrass Region Fair.

Wizard’s Kingdom inflatables will be at the front of the fairgrounds near Timber Hall. The Amazing Charles Magic Show is back, and you won’t want to miss the Will Hale Kids Concert and the musical memories on the accordion.

See...**FAIR** pg. 11

BOIS FORTE

Tribal artifacts to be returned from Canada

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

NETT LAKE-A significant trove of Bois Forte band historical artifacts held for over a century by a Canadian museum will soon be returned to the reservation, but not before band members are given the opportunity to weigh in on how to properly handle, store, display, and honor the items being returned.

The first such conversational meeting was held Monday at the tribal government center in Nett Lake, with a small group in attendance to hear Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Jaylen Strong describe how and what items were removed from Nett Lake and the issues involved surrounding their return.

The items in question, about 160 in total, are currently held at the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa, and include items such as clothing, items common to everyday life, spiritually significant artifacts, and even recordings.

At the request of Strong and with respect for band beliefs, the *Timberjay* agreed to not publish any pictures of items and to mention only broad categories rather than identify specific artifacts. “The biggest thing to emphasize is the level of cultural importance of these items,” Strong said. “A lot of the stuff that was taken really can’t be replaced, and as part of that they have kind of fallen from

See...**ARTIFACTS** pg. 10



Jaylen Strong

LAKE COUNTY PLANNING

Commission recommends no EAW for Silver Rapids proposal

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

TWOHARBORS-The Lake County Planning Commission once again tabled two land use applications for the Silver Rapids Resort at a meeting on Monday. At the same time, the commission approved a recommendation to the Lake County Board that a cit-

izens petition seeking completion of an environmental assessment worksheet, or EAW, be denied.

Organizers of the citizens petition, which has over 300 signatures, had submitted the petition to the state’s Environmental Quality Board last month. That filing tripped a state regulation that bars any final action on an application before a decision is

made on whether to conduct an EAW.

From comments at the meeting, it was apparent that planning commissioners felt that most of the environmental issues from the petition would be addressed through the normal regulatory permitting process, which may well include conditions to address citizen concerns.

The land use applications, which seek a conditional use permit along with preliminary plat approval, are expected to come back to the planning commission once the county board weighs in on the need for an EAW. The county board’s next meeting is set for Tuesday, Aug. 27, from 2-4 p.m. in Two Harbors, although it isn’t certain that the

question will be on the board agenda, which was not posted as of the *Timberjay’s* Wednesday deadline. The planning commission is set to meet again on Sept. 5, at 5 p.m. in Two Harbors.

Background

The developers of the Silver Rapids Resort are seeking a
See...**PROPOSAL** pg. 9



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Community notices

Jumpin' Jehosafats fundraiser concert on Aug. 26 in Ely

ELY- The Jumpin' Jehosafats will perform on Monday, Aug. 26 to raise money for the SAGE Foundation. The ensemble will perform its signature repertoire of Dixieland, gospel, and jazz from 5-6:30 p.m. at Whiteside Park.

The Jumpin' Jehosafats is an all-Minnesotan band and includes Elyites Elton Brown on Tuba and Suzanne Mades on flute. The Monday evening concert will also feature special guest Karl Kubiak on clarinet. Kubiak is the band director at Ely Memorial High School during the school year and the conductor of the Ely City Band during the summer.

SAGE stands for "Students Achieving Goals Equally." The group was started by Vermilion alumnus Kes Ebbs and Vermilion staff member Lou Wiggen during the 2023-24 school year.

The Sage Foundation seeks to bridge the gap between the Ely community and Minnesota North Students who lack a support system outside the college community. Many students lack the means to buy affordable food in Virginia, as well as lack access to emergency mental and physical health care. SAGE aims to build partnerships throughout the Iron Range to help Minnesota North College - Vermilion students meet the basic needs of food, housing, and health care. The group also creates opportunities for students to build consistent and meaningful social interactions through community events, wilderness opportunities, and education.

Canelakes Candies receives AEOA's Aging Impact Award

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging is pleased to announce Canelakes Candies received an Aging Impact Award for their work in creating a nostalgic community space for people of all ages to enjoy. They were nominated for offering exceptional services to the community that go above and beyond and have created a physical space that caters to all ages and abilities.

Upon receiving the award, Canelakes Candies staff will partake in a training that will improve staff skills and optimize physical space to be more inclusive and welcoming of people of all ages and abilities.

Want to learn more about the award recipients, honorable mentions, or how to become more age-friendly? Sign up to join an age-friendly business cohort, register for an upcoming training, request a simple self-assessment or consult on ways to improve by contacting the AAAA at agefriendlyarrowhead@ardc.org, or 218-529-7525.

Old Time Fiddle Championships winners announced

MT. IRON- The fiddle contest tradition lived on at the 42nd annual MN State Old Time Fiddle Championships held on Aug. 3 in Mt. Iron. Fiddlers as young as six and as old as 70 enjoyed competing for cash and prizes, performing for a live audience, and growing as musicians through feedback from the three judges- Cristina Seaborn, John Wallace and Olivia Skaja. The audience enjoyed the show tremendously. This championship's certified winner is eligible to compete in the National Old Time Fiddle Championships in Weiser, Idaho, next June.

The Old Time Fiddle Championships would like to thank the Mesabi Symphony Orchestra, their fiscal agent, accompanists Emily LaPlant, Mike Buckman, Sarah Shaulis, Tim Morgan, Rick Walter, Kimberly Shintre, and Sheila Wilcox, sound folks Jay Hoiland and Mary Jo Grizzard-Menke, Master of Ceremonies Tucker Nelson, the Merritt School custodial staff, and contest volunteers Deb Gunderson, Dana Nelson, Holly Weir, Erik Honkanen, Darren Tweten, Connor Tweten, and Sheila Wilcox. They greatly appreciate the advertisers who supported the contest. They also want to thank their appreciative audience.

Championship Division (highest 5 scorers regardless of age):

- First Place Teresa Walter, Rochester
- Second Place Aaron Wilcox, Duluth
- Third Place Sheila Wilcox, Mt. Iron
- Fourth Place Lilly Benedict, Hammond, Wis.
- Fifth Place Brady Peterson, Virginia

Junior-Junior Division (ages 12 and under)

- First Place Rosalie Flynn, Brainerd
- Second Place Josiah Shaulis, Gilbert
- Third Place Katie Louks, Virginia
- Fourth Place Reidun Shintre, Plymouth

Junior Division (ages 13-29)

- First Place Carmen Morgan, Britt
- Second Place Ben Hsieh, Gilbert

Intermediate Division (ages 30-49)

- First Place Sarah Shaulis, Gilbert.

This activity was made possible in part by the Eveleth Elks Club, Minnesota State Fiddlers Association, and the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature's general and arts and cultural heritage funds.

Habitat for Humanity gives Tower house new life

VOLUNTEER WORK

TOWER- Community members across the Iron Range are helping North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity refresh a Tower house that will be sold to a local family. Future homeowner Krystal Rynders is contributing sweat equity hours alongside volunteers as the home is renovated and upgraded.

Rynders currently lives in an apartment with high utility bills. She says one bedroom does not have a door, and the space is too cramped for her and four children. Rynders was accepted into Habitat's program because of her need for housing, her ability to pay an affordable mortgage, and her willingness to partner in the home's construction. The Rynders family will soon live across the street from Tower-Soudan Elementary School, where Krystal has started work as a paraprofessional.

St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower held its last worship service just over a year ago. Yet the hole in the community left behind by the dissolution of the church, was quickly filled as the church donated the former parsonage for a future Habitat for Humanity home, while the church's adjacent sanctuary became the home of the Tower Food Shelf.

"St. James Presbyterian Church has been a longstanding partner with North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity," said Nathan Thompson, the organization's executive director. "Their efforts to serve the community even as they were closing the ministry in Tower resulted in another family being served with an opportunity to affordably buy a home."

The condition of the ranch-style home meant Habitat for Humanity could feasibly retain some major components while replacing others. The floor plan will not change, but new wiring and insulation, for example, will make the home safe and energy efficient.

"The church also gave a substantial donation for the rehab work that is being done. We are delight-



Krystal Rynders (center) is pictured with her children, Adalyn and Mason, outside their future home in Tower. Rynders is partnering with North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity to refurbish and then purchase the former St. James Presbyterian Church parsonage. submitted photo

ed to have many from the Presbyterian community in Tower and Ely volunteer to help us rehabilitate this home with the Rynders family."

Pastor Corey Larsen of First Presbyterian Church in Ely has helped organize volunteer groups to work on demolition and painting at the former St. James parsonage. Volunteers with years of construction experience or with none are welcome at all of North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity's build sites. Individuals and groups may contact Community Engagement Coordinator Tucker Nelson at 218-780-4594 to learn about upcoming and ongoing volunteer opportunities.

"It gets a little crazy working a full-time job and trying to work on the new house and maintain my current house, but I make it work," Rynders said. "Being able to have my own space is what I'm really looking forward to. I'm happy this opportunity has come along."

Volunteers, contractors, and future homeowners have started

work on three new Habitat homes in Hibbing, Buhl, and Virginia, along with two other rehabilitation projects in Hibbing. The homes are made possible in part by new funding from the Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Housing grant program.

North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity has been working to build simple, decent, and affordable homes since 1995. The organization has served over 120 families in 15 Iron Range area communities. Families are selected based on their need for housing and their willingness to partner in the building of homes. Families must also demonstrate their ability to pay Habitat's affordable mortgage. Habitat is an equal housing opportunity organization and does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, and handicap. Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and

SCAM CALLS

Phone scam uses sheriff's office number

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The St. Louis County Sheriff's Office has issued a warning to beware of a phone spoofing scam pretending to be the Sheriff's Office.

"We are currently experiencing numerous scam calls in our area," an Aug. 15 press release said. "The scammer has cloned our main office line, 218-726-2340. They call and claim you missed a court date, resulting in a warrant for your arrest. They prompt you to pay money via a third-party app to clear the warrant up."

The Sheriff's Office wants to remind the public that law enforcement does not call people to ask for payment over the phone. If you receive one of these calls, do not provide any sort of payment by cash, credit card, check, gift card, etc.

Any questions regarding payment of fines should be directed to court administration. If you have received one of these calls and would like to make a police report, the Sheriff's Office recommends that you dial 911.

Using cloned phone

numbers is one of the most prevalent types of phone scams, affecting millions of people annually. Truecaller, the maker of a Caller ID and spam blocking phone app, estimates that 59 million people were bilked out of over \$29 billion by phone scams in 2020.

The scam frequently takes advantage of the caller ID feature, creating an ID that in union with the cloned number makes the call appear to be from a legitimate source. Automated web scrapers search the internet for phone numbers of people and entities to clone, and stolen data is easy to purchase on the "dark" web. For example, scammers can buy over two million stolen records from Walmart on the dark web, according to Comparitech, a pro-consumer cyber security firm.

The Federal Communications Commission provides the following tips to avoid falling prey to phone spoofing scams:

- You may not be able to tell right away if an incoming call is spoofed. Be extremely careful about responding to any request for personal identifying information.

➤ Don't answer calls from unknown numbers. If you answer such a call, hang up immediately.

If you answer the phone and the caller - or a recording - asks you to hit a button to stop getting the calls, you should just hang up. Scammers often use this trick to identify potential targets.

➤ Do not respond to any questions, especially those that can be answered with "Yes" or "No."

➤ Never give out personal information such as account numbers, Social Security numbers, mother's maiden names, passwords or other identifying information in response to unexpected calls or if you are at all suspicious.

➤ If you get an inquiry from someone who says they represent a company or a government agency, hang up and call the phone number on your account statement, in the phone book, or on the company's or government agency's website to verify the authenticity of the request. You will usually get a written statement in the mail before you get a phone call from a legiti-

mate source, particularly if the caller is asking for a payment.

➤ Use caution if you are being pressured for information immediately.

➤ If you have a voicemail account with your phone service, be sure to set a password for it. Some voicemail services are preset to allow access if you call in from your own phone number. A hacker could spoof your home phone number and gain access to your voicemail if you do not set a password.

➤ Check with your phone company about call blocking tools and check into apps that you can download to your mobile device. The FCC allows phone companies to block robocalls by default based on reasonable analytics. More information about robocall blocking is available at fcc.gov/robocalls.

➤ Remember to check your voicemail periodically to make sure you aren't missing important calls and to clear out any spam calls that might fill your voicemail box to capacity.



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CHARTER SCHOOL

Vermilion Country School open house on Aug. 29

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

School offering new flexible programming and Anishinaabe language and culture focus

TOWER- Vermilion Country School, a grades 7-12 public charter school in Tower, will host a back-to-school open house on Thursday, Aug. 29 from 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Families of current and prospective students, as well as community members, are invited to stop by to see the school facility, remodeled last year, as well as meet the teachers and school support staff.

In addition to the well-established in-school project-based learning program available to most students at VCS, the school will be offering a new blended-learning program with a flexible schedule for students who would benefit from a non-traditional approach. Under the new optional program, teachers will meet students at local sites like libraries and community centers to provide tutoring and small group teaching for students on alternate schedules. The "personalized program" will offer tutoring and access to learning for students outside of the regular school building. Students have the option to complete schoolwork from home part time or full time, but also meet regularly with a teacher either one-on-one or in small groups, as well as having weekly group activities and field trips. This allows students who may have part-time or full-time employment, or



School director Sam O'Brien talks with a student about their environmental expo project last spring. file photo

family care responsibilities, to continue to earn their credits toward graduation.

"We will be working with students and families to build an individual path towards graduation and adult life skills," said Sam O'Brien, school director. The personalized school program is designed to provide the academic support a student needs to complete their high school education, along with career readiness, and opportunities to connect with friends. The program will also allow students to earn school credit for out-of-school learning that aligns with their interests and draws on their strengths. Students will work with

their teacher to set individual goals, and they will have a flexible schedule that allows students to work while a full-time high school student.

"We can design a schedule that fits a student's job, family, and other life needs," said teacher Amy Hendrickson. "This program is perfect for students who want a flexible schedule, who have difficulty concentrating when in a typical school setting around peers, or who might want to work ahead in their credits."

While this program will have students working online on lessons developed by school teachers, or on teacher-directed academic work, it is de-

signed for students who reside within a 40-mile radius of the school, plus the Nett Lake community. This is not a traditional "virtual school" program, O'Brien said. Teacher support, in-person, is key.

Teachers will visit students in public meeting places closer to the student's home, like public libraries or community buildings, near where they live. School transportation can also bring students to the school in Tower for optional classroom in-person support. The goals of this program are to build academic progress, create life skills, prepare students for post-secondary enrollment options or introduce them to a career

path in the trades.

Teachers at VCS have been working with educational consultants at the Modern Classroom Project this summer to develop curriculum that will work for both in-school and blended-school students. Both in-person classroom students and blended-learning students will access short lessons recorded for viewing by Vermilion Country teachers. This personalized approach to having access to the teacher lessons allows the teacher to tutor and coach students as they understand each lesson, and allows the student to watch a lesson more than once if needed to understand.

All students who are part of the VCS community will also continue to focus on the environmental education and projects that are a key element of the learning program. Traditional students will have an increased focus on project-based, hands-on learning, along with numerous field trips, cultural experiences, and community service.

The school will be providing additional support for students who qualify for special education services, with three full-time special education teachers on staff this year, along with a school social worker and other support staff. The school will also be continuing a program started last year, that provides real-world

work experience and training, with pay, for students, both during the school year and in the summer.

The school is also working with the community to use the personalized approach to build an academic program with a focus on Anishinaabe language and culture, which will include beginning Anishinaabe language instruction for high school credit, cultural projects and field trips, collaboration with other agencies such as the 1854 Treaty Authority, and participation in activities with the Bois Forte Cultural Healing program. This program will allow students to have the time and flexibility to work with their community, their elders, and to study topics that align with their culture. All of the programs will provide the academic credits students need to progress toward graduation, while focusing on Anishinaabe language and culture as the foundation of study for the student.

For more information on these new programs, call the school at 218-248-2485, or email info@vermilioncountry.org. For specific information on enrolling in the Anishinaabe program, contact Adrienne Whiteman at 218-248-2939 or adrienne@vermilioncountry.org.

School starts on Tuesday, Sept. 3.

MINNESOTA NORTH-VERMILION

Vermilion Campus Foundation has a successful year

ELY- The Vermilion Campus Foundation has a lot to brag about based on the organization's "Annual Impact Report," which the group issued last week. The foundation serves the students at Minnesota North College through financial aid, events, and community building.

The report summarizes the nonprofit's efforts to positively

impact student lives during the 2023-24 school year. Highlights of its efforts include:

- Over \$150,000 given to students and local community projects.
- Over 100 students received Vermilion Campus Foundation scholarships.
- The return of the foundation's annual scholarship banquet after a multi-year absence.

➤ Hosting a winter staff and faculty party to recognize their contributions to the college.

➤ The introduction of a new fundraising event, the Vermilion Foundation Pickleball Tournament in July. The event drew over two dozen participants. To prepare for the event, the foundation held a staff and faculty team-building pickleball event. Both events received "en-

thusiastic reviews."

➤ Updating the organization's internal financial reporting and legal memorandum process.

➤ A positive return on investments for the foundation's funds.

The organization's goals for the upcoming school year include growing its alumni database, increasing scholarships

for students, increasing communication with the foundation's supporters, and maintaining a strong presence in the local community.

The report also praised and thanked the foundation's donors for their part in supporting student scholarships and events. The Vermilion Campus Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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OPINION

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Editorial

The Mesabi Trail

MnDOT needs to work with trail officials to bring the trail to Tower

The news last week that the Mesabi Trail may have to bypass the city of Tower came as a potentially devastating blow to the community. That's particularly so given that Tower has made its status as a hub for a wide range of recreational trails an important element of its economic and community development.

The city has been planning on the eventual arrival of the Mesabi Trail, a paved bike trail, literally for decades. It was home to one of the very first segments of the trail, which for years connected Tower and Soudan. That portion has since been incorporated into the Mesabi Trail segment that runs from Tower to Ely, which includes access to the Lake Vermilion Soudan Underground Mine State Park. But we're still waiting for completion of the five-mile segment that will finally connect Tower and points north with the rest of the Mesabi Trail.

The community, which emphasized trails and trail connectivity in the most recent comprehensive plan, has worked hard to be ready for the Mesabi Trail's eventual arrival. For the past several years, the city of Tower and local volunteers have invested considerable time and money to improve facilities around the city's civic center and train depot in the expectation of a hefty increase in bicycle traffic into the community. That includes investments in street improvements and upgrades to the city's adjacent mini-park, and the construction of a new bathroom facility that should be completed well in time for next year's bike season. Volunteers and city staff have already designed and built kiosks to highlight all the trail opportunities in Tower. "Trails to Adventure" has been an unofficial motto for the effort, which highlights some of the unique hiking and cross-country ski trails in Tower, as well as its location as a hub for two major state snowmobile trails and its connection to the Prospectors Loop ATV trail. The arrival of the Mesabi Trail was going to be the final key connection and anticipation of its ar-

rival was already sparking investment interest at the city's adjacent harbor and riverfront.

It's difficult for people, and particularly local businesses, to not feel like the rug is potentially being pulled out at the last minute.

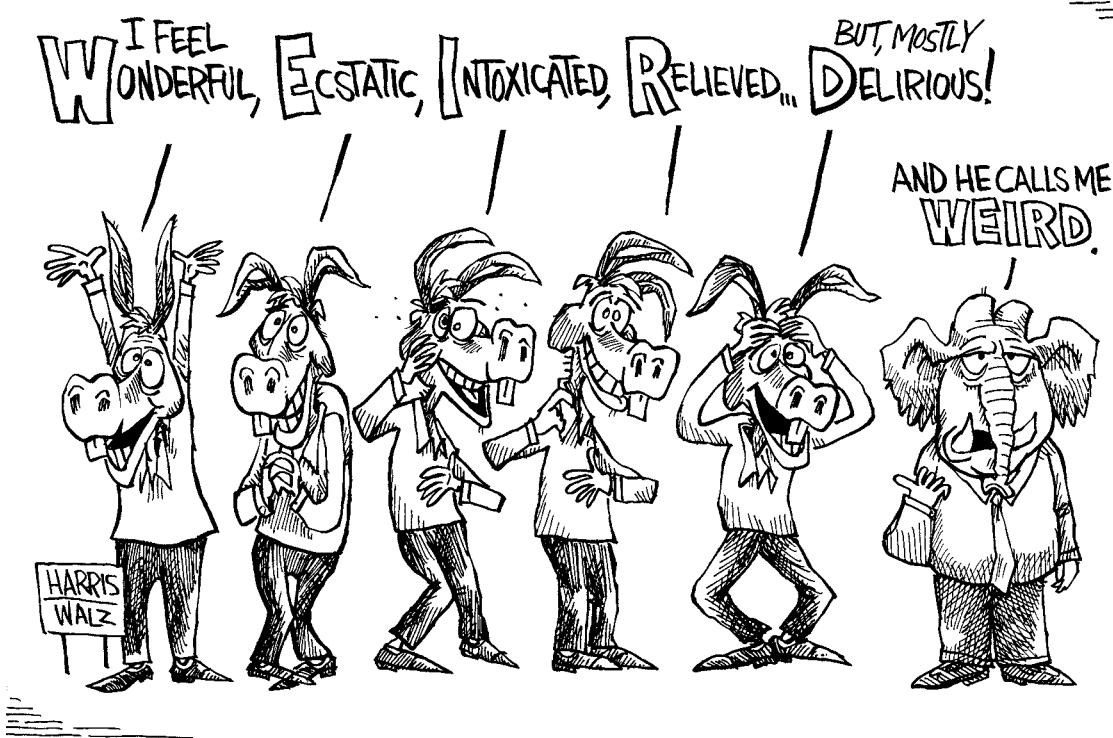
We certainly recognize the challenges that the final couple miles of the trail pose. Tower is situated in some truly dramatic terrain, surrounded by rugged hills and extensive wetlands. It's part of what makes the area so beautiful, but it does pose challenges for trail construction.

That said, we know there is a solution, and its one that Mesabi Trail officials themselves have proposed—and that is to bring the trail right alongside Hwy. 135 for the last couple miles. It wouldn't be the first time a state trail has been built along the shoulder of a highway, including highways far busier than Hwy. 135, but officials with the Minnesota Department of Transportation have been highly resistant to the idea to date, citing potential safety concerns. Unless MnDOT relents and allows trail construction along an expanded highway shoulder, the trail may well end up diverting to the east of Tower, connecting with the rest of the Mesabi Trail near Soudan.

That would be an unacceptable outcome and it's one that city officials and our local lawmakers should do everything possible to prevent. We understand that safety is always an issue but we're talking about a short stretch of relatively lightly traveled highway. An extended shoulder, possibly with a guard rail to separate the bike lane, could allow for bikers and drivers to operate without hindering the other.

Rather than finding reasons it can't work, let's figure out how it can and get the work funded and underway. Tower has waited decades for the arrival of this trail and has made the investments needed to provide trail users a great experience once they arrive. It's time for the Mesabi Trail to finally make this connection.

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Letters from Readers

I want a leader who cares for others

On Aug. 16, Donald Trump held a press conference at his Bedminster golf club that was supposed to be about inflation. Behind him was a prop of groceries including sausages, milk, and other perishables rotting in the 87 degree heat during his 90-minute speech. In the beginning of this rambling, confused, self-serving, off-the-wall bile, he called the United States a third world country and lied about his own record and that of his competitor. He also included plenty of personal attacks on Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, and Tim Walz. Yes, I do watch Fox News!

The part of his speech that offended me the most, however, was when he was asked what he thought about how God protected him at the rally where he received a minor ear injury. For a long time he rambled on about the Secret Service protection, the police, how he jumped up with blood all over his face, and how dangerous it all was for him. There was no mention of God, as I recall.

Throughout all this, until the subject changed, he said not one word about his supporter sitting behind him, who had been killed trying to save his family by throwing his own body over theirs. He had no thought for this man, his bravery, or concern about his family or how his wife and two little girls are doing now. No thought about why God didn't save that man, too. No compassion or concern for him or his family. Nothing.

I would rather live in a country that shows empathy, compassion, and concern for all people. I want a leader who cares as much for others as she does for herself. I beg you to listen to both candidates before you vote for Donald, who doesn't care for anyone but himself.

Kathryn Furness Ely

The world will continue to suffer from increasingly severe weather

Climate change is primarily caused by the emissions of carbon from fossil fuels into the atmosphere. Yet, the United States is currently producing more oil than any other country. In the year 2008, U.S. crude oil production was 5.0 million barrels a day. Currently production is 12.9 million barrels a day.

The Biden administration attempted to reduce the production of oil by not selling oil drilling leases on federal land, but a federal judge ruled that the administration could not curtail the leasing of public lands to the oil companies. The Mineral Leasing Act states that the Department of Interior shall hold lease sales on public lands. The federal district court asserted that the administration could not stop leasing federal lands without Congress's approval which was not likely to happen with the make-up of the contemporary Congress.

Nevertheless, the administration endeavored to reduce transportation's emissions by supporting electric vehicles as a replacement for the use of carbon laden fuels. In addition, it promoted the use of renewable energy: solar, wind, nuclear, hydropower, and geothermal, to replace fossil fuels.

Hopefully, non-polluting natural hydrogen will replace gasoline as the energy source for the many modes of transportation, but that effective alternative is in the future. If it can be delivered at a price below oil, market economics will overrule the current politics.

In the meantime, the world will continue to suffer through droughts, floods, hurricanes, wildfires, and blackouts from climate change caused primarily by fossil fuels.

Gerry Snyder Ely

An open letter to Lake County Commissioner Joe Baltich

Silver Rapids is generally recognized as the most scenic spot on the White Iron chain of lakes. It seems to also be agreed that the Silver Rapids Lodge is a suitable addition to the community, especially when it was in better condition. The proposed improvement of the lodge and cabins could be a welcome addition to the allure of this beautiful area. There must be some concern, however, about the size of the development. Silver Rapids is not large and it serves as the only water conduit between White Iron Lake and the Kewishwi River and Farm and Garden lakes. It appears that the development would be completely out of proportion and would destroy what Silver Rapids provides to the community.

The developers are motivated by profit and probably believe that a larger development means more profit. Or they may have enlarged their plan in the expectation that compromise may be necessary.

The local community seems to overwhelmingly oppose this project because of its size, but agree that the lodge needs renewal in its original proportions.

The value of a planning commission is to provide perspective to development in the county.

The proposed development seems to be completely out of proportion to what Silver Rapids provides to the community and to what such a limited area can handle and still act as a functional waterway.

Raymond Theobald Ely

COMMENTARY

Adding a North Country spin to the Olympic games

After witnessing the dumbfounding spectacle of break dancing as an Olympic sport in Paris, I've decided that it's high time that the North Country make a bid to host the quadrennial Games so that we can use the local



DAVID COLBURN

option to include two sports that are equally, if not more deserving of a place on the world stage — walleye fishing and endurance sauna sitting.

We'd certainly be poised to dominate the medal podium in walleye fishing, being the mecca of the sport as we are. And it wouldn't be the first time

that an Olympic sport was based on human pursuit of creatures with pea-sized brains — after all, Paris introduced pigeon shooting to the Games in 1900, and it was far less challenging than walleye fishing. Just aim and shoot — the darned birds certainly weren't as wily as a walleye, and they were fluttering there in plain sight, not hiding in weeds or under submerged logs.

Imagine a flotilla of the world's greatest anglers deployed on the

glassy surface of Lake Vermilion or Kabetogama Lake engaged in the ultimate test of skill, patience, and unrelenting optimism as they matched wits with the North Country's most prized prey. Rather than merely substituting live pigeons for clay in a glorified game of target practice, walleye fishing requires a deep understanding of aquatic ecosystems, knowledge of lures, and the fortitude to endure hours of casting and retrieval in the hope

of landing a trophy catch.

Beyond mere reliance on physical strength or speed, walleye fishing demands a strategic mind and an ability to adapt to changing conditions. Mental acuity is more important than physical prowess, as anglers must constantly make decisions about where to fish, what lure to use, and how to reel in their catch, all while competing against other skilled anglers and the unpredictable nature of the fish itself.

And the sport would open the Olympics up to competitors most would consider to be past their athletic prime. Pudgy, myopic, beer-guzzling sexagenarians like me would have a fighting shot at the Olympic glory that eluded us as dreamy-eyed junior-high hurdlers. Age could be a real advantage here, unlike in presidential politics.

And in the same

See GAMES...pg. 5

COMMENTARY

The pandemic impacted both the Trump and Biden economic record

For all the talk by the Trump campaign about the hostility of the mainstream media towards the former president, Mr. Trump has actually been the beneficiary of a remarkable media double standard. That's particularly true as we perceive his record on the economy versus that of President Joe Biden and, by extension, the economic policies we can anticipate should Vice President Harris win election this November.

A straight comparison of the two president's economic records is stark. During the four years of Trump's presidency, the U.S. economy LOST 2.7 million jobs and the unemployment rate went from just above 4.5 percent to 6.4 percent. The gross domestic product actually declined by 2.2 percent and the deficit increased faster than at any time in U.S. history, bar none. On the plus side, the S&P 500 increased by 68 percent during the four years that Trump was in the White House.

Despite a couple bright spots, however, Trump's economic record was among the worst of any American president in nearly a century. That's not a matter of opinion, it's a matter of fact.

Yet you never hear any of this from the mainstream media, or even from Trump's critics. That's because people recognize that Trump's economic record was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and so an economic record that would otherwise be considered truly dismal, is dismissed as affected by unusual circumstances. We're told that the only fair comparison of economic records should only



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

consider Trump's economy prior to the pandemic.

I don't disagree. My only question to that is, why doesn't the Biden record get similar consideration by the media? How is it that Biden's critics aren't chastised when they point to the bout of inflation that came in the wake of the pandemic? If Trump gets a pass for his truly abysmal jobs and GDP numbers, why doesn't Biden get similar consideration when it comes to inflation?

While the pandemic began under the Trump administration, its global ripple effects continued well into the Biden administration. Among the most significant were the severe supply shortages and transportation bottlenecks that developed from the economic dislocations caused by the pandemic. Yet Trump and his supporters have relentlessly blamed inflation in the U.S. on Biden's policies, even though the inflationary spiral that came in the wake of the pandemic was global and systemic in nature, and was much worse in many other countries than here in the U.S.

There were no conceivable economic policies in the early years of the Biden administration that would have kept inflation away from America's shores, other than policies designed to tip the world economy into deep recession, which would have hurt American families far more than 18 months of moderate inflation.

Trump wants Americans to compare the economy that existed in the early years of his administration, during the peri-

od of modest and steady growth that he inherited from President Obama, with the economy under Biden during a period in which the global economy was still reeling from one of the largest shocks in a century. Trump wants his orange compared to Biden's apple. And, amazingly, much of the media has let him get away with it.

Now that the effects of COVID have mostly faded and economic conditions have returned to some level of normalcy once again, we can truly compare apples to oranges. And what do we see? We see that inflation is back down to the 2-3 percent annual rate where the Federal Reserve likes it and interest rates will likely start coming down next month, which will improve the affordability of home mortgages and auto loans. Unemployment, even after July's slight increase, is still better than at any time under the Trump administration, job growth has far outpaced anything seen during the Trump years, and GDP growth has been significantly stronger as well. And the S&P is up 45 percent with six months yet to go in Biden's term. That's a far cry from the stock market collapse Trump self-servingly predicted would happen with a Biden victory in 2020, and now predicts again if Harris ends up in the White House next year.

In fact, the good economic trends now in place in the U.S. are likely to continue because the majority of the spending authorized by the major legislation signed into law over the past three years, which includes significant public investment in infrastructure and new industry, has only begun to make its way into the economy in real projects. The economic pump, in other words, is well-primed for growth over the next few years,

thanks to the Biden administration.

Vice President Harris will mostly continue those policies, and push for a few new initiatives, such as additional funding for affordable housing (which is critically needed) and investigating consumer products companies if they engage in price-gouging. While most of the inflation we saw back in 2022 and 2023 was systemic, there is no doubt that some corporations piled on price increases unnecessarily to pad their profits—and that impacted family budgets.

While Harris's recent economic announcements weren't Earth-shattering, they did reflect that she is taking lingering concern about inflation seriously.

Trump, on the other hand, has offered nothing but his usual hyperbolic claims of greatness and of his opponents' unmitigated incompetence, mixed with his endless complaints about, well, pretty much everything. In his mind, he's the most persecuted man who ever walked the Earth—literally the world's biggest victim.

That's probably better than outlining his actual economic proposals, which represent the most inflationary set of policies ever suggested by an American presidential candidate. Trump is lucky he inherited hundreds of millions of dollars because his understanding of basic economics appears to be remarkably limited. He thinks tariffs are paid by the exporting country, which is completely false. Here in the U.S., those tariffs are paid by companies like Walmart and Target, and they inevitably pass those costs along to their customers. His tariff proposal, which he has now upped to 20 percent on every imported good, would

undoubtedly spark an inflationary spiral. That's just basic economics, and it would impact families all across the country.

Trump also wants a weaker U.S. dollar, which again means imported goods will cost more.

Trump did himself no favors, either, when he lauded Elon Musk's mass firings of workers at Twitter and implied that companies should be able to fire striking union workers. That's already led to the filing of an unfair labor practices complaint with the National Labor Relations Board by the United Auto Workers, who, not surprisingly, recently endorsed Vice President Harris.

Trump, of course, has never been much for policy, beyond simplistic sound bites. In the end, however, Americans do want a president who takes the job seriously and thinks strategically about how to address the challenges that so many Americans face. Harris, among the two major candidates, is the only one trying to present a coherent economic path forward, even if she's been light on the details to date.

Trump, by contrast, can't seem to express any coherent set of proposals that would stand a chance of containing the cost-of-living for most Americans. He spends his time on the public stage spewing gag-worthy self-aggrandizement mixed with bottomless self-pity, peppered with bizarre takes on sharks, electrocution, or cannibals. If you saw someone walking down a city sidewalk ranting like Trump does at one of his rallies these days, most people would duck in a doorway or cross the street to avoid catching a disease. It's hard not to be embarrassed for him.

GAMES...Cont. from page 4

way technology has been brought to bear on creating better and faster bobsleds and sailing boats, making walleye fishing an Olympic sport could usher in a whole new age of technological sophistication that would trickle down to the masses with new high-tech rods, lures, boats and electronics, giving all anglers a better chance at having an Olympic-sized take on a weekend vacation to the lake.

Yes, walleye fishing surely deserves Olympic recognition alongside break dancing and pigeon shooting, and so, too, does endurance sauna sitting. This one is perhaps more of a stretch to conceive of as an Olympic sport – rowing is a sport executed while sitting on one's butt, but there is an extreme amount of exertion in propelling the boat from Point A to Point B. Even bobsledding, which after a short sprinting push turns all the work over to gravity, involves the skills of driving, balance, and braking (not breaking).

But endurance has always been part of the modern Olympic Games – both the marathon and the decathlon demand extreme endurance from athletes. Well, so too would enduring the heat of a toasty sauna.

Forget about the grueling 26.2 miles of a marathon or the endless laps in a swimming pool we're accustomed to seeing. True endurance would be measured in minutes – minutes spent in a sweltering box where the only real competition is your own sweat glands and the will to stay conscious.

Like the best of Olympic sports, endurance sauna sitting would

require extraordinary stamina and determination. "Saunathletes," to coin a term, must prepare themselves not just physically, but mentally, to endure the searing heat and stay in the sauna longer than their opponents. The intensity of this sport lies not in running faster or lifting heavier but in outlasting everyone else in the sauna—one bead of sweat at a time. In athletics it's common for athletes to talk about "bringing the heat" – endurance sauna sitting ditches the glib talk for real action. Well, more inaction than action, really, but you get the point.

Including endurance sauna sitting would recognize a cultural phenomenon over 2,000 years old, a history far richer and more glorious than the handful of decades people have been break dancing. If curling can make it into the Olympics because people in cold climates love sweeping ice, then surely sauna sitting deserves a spot, too. It's a sport that embraces cultural practice and competitive spirit, much like how curling bridges the gap between household chores and intense athletic focus. Of course, we've seen the damage one unorthodox competitor can do to a "sport" in Paris with the abysmal performance of Australian break dancer Raygun, who didn't earn a single point but earned her place in internet meme history for her truly bizarre performance. It's hard to imagine what sort of rogue athletes we might see in Olympic walleye fishing or endurance sauna sitting, but you can give your imagination a workout while waiting for the next fish to bite or

relaxing in the sauna.

The venues for upcoming Olympic Games have already been determined through 2034, but that's a good thing, as staging the Olympics is a monumental undertaking that takes much preparation. Given the current challenges we have of getting basic trails completed, we can use the extra time, and we'll have to up our game considerably to have a successful bid. We could use the relatively new facilities at Mesaabi East for track and field events, rehab the old OSB factory near Cook for a

gymnastics venue, hold fencing and weightlifting at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center in Virginia, and turn the old school in Cook into the Olympic village for athletes (and saunathletes). We have the basic infrastructure – what we need now is the willpower to elevate two of our most treasured regional activities to the level of worldwide competition they so richly deserve. Hard work makes the dream work – let's all join hands and get this done – viva Olympics!

TOWER • MN

History Talks on Main Street

**Brought to you by Tower-Soudan
Historical Society**

**Vermilion Coast Guard Auxiliary
Flotilla by Dave Anderson**

Northern News Now Meteorologist
(Longest-serving meteorologist in the Northland)
Creator of Northern News Now-Holding On To History

Dave has deep family ties in the area-
Harry Anderson and Konst Marttila

Wednesday, August 28 • 2 PM
Herbert Lamppa Civic Center-Tower
Admission is \$5

**History of Indian Boarding Schools
The Vermilion Lake Indian School
by Linda LaGarde Grover**

Professor of American Indian Studies at the
University of Minnesota-Duluth
Anishinaabe novelist and short story writer
Member of the Bois Forte Band-Vermilion District
of Nett Lake Reservation
Her grandparents met at the Vermilion School

Tuesday, September 10 • 5 PM
Herbert Lamppa Civic Center-Tower
**Admission is \$5 or, included as part of your
Annual Dinner Meeting Reservation**

SAVE
THE
DATE!

the

TIMBERJAY

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The Timberjay (PN 16025) is published weekly on Fridays, 51 weeks per year, by *The Timberjay Inc.*, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Business/Editorial Office at 414 Main St., PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Call (218) 753-2950 to subscribe. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Periodicals postage paid at Tower, Minnesota.

**POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
The Timberjay, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790.**

This award-winning community newspaper published each week serves the communities of Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

Publisher	Marshall Helmberger
General Manager	Jodi Summit
Cook/Orr Editor	David Colburn
Ely Editor	Catie Clark
Office Manager	Michelle Toutloff
Staff Writer	Seth Roeser
Graphics/Ad Sales	Scarlet Lynn Stone
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Official Newspaper:
Townships of Bearville, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, Kabetogama, Crane Lake, Owens, Greenwood, ISD 707, city of Tower.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce.

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Call the Tower office at (218) 753-2950.**

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 Sept. 17.

Greenwood Fire Dept.- Training meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Thursday

AA Meeting- Lake Vermilion 12x12 (Open) 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower. Use the rear side door entrance.

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at vermilioncountry.org.

St. Martin's holding rummage sale on Aug. 24

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church is hosting their annual rummage sale on Saturday, Aug. 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church social hall. For those early bird shoppers, the doors will open at 8 a.m. - for the cost of \$5. In addition to the rummage sale, there will be coffee, lemonade, and cinnamon or caramel rolls available for purchase. The rummage sale will continue on Sunday morning with a bag sale - you purchase a bag for \$3 and fill it up. Sunday hours are 8 - 10:15 a.m. and 11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to stop by.

History Talks on Main Street program about the Vermilion Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla on Aug. 28

TOWER- Local history buff and weatherman Dave Anderson will be the featured speaker for a History Talk on Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 2 p.m. at the Lamppa Civic Center in Tower. Admission is \$5. The talk is being sponsored by the Tower-Soudan Historical Society.

Dave Anderson will delve into the history of the Vermilion Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla, celebrating its 85th anniversary this year. This presentation will explore the pivotal role of the Auxiliary in boater safety and shine a spotlight on its local roots.

Highlighting the contributions of Mrs. Leslie Griggs Welles, a notable figure in the establishment of the Lake Vermilion flotilla, Dave will share intriguing stories from the past, enriching our understanding of this crucial part of our community's history.

A familiar face in local media, Dave Anderson has been with television channels 3 and 6 since 1986 and is known for his popular Holding On To History series on Northern News Now. With deep ties to the area through his great-grandfathers, Harry Anderson and Konst Marttila, Dave brings a wealth of local knowledge and a passion for preserving our shared heritage.

History Talk to focus on the Vermilion Lake Indian School

Prof. Linda LeGarde Grover to speak at annual meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 10

TOWER- Linda LeGarde Grover, professor emerita of American Indian studies at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, will be the featured speaker at the Tower-Soudan Historical Society annual dinner on Tuesday, Sept. 10. Her presentation, part of the History Talk series, will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Herbert Lamppa Civic Center in Tower. Admission for the History Talk is \$5.

The TSHS invites everyone to attend this informative History Talk. Membership in TSHS is not required to attend, but there will be an opportunity to join for \$15. Advance dinner reservations are required for those planning to attend the annual dinner, which follows the History Talk. The History Talk admission is included in the \$25.00 dinner fee.

For more information or to make reservations, please contact TSHS volunteers:

Call Linda Folstad (218-750-0193), or Cookie Bonicatto (715-558-5391) to reserve. Call Linda Folstad at 218-750-0193 to reserve and instant pay with your Venmo account.

Linda LeGarde Grover

Linda LeGarde Grover is an enrolled member of the Bois Forte band from the Vermilion district of Nett Lake Reservation. She has done qualitative research on the effects of federal and state Indian education policy on Ojibwe children, families, and communities. Early in her career as a historian, Grover researched and wrote about the Vermilion Lake Indian School, a federal boarding school on the Bois Forte Reservation where her grandparents met. Others attended boarding schools in Minneso-



ta, Wisconsin, Kansas, and Canada. She found that recruiters used coercion to convince parents to send their kids to the school. They would argue "the utility of efforts to continue living the Indian way." The boys were forced to cut their hair, and all students had to wear military-style uniforms. Punishments included spanking and whipping.

Vermilion Lake Indian School differed from many other Indian Schools. Grover writes, "Although many accounts exist of children being forcibly torn from their families and sent to boarding schools, there is no evidence of that practice at Vermilion."

Educating children has always been of prime importance to the Ojibwe people. At the time of western impact—as it is now—education was a holistic and lifelong experience. Children learned from their parents, other relatives, and members of the community, particularly the elders, whose wisdom and experience ensured the survival of the culture. But the Ojibwe tradition of training by observation, modeling, experience, and oral tradition was not acknowledged or validated—perhaps not even seen—by missionaries, entrepre-

neurs, and policymakers who arrived in the Upper Midwest in the nineteenth century. The United States' Indian-education system that followed was built on the premise that Indian children were not being educated and needed exposure to the superior western culture.

Historically, Indian education was linked with federal policies designed to force assimilation. In 1819 Congress passed the Indian Civilization Act, which authorized federal funding for Christian missionary societies to establish Indian schools. In 1870 mission schools began contracting for government subsidies to operate as "federal contract" schools. A new system was born in 1879 with the opening of the federal Indian boarding school in Carlisle, Pa. Its founder, Richard Henry Pratt, had previously worked with Cheyenne, Kiowa, and Comanche prisoners in Florida. To instill discipline and order, he dressed them in old army uniforms and drilled them as a platoon. As a further experiment, he had some of them taught to read. Pratt claimed he had discovered a new way to deal with the "Indian problem"—by education and assimilation. "I believe in immersing the Indians in our civilization and when we get them under holding them there until they are thoroughly soaked." His method became the policy of federal Indian boarding schools for the next half-century. Generations of Indian people were supposed to gain economic independence by emulating white society and abandoning tribal cultures.

By the 1890s this policy of assimilation was firmly in place. In Minnesota, boarding and reservation day schools for Indian children had increased in number and scope from the small mission schools of the 1830s to campuses that could house more than 400 boarders and serve more than 1,700 children. Vermilion Lake pupils had attended a mission school on Pike Bay between 1878 and 1890. In 1885-86 officials counted 163 children in the district; 50 of them were enrolled in day school, although average attendance was 25. A dozen years later, a new government Indian boarding school was being planned for Vermilion Lake. In 1906/1907 there were 40 pupils at Vermilion Lake Indian School and in 1909/1910 the number peaked at 100 to 115 students with very few runaways.

Grover's extensive research on American Indian boarding schools is extended family tribal community focused and centers upon the schools that her family members attended. Her award-winning works, all of which are threaded with the boarding school experiences, include the novel "The Road Back to Sweetgrass," "The Dance Boots," "The Sky Watched: Poems of Ojibwe Lives," and "Onigamiising: Seasons of an Ojibwe Year."

Grover's most recent publications are the novel "A Song Over Miskwaa Rapids," a mixed-genre memoir "Gichigami Hearts: Stories and Histories from Misaabekong," and a revised re-issue of her research paper "From Assimilation to Termination: The Vermilion Lake Indian School."

COMMUNITY NOTICES**Tower-Soudan Elementary Open House on Tuesday, Aug. 27**

TOWER- Tower-Soudan Elementary is hosting an open house on Tuesday, Aug. 27 from 4 - 7 p.m. Families are invited to stop by and meet the teachers and tour your child's new classroom. Bring your school supplies if you have them, the lists can be found on the school website at www.towersoudanschool.net (click on parent resources).

The start of the new school year is right around the corner. If you haven't already, please be sure to do your student's registration online. If you are having trouble, please contact the school. Registration help will be available during the open house.

The first day of school for first through sixth grade is Tuesday, Sept. 3. Kindergarten starts Thursday, Sept. 5, and PreK starts Monday, Sept. 9.

Road construction now underway in Soudan

SOUDAN- Area residents should be aware of multiple road construction projects now underway in Soudan. Work is being done on Church St., First Ave., and Stuntz Bay Rd. Streets will be passable, but motorists should expect delays; if at all possible, avoid construction and take other routes.

Paula Barnes celebration of life

TOWER- Paula Barnes, who passed away at age 68 on Aug. 10 after a four-year battle with cancer, didn't want a funeral. According to her family, she wanted a celebration of life and lots of pie (she always wanted dessert first). So, Friday Aug. 30 at 3 p.m. the family will be holding a short service at our church the Evangelical Free Church in Embarrass. Following the service, there will be a Celebration of Life at the Lamppa Civic Center in Tower at 4 p.m., with pie served. Afterward there will be a silent auction to help with unforeseen expenses. All are welcome. Let's come together and



Three of this year's Little Miss Embarrass candidates were at the Team Penning event in Embarrass last weekend. Pictured from left: Katie Larson, Maci Horn, and Avryl Chamberlin. Other candidates are Brynna Cook and Ava Erickson. Little Miss Embarrass will be crowned on Friday, Aug. 23 at 6 p.m. at the fairgrounds. The girls all sold raffle tickets to raise money for the fair, wrote an essay on why they wish to be Little Miss, and will help out during the fair this weekend. The group also participated in parades in Aurora and Gilbert in July. photo by J. Summit

celebrate this amazing woman who touched so many lives. Please spread the word around and her family looks forward to seeing you all there.

Filings for local elections

Filings for city and township elections held in November closed on Aug. 13. These elections are held in even-numbered years. Other area townships hold their annual elections in March.

Eagles Nest Township: David Chiabotti filed for Supervisor Seat B, Brian Harrington filed for Supervisor Seat E, and no one filed for Supervisor Seat C. Keely Drange filed for the clerk seat.

Embarrass Township: Shireen Lee filed for Supervisor Seat 2, Eric Garmen filed for Supervisor Seat 3, and Jennifer Bose filed for the clerk seat.

Kugler Township: Christopher Suihkonen filed for Supervisor Seat A, Ross Swanson filed for Supervisor Seat B, and no

one filed for the open clerk seat.

City of Tower: Kevin Norby filed for one of the two open council seats. There were no other filings.

Immanuel Lutheran hosting community picnic on Wednesday, Aug. 28

TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower is hosting a free community picnic on Wednesday, Aug. 28 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. (or until the food is gone). There will be hamburgers and brats served. All are welcome and carry-outs are available. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the fellowship.

LVCC hosting three upcoming events

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center will be hosting two events in the next few weeks.

On Wednesday, Aug. 28 at

6:30 p.m., a Wine and Watercolor event will be held in the Halunen Lobby of the LVCC. The class is being taught by Linda Smith, a Lake Vermilion artist who has been active on the board of the Zumbrota Arts Council. The cost is \$45 and there is room for only 20 participants. Spots are filling quickly. If room is still available you may register at vermilionculturalcenter.org.

"Save the Date" for Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. when The Sectionals will again hold a concert in St. Mary's Hall. The Sectionals is a vocal octet featuring classic jazz and modern acappella favorites. This will be the fourth time they will perform in St. Mary's Hall. This concert is very popular and is often standing room only. A free will donation will be accepted.

All events will be at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center at 705 Main St. To learn more about the LVCC, visit vermilionculturalcenter.org.

AROUND TOWN

Grace Lutheran Fish Fry at Carefree Living



Members of Grace Lutheran Church and friends treated the 50 residents of Carefree Living Ely to an old-fashioned Minnesota fish fry on Tuesday last week. The fish came with cornbread muffins, salad, and homemade key lime pie.

Left: The assembly line for making the food.

Right: Carefree Living residents chowing down.

submitted photos



Right: Kayla Schiltgen (standing) is the artist for the Northern Lakes Arts Association August art show at Ely's Historic State Theater. She introduced a fun and novel twist at the NLAA reception for her. She brought materials for attendees to make their own artworks and then hung them with hers.

photo by C. Clark

Below: The Rotary Casino Night last week was a success. One of the prizes raffled off were these corn hole game boards made by Evan Faltesak and painted by Cecilia Rolando (right). They were won by Teri Harper of Dallas (left) and will reside at Anderson's Resort on the Echo Trail. submitted photo



Weekly Haiku

The email with last week's haiku went astray. As a result, we are running both last week's and this week's haiku below.

Breathing Out

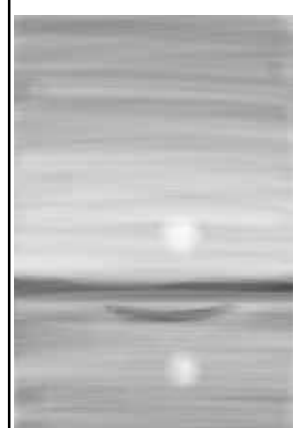
by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



pickings a bit small
once the blueberries were found
rain wasn't much help

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



cooling nights approach
late summer languid beauty
school days start their call

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.

Audition for "Elf, the Musical"

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association has announced the audition schedule for its winter production of "Elf, the Musical!" The show will be on stage for 10 performances between Dec. 12 and Dec. 21.

Auditions will be at 3 p.m. on Oct. 13 and at 7 p.m. on Oct. 14, at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater on the east of the Minnesota North College campus at 19 E. Camp St.

Sign ups for audition slots open up on Sept. 1.

Those who wish to audition should be ready to move and sing. NLAA will provide all the cuttings on the day of the audition. Those who can't make it on the audition days can still audition by sending a headshot, resume, and a vocal and performance reel to contact@northern-lakesarts.org.

6-10 p.m. at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater, 19 E. Camp St. Sign up for an audition slot at northern-lakesarts.org/egt. There are 20 audition times available and when they are full, those still wishing to audition will be placed on a wait list.

Candidate forum

ELY- The Ely Rotary and American Association of University Women-Ely Branch will host a candidate forum for the Minnesota House seat 3A on Sept. 17 and for Ely City Council on Sept. 24. Individuals interested in submitting questions to be asked in either forum, should e-mail them to khv771@gmail.com by Aug. 30. The final determination of questions to be asked will be made by a committee.

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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Tuesday Group

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. 27: Get to know Harley Droba.

► Sept. 3: The Past, Present and Future of the Boundary Waters with Aaron Kania, USFS Kawishiwi District Ranger.

Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- The library will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2.

Tickets for the Friends of the Library raffle for hand-applied dish towels by Jenny Kelley are \$1 apiece. The drawing will be Sept. 3.

Preschool story time is every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. All library events are at the Babbitt

Public Library, 71 South Dr., unless otherwise noted.

Ely Public Library

ELY- The library will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2.

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

The library board will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 4, at 5:30 p.m.

The Friends of the Library Book Club will meet on Monday, Sept. 9, from 3-4 p.m. The title for discussion is "The Rose Code" by Kate Quinn.

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.

George Floyd photography exhibition

ELY- The Ely Folk School, 209 E. Sheridan St., will host an open house exhibition of John Ratzloff's thirteen photos made during the aftermath of George Floyd's murder in Minneapolis in 2020. The photos taken

in June 2020 are mostly of paintings on 4-by-8-foot plywood sheets that covered smashed windows after the riots. The exhibition will be on Saturday, Aug. 24, from noon-1 p.m. at the Ely Folk School. Admission is free.

Ely's Historic State Theater

ELY- Ely's Historic State Theater, 238 E. Sheridan St., will continue its free live music events throughout August and September. All events will start at 5:30 p.m. On Friday, Aug. 30, Ginger Bones will perform followed by Sara Thomsen on Sept. 16, Scottie Miller on Sept. 20, and The Sectionals in Concert on Sept. 27.

The theater also holds an open mic night every Tuesday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Come bring your stuff and perform. This event runs through Aug. 27.

Portageland Music Festival

ELY- The Portageland Music Festival will arrive at Ely's Historic State Theater on Sept. 6-7. Festival passes are \$90; kids under 12 are

free with a pass holder. Tickets are available at northernlakesarts.org.

Now through Sunday, Aug. 25, the first 15 people to purchase a full festival pass will receive \$20 off. Use the code PORTAGE at checkout and the first 15 will get the discount.

On Friday, Sept. 6, the festival begins at Ely's Historic State Theater with performances by Marshmallow Chaos, the Christopher David Hanson Band, and the Mallrats and their "MTV Unplugged 90s Tribute."

On Saturday, Sept. 7, the festival moves to Whiteside Park with a full day of live music featuring the Roe Family Singers, the Chick-A-Dee-Dee-Dees, Morning Bird, Van and the Free Candies, Saltydog, and the ever-popular Duluth Transit Authority.

Ely's Got Talent

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association presentation of "Ely's Got Talent" will be on Nov. 1 at Ely's Historic State Theater. The prize for this year's talent show is \$1,000. Auditions for the talent show will be on Thursday, Sept. 12 from

Pickleball project hits fundraising milestone

Asphalt can go down this fall, next stages planned for spring will need additional funds

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- It was time this past weekend for Cook Friends of the Parks (FOTP) to pause for a moment, but only a moment, to celebrate hitting a fundraising milestone for their pickleball court project this past weekend, as more money is needed to complete the plan as envisioned.

In a project status update posted to social media on Saturday, FOTP said it had now raised enough money to convert the surface of the ice-skating rink at the community center to asphalt, an essential part of the plan to bring America's fastest growing sport to Cook.

"Our Wings and Things fundraiser was quite successful and along with raffle ticket presales made a profit of almost \$10,000!" the post said. "In addition, we have recently received a few very nice donations! To all who have helped us, we thank you!"

If the group hadn't come up with the necessary funds in time, the paving would likely have been pushed to next spring, delaying the overall project that also includes building a new surround for the combo

rink/court to replace the deteriorating wood.

The Cook City Council gave the go-ahead to start planning the project last October, and as usual, FOTP members have been working tirelessly ever since to raise the needed funds.

"The total estimated cost for the project is \$120,000," Tammy Palmer told the *Timberjay* recently. "We were fortunate to get a matching grant through IRRRB for \$20,000, so we had to match that amount, and we've got very generous, supportive people in our community and beyond, and we've had fundraisers."

With the asphalt going down this fall, the surface will be useable for its original purpose as a skating rink this winter, Palmer said.

"I've heard people say it's going to be a snowy winter," Pamer said. "Even if we don't get the boards, we're thinking we'll just bank it, or maybe come up with some sandbags or something. Then come spring we can do phase two, which is pickleball, and we'll be ready to go for the summer."

But while the group needs to continue to raise money, they already have



Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America, with more than 36 million people having played at least once in 2023. Creative Commons

help lined up to finish off the project.

"The Carpenters Training Institute has offered to provide the labor to build the new rink surrounds," the social media post said. "They have provided a beautiful design and materials list. However, at this point, we are short an estimated \$20,000 to proceed with that phase."

Palmer said that in addition to looking to traditional grant sources, the group has reached out to large Iron Range corporations that have many Cook employees to see about possible donations.

"This community is extremely generous and supportive, but they only have so much money, so that's why we're looking for outside sources," said FOTP member Val Annen.

Meanwhile, FOTP is also in the planning stage for another fundraiser in the early fall.

Annen said that the group is planning to go beyond a regular thank you for larger donors.

"For people who give a certain amount of money, we're thinking of recognizing them with a sign so they can advertise," she said. Donors can be listed as individuals, as organi-

zations or with company logos.

The surround will be made using durable polymer panels that will remove the need for ongoing maintenance like the wood panels required.

Once the surround is completed, the final phase of the project will be painting the pickleball courts – there's room enough for six – getting the nets and also purchasing equipment players will be able get through a yet to be determined outlet. "If you play pickleball, you're going to bring your own equipment, but if you come with your grandkids

and you want to play, we just have to have a place where you can get the equipment," Annen said.

And Annen would like to see the equipment get more use by getting North Woods School involved.

"I would love to see the school teach pickleball," she said, "They can use the equipment all winter long and then in the summer we'll bring it back to the community. It would be a great opportunity for a field day for the kids to come to the community center for pickleball, or maybe you could have pickleball tournaments as a program they're teaching."

Palmer and Annen are both aware of local players who currently engage in the sport by driving to other communities that have pickleball courts, and see the Cook courts as a way to not only keep those players at home but also be a feature that adds to the attractiveness of Cook for people considering moving to the town.

"We want this community to be a place where people will come," Annen said.

Dan Swanson Day to raise funds for Cook ballfields

COOK- There's a perfect opportunity on Saturday to support the ballplaying dreams of Cook youngsters by attending the first annual Dan Swanson Day from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Doug Johnson Recreation Area on Gopher Dr. in Cook. The event honors the memory of beloved youth sports coach and summer rec leader Dan Swanson, whose dreams of becoming a teacher were cut short in a tragic car accident in 2005. Proceeds will go for repair and maintenance of the memorial ballfield also named in his honor.

Activities include:
► Whiffle Ball Home Run Derby – Field of Dreams field, 11 a.m.-6

p.m. \$5 will get you ten at-bats to try for Babe Ruth-worthy homers.

► Bean bag tournament – there will be separate youth and adult divisions. The youth will compete from noon-3 p.m., and the entry fee is \$10 per team. Adult teams will toss off from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. Register your team by calling Mallory Manick at 218-410-1595.

► Kickball and dodgeball will be ongoing throughout the day at Memorial Field, and are free. There will also be free bubbles and sidewalk chalk available.

► Kite building and decorating will be free inside the community center at 2:30 p.m., and kite fly-

ing will follow at 3 p.m. on Dan Swanson Field. Also inside the community center will be a \$5 raffle, \$1 basket drawings, Bingo for 50 cents a card from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 52-card draw at \$20 a card for a fishing kayak donated by Matt Zupancich and Cook Zup's, Plinko at \$5 for three discs, tattoos and face painting for \$1, and a free cake walk. Tickets for all activities can be purchased inside the building.

There will be plenty of food for sale, including hot dog and brat meals, taco boats, cotton candy and snow cones. Sparkling lemonade and water are free.

FESTIVAL OF SKALDS



The Festival of Skalds on Aug. 10-11 had good weather and even better crowds for the Norse-themed event.

Left: Bailey Brunner learns how to throw an ax.

Above: Warren Bettencourt hammers red-hot metal at a blacksmithing demonstration. photos by D. Colburn

Cook-Orr Calendar

Alzheimer's benefit is Friday

COOK- What could be better than having fun with family, friends, and farm animals while supporting a good cause?

That's what you can do tonight, Friday, Aug. 23, by attending the fourth annual "Memories should Last a Lifetime" fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Foundation at Cook's Country Connection.

The three-hour event begins at 5 p.m. at the popular animal farm north of Cook at 1953 Vermilion Drive, and it will be the best edition yet.

Feed the farm animals, ride the barrel train, or play. Take a seat on a bench in the farm's playground and enjoy a meal from Leter Tater while listening to live music provided by the Pederson Family Fun Band. Shop for arts and crafts with at least a dozen talented vendors to choose from. And take a chance on winning one of the many donated gift baskets by buying a raffle fundraiser

ticket, or as many as you like. It's an atmosphere that's family-friendly for all ages to enjoy. Admission is by donation, so come support the cause and give hope to those coping with Alzheimer's disease.

Beefeater Brothers to play park series

COOK- The penultimate performance for the Cook Music in the Park series will be the familiar and always popular Beefeater Brothers on Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 5:30 p.m. (note the earlier start time).

Come enjoy Eric Pederson and Mike Randolph and other musical friends performing until 7:30 p.m. The St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church food stand will open at 5 p.m. In case of rain the concert will be moved to the Cook VFW.

Music in the Park is made possible by the Cook VFW 1757 and Auxiliary, Cook Lions Club, Northwoods Friends of the Arts and community free will donations.

Arts group touts upcoming events

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts has numerous events happening at the gallery in Cook now and through September.

The August ceramics exhibit by Lyn Reed, "Out of Mud," continues through the end of the month during the gallery's open hours, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

A drawing class taught by Cecilia Rolando, "Neurographic," will be on Friday, Aug. 23 from 1-4 p.m. – register by calling Alberta at 218-666-2153.

September's gallery exhibit is a dual-themed offering by NWFA Open Art Monday group participants. The group collaborated on one creation, their interpretation of Vincent Van Gogh's "Starry Night" painting. Group members also have created pieces celebrating the city of Cook. Participants in the "Starry Night" col-

laboration are: JoAnn Anderson, Jim DeVries, Jody Feist, Linda Freeman, Cheryl Harelstad, Mel Moschler and Kathy Sorgeafrel.

The exhibit opens on Wednesday, Sept. 4, and a reception for the artists will be Friday, Sept. 6 from 5-7 p.m. at the gallery, with special guest Katherina Johnson. An author who grew up on a rocky

farm on the Mesabi Iron Range, Johnson, from the Fond du Lac Reservation, is a teacher and writer of many books and poetry. She wrote "The Wind and The Drum" a well-known book about a girl named Tuuli who lived in the Arctic lands of the Midnight Sun where the winters are long and harsh. Johnson has a new book just coming out, "Belzi's

Blizzard." Johnson will speak at 6 p.m.

The NWFA Gallery is located at 210 S River St.

Mass offered at Cook Care Center

COOK- St. Mary's Catholic Church will continue to offer Mass at the Cook Care Center on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 11 a.m.

AND THE BAND PLAYED ON



Couples trip the light fantastic to the musical stylings of "The 4 Blue Teardrops," the headline act for the Northwoods Friends of the Arts fundraising concert at the Cook Community Center on Sunday. The Beefeater Brothers were the warm-up act. Food for the evening was provided by St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church. submitted

MINING...Continued from page 1

by PolyMet, and the nearby Mesaba deposit controlled by Teck. Both low-grade deposits contain varying concentrations of copper, nickel, and platinum group metals.

In an Aug. 14 press release, NewRange announced it has hired a new team “whose global expertise on tailings storage, water science, efficient production and carbon reduction will ensure the project remains on the cutting edge, so that Minnesotans and the nation can benefit from responsible clean energy mineral resource development.”

According to the statement, NewRange is sharing their venture’s plans before studies are complete, “because transparency and engagement with tribal nations, local communities and other stakeholders are foundational to the review process and contributes to development of a world class mine on Minnesota’s Iron Range.” That’s according to Tannice McCoy,

NewRange president and general manager.

According to the statement, the current plans are designed to meet all permitting requirements. Proposed changes may be subject to supplemental environmental review and permitting and will include multiple opportunities for public comment and feedback. “NewRange is committed to moving forward as an engaged community partner – with a project that meets environmental performance and sustainable mine design standards that cleans up and preserves our rivers and lakes and safeguards water quality for generations to come,” said McCoy.

Tailings storage

According to the release, NewRange is studying a variety of tailings storage options “that will minimize impact by reusing the former LTV iron ore tailings facility and clean up impacts from previous iron mining operations, leaving the region

in better condition than it is today.” Options include keeping the current design detailed in permits, potentially refining the current design to use a centerline dam design, or possibly relocating tailings storage to nearby unused mining pits.

“Our NorthMet project already represents the largest private investment in the cleanup of former mine sites in Minnesota’s history. We are evaluating if we can make this project even better. Regardless of which option is identified as the best solution, our objective is to ensure that tailings storage is safe and stable, and that we take advantage of any reasonable opportunities to clean up old contamination,” said McCoy.

A comprehensive network of water monitoring locations will provide the baseline data to help ensure that NewRange meets or exceeds state, federal and tribal standards before, during and after

operations.

Water science

NewRange reports it is reviewing planned water treatment technologies. “This review allows our team of water experts to evaluate new opportunities to address water quality and management challenges from historic and proposed new mining operations, protect the local environment, and safeguard water quality for generations to come,” said McCoy. “Our groundbreaking water treatment and management plan already has in place more water and wetland monitoring than all other Minnesota mines combined, and we will invest over \$100 million to modernize the previous mining site to meet or exceed stringent water discharge standards. In fact, NewRange will be the first industrial project to meet the state’s long-standing ‘wild rice standard’ for sulfate discharge limits. Currently, we know of no other business that has

achieved this standard.”

Efficient production

NewRange is studying how to utilize the existing footprint to increase production from 32,000 tons per day to 40,000 tons per day to deliver an increased domestic supply of high-demand copper, nickel and cobalt, while reducing project emissions. “We’re studying how to build a more efficient mine – not a larger one. With new equipment developments, increased production may decrease the energy intensity of clean energy metals produced. We hope this study identifies a win-win: using less energy to deliver copper, nickel and cobalt when a secure domestic supply of critical minerals is most needed,” said McCoy.

There would be no change to the project’s 225 million total tonnage of minerals currently permitted for mining and processing. However, if feasible, increased daily production could shorten the mine plan

from 20 years to 15 years.

Carbon reduction

NewRange also is studying how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions project-wide in the near- and long-term, according to their press statement.

“Current plans call for the reuse of existing railroad infrastructure to move ore for processing by diesel locomotive. While rail is generally efficient, we are exploring electric ore transport methods, like greater use of conveyors, to further reduce emissions,” said McCoy.

“We are also studying whether an opportunity exists for NewRange to have a net negative carbon footprint, thanks in part to the unique geologic characteristics of its rock formation. NewRange is exploring various techniques to sequester carbon in the mine tailings,” McCoy said.

PROPOSAL...Continued from page 1

conditional use permit for a commercial operation in a residential area, and for a preliminary plat to subdivide the property for 49 privately-owned timeshare cabins. In the resort’s version of the timeshare scheme, each cabin will be shared between four owners.

The resort makeover will remove all the RV sites, tent camping sites, park homes, and six of the resort’s 12 rental cabins. The developers plan to replace the current lodge and renovate the resort’s motel. They propose to add 12 new docks to the 15 already on site and to build a Tiki bar and restroom facility on the waterfront.

The developers have argued that the resort makeover will improve the area. They have already started work on fixing the septic system and received approval on Monday for their remediation plan to clean up the contamination from a leaking underground fuel tank. Developers say both these items will improve the environment around the resort.

The developers also contend that the aesthetics of the area will be improved through the removal of the tent sites, RVs, and park homes and the addition of the cabins and the new lodge.

Petition denial

The planning commission plowed through one question in its two-hour meeting on Monday, whether to require an EAW as part of the permitting process for the changes the developers are seeking to undertake.

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board has already ruled that an EAW is not mandatory and that Lake County has the power to require a “discretionary” EAW if it determines that the resort’s makeover will have significant environmental impacts.

In considering that question, the Lake County ordinance sets the following criteria:

► Is the action likely to have disruptive effects such as generating traffic and noise?

► Are there public questions or controversy concerning the environmental effects of the proposed actions?

► Does the action have the potential for significant environmental effects?

The ten issues from the petition were:

► Traffic generation on the road, including pedestrian safety and ATVs.

► Boat traffic on the lake and aquatic invasive species.

► Water supply.

► The number of docks, mooring sites, and parking.

► Fire suppression and emergency response.

► The need for a zoning variance for the Tiki bar or any structure within the setback zone.

► Impact on people who live in Fall Lake Township and housing.

► Contamination.

► Proximity to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

► Litter (from the Tiki bar) and waste management.

The developers brought two consultants to Monday’s meeting: Jesse Smith, a lawyer, and Julie Blackburn, an expert in preparing environmental assessments. Smith and Blackburn provided additional criteria for determining the need for an EAW.

Environmental impacts

The commissioners’ comments during the meeting indicated that they would trust regulatory agencies and the permitting process to prevent negative impacts to the resort and its surroundings. Many also commented that the proposed development would likely be an improvement over the current esthetics of the resort, which is now over 100 years old and in some disrepair.

The Lake County Environmental Services Director Christine McCarthy ran through a list of issues and the agencies that regulate them: “Since (the resort) would use over 1 million gallons a year, they would be required to go through (the Department of Natural Resources’ water appropriation) process.

“The Department of Health has jurisdiction on wells and how they are drilled, and on all the permits required. They will also provide the lodging license. The DNR will determine the total number of docks allowed, and they will review the water appropriation. Then, when you look at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, they have jurisdiction on the septic.” McCarthy also

explained that MPCA has oversight for the remediation of the underground tank spill.

Traffic

Trent Prigge speaking on behalf of the developers provided data from a Minnesota Department of Transportation study performed last year, stating that MnDOT measured 1,500 trips per day. Prigge calculated that 680 of those trips were resort-related traffic. Prigge also calculated that the renovated resort would generate an additional 110 trips per day, for an overall increase of eight percent in total daily traffic.

“An increase of eight percent in traffic is not significant,” he said.

Noise

Commissioner Rich Sve remarked that noise mitigation and quiet hours were something the commission could include as a condition for granting the zoning applications.

“We heard a lot in testimony about noise,” Sve remarked. “(The resort has) been likened to a party on Minnetonka. Nobody wants to see that.”

Parking

The commissioners approved of the resort’s plan to provide onsite parking for guests and cabin owners.

Sve remarked, “I’ve talked to lifelong residents in that area, and they said how it used to be that they were parking down the roads to go into the restaurant or to the bar... but now you’re putting everybody on site with ample parking underneath county ordinances.”

Housing

The petition stated that the resort would make the lack of affordable housing in the Ely area worse than it already is. “There was a concern about a worsening housing crisis that is beyond the scope of an environmental assessment worksheet. I’ve not ever seen that before... We’ve never limited a development on that basis,” said McCarthy.

The commissioners appeared unaware of the Ely housing crunch and were directed by a meeting attendee to the recently completed city of Ely housing study.

Boundary Waters

The commissioners noted that the nearest entry

point for the BWCAW was two miles away on the eastern side of Farm Lake. Blackburn remarked that the petitioners did not present any evidence that the makeover of the resort would lead to illegal trespassing of the Boundary Waters.

“It’s not the resort’s responsibility (to police illegal entry into the BWCAW) and shouldn’t be considered as a criterion for an EAW,” said Sve.

Transparency

During the discussion on the public’s concerns, Tanya Feldkamp, assistant director of Lake County Environmental Services, commented that one of the advantages of an EAW was that it provided transparency.

“Transparency — we hear that word thrown a lot around a lot,” Sve remarked. “Sometimes it’s deserved, sometimes it’s not.”

Sve suggested that transparency would be the result of the commission’s meetings and ongoing discussions with the developers.

“I think this commission, in my estimation, has a pretty good understanding of where we’re at right now,” Sve said. “What’s being proposed, there are missing pieces that we’re still going to get to. We probably talked about some of those tonight yet, but for this piece, I firmly believe that as we go forward, these questions (will be) definitely answered.”

Lake County does not provide access online to zoning and land use applications and their supporting documents. One Fall Lake couple, desperate to find out more about the resort project before the July 18 public hearing, drove 70 miles to Two Harbors to make copies of any application materials the county would share. They came back with just four pages which they gave to the *Timberjay* along with copies of the hearing notices mailed to the resort’s neighbors.

Since the close of public testimony on July 18, the public has been locked out of the application process. The developers have devoted their entire attention to the planning commission and the application process. They have not tried to engage or reassure residents, despite the proposal to create the

largest resort operation in the Ely area. The feeling of exclusion has rankled many in the area.

“So far there has been little communication from either the resort or the county,” said Fall Lake resident Paula in a recent post to the “What’s Up, Ely?” Facebook group. “Comments were brushed aside and it seemed clear (to me at least) that the

county is going to push it through and allow the resort to do whatever it wants... Nothing wrong with developing the resort but let’s get any potential issues out in the open and give credit to the residents who live near Silver Rapids Lodge and their feelings. That’s the way to get support.”



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September 10, 2024
Herb Lamppa Civic Center, Tower

Happy “Half Hour” • 5 PM
“Best Bid” Silent Auction Begins
Beautiful pieces of framed art and a vintage map of Lake Vermilion

History Talk • 5:30 PM
by Linda LeGarde Grover
“Indian Boarding Schools in the United States: The Vermilion Lake Indian School”
\$5 Admission for the History Talk

Membership Meeting • 6:15 PM
Members will vote on an amendment to the bylaws, elect directors, and hear a brief report on 2024 Society accomplishments



Dinner • 6:30 PM
“Special Italian Buffet Cuisine”
- Caesar Salad and Breadsticks
- Beef or Cheese Ravioli with Red Sauce
- Chicken and Broccoli with White Sauce
- Dessert
Catered by Chef Marko Stefanich and Pam Abrahamson
\$25 Includes History Talk

Advance dinner reservations are required by September 3
Please call or text 218-750-0193 or 715-558-5391
Call Linda Folstad at 218-750-0193 to instant-pay with Venmo

History Jeopardy and Announcement of “Best Bid” Winners. Win prizes with your knowledge of local history!

DISTRICT 7B RACE

Janatopoulos well-versed in public policy

Longtime Makinen resident seeking House seat being vacated by fellow DFLer Dave Lislegard

by **SETH ROESER**
Staff Writer

REGIONAL— When District 7B Rep. Dave Lislegard announced he wouldn't seek re-election this past May 26, it caught most Iron Range DFLers by total surprise. With just ten days until the filing deadline, it left little time for potential candidates to assess their prospects and mount a campaign to replace the Aurora DFLer.

But Lorrie Janatopoulos was ready—indeed, her life experience had left her remarkably well prepared for such a role.

"I was surprised, and a little worried, because it was rather late, but I'm happy to jump in," she said. "It's something I've wanted to do, would love to do, and would be good at."

Janatopoulos, who lives near Makinen, grew up in Two Harbors but has lived and worked on the Iron Range for half a century. She's had an interest in politics since high school, when she worked a DFL booth at a local fair. While she's never held elective office, she has had an impressive career in public policy, combining longtime, hands-on experience in executive planning and leadership, with agencies such as the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency and the Department of Employment and



Lorrie Janatopoulos

Economic Development, or DEED, along with an equally impressive set of educational credentials.

She holds a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs and was awarded a Bush Foundation fellowship in 2016, during which she earned an Executive Certificate of Public Leadership from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, a program aimed at "leaders with extensive public service experience," according to the Kennedy School's website.

During her fellowship, she served in a planning capacity at the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, contributing to the Recharge the Range initiative, a program focused on the revitalization of local resources,

downtowns, arts, recreation, and quality of life opportunities on the Iron Range in response to the global downturn in the mining and steel industries. Janatopoulos also partnered with Minnesota North College's Hibbing campus (then Hibbing Community College) as a coordinator for their EMPOWER program. EMPOWER supports women entering nontraditional fields through tuition, childcare, and transportation aid. The program is still operating and has expanded to other Minnesota North campuses.

Janatopoulos is probably best-known on the Iron Range for her 20-year career with the AEOA, a federal CAP agency, where she began as a housing planner before her rapid promotion to planning director for the entire agency. In that role, she helped design, develop, fund, and implement programs to aid financially struggling families and seniors, as well as set up rural transportation and housing for people experiencing poverty.

She left the AEOA in 2016 to pursue her Bush fellowship and later served four years as Director of CareerForce Centers and programming at DEED. CareerForce is a career resource program for job seekers and employers. It has

50 locations in Minnesota and Janatopoulos oversaw 150 workers within the state.

Janatopoulos got her start in government as an assistant to the late St. Louis County Commissioner Liz Prebich, an experience that taught her how the government — and local elected officials — can impact the lives of people in a positive and meaningful way.

She has attracted the notice of top state officials over the years and was appointed by both Republican and DFL governors to serve on a variety of state commissions addressing issues ranging from economic security to LGBTQ protections.

It's a background that she believes leaves her well-prepared to be an effective Iron Range lawmaker. "I think it's a great fit, that varied background and that connection to policy," Janatopoulos said. "I would love the job. I know the work... and people know me. They know the work I've done in the community. That varied background and those kinds of connections I think will translate very well to the state Legislature."

Once the wife of a miner working at Eveleth Taconite — and especially through her time working with the IRRR — Janatopoulos knows the

important role mining plays in the region and says she'll defend the industry and the jobs it represents, including the safe harvesting of copper/nickel.

"I think that it's necessary as we transition to a green economy, make the next energy transition, that we're going to need those precious metals and we can do that responsibly," Janatopoulos said. "We need to do that, and we need copper/nickel mining for that transition."

Janatopoulos takes an "all-of-the-above" approach to economic development and resource production, and sees merit in advancing metals recycling as well as mining.

"I don't think some things are either/or proposition, and we also need economic diversification as best we can in this area, so that we maintain a strong, rural economy." It's an economic strategy consistent with the theme of her campaign: Iron Range Strong.

Rep. Lislegard, who narrowly won his third term in office in 2022, lauded Janatopoulos in a press release backing her candidacy. "Lorrie is strong, independent, experienced, and will stand up for people's rights. She will not be bullied or intimidated." Janatopoulos said she likes Lislegard's style and

respects his ability to garner bipartisan support. "I would like to follow in his footsteps," Janatopoulos said. "I think he's been a good legislator."

Janatopoulos said she considers the ability to find common ground between parties to be one of the most important attributes a legislator can possess, and believes she has the skill set to continue bipartisan cooperation in the same spirit as Lislegard. "I think that being able to cross the aisle is extremely important," Janatopoulos said. "I've always considered myself a consensus builder, a bridge builder, if you will."

Janatopoulos has been endorsed by the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees, the Minnesota Nurses Association, Stonewall DFL, and EMILYs List, among others.

Janatopoulos, who ran unopposed in the Aug. 13 primary, will face off against Republican Cal Warwas in the Nov. 5 general election. Warwas, a Clinton Township supervisor and a third-generation miner, easily defeated perennial candidate Matt Matasich in the Aug. 13 primary, with 2,588 votes to 485 for Matasich. The *Timberjay* will profile Warwas in an upcoming issue.

ARTIFACTS...Continued from page 1

our current modern cultural society. In our society, only certain people could know certain things. Having these additional pieces brought back, we're filling in the gaps of the knowledge we have currently, and hopefully we can bring it back more to the general community of the tribe."

Getting to Canada

In 1909, 38-year-old Albert B. Reagan was assigned to the Nett Lake School by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Reagan had previous experience in schools in Arizona and New Mexico and was quickly promoted to superintendent of the Nett Lake school. He was also designated as the special disbursement agent, responsible for distributing annual federal allotments to band members. Through his work with the BIA, Reagan developed a keen interest in documenting Native cultures, and in his later years became a professor of anthropology at Brigham Young University. He was noted for his research into Native relics, legends, and pictographs, publishing

numerous books and over 500 scholarly articles.

He brought that general interest to Nett Lake at a time when many scholars believed that Native cultures would soon become extinct.

"Back then, a lot of historians, a lot of the people that documented Ojibwe culture were under the impression that Native people weren't going to exist in the next 50 years," Strong said. "So, they wanted to document and save a lot of the culture and the history and the language."

In 1911, Reagan came into contact with Edward Sapir, the head of a new division of anthropology at the Canadian museum who wanted to obtain items for their growing collection. With a buyer in place, Reagan set about getting items he could sell to the museum.

"One of the things that Albert Reagan was doing was taking a lot of stuff by any means," Strong said. "There are notes of him waiting on people going

out for a funeral and putting things out in the woods, and he'd wait for them to leave and then he would go and find them."

But Reagan also bought items from band members.

"Eventually after so much begging or talking he was able to work out a deal, and a lot of times these items were underpriced," Strong said. In one example Strong provided, Reagan bought an item for \$3 and sold it to the museum for \$19, plus postage. Eventually, Sapir decided to stop collecting items from the United States, and the exodus of items from Nett Lake to Canada stopped.

"The good thing about it was because he was an anthropologist, a lot of the stuff is pretty well documented — who he got it from, who he talked to, how much he paid for it, and some of the backstories behind a lot of this stuff," Strong said.

Repatriation

Strong said that former Band executive director Fred McDougal expressed interest in having the col-

lection returned to the band in the 1980s or 1990s.

"He said that one of his interests when he was working as the executive director was trying to track down some of these items that were rumored to have gone missing," Strong said. "The story was that Albert took (redacted) and he was looking for them because he heard that Reagan had taken them or gotten them somehow."

At the time, museum officials weren't interested in discussing giving the collection back, but times have changed, Strong said, and the museum is now working to return items not only to Bois Forte, but to other First Nations tribes in Canada.

Strong and tribal council member Robert Moyer Jr. went to the museum in Ottawa earlier this year to view the collection and to make sure that the items were being treated in accordance with the band's principles.

"They had taken pictures prior to us going there for their records, and we told them that we don't want them taking any more pictures, and we don't want them to be handled any

more, if they can avoid it," Strong said.

And the pair also paid appropriate respect to the items.

"When we went up to Canada we feasted them, we offered tobacco to them, and we made sure that when we left, we had some cedar by each of these pieces," Strong said.

But getting the collection back is more involved than simply driving up to get it, and Strong described some of the issues. It was common practice in the early 1900s for museums to use toxic chemicals like arsenic, mercury, and carbolic acid as preservatives and pesticides. While the hazard is minor today, skin and respiratory irritations are possible if chemicals are present. The museum has offered to test the items for toxic residue — the band must decide if they want the museum to do that, Strong said.

The museum has also offered to do restoration work on many of the items. Some have been marked with cataloguing letters and numbers that could possibly be removed. Others have pieces of wood that

were glued to them to facilitate display in the museum. And some beaded items have frayed. The Band will have to decide if the restoration work should be done, weighing the potential risk of damaging or altering pieces in the process as well as the tolerance for the additional handling required. Strong noted that any testing or restoration will affect the timing of when items can be returned. Another question needing an answer from the Bois Forte community is how the items should be received upon their return, Strong said. Should there be a welcoming ceremony, what items should or shouldn't be put on display for Band members, and if displayed where and for how long? Storage is another consideration. Strong said that space at the Bois Forte Heritage Museum is limited, and that they are evaluating the current collection to see where they might make room for the repatriated items. The tribal council has indicated their support for buying more storage units, which are extremely expensive, Strong said. Some items will be suitable for display in the center and perhaps used to replace or enhance current displays, while the nature of other items would require that they be kept out of general view.

Monday's meeting was the first in a series of community conversations Strong intends to hold to get input to inform the necessary decisions. He said he would also hold conversations with various individuals to get their takes. Strong said he hopes to complete these activities this fall so that the band can move forward with the repatriation process in the spring.

Band members who would like to contact Strong with their views or with questions about the collection can contact him by calling the Heritage Center at 218-753-6017 or by email at Jaylen.strong@boisforte-nsn.gov.

Tower-Soudan Civic Club

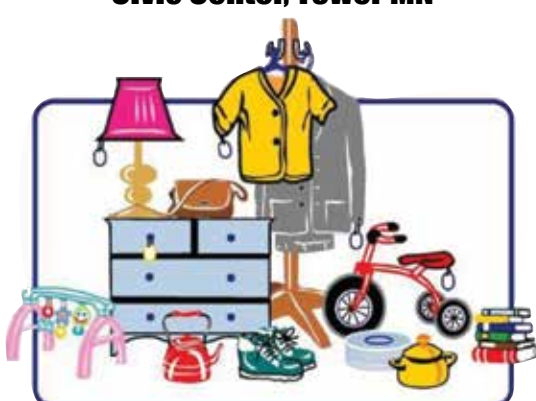
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BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Residents approve seven-percent levy increase

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

SOUDAN- Residents of Breitung Township approved a 2025 levy of \$740,000 on a 9-1 vote at their reconvened annual meeting held here on Aug. 15. The levy, which marked a seven-percent increase over the township's 2024 levy of \$690,000, has been rising steadily since 2017, when local taxpayers shelled out \$489,660 to help fund the township's operations.

Town chair Tim Tomsich was elected as moderator for last week's meeting.

Tomsich explained that \$10,000 of this year's increase was earmarked to cover increases in part-time wages, payroll tax costs, insurance costs, and workers compensation insurance.

A \$40,000 increase was earmarked to rebuild the township's road and bridge fund after spending in this account the past two years has used up most of

the township's reserves. Tomsich said he felt this might need to be the new normal for the road and bridge fund.

"We use this money for local matches for grants for our road projects," said Tomsich, who explained that this year the township has several major road projects underway, as well as the money spent repairing flood damage from the June storm.

"The township is doing a lot of work at once," he said. "The flood showed us how vulnerable we are to major expenses."

Tomsich said the township was able to do a lot of the flood repair work using its own maintenance staff and equipment, but they did need to hire outside contractors for some of the repairs needed. While the township should be eligible for federal and state reimbursement for much of the flood-related work, the money will not be available for a year or longer.

"The cost of everything with

road construction has risen so much," said maintenance supervisor Tom Gorsma. "A simple job that was \$5,000 now is \$8,000 or \$9,000."

"These increases will set us up for future year's road improvements," Tomsich said.

Current road projects include work on Church St., Stuntz Bay Rd., Echo Point Rd., and Thompson Farm Rd. The township has received \$544,000 from MnDOT's Local Road Improvement Program, or LRIP, for the Thompson Farm Rd. work, along with grants from the IRRR, DNR, and Prospector's Trail group. The township has also received CDBG grant funding for work done in Soudan proper.

The Stuntz Bay Rd. project is being funded by the DNR, but the township is responsible for engineering costs. The IRRR is helping with engineering costs, but that still leaves half the engineering costs for the township.

The township has another

application into the IRRR for engineering work on the Thompson Farm Rd. project, which is expected to get underway next year. The current shortfall on that project is as much as \$400,000. Tomsich said if additional IRRR funding isn't available, the township will need to look at scaling back the project, completing it over several years, or simply not doing the project. The project will reroute the gravel road to give more access to township gravel reserves and create a safer roadway, as well as creating a route from the new ATV state park campground, which is currently under construction, into Soudan and Tower.

"We are asking more than usual from our taxpayers," said Tomsich.

The township normally sets its levy at the annual meeting in March, but this year delayed the process, due to uncertainties with grant funding for the Thompson Farm project.

Flooding updates

The township has submitted an application to FEMA to be reimbursed for flood-related costs. Clerk Amber Zak has been working with Gorsma to track money and hours spent on each individual repair project completed.

The Breitung Water Commission has approved giving residents \$5,000 no-interest loans to help with flood recovery costs. The loans would be paid back at \$50 per month. The commission has a similar loan program in place for residents who need to replace leaking lateral sewer or water lines.

Supervisor Matt Tuchel said that work done over the past ten years actually mitigated the amount of flood damage residents experienced.

"It took a lot more rain to do damage this year," he said. The work done fixing sewer lines, both

See...BREITUNG pg 12

FAIR...Continued from page 1

The kiddie parade will assemble in the Kids Area in front of the Timber Hall and start on Sunday at 11:30 a.m. Decorate your bikes and trikes, big wheels, and wagons – wear a costume or be yourself.

The finale parade is at 4 p.m. on Sunday. The route will be in reverse from past years. Line-up will take place between Hanka Nevala Rd. and the ice arena. The parade will

finish at Waisanen Road. Spectators are encouraged to bring chairs and spread out along the route.

This year, the north gate (by the horse arena) will be the entrance and the south gate (across from the Nelimark) will be the exit. Cars will be routed across grass to a ticket booth where fairgoers will be able to buy their wristbands. Drivers will be directed to fill the parking lot from the back to

the front (west end to east end). People needing handicap accessible parking will be directed to park near the Timber Hall and must

display a handicap parking permit.

Breakfast in the Timber Hall, fair food all weekend, bingo under the eaves,

the mud run on Saturday, the demolition derby on Sunday, classic car and truck show, and more. Visit the information booth

outside Timber Hall for a weekend schedule, or find the schedule online at www.embarrassrfa.org/fair.



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Hospital Connection

Community Projects

Q: EBCH Kids' Wellness Carnival?
A: Last week, EBCH held its Kids' Wellness Carnival with several local partner agencies, including Northwoods Partners, Well Being Development, ISD 696, Ely Community Resources, and Range Mental Health. Over 80 kids and their families participated in a fun evening geared toward teaching youth aged Kindergarten through fourth grade more about their social, emotional, intellectual, and physical well-being. Kids were offered a free goodie bag filled with local resource information and pizza. They also had the opportunity to explore stations with projects geared toward each area of wellness.

Q: What is the Life Jacket Loaner box project with local EMS?
A: Earlier this summer, EBCH partnered with local EMS organizations from Babbitt, Ely, and Tower to help create Life Jacket Loaner boxes. The EMS teams constructed the boxes, and EBCH supplied the lifejackets. Safe Kids NE Minnesota website lists the locations for Life Jacket Loaner boxes throughout the region.

Q: What is coming up for other community projects?
A: EBCH has already started planning our free flu shot clinics for Fall. As in previous years, we will offer various dates and times when community members can come to a central location for their annual vaccination. Our first event will take place at the Northern Lights 5K Glow Run on September 20, 2024, in Whiteside Park. Watch the local papers and our Facebook page for upcoming details.

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.

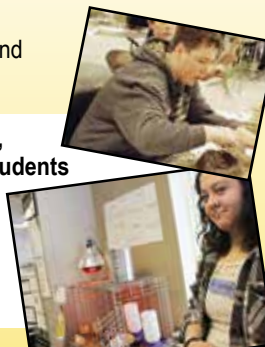
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EMBARRASS

Cow-handling fun at team penning and ranch sorting

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

EMBARRASS- Yearling calves kept wannabe cowpokes busy as the annual team penning and ranch sorting competition got underway in Embarrass last weekend. The event drew riders from across the area who competed over the three-day event.

In team penning, groups of three riders compete to get three specific calves, which have numbers on their sides, moved from a group of 30 calves, each numbered 0-9, at one end of the horse arena into a small pen at the opposite end. As the riders enter the arena, the number for the calves is called out. The first job is identifying the correct calves, and then the riders need to try to coax those calves away from the others, bunched up against the fence.

Of course, the calves do not understand the rules of the game, and even if a calf ends up in the pen, it might decide to just wander back out before the time buzzer rings. By Saturday after-

noon, the calves did seem to have a better idea of the rules, and more teams were getting three calves into the pen in time. There are multiple groups of calves that get rotated in and out of the arena.

Riders have only a few minutes to complete their task. Teams earn a score if one, two, or three calves are properly penned. Of course, other calves sometimes get mixed in, and it only takes one "junk" calf to throw out that score. At the end of the day, teams with the fastest time and three calves win cash prizes, paid out from the entry fees.

All the available slots filled up and competition going on well into the early evening on Saturday. Forty-six teams competed in team penning on Friday and 70 on Saturday. Ninety teams competed in ranch sorting on Sunday.

The fast run for the two days of team penning and a \$300 additional prize, which was sponsored by NorthShore Mining, was won by Maija Peterson, Martin Schwartz, and Sigurd Noyes, who also won a \$504 purse for the fastest run on Satur-



Above: Dona Schwartz works to round up a calf. Below left: Tuuli Nelson, not yet big enough to be part of the action, gets a fence-eye view. Below right: Sigurd Noyes won a sack of horse feed as part of the rider raffle. photos by J. Summit

day. Friday results: First place (\$330) was Brent Christiansen, Martin Schwartz, and Dona Schwartz. Second place (\$291) was Deb Mazo, Dona Schwartz, and June Burrows. Third place (\$207) was Deb Mazo, Martin Schwartz, and Les Mazo.

Saturday results: First place (\$504) was Maija Peterson, Martin Schwartz, and Sigurd Noyes. Second place (\$441) was Lynda Shively, Redbarn Connolly, and June Burrows. Third place (\$315) was Dona Schwartz, Mar-



tin Schwartz, and Billy Mitchell.

Sunday Ranch Sorting attracted 90 teams.



First place (\$864) was Deb Mazo and Billy Mitchell. Second place (\$756) was Jeff Thurlow and Dian-

na Thurlow. Third place (\$540) was Sami Birklund and Martin Schwartz.

BREITUNG...Continued from page 11

township and the lines going into homes, meant less stormwater infiltration into the sewer system, he said. Also, the township has worked on improving the rainwater drainage from the mine hill, so that water doesn't enter the sewer system.

"We've invested millions of dollars in our infrastructure," Tuchel said, "but apparently it wasn't enough." The township

will be looking at ways to prevent additional sewer line backups after torrential rains, especially for those living south of Hwy. 169 in the South St. area.

Two residents on South St. said they were denied FEMA help, but Tuchel, who also lives in Soudan, said his was approved.

The two residents said they were denied because they had sew-

er-backup coverage as part of their homeowners' insurance, but that paid out only \$5,000, nowhere near the total cost of repairs needed. Tuchel said he also had that coverage, and wondered why those claims would be denied. Homeowners are able to appeal the initial FEMA denial.

Police Report

Police Chief Dan Reing reported he has

been enforcing curfews for teenagers who are out after curfew hours (only allowed if with a parent). They are also continuing to enforce ATV rules for teenage drivers, though Reing said complaints are down.

Arrests in July included one adult female arrested for fourth degree DWI, three juveniles arrested for 2nd degree felony assault (with the fourth ju-

venile arrested by an outside agency).

The department issued 20 driving-related citations, including 15 for speeding, including multiple drivers going 80 or over in a 60 mph zone, and three drivers going 69 or 70 in a 50 mph zone. A citation was also issued to a juvenile male driving 65 in a 40 mph zone.

A request from Reing to have the township hire

part-time clerical support was tabled so the township could talk to the city of Tower about sharing the cost, as well as find out if this worker would be a union employee. Reing said he thought that four hours per week would be sufficient to help with the increasing paperwork load, and allow officers to spend more time patrolling, and less time in the office.

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ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Tax forfeit auctions back on in wake of court ruling

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- After a 14-month hiatus, St. Louis County is back in the business of auctioning off tax-forfeited properties, while charting a new course made necessary by a U.S. Supreme Court decision that caused the temporary halt.

In May 2023, the Supreme Court ruled in

Tyler v. Hennepin County that Minnesota's tax forfeiture system was unconstitutional because it violated the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment. The court ruled that Hennepin County violated Geraldine Tyler's constitutional rights when it sold her condo for \$40,000 to cover \$15,000 in delinquent property taxes and kept the remaining \$25,000. The court found that the county's

actions were unconstitutional because the surplus was not returned to Tyler, the property owner.

In response to the ruling, the Minnesota Legislature approved new laws in 2024 that provide new rules for managing and selling tax-forfeited properties. The state also agreed to pay \$109 million to settle two class action lawsuits filed by Minnesota residents who had

Right: This small island is one of three in Burntside Lake available in St. Louis County's current tax-forfeited property auction.
submitted photo

similar experiences.

Bidders won't see a change from past auctions for the one that began this past week, Deputy

See AUCTION...pg. 2B



OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

One piece at a time

Tower outdoorswoman hikes the Superior Hiking Trail, bit by bit

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- No one would ever accuse Pam Wetering of shying away from an outdoor challenge. She kayaks and camps frequently. She winter-camps in remote places. She skis into remote lakes to fish through the ice. But hiking the full 310 miles of the rugged Superior Hiking Trail, while working a full-time job, was more than she could take on— at least all at once.

The 54-year-old Wetering, who lives on a small homestead in rural Tower, had done some backpacking over the years, including about 45 miles of the northernmost section of the Superior Hiking Trail back in 2013. But she never imagined finishing the entire trail.

That changed after joining up with an area group, known as the IRC Adventure Club, which organized regular group hikes around the Arrowhead. The hiking group would meet most often on late afternoons on Thursdays, usually at the Redhead mountain biking trails in Chisholm, a time that usually fit her work schedule as a laborer at Minntac.

Above: Pat Wetering pauses for a selfie with one of the dozens of waterfalls and rapids she encountered while traversing the entire 310 miles of the Superior Hiking Trail.

Right: One of the many markers that appear along the trail to keep hikers on the right path.

Lower right: A hiker in the background makes his way along a boardwalk partially covered in colorful fallen leaves.
photos by P. Wetering



“My doctor told me I shouldn't be backpacking, but my knee didn't slow me down.”

Pam Wetering

“It was a fun way to meet people,” she said. One of the guys in the group, Zach Johns, was hiking the Superior Hiking Trail over time, biting off chunks of the trail over the course of a year and he was looking for help with the logistics and shuttling. Johns had

See HIKING...pg. 2B



COURT RULINGS

Ely climate speaker talks impact of Chevron decision

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- One of the lawyers who worked on the case that became known as the foundation for the so-called “Chevron doctrine” spoke in Ely last week about its recent demise at the hands of the U.S. Supreme Court.

David Doniger argued the original case, *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council*, before the Supreme Court back in 1984. Doniger's local presentation, “Agencies and Judges: After Chevron, What's Next?” was hosted by the Ely Climate Group on Aug. 13.

The Chevron ruling hinged on the view by the 1980s high court that when a federal statute is ambiguous, a federal agency's reasonable interpretation of the law requires deference from the courts. At the time, it was a 6-0 victory for Chevron, as two justices were ill during arguments and another justice was recused.

The view expressed by the high court went on to be cited as clear precedent in over 18,000 subsequent cases throughout the federal judiciary. While the decision, which came during the Reagan administration, was originally seen as a conservative victory, conservatives turned against it in more recent years as Democrats have begun to consistently win the White House, which has considerable influence over the direction of the federal agencies.

With an overwhelming conservative majority now on the high court, the justices used the case known as *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo* to overturn the Chevron doctrine.

The Chevron doctrine

The 1984 lawsuit hinged on an interpretation of the Clean Air Act of 1963 and a new interpretation of a “pollution source” by the Reagan administration. The Environmental Protection Agency had initially

See CHEVRON...pg. 3B



David Doniger

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HIKING..Continued from page 1B

hiked the trail straight-thru 25 years earlier but was doing it in segments this time around. Wettering decided to join him on some hikes last fall and got hooked on the possibility of taking on the entire trail. She soon started logging her own miles towards trail completion.

The logistics of section-hiking can be complicated. Hikers can choose to park their car and hike out-and-back, or if they can find a buddy, can park cars at the opposite ends of their planned section and not have to double back, completing day hikes or longer overnights. Some will complete the trail in three or four week-long sections, but others will break it up into even smaller parts, to fit in with work and life commitments.

Johns lent Wettering his Superior Hiking Trail Guidebook, and she was off and running, or perhaps we should say hiking. The book details the trail section by section, including parking areas, campgrounds, water sources, and all the rest of the information needed by a serious hiker.

"When I started last Labor Day weekend with Zach," she said, "I hadn't planned on hiking the whole trail." But soon the idea was there, and while she wasn't going to complete the trail in a single calendar year, she did decide to try to complete the entire trail in a 12-month period.

She started out mostly with day hikes last fall and winter, car camping at state parks, and hitting different sections of the trail that were nearby. She often hiked alone, but grew to appreciate hiking with a group, with three friends often joining her on the trail this summer, which made the time and miles go by much faster.

Wettering said her pace varied, depending on whether or not she was carrying a backpack versus a daypack.

"We hiked pretty fast with days packs," she said, "averaging 2.9 to 3 miles an hour."

But with a fully loaded backpack weighing 25-30



Wettering pauses for a photo from one of the many overlooks along the Superior Hiking Trail, which follows a series of ridges just inland from the big lake.

pounds, it was closer to 2.5 miles an hour. How many miles per day depended on the terrain and weather. Twelve miles with loaded backpacks meant a long day.

"I recently met a through hiker (someone doing the trail all at once) who was doing 20 miles a day," she said, which she felt was beyond her ability. But most of the hikers she met were either out for a day or two, or doing sections, like she was. Overall, she found the trail mostly empty, and said she never had a problem finding an empty campsite.

She hiked her final section of trail on Aug. 4, a little over 11 months from her hike last Labor Day weekend. It took 45 individual hikes that she recorded on a map, coloring in each section once it was completed.

"It was a lot of driving," she admitted, "and also a lot of logistics figuring out each section." But while working full-time at Minntac, doing the trail all at once, or in larger sections, was not going to work.

The accomplishment

is even more impressive because Wettering injured her knee a few years ago and was told she needed knee replacement surgery.

"My doctor told me I shouldn't be backpacking," she said. "But my knee didn't slow me down."

She did work to lighten her backpack as much as possible, investing in an ultralight tent and backpacking stove, using dehydrated food out on the trail, limiting the clothes she carried, and not bringing her big camera. Wettering's other hobby is nature photography, and she has a professional camera setup, but on the trail, she relies on her iPhone for photos.

Hiking was often challenging, especially this summer when early rains turned large portions of the trail into deep mud.

"They want you to hike through the mud," she said, "and not widen out the trail." The mud was not kind to her hiking boots. By the end of her trek, they were mostly worn out. Her daughter Sierra, who met her on the trail as she finished the final section, gave Wettering a gift certificate good for a new pair. Then

Learn more

The Superior Hiking Trail Association sells guidebooks, maps, and other items. Their website also keeps up-to-date information on trail conditions, closures, and other information for hikers such as shuttle services.

The Superior Hiking Trail Association publishes the official trail guidebook, databook, and trail maps. These critical trip planning tools are available for purchase on the association's website or at the group's trail information center in Two Harbors, and at selected retail locations, including outdoor gear shops and state park gift shops.

The association recently released the Trail Atlas of the Superior Hiking Trail, which is also available

in a digital format on the Avenza Maps mobile app.

Trail stats

The Superior Hiking Trail is a 310-mile long hiking trail in northeastern Minnesota that follows the rocky ridges overlooking Lake Superior for most of its length. The trail travels through forests of birch, aspen, pine, fir, and cedar. The elevation gain is where the challenge lies: the trail fluctuates between 602 and 1,829 feet and climbs a total of 37,821 feet over the course of the 269-mile section. Downhills are just as frequent, so the net gain is actually only 449 feet.

Thru-hikers: Most hikers take 2-4 weeks to complete the entire trail in one trip, although most hikers break it up into sections.

as let others track her location. She purchased the Garmin a few years ago, after a huge storm blew through while she was on a solo backpacking trip on the Kekakabic Trail in the Boundary Waters, where there is no cell service. She finished the hike, safe and sound, but found dozens of messages from her daughter who had been quite worried. The Garmin solved that problem.

Other than that, she has no issues with hiking and backpacking on her own, though she admits sometimes it can get boring.

"I've never run into anyone scary," she said, and the scariest wildlife encounters have also been pretty tame. She always hoped to see a moose, but never has. She hasn't had any issues with bears while camping, either. This summer, while hiking with some other members of the hiking club, they came across a young hawk that appeared to be injured.

"We picked it up and then put it back down, but it just flopped around," she said. They waited for a while, but didn't see any adult hawk in the area, and the hawk still wasn't moving around. They put a call into the Minnesota Raptor Center and sent them a video of the hawk. They took turns carrying the hawk for 10 miles, meeting up with a volunteer who drove the hawk to the center. It turned out the bird was healthy, and shortly afterwards it was returned to the wild. In hindsight, she said, they should have left the hawk alone.

As for future hiking plans, she is planning some backpacking time on the Powwow Trail in the Boundary Waters this fall. She hopes to do the Border Route Trail next year, as well as the Anglemorm Trail, which she has done previously, but some of her hiking friends have not. And further down the road, she has her sights on the Buffalo River Trail in northern Arkansas, which has plenty of waterfalls to photograph.

Pam, Sierra, and Sierra's fiancé Brett went and celebrated with a meal out in Grand Marais.

The mosquitos and flies this summer were also unpleasant. Wettering invested in a bug shirt with mosquito netting in the body and hood, which worked just fine but was hot to hike in and sometimes hard to see through.

One particularly hot day in late June left Wettering with heat exhaustion while alone on the trail.

"I kind of lost it," she said. "I was hiking alone and started getting light-headed and was feeling disoriented." She had hiked 38 miles the three days previous with friends, so was tired to start with. Though she was hiking alone, she was sharing her location with one of her hiking friends, who noticed her lack of progress and called to check on her. Wettering had stopped to rest on the trail, and her friend urged her to rest, drink, and eat, and she was able to complete the rest of the day's hike since she was only a mile from her car.

Some days, she opted to start hiking very early,

even before the sun was up, to beat the heat.

The trail itself is very well maintained, Wettering said, and it was never hard to stay on track. The trail is marked with blue blazes on trees, and wooden informational signs at spots with the trail intersects with roads or state park trails and paired with the detailed trail information in the guidebook, meant she never felt lost.

Her favorite sections were the ones with waterfalls. Wettering has traveled widely to photograph waterfalls, and loved stopping on the trail to take time to get good shots, often to the dismay of hiking partners who wanted to keep moving. Her least favorite part of the trail was a section that goes right along the shore of Lake Superior, which was rough and rocky to hike across. And while she enjoyed the southern parts of the trail's scenery, the overlooks in the north, such as on Oberg Mountain (a very popular fall day hike) were spectacular.

Cell service is available on most trail sections, but not others, so Wettering used a Garmin device that let her send texts, as well

AUCTION..Continued from page 1B

County Administrator Julie Marinucci told the Timberjay on Tuesday.

"This auction will feel the same as previous auctions, as the properties fall outside of the legislative changes enacted last spring," Marinucci said.

A full list of the 55 properties, including buildable lots, recreational land, waterfront properties, and even three islands in Burntside Lake, including photos, maps, and starting bid prices, is available online at stlouiscountymn.gov/landsales. To be eligible to bid, participants must not have any delinquent property taxes on properties they currently own in St. Louis County. Bidding on the auction site, public-surplus.com, will continue until 11 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 29.

Additionally, a separate online auction for two waterfront properties on Elbow and Bear Island lakes from the county's former shoreland lease program will run from Sept. 6-16. More details are available at stlouiscountymn.gov/shorelandsales.

St. Louis County plans another online auction from Sept. 19 to Oct. 3, featuring more recently forfeited properties which will be sold under the new rules enacted by the Legislature.

Impact of the changes

Before the Supreme

Court ruling, St. Louis County was able to use the proceeds from tax-forfeited property sales for a blight remediation program, Marinucci said. "Revenue generated from the sale of properties was reinvested in the cleanup and demolition of blighted properties and in some cases strategically reinvesting in properties to salvage the asset," she said. "Any monies remaining annually were apportioned to the local taxing districts, including cities, townships, schools and the county."

Now, any surplus in excess of past taxes due must be returned to the owner, leaving the county with only the tax amount to work with.

"With the hiatus from land sales and the impact of the new legislation, it will take some time for the Lands and Minerals Department to rebuild our management system, with the goal to return to proac-

tive blight management and ability to apportion monies again," Marinucci said.

The county manages nearly 900,000 acres of

tax-forfeited land, primarily for resource management, but also encourages sales of land unsuitable for management to foster

development and boost the property tax base.

For more information on land sales, visit stlouiscountymn.gov/landsales

or contact the Land and Minerals Department at 218-726-2606 or landdept@stlouiscountymn.gov.



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Obituaries and Death Notices



Duane E. Kittelson

Duane Edward Kittelson, 89, of Lake Vermilion-Tower, passed away on Monday, Aug. 12, 2024, at Essentia Health in Virginia. A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 27 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. Fellowship will follow immediately after the service. For floral memorials, please call Amy Vesel at One Pine Flower Farm, 218-780-5600. A second service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7 at First Lutheran Church in Albert Lea. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Duane was born on Aug. 22, 1934, in Albert Lea, and married Darlene

Lois Peterson on May 9, 1953. They enjoyed 71 years of marriage. Together they had three children, one grandson and four great-grandchildren. His career with J.C. Penney Co. spanned 41 years, and included stores in Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. But he and Darlene returned to their beautiful Lake Vermilion property, which they have enjoyed since 1958.



Lucille Carlson

Lucille Carlson, 93, passed away on August 17, 2024. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 6, 2024, at Mattson Funeral Home, 343 North Shore Drive, Forest Lake, Minn. Family will be greeting friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Burial at Resurrec-

tion Cemetery, Mendota Heights.

Lucille was born on January 23, 1931, in Tower, Minn., on the Iron Range, one of the coldest spots in the nation and one of the most beautiful. She attended the Tower-Soudan schools and St. Martin's Catholic Church. Lucille married Marvin Carlson from Duluth in 1949, and lived in Duluth, then Ely, where they had their three sons, Larry, Glenn, & Alan. They then moved to Minneapolis. As their children grew up, along with being a homemaker, Lucille worked as a secretary and attended classes at the University of Minnesota. Later, through creative writing classes, she became a published writer. She received a book award from the Billy Graham Decision School of Christian Writing, and published articles in the *Star Tribune*, *Pioneer Press* and other newspapers and poetry in *Decision Magazine* and other magazines. Lucille was a member of the Christian Writer's Guild, St. Peter's Catholic Church and other Christian groups, American Legion Axillary, and WOW. They moved to Forest Lake in 1992 and built a new home.

The most important thing in her life was her family and her Christian faith. Marvin and Lucille had the joy of sharing in the marriages of their sons and some of their grandchildren and many family trips and gatherings. Marvin and Lucille also had the joy of celebrating their 50th anniversary surrounded by family. Marvin preceded her in death and so did their son, Larry, and grandson, Alan William. She then joined WOW (widows & widowers' organization) and began writing a book on caregiving.

She is preceded in death by parents; husband of 50 years, Marvin; son, Larry; infant grandson, Alan William; daughter-in-law, Shirly; sister, Ann; brother, Dean.

She is survived by sons, Alan, Glenn (Beth); grandchildren; and numerous great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers memorial can be made out to Our Lady of Peace Hospice in St. Paul.

Lee R. Aho

Lee R. Aho, 71, of Babbitt, passed away peacefully at home with his wife by his side, on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2024.

A memorial gathering will be held on Saturday, Sept. 7 at the Babbitt Golf Course from noon to 4 p.m. A luncheon will be provided. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his wife, Diane Novak Aho; dog and former co-worker, Nina; brothers, LeRoy (Cheryl) and Lawrence (Lauren); sisters, Judy Von Wald, Janet Bratlien and Jean Wichern; and many special nieces and nephews.

Shirley M. Bixby

Shirley M. Bixby, 87, of Cook, passed away peacefully on Friday, Aug. 16, 2024. A celebration of life will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 28 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook with visitation from 1-2 p.m. and a funeral service at 2 p.m. Immediately following the service, there will be a gathering with coffee in the church basement. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Larry T. Vezina

Larry Theodore Vezina, 83, of Bigfork, passed away on Friday, Aug. 16, 2024, at Bigfork Valley Hospital. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 23 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Leola Chrisman Vezina; sister Brenda Pocquette; children, Julie (Jack) LeBlanc, Greg (Lesley) Vezina and Sandy (Gino) Anselmo; 15 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Barbara L. Heino

Barbara Louise Esala Heino, 82, of Tierra Verde, Fla., who grew up in Pike-Sandy, died on Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024, after a long battle against cancer. A memorial service was held on Saturday, Aug. 17 at Grace Lutheran Church in St. Petersburg, Fla. Family services were provided by Behm Funeral Home of Geneva, Ohio.

She is survived by four children; fourteen grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

CHEVRON...Continued from page 1B

defined a pollution source as any significant change or addition to a plant or factory, like a new boiler or generator. Reagan's EPA sought to change that.

Doniger explained: "Congress in 1977 had passed amendments creating an enhanced program for pollution controls on sources that were going to be built in the most polluted cities. What did the Reagan administration do? They changed the definition of a source so that it exempted about 90 percent of the objects that otherwise would have been subject to these pollution control requirements."

The EPA issued a new interpretation in 1981 that allowed an entire factory or plant to be considered a source. The revised definition allowed companies to skip the EPA new-source review process if the pollution introduced by a change was balanced by emission cuts of equal magnitude elsewhere in a facility.

In 1982, the Natural Resources Defense Council petitioned the D.C. court of appeals to challenge the legality of the administration's new definition of source. As a young lawyer working on the case, Doniger related what happened next: "We sued. We won in the court of appeals in Washington D.C. That decision was written by Ruth Bader Ginsburg when she was still on that court. But it was a screwy decision."

In Ginsburg's decision, the appellate court found that the EPA's new interpretation of "source" conflicted with interpretations in prior court cases,

ruling that the new interpretation was thereby invalid.

Doniger outlined two previous cases that dealt with the definition of source: "The way the D.C. circuit court works is you draw a three-judge panel randomly. (In) each of these cases, we got different three-judge panels... The first one ruled, as we thought it should, that the term was super clear and couldn't be evaded in this way, striking down a regulation that the Ford administration had issued that tried to do that."

"The second case came up during the Carter administration. The judges were more conservative (in this case). Those judges said ... it's okay to have the lenient definition, because the particular program (challenged in the lawsuit) was not intended to reduce pollution, but only to limit how much worse it got."

Chevron didn't like the appellate court's decision and appealed it, which led to the Supreme Court's 1984 opinion.

Neutral doctrine

Doniger argued that the Chevron doctrine was a neutral principle that cut both ways. "Environmentalists lost as many cases under the Chevron doctrine ... You could see more progressive administrations trying to interpret ambiguity to allow for doing more, whereas the Republican administrations would try to interpret the ambiguity as a basis for doing less or nothing at all. I just want to get across that it's a neutral doctrine, and it empowered whichever administration was in power.

"Initially, the Chev-

ron doctrine got the plaudits of conservative scholars and justice judges," Doniger said. But they later soured on the principle when they discovered that the Clinton and Obama administrations could use the doctrine for more progressive objectives. The new conservatives were "people funded by the Koch brothers network and the network of right-wing billionaires."

Eventually, with prompting and financial backing from the Koch brothers, conservatives recast the Chevron doctrine as supportive of big government that restricted the liberty of individuals.

"Neil Gorsuch is actually a very, very strong exponent of this view," said Doniger. "He's just written a new book about how we have too many laws, and ... it should be hard to pass laws and issue regulations because they restrict the liberty of those who are regulated."

Doniger took issue with that view. "My answer is: what about the liberty of the people who are affected by the conduct that Congress intended to address — the people whose liberty, life, and health is damaged by air pollution, or cut short by air pollution or water pol-

lution, the people who are hurt by defective products that the Consumer Product Safety Commission is supposed to make sure are safe?"

Loper Bright

To overturn the Chevron doctrine, conservatives shopped for a sympathetic small business to front a lawsuit. That's because a small business is a more sympathetic plaintiff than a big business like Chevron. They found two small commercial fishermen and sued over the requirement that they must pay for the federal fisheries inspectors who ride on their boats.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which regulates fisheries, is silent on who should pay for federal fishery inspectors. The lawyers for fishing company Loper Bright Enterprises argued to the Supreme Court "that the law is silent," and silence doesn't empower the agency. "It's not as though the law said the National Marine Fisheries Service shall have the authority to require boat owners to pay if, in the judgment of the administrator, that's the right thing to do. The law doesn't say that. It's just silent. They

also said that the Chevron doctrine is just terrible because judges should be deciding these questions of law. They're not policy questions that should be left to agencies. The court bought this argument."

Post-Chevron doctrine

Doniger explained the new standard contained in Chief Justice Roberts' opinion on the Loper Bright case: "In deciding these questions of law, you should pay attention to what the agency thinks... that long-standing interpretation by an expert agency is entitled to respect, but not deference. In other words, (agency interpretation) would inform your view, but the judge is still the one who decides if it's right or wrong."

Doniger noted that the danger introduced by the Loper Bright decision, "which is judges having personal predilections, policy predilections, and inserting those into his or her interpretation of the law."

Doniger predicted the Loper Bright decision has already emboldened new challenges to federal regulations in the courts: "Whenever you change

the law, whenever you do that, you destabilize something which was pretty well understood and stable for 40 years. The lower courts are going to go all over the place in determining what that means."

Doniger also noted that the lawsuits have already sprung up "like popcorn" to challenge federal regulations under the new standard. "It's already happening. I'm told that there are already 40 or 50 decisions from lower courts citing this new ruling from the Loper Bright case, and we were going to have to rely on the appellate courts and the Supreme Court just to sort it out."

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Outdoors

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HUNTERS HELPING

Sportsmens groups pitching in to improve local WMA

Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters and MeatEaters Working for Wildlife plan extensive activities on Pine Island this Saturday

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

LAKE VERMILION — As many as 50 volunteers are expected to arrive on here on Saturday as part of an effort to improve wildlife habitat and public access to a little-known wildlife management area on Pine Island, near Canfield Portage Bay. Members of Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters, and Mark Kenyon of MeatEaters Working for Wildlife,

will join forces with staff from the Tower area DNR wildlife office for an intensive one-day effort to improve habitat on the site, replace or update signage, and install an informational kiosk on invasive species.

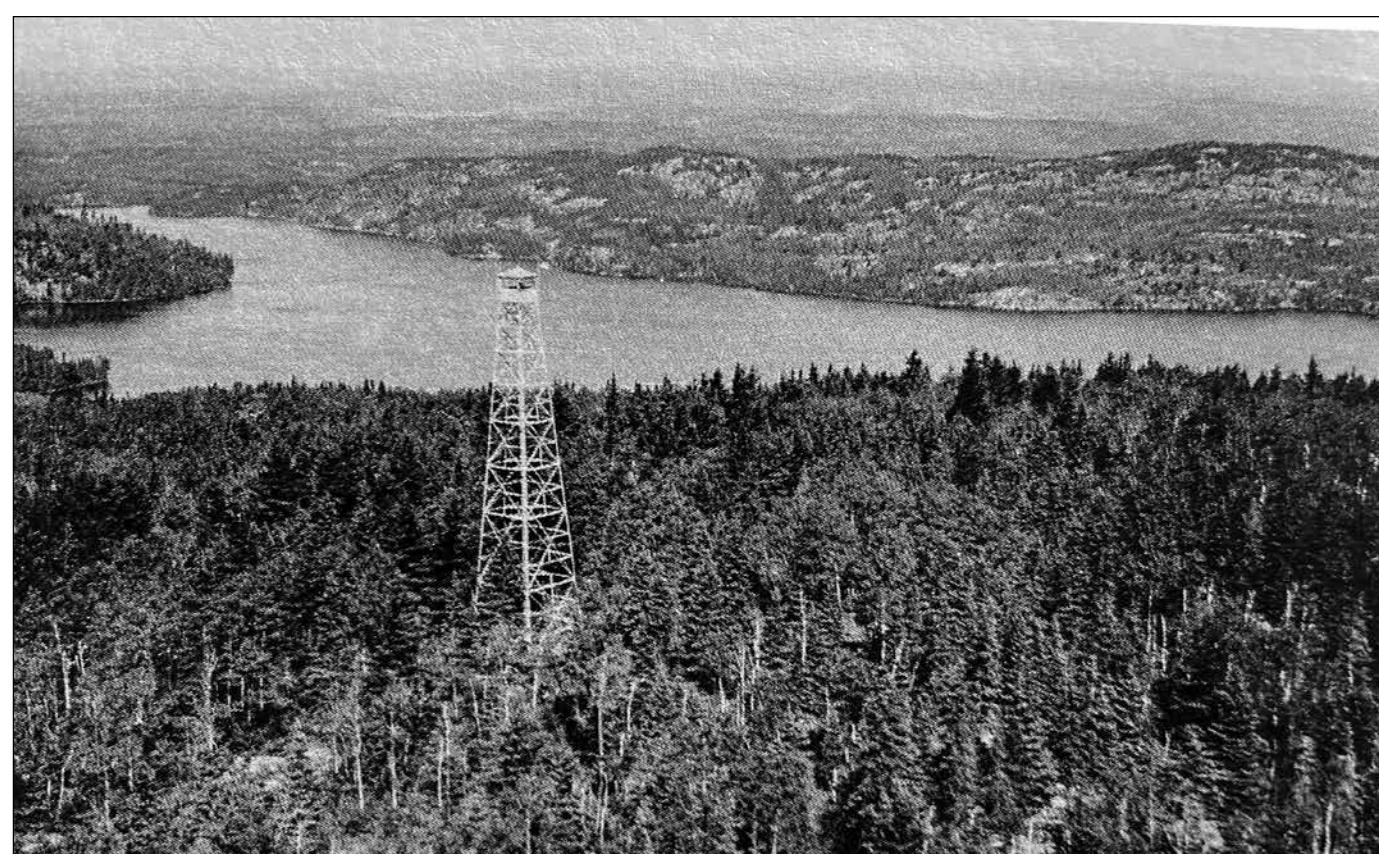
A former private landowner donated the 42-acre parcel years ago in order to help preserve the boreal forest habitat found there, which includes a white cedar grove, which provides excellent winter cover for white-tailed deer. The WMA is

Right: A weathered sign is set for a facelift as part of a work day set for Saturday at the Pine Island Wildlife Management Area.

photo courtesy Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters

located on a narrow isthmus of Pine Island that allows for access from either the north or south side of the WMA. The tract is located adjacent

See **SPORTSMEN**, pg. 5B



LOCAL HISTORY

The origins of the Kekekabic

New history booklet highlights the building of the Boundary Water's longest trail

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY — A new historical paper, published in booklet form by Becky Rom earlier this summer, highlights the origins of the 40-mile-long Kekekabic Trail, based primarily on the experiences of her father, Bill Rom Sr. during his early years with the U.S. Forest Service.

What follows are extended, lightly edited, excerpts that provide insight into the origins of what is known today as the longest and most challenging hiking trail in the Boundary Waters, stretching from Snowbank Lake on the west to the Gunflint Trail on the east.

While the trail is used for hiking today, it was originally built to provide access to four fire towers located in what is now the BWCAW.

It was an arduous task. As Rom's account notes: "Crews of 10 or 12 young men grubbed every foot of the Kek Trail with hoes; they moved rocks and leveled the ground. They cleared brush and trees with hand axes, crosscut saws, and brush scythes."

They followed a route that some earlier visitors to the area had already explored, as Rom writes: "The route across the Boundary Waters was first identified in the late 19th century as a potential location for a road or rail line. In 1891, shortly after iron ore was discovered near the end of the road now known as the Gunflint Trail, engineers from

Top: The former Kek fire tower looms over Kekekabic Lake in 1940. Those who manned the lonely tower often spent months without direct human contact.

Right: The 1938 work crew on the Kek Trail included (l-r) Ike Maki, Omund Seglem, Ole Jarvenpa, Walt Kyro, Jim Courtney, John Pelo, and Eddie Hoppa (squatting). Bill was also a member of the crew but was not in the photograph.

Lower right: The Kek cabin shortly after it was built just inland from the lakeshore.

all photos submitted

the Duluth and Iron Range Railroad scouted the route and issued a report on the feasibility of constructing a rail line. The report suggested that the rugged nature of the country would make a rail line cost-prohibitive. "The country is very broken and irregular, increasing in bold ruggedness from west to east."

The engineers also expressed their doubts that the area had sufficient timber within easy reach of the proposed line to provide for the construction of bridges, trestles, and cross ties. It was yet another occasion when individuals who ventured into the region to ascertain its potential for resource development, came back either disappointed or dedicated to its protection.

Some years later, the Forest Service was beginning to extend its reach in terms



of fire protection further into the region, by establishing a series of fire towers across the national forest and that required access trails for those who built and later manned the towers.

Other factors were also at play, notes Rom.

"As the Great Depression ravaged the nation, President Franklin Roosevelt was determined to offer meaningful work to young men who otherwise had few prospects. As a result of the passage of the Emergency Conservation Work Act in 1933, crews in 1934

built the first paths that would become part of the Kek Trail. At the same time, a Civilian Conservation Crew stationed by the Fernberg Lookout Tower began building a trail at Kawishiwi Lodge on Lake One, the original start of the Kek Trail, and worked north for about five miles. A second CCC crew constructed trails connecting Lake One to Hope Lake and Insula Lake to Island River."

During this time, the See **KEKEKABIC**, pg. 5B

Wildflower Watch



This week's featured flower
RATTLESNAKE ROOT

Other than the asters and gold-erods, there are few other forest wildflowers that bloom in late summer — but **Rattlesnake Root**, *Prenanthes alba*, is one of them.

This is an interesting wildflower, with distinctive drooping flowers, typically white to light lavender in color. The flowers bloom in a loose cluster that can be 3-4 feet high, sometimes even taller.

The variable leaves, which tend to be much larger and more divided toward the base of the plant, run from the ground right nearly to the top.

When crushed or broken, the plant exudes a milky substance, which can be another characteristic in development.

Outdoors briefly

Apply for antlerless tags by Sept. 5

REGIONAL — If you're hoping for a chance to win one of the few antlerless permits being issued in northeastern Minnesota this fall, you'll need to buy your regular firearm or muzzleloader deer license by Thursday, Sept. 5.

Hunters who purchase their license on or before this date are automatically entered into the lottery for the deer permit area or special hunt area they declare.

The DNR will be issuing 100 antlerless tags in permit area 177 this year and 25 in permit area 178, while most other permit areas in northern St. Louis, Lake, or Koochiching counties will be limited to bucks-only as the DNR works to rebuild the region's white-tailed deer population.

Hunters who want to participate in special firearm or muzzleloader deer hunts also need to apply for permits that are issued through a lottery. That application deadline is also Sept. 5. More information about how to apply for special hunts are available on the DNR website.

HUNTING

It will be bucks only in most DPAs this year

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Deer hunters in the region have complained for the past several years about the lack of deer— and based on the bag limits approved for the upcoming firearms deer season, it seems that the Department of Natural Resources agrees.

And that means virtually every hunter in northeastern Minnesota will be limited to bucks only. The DNR will issue 100 antlerless permits in deer permit area 177, which encompasses the Cook and Lake Vermilion area, and 25 in two other permit areas to the south of the Iron Range. The handful of hunters who venture into the Boundary Waters wilderness will still be allowed to take a deer of either sex.

Other than those exceptions, hunters will need to see antlers to legally take a deer in the region during

this year's regular firearms season, which runs from Nov. 9-Nov. 24. The limits are the most conservative in nearly a decade and come despite last winter, which was the mildest ever recorded in the region. While last winter helped boost reproductive success, according to Tower DNR wildlife manager Jessica Holmes, even an exceptionally mild winter by itself isn't enough to reverse the trend of declining deer numbers in the region. "We're kind of at rock bottom and northern deer populations need time and multiple mild winters to recover to goal levels," said Holmes. "It will take a string of mild winters to catch up."

Holmes said the stricter bag limits reflect the concerns expressed by hunters about the lack of deer in the woods. "Bag limits are the main tool in my toolbox," said Holmes. "I can't control the weather.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday						Saturday						Sunday						Monday						Tuesday					
77 59						82 61						83 64						83 61						78 55					
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.					
08/12	77	55	0.00		08/12	77	45	0.00		08/12	79	51	0.00		08/12	79	48			08/12	74	46	0.00						
08/13	79	56	0.00		08/13	79	45	0.00		08/13	80	54	0.00		08/13	81	50			08/13	78	48	0.00						
08/14	81	57	0.00		08/14	82	48	0.00		08/14	80	56	0.00		08/14	77	54			08/14	81	60	0.00						
08/15	81	61	0.00		08/15	81	50	0.00		08/15	67	57	0.00		08/15	68	63			08/15	79	62	0.00						
08/16	65	62	0.43		08/16	67	62	0.71		08/16	66	63	0.47		08/16	73	64			08/16	65	62	0.83						
08/17	76	59	1.24		08/17	79	60	0.29		08/17	77	60	0.08		08/17	75	57			08/17	78	61	0.34						
08/18	74	55	0.01		08/18	77	50	0.00		08/18	75	57	0.01		08/18	79	48			08/18	76	65	0.10						
YTD Total			22.09		YTD Total			23.05		YTD Total			23.40		YTD Total			NA		YTD Total				24.46					

KEKEKABIC...Continued from page 4B



Bill Rom, Sr. on a visit to the Kekekabic cabin in 1996. The cabin remains standing and in good condition considering its age.

federal government also hired young men to work in the forest service. "In 1937, the forest service hired its first 12-man crew to construct the Kek Trail. Sigurd Olson, a teacher at Ely Junior College, assisted my father [Bill Rom] and other students in gaining employment with the Kek Trail crew."

Bill Rom was the only member of the first crew to come back for a second year of trail work, which was finally completed in September 1938 when a crew from the Ely end met up with the Gunflint crew along the Agamok River, just north of Gabimichigami Lake.

The next year, Rom signed on with the forest service to man the Kekekabic tower, the tallest (at 110 feet) and most remote of the towers on the national forest. The single observer at the tower would be stationed on site for months at a time, residing in the Kekekabic cabin, which still exists today. The Kek tower was the only tower on the forest without a phone connection, relying instead on a radio that the observer could use to contact the

Fernberg tower, either to report a fire or request resupply.

Rom writes: "It was a lonely summer. There were few canoeists in those days and my dad would go several weeks without seeing a soul. During the entire month of July he did not see another person except for a canoe party that didn't stop." To pass the time, Rom wrote poetry and conducted a small mammal study for credit at the University of Minnesota.

Rom writes: "He had about a dozen ordinary mouse traps set along the half-mile trail between the Kek cabin and the tower. He captured nine different species of small mammals in the three months he was there. While sitting in the tower he skinned the animals and treated the skins with borax and arsenic to dry and preserve them before stuffing them with cotton and sewing the skins back into lifelike form. Some of the specimens were used for study by students in wildlife management and may still be in the zoology museum at the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus."

Rom later wrote his findings, which were published in 1940 in *The Flicker*, then the title of the journal of the Minnesota Ornithologists Union.

Despite the effort that went into the construction of the access trail and construction of the Kek tower, it only operated for about 20 years. By the late 1950s, surveillance by aircraft had largely replaced the use of towers for fire protection, particularly in more remote areas. With the retirement of the towers, the utilitarian purpose of the Kek Trail largely vanished and it quickly became nearly impassable as the forest service relegated the trail to primitive status, which meant it was no longer maintained.

Under some pressure due to the lack of hiking opportunities in the

wilderness, the forest service did make an effort to reopen the Kek Trail in the late 1960s, but later reported that the trail saw little use and maintenance declined again.

Rom writes: "In 1987, in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the 1937 crew, Bill Rom offered \$500 toward grubstaking any group that cleared the center 20 miles of the Kek Trail. He wrote a letter to the *Ely Echo* calling for Ely to be the trekking capital of the U.S."

Three years later, the Kekekabic Trail Club organized and they took up Rom's challenge. Rom writes: "Four crews with a total of 30 people devoted their Labor Day weekend to the project."

That effort, impressive as it was, was no match for Mother Nature. Barely a month later, as Rom writes: "a heavy, wet snowstorm taught a lesson, as newly-fallen trees blocked the just-cleared trail. The restoration of the Kek Trail was clearly not a one-time affair."

The 1990 snowstorm, of course, paled in comparison to the impact of the 1999 blowdown event. Rom writes that the storm "created extensive and massive windfalls that presented staggering challenges. Nevertheless, the dedication of the Kekekabic Trail Club (now a chapter of the North Country Trail Association) to maintaining the Kek Trail continues to this day."

To learn more

Rom's account of the Kekekabic Trail and her father's experiences is an interesting read and you can purchase a copy at several locations in Ely, including Piragis Northwoods Company, Brandenburg Gallery, Ely Mercantile, Ely Outfitting Company, Canoe Country Outfitters, Spirit of the Wilderness, the Ely-Winton Historical Society, and the Dorothy Molter Museum. It is also available at the *Timberjay* office in Tower.

SPORTSMEN...Continued from page 4B

to hundreds of additional acres of county, state, and federal land, open to hunting and foraging.

The WMA project is part of the DNR's Adopt-a-WMA program and reflects a multi-year commitment by Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters. This year's work project is being funded by onX Hunt, an online application used extensively by hunters.

"We're looking to do a whole host of things," said Jessica Holmes, area wildlife manager for the DNR. "We're going to be doing a lot of tree planting of long-lived species. We'll be planting white spruce for its boreal characteristics as well as red oak for climate resiliency."

The volunteers will also work to clear a series of hunter walking trails and will enhance the access points to make it easier for users to reach the WMA. "Right now, it doesn't get a lot of use," said Holmes.

"This project aims to improve an existing ecosystem without dramatically changing users' impact on the landscape," states the website of Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters. "One of the first things

we'll be doing on the site is thinning undergrowth, or 'daylighting.' This practice is vitally important, especially in areas that haven't experienced burns in a long time, because it promotes the regeneration of the native coniferous species. Thankfully, Dutchman Tree Services out of Ely is working with us to accomplish this goal, as they are a conservation-minded business that does exemplary work."

It won't, however, be all work and no play. The groups are hosting an after-party at Grand Ely Lodge in Ely, from 5-9 p.m. There will be live music from Van and the Free Candies, remarks from Mark Kenyon from MeatEater and Ben Brettingen from onX Hunt, an onsite raffle, door prizes, silent auction items, yard games, food options, drinks, and more.

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DRAIN

- Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well
- 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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For full job description and to apply, visit
www.cityoftower.com/positions-available

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Call with any questions: 218-365-4811
www.ntier.org

JOB OPENING – CITY OF ORR FULL-TIME BARTENDER

The City of Orr is accepting applications for a full-time Bartender at the Orr Municipal Liquor Store. This is an hourly position that includes a competitive benefit package with health insurance, life insurance, vacation, sick leave and retirement. Looking for individuals who can interact with customers in a professional, friendly manner. Must pass background check. The City of Orr is a drug-free workplace and Equal Opportunity Employer.

Applications may be picked up at the Orr City Hall, 4429 Hwy 53, Orr, MN, M-F, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, or the Municipal Liquor Store.

Questions? Contact us at torr@centurytel.net.
Or call 218-757-3288.

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 16 & 23, 2024

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
- Flexible spending account
- 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.)

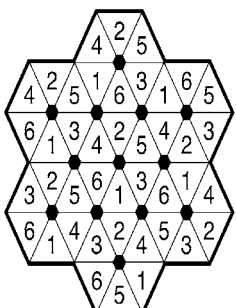
Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us
A complete application must include the following:

- District Non-Licensed 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

Application review to begin: August 27, 2024; open until filled.

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FUNERAL SERVICES

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Hibbing 263-3276
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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

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for the following Extra-Curricular Vacancies beginning the 2024-2025 school year as per the current Master Agreement between ISD #696 and the Ely Education Association. A background check is required.

POSITION	STIPEND
Play – Musical Director	\$2,500
Gamers Guild	\$750
Youth in Action	\$1,000

A complete application must include the following:

- Cover letter
- District Non-Licensed Application
- Resume

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 23, 2024; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 16 & 23, 2024

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Head Speech Coach

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for the following extra-curricular vacancy beginning the 2024-2025 school year as per the current Master Agreement between ISD #696 and the Ely Education Association. A background check is required.

POSITION	STIPEND
Head Speech Coach	\$3,000

A complete application must include the following:

- Cover letter
- District Non-Licensed Application
- Resume

Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us
Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email lwestrick@ely.k12.mn.us.

Application Review to begin on: August 27; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 16 & 23, 2024

**Legal notices are online each week
at timberjay.com and at
<https://www.mnpublicnotice.com/>**

Super Crossword

Answers

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS BOIS FORTE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES – PHASE 1 – DEMOLITION ONLY VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA

The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians will receive sealed bids for the "BOIS FORTE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES – PHASE 1: DEMOLITION ONLY", until 10:00 a.m., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2024, at the office of DSGW Architects, ATTN: Carlie Kemp, 417 2nd Street South, Virginia, Minnesota, at which time all Bids will be publicly opened, read aloud and tabled. Tribal Council to act on this item at a future council meeting.

All bids must be sealed and clearly marked, "BID FOR: BOIS FORTE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES – PHASE 1: DEMOLITION ONLY", along with bidder's name, and must be accompanied by a certified check or bidder's bond in the amount of five percent (5%) of the net base bid amount, payable to the order of Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians, as warranty that the successful bidder will enter into a contract and furnish the usual Bonds (Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond) as required by the Specifications within ten (10) days after Notice of Award of Contract.

Bid Documents (plans and specifications) will be available electronically beginning August 15th, 2024. Free access to the plans & specifications may be obtained by contacting DSGW Architects, Inc., (218) 727-2626. Bid Documents may also be examined at the builder's exchanges of: Minnesota Builders Exchange, Construct Connect, and Dodge Data & Analytics. Pre-printed plans and specifications will not be provided.

No Bidder shall modify, withdraw or cancel their Bid or any part thereof for sixty (60) days after the date designated for the receipt of bids. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract to other than the lowest bidder, if in their discretion the interest of the project will be best served thereby.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 27th, 2024 at the project site.

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 23 & 30, 2024

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Apt. coolers
- 4 Fishing rod
- 8 Choir voice
- 12 New Deal agcy.
- 13 "Zounds!"
- 14 Chiefs coach Andy
- 15 Boring types
- 17 Tear
- 18 Bad habit
- 19 Woodland walks
- 20 Computer problem
- 22 Swedish auto
- 24 Spartan queen
- 25 Dijon products
- 29 Tokyo's historic name
- 30 Quick looks
- 31 Hasten
- 32 Sends on, as an email
- 34 Kick back
- 35 Bee's home
- 36 Comic Hedberg
- 37 Suitor
- 40 Shakespeare villain
- 41 Reedy
- 42 Birds of prey
- 46 Queue
- 47 Yankee nickname
- 48 Debtor's letters

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
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		18					19			
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29			30					31		
32		33					34			
		35					36			
37	38	39			40					
41				42	43				44	45
46				47				48		
49				50				51		

- 9 Onion relative
 - 10 Fork part
 - 11 Probability
 - 16 Kudrow of "Friends"
 - 19 Millinery
 - 20 Staff symbol
 - 21 Decorate anew
 - 22 Soft leather
 - 23 Requests
 - 25 TV mogul Griffin
 - 26 Art of speaking
 - 27 Platter
 - 28 Third son
 - 30 Ache
 - 33 Bellyaches
 - 34 Latvia's capital
 - 36 Tribute maker
 - 37 Normandy battle site
 - 38 Use an egg-beater
 - 39 "— She Sweet"
 - 40 Sport shirt brand
 - 42 Cote cry
 - 43 Internet address
 - 44 Scooby —
 - 45 Heat source
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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

PET CREMATION

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

Try out the Timberjay classifieds

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

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SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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RED ROCK STORAGE RUMMAGE SALE

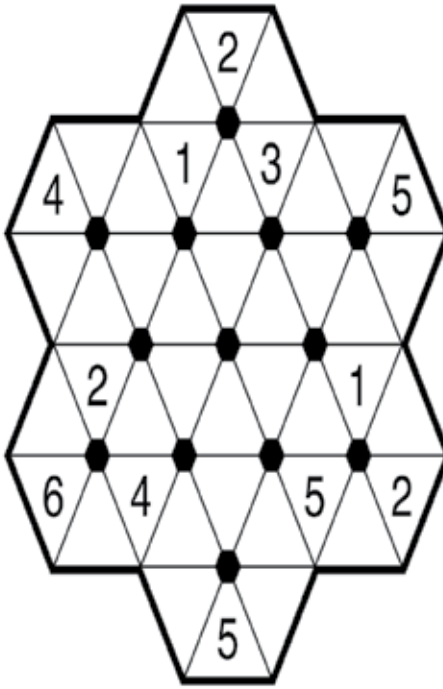
Saturday, Aug. 30
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SNOWFLAKES by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

CALLING FOR SILENCE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Human rights org.
 - 5 Costa —
 - 9 Scored two under par
 - 15 Apparel
 - 19 Stars and Stripes, e.g.
 - 20 Big whoops
 - 21 Louisiana cuisine style
 - 22 French girlfriend
 - 23 Places to buy salmon fillets and such
 - 25 Everyday routine
 - 26 Metal beam with two flanges
 - 27 Brainpower stats
 - 28 Actor Bana
 - 29 Overnight delivery, say
 - 31 Regret deeply
 - 32 Nothin' at all
 - 33 Lauder of perfumery
 - 34 Shutter strip
 - 35 Breathable gym bottoms
 - 38 Actor Alan
 - 40 Vaping devices
 - 43 Some tech. inst. grads
 - 44 Trio after G
 - 46 They're like lay-ups, but farther from the basket
 - 48 Father, to a tiny tot
 - 51 Like some artificial body parts
 - 54 A snake injecting venom, e.g.
 - 55 Become too warm
 - 58 Like a bass voice
 - 60 Napoleonic marshal
 - 61 Michel
 - 61 Coin that was worth 12 pence
 - 65 Purvey
 - 69 Often-flexed arm muscles
 - 70 Paint coat applied to rough plaster
 - 71 Brand of snowmobiles
 - 73 Snow glider
 - 74 Informal name for a herding breed
 - 76 Congregated
 - 78 Concealed
 - 79 City development area
 - 80 Dangler on a garment in a store
 - 85 Most modern
 - 88 Harper of "Far North"
 - 89 Top worn on a safari
 - 91 Snooze
 - 92 Epoch
 - 94 Opera solos
 - 95 Tomb-raiding
 - 97 Resembling a plate
 - 103 Turner of the Washington Nationals
 - 105 Check recipient
 - 107 Tubular snack cake
 - 108 Flat-fixing org.
 - 109 Guard to keep something dry
 - 112 Novelist Kingsley or Martin
 - 113 "Despicable Me" villain
 - 114 Very dry
 - 115 Tiki bar drink
 - 116 What nine answers in this puzzle suggest that you do twice?
 - 118 Donate
 - 119 Peeves
 - 120 Les — (French for "some")
 - 121 Emend
 - 122 Tomahawks
 - 123 Level
 - 124 Indiana-to-Ohio direction
 - 125 Witty types
- DOWN**
- 1 Validate
 - 2 In-group
 - 3 Maidens
 - 4 "Yuck!"
 - 5 Pep rally cheers
 - 6 Excited response to "Who wants dessert?"
 - 7 Police ride
 - 8 Horse cousin
 - 9 Beige
 - 10 Sony record label
 - 11 Be assisted
 - 12 Bungled
 - 13 "In the Valley of —" (2007 drama film)
 - 14 Slaw sources
 - 15 Cold Spanish soup
 - 16 Eager desire
 - 17 "Knives Out" director Johnson
 - 18 Arctic hazard
 - 24 Gut feeling
 - 29 Pine product
 - 30 — v. Ferguson (landmark court case)
 - 36 Word after big, cold or soft
 - 37 Albeit, in brief state
 - 39 For — (very cheaply)
 - 41 Former rival of AT&T
 - 42 Former Russ. state
 - 45 First lady after Melania Trump
 - 47 Move hastily
 - 48 Lou formerly of CNN
 - 49 Pop rocker Lavigne
 - 50 Rid of frost
 - 51 Crank's cry
 - 52 "Challenge accepted!"
 - 53 Rum mixers
 - 56 Lued in
 - 57 Lion chaser?
 - 59 Hope (for)
 - 62 Opposite of 58-Across
 - 63 "You Be —" (1986 Run-D.M.C. hit)
 - 64 Avian abodes
 - 65 Savors Earl Grey, say
 - 66 Funny Murphy
 - 67 Sacks in war
 - 68 Balcony sections
 - 71 Use stitches
 - 72 Mattel man
 - 74 Online biz
 - 75 Torrid
 - 76 Untidy states
 - 77 Afr. country
 - 80 Keglers' org.
 - 81 Karel Capek sci-fi play
 - 82 Question starter in old Memorex ads
 - 83 Total shams
 - 84 Plotting in math class
 - 86 Walked in water
 - 87 Dermis or Pen lead-in
 - 90 Turncoat
 - 92 Most pasty
 - 93 Phantom
 - 96 "Yes, cap'n!"
 - 98 Reporter on "Parks and Recreation"
 - 99 Buds from the hood
 - 100 Multi-roof temple
 - 101 Winged bug with pincers
 - 102 Intimidates
 - 104 Sportscaster Rashad
 - 106 "Für —" (piano piece)
 - 109 Chronicle
 - 110 Grand — (annual race)
 - 111 Clearheaded
 - 116 "— pasa?"
 - 117 Dawn drops

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
19				20					21						22					
23			24						25						26					
27				28				29						30						
31				32				33					34							
35				36				37		38		39		40		41	42			
				43				44		45		46		47						
48	49	50				51	52			53		54								
55				56	57					58		59		60						
61								62	63			64				65	66	67	68	
69								70						71	72					
73								74					75							
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80	81	82	83					84		85		86	87					88		
89								90		91					92	93				
94								95		96		97		98	99			100	101	102
								103				104		105		106				108
109	110																			113
114																				117
118																				121
122																				125

Get Results!

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CryptoQuote
answer
Interpretation is the revenge of the intellect upon art. — Susan Sontag

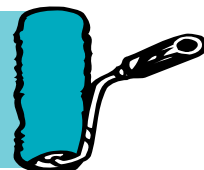
King Crossword —
Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

ACS	POLE	ALTO
NRA	EGAD	REID
DULLARDS	REIND	
VICE	HIKES	
CRASH	SAAB	
LEDA	MUSTARDS	
EDO	PEEK'S	HITE
FORWARDS	REST	
HIVE	MITCH	
SWAIN	IAGO	
THIN	BUZZARDS	
LINE	AROD	IOU
OPTS	ALDA	CON



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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

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

PSYFHCHFYUYPZS PV YQF

HKFNSNF ZM YQF PSYFXXFBY

ICZS UHY. - VIVUS VZSYUN

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PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS

SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.69VI-PR-24-135

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR SUMMARY ASSIGNMENT OR DISTRIBUTION AND FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL NOTICE TO CREDITORS—NON EXEMPT ESTATE

Estate of David Arnold Crockett, aka David A. Crockett, aka David Crockett, Decedent

Notice is given that a petition has been filed requesting that the Estate assets be summarily assigned.

The Petition requests the probate of an instrument purporting to be the Decedent's last Will dated February 14, 2017, and any codicil to the Will dated September 19, 2018, and separate writings under Minn. Stat. § 524.2-513 ("Will").

The Petition also requests the appointment of Steven J. Crockett, whose address is 503 11th St. S., Virginia, MN, 55792 as Personal Representative of the estate in an unsupervised administration. If proper and no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and if no objections or claims are filed or raised, the Court may issue a decree distributing or assigning the Estate's assets.

It is Ordered and Notice is now given that the Petition will be heard on September 16, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. by this Court at 300 S. 5th Ave., Virginia, Minnesota.

*This hearing will be held remotely via Zoom Technology.

Notice is further given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

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BY THE COURT
Michelle Anderson
Judge of District Court
Jennifer Miller, Court Administrator
Chelsea Opdahl, Deputy

Published in the Timberjay, Aug. 23 & 30, 2024