

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Call for Veterans of Foreign Wars members in Babbitt area; meeting set for Monday, April 9

BABBITT- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1539 of Babbitt is in need of active members to attend monthly meetings and assume the role of officers. Without your participation, we will be forced to shut down the post. In doing so, this will affect our involvement in the community and surrounding areas. We will lose our voice and lessen our impact in rural Minnesota. Please get involved so we can be heard locally and on the state and national levels. Do this for us, our families, and our community. A special meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 9 at the Senior Center in Babbitt.

Small Parts Players to perform musical adaptation of The Tale of Peter Rabbit this weekend

VIRGINIA- Small Parts Players presents the musical, The Tale of Peter Rabbit and Benjamin Bunny, by R. Eugene Jackson, with music by David Ellis. This sparkling musical adaptation of Potter's wonderful story is filled with delightful tunes that will make everyone smile. From Mr. McGregor's This Is War and Caw and Kem's Bugs and Berries, to the beloved finale of The Family That Sings Together, this event will have you hopping with delight. The musical will be performed Thursday, April 5 through Saturday, April 7 at 7 p.m. with a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m., at the Lyric Annex 516 Chestnut St. in Virginia. Tickets are on sale now at <https://squareup.com/store/irrrp-SPP>.

Native Skywatchers art exhibit at Lyric Gallery in Virginia

VIRGINIA- Native Skywatchers-Earth Sky Connections will be featured in The First Stage Gallery at the Lyric Center for the Arts, 510 Chestnut St. in downtown Virginia, from April 5 to 28. Native Skywatchers-Earth Sky Connections weaves together art, science, and culture in a way that will inspire learners to create art inspired by the stars and Earth. Gallery hours are Thursdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The gallery is free. All are welcome.

Watercolor workshop at Lyric Center

VIRGINIA- All are invited to the Fun with Flowers watercolor workshop with Sarah Guy-Levar at the Lyric Center for the Arts in Virginia. This watercolor workshop is perfect for both beginning and experienced painters. The two-day workshop will cover easy step-by-step drawing instructions and proven techniques to create watercolor paintings of daisies, sunflowers, roses, and tulips. In an atmosphere of creativity and fun, we will usher in the beauty of summer.

The workshop will be held on Friday, April 27, from 3 to 9 p.m. and will continue on Sunday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at The First Stage Gallery, 510 Chestnut St. in downtown Virginia. Register online at <https://squareup.com/store/the-first-stage-gallery> or at the gallery Thursday or Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Vermilion Dream Quilters meet on Thursday, April 12

TOWER- Vermilion Dream Quilters will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 12, in the social hall of St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower. Our program this month will focus on four types of quilt borders, each presented by a guild member. This month's show and tell will be special since 44 of our members are joining together the prior weekend for our annual retreat in the Grand Ely Lodge ballroom, and lots of great things usually happen there! Join us and tickle your creative side. Guests and visitors are welcome, and you might choose to join us in the year(s) to come! Our hostesses this month are Bonnie Harma, Corrine Hill, and Donna Filson.

Vermilion Dream Quilters is a guild with members from throughout the Iron Range and Arrowhead Region and is open to anyone interested in quilting and creative sewing. Members encourage and instruct each other and share tips. For more information, please contact Corrine Hill in Tower at 218-753-4600.

Dear Family and Friends

Thank you for all of the love and support for the loss of our mother, grandmother, wife, sister, and friend Patricia Maki Doble. She was truly an amazing woman and it was so nice to hear all the wonderful stories of how she impacted the lives of so many. She was a friend to everyone she met and she will surely greet each one of us again when we meet again. Please accept this as our card of thanks as we continue to grieve the loss of an amazing woman. Thank you for all of the prayers as well.

Sincerely,
The Family of Patricia Maki Doble

LIFE ON THE LAKE

New owners settling in at Glenmore Resort

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Glenmore Resort is the classic example of a northern Minnesota family resort. And new owners Mickey and Paul Hrvol are aiming to keep it that way. "We are from a community like Tower, so this is the perfect fit for us," said Mickey.

The Hrvols moved from Sullivan, a small town in central Illinois, earlier this winter.

The couple had been vacationing at small resorts on Lake Vermilion on and off for the past 20 years. They both worked the past 30 years as bankers, at a small community bank. With both their sons in college, they decided now was the time to act on their dream.

"It's just something we always wanted to do," Mickey said.

The two have settled into resort life quickly.

Paul is renovating the upstairs of the former owner's home into a new "LakeHouse" cabin. The lower level of the home is the resort's office.

"It has a beautiful lake view from the bay windows," said Mickey. With new paint, carpeting, kitchen cabinets and appliances, the new three-bedroom cabin will be ready for rental later this spring. The rest of the cabins are all ready to go.

The couple will be moving into the garage, the second major project they are undertaking before the summer season. Future plans include turning that garage into another cabin, and then building themselves a new year-round home.

"It's just the two of us," they said, "and we don't need that much space." They also realize they will be spending most of their time running the resort.

The couple's younger son, Zach, who is studying to be a physical therapist, will be working at the resort this summer as a dock boy. Their older son is in chiropractic school in Illinois.

And of course, the resort has a new dog, a beagle named Minnie, who is getting used to her new home and job as resort dog.

So far, the jump into resort



Paul and Mickey Hrvol are busy getting ready for their first summer as resort owners on Lake Vermilion. photo by J. Summit

ownership has gone smoothly. The couple said that previous owners Leroy and Nancy Forstrom have been quite helpful, and since the Forstroms are still living in the Lake Vermilion area, they are a great resource. The sale of the resort was brokered by Minnesota Resort Sales, and realtor Dan Houle of Ely.

The Hrvols are not planning any major changes to how the resort runs. They have added one cabin, so the resort now has eight cabins available. The resort is open year-round. They are planning some upgrades in each cabin in the future, as time allows.

All the resort's cabins feature carpeting, fully-equipped kitchens, modern baths, Weber grills and microwaves. And for those not ready for a totally rustic experience, free high-speed wireless internet access is available for guests. Cabins sleep from four to ten. They have purchased some new rental boats for resort guests and are planning on bringing electrical service to the docks.

The couple enjoys hunting and fishing, but realizes that now they might just enjoy fishing by watching their resort guests out on the lake.

Their neighbors, and new friends they have met in the Tower-Soudan area, are also exceeding expectations.

"Everybody has been very friendly and welcoming," they said. "We are enjoying getting to know our neighbors."

They both love the convenience of shopping in Tower, and appreciate the local restaurants and coffee shop, as well as the grocery store, lumber yard, and hardware store.

"It's also very convenient for our guests," they said, "since we don't have a bar or restaurant on site." Glenmore is located on Pike Bay, just two miles from Tower.

The resort has had snowmobilers renting cabins on weekends while the snowmobile trails were in great condition. But now the focus is getting ready for the summer rush.

"We already have some reservations for this summer," they said. "There is a lot of repeat business. Leroy and Nancy did a good job running the resort."

ORR

Orr Council seeking input on new comprehensive plan at their meeting on Monday, April 9

by MELISSA ROACH
Staff Writer

ORR- The Orr City Council is seeking comments from interested area residents on Monday, April 9 at 7 p.m. on the city's comprehensive plan, which is currently being updated.

Last year Arrowhead Regional Development Commission representatives met with Orr city officials, employees, and residents to gather input for the development of a new comprehensive plan for the city. The long-term, public-driven plan looks at housing, transportation, agriculture, natural and cultural resources, economic development, utilities and community facilities, intergovernmental cooperation, land use, and the strategic implementation of priority projects. In the planning document, the city takes aim at community improvements at the city park with a revital-

ized beach, fishing pier, DNR boat launch upgrades, as well as keeping water/sewer infrastructure upgrade projects and affordable housing needs in the balance.

Top priorities for the new comprehensive plan include some projects that are currently underway, such as high speed broadband internet for the city. The city has already made some progress toward internet inclusivity with the Grizzlies Community through the Blandin Foundation's rural broadband initiative with dedicated funds to help communities reach broadband goals. Other strategies include working with Bois Forte to expand broadband to Orr, and working with Paul Bunyan Communications to install a fiber connection to the St. Louis County Sheriff's outpost at the ORR Center. The city also recognizes the ORR Center, and its success, as a priority, and

will continue to act as a fiscal agent when needed.

The comprehensive plan also includes the Orr General Store, the oldest building in the city. The building is now abandoned and recognized as a public nuisance. The plan details the path the city will take to regain control of the property, eliminate the blight and return it to a useful purpose. The plan also sets a goal of a new garage, with sleeping quarters for the Fire and Ambulance Departments.

Affordable housing continues to challenge city officials with a lack of real estate available. The planning document calls out much of the current housing stock as deteriorating, and in need of rehabilitation. The city has set a goal to improve the situation by offering various affordable and sustainable housing options. Much of the housing plan includes the removal/clean-up of blighted properties and helping residents

improve the condition of existing properties. Other measures seek the development of new housing options for families and seniors.

The city will work to cultivate a sense of place by promoting and supporting nearby bicycle, snowmobile, ATV, skiing, and hiking trail connections within the region. Recent law and ordinance changes allowing ATV use on paved roads, have led to an increase in ATV traffic into the city. The extra traffic within the city has highlighted the need for a city directory of services. Pedestrian safety is also addressed as the city aims to add sidewalks to improve local access to the downtown area.

The new comprehensive plan updates includes the improvements the city has made since the last plan was created in 2011. The IRRRB requires an updated comprehensive plan in order for the city to receive funding from the agency. City officials will discuss a draft of the new plan the development commission has put together, at the city council meeting next week.

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