

Inside: Concerns at North Woods School... See /3 Spring sports underway... See /1B Water levels rising...See /4B



\$1²⁰

SULFIDE MINING

EPA: Don't reinstate PolyMet wetlands permit

Federal agency cites concerns over mercury as part of hearing on Fond du Lac concerns

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The federal Environmental Protection Agency has dealt PolyMet's proposed NorthMet mine a potentially crippling blow.

In a 47-page opinion issued

to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on April 29, the federal agency is recommending against reinstatement of the federal wetlands permit, known as a Section 404 permit, that is critical to the project. Section 404 refers to a portion of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA).

If the Army Corps accepts the recommendation, it would prohibit the copper-nickel mine from going forward, at least as currently envisioned.

The EPA's Region 5 office drafted the document and its recommendations in response to a formal objection to the Section

404 permit made by the Fond du Lac Band. In that objection, tribal officials contend that the proposed mine will further degrade water quality in the St. Louis River, which flows through the Band's reservation near Cloquet- in violation of the tribe's own water quality standards. Many native bands, such as Fond du Lac, have the authority under federal law to establish their own water quality regulations, which Fond du Lac has done.

As a result, the EPA had a

See...POLYMET pg. 9

SUPPORTING THE ARTS



North Woods School presents 'Peter Pan'



Children's Theater group landed at North **Woods school last** week to work with students to present "Peter Pan." Above, the lead role was played by student Steven Sopoci. At left, Captain Hook, played by PFCT actor and director Jeremy Day, is shown with student Sonya Hannine who played Smee the pirate. photos by D. Colburn

MEDIA

End of the road for Ely radio station?

by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

ELY- "End of the Road Radio" has apparently reached the literal end of the road, toppling into a financial abyss with no emergency rescue to be had.

WELY FM 94.5 and AM 1450, the local Ely broadcasting icon with the clever catchphrase has been operated by the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa since 2005, will close for good on June 1 after 17 years of mounting financial losses

"During that time, staff worked extremely hard to make the station profitable, but despite those efforts, the venture lost over \$1.7 million. That includes the purchase price when Bois Forte took ownership of the station in 2005," said Bois Forte Director of Public Relations Brian K. Anderson in a press release issued Wednesday.

Word began spreading on Sunday after WELY radio personality announced the impending closure in a social media post about the upcoming end of his show.

Christopher David Hanson, who has hosted "Color of my Radio Minnesota Music

See...WELY pg. 10



Ely radio station, WELY-FM, will sign off next month. photo by K. Vandervort

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Wanted: Ely police officers, but experience preferred

City council OKs posting for anticipated open positions

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY - Wanted: Experienced patrol officers to join the Ely Police

Department.

The Ely city council Tuesday night, on a recommendation from the Employee Relations Committee, approved a request from Police Chief

Chad Houde to post an anticipated open position there are shortages of

in the department with emphasis on attracting a lateral officer with at least two years of experience.

"As all of you know,

people everywhere," said council member Heidi Omerza, "and in the world of police officers that is no exception. We have been

very long time and (Chief Houde) is trying to find a police officer who has a

little bit of experience." Houde said that a in 'training mode' for a hiring crisis exists in many

professions, especially law enforcement.

"We are drastically down in recruiting across the state," he said. "Vermilion Community College's numbers are

See..ELY pg. 10



Men's & Women's Clothing 20% Off til 5/8

Book Signing Kurt Johnson The Barrens Sat., May 7 from 1:30 to 3 Open Daily: Monday - Saturday 9 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm

You'll find it all at Piragis Northwoods Company 105 N Central Ave. 218 - 365 - 6745 piragis.com boundarywaterscatalog.com



218-753-2950

editor@timberjay.com

2 May 6, 2022 THE TIMBERJAY

Community notices

Pancake breakfast in Embarrass on Saturday, May 7

EMBARRASS - Support the Embarrass Region Fair by coming for all-vou-can-eat pancakes on Saturday, May 7 from 8 - 11 a.m. The meal also includes a choice of ham or sausage links, fruit cup, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee. Pancake breakfasts are held the first Saturday of each month through May at the Timber Hall. Adults \$6, children (6-10 years) \$3, and under 5 years free.

Vietnam Veterans "In Memory" Program Sign-Up

CHISHOLM - Apply in person on Wednesday, May 11 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the United Way of NEMN, 608 E. Dr., to include your loved one in the "In Memory" program. The Memory program will be part of the "Wall That Heals", a traveling replica of the Vietnam War memorial, free and open to the public 24 hours/day at the Football Field in Chisholm June 23-26. The program recognizes veterans who served in the Vietnam War, returned home, and have since passed away. Applications can also be submitted online until Friday, May 20. Visit www.unitedwaynemn.org.

Tickets on sale for Lyric Arts youth theatre Schoolhouse Rock May 6-7

EVELETH - Conjunction junction...what's your function? The Lyric Center for the Arts Youth Arts Theatre Education program will address these grammatical questions and more in the production of 'Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr". on Friday, May 6 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 7 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for students in grades K-college, and free for pre-K and under.

To get tickets, visit lyriccenteronline.org or call the Lyric Center between 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Tickets are limited and on sale now.





Mother's Day

Service

SUNDAY, MAY 8

8:30 AM

Pastor Greg Anderson

Special music by-

Debbie Tuominen and Louise Wiermaa

BRUNCH TO FOLLOW

- All Are Welcome -

LIVE MUSIC

Monroe Crossing performs Friday, May 6 in Ely

ELY- The popular bluegrass band Monroe Crossing takes the stage at Ely's Historic State Theater on Friday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. The long-anticipated performance would have been the first concert in the renovated and restored State Theater but was delayed in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID.

Monroe Crossing is named in honor of Bill Monroe, The Father of Bluegrass Music. The band performs an electrifying blend of classical bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, original bluegrass, and even selections outside this favored genre. Their musicianship and on-stage rapport have entertained fans across the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

Tickets are available online at elystatetheater.org or at the door for \$20 per person. Concessions will be on sale at this one-night-only event.

This event kicks off a full summer calendar of events at the State Theater, including concerts such as David Huckfelt of the Pines with special guest Lanue on Friday, June



3, and Pat and Donna Surface with their Jukebox Time Machine tribute show on Friday, Aug. 5. Several blockbuster first-run movies are on tap, such as "Top Gun: Maverick," "Jurassic World Dominion,"

and "Minions: The Rise of Gru." For more information, go to www. elystatetheater.org.

FAMILY FUN

Kids, Cops and Cars event on Iron Range set for Thursday, May 12

VIRGINIA - Squad cars and other law enforcement vehicles, K-9s and more will be on display from approximately ten different law enforcement agencies, during the first annual Kids, Cops and Cars event. The free, family-friendly celebration is Thursday, May 12, 4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the new Iron Trail Motors Event Center, 821 S.

As the name suggests, Kids, Cops and Cars is an opportunity for children and families to meet local law enforcement officers, see emergency vehicles up close, watch various demonstrations including from law enforcement K-9s, and more. Free goodie bags and cotton candy will be given away while supplies last. Additionally, food will be available for purchase.

The St. Louis County Sheriff's Office and police departments from across the Iron Range are partnering, along with several state agencies, to offer what they hope will become an annual event.

"We see this as an opportunity to have some fun and build relationships," said Deputy Brock Kick of the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, who is helping coordinate the event. "Kids love climbing in cars and seeing what K-9s can do, and our hope is to turn this into an annual celebration in this part of the county."

The event is planned for outdoors in the event center parking lot, and is expected to take place rain or

COMMUNITY HEALTH

St. Louis County honors community partners for COVID response help

REGIONAL - The St. Louis County Board and St. Louis County Public Health honored more community partners for their assistance during the pandemic, this time celebrating those from the northern part of the county. During Tuesday's County Board meeting, which was held in Hoyt Lakes, the county presented Public Health Partnership Awards to 33 organizations and individuals for helping in a variety of ways including providing space for COVID testing sites and vaccination clinics, assisting with outreach to ensure people had accurate information as well as access to vaccine and testing, providing essential services to people in need who had to isolate or quarantine, and offering resources and infection control consultation and other technical

assistance. Those honored during Tuesday's Board meeting included: Adventure Inn, Arrowhead Center, Arrowhead Opportunity (AEOA), Arrowhead Regional Development Commission - Arrowhead Area

Agency Agency on Aging, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, City of Aurora, City of Eveleth, City of Gilbert, City of Hibbing, City Meadowlands, City of Virginia, Coates Ho-

tel, Curl Mesabi, East Range Police Department - City of Aurora and Hoyt Lakes Emergency Management, Ely Economic Area Senior Center, Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital, Ely Community Care Team, Ely Community Health Center, Hibbing Community College College, Housing & Redevelopment Authority of Virginia, Jessie B. of Midwest Radio Communications, Koke's Motel, Northeast Service Co-

operative. Scenic Rivers Health Services, St. Louis County Agricultural Fair Association, St. Louis County Public Works Department in Ely and Virginia, St. Louis County Rescue Squad, St. Louis County Schools - ISD 2142, Vermilion Community College, Voices for Ethnic and Multicultural Awareness (VEMA), Duluth MakerSpace, and Paul Schonfeld.



Lyric Center for Arts brings back its annual "Open Waters" exhibit

LOCAL ARTISTS

VIRGINIA - The public is welcome to an open house reception in the Lyric Center Gallery on Thursday, May 5 from 4 - 6 p.m. Non-alcoholic beverages and snacks will be available as guests view the 17th Annual "Open Waters" exhibit featuring 17 Minnesota artists.

The Lyric Center Gallery has been open for a year with new exhibits, "Open Houses", that occur for a month which started with April's Youth Arts Education Stu-

"Open Waters" is an exhibit welcoming spring and saying goodbye to the ice and snow, while showcasing the land, life and beauty the changing season brings. We can feel the weight lift once that first flow of water rushes by, the grass begins turning green and the sun shines with warmth on our faces as we let go of the multiple layered clothing, embracing the sun on our neglected arms and legs.

The artists included in this year's display are: Bethany Jackson, Betsy Nelson, Jane Wertanen, Kelle Nenadich, Kris B. Nelson,

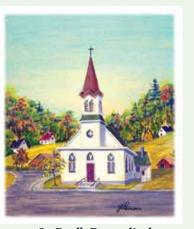
Kristen Anderson, Lindsey Ber-



gan, Margie Helmstrom, Michelle Lexvold, Michelle Wegler, Pamella Schultz, Priscilla Hiipakka, Regina Swanson, Sandra Markovich, Sue Rauschenfels and Thomas McDonald. These artists are sharing their

creative visions to welcome spring. Lyric Center for the Arts has been working diligently to provide

the area with exceptional and artistic offerings from live concerts to youth arts education and have many plans to expand the center's onsite offerings. Regular gallery hours are Thursday - Saturday from 11 a.m. -3 p.m. For more information, visit lyriccenteronline.org.



St. Paul's Evangelical **Lutheran Church** On the corner of Church and Main in picturesque Soudan



Concerns about North Woods aired

Behavioral issues from violence to vaping must be addressed, say participants in community meeting

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- A student cornered and bullied as others recorded the attack on cell phones. Vaping in bathrooms. Openly disrespectful comments toward staff.

What's going on at North Woods School?

These are but a few examples of concerning behaviors at North Woods described by some of the dozens of parents, teachers, and others who attended an independently organized community meeting held April 27 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook. The meeting was an opportunity for the public to air concerns about issues at the school and begin to brainstorm solutions.

Inappropriate and often intimidating behaviors by some students have created a sense of fear among many younger students, according to some of those in attendance at the meeting. Some younger students now reportedly avoid going

into the restrooms out of fear of encountering possible bullying or vaping. Many complained that school administrators haven't effectively addressed complaints when they've been expressed, or

(North Woods) is our house and it's our place to protect."

Parent Jenny Panichi

communicated in an effective or timely manner.

Tifany Briggs, both a teacher and a parent, moderated the meeting and began by setting ground rules and desired outcomes.

"We're here to share concerns about our school culture and discipline and offer ideas and supports to help make North Woods the most positive learning environment we can," Briggs said. "This is not a time for passing blame or making excuses." By and large, participants did their best to follow Briggs's lead even as some comments were deeply emotional.

Nate Briggs, Tifany's husband and parent of two North Woods students, was first to comment.

"I'm here because I want a great school in our community. I want other schools to be held up to the North Woods standard," he said. He had a full list of things that could be discussed for improvements, but then set that aside.

"I don't believe we'll be addressing those because we're going to get stuck on the obvious bigger problems – vigilantism, drug use on campus, physical violence, bullying, threatening. This is probably why we're here. Many of us and many of the students don't feel safe in the

school, I've heard. It's my wish that we get these major problems under control immediately." Briggs said the school handbook needs to be revised with clearer rules on behavior and consequences, a suggestion echoed later by numerous others. Sensors in bathrooms and locker rooms could address vaping, he suggested.

"Maybe we'll come up with a lot of ideas tonight," he said hopefully.

Tears flowed at times as teacher and parent Beth Wilenius talked about her concerns.

"We have a problem right now. Physical violence is a problem," she said "I'm hearing that at home at my dinner table. As a mom, I want to change that so bad, because we deserve so much more. Every one of us in this room wants change, and it starts with this— with conversations and brainstorming solutions and working together. I just really want to send a message of zero tolerance for violence. We can't

send our kids out into the world thinking that's OK. Every child is welcome in our communities."

Jenny Panichi is also a parent and a teacher at North Woods. "I feel like (North Woods) is our house and it's our place to protect," she said. "Nate pretty much laid it out there that lots of little things can lead to big things, and we need to get it under control. That's why we're asking for your support. We need to spread the word further and wider. We want these people to grow up to the be best in society. We don't want to settle for anything less."

Stephanie Burckhardt is a parent of three North Woods students, and she said that she believes there's a problem with kids being held accountable for their behaviors.

"As a parent, I feel that you've lost control of the school. It seems that students can do whatever they want without consequences. If (my kids) know it and teachers

See CONCERNS...pg. 5

Mayo Clinic COVID map

PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID cases on the rise as latest Omicron variant takes hold

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL-Withless than half of Minnesotans up to date on their COVID vaccinations and recommended boosters, cases are slowly but steadily on the rise as a new and still more transmissible Omicron variant has appeared in the state.

Minnesota averaged just over 1,300 new cases per day this past week, nearly double the daily case average of 724 in mid-April, according to Minnesota Department of Health data. More than 90 percent of those cases are attributed to the BA.2 subvariant of Omicron, which has been estimated to be 50 to 60 percent more transmissible than the original Omicron variant.

Right: COVID hotspot maps from the Mayo Clinic show the projected progression of increasing cases across Minnesota through May 14, with darker colors representing higher numbers of cases per 100,000 people.

Increases have been noted in St. Louis County as well, with the northern portion of the county trending back up after a period of decline. Notably, four of the six North Country zip codes monitored by the *Timberjay* had a combined seven cases reported last week. Two weeks ago, only two cases were reported in the region, both in Embarrass.

COVID hospitalizations have also increased, but the admissions and



severity of illness are running lower than at other times during the pandemic. Hospitals in northeastern Minnesota reported 21 non-ICU and three ICU

patients with COVID-19 on Monday. Statewide, only seven percent of hospitalized COVID patients were in intensive care, the lowest percentage of the pandemic thus far.

At the beginning of the Delta wave of the pandemic last fall, health officials frequently used the phrase "pandemic of the unvaccinated" to describe the alarming rise in COVID cases, driven primarily by those who

May 14

(projected)

See COVID... pg. 5

REAL ESTATE



WE SELL THE NORTH!







OPINION

OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;"

"CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW... ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Altenburg's ax-grinding

Why give free rein to former city employee who seeks only to settle scores?

"Creating quite a bit of conflict without stating all the facts.'

That was the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board's take, issued in an official report last summer, on the "reporting" by Steve Altenburg in the *Tower News*. Altenburg, the former director of the Tower ambulance service has used that newspaper for more than two years now to settle old scores in the wake of his dismissal from city employment.

He was at it again, last week, with a rant that stirred up conflict, while leaving out a number of facts. First, we certainly don't deny that the Tower Area Ambulance Service is struggling financially. We had predicted that the service would face significant financial challenges as a result of a poorly implemented transition to a paid on-call system under Mr. Altenburg's tenure as supervisor, and that prediction has borne out over time.

Mr. Altenburg, as evidenced by his latest screed, is hoping to place the blame for the service's troubles at the feet of his successor, rather than accept any responsibility himself. But as last year's EMSRB's financial consultant pointed out, it was Mr. Altenburg's sloppy financial work, adopted by the former city council with virtually no due diligence, that laid the foundation for the current troubles.

At the time, Mr. Altenburg presented the council with financial projections which left out a large number of known expenses, while exaggerating the potential profit from inter-hospital transfers, which he told the council at the time would more than pay for the cost of the switch to a paid on-call model. He later told this newspaper that the service could average \$1,000 in profit from such transfers. The EMSRB's financial consultant pegged those profits at less than \$500 per transfer. Since then, the city council has undertaken its own analysis, which concluded similarly to the EMSRB's findings, and found that shorter transfers tend to be more profitable, while many long transfers actually lose money. That's the kind of analysis the former city council should have undertaken before it saddled the city with Mr. Altenburg's costly paid on-call system.

The problem the service now faces is that it is continuing to operate within the same parameters established by Mr. Altenburg, while simultaneously trying to comply with state law. The EMSRB had noted that the service was not in compliance with state law, which requires that all

ambulance services maintain a roster of on-call personnel, seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Under Mr. Altenburg, the service was unable to consistently staff that roster more than 40-50 percent of the time. Yet, he has the audacity to criticize the current director for not maintaining a sufficient number of EMTs. He failed to state that the service's on-call roster is now staffed upwards of 90-95 percent of the time.

This is the foundational issue that Mr. Altenburg avoids mentioning. The only way his paid on-call structure could survive financially was if it was only partially staffed. Once the EMSRB noted that the service was violating state law and the council directed the current ambulance supervisor to bring the service into compliance, the financial burden of the system and pay structure that Altenburg created became unavoidable. The EMSRB had predicted this would happen, which is why it recommended that the city reduce its on-call pay to keep the costs from spiraling out of control. The council has failed to adopt this recommendation, in part because they appear to recognize that it's hard to reduce pay without impacting morale. It's just another Altenburg land

Mr. Altenburg claims that the finances can be fixed if only the service undertakes more transfers, but he's relying on the same fuzzy math as before. While the service could generate more revenue, transfers don't generate much operational cash flow (which is what the service needs) once the \$1.66 per mile allocation to the ambulance replacement account is included in the calculation.

While the EMSRB recommended scrapping that payment, that would require approval from area townships, which is unlikely. In any case, the allocation effectively substituted for another major expense that Mr. Altenburg never calculated, which was the depreciation on ambulances for all those miles driven on transfers. Factor in depreciation, and transfer profits largely vanish.

The real question isn't why Mr. Altenburg is so fixated on settling scores by stirring up conflict without providing all the facts, as the EMSRB noted. He can't help himself. What is most troubling is the continued willingness of a newspaper editor and publisher to give Mr. Altenburg free rein to undertake his divisive and destructive ax-grinding, purportedly as "news" rather than the twisted opinion that it is.

April Showers...





Letters from Readers

Stauber votes no on burn pit legislation

It's 1:36 p.m., on Sunday, April 24, and I just got off the phone with Rep.Jen Schultz of Duluth. She told me that she is an economist in addition to serving as a lawmaker. We talked about our current congressman's recent "NO" vote on burn pit legislation.

In Vietnam where I served, we used a 50-gallon drum cut off about two feet high, three-quarters full of fuel oil, with a seat on it. What do you think the smoke from the fire smelled like? Why would you vote at all about something you know nothing about?

Skip M Dickinson

COMMENTARY

How the U.S. has remained a world leader for so long

An interesting thing happened after Russia invaded Ukraine. Though U.S. standing in the world had taken a knock after the much-needed but chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan, there was no question where the world's democracies would turn for leadership in

the Ukraine crisis. As much of Europe and Asia has found a new resolve on behalf of democratic values, in the time since the war began the U.S. has been front and center in rallying them to the cause

This is a role we've played-with ups and downsfor many decades. It became fashionable

not very long ago to argue that the U.S.'s preeminent role in world affairs has disappeared, but it's harder to make that case at the moment. There are other world powers, of course, China and Russia notable among them. And it's also true that after long wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the American public's taste for big-power projections of force has diminished. Yet as the democracies of the world look forward, the U.S.'s leadership role remains indispensable.

With all of our problems and we have no shortage of them—there are several reasons we've retained that position. The first is that, in the end, we know what we stand for: personal liberty, justice, economic opportunity, a sense of morality in world affairs.

I will never forget a moment some years back, after a meeting at the White House when George H.W. Bush was president. He and I had become friends-

across the partisan aisle-when we'd both served in the U.S. House, and as we walked out, he turned to me and asked, "Lee, did I do the right thing?" That impressed me: The President of the United States turning to a friend and asking whether he'd gotten it right.

That's what we usually strive for as a country: to do the right thing.

There are other factors, of course, that underlie our ability to maintain our position in the world. One, clearly, is our military strength, its technological innovation, and the professionalism of our armed forces. Another is a solid economy which, despite its inequalities and occasional struggles, has over the long term brought general prosperity to Americans and made us a destination for ambitious people around the world.

We've also benefited from a remarkable degree of political stability. We have our hardfought differences, and there's no question that we face a time of testing ahead as some politicians seek to upset the institutions and rules by which we've lived for so long, but even so, the country's not coming apart at the seams. In a dangerous world, that's a vital asset not to be squandered.

So is the attitude we bring to the task of world leadership—a sense of civility that leads many nations (though not all) to trust us to act decently, work closely with allies and other like-minded countries, and cooperate with international organizations. We take risks now and then and face flak for it, but in general, there's an expectation that we'll behave

In part, this is because we bring good people to the task of leadership. We maintain a reputation for fielding a strong civil service, treating elections seriously, and for the most part electing solid politicians. We constantly refresh the country's talent through immigration, and our institutions of education kindergarten through graduate school - produce a steady stream of motivated, talented people who want to do the right thing. There is no question that over the years, American education made American preeminence possible.

None of this is to say that our future on the global stage is assured. Our tendency in recent years to elect politicians who embrace the extremes has been

See HAMILTON...pg. 5

Airport trauma and adventures in Great Britain

Before I get too far into my Great Britain story I have to say... air travel in 2022 is not easy, even within the United States. A few days past Easter, I traveled by car to Missouri to visit my family, then flew home from Kansas City to Duluth, encountering some unpleasant



through security at the Kansas City airport, my body scan raised a red flag. The agent held up a diagram with the highlighted area covering my crotch and she looked at me sternly and asked, "Do you have anything metal down there?" I said, "No, just my zipper." She

asked if I wanted to be checked While attempting to pass right there or in a private area? I

replied, "Well, do I have to drop trou?" She said "No," holding up her vinyl covered hands...fingers wriggling to get started. She proceeded to explore my legs and patted my front. Feeling nearly violated with a capitol "V," I couldn't help but add some comic relief and said, "I haven't had this much excitement in ages." Other passengers smiled as they were hopping by while putting their shoes back on, also doing their best to get past this point of judgement, emotional abuse and violation.

I flew from Kansas City to Minneapolis, then boarded a smaller plane to Duluth where my 24-inch suitcase had to be tagged and put in the cargo hold. The attendant gave me a pink bag claim ticket, but when I got off the plane I didn't know where to pick up my bag. An employee directed me to the baggage carousel on the lower-level and I waited for a suitcase that never arrived.

By this time, everyone in the Duluth airport had left and no doubt were at their favorite restaurants ordering wine and hors d'oeuvres as I stood alone at the Delta service counter for twenty minutes listening to my stomach growl. I was ruminating about the now-bygone treasures in my suitcase nabbed from the carousel by some ner-do-well. My son was waiting outside in the car to pick me up, but I had to wait for the suitcase-searchand-rescue-goddess to help me and soon she arrived with my suitcase intact.

Two weeks prior, on the

See BRITAIN...pg. 5

Fix for state's unemployment account finally inked

by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

REGIONAL -After months of political wrangling, the Legislature finally agreed last week on a measure that will provide \$2.73 billion to replenish the state's unemployment insurance (UI) program. The fund took a beating as a result of the massive layoffs stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. Gov. Tim Walz signed the measure

into law last Friday.

The state's UI fund currently owes the federal government \$1.4 billion in unemployment payments that the U.S. Treasury covered to provide benefits to Minnesota workers during the height of the pandemic.. The additional \$1.33 billion dedicated in the agreement will go to replenish the state's unemployment fund balance, bringing it to approximately \$1.3 billion.

The agreement will head off

anticipated increases in unemployment insurance premiums for Minnesota businesses and will provide unemployment tax relief, totaling \$200 million, to about 130,000 businesses.

"Minnesota businesses, especially small businesses and their workers, were deeply impacted by COVID-19," said Steve Grove, commissioner of the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). "This investment means we won't have to raise future UI tax rates right at this critical moment of expansion for Minnesota's economy. Avoiding higher tax payments means more money for business owners to put toward salaries, benefits and capital expenses."

DEED will now begin calculating revisions to the amounts that over 130,000 employers owe in UI taxes.

This law also provides \$500 million for Frontline Worker Pay, which will provide bonus compensation to frontline workers who have sacrificed during the pandemic to keep Minnesotans safe, healthy, fed, and cared for. Eligible workers include those from the health care, childcare, school, food service, public transit, long-term care, building service, emergency response, retail, and manufacturing sectors.

BRITAIN...Continued from page 4

Britain trip, we were going through security at London's enormous Heathrow airport when my suitcase got flagged and pulled aside. I waited while a female security agent with an angry, rabid manner finished invading a young man's bag. She lifted out a pink lace nightie by its delicate shoulder straps and asked what "he" was doing with "that" in his suitcase? He started to explain, "It belongs to my girlfriend," but was cut-off by the rabid-warden, "I don't need any explicit details or that attitude either she blurted!"

I was a mother, witnessing pure injustice with my inner-guardian wanting to tell her she was way off-base, but I held back knowing to get involved would make matters worse....but offered a steady glare the entire time. I was fearing I would be there with her for most of the day but surprisingly when it got to be my turn she decided to take a break allowing a very reasonable agent to assist, so I was able to whiz through in no time at all and join my travel mates.

My point is to remember when you see lovely photos on Facebook from faraway places, just know that travel is not all fun and games. Someone lost their integrity, maybe their virtue... to bring you those glimpses of paradise while you sat at home, ego intact, unviolated and dining on prime rib.

On with more about my fabulous trip. We left The Plassey holiday park in Wales with friends Della and Jane Brookshaw accompanying us for the day's adventures and our upcoming overnight stay at historic Ruthin Castle. We traveled through lovely villages stopping for tea and a bit of shopping before arriving at world-class Bodnant Gardens, a National Trust property founded in 1874 in Tal-y-Cafn, Conwy, Wales and developed by five generations of the McLaren family. It was a lovely day to be outside walking through 80 acres of riverside gardens featuring plants from all over the world. The venue encompasses terraces of rose gardens, lily pools, manicured lawns and fascinating woods, herbaceous beds, shrub borders, a large manor house and shops. It's a feast for the eyes and soul. We also enjoyed lunch in their charming café with all the newly encountered varieties of sodas, juices and items available for purchase, including my Wensleydale cheese sandwich. I had always wanted to try that cheese ever since hearing of it on the British, Wallace and Gromit comedy franchise. From Bodnant, we traveled down to Portmeirion, an Italian style hillside tourist village on the coast of north wales in Snowdonia, famous for its Botanic Garden design dinnerware, brightly colored buildings and landscaping. It was low-tide yet sparkly with the bright blue skies and sunshine making the entire visit there a warm dreamy memory.

We then drove through hilly Snowdonia and arrived at medieval Ruthin Castle which is one of 600 castles in Wales. In fact, it is said to have more castles per square mile than any other place in Europe. The first construction of Ruthin took place in 1277 for King Edward I of England but was most notably the base for the Grey family. Throughout its existence it has withstood sieges, imprisonments, tortures, demolition by Oliver Cromwell and much rebuilding. The walls of the castle were stone or brick, depending on which century they were built and whether they had been destroyed in past assaults. As the van drove up the lane, I saw the two large stone lions flanking the large front entrance into Ruthin and a couple colorful peacocks strutting on the front lawn. How absolutely fascinating I thought. While the current owners had re-decorated the inside and selected rather ill-suited paint colors for the walls, furnishings and carpets... the historic charm of the castle itself greatly compensated.

Historic characters such as Jenny Churchill, Edward VII (Prince of Wales...known as Edward the Caresser) and his mistresses; socialite-actress Lillie Langtry, and Lady Cornwallis-West spent much time at the castle. Famous for her high spirits, Lady Cornwallis-West is said to have slid down the staircase on a tea tray to amuse the Prince. No wonder those stair boards creaked. On the second floor, there was a gold plaque on the bedroom door across the hall from the room Jill and I shared with the engraving, "The Lillie Suite." We chuckled, hoping someone from housekeeping might be able to let us inside for a peek, but no such luck.

It is said to be stunningly decorated with antique

furniture, a fireplace, red bedspread and colorful chandeliers representing the lust and flamboyance associated with her character. Juicy little details certainly add to a story! One wall of our room was completely lined with full length wardrobe closets to accommodate the vast amount of clothing needed by the aristocratic guests attending all sorts of functions. Our room had a fireplace and paned glass windows held intact by thick, black-leading with the oldest latch I've ever

held in my hands. As I peered through the weathered glass, I felt as if someone were looking over my shoulder fully aware that Ruthin is alledgedly one of the most haunted hotels in Great Britain with many paranormal investigations having taken place there. Several ghosts have been encountered, including the Grey Lady who has been seen inside and outside the castle. I had a difficult time falling asleep... between the night air filled with shrieking peacocks and anticipation of seeing the Grey Lady, I did manage...only to have one of my blood-curdling nightmares which caused poor Jill to ubruptly sit up in bed.

After breakfast in the fancy dining room, I felt drawn outside for one more look around. I strolled the lush castle grounds, aware of two peacocks peering at me from tree branches overhead. It was easy to go back in time and imagine robust riders upon their steeds as they galloped through the stone arch entrances from those same tree lined paths I was walking on. Vines covered the craggy castle walls and off in the distance through openings between trees the soft green rolling hills were waiting ... cloaked in mist. We soon were traveling over those hills returning to the Plassey with the Brookshaws for our last night in Wales. It was so rich and full.... the best Welsh experience an Iron Range girl from Hoyt Lakes could ever have imagined. My next column will be the subject of visits to the homes of writer's Beatrix Potter and Sir Walter Scott...plus other festive tidbits.

CONCERNS...Continued from page 3

know it and administration knows it, why isn't something happening? I feel that those kids need to be held accountable."

A common theme as the nearly two-hour-long meeting transitioned into brainstorming was comparing the school environment today to that of commenters when they were schoolagers, noting that they encountered stricter rules and consequences and urged a return to those. A significant part of that discussion centered on the accessibility and use of cell phones, which the majority appeared to be in favor of significantly restricting or banning altogether. One suggestion, to implement a system found in some other schools where students cell phones are checked in and stored in a common place at the beginning of the day and are only allowed to be used for a brief designated period of time for specific purposes, received multiple supportive comments.

While numerous other ideas were suggested, time constraints prevented more in-depth discussions and development of the ideas, and when Briggs asked if people were interested in having another meeting, attendees wholeheartedly agreed. Another meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m., again at Trinity Lutheran Church.

ISD2142SchoolBoard President Pat Christensen and Superintendent Reggie Engebritson were present to listen and observe, and Engebritson said Tuesday that they are already looking at how to address

some of the issues raised. "I'm glad I was able to attend and hear the concerns from the group," Engebritson said. "Since that meeting, I have met with the teachers and paras to hear their concerns and have invited anyone to send me their concerns and

suggestions. Both Principal (John) Vukmanich and I are discussing the concerns that we are hearing and looking at ways to improve communication and expectations for the rest of this school year and for next year. We both take these issues very seriously and it is our intent to make improvements so that all students and staff feel safe. I appreciate the hard work of the staff who organized the community meeting and welcome any further thoughts or suggestions as we continue to move forward."

TIMBERJAY

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COVID...Continued from page 3

had shunned getting any of the three widely-available vaccines. However, as the state moved through the peak of the Delta wave and subsequent Omicron wave, it has become clear that the effectiveness of the initial vaccines has waned and that vaccinated Minnesotans no longer have much additional protection against the latest variants.

Seven-out-of-ten Minnesotans aged five and over (3.7 million) have completed an initial vaccination series. And, with what the medical community has learned about waning vaccine immunity and with more highly contagious variants of the virus circulating, state health officials say they aren't surprised to see little difference now in infection rates between the vaccinated or the unvaccinated.

Demand for vaccinations and boosters was

relatively flat in April, according to the state's vaccine data dashboard. The percentage of people with first doses, a completed initial series, and "up to date" with recommended boosters all barely budged, all posting miniscule increases of less than one percent.

Breakthrough data doesn't yet differentiate between those who are "fully vaccinated" and those who have had the additional booster shots, but fully vaccinated individuals who contract COVID-19 continue to have better outcomes than unvaccinated individuals. Those benefits become clearer among older residents, who are nine times less likely to be hospitalized and seven to ten times less likely to die

unvaccinated seniors. What's coming

as a result of COVID than

Rising case levels will

affect more areas in the state in the coming weeks as the overall pattern of spread projected by modeling from the Mayo Clinic mirrors that of previous waves, although actual case numbers aren't anticipated to approach those of past

Twenty-one counties had average daily case levels per 100,000 of between 25 and 50 on May 1. By May 14, Mayo projects that 45 counties, including St. Louis County, will have elevated case levels, with doubling or tripling of rates in those identified on May 1. A new Omicron sub-

variant, is also likely to start claiming an increasing share of new cases. BA.2.12.1 was responsible for 29 percent of new coronavirus infections around the country as of mid-April, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That's up from 19 percent of cases the week prior and 14 percent of infections the first week in April. BA.2.12.1 has replaced BA.2 as the dominant cause of COVID infections in the New York-New Jersey area.

Recent wastewater testing in the Twin Cities has confirmed BA.2.12.1 is in Minnesota, and the subvariant is even more highly transmissible than BA.2 by an estimated 25 percent. While no estimate of its prevalence can currently be calculated, increases in other areas of the country will likely be mirrored in coming weeks in Minnesota.

REAL the Timberjay!

TOWER-SOUDAN LOCAL NEWS 6 May 6, 2022 THE TIMBERJAY

Week of May 9

Monday

Embarrass Al-Anon Family Group- Hope Lutheran Church, 5088 Hwy. 21, 6 p.m.

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on May 9.

Tuesday

Tower Area Food Shelf-Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:00 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is May 17.

Greenwood Fire Dept.-Meetings on the first (business meeting) and third (drill) Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Greenwood Town Board-6:30 p.m. on May 10.

Thursday

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

Tower/Soudan Community Bible Study- Thursdays from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at the Tower Elementary School cafeteria. All are welcome. Call 218-984-3402 for more info.

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

Little Church to meet on Saturday, May 15, service set for Sunday, May 22

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church Committee will meet on Saturday, May 14 at 10 a.m., and will hold a spring clean-up after the meeting.

The church will also be hosting a service on Sunday, May 22 at 4 p.m. with Jon Salo. There will be coffee an' following the

The committee is open to everyone in the area who is interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained in our community. The group also hosts a men's group that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation. All are welcome. The Little Church is located in Vermilion Lake Township on Cty. Rd. 26/Wahlsten Rd. Please contact Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014 with any questions.

COVID-19 shots offered Fridays in Elv

ELY- The Ely Community Pharmacy will continue to offer COVID shots every Friday during their regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. These shots can be first or second doses or a booster. For more information, call the pharmacy at 218-365-

Free children's vitamins offered

ELY- The Ely Community Pharmacy has started a new program to offer free vitamins for children. Your child will receive a punch card that can be used each month to refill their bottle of chewable children's vitamins. For more information, stop in the Ely Community Pharmacy or call them at 218-365-8788.

MAKING PROGRESS

Old Lamppa building demolished; making way for new housing





TOWER- Daryl and Cheryl Lamppa, along with grandson Leif, watched as the old Tower Dairy building, former home of Lamppa Manufacturing, was being demolished and trucked away.

Two-and-a-half year-old Leif was mesmerized as the large equipment made slow but steady work of the large pile of mostly crushed

concrete.

The building, tucked into a back corner on Third St. S, was run as a dairy for at least 50 years, Daryl said, producing milk and cream for local families. His parents, Herb and Edna, ran the dairy for its last 25 years. As more safety regulations were put into place, the business began purchasing milk and cream from a larger dairy, continuing to deliver to their local customers. Around that time, many of the area's small dairy businesses were shut down, Daryl said.

In 1970, after the dairy closed, the Lamppa's began their woodstove business in the building. As the business expanded, they added onto the back of the building, but eventually realized they had outgrown the space.

In 2020, Lamppa Manufacturing moved into a newly-constructed building a few blocks away on Hwy. 135.

"The roof leaked, and we knew it had to come down," said Daryl.

The couple that bought the building plan to build a new home on the large lot.

More construction on Main Street

TOWER- May appears to be the unofficial start to construction projects on Tower's Main Street. A new roof was being installed on the old Tower Auto building, now the home of Pike River Products. A block to the west, the newly-renovated building housing Flexspace, Little Green Pantry, and Harbor View Spa was getting its exterior insulated and re-sided.

And pedestrians had to take care as a water leak repair was underway at the intersection of Main and Spruce streets. A large section of sidewalk was removed, and a deep hole was dug, as repairs were made.





TSHS looking for Depot Museum volunteers this summer



your time and enthusiasm greeting visitors to the Tower-Soudan Historical Society Depot Museum this summer? TSHS is excited for the coming tourist season. Last year the depot hosted over 2,000 visitors. TSHS hopes to have the Depot Museum open seven days a week from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. with area volunteers. Support from the

TOWER- Are you willing to share

community is crucial. We are looking for people willing to commit to a three-hour shift throughout the summer (Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend), on a flexible basis. Training is provided. The experience is rewarding and fun. Please contact TSHS secretary Linda Folstad at 218 750-0193 or email tshssecretary@gmail.com by May 15 for more information.

Memorial Day Tribute planned for May 30 at Civic Center

TOWER- Plans are being finalized for the Tower-Soudan annual Memorial Day Tribute to be held on Monday, May 30 at the Herb Lamppa/Tower Civic Center from 10 a.m. to noon. This tribute will honor the military service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform, their families at home, and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Dianna Sunsdahl will be the guest speaker. The names of local veterans killed in action and deceased veterans will be read. A medley of patriotic songs will be sung by the Tower Soudan Area Singers under the direction of Rolf Anderson.

The Tower Soudan Area Singers will practice on Mon-

day, May 9, Tuesday, May 17, and Tuesday, May 24, at 6 p.m. at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower. If you are interested in joining the singers, contact Rolf Anderson at 218-753-3262. All are welcome.

The program will conclude with a traditional Memorial Day wreath placed on a symbolic Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

in a ceremony to be held outside the Civic Center.

Refreshments, provided by the Tower Soudan Civic Club, will be served before and following the tribute. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this heartwarming event.

Fourth of July schedule planned; volunteers still needed

TOWER-SOUDAN- Plans for this year's Fourth of July celebration are well underway under the direction of the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Area Events Board (TSLVAEB). The board has been meeting monthly since the start of the year and would like to announce this year's schedule of events: Saturday, July 2: Fireworks

Sunday, July 3: Breitung Community Picnic

Monday, July 4: Pancake breakfast organized by the Tower Civic Club, the Vermilion 5K/10K Run/Walk, annual Parade, followed by children's events and races.

Due to staffing issues, the company hired to detonate the fireworks had no availability on

the actual holiday. However,

because the events board was

willing to schedule on July 2, our

community will enjoy 10-percent more fireworks this year. The board is also considering hosting an event that will kick off the weekend on the afternoon of Saturday, July 2, ahead of the fireworks. If you have any ideas of a great way to start out the celebration, the TSLVAEB wants to

The parade will begin with the always-popular kiddie parade. Participants will each receive a patriotic lanyard and cash participation prize; prizes are no longer awarded to individuals so that all kids can enjoy a few more dollars to spend at the local vendors. The main parade is also in need of participants. Over \$1,000 in cash prizes will be awarded for floats in several

categories including: Best Fami-

ly Float, Best Commercial Float,

Most Patriotic Float, and more.

Start brainstorming your float idea today and get ready to win some money.

The annual Fourth of July events don't just happen. A dedicated group of individuals put in countless hours, amounts of energy, money, and talent organizing the celebration so that our amazing community can continue to come together each year to honor the U.S.A. Want to know how you can help? The TSLVAEB always welcomes volunteers, the next meeting is on Thursday, May 19 at 4:30 p.m. at the Soudan Community Center. Anyone willing to help with this momentous occasion is welcome. If you aren't able to volunteer, please be sure to buy some raffle tickets to get your chance at some Members great cash prizes.

of the events board will be set-

ting up their ticket selling booth

soon, look for them around town. They'll be selling raffle tickets in addition to flags, vinyl stickers, and wooden buttons commemorating the amazing event that is the Tower Fourth of July!

The TSLVAEB also gladly accepts cash donations. Donations help fund the children's race, sawdust scramble, float prizes, kiddie parade, and the thousands of dollars spent on the entertainment groups in the parade including veteran floats, bands, and clubs. Donations can be made to TSLVAEB or Tower Fourth of July and mailed to: TSLVAEB, PO Box 461, Tower, MN 55790.

The TSLVAEB looks forward to enjoying another great Fourth of July with our commu-

ELY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL



Ely High School Prom 2022 was 'A Night at the Movies'



Arrow and Blaze Halbakken stole the show. photos by K. Vandervort

ELY - The 2022 Ely High School Junior-Senior Prom was held Saturday, April 30 at Ely's Historic State Theater in "A Night at the Movies" atmosphere. Prom attendees visited the

Boundary Waters Care Center and nearby Carefree Living facility on Saturday afternoon to show off their formal wear. A picture session at the Ely State

Theater, and a run-through practice was held for the Grand March later in A Prom Paparazzi Walk was

held where family and friends lined the sidewalks of Sheridan Street as the prom-goers walked from Insula Restaurant to Ely's Historic State Theater for the dance. Ely High School seniors Katrina Seliskar and Gunnar Hart, top, stopped on the red carpet for a photo shoot last Saturday



again grass and a short spring goodbye to winter

Libraries

Ely library Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Closed on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

at the 2022 Prom held at Ely's Historic State Theater. Above right, four Little Angels, Annie Bloomberg, Bryanna Cook, and

Gardner Humanities Trust awards \$11,300 in arts grants

ELY - The board of the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust voted to award \$11,300 to local arts organizations, scholarships and fine arts events at its April 13 board meeting.

"This grant round was really competitive as we received many good applications but the Trust had a limited amount of grant dollars in our budget," stated Keiko Williams, executive director for the Trust. "The board really paid close attention to the grant narratives and budgets during the grant review. In some cases the grant award was reduced if a narrative or budget were not clear and the board had questions about them."

The Trust's project grant program supports activities in the fine arts and is intended to make possible presentations or productions. Three project grants were awarded this year to the following orga-

➤ The Reflections Dance Company was awarded \$3,500 to help in the production of "Math



July, thanks to a grant from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust.

in Motion" to be held in August. This production will feature dance pieces, live music and two pieces composed specifically for the show. ➤ The Ely Folk School

was awarded \$2,800 to help pay for musicians and transportation for four community dances in the next year.

➤ The Friends of Gail was awarded \$2,000 to present the play "The Quiltmaker's Gift" at Ely's Historic State Theater on July 15-17. The original book was illustrated by Ely's Gail DeMarcken.

The Trust's scholarship program is to benefit students in their third year of college or above that are majoring in the fine arts or library science. The scholarships are available to Ely Memorial High School or Ely home school graduates and Ely Public Library staff.

Tricia Flake, staff member of the Ely Public Library, was awarded a \$3,000 scholarship for the year 2022 in her graduate studies through the University of Denver for a Masters of Information and Library Science.

The Trust has allocated \$3,000 for use by the Ely Public Library this year. The 2022 Donald G.

Gardner Humanities Trust board members are: Beth Ohlhauser, Jill Swanson, Angela Campbell, Sara Skelton, Todd Crego, David O'Donnell, Vince

O'Connor and Pam

The Trust will have a

fall grant round with appli-Phone: 218-827-3345 cations most likely due by the end of September. The actual deadline will be published in the newspapers as well as on the website by August.

Any questions about the grant programs, the Trust or ways to support the arts in Ely can be directed to Keiko Williams, Executive Director at 365-2639 or at info@ gardnertrust.org.

The purpose of the Trust is for the enhancement, growth and improvement of: 1. The Ely Public

Library. 2. The arts and arti-

sans of Ely and surrounding area, to include performing arts, visual arts and literature. 3. The creating and

funding of scholarships, educational and artistic 4. The cultural and

aesthetic environment of the City of Ely and its surrounding area.

OUR COMMUNITY

Ely-area organizations honored by St. Louis County for COVID-19 response and vaccinations, and other ELY-Five local organiza-From left, Helen

tions were recently honored by St. Louis County who partnered with the county's Public Health department staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. During a recent County

Board meeting in Hoyt Lakes, those community partners from the northern part of the county were recognized, honored and thanked for their help with community outreach, ensuring

people had access to testing

essential services. Ely-area organizations

presented with Public Health Partnership Awards included Vermilion Community College, Ely Community Health Center, Ely Area Senior Center, Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, and the Ely Community Care Team. The county's public works

recognized.



Tome, of the Ely Community Health Center, is shown with Public **Health Division Director Amy** Westbrook, and **Director of Public Health and Human** Services Linnea Mirsch. submitted photo

Tuesday Group

ELY - The Tuesday Group community educational lunch gathering meets every Tuesday 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.

➤ May 10 -- On Facilitating a Dialogue with Nature with Rachelle Elizabeth. Rachelle Elizabeth will share her work on how aesthetic dialogue can create a relationship with nature or the more-than-human-world, toward the healing of both humans and nature.

➤ May 17 - Meet Grant Hauschild, candidate for Minnesota Senate District 3.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



snow disappearing

Phone: 218-365-5140

Babbitt library

Monday

Thursday

Tuesday Noon-6 pm Wednesday Noon-6 pm Noon-6 pm Friday Noon-5 pm

Noon-6 pm

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics

OPEN AA - 7:30

Anonymous

p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church. 915 E. Camp St., Ely. **SUNDAY NIGHT AA**at St. Anthony's Catholic Church is canceled. **ELY WOMEN'S OPEN** AA - Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely. BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend. **BABBITT AL-ANON -**Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian. **CO-DEPENDENTS'** 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 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









NEVERLAND BECKONS

About 40 North Woods students and director/actors with Prairie Fire Children's Theater put on a whimsical version of "Peter Pan" last Friday at the school. The script was designed and modified to give many children chances to deliver lines.

Top: The full cast at the end of Friday's dress rehearsal.

Middle left: As Peter Pan, Steven Sopoci turns to Wendy, played by River Cheney, for assistance in reattaching his lost shadow, while Tinkerbell, played by Charlie Holter, looks on.

Middle right: PFCT actor and director Jeremy Day's Captain Hook reacts in horror to the appearance of Crocodile Amber Sopoci.

Left: A group of pirates dance while brandishing their swords.

photos by D. Colburn

CITY RECREATION

Council members could end up in a pickle after exchange at meeting

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- A quick but spirited exchange at last week's Cook City Council could wind up with a pair of councilors taking shots at each other with paddles and a ball in a friendly game of pickleball, one of the country's fastest growing sports.

Council member Jody Bixby raised the possibility of creating a pickleball court in Cook to give seasonal and yearround residents, as well as tourists, a ready option to engage in the recreational sport, which looks like a cross between badminton and tennis. The game was born

out of boredom in 1965 when the patriarchs of two families living on an island in Washington decided they all needed something to do. One family had an old badminton court, but no equipment, so they substituted ping-pong paddles and a plastic ball with holes in it, lowered the net like a tennis court, and invented pickleball, a curious name that is still in dispute as to how it came about.

Today, pickleball is the state sport of Washington, has official national and international governing associations, is officially played in 60 countries around the world, and has nearly five million players.

Bixby described the game as best she could for those unfamiliar with it and did so in a fashion that generated enough interest for the council to ask city employees to explore hard-surfaced alternatives for a pickleball court, beginning with the skating rink at the community center. The consensus among council members was that using an existing hard surface space would be the most cost-effective and expedient way to bring the sport to Cook.

And Councilor Liz Storm threw down a challenge to Bixby to play a match once a new court is available. With no other option available to her, with the rest of the council looking on, Bixby gamely accepted the

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Book club to choose new titles

COOK- The Readers and Rappers Book Club will meet on Tuesday, May 10 at 12:30 p.m. at the Cook Community Center at 510 Gopher Dr. to select its book titles and moderators for the coming

Members and non-members alike are encouraged to attend and bring suggestions of titles.

Voting begins for NWFA annual photo contest

COOK- The submissions are in, and now it's time for the public to weigh in with their votes on the 2022 "Happiness Is ..." Photo Contest now on display at Northwoods

Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook.

Vote for your favorite photos to determine who will receive \$100 for the first-place entry. The runner-up will receive \$50. Awards will be unveiled and presented at a gala event at the gallery from 1 - 3 p.m. on Friday, May

Viewing and voting is open during regular gallery hours of Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. -1 p.m. at 210 S River St. in Cook.

Meeting for school improvements to be held on May 11

COOK- A follow-up action meeting building on the discussion on Apr.

8380 Hwy 73

Hours

Sun: 8am-noon

County 77 Canister Site

2038 County Rd. 77

Summer Hours

Tue:1-6pm, Thu: 8am-1pm

Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: noon-6pm

Office hours 8-4:30 Mon. thru Fri. stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle

St. Louis County

27 regarding improvements to build a strong and inclusive culture of excellence and caring at North Woods School will be held on Wednesday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church

in Cook. The meeting is open to the public. Discussion and interaction will be encouraged as all participants are invited to share ideas for making North Woods School better.



Summer Hours

Mon. & Wed: 9am-noon Sat: 10:30am-1:30pm

Portage Canister Site

6992 Crane Lake Rd.

Summer Hours

Tue: 2pm-6pm; Thu: 10am-1pm

Sat: 1pm-5pm; Sun: 3pm-6pm

Ash River Trail Canister Site 11391 Ash River Trail

Sat: 2:30pm-5:30pm

Orr Canister Site

4038 Hwy 53 Summer Hours Tue: 9am—1pm, Thu: 2pm—7pm Sat: 8am—noon, Sun: 10am—2pm

Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm

5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia

Tue, Sat: 8am-1pm

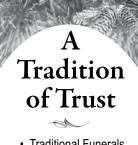
Summer hours effective April 15th through September 30th

Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30p Sat: 8am-3:30pm

Household Hazardous Waste Facilities 3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing

Sat: 8am-1pm

Environmental Services -4:30pm Department 1-800-450-9278



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Ely 4th-5th graders present 'Summer Camp' musical next Friday

by KEITH VANDERVORT

ELY – The halls of Washington Elementary School are usually quiet when the school day ends at 3 p.m., but in the Washington Auditorium, nearly 40 energetic fourth and fifth graders are just beginning a 90-minute rehearsal session.

The elementary students are putting the finishing touches on a spring musical, "Summer Camp," that will be performed one time only next Friday in the school auditorium.

Ely students and families have waited two years for the school musical to return to the stage.

"We were just weeks away from our performance in 2020 when the school went to distance learning because of COVID and our show was canceled," said Ely music teacher Michael Rouse, who is co-directing the show with Crystal Poppler.

"In 2021, we didn't even try to have a show. And this year, with the winter (coronavirus) surge, we were uncertain whether or not a show could take place," he said.

However, as the COVID situation started to let up, the decision was

made that "the show must go on." The student performers got a later start than normal this spring, "but the cast has enthusiastically embraced the challenge and has been working extremely hard," Rouse added.

"Summer Camp" takes place at the fictional Camp Runamuck and is filled with the feelings and memories of those who have ever been to a summer camp might have experienced.

"This musical has everything you loved and feared about summer camp, from the morning routine to the bugs," he said. "And we even a talent show."

Summer Camp per-

formers include: Counselor Willing, Grady Anderson; Camper Self Conscious, Brian Angelo; Camper Cubby, Avery Bee; Camper Wary, Anika Boerst; Camper Teary, Raegan Boerst; Camper Knot, Amiah Brandau; Camper Confused, Alex Brandriet; Camper Scattered, Katy Brophy; Camper Sleepy, Sally Dunn; Camper Bewildered, Lena Flom; Camper Willing, Violet Franciskovich; Camper Wide-Eyed, Jesse Gowell; Camper Itchalot, Madalyn Henry; Camper Horrified, Emory Hohenstein; Camper Timid, Addison Kannas; Bob, Tommy Kerntz; Camper Jo, Ora Koehler; Bonnie Blogger, Payson Kundinger; Bear #2, Juliana LaMontagne; Emcee, Lucille Luthens; Bear #1, Clara Luthens; Camper, Nels Majerus; Counselor Ready, Sailor Marzella; Camper Stampemout, Miriam Messerschmidt; Camper Tiny, Jorja Moravitz; Counselor Steady, Kylie Mosher; Camper Weary, Colette Moskowitz; Camper Sam, Siiri Nelson; Camper Nervous, Eleanor Nyquist; Counselor Able, Lucy Oelke; Camper Andi, Aubrielle Poppler; Camper Petrified, Jackson Ridings; Bear #3, Kaija

Shultz; Camper Cantsitstill, Liam Spate-Kurnava; Camp Director, Beck Sponholz; Carol, Amelia Strom; Camper Steady, Axel Weisinger; Camper Hadenough, Jessi Zobitz.

Hadenough, Jessi Zobitz.

The cast will be presenting this musical for a public performance on Friday, May 13 at 6 p.m. in the Washington Auditorium.

"It is worth noting that this is the first public performance in the auditorium since March of 2020," Rouse said. "Come join us for a fun-filled nostalgic romp at 'Summer Camp."

POLYMET ... Continued from page 1

legal duty to inform Fond du Lac that the PolyMet project "may affect" the reservation's waters, a step that the EPA previously failed to undertake. The Fond du Lac Band sued in 2019 and a federal judge agreed in February 2021 that the Band had the right to a hearing on their concerns. That hearing got underway on Tuesday and was scheduled to continue past the Timberjay's Wednesday deadline this

As part of that process, the EPA began reviewing Fond du Lac's concerns and commissioned two additional studies that looked at how the project's impact to wetlands could impact mercury methylation and increase the level of specific conductance in downstream waters.

"Through the EPA's evaluation of the Band's objection, the EPA identified several points of uncertainty and reasonably foreseeable discharges of mercury and dissolved ions contributing to specific conductance with respect to the NorthMet project and the CWA Section 404 permitted activities," wrote the agency in its report. As a result, "EPA recommends that the Corps not reinstate the suspended CWA Section 404 permit for the NorthMet project, as currently proposed.'

The EPA stated further that it was unaware of conditions in the Army Corps permit that would ensure compliance with the Fond du Lac water quality requirements for reserva-

tion waters.

"This is absolutely landmark," said Paula Maccabee, attorney for Duluth-based Water Legacy, which has worked closely with the Fond du Lac Band on a number

of challenges to PolyMet permitting.

"The EPA has used the weight of the science and the law to support the tribes, for the first time," added Maccabee. "The EPA has put in strong evidence through science, that no conditions could be added to make this project safe as designed."

While the decision on the Section 404 permit is ultimately up to the Army Corps, Maccabee said it was unlikely the Corps would effectively overrule the EPA on a recommendation pertaining to water quality.

Other opponents of the mine claimed victory. "The recommendation from the EPA vindicates the tireless work by the Fond du Lac Band to assert their tribal sovereignty and protect the clean water downstream of the proposed PolyMet project," said Chris Knopf, executive director of the Friends of the Boundary Waters. Friends legal counsel Max Kieley said the EPA's recommendation raises serious questions about the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's decision-making regarding PolyMet permitting. "It seems we have a state regulator that is not doing its job in regard to state water quality standards,"

said Kieley. While the EPA recommendation is likely to be weighty, it will not be the final word. PolyMet representatives were set to make their presentations on Wednesday and expressed confidence that the permit provides adequate protection of water quality. "We strongly disagree with the EPA's recommendation," said PolyMet spokesperson Bruce Richardson. "Importantly, like the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa that initiated this hearing, the EPA has disregarded the science-based conclusions in PolyMet's Environmental Impact Statement and permitting decisions that we will reduce mercury and sulfate loading to the St. Louis River watershed."

PolyMet was scheduled to present its evidence in the hearing on Wednesday, some of which the EPA failed to consider, according to Richardson. "We're confident the Corps will affirm the original conclusions by state and federal agencies that the PolyMet project will meet and exceed water quality standards, including at the Fond du Lac Band reservation located 116 river miles downstream," he added.

Broader impacts to wetlands at issue

While PolyMet officials argue that their proposed mine plan will actually reduce mercury discharges to the St. Louis River watershed, EPA officials say the current Section 404 permit does not consider the potential for significant additional mercury discharges as a result of indirect impacts to surrounding wetlands. Most of the wetlands that would be impacted by the project are peat bogs, which are known to serve as mercury sinks. At the same time, the EPA report notes that in low-oxygen aquatic systems, like peat bogs, elemental mercury can be altered by sulfate-reducing bacteria to methylmercury, a highly-toxic chemical that is known to "bio-accumulate" in aquatic food chains, posing health risks to humans who consume fish. Health surveys in the Great Lakes region have documented that northeastern Minnesota residents tend to have higher levels

of mercury in their blood

than others in the region, likely due to higher levels of fish consumption.

"The permit suite does not consider water quality impacts arising from changes in hydrology of wetlands due to the dewatering of the mine pit and that will result in the methylation of mercury and mobilization of mercury from the impacted wetlands," wrote the EPA in its analysis, which relies heavily on work done by the EPA's Office of Research and Development.

The EPA noted that total mercury in the surface water of the St. Louis River as it passes through the Fond du Lac reservation is among the highest in Minnesota and that the waters there are already considered impaired for exceedances of mercury that are several times the mercury standard set by the Fond du Lac, as well as by the state of Minnesota. The Band's mercury standard is 0.77 nanograms per liter (ng/l), while the state sets its limit at 1.3 ng/l. Levels reported in the St. Louis River, near the Fond du Lac reservation range from a high of 7.8 ng/l to 4.2 ng/l.

The EPA indicated that there was little that could be done within the existing Section 404 permit to address its concerns about mercury. "Given these significant uncertainties, EPA is unaware of any CWA Section 404 permit conditions that would ensure compliance with the Band's water quality requirements," noted the agency in its report.

While mercury may be a higher profile concern, the EPA also appears to agree with the arguments from Fond du Lac that the mine project, as currently designed, would fail to meet the Band's standard for specific conductance, which is a measure of the amount of dissolved mineral ions in an aquatic system. "Both lake sturgeon and brook trout, as well as the benthic invertebrates upon which they feed, require low specific conductance water for naturally sustained populations," noted the EPA. Even at relatively low levels of specific conductance, the EPA concluded "there would be declines in the abundance of aquatic microinvertebrates."

Next steps

Armed with the information from this week's hearings, the Army Corps willultimately need to decide its own next steps, which could include reinstating the permit as is, reissuing it with modifications, or permanently withdrawing it.

If the latter, PolyMet would presumably have the option of litigation, or of modifying its project in a way that addresses the EPA's concerns. That could be a very lengthy process, however, one that could require substantial additional environmental analysis. The EPA also recommends that any modifications closely involve both the state of Minnesota and the Fond du Lac Band as they are developed.



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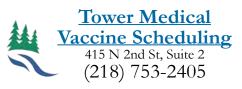
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HIGHER EDUCATION

VCC Class of 2022 graduates will gather in person this year

by KEITH VANDERVORT Elv Editor

ELY – After two years of a virtual-only ceremony, the Class of 2022 at Vermilion Community College will gather in person for a Commencement celebration on Tuesday, May

Eighty graduates are expected to participate in VCC's 99th Commencement in the school gymnasium. The pomp and circumstance

begins at 7 p.m.

Ely musician Joey Kenig will perform prior to the ceremony as guests are being seated and a slide show is being presented. Sara Skelton will provide entertainment during the ceremony and the Ely High School Brass Ensemble, under the direction of Sarah Mason, will perform the processional and recessional.

Special guests and speakers will include Eric Davis, Minnesota

State Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, Northeast Higher Education District, and soon-to-be Minnesota North President Michael Raich

V C C Interim Provost Chris Koivisto and Vermilion's Student Senate Representative Evan O'Connor are also part of the program. Faculty President Reed Petersen will be announcing names and degrees and certificates awarded as graduates cross the stage. VCCalumnus Timothy Mannuzza will be the keynote speaker for the evening.

"I'm an experiential educator," he said. "I try to inspire my students to seek meaningful connections to the world and the people around them so they can explore who they are and become more empowered in their lives."

He related that the first time he realized that education was the career path for him was during his last semester at VCC when he taught a lesson on flow theory.

"I felt empowered by how well it went. This sense of direction would have felt unimaginable during my freshman life crisis two years prior. I was lost. I mentally changed majors five times before transferring to VCC," Mannuzza said.

He added that the Outdoor Leadership program (OUTL) gave him direction, while VCC gave him a home."It was a connection to a place I had never had before. It has been instrumental in becoming the educator I am today," he said.

am today," he said.

VCC also inspired

Mannuzza to embark on
a personal expedition
he called the Silk Walk

Expedition.

"Walking through remote villages of China and the steppe of Kazakhstan taught me the value of genuine human connection and shifted my perspective forever," he said.

WELY...Continued from page 1 -

Hour" on WELY for more than six years, said he was "completely crushed" that the program was coming to an end as "the station is set to close down June 1." "I'm sad for the folks of Ely and surrounding communities," Hanson wrote. "I'm sad for all the bands and online listeners."

Bois Forte Tribal Council District 1 Rep. Shane Drift also responded Sunday to an inquiry posted to his official Facebook group page by confirming the shutdown was in the works. Since being elected to the council in 2018, Drift has been a vocal advocate for examining and bettering tribal business practices, including evaluating the financial losses of WELY. Drift noted on his page in February that he raised his concerns about the station at a meeting of the Bois Forte Development Corporation, indicating

that if the tribe couldn't sell the station, they should look at closing it. "I've been pushing for the tribe to do better business. This is a hard decision, but it's a step in the right direction," Drift said when contacted Tuesday by the *Timberjay*. Drift noted that he was speaking for himself and not specifically on behalf of the Band or the tribal council.

The *Timberjay* also reached out to Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers and other Band officials on Tuesday, but did not receive any official response until minutes before press time on Wednesday.

Opening first as an AM-band station in 1954 and adding an FM simulcast in 1992, the station has had a long list of owners over the years, and it's not the first time that WELY has had trouble generating revenue.

The station closed for a month in 1984 due to lack of funds, but the community responded with a \$9,000 fundraising effort to help get the station back on the air.

It took legendary CBS News "Onthe Road" reporter Charles Kuralt to save the station again when it went belly-up in 1995. Kuralt, who fell in love with Ely as he did numerous stories there over the years, bought the station at a court-supervised auction and poured thousands of dollars of his own into upgrades. However, Kuralt's dreams were sadly cut short when he died in 1997.

Bois Forte bought the station in 2005 when Boundary Waters Broadcasters, Inc. put it up for sale.

However, the Band's purchase coincided with a 15-year-long decline in radio advertising revenues

and that's why I would

like to see us hire a lateral

officer, perhaps someone

who has experience and

may be looking to have a

current Ely officer to accept

a position with another

He said he anticipates a

career here."

of more than 40 percent nationwide, according to the National Association of Broadcaste"We have been working behind the scenes to find a buyer that could continue operating the station, but our latest plans recently fell through," said Chavers in the press release. "While we would have preferred to keep the station open in the hopes another buyer would emerge, we needed to move ahead with this decision."

WELY staff, which includes one full-time employee and eight parttime employees, was informed of the decision to close down late last week.

"We have been working behind the scenes to find a buyer that could continue operating the station, but our latest plans recently fell through," said Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers.

"While we would have

preferred to keep the station open in the hopes another buyer would emerge, we needed to move ahead with this decision."

Reactions

"My initial reaction was heartbreak and sadness," said WELY's General Manager Brett Ross

"This station has so much history and means so much to the town. The fact is, the people of Ely owned this station and there will be a big void once we leave the airwaves."

As manager of local public access station Ely Area Television and a former WELY employee for two years, Todd Crego said losing the station will leave a hole in the town's social and entertainment landscape.

"It's incredibly sad

– it feels like the end of
an era in a way," Crego

said. "(WELY's) Saturday morning polka is such an Ely thing."

Crego said changing technology was a likely influence in the station's demise.

"It's so much easier to get pretty much whatever you want whenever you want, first with the likes of Napster (an early digital music file-sharing network), then into iTunes and now services like Spotify, where everything is just available with a click of a button," he said. "But I still feel like there is a heavy niche for a local radio audience. There are just the things that are so quintessentially Ely, like doing the Santa letters from the kids every Christmas and the polka show, all of those things that are so just community driven. Those are the things that I think about when I think about WELY."

\mathbf{ELY} Continued from page 1

actually very good in their wildlife law enforcement and parks program, but schools like Hibbing have 14 officers graduating this year and just seven plan to graduate next year. Fond du Lac College usually averages 25 graduates and right now they have 13."

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Ely's top cop explained that advertising for law enforcement vacancies in the Twin Cities and Duluth has increased.

"They are enticing them with signing bonuses and a variety of things," Houde said. "This might be an issue in the coming years

agency later this month.

"And I do have another officer that has put in for (an open position) with St.

Louis County further out, so we will be down possibly two officers by the middle of summer."

Houde added, "When

Houde added, "When bigger agencies call they have a lot more perks and opportunities. We have a great department. I've been here 17 years and I don't plan on going anywhere. There are some younger officers who want more action and more calls."

Just recently, to fill two positions open from retirements, the department had as many as 25 applicants in the hiring class.

"We hired three officers off that list," he said. "In the following year, we had five applicants apply and just two showed up for interviews. A lot has changed in law enforcement in the last three years."

Mayor Roger Skraba highlighted the great fishing opportunities for those living in Ely, but did not offer any incentives, such as a new fishing boat and motor, to attract new police officers to the com-

munity.

In a related matter, the council approved a recommendation from the Employee Relations Committee to offer the

position of the city's emergency manager to Ely police officer Bradley Roy, who has been on the force for five years.

"Throughout my time with the Ely Police Department, I have learned some of the demands that this position can have," he said in a letter of application. "I participated in two drills with the former emergency management director, and while working on these drills, I got handson experience of what was expected during a crisis."

Roy added, "Working in my current position, I have worked on always keeping up with current technology, new methods to do the job, and strived to continue my education. One of my best qualities is the understanding that

working alongside people is more beneficial than trying to work alone."

Houde also lobbied for applicants for the police department's two open positions for summer parking enforcement officers. He noted that the department took delivery of the new squad car and anticipates a roll out by Memorial Day.

Other business

In other business, the council:

- ➤ Appointed Len Groom to the Cemetery Committee and Laura Butterfield to the Ely Tree Board.
- ➤ Went into closed session to discuss and develop a purchase agreement for the sale of the Community Center.



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May 6, 2022 1B THE TIMBERJAY



SOFTBALL

Wolves rack up three straight home wins

ELY – The Timberwolves softball team improved to 4-0 on the season on Tuesday after notching their third straight home victory against Mesabi East. It was the second straight nail-biter for Ely, as the Wolves needed a seventh-inning rally to edge the Giants 10-9.

The Wolves came into the final frame staked to a 7-4 lead, but gave up five runs to give Mesabi East the edge.

"That's when Madeline Kallberg came up to bat in the bottom of the inning with one out, and bases loaded," said Coach Cory Lassi. "She

Ely at 4-0 in weather-delayed season

hit a walk off double that cleared the bases for the win. She had two hits and four RBI for the night." Clare Thomas, Rachel Coughlin and Kate Coughlin all had two hits each. Pitcher Katrina Seliskar scattered nine hits and struck out two for the win. "The girls battled all game long and earned a big win," Lassi added.

Tuesday's comeback was reminiscent of Ely's Friday tilt against Two Harbors. After taking a commanding 8-0 lead into the sixth inning, Ely watched as the Agates caught fire, scoring four runs in the sixth and three more in the seventh. "We stranded their tying run on second and the go-ahead run on first, to come away with the 8-7 win," Lassi said.

Ely hurler Katrina Seliskar gave up 12 hits on the afternoon, while striking out five. She added a hit as well to help Ely's cause.

'Katrina did a really good job of keeping them off balance the first couple of times through the lineup, and then they got their timing down and started hitting the ball hard," he said.

See SOFTBALL...pg. 2B



Ely's Kate Coughlin slides safe into second on a steal attempt during last Thursday's contest with **Deer River.** photo by K. Vandervort



BASEBALL

Wolves blank Grizzlies

by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

ELY— The Timberwolves' senior pitcher Mason Davis put on a star performance during Ely's home opener last Friday as he struck out eight and held North Woods to just two hits on route to a 2-0, seven-inning win. Grizzlies' pitcher Ben Kruse notched a strong performance as well, despite taking the loss. Kruse went the distance for the Grizzlies, allowing just four hits while striking out five.

Neither team put much offense together, although Ely managed single runs in the first and sixth innings off RBI singles from Erron Anderson.

Erron Anderson went 2-3 at the plate and knocked in both Ely runs on singles in the first and sixth innings. Deegan Richards and Chase Sandberg also had hits for Ely.

Louie Panichi and Eli Smith

Above: Ely senior pitcher Mason Davis winds during last Friday's game with **North Woods**

Right: The Grizzlies' Eli Smith slides into third base.

photo by K. Vandervort

both notched singles for the Grizzlies, but North Woods never really threatened.

For both teams, the lack of outside practice in the much-delayed season likely contributed to both teams' struggles at the plate. Ely Head Coach Frank Ivancich noted that his team came into last Friday's contest with just two days of outdoor practice so far this season as a cold and snowy April limited time on the field.

'It was great to get outside and finally start playing," said Ivancich. "With only two days of outside practice, I thought our kids did a nice job today.'



Wolves look good in 5-2 loss to South Ridge Head Coach Frank Ivancich. the win. hits including the first hit off by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

ELY — The Timberwolves

faced the odds-on favorite to win the section on Tuesday, and held up well in a 5-2 loss.

"This was a great effort by our guys today," said Ely "If we continue to field like we did today, we are going to be just fine.'

hits into the seventh, while

striking out ten Ely batters for

For the Panthers, Wyatt Olson pitched a no-hitter into the sixth and allowed just two

Ely sophomore Drew Marolt gave up four runs on six hits to take the loss. Gunnar Hart and Logan Lee pitched two innings apiece in relief, scattering three hits, while Le

e fanned three. Chase Sandberg paced Ely with two

Olson in the sixth for a double, followed by Erron Anderson's RBI double to plate pinch runner Bryce Fairchild for Ely's first run. Ely threatened in the seventh leaving two men

See WOLVES...pg. 2B

SOFTBALL



The Grizzlies' Helen Koch and Skyler Yernatich share a laugh after Yernatich scored the game-winning run against MI-B.

photo by D. Colburn

Grizzlies collect two road wins

by DAVID COLBURN

FIELD TWP- With the weather finally cooperating a bit, the North Woods softball team stayed perfect on the season by collecting road wins at Mt. Iron-Buhl and Floodwood this week

The Grizzlies played as the home team at MIB, and they clinched a dramatic come-from-behind 10-9 victory in the bottom of the seventh inning.

North Woods got things moving in the first inning when Addy Hartway hammered a lead-off triple and later stole home for the Grizzlies' first run. Skyler Yernatich made it 2-0 by scoring from third on a fielder's choice rap by Evelyn Brodeen.

But four innings later the Grizzlies were staring at a 6-2 deficit after a pair of three-run innings by the Rangers. Yernatich led off the bottom of the fifth with a triple, and Avery Thiel singled her home. Pitcher Brodeen helped her own cause with another fielder's choice that brought Thiel home. After drawing a walk in the bottom of the sixth, Hartway scored on a single by Thiel to cut MIB's lead to 6-5.

The Rangers answered back with three singles and a double in the top of the seventh inning that they turned into three runs, taking an 9-5 advantage into the final frame.

While North Woods fans looked anxious, the attitude in the Grizzlies' dugout appeared to be a mix of steely resolve and confidence. Addy Burckhardt reinforced that with a leadoff triple, and the North Woods comeback was on. The Grizzlies followed up with

a walk by Lauren Burnett, a single by Karah Scofield, a walk by Aleesia Geshick, a double by Hartway, and a single by Koch. Burckhardt and Geshick scored on steals of home, and Hartway's double scored Scofield

That made the score 9-8 in favor

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B

THE LEGISLATURE

Minnesota's frontline workers to be eligible for bonus checks

Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Frontline workers in the COVID-19 pandemic will be getting \$750 HERO checks and Minnesota employers will avoid a significant increase in unemployment insurance taxes after Gov. Tim Walz signed a \$2.7 million compromise bill that ended a months-long legislative

Last year the Legislature allocated \$250 million to provide checks to frontline workers who could only do their jobs by being physically present at work. But Republican and DFL negotiators

remained at odds through the checks. fall about who should qualify to receive the HERO checks and how much they would be.

The GOP wanted to limit the checks primarily to those working in health care and corrections, which would have given \$1,200 checks to around 200,000 workers. The DFL plan included many more classifications of employees as frontline workers, including grocery store clerks, childcare staff, school staff, food service workers, and more, which would have bumped up the number of eligible to more than 600,000, splitting the \$250 million pot into much smaller

Separate plans were introduced at the start of the current legislative session, but the HERO checks became linked to another pressing state need, that of replenishing the state's unemployment insurance (UI) trust fund, which fell into a \$1.3 billion deficit during the pandemic. Gov. Walz and Senate Republicans both proposed standalone allocations to deal with the UI trust fund issue, but DFL legislators said that the UI trust fund measure wouldn't move ahead without concurrent action on the HERO check dispute.

An April 30 deadline for

businesses to submit first-quarter unemployment tax payments provided extra incentive for the two sides to hammer out a compromise that was made possible by the state's \$9 billion surplus.

The amount of money allocated for frontline worker checks was doubled to \$500 million, allowing the state to give HERO checks averaging \$750 to as many as 667,000 frontline workers in the broader array of occupations advocated for by the DFL. The actual amount of the checks will depend on how many workers ultimately apply for them. While a processing plan for applications has been developed, it will likely be about three months before distribution of checks begins.

Details about eligibility and applying for Minnesota Frontline Worker Pay can be found online at https://frontlinepay.mn.gov/, although plans are still being finalized.

Detailed information for businesses regarding unemployment insurance tax payments and refunds is available online at https://mn.gov/uimn/employers/ employer-account/news-updates/ tax-changes-affect-you.jsp.

SOFTBALL...Continued from page 1B

Ely batters racked up eight hits for the day. Zoe MacKenzie, coming off the mound from the previous day, started at third base and had three hits for the day. Flom and Thomas had two hits each.

"Zoe got us out of jam in the sixth inning, when Two Harbors scored four runs," Lassi said. "She made a diving catch to end the inning. It could have been a much bigger rally for them."

Lassi is pleased with his team's start, particularly its ability to close out two one-run games in the win column. "We started out this season talking about trying to win some of those close games that we weren't able to last year, he said. "This game was a perfect example of that. We were



Ely eighth-grader Zoe MacKenzie winds for a pitch during last week's game against Deer River.

photo by K. Vandervort

able to find a way to win with a couple of big hits at the plate and a couple of big plays in the field. Last year we lost on a walk-off hit to Two Harbors in a one-run game. To be able

to flip those games around is huge."

In their chilly home opener last Thursday, the Wolves scored five in the first inning to put the heat on Deer River on route to a 12-0 win. "After that productive first inning, we fell off on getting runners on base in the second and third innings, but then we scored seven more runs in the fourth inning," Lassi

Ely had just five hits in the game, and four walks, but took advantage of their time on base. "We put the ball in play and put pressure on them," he said. "We forced them to make plays."

The Timberwolves had seven stolen bases, led by Kate Coughlin who had three. Charly Flom, Cedar Ohlhauser, Katrina Seliskr and Clare Thomas each swiped a base.

Madeline Kallberg legged out a hit for a triple, and two RBI's, while Cate Coughlin and Seliskar also had two RBI's each. Clare Thomas and Raven Saino each added an RBI.

PitcherZoeMacKenzie made her first start of the season and gave up just three hits over five innings. She struck out six Warriors and walked four. "I feel like those four walks he gave up they earned it," Lassi said. "They weren't just four-pitch walks. They had to battle for it."

MacKenzie, an eighth-grader, showed promise on the mound last year, and looks to be the starter next year after Seliskar graduates. "This was huge for us. Moving forward into the season, we

have a lot of games coming up in a short amount of time. It was nice to see Zoe step in and we didn't miss beat, he said. "I was impressed last year when she started a couple of games, and I feel comfortable putting her in there against anybody this season.'

The Timberwolves were scheduled to be on the road late this week, including Wednesday, May 4, at Chisholm; Thursday, May 5, at North Woods; and Saturday, May 7, at Cook County. Ely returns home on Monday, May 9, to host International Falls, and they host Nashwauk-Keewatin





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WOLVES...Continued from page 1B-

on base but South Ridge's Christian Pretesky closed out the seventh by fanning two Ely batters for the save.

Cherry 6, Ely 1

Playing athome against the Tigers last Friday, a rough first inning for Ely proved the difference in the nightcap of an afternoon doubleheader. Three Ely errors combined with three hits allowed the Tigers to

GRIZZLIES...

distance on the mound, allowing nine runs on 19

hits, striking out nine and

mered 18 hits on the day, with Hartway and Thiel each

North Woods ham-

In a game relocated to Floodwood because of

soggy conditions at home

on Monday, the Grizzlies

packed a ton of offense into

just three at-bats in what

turned out to be a short runruled rout, 26-3. Yernatich went three-for-three at the

victory.

walking one.

collecting four.

Floodwood

to MIB and Deer River scheduled for the following

Monday and Tuesday.

bat around as they went up 4-0 in the opening frame.

"When you face an experienced team like Cherry, miscues are costly and good teams make you pay for those mistakes as Cherry did in that first inning," said Ely Head Coach Frank Ivancich. "You just cannot give a team like Cherry six outs in an inning."

The Tigers added two insurance runs in the fourth inning off a triple by Noah Asuma, while Ely couldn't sustain a rally.

For Ely, Erron Anderson took the loss on the mound, pitching four innings and giving up all six runs on six hits while fanning three and issuing three walks. Logan Loe finished up in relief, allowing just one hit while striking out three Tiger batters. Ely freshman Caid Chittum went two for three at the plate, with a RBI double in the seventh inning that drove in Mason Davis, who had made it to first on Ely's only walk of the game.

Sam Serna notched the win for the Tigers, as he scattered four hits in seven full, striking out five and

Continued from page 1B of MIB with Yernatich coming to the plate with Koch and Hartway on base. Back By Yernatich delivered with a Popular sizzling line-drive double to center field, scoring both Demand! base runners for the 10-9 Brodeen went the

Pick Up

Memories of the Early Days

A fascinating look back at the early history of the Lake Vermilion area

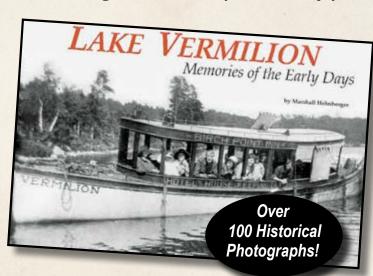
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in hitting.	,
Three Floodwood	The Timberjay P.O. Box 636, 414 Main St Tower, MN 55790 • 218-753-2950 BOOK ORDER FORM Quantity of Books ———
pitchers couldn't find the	P.O. Box 636, 414 Main St
plate, issuing 21 walks and	Tower, MN 55790 • 218-753-2950 Quantity of Books ————
13 hits as all but one North	
Woods player scored mul-	l Nama
tiple times.	Name
Brodeen hit a home run	Address
and picked up the win on the	Circ. ZID Co.do. Tol. #
mound, allowing just one	CityStateZIP Code Tel.#
run on six hits and notching	Credit Card Information VISA MC DISCOVER
five strikeouts. Koch came	
in to finish out the game in	Exp. Date/CVV
the top of the fourth.	Billing address if different from above
North Woods was	bining address if different from above
scheduled to put its perfect	
3-0 record on the line at	
home against rival Ely on	I Book Total - Pick Up \$29.95 + tax (\$32.16) Book Total - Mail \$39.95
Thursday, with road trips	

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Tomsich back in seat as Breitung Township Chair

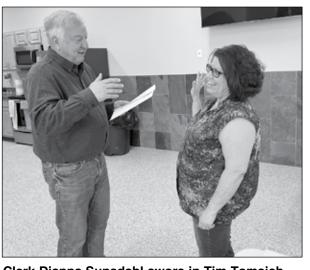
by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

SOUDAN- Forty-two years on the Breitung Town Board is turning into 43. Tim Tomsich, who decided not to run for re-election this year, is back in his seat after the board appointed him, at their April 28 meeting, to fill the vacancy created by Matt Tuchel.

Tuchel won the township election in March but decided not to take the seat due to a possible conflict of interest with his full-time position on the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board.

Tomsich will serve until the next township election in 2023. Tomsich sent a letter to the township, dated April 1, expressing his interest in serving. No one else had inquired about the position, though the board never formally asked for letters of interest.

"Does he have any



Clerk Dianna Sunsdahl swore in Tim Tomsich at the meeting on April 28; he was then re-appointed as chair. photo by J. Summit

experience?" joked Supervisor Greg Dostert.

Supervisor Chuck Tekautz will remain as the vice-chair.

The township will receive \$418,000 from the DNR State Parks road division to rebuild the Stuntz Bay Road. The project will include adding wider shoulders for pedestrians, new guardrails, and curb

and gutter to help with runoff issues at the bottom of the hill. The grant will cover all the construction costs, but the township is responsible for the engineering fees. Tomsich said there may be some grant funding to possibly help with the engineering fee

Reorganization The board finished

their annual reorganization, which had been delayed until the board had seated its third member. The board adjusted hourly wages to reflect the current minimum wage of \$10.33 per hour and \$8.42 per hour for youth workers. They raised the housekeeping hourly rate from \$14 to \$16 per hour. The wage for part-time police officers went from \$22 to \$23 per hour, and the rate for grader operators went from \$20 to \$25 per hour.

The clerk salary was raised from \$23,000 to \$25,000 for the year, but all the other supervisor, treasurer, and fire department officers were kept at the same pay as last year. The board noted that the clerk is doing a lot more work that was required four or five years ago.

"The clerk has the responsibility of keeping the township organized and in line," said Tomsich.

The chairman receives \$650 per month, supervisors \$550 per month, and the treasurer \$23,000 per year.

Township officers receive an additional \$50 per meeting for any extra town board meetings.

The board also passed resolutions allowing township officials to be paid for additional township duties they perform. Tomsich will receive \$20/hour for work as the township grant manager. Dostert and Tekautz will receive \$10.33 per hour for time spent overseeing the recreation area or project inspector. Dostert noted he had not submitted any hours for his time spent on recreation management.

Other business

In other business the board:

➤ Is looking into the option of paving the road

from St. Martin's Church to Hwy. 169.

➤ Approved spending up to \$900 for weed and feed for the ballfield and monument area.

➤ Accepted a donation from Lynn and Larry Voss for the road and bridge fund.

➤ Heard that Police Chief Dan Reing is interested in doing the twoweek training program for the GREAT program, which has officers working with elementary and high school students on conflict resolution, anti-bullying, and other issues. Reing said he used to teach this at his former job. He would need to attend a two-week out-ofstate training program and is looking into grants to fund the cost.

> Heard the township's Local Board of Appeal and Equalization is set for May 17 from 1-2p.m.at the Breitung Community Center building.

Virginia's Fire/Ambulance Chief Al Lewis leaving post

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONALprominent voice in the ongoing discussion about the future of emergency medical services in the region is leaving his position as the head of the city of Virginia's fire and ambulance service.

Al Lewis will serve his last day at the helm of the Queen City's EMS services on Friday. He told the Timberjay he's moving on, but he can't yet say where he's going.

Lewis was a 2020 winner of a prestigious Bush Fellowship, which he used to pursue his goal

of consolidating EMS services in the region. While Lewis accomplished a number of goals he set for himself early on, he's leaving without achieving that objective, which he believes would make for far more efficient and effective EMS delivery.

'There is currently a fractured and fragmented system of EMS delivery and it's not sustainable. said Lewis, who believes that economic forces will soon force major change on the region's services. "Either you're going to guide that change or it's going to roll over you," he

While consolidation

has yet to occur, Lewis said he's encouraged that the discussion is beginning to take place, as evidenced by a recent regional meeting sponsored by the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools. "Beginning the conversation is the most important thing," said Lewis. "You have to understand the problem before you can talk about solutions."

The solution, as Lewis sees it, is a regional EMS system, one that would likely have taxing authority and that stations its resources where they are most efficient and effective, relying on a combination of First Responders and full-time professional EMTs and paramedics.

While conventional wisdom suggests that patients can best be served when EMS is based locally, Lewis said the time to arrive on scene is often delayed in small ambulance services since such services often rely on paid on-call staff that is not stationed at the hall. When staff is located at the hall while on duty, their "chute time" (the time from the first page to departure from the station) is quicker, which can substantially reduce response times, even if drive time is longer. "In many cases, the



chute time is longer than the ride time," noted Lew-

Lewis, who previous-

Beise; children, Brit-

tany Oakman of Balti-

more, Kayli (fiancé Cade

Stackpool) Oakman of

Lake Elmo, Dane (Kayla

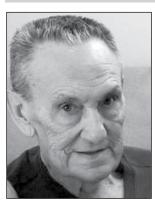
Young) Beise of Virgin-

ia and Miranda (Ryan)

ly served on the paramedic team for the U.S. ambassador in Afghanistan, moves on having accomplished two other major objectives during his time on the Iron Range. Among those was to establish appropriate staffing levels and provide a new facility, both of which Lewis said he's been able to accomplish with the close cooperation of the firefighter's union and the city council. "I'm pretty proud of the progress we've made together," he said.

Left: Chief Al Lewis speaking at a meeting in Greenwood Township last year.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Ira G. White "Menoominikeijin"

Ira G. "Mike" White "Menoominikeijin", 83, of Embarrass, died on Friday, April 15, 2022, in his home of natural causes. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 7 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower. Pastor Liz Cheney will officiate. A gathering time for family and friends will begin one hour prior to the service at the church. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Mike was born on Sept. 5, 1938, in Hayward, Wis., the son of Ira O. and Evelyn (Morgan) White. He graduated from Orr High School. Mike married Janet Marie Rasula on Nov. 10, 1956. They made their home in Mt. Iron prior to moving to Embarrass about 27 years ago. Mike was employed at the Pioneer Underground Mine in Ely and later at Minntac. He was a jack-of-all trades with the ability to fix anything. He always had a work project to putz on, whether it was repairing cars, painting

loved to go ricing. Mike is survived by children, Michael

them, or welding; he also

(Betsy Phillips) White of Angora, Mark (Dawn Aho) of Iron, Robert (Barb) White of Garrison and Bonnie (Bradley) Mayry of Cherry; siblings, Charles (Diane) White of Blaine and Margaret (Melvin) Samuelson of Wyoming, Minn.; sistersin-law, Louella Zappa of Coon Rapids and Kathleen (Gale) Rostvit of Eveleth; grandchildren, Gary, Ira, Angela, Brenda, Thomas, Shaina, Dawn, Tia, Ashley, Adam, Abby and Aliisa; nine great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. He was preceded in

death by his parents; wife, Janet; son, Thomas; and siblings, Edwin and Cor-

Kenneth D.

Norlander Kenneth Dale "Ems" Norlander, 81, of Cloquet, died on Sunday, May 1, 2022, in St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth. A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday, May 6 at Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran Church in Virginia. Pastor Amy Janssen will officiate. A gathering time for family and friends will begin one hour prior to the service at the church. Inurnment will

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take place at a later date. Memorials are preferred and may be directed to the donor's choice. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia, He is survived by his wife, Bonnie Hughes Nor-

lander of Cloquet; sons, Jim Norlander of Tower, Jerry (Kim) Norlander of Sun City West, Ariz., Kevin (Jeanne) Rice of Esko and John (Leann) Bergman of Cloquet; sister, Nancy (Wayne) Alford of Greenwood, Miss.; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Dale Soderberg

Dale (Tom) Soderberg, 84, formerly of Embarrass, originally of Tower-Soudan, passed away on Saturday, April 30, 2022, after an illness, while receiving the exceptional care of Edgewood Healthcare Fargo, Hospice of the Red River Valley, and his wife Julie. Other loving family members were also present with Dale at the end of his life. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 6 at Boulger Funeral Home and Celebration of Life Center in Fargo, N.D. Donations are appreciated to the Alzheimer's Association, Humane Society, or Hospice of the Red River Valley.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 42 years, Julie; daughter and son-inlaw, Kirsten and Jonathan Husebye; beloved granddaughter, Maya (who carries on his fierce and funny spirit); sister, Karen Karni of New Brighton; and many extended family members.

Eric J. Oakman

58, of Lake Vermilion, Cook, died on Sunday, May 1, 2022, in his home with family by his side. The family wishes to acknowledge the expertise and care of the Fairview Range oncology department, and especially Kim Pettinelli. A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday, May 6 at Bauman-Cron Funeral Home in Virginia. Bruce Williams will officiate. A gathering time for family and friends will begin one hour prior to the service. Memorials are preferred and may be directed to Care Partners of Minnesota, PO Box 217, Eveleth, MN 55734. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia. He is survived by his

significant other, Annette

Moller of Eveleth; siblings. Robert (Cheryl) Oakman of Ft. Myers, James (Jeannine) Oakman of Tower, Jack (Barb) Oakman of Fayal Twp. and Lois (Jeanne) Oakman of Superior; three grandchildren; several Eric Joseph Oakman, nieces and nephews; extended family and friends. Lois J. Thompson April 19, 2022. A memorial service will be held

Lois Jean Moorefield Thompson, 93, former resident of Bear River, passed away on Sunday, will be one hour prior to the service. Thank you to Allina Hospice. A very special thank you to Trinity Terrace Assisted Living and the Trinity Care Center for the many years of won-

at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

June 18 at Mlaker Funeral

Home in Cook. Visitation

derful care. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook. She is survived by her son, Dennis (Beth); daughter, Linda (Doug); grandchildren, Andrew (Kristen), Nick (Kavya) Julie and Michelle (Ryan); grandchildren. Brayden, Lucy and Arya;

brother, Bill (Norma); sis-

ter-in-law, Rusty; several

nieces and nephews.



Area site hours Northwoods Transfer Station 9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt

Summer Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm Tue: 9:30am-3pm Wed: noon-6pm

County 77 Canister Site

2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp Tues: 1-6pm Thurs: 8am-1pm Sat: 8am-5pm Sun: noon-6pm

Embarrass Canister Site 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30-4:30pm Thu: 10am-5pm

Household Hazardous Waste Facility 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia

Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm

Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd., Cook Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm

Soudan Canister Site 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun: 8am-5pm

Aurora Transfer Station 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours

Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm Tue, Wed:10am-4pm Sat: 8am-noon

Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm

Sat: 8am-3:30pm Summer hours effective April 15th through September 30th

For solid waste and recycling information go to www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle St. Louis County Environmental Services Department

1-800-450-9278 Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday



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4B May 6, 2022 THE TIMBERJAY



IT'S ALL IN THE ATTITUDE

Ice-off in time for opener? You betcha!

So, in using all the prognosticating tools at my disposal- you know, the Weather Channel, years of research by the locals, my crystal ball, I predict that the ice will be off Lady V by fishing opener.

Now, don't get me wrong here, I'm not willing to wager any hard cold cash on

that, but the signs are there. First, the landings are gone.

I'm willing to concede there may



got stuck in a big bunch of very cold water.

And what about all this rain

and wind? The snow is disappearing fast. It's for sure getting very close to mud season as is evident by the dogs' paws, so that must coincide with ice-off. The rain must be doing some damage to the ice and widening some of those cracks enough so the wind can get at it. My docks are up, and the shoreline is as ready as it ever is to take on those ice bergs.

My informant at the local coffee klatch, my dad, tells me that all the long-time residents, some forever, say that it's going to make it. Now keep in mind, these are the guys that kept giving

me a verbal pat on the back for five weeks, telling me that my car would be fine and there would be an opportunity to drive it right off the ice. (Yup, that was me, stuck out there.) And sure enough, after one hair-raising race across the ice behind the local daredevil and a tow over the bank, the jeep's on dry land. (Thank you, Peas and Bob.) I ask, how can you doubt that kind of "ice" experience?
My neighbor, the west-end

islander, has decided that he has made his last trip across until, as he calls it, soft water is back. That's a sign that big things are brewing, I think.

Lastly, and of course, very scientifically-proven, I know Lady V is ready for soft water. She's ready for the icebergs and the twinkling ice crystals to give way to clear water. She's ready to give up the Ski-doos and fish houses in exchange for the Lunds and houseboats. She's just ready for a new spring season.

She's a lot like me.

April Wamhoff lives on Ely Island, on Lake Vermilion.



GO FIGURE

From drought to deluge

Area rivers at flood stage and lake levels are rising quickly due to rain and snowmelt

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

EGIONAL—An exceptionally wet April has turned drought to deluge across the North Country, leaving water seemingly everywhere this week as rain and remaining snowmelt raised water levels in lakes and ponds

and sent rivers over their banks. Last fall, rivers across the region were at near record lows, but now they're well above normal spring levels, with most of the major river systems in the region in flood stage as of earlier this week.

The influx of large volumes of water is helping to erode ice on some area lakes, particularly in areas with current, and that could help to clear ice ahead of next weekend's fishing opener. Warmer and sunnier weather that finally arrived toward the end of the week is likely to help as well.

The volume of water moving along area rivers is typically impressive in April and early May as a result of snowmelt. Yet this year is exceptional, swelled by abundant snowfall and some unusual rain events over the winter that supercharged the snowpack with an extraordinary amount of water. A series of wet snowstorms in April added further liquid to the snowpack, only to be followed by substantial rain last week - nearly three inches total near Orr.

Above: The Pike River in Vermilion Lake Township was well outside its banks this week, the result of recent rains and snowmelt.

photo by M. Helmberger

Right and lower right: What a difference several months can make. The same spot on the Little Fork River in Cook, taken recently versus during last summer's drought.

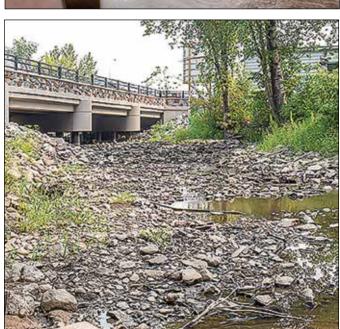
photos by D. Colburn

Every reporting station in the region reported far more April precipitation than average, with totals ranging from 5.43 inches near Orr, to 3.21 inches in Embarrass. Orr's precipitation in the month was more than three times its average for April. Tower reported 4.62 inches of total liquid in April, or nearly two and a half times its average for the month.

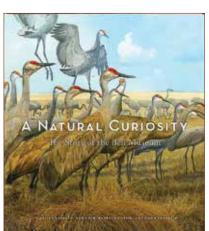
The exceptionally wet April officially lifted the drought designations that had been in place in much of the region since last summer, and area rivers were feeling the effects. As of Monday, the Little Fork River, at Littlefork, was running well above flood stage, at nearly six times its typical April flow, and more than eight times above its flow at the same time last year, according to the Department of Natural Resources. The Vermilion River, at Crane Lake, was running at over three times its average April flow, while the Rainy River, at Manitou Rapids

See DELUGE..pg. 5B





BOOKS



New book recounts the making of the Bell Museum

REGIONAL - From its humble start in 1872 as a one-room cabinet of curiosities, the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum has grown to be one of the state's most important cultural institutions. Within its walls are displayed the natural wonders of Minnesota and the world beyond, a standing invitation to explore, understand, and appreciate the natural

A new book, entitled "A Natural Curiosity, published by the University of Minnesota Press, tells the remarkable story of the museum now in its sesquicentennial year.

See MUSEUM..pg. 5B



FISHERIES

Hatchery expected to open May 5

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

PIKE RIVER — Walleye hatchery

operations here were set to get underway on Thursday, and are expected to wrap up quickly this year, according to area fisheries manager Keith Reeves. If operations begin, as expected, on May 5, it will be the latest start on record at the hatchery. The combination of a late start

and a relatively limited quota of just 486 quarts of eggs could allow DNR

See HATCHERY...pg. 5B

THE TIMBERJAY

Lo Prec. Sn.

0.04 0.1"

Friday

20 0.05 0.9"

14 0.00

04/29 50 24 0.00 04/30 50 39 0.00 05/01 47 38 0.22

Elv

04/25

WILDLIFE RESEARCH



Voyageurs Wolf Project tags first pups of spring

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK-Researchers with the Voyageurs Wolf Project have tagged their first new wolf pups of the spring. In a posting on Instagram this week, the researchers posted photos of two of the pups they were able to recover from the Half Moon wolf

Den cams placed at the site suggest there may be as many as eight pups total in the den, although researchers could not reach the deeper recesses of the sprawling underground lair.

According to the researchers, the pups were quite small, each weighing roughly one kilogram. By comparison, the pups tagged in the same den on April 29, 2020, weighed from 2.4 to A researcher with the **Voyageurs Wolf Project** holds one of two wolf pups tagged from one of the packs they're studying near Voyageurs National Park.

photo courtesy . Voyageurs Wolf Project

2.6 kilograms and pups tagged there last year on May 5, weighed from 1.7 to 1.9 kilograms.

"In other words, these pups were 40-60 percent smaller than previous litters at this same time of year," the researchers noted in

"Much of the smaller size has to do with when the pups were born. Specifically, the pups were likely born later this year than typical. We will be interested to see how many pups end up surviving."

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

Saturday

04/26 31

04/28

04/30 05/01 46 YTD Total

Emb. Hi Lo Prec. Sn.

46 10 51 27 51 39

19 0.01 10 0.00

0.00

4.88 58.0"

Cook Hi

51 50 45

from NOAA weather

May 6, 2022 **5B**

Tuesday

Lo Prec. Sn. Tower Hi Lo Prec. Sn. 04/25 04/26 36 21 0.00 46 10 0.00 54 25 0.00 48 36 0.00 46 13 04/29 51 29 04/30 53 38 0.00

05/01 4° YTD Total

OFF ROAD

21 0.00 33 0.04

Prec. Sn.

0.42 7.37 100.9"

0.1"

0.01

0.00

04/25

46 39

36

DNR: Watch for flooding on forest trails

REGIONAL—The Department of Natural Resources is cautioning state forest road and trail users to watch for flooding and damage in the northern third of the state as a result of recent spring rain and seasonal snow melt.

Before traveling on state forest roads, users are urged to check the state forest road closure page of the DNR website (mndnr.gov/ TrailConditions) and proceed with caution even if roads are listed as

"Some areas of northern Minnesota received heavy rain last weekend and more rain is forecasted for this weekend. With ground conditions still frozen, we're finding

several forest roads completely under water, and others with washouts and culvert failures," said Matt Huseby, roads program coordinator for the DNR Forestry Division. "The vast nature of our state forest road and trail system coupled with rapidly changing flood conditions may mean users will encounter flooding and damage before we're aware of it. So, users should be alert for unsafe conditions and use caution."

To stay safe on state forest roads and trails:

➤ Don't travel on flooded roads. Hazards can be hidden under

➤Obey forest road and trail closures and signs. Don't drive

around barricades.

➤ Pay attention to vehicle weight restrictions.

➤ Report unsafe conditions to the local area DNR Forestry office (mndnr.gov/Contact/Locator. html)

New road and trail closures are added as conditions warrant. Temporary road and trail closure information is updated weekly on Thursdays by 2 p.m. Temporary closure signs also will be posted at entry points and parking lots. Roads that can handle vehicle traffic during the spring thaw will remain open but might have vehicle weight restrictions.

MUSEUM...Continued from page 4B

Drawing on a wealth of materials unearthed during the museum's recent move to its new building, this gorgeously illustrated book chronicles the remarkable discoveries, moments, and personalities that have made the Bell Museum what it is today.

Among the stories of ornithologists, botanists, tycoons, and conservationists, readers will encounter the magnificent diorama created by

renowned artist Francis Lee Jacques, the adventures behind some of the Bell's more curious specimens and the dramatcic account of the critical advances made by the museum in wildlife telemetry, conservation biology, and scientic learning— all in service to the planet's threatened biodiversity.

Like the work of the museum itself, the book was a collaboration, written and designed by Lansing

Shepard, a conservation and environmental writer, Don Luce, who has served as the Bell's curator of exhibits for the past 40 years, Barbara Coffin, a writer and the former head of media production and adult programming at the Bell, and Gwen Schagrin, who has developed exhibits at the Bell since 1992.

The book is available from the University of Minnesota Press (www.upress.umn.edu) for \$34.95.

DELUGE...Continued from page 4B

was running at 53,200 cubic feet per second. That's more than three times its normal April volume and roughly four times its flow at the same time last year.

Colder than average

Lingering snowcover and minimal sunshine contributed to a chillier-than-average April as

Tower reported the largest departure from average in the area, with an average temperature of 30.4 degrees, which was 6.5 degrees below average. Its highest temperature for the month was 53 degrees, while the lowest reading bottomed out at three degrees.

HATCHERY...Continued from page 4B

fisheries staff to wrap up egg-stripping operations at the hatchery over the weekend. When lingering winter conditions keep fisheries staff from starting operations at the hatchery until late April or early May, the walleye run is typically well underway by the time the traps are set and that often allows them to complete their work rapidly.

That means residents will need to act quickly if they want to observe

the hatchery operations. The hatchery has been closed to the public for the past two years as a COVID-19 precaution, so this will be the first time since 2019 that the public will be able to watch as fisheries staff handle the thousands of big walleye that end up in the DNR's fish traps. The DNR crew manually strips the eggs from the female walleye as they ripen and mix them in trays with the "milt" from the smaller male walleye. The fertilized eggs then go into the hatchery building for incubation and holding of the hatched fry until stocking operations begin later in May or early June.

The annual sucker sale, traditionally held in conjunction with hatchery operations, will not be conducted again this year.

The hatchery is located at 9380 Angus Rd., (County 77), just downstream of the Pike River dam.







- PUMPS
- WELLS
- HYDRO-FRACKING

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6B May 6, 2022 THE TIMBERJAY

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The Timberjay has an opening for a part-time staffer to work in our Tower office. Duties include local reporting, editing of community notices, page layout, photography, and more. Lots of variety, flexible hours as long as work gets done by our deadline. Job would be about 12 hours a week (Tuesday through Thursday), with more hours available if desired. Looking for someone who enjoys working in a fast-paced environment, has good attention to detail, and enjoys dealing with the public. Job requires office computer skills (typing, email, familiarity with basic software programs). We will train the right candidate on graphics/page layout

For more information, call Jodi at 218-753-2950 (office), 218-750-3513 (cell), or email editor@ timberjay.com.





www.stlouiscountymn.gov or call 218-726-2422

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Contact Beth Dewhurst with questions at beth.dewhurst@state.mn.us or 218-735-3009

Application deadline: 5/20/2022

Equal Opportunity Employer 5/20

PUBLIC NOTICES

VERMILION LAKE TOWNSHIP Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Notice

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments. This May Affect Your 2023 Property Taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Vermilion Lake Township will meet on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Vermilion Lake Town Hall 6703 Wahlsten Road

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your Assessor's Office* to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with the assessor, you may appear before the local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The Board will review your assessments and may make corrections as

Generally, you must appear to the local board before appealing to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Assessor's Office 218-749-7147 North Land Office Center - Suite 2R 307 1st Street South, Virginia, Minnesota

Crystal Alaspa, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, May 6, 2022



International Wolf Center

Now Hiring - Join Our Pack!

The International Wolf Center has an opening for the Office and Retail Lead position. 30 hours per week October - April, 40 hours per week May - September. Must be highly organized and have excellent customer service skills. To apply, submit a cover letter and resume to careers@wolf.org. 5/20

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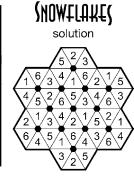
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FUNERAL SERVICES







Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Life's work	E	39 th president	T
2. Sheriff's "tin"	D	Flat-bottomed boat	R
3. Dish	T	Locate	c _
4. Swift singer	Y	Clothes maker	1
5. Beach souvenir	L	Ledge	F
6. New York Island	L	Hound dog singer	V
7. Closing moments	E	University exams	s
8. Hard-to-hit pitch	V	Witch's spell	s _
9. Actor DeVito	N	Fashionable fellow	D _
10. Financial supporter	_ A	Have a quarrel	_ I

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re Info? Contact Human Re 218-666-6220 humanresources@cookhospital.org

King Crossword

ACROSS 1 Knock 13 "The Thin Man" dog 17 15 Tabloid writing 12 Post-op area 18 19 13 Pace 23 24 25 14 Alike (Fr.) 15 Sushi fish 30 "Hi, sailor!" 18 "Burnt" crayon color 19 Melody 21 Ordinal suffix 38 22 Game fish 42 43 26 Looks intently 29 Chaps 30 Man-mouse link 50 51 52 31 Has bills 55 32 - de deux 33 Mythical birds 34 Capote nick-54 Lake bird stone 29 Spring month

55 Fixed

DOWN

36 Hill of "Moneyball"

37 Raw bar mol-

lusk 39 Impose

name

35 Stable diet?

40 Ms. Thurman

41 Tristan's love 45 Tibia's place

48 Saltwater fish

50 Mata -

52 Hot tub

utes

53 Rhyming trib-

frames

51 Hotel chain

berry

ple

1 Eyeglass

2 Antioxidant

3 Brownish pur-

4 Reps 5 Jazzy

6 Dead heat

7 Country stores?

8 June birth-

Vaudhan

"This tastes

awful!" 10 Asian lan-

guage 11 Layer

16 Leg joints

20 Author Fleming

23 Earth orbiter

24 Killer whale

25 "One-L lama" poet

26 Attend

terpart

44 Coup d' -45 HBO rival 27 Wrong

46 Possessed

32 Sunshade 33 Copter blade

35 Skirt edge

Timberlake

38 North African

capital

39 Steinway

42 Privation

43 Hoodwink

product

36 Singer

28 Jupiter coun- 47 Hot temper

49 Comic Philips

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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(other days needed also)- Pike Bay Lodge on Lake Vermilion. Call Jay at 218-753-2430 or

email info@pikebaylodge.com.

GARAGE SALES

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Equipment & Watercraft Sale and Shop Local promotion launch all happening Saturday, May 21, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Many rummage sales and special

deals at local retailers. Maps are available at the Ely Chamber of Commerce, 1600 E Sheridan

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HOSPICE

VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS can provide help for patients and their families in ways such as: comfort care, massages, last wishes and more. For more information, contact Program Director Becca Bundy at 218-780-5423 vhhpdirector@gmail.com This ad is paid for by Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners.

SUPPORT GROUPS

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.

CO-DEPENDENTS MEETING- Fridays at noon-St. Anthony's Church Classroom 3-Use west side entrance. For more information go to coda.org

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS-Meetings every Wednesday at 4:30 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 any one 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.

VIRGINIA AA WOMEN'S MEETING- Ladies by the Lake. Tuesdays at 12 noon. Peace United Methodist Church, 303 S 9th Ave, please use side door and parking.

— **King** Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.



Even Exchange

6. Ellis, Elvis

Badge, Barge

7. Finale, Finals 8. Curve, Curse

3. Plate, Place

4. Taylor, Tailor 9. Danny, Dandy 5. Shell, Shelf

10. Backer, Bicker

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MERCURY LUND MONDA SUPPORT

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

GROUPS

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.)

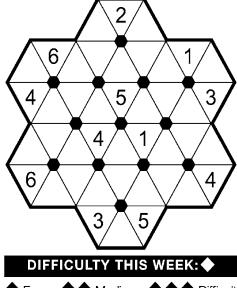
HIV/AIDS? For confidential compassionate local support call the Rural AIDS Action Network, toll-free 1-888-647-RAAN(7226).

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

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.



◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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

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Price

CITY

NAMESAKES

93 Syr. neighbor

Cinch —

96 "Old man"

which a

vessel is

101 Pol. wild card

102 Unimportant

person

107 Stravinsky

Sikorsky

108 Part of A.D.

109 Indian dress

110 Arab nation

Seeger

112 Racket grip

113 "The Circle"

enhancer

111 Singer

and

97 Slope on

built

100 Wispy

92 Regret

94 Hefty

Online at timberjay.com

47 Spider web,

at times

48 Toronto-

based

52 Sorority

letters

53 Caddy drink

54 "Zip it up!" 57 "Aw, rats!"

58 Suffix with

social

SUVs

62 Old Saturn

63 LAPD alert

64 "Weekend

Edition"

network

65 Natal lead-in

66 Set of seven

done tasks

68 Similar to

69 Superbly

gridiron org.

Super Crossword

comedy 1 June hrs. 4 Cobbling tool partner

7 Birthstone after opal

12 Run-down 73-Down

ACROSS

19 Deep musing

21 Calm down 22 Filled pasta

squares 23 Shady public

walk **24** 1909 Literature

Nobelist [Alabama] 26 Runner-up of

tennis' 2017 U.S. Open [Wisconsin] 28 Enkindled

29 Authorize to 30 "Ye olde"

place 31 Quarterback

Brady 32 Counterparts

of egos 35 Cutely shy 38 Cosmetics company

founder [Montana] 46 Paris-based

cultural gp. 49 Mysterious

letters

familiarly

125

128

"Life's

50 Washington subway system.

56 Last line on an invoice **57** Abu -(emirate) 59 Navy off.

[Massa-

Ungar

chusetts]

60 Plaintiff 61 "Todav" co-anchor

[Georgia] 67 Take in 70 Higher

71 Take in 72 "Jane Eyre" novelist North

Carolina] **79** Goad 83 Go bad

84 — -ski bar 85 Sedentary 88 LAX stats 90 Comic

Carrey 91 Star of the reality show subtitled

a Tripp"

95 Birthstone

after ruby

[Connecticut]

97 "The Liberty Bell" march composer

54 Poker champ **55** Spicy cuisine

106 Motorola

113 "National Velvet"

119 1970 #1 hit for The

this puzzle? **124** "Woe Is I" author

Abbr.

banished 129 Decade units 130 Golf course

DOWN

"Am not!"

1 Druggist's weight unit 2 Acting Ward

3 Tube spot

4 Retort to

43 Antiquated

40 Ursuline, e.g. 41 Actress Miller 42 Fido's jingler

32 Night demon 33 Mil. award

75 Overused **76** Pro -

77 — for tat 78 Rock's Brian

80 Irritated 81 Sheeplike 82 Auto dinas

86 Northwestern Pacific fish 87 ER skill

121 French for 89 Large or

medium 91 Enjoys some

122 Shortstop Ripken

123 Poem type 1940s jazz

22 21 23 24 40 41 44 46 51 54 55 58 64 67 80 |81 84 85 91 92 93 94 98 103 104 106 107 | 108 109 110 111 112 113 |114 |115 116 | 117 | 118 120 121 122 123

126

129



51 Alfred Lunt's 98 Passionate 45 Clamor

5 State of a surviving wife

6 Romance

novelist

Banks

charge

7 Stun with a

8 Stay in line

10 \$\$\$ holder

11 Passionate

13 Delay

20 Send out

27 Kenan's

31 With

nest

34 "Keep it in'

35 Niche sects

36 "The joke's

37 "Fiddler on

the Roof"

anesthetic

44 From Tehran

25 See 31-Down

25-Down,

perch for a

sitcom buddy

9 Good friends

12 Greek society

99 "Weeds" actress [New

Jersey] 103 — Plaines

104 Mag heads 105 That lad's

competitor 109 Saturate

112 Iceberg part

novelist 14 Abel's mom [Oklahoma] 15 Broadcast 16 — weevil 17 Healing plant 18 Donation

Guess Who that's apt for

Patricia T. —

125 Price ceiling 126 Part of FDA:

127 Toto's owner **128** Having been

units: Abbr. 131 Grafton's "for Outlaw"

39 Age

matchmaker

127

130

131

72 Delicate pancake 73 The Ritz, e.g. 74 Pong creator

actress

Watson 114 Brand of hair remover

115 Stay-the-night

116 Informed of 117 Utah citv near Provo

118 Abstainers from alcohol 120 Writer Stout

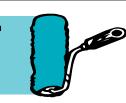
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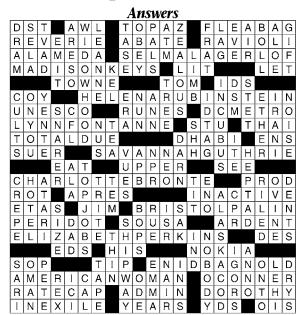


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