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the TIMBERJAY



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SULFIDE MINING

Heated House hearing weighs BWCAW protection

HR 2794 would prohibit sulfide-based mining in portion of Superior National Forest

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—A U.S. House committee held an at-times contentious hearing on Tuesday over proposed legislation that would expand the mining protection area surrounding the Boundary Waters Canoe Area by approximately 225,000 acres.

The legislation, known as HR 2794 and proposed by Minnesota Fourth District Congresswomen Betty McCollum, would prohibit sulfide-based mineral development along a portion of the Superior National Forest located upstream of the 1.1 million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

The bill would, in effect, extend the Boundary Water's mining buffer zone to include an area of the Rainy River watershed that lawmakers had excluded from protection back in 1978 due to the existence of copper-nickel mineral leases that the Department of the Interior had issued to the International Nickel

Company in 1966.

The House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources took up McCollum's bill, which appears to have the support of majority Democrats on the committee.

Two Ely area residents, including Steve Piragis, longtime co-owner of Piragis Northwoods

Company, and Julie Padilla, chief regulatory officer for Twin Metals, testified during the hearing.

Eighth District Congressman Pete Stauber, who is the ranking minority member on the committee, testified as well and took

See...MINING pg. 9

BORDER LAKES



HISTORIC FLOODING

More rain in the forecast as waters creep upward

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Lakefront property owners at Crane Lake and Kabetogama continue battling the still-rising flood waters of the Rainy River Basin, flooding that immediately threatens to eclipse the highest mark recorded in over 70 years and could soon set a new all-time record.

The gauge at Crane Lake registered 1,122.55 feet on Tuesday morning at 9 a.m., an increase of about three inches since Saturday. Already nearly two feet higher than the flooding in 2014, Crane Lake was less than two inches shy of the high-water mark of 1950 on Tuesday, with the National Weather Service predicting continued rise through the

See...FLOOD pg. 10



Above: The mobile home on the right is the last of three on the property of Art and Jody Driggs to be saved from the record-high waters of Crane Lake. photo by D. Colburn

Top: Floodwaters threatening this Crane Lake cabin have risen over six inches since this photo was taken last week. submitted photo

COUNTY SCHOOLS

School board, teachers ink new contract

Bullying concerns from student and parent include call to action for board

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

VIRGINIA - ISD 2142 teachers will work the final days of the school year with a new contract after school board members, without comment, voted unanimously on Tuesday to approve an agreement that's been nearly a year in the making.

EdMN Local 1046 and district negotiators reached a tentative contract agreement last October, and there was optimism that they were done. But union members deadlocked on the first vote and then rejected it soundly in the next, the key sticking points related to issues of compensation.

Mediated negotiations failed to produce results, and a resolution for the board to declare an impasse was on their January agenda. But they removed it when both sides agreed to return to the negotiating table. A second tentative agreement was voted down, but a breakthrough came in early May. This time, 152 voting members "overwhelmingly passed the offer," according to Local 1046 President Tim Herring, and on Tuesday, without saying so, board members appeared happy and relieved to give it their stamp of approval as well.

Herring described components that helped shift the needle for approval by the teachers.

"A fair stipend was agreed upon for this past year of the contract, and a fair

See...2142 pg. 11

CITY OF ELY

Street to be renamed in honor of Linda Fryer

Longtime Chamber of Commerce leader passed away in January

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – At the request of the Ely Tourism Bureau, the city council here will honor a longtime Chamber of Commerce executive director by renaming a portion of Seventh Avenue, adjacent to Whiteside Park, as Linda

Fryer Lane.

For nearly 25 years, Linda Fryer was the leader of the Ely Chamber of Commerce as the organization quadrupled its membership, enlarged this community's traditional summer festival, and launched a second Ely festival in the fall.

Fryer was essentially

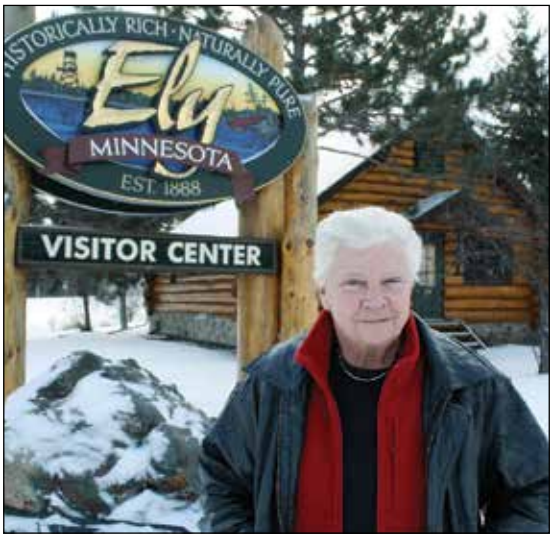
one of Ely's top salespersons, promoting the region as a destination point at sports shows and tourism conferences around the state and Midwest. She died on Jan. 13 at the age of 72.

During her time, the Ely Chamber launched a series of promotional campaigns that attracted statewide, regional

and even national media attention. The annual April Fool's Day spoofs, including one that claimed that Ely was being purchased by Canada, generated thousands of dollars in free publicity for the community.

Like most Ely resi-

See...ELY pg. 9



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Community notices

Sons of Norway’s annual Memorial Service, Thursday, June 2 at 5:30 p.m.

VIRGINIA - Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge 40 will meet on Thursday, June 2 at 5:30 p.m. in the Virginia City Hall Clubroom for their annual Memorial Service. The Serving Committee is Phyllis Starich and Mary Yapel. Anyone interested in Norwegian heritage and culture is invited to attend.

Free Tai Ji Quan classes starting Tuesday, June 7 in Ely

ELY – Two Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance classes will be offered beginning Tuesday, June 7 at the Ely Senior Citizens Center, 1034 Main St. The beginners class meets from 10 - 11 a.m. The advanced class meets from 9 - 10 a.m. Classes are free and held outside, weather permitting, every Tuesday and Thursday for 12 weeks. To register or learn more, contact Candy Schindele at office@northwoodspartners.org or 218-365-8019, or register on-line at www.yourjuniper.org. Classes consist of warmup exercises, a mix of core forms, and brief cool-down exercises. These exercises can be done while standing, seated, or a combination of both. Participants report improved cognitive and physical functional abilities and reduced incidence of falls. Trained leaders facilitate the interactive classes while promoting fun, socialization, reduced chronic pain, and risk of falling. Participants learn balance skills, good body alignment, and coordinated Tai Ji movements. The classes are offered in partnership with Northwoods Partners.

Mesabi Symphony Orchestra presents North of Broadway concerts in Virginia and Ely

REGIONAL - The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra (MSO) invites you to join them for their third annual North of Broadway concert on Friday, June 17 at 7 p.m. at Mesabi Range College Fine Arts Theater in Virginia or Saturday, June 18 at 7 p.m. at Vermilion Community College Fine Arts Theater in Ely. Together with numerous local singing stars, the MSO will present two evenings of songs from Tony award-winning Broadway musicals. This event is a fundraiser to benefit the MSO, now celebrating more than 40 years in the region. The \$30 ticket gets you into either concert, where you can savor tasty snacks from area restaurants. There is also a silent auction with prized items donated by some of the area’s local businesses. Tickets are available in advance at Schmitt Music in Virginia, Brainstorm Bakery in Ely, and online at www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org. or at the door. The tickets often sell quickly. Stay connected to MSO’s Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for frequent updates.

ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM Live performances set for area libraries in June

REGIONAL - The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present two different performances, Afoutayi dance and Taiko Arts Midwest, at various locations and dates. All performances are free and for all ages. Join COMPAS teaching artists for this hour-long program that is a combination of performance, lecture, and interactive activities. Audience members will learn the history and cultural context of taiko drumming in Japan and the U.S. They will also learn about taiko drums, how they are made, a general vocabulary for the artform, and kuchishoka - how we say and teach rhythms. TaikoArts Midwest is being offered at the following locations: Wednesday, June 1, 3:30 p.m. at the Babbitt Public Library; Friday, June 3, 10:30 a.m. at the Virginia Public Library; Thursday, June 9, 10:30 a.m. at the Aurora Senior/Community Center; and Thursday, June 9, 3:30 p.m. at the Cook Public Library The Afoutayi Dance, Music and Arts company produce high quality events dedicated to promoting knowledge and understanding of Haitian culture, history, and traditional arts. Dance connects the



Haitian people to their spiritual and cultural heritage, having been passed down through lineages of African and Indigenous ancestry. This hour-long performance is a vibrant educational tool filled with dance, music, drumming, storytelling and history and presents Haitian cultural heritage with songs in Creole and French languages with live drumming accompaniment. Participants will learn about Haitian culture through dance as the dancers engage in a playful, spontaneous interchange with the audience. Afoutayi Dance is being offered at the following locations: Tuesday, June 14, 10 a.m. at the Aurora Se-

nior/Community Center; Tuesday, June 14, 3:30 p.m. at the Babbitt Public Library; Thursday, June 16, 3:30 p.m. at the Cook Public Library; and Thursday, June 23, 10:30 a.m. at the Virginia Public Library. These programs, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, were funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACFH) and by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the ACHF. To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at www.alslib.info.

Ely theater summer schedule released

ELY - Ely’s Historic State Theater has planned an eventful summer for movie buffs and those who love live-performances. On the screen, “Downton Abbey: A New Era” plays through Thursday, June 2 and “Top Gun: Maverick” soars into mid-month. The State’s first live concert of the season is Friday, June 3, featuring folk singer and activist David Huckfelt of the Minneapolis indie band The Pines, with special guest Lanue, the new project of Duluth-based singer-songwriter Sarah Krueger. This performance is sponsored by MPR’s The Current and Ely’s WELY radio. Last summer audiences enjoyed “Stages on Screen,” including “Frankenstein,” “Kinky Boots,” “Carmen” and more stage theater, at a fraction of the normal price, captured live and streamed to the State’s big screen. This summer, “Henry V,” featuring Kit Harington of “Game of

Thrones”, plays Sunday, June 5, and “Prima Facie,” starring Jodie Comer of “Killing Eve”, plays Sunday, July 24. Both are from London’s National Theater. The State hosts four live events this July and August, featuring performers from the Arrowhead region and beyond: “The Quiltmaker’s Gift” (July 15-17); Rich Mattson and the Northstars, and The Christopher David Hanson Band (two-band concert July 23); Pat and Donna Surface’s “Jukebox Time Machine” (Aug. 5); and Cory Chisel and a special guest (Aug. 26). Ely’s Historic State Theater is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving the community by providing space for arts and entertainment, as well as free educational opportunities such as a Lyme Awareness community event and documentary film, “Under Our Skin,” on Thursday, June 9 and a family-friendly concert hosted by the Shertzer-Burdick family prior to

official theater hours on July 4. The State Theater, a newly renovated complex on Sheridan St. in downtown Ely, operates with essential financial support from the Ely community and beyond. The State opened under COVID protocols in 2020 and offers the assurance of two spacious auditoriums - the State and the Greenstone. A state-of-the-art air-filtering system kills most pathogens, including COVID-19, that its ionized air comes in contact with, sanitizing the building’s air every half hour. Unique concessions include snack waffles and drinking chocolate, beer and wine; old standbys, popcorn, pop and candy, are also offered. Beginning Memorial weekend a loyalty pass, available at the theater, allows patrons to enjoy combo pricing on concessions. For more information, including additional movies, prices and times, visit www.elystatetheater.org.

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PUBLIC FACILITIES

Costs rising for planned county garages

Material shortages and inflation could push final price tag for new facilities up 20-25 percent

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

KUGLER TOWNSHIP—A new St. Louis County Public Works facility should be open and operating here by this time next year, assuming construction proceeds as currently planned.

The new facility, to be located about 200 feet north and east of the intersection of Hwy. 135 and County Rd. 26, is now expected to cost approximately \$11 million to build, although county officials acknowledge it's a moving target during a period of material shortages and inflation. It is one of three new public works facilities the county is currently planning to build at a total cost of about \$33 million. Facilities in Culver Township and near the Whiteface Reservoir are also in the works.

The county board approved a bid from Angora-based KGM earlier this month for the site work and bituminous associated with the project. According to Brian Boder, the county's deputy public works director for maintenance, the board should have the



Above: The current county public works facility in Tower could become the new home for the city of Tower's public works and possibly emergency services once the county vacates the site a year from now.

photo by M. Helmbarger

remaining bid packages, which will include concrete and metal work, mechanical, plumbing, and electric, ready for approval by the first week of July.

Site work is scheduled to get underway Aug. 1, with the foundation work set for mid-September. The building's precast

walls and roof are scheduled to arrive Oct. 15 and will take a week to assemble. Boder said the building should be enclosed and ready for interior work by Nov. 1. Interior work will be completed over the winter, with a scheduled completion set for late May or early June.

Not surprisingly, the bids for the work have been coming in well above estimates. Last fall, county officials had put the estimates for construction of each of the new county facilities at approximately \$8 million apiece, but those estimates have jumped substantially. "We're seeing the

same inflation the general public is seeing," said Boder. "It's been about a 20 percent increase in what we had expected."

Transfer of existing facility

With work on the new public works garage now scheduled to get underway soon, Boder said he expects that city and county officials will soon begin discussions about the city's possible acquisition of the county facility. Most of the buildings at the current county facility, located just off Marina Drive, on the city's west end, were built in the 1990s and appear to be in good repair. Between the main office and repair facility,

the cold storage warehouse and a 10,000 square-foot salt dome, the facility would provide the city with over 19,000 square-feet of indoor space, including 4,700 square-feet of heated space in the main office and repair garage.

Currently, the city has approximately 4,080 square-feet of heated space for its fire and ambulance service and public works combined. The city also has approximately 5,500 square-feet of cold storage in two dilapidated metal pole buildings, both of which were built in the first half

See **GARAGES...**pg. 5

CENSUS BUREAU

Overcount may have saved Minnesota's Eighth District seat

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Minnesota narrowly hung on to all eight of its congressional districts in the wake of the 2020 U.S. Census. It probably shouldn't have, based on the findings of what's known as the Census Bureau's "Post-Enumeration Survey (PES)," the results of which were released late last week.

The PES is a review process conducted in the wake of every census that uses a variety of statistical methods to test the accuracy of the once-a-decade count of the nation's population.

While no census is perfect, the PES found that the counts in 36 states and the District of Columbia were accurate from a statistical standpoint. Yet, fourteen other states, including



Minnesota, were found to have either undercounted or overcounted its residents by a statistically significant percentage.

"Achieving an accurate count for all 50 states and DC is always a difficult endeavor," said Census Bureau Director Robert L. Santos, "and these results suggest it was difficult again in 2020, particularly given the unprecedented challenges we faced," Santos added. Those challenges included the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and unprecedented interference in the counting effort by the Trump

administration.

"It is important to remember that the quality of the 2020 Census total population count is robust and consistent with that of recent censuses," noted Santos. "However, we know there is still more work to do in planning future censuses to ensure equitable coverage across the United States and we are working to overcome any and all obstacles to achieve that goal."

In Minnesota, it appears the census overcounted the state's residents by about 225,000, an amount that almost certainly allowed the state to hang on to all eight of its congressional districts.

In fact, as was widely reported last year, the state hung on to the Eighth Congressional District by the narrowest margin in more than 80 years, topping the state of New York for the seat by just 26

residents. The state of New York experienced its own overcount, according to the PES. There, it appears, the census counted 3.44 percent more residents than actually lived in the state. But Minnesota's overcount, at 3.84 percent, overshot its own population by an even bigger margin.

Since congressional districts are supposed to average just over 761,000 residents, Minnesota's overcount apparently added roughly 29,000 residents per congressional district. New York's overcount added roughly 26,000 people per district, a difference of about 3,000 residents. If the count in both states had been equally accurate, the Empire State would have ended up with another seat in Congress, while Minnesota's Eighth District would have disappeared.

For Minnesota, the good

news is that the results of the PES won't affect the census figures that were officially certified last year. Minnesota will keep all eight of its congressional districts at least until the redistricting is completed in the wake of the 2030 census.

Minnesota's overcount is reflective of the greater effort that many liberal-leaning states made to ensure that all of its residents were counted. States with overcounts included Hawaii (+6.79 percent), Delaware (+5.45), Rhode Island (+5.05), Minnesota (+3.84), New York (+3.44), Utah (+2.59), Massachusetts (+2.24), and Ohio (+1.49).

By contrast, some states, mostly in the South, experienced undercounts. The largest was in Arkansas, where the PES

See **CENSUS...**pg. 5

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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

Community gardens

Studies show they bring many benefits, so why don't we have more of them?

What if our area communities could play a role in helping residents respond to sharply higher food costs? And what if we could improve the physical and mental health of our area residents while boosting our sense of community at the same time?

Pie in the sky?
Not at all. Studies from all around North America have demonstrated that the creation of community gardens provide these and many other benefits to nearby residents. Adults who participated in a community garden reported eating more fruits and vegetables than people who didn't take part, and that means improved health. Community gardens help make fresh fruits and vegetables more affordable for residents, and that's especially important at a time when general inflation and the increased concentration of ownership in the food industry is pushing food prices through the roof.

Studies have also demonstrated that community gardening is good for our mental health, and that's especially valuable at a time when so many people are struggling emotionally from a wide range of issues, from the isolation of the pandemic to economic and environmental despair. Studies have shown that the stress hormone cortisol noticeably drops in people after 30 minutes spent working in a garden, demonstrating that gardening can promote relief from acute stress. It wasn't just time spent outdoors, either. Just spending time sitting outdoors, for example, didn't provide the kind of stress relief offered by gardening.

Community gardens provide benefits beyond the individuals who utilize them. Studies have found that community gardens strengthen social connections, increase mutual trust and cooperation, as well as encourage further civic engagement. That's good for the community. And it's been shown that community gardens, particularly active ones, actually improve property values and discourage blight. They also help to generate economic development, since they add to the quality of life that makes communities attractive to new residents.

Given such benefits, community gardens would make an excellent organizing focus for community

leaders in our area. While there's been talk of community gardens in the past, we've yet to see those discussions come to fruition. Every community in our area has a spot that would work, an under-utilized patch of reasonably level ground that could be transformed into a remarkably productive use.

While not everyone is in a position to garden for themselves, community gardens could provide space for local growers who wish to grow for more than themselves. That's produce that can be given away to neighbors who can't otherwise grow for themselves, or sold in one of our local farmers markets.

It doesn't necessarily take much to create a community garden, although a bit of infrastructure, like water for irrigation, can make a big difference. Some fencing to discourage the deer and other critters from garden raids would be important as well. Funding sources are out there, and a community garden is almost certain to attract volunteers for things like tilling, subdividing garden spaces, and erecting fence.

There are several steps involved in creating a garden, first of which is organizing a meeting of interested people. From there, you can form a planning committee that develops the concept and identifies potential partners. Then find a sponsor. That could be the landowner, which might be the city, a church, or a business that has some land that's sitting idle. The city of Tower, for example, has been looking for good uses for the Tower-Soudan School's former football field. Right now, the city just ends up paying to keep the area mowed all summer, so a community garden could help reduce that chore for the city's public works department, while providing the opportunity to develop a significant public asset.

With a site in hand, some tilling, a soil test, and a garden layout to establish plots is all you really need to finish the job and get the community planting. A tool shed would be a handy addition, and you might be able to find a business willing to donate funds to buy or build a small shed and, perhaps some community tools, for use at the site.

Plenty of folks have talked about creating community gardens in our area. Let's quit talking and start



Letters from Readers

Two neighbors with a tree problem

The more I learn, the more I see an opportunity. It's kinda like the two neighbors with a tree on the property line. It's a birch and it's dying from the top. One thinks it should be cut down. The other thinks it will die slow and won't have to be cut down for a long time. Leave it alone, it's fine. What's the best solution?

The same out here at Eagles Nest. The majority of folks out here do not own an ATV but have no argument with the traditional neighborhood use of ATVs by friends. Leave it alone. The other neighbor is the Prospector ATV Trail committee. They see a reason and an opportunity to develop a Primary Corridor Trail through our community. Cut it down and be done with it. What's the best solution?

The first thing is that they will have to be neighbors for a long time and staying good neighbors is the best way to approach this. The challenge of a Primary Corridor Trail running

through the denser populated areas, and most likely within earshot of many camps, homes and the lakes is asking for the current residents to possibly give up what they value most; simple, quiet enjoyment. For many of us, there is no "upside". Yes, we think it's fine if Tower, Ely and Babbitt want to develop the economic gain through commercial ATV use. Already, approximately 10 million dollars has been invested or allocated by government agencies using ATV dedicated funds. That's just in the area described above. But Eagles Nest generally feels that the trail would be better off "elsewhere". Yes, our ATV neighbors would like access to the new trails, but not too many would want to take a chance on an ATV Highway with a realistic possibility of 100's in a week motoring by, and that's not the local clubs or neighbors, it's tourism.

So, my point: I'd like to see this process slow down a bit, let's take the time to get it right and find the best possible solution to this challenge for everybody. The

other main trails can open and be used and the delay here would be worthy if we can all work for the best solution and stay good neighbors.

Thanks for listening today.
Bud Van Deusen
Eagles Nest Township

Biden shows anyone can be president

I found this quote in the New York Post fitting in response to the Teacher's Unions, Steelworker Union Bosses, environmental extremists and AFSCME public employee union bosses who spend time defending Joe Biden's dismal performance as President:

Proof you can be prez

Reader Collette Curry sees a bright side in the stumbling and fumbling of Joe Biden. She writes: "He has given hope to all under-achieving students that someday they can grow up to be president."

Dementia is a terrible disease, even if you are not President.

Jimmy Saranpaa
Orr

COMMENTARY

Honoring veterans also means taking care of those who return

Across our state, families are gathering to remember the members of our military we've lost. Memorial Day is a time to reflect on how we honor these fallen heroes and do right by servicemembers and veterans who are still with us.

This year marks the 105th anniversary of our nation entering World War I. It was a war that thousands of Minnesotans had a part in – Minnesotans like Sergeant Louis Cukela.

In the summer of 1918, Sergeant Louis Cukela and his company were stopped by a large enemy force in the woods



SEN. AMY KLOBUCHAR

of Northern France. Ignoring the potential danger, Sergeant Cukela crawled and fought his way forward, facing heavy resistance. He was even able to get behind German lines to drive off the crew of enemy soldiers. That display of determination saved lives and earned him the Medal of Honor from both the U.S. Army and Navy.

Sergeant Cukela is just one of many courageous people from our state who put their lives on the line for our country.

So how can we best honor the fallen? One way is by better caring for those who follow in

their footsteps.

Take Amie Muller. Amie enlisted in the Air Force in 1998 and joined the Minnesota Air National Guard in late 2001. While in Iraq, her quarters were right next to one of the most notorious burn pits – it operated twenty-four hours a day and consumed about 100 to 200 tons of waste each day.

Amie tragically passed away nine months after being diagnosed with Stage III pancreatic cancer that was likely linked to inhaling toxic fumes during her service. She left behind her husband Brian and their three children.

Amie wasn't the only one who suffered from toxic exposure

See **KLOBUCHAR...pg. 5**

As veterans dwindle, Memorial Day history repeats

"An appeal to the people of Tower and Soudan to observe Memorial Day this year in a manner that will pay fitting tribute to the soldier and sailor dead was made by Nelson-Jackson Post No. 245, American Legion, in a resolution which was adopted at a recent meeting of the post. All Legion men throughout the



DAVID COLBURN

country are making special efforts to bring before the public the importance of this day, which, they say, has deteriorated from a day of observance to one of mere sport and recreation."

-- **Tower Weekly News, May 28, 1920**

Sound familiar? For most of us, Memorial Day today is the official kickoff of summer,

a three-day weekend often stretched to four by folks eager to get in an extra day of fun and frolic. Nearly 40 million Americans will make this one of the busiest travel weekends of the year, and few will be carrying flowers to place on the graves of those who died in military service to the country.

That's not to say that there won't be special observances of Memorial Day. There will be many, including the return this year, after a COVID-related hiatus, of the National Memorial

Day Parade in Washington, D.C. To be honest, while I've harbored a reverence for the meaning of Memorial Day all my life, I didn't have a clue there was an actual National Memorial Day Parade. As I'm decades beyond being a teenager, it's fair for me to call it a "recent" development, as the first one was staged in 2005. Prior to that, there hadn't been a Memorial Day parade in Washington, D.C. in nearly 70 years. But by and large, it seems that for the vast majority of Americans these days, observing Memorial Day is

largely an afterthought, if even a thought at all.

Why is that? Why did the importance of officially honoring the nation's military dead wane in the early part of the 20th century, and why has it done so again in the 21st? Not surprisingly, I have some thoughts on the matter.

Memorial Day began as a grassroots movement after the Civil War to honor fallen Union and Confederate soldiers. The death toll of about 750,000 was

See **VETERANS...pg. 5**

COMMENTARY

Why good investigative journalism matters to a democracy

Recently, a couple of reporters at *The New York Times* published an intriguing story about conversations between House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy and other members of his leadership team. It was shortly after the events of Jan. 6 at the Capitol, and they were talking about what to do about then-President Trump.

His conduct, McCarthy said, had been “atrocious and totally wrong.” Moreover, wrote Alexander Burns and Jonathan Martin in their article, McCarthy “faulted the president for ‘inciting people’ to attack the Capitol, saying that Mr. Trump’s remarks at a rally on the National Mall that day were ‘not right by any shape or any form.’” He added, “I’ve had it with this guy.”

Burns and Martin have since published a series of articles on

the subject, including McCarthy’s fears that some of his more extreme colleagues could themselves incite more violence. Not surprisingly, there have been plenty of denials, but the two reporters have countered with one key point: They have the audio recordings.

I happen to believe these stories are important for the insight they provide into key politicians’ thinking at a dark moment in our history—and on those politicians’ willingness to backtrack in the year since. But whether you agree or not, the willingness of two reporters to dig deep into what actually happened and set the record straight has sent shockwaves through Washington and cast the behavior of powerful officials in a new light.

This is what good investigative journalism does. It is an

essential part of our representative democracy, offering all of us—the people who have the most at stake in who represents us in Washington and how they and other officials behave on our behalf—the chance to understand more fully what’s going on. I often think to myself how dull our lives would be without the difficult, important work that enterprising journalists do. They get for us the facts and—mostly—put them in context so that we can understand what we need to know.

I’m not going to recite a list of all the important stories that journalists have uncovered or helped to explain; it would take us hours. But a quick look back at some relatively recent investigative work gives you a sense of the key importance they play. There was the 2019 *Washington Post* story on a confidential “trove” of government papers documenting nearly two decades of US officials’ misleading statements about the war in Afghanistan. And Ronan Farrow’s groundbreak-

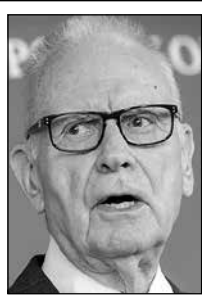
ing investigation of the sexual predation of Harvey Weinstein. There’s been ongoing coverage of the dark corners of America’s war on terror, from Abu Ghraib to Guantanamo. The work by the *Seattle Times* on how failures of government oversight helped lead to the crashes of the Boeing 737 MAX. The Boston Globe’s earth-shattering investigations of abusive behavior by priests and the Catholic Church hierarchy’s efforts to cover it up.

It’s possible that just by reciting that tiny fraction of important work, I’ve spurred you to think of other examples, from Watergate to the exposure of corruption or malfeasance or toxic pollution or some other community harm where you live. And that’s my point: Journalists are constantly finding and exposing the truth in ways that, ideally, spur us to improve our lives, communities, government, and democratic system as a whole. They have a lot of power—they can destroy the career of public officials and

private-sector leaders—and certainly some of them have their faults, obsessing over feuds and conflict and giving them more attention than they deserve. But overall, I’ve found journalists as a whole and investigative journalists in particular to be intelligent, compassionate, and people of integrity.

And I’ll say it again: They’re vital to our representative democracy. We need the work journalists do to remain a free and independent nation, with power residing ultimately in the hands of its citizens. There’s a reason that one of the first things authoritarians do is try to bring the press to heel. They understand, perhaps better than we who get to take these things for granted, how a thriving free press lets people form their own opinions.

Lee Hamilton was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.



LEE HAMILTON

VETERANS...Continued from page 4

staggering, as it would be the equivalent in today’s U.S. population of 8.2 million dead. It’s of little surprise that in the wake of such devastating carnage that the nation would seek ways to begin to heal.

At least two dozen communities claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day, in the beginning called Decoration Day because of the practice of scattering or placing flowers on their graves. As the practice became more widespread, towns, cities, and states made Memorial Day an official annual observance, complete with the standard governmental proclamations of such. Local observances were increasingly driven over the years by the families and friends of the fallen and their comrades in arms, the veterans who survived. The significant involvement of veterans in Memorial Day observances was such that by the turn of the century the official proclamations often suggested that their service should be honored along with the service of those who died in the war, a blurring of the primary

intent of the day that again resonates in the modern era.

By the time America entered World War I in 1917, it was 52 years after the end of the Civil War. Over half of Civil War veterans had died, the U.S. population had more than tripled from 31 million to 103 million, and a dozen new states had been added to the country. With an aging veteran contingent becoming a sharply decreasing fraction of the population in a country swelling from a huge influx of immigrants who had no part in the Civil War, and a nation intent on building its future, is it any wonder that Memorial Day had dwindled in significance?

To be sure, the day was still officially observed, but formal recognition services were few and far between, and I believe that was due to the temporal distance from the day’s origins and the dwindling number of people who had been directly impacted by the deaths in the Civil War. For Tower, Soudan, and countless other communities, the resurgence of Memorial Day was driven

by veterans of World War I who wanted their 117,000 war-dead comrades to be honored for their ultimate sacrifices, and in particular five area boys who perished. The Nelson-Jackson Post of the American Legion here was formed in October 1919, named for Charles G. Nelson and Fred Jackson, two local men who were killed in the war. That next spring, with veterans leading the way, Tower and Soudan observed Memorial Day with a huge march led by the Soudan band from the Tower school to the McKinley Monument for speeches and songs and prayers for the fallen, and most walked on to Lakeview Cemetery to decorate the graves of all those there who had served in the military. It was a resurgence played out locally and nationwide for years and years.

I started attending Memorial Day observances in my little Kansas hometown as a young lad in the late 1960s. My World War II veteran father and my mother had named me for a great uncle who was killed in World War I, and

with many friends among the casualties of World War II, he was keenly aware of the true purpose of the day, and he instilled that in me. Over the years, I remember two things about those hometown observances. First, they were sponsored and led by veterans’ organizations, the VFW and American Legion. And second, as the number of veterans in the community declined, so, too, did the size of the crowd that turned out. That small town and most of the others in the county still hold heartfelt, reverent Memorial Day observances, still mostly led by veterans or their families, and all with fewer attendees than the number of folks sitting outside their RVs at the nearby reservoir enjoying their three or four-day weekend at the same time.

In the 47 years since the end of the Vietnam War, about 8,000 U.S. military members have lost their lives in armed conflicts, and while each loss is tragic, that’s the second-longest period in this nation’s history with so few military deaths.

Curiously, the longest period with comparable deaths is the 52 years from the end of the Civil War to America’s engagement in World War I. Both periods were also marked by steep declines in the number of military veterans. Parallels in history abound, don’t they? We can only hope that the current stretch of minimal casualties beats that mark by decades and decades.

I’m admittedly a purist when it comes to Memorial Day. I don’t begrudge those who choose to honor their family veterans or express support for the military on that day, but that’s not what Memorial Day was supposed to be about. It was intended and should be about all of those men

and women who never got the chance to be called “veteran.” So, with the sound of fishing boats and speed boats providing the echoes of “sport and recreation” on Monday, I’ll be spending some time at Lakeview Cemetery visiting the graves of Charles G. Nelson and Leslie Fredrick Jackson, remembering my great uncle and their comrade-in-arms David Potter, and reflecting not only on their patriotism and sacrifice, but on the horrible toll on humankind that results from our inability to inhabit this world in peace and harmony. We have far more than enough dead patriots to observe Memorial Day. Enough is enough.

KLOBUCHAR...Continued from page 4

to burn pits. An increasing number of our troops who served in Iraq and Afghanistan have illnesses potentially caused by burn pit exposure.

That’s why I have fought for years to ensure our veterans who were exposed to toxic substances

receive the care and benefits they need. I’m proud to say that provisions from my bipartisan bill to provide health care workers with better training to support burn pit victims are included in legislation moving forward in the Senate.

One reason this law

will be so important is because we’ve seen this kind of tragedy before—we cannot let toxic burn pits become this generation’s Agent Orange. We cannot let history repeat itself.

Today, let us carry forward the legacies of those we’ve lost by recom-

mitting ourselves to ensuring those still with us receive the respect, gratitude, and care they deserve. Not just on Memorial Day, but every day.

Amy Klobuchar is Minnesota’s senior U.S. Senator.

GARAGES...Continued from page 3

of the 1980s.

City and county officials have been talking informally about a possible acquisition of the county facility, which could allow the city to consolidate all of its public works and emergency operations in one facility with much greater available space. It would also open up the possibility of refurbishing the current fire and ambulance hall to create city offices, which could replace the existing 1930s-vintage city hall.

City officials haven’t made any such deci-

sions at this point. And while the acquisition of the facility could be achieved for far less than the cost of new construction, the era of the county giving buildings away has largely disappeared. County Commissioner Paul McDonald said the city’s acquisition of the old buildings would have to be on similar terms as the city of Cook’s purchase of county facilities after the construction of a new county garage and various offices on County Rd. 115, just north of Cook. That

would entail a purchase for the current appraised value or estimated market value by the county assessor. The property’s EMV is currently set at \$392,600. While that’s a hefty sum for the city, it’s a tiny fraction of the cost to build such facilities new.

City officials note that the idea is still speculative at this point, but the facility would fit well with the city’s needs. “We need the space and we could service our own vehicles. We could possibly use it for our emergency services

as well,” said Tower Mayor Dave Setterberg. “Once we see what we could be getting and what would be available, we can better understand the options.”

Setterberg said he’s discussed the possible acquisition with McDonald, but has been waiting for progress on the new county facility before beginning serious talks. With things moving forward, Setterberg said it will be time to reach out again. “We need to keep the city at the front of the line,” he said.

CENSUS...Continued from page 3

determined just over five percent of residents were not counted. Tennessee and Mississippi both experienced undercounts of more than four percent, while Florida saw an estimated undercount of 3.48 percent and Texas fell short by an estimated 1.92 percent.

Generally, states that made a public push to

ensure a full count did better, while states that resisted census promotion tended to fall short. The PES doesn’t specify how or why some states might have experienced over- or under-counts. But, generally, undercounts occur when census workers are unable to track down residents, often poor people who are

homeless or have transient residences.

Overcounts generally occur when the census records people twice, which can happen when people move during the census period or have multiple residences and get counted in more than one location.

Not surprisingly, other indicators suggest that the

nation’s white population was overcounted, while minority populations were generally undercounted.

“These results give us valuable insight as we plan operations and allocate resources for the 2030 Census,” said Santos.



the
TIMBERJAY

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Week of May 30

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

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:00 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is June 21.

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

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

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.

Tower-Soudan city-wide garage sale planned for July 30

TOWER-SOUDAN- A Tower-Soudan city-wide garage sale is being planned for Saturday, July 30 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Get ready to clean out your house and garage. Everyone in the area is invited to participate. If you don't have enough to do your own sale, join up with a neighbor. To participate in the event, please email your name and address to Paula Barnes at pbarnes6@protonmail.com, send a facebook message to Starbaby Candles (Paula Barnes), or call Paula at 218-780-6806. Organizers will be creating a map of area sales to be handed out at local businesses.

Stuntz Bay dock destroyed by ice, high water

BREITUNG TWP- The permanent dock at the Stuntz Bay boat landing was destroyed by ice and high water levels this spring. The cost to demolish and haul away the old dock is about \$2,500. The initial estimate to replace the dock is over \$11,000. The association is currently seeking tax-deductible donations to help with this unexpected repair cost. Donations can be sent to Stuntz Bay Association, PO Box 102, Soudan, MN 55782. Any questions, call Dan Wiire at 218-969-6374.

HONORING THOSE LOST IN BATTLE

Memorial Day Tribute planned for May 30 at Civic Center

TOWER- The community is invited to the annual Memorial Day Tribute 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 Sundahl 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 program will conclude with a tradition-

al 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 heartwarm-

ing event. **Memorial Display at the Depot** The Tower-Soudan Historical Society will have a display at the Tower Depot from May 29 through Monday May 31 in commemoration of Memorial Day. The display will include his-

torical photographs as well as an exhibit on military women from the Iron Range. John Edwin Peil's World War I Army Uniform will be on display. He was an engineer on the railroad in France transporting troops to the battle areas.

LAKEVIEW CEMETERY



Volunteers host clean-up day at Lakeview Cemetery

St. Martins youth hosted a community volunteer clean-up day at the Tower Cemetery on May 17. Pictured are some of those that helped out with the project. submitted photo

LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER

LVCC Benefit “Midsummer in Norway” set for June 18 with program at St. Mary’s Hall, and Civic Center

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center (LVCC) is excited to announce that the 10th Midsummer benefit, “Midsummer in Norway,” will be held on Saturday, June 18, at the Herb Lamppa Civic Center in Tower and in St. Mary’s Hall across the street. The LVCC is pleased to be hosting this event again since it was canceled in both 2020 and 2021 due to COVID concerns. The evening begins at 4:30 p.m. with a silent auction followed by a Norwegian themed dinner and a live auction led by Steve Solkela. The guest speaker is St. Louis County Commissioner Paul McDonald. Live auction items include stays in Lake Placid, N.Y.; Lookout Mountain, Ga; Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; and California wine country. Some silent auction items include Minnesota Wild Tickets, four rounds of golf at the Wilderness Golf Course, and a sightseeing seaplane ride with Adventure Seaplanes. After dinner a musical program will take place with the Midsummer Singers led by Janice Kimes, executive producer, music director, and narrator, and Larry Reynolds, rehearsal director. The Midsummer Singers consists of voices from both the Twin Cities and the Lake Vermilion area. The featured soloists and musicians include local musician Steve Solkela; and lyric soprano Linda Bajan who will perform Solveig’s



Steve Solkela



Marlys and Robert Larsen



Linda Bajan

Song from Grieg’s Peer Gynt. This year, for the first time, the program will be held in the auditorium at St. Mary’s Hall. While the space is still being renovated, the LVCC is excited to showcase the beautiful acoustics and stained-glass windows. Tickets for the benefit are \$75 per person and may be ordered online at the LVCC website at vermillionculturalcenter.org or by contacting Mary Batinich at malexbat@gmail.com for a written invitation. The RSVP deadline is June 4. The LVCC is a 501(c)(3) whose mission statement is: “The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center is dedicated to community enrichment through education

and the arts by offering quality programming and providing opportunities to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the area”. The LVCC has offered a continuing education program of over fifty presentations and has held many fundraising events to help renovate the former St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, which is now located on the Main Street of Tower. When finished, this architectural jewel will provide Tower, Lake Vermilion, and this northern Iron Range area with a stunning facility that will provide an auditorium, art gallery, library, reading room, and a place for weddings, reunions, dinners, dancing and other events. The grounds of the LVCC will feature

gardens and memorial benches for visitors to enjoy. All of the windows and many of the rooms and benches are designated in honor or in memory of loved ones. A few major spaces of the compound are still available for naming rights as part of the ongoing fundraising efforts. In addition, there are four- and five-foot benches that can be underwritten in honor and memory of a loved one and will be located around the grounds of the LVCC. If you cannot attend the Midsummer benefit, you may donate towards the renovation of St. Mary’s Hall online at vermillionculturalcenter.org.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

Fourth of July updates; register your floats; donations needed

TOWER-SOUDAN- Fourth of July raffle tickets will be on sale Friday, May 27 near Zup’s on Main Street. Raffle ticket sales help pay for the

Fourth of July parade, kiddie parade, and the kiddie races. The raffle features cash prizes, and the drawing will be held at the Breitung Township

picnic on Sunday, July 3. The committee is also selling wooden buttons and vinyl stickers commemorating the events as fundraisers this year.

Have you ever thought about being in the parade? Fourth of July parade floats are needed. Specifically, we’d like to entice business owners to get in on the action. This is great publicity for their business, especially if it is new. Also, it is a great opportunity for groups such as churches, youth

groups, civic clubs, and other groups that could use some attention. If anyone is interested in participating, they should contact Julie Johnson at 218-750-7242 or email her at tseventsboard@gmail.com. Civic participation is the big piece that makes our community’s Fourth of July parade and festivities so successful. Watch for information about other Fourth of July weekend events in upcoming weeks. The pancake breakfast is back on the schedule, along with the Vermilion 5K/10K run. Donations are always welcome and checks can be made out to TSLVAEB or T-S Fourth of July and sent to TSLVAEB, PO Box 461, Tower, MN, 55790.

NOTICE
TOWN of SOUDAN



The City of Soudan
will be
FLUSHING
HYDRANTS

TUESDAY, JUNE 7
BEGINNING AT 8 AM

Residents should expect
discolored water and irregular
water pressure.

IT’S THAT
TIME AGAIN!

The Tower Cemetery Board
asks for your support.

Thank you all for your past donations.

Tower Cemetery Association
PO Box 874
Tower, MN 55790

Published in the Timberjay 5,20, 27, 6/10, 17, 24

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WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Ely Elementary students enjoy Field Day activities



ELY - Washington Elementary Field Day held their annual Field Day last Wednesday on The Ely Memorial Veterans Baseball Field.

Students in grades K-5 were led by Ely physical education teachers Ms. Blomberg and Mr. Gantt in the following events: 50-yard dash, 100-yard dash, three-legged race, wheelbarrow race, sack race, 400-yard dash, 4 X 100 relay, sharks and minnows tag game, car wash relay, long jump, cone flip relay, tennis ball throw/whiffle ball toss, balloon pop relay, and egg/spoon relay.

Despite the unfavorable weather, these athletes ran hard and encouraged each other.



SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Interim director named at the Gardner Humanities Trust

ELY - The Gardner Humanities Trust this week named Beth Ohlhauser interim director.

“Beth has been an active board member with the Trust for nearly six years. The board and I are very excited to welcome Beth into her new position with the Trust,” said Jill Swanson, Chairperson. “Beth brings a lot of experience about the Trust grant programs and inner workings to the position and will help with the transition to a permanent director next year.”

Ohlhauser and her husband, Craig, have lived in Ely for about 12 years and have three children in school. She has an entrepreneurial background in design and has had several successful businesses.

“I am excited to be more involved with the arts community and the different organizations,” Ohlhauser said. “The Trust has been supporting the

arts and artists of our community for over 30 years and it will be great to help continue that support.”

Keiko Williams, the outgoing executive director, said the Trust has now given out just over \$846,000 to Ely community youth and adult artists, art organizations, and college scholarships.

She noted the Trust start with Donald Gardner, a businessman from Cincinnati, who had a cabin on Objibwe Lake. A philanthropist, he donated a painting to the city of Ely in 1944 by Frederick Frieseke titled ‘Breakfast in the Garden.’ The painting hung in the library for more than 40 years until there was some renewed interest in that style of impressionist paintings. In 1989, the painting was sold for \$510,000 to a New York gallery and the city of Ely established the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust to enrich the community



Gardner Humanities Trust outgoing director, Keiko Williams, left, and interim director, Beth Ohlhauser, in front of a copy of the “Breakfast in the Garden.” submitted photo

through arts grants and scholarships.

“It is a real tribute to the leadership of the Trust and its board members that the initial gift has continued to give back to the community in so many ways,” Williams said. “The Trust has well established financial and investment policies in place that will help to provide continued arts support for the community for decades to come.”

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022

bright rising beauty
bulbs share vivid expression

say bye to winter

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

Monday Noon-6 pm
Tuesday Noon-6 pm
Wednesday Noon-6 pm
Thursday Noon-6 pm
Friday Noon-5 pm
Phone: 218-827-3345

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
OPEN AA - 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.
SUNDAY NIGHT AA - at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church is canceled.
ELY WOMEN’S OPEN AA - Every Monday at noon at Ledgerrock 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.

ELECTION 2022

Ely city candidate filing period runs through May 31

ELY – A two-week filing period for the city of Ely mayor and three city council seats runs through Tuesday, May 31.

Mayor Roger Skraba is pursuing the Republican nomination for the Minnesota State House

seat, now occupied by Rep. Rob Ecklund (DFL), and unless he changes his mind, he won’t be on this city’s mayoral ballot in November to run for re-election for the two-year position.

Also on the ballot

this year are four-year Ely city council seats now held by Angela Campbell, Albert Forsman and Heidi Omerza.

A primary election would be held on Tuesday, Aug. 10 if at least three candidates file for the

mayoral position. Six or more council candidates would also force a primary election. The general election is Tuesday, Nov 8.

Affidavits for candidacy are available at the Ely City Clerk’s office in City Hall, 209 Chapman St.,

on the city of Ely website, www.ely.mn.us, and email, deputyclerk@ely.mn.us, or call 218-365-3224. The cost of filing is \$5.

Completed documents and fees must be received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 31.

ELY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL



Farewell to Ely High School Band teacher

Ely Memorial High School band members gathered Monday night for their final concert of the 2021-2022 school year and said farewell to band and music teacher Sarah Mason who is leaving ISD 696 after five years. 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.

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

► May 31: Update from the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters with Becky Rom.

► June 7: Meet Grant Hauschild, Candidate for MN Senate District 3.

► June 14: Meet Hudson Kingston of PEER & Maggie Schuppert of CURE.

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

Academics and scholarships recognized by school

Gymnasium filled for the reboot of awards ceremony after COVID hiatus



Alex Hartway, Lillian Voges, and Abby Koch are the first-ever recipients of the DeDe Desannoy Turri Kaml (DDTK) Scholarship.



Jake Panichi and Erik Aune receive scholarships from the Virginia Elks Lodge #1003.



Abbigail Shuster and Brandie Walker each received scholarships from the Cook VFW.

HONORING ACADEMICS

Academic Excellence 7th Grade Alethea Bangs Corralyn Brodeen Grace Bundy Presley Chiabotti Emarie Gibson Andrew Hartway Carson Johnson Ella Kruse Sophia Mathys Victoria Phillips Cash Rutchasky Merilee Scofield Kaycee Zupancich	8th Grade Lincoln Antikainen Isaiah Briggs Lauren Burnett Josephine Carlson Brynn Chosa John Danielson Isabelle Koch Brittin Lappi Victoria Mathys Isabel Pascuzzi Sadie Spears Megan Taylor	Academic Letter Awards 9th Grade Addison Burckhardt Alex Burckhardt John Carlson Ella Cornelius Ryder Gibson Aiden Hartway Sierra Schuster Amber Sopoci Lydia Trip 10th Grade Evelyn Brodeen Jonah Burnett	Annabelle Calavera Brandon Cook Sean Drift Emily Grahn Addy Hartway Alexandra Holm Evan Kajala Helen Koch Riley Las Zefrym Mankowski Cadence Nelson Victoria Olson Tiauna Peltier Autumn Swanson Madison Taylor Trinity Vidal	11th Grade Cooper Antikainen Kohen Briggs Loren LaFave Kaden Ratai Karah Scofield Elias Smith Steven Sopoci Emily Trip 12th Grade Erik Aune Morgan Burnett TJ Chiabotti Bryce Chosa	Ty Fabish Trey Gibson Erik Hagen Alex Hartway Abby Koch Michaela Luecken Sean Morrison Nathan Palm Jacob Panichi
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SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

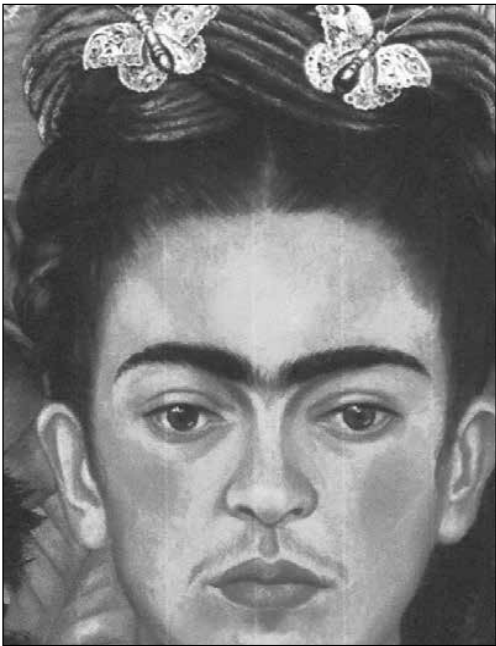
►Alworth Memorial Scholarship, \$20,000: Morgan Burnett, Abby Koch	►CSS Upward Bound Alumni Scholarship- Matt Leveau, \$200: Abby Koch	►PEO Scholarship, \$500: Abby Koch, Brandie Walker	►Cook Volunteer Fire Department, \$500: Abby Koch	►Grace Ellen Whiteside Martin Memorial Scholarship, \$500: Lillian Voges, Alt Abby Koch	►Northwoods Riders Scholarship, \$250: Carter Holman
►Cook Healthcare Auxiliary Scholarship, \$1,000: Abby Koch	►CSS Upward Bound Alumni Scholarship - Phil Hubert , \$250: Katrina Jackson, Abby Koch	►Tony Cornelius Memorial Scholarship, \$1000: Carter Holman, Jake Panichi	►Cook Zups Scholarship, \$1000: Haley Bogdan	►Hans Wallin Memorial Scholarship, \$700: Morgan Burnett	►Orr American Legion Scholarships, \$750: Abbigail Shuster, Olivia Udovich
►Cook Lions Club Scholarship, \$1000: Haley Bogdan, Morgan Burnett, Ivy Chaulklin, Sierra Jensen, Abby Koch	►Daniel E. Morrison Sr Memorial Scholarship, \$1000: Sierra Jensen, Sean Morrison	►Virginia Elks Lodge #1003, \$1000: Erik Aune, Jake Panichi	►Doug Johnson Scholarship, \$1000: Carter Holman, Abbigail Shuster	►JosH RUTAR Memorial Scholarship, \$1000: Abby Koch, Tim Lilya	►Orr Lions Club/Louise Wolff Scholarship, \$1000: TJ Chiabotti, Alex Hartway, Abby Koch
►DeDe Desannoy Turri Kaml (DDTK) Scholarship, \$3000: Alex Hartway, Abby Koch, Lillian Voges	►Jack Banovetz Memorial Scholarship, \$300: Morgan Burnett, Alex Hartway	►Alfred and Ethel Stone Memorial Scholarship, \$1000 (renewable up to 4 years): Erik Aune, Abby Koch	►Ed Borowiec Memorial Scholarship, \$1000: Morgan Burnett	►Larry Baker Music Scholarship, \$500: Brandie Walker	►Range Engineering STEM all-star, \$400: Morgan Burnett, Abby Koch
►Cook Timberwolves Scholarship, \$500: Haley Bogdan, Nathan Palm, (Alt - Abby Koch)	►Lake Country Power Les B Memorial Scholarship, \$4000: Alex Hartway, Abby Koch	►Breckenridge Charitable Trust, \$6630.67: Alex Hartway	►Endeavor Foundation Scholarship, \$8000: Haley Bogdan, Abby Koch, Brandie Walker	►Memorial Blood Centers Scholarship, \$730: Alex Hartway	►Sean Michael Sarazine Memorial Scholarship, \$500: Michelle Hagen
►Cook VFW Scholarship, \$1000: Brandie Walker, Abbigail Shuster	►North Star Credit Union Scholarship, \$500: Abby Koch	►Cook Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, \$500: Erik Aune	►Genfinity Foundation Scholarship, \$8000: 11th grade recipients Cooper Antikainen, Hannah Kinsey, Emily Trip	►MSCA Scholarship, \$500: Michelle Hagen, Sierra Jensen	►Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, \$1000: Abby Koch
►CSS TRIO Scholarship, \$1000 per year for 4 years: Abby Koch	►Paul Anderson Memorial Scholarship, \$6,000: Morgan Burnett, Ethan Byram, Abbigail Shuster	►Cook News Herald, \$200: Michelle Hagen	►Frank Fortun Memorial Scholarship, \$500: Jacob Panichi	►Nancy Parvi Memorial Scholarship, \$1000: Sierra Jensen	►Watering Can Garden Shop Scholarship, \$500: Haley Bogdan, Alex Hartway
		►Cook Timber Days Service Scholarship, \$250: Brandie Walker	►Gabe Vogt Scholarship, \$250: Sierra Jensen	►National Wild Turkey Federation Scholarship, \$250: Jake Panichi	

Special service will honor service of former Cook pastor

COOK- Cook Evangelical Covenant Church welcomes the community to a special service at the church in loving memory of Rev. Reuben Rosnau, who served the church as pastor for over 28 years on Saturday, June 4 at 1 p.m. Rev. Rosnau served the Cook community as a school bus driver, and for decades as an EMT team member, firefighter, and chaplain to everyone.

Rosnau family members will be present, and church members hope local citizens, firefighters and Emergency Medical Service members will come to share their memories of working alongside Reuben. That would be meaningful to his family.

Many folks in this region fondly remember Reuben Rosnau, who passed into Eternity last month at the Covenant’s Golden Valley, MN assisted living center. Following the service an open house will be held in the Fellowship Hall so community members can view historical photos and articles, then greet and visit with Brian Rosnau and Kim (Rosnau) Thill and their families until 4 pm.



Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, left, will be the inspiration for a class led by veteran art instructor Kris Musto.

Free Curious and Creative class to be held at NWFA on June 9

COOK: A free Curious and Creative art class inspired by the work of painter Frida Kahlo will be Thursday, June 9 from 1-4 p.m. at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook.

Join instructor Kris Musto to make artwork inspired by Kahlo’s creative vision. A Mexican painter known for her many portraits, self-portraits and works inspired by the nature and artifacts of Mexico, Frida’s paintings explore questions of identity, post-colonialism, gender, class, and race. Her paintings often had strong autobiographical elements and mixed realism with fantasy. Students will explore paint, drawing and collage to make self-portraits or still-lives inspired by her art. This is a fun and easy class open to all levels, and all are welcome. Special care is shown for beginners that want to try art.

Register soon for Curious and Creative Art Class by stopping by the gallery at 210 S River St.

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Alexandria ECHO PRESS

Former Forest Service

While Stauber accused bill proponents of wanting to destroy the northern

"Ely's exemplary reputation for wildlife viewing, canoe camping, and wilderness adventure has brought visitors from around the country and the world and many return to live and build businesses and eventually retire as a

She argued that the Twin Metals mine plan could be implemented safely without creating acid rock drainage or polluting the Boundary Waters and she said opponents of the mine were fearful that an environ-

Stauber countered, pointing out that an open pit gold mine is currently operating within the Rainy River watershed in Canada. But McCollum responded in later questioning, noting that the mine Stauber referenced was located downstream of the Boundary Waters and could not impact the water quality in the wilderness area.

The committee concluded the hearing without a vote. That is expected to come later this year.

"I shared this information with (current chamber leader Eva Sebesta) and

Other business

► Heard from Smyka,

➤ Approved a rec-

➤ Approved a recommendation from the Cemetery Committee to hire David Klaesges, Samuel Hunter, Jon Ojala

- Approved a request

➤ Approved a temporary liquor license for the Ely Fire Relief Association for July 2, and July 29-31 at Whiteside Park.

-A Benefit for the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center-

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FLOODING...Continued from page 1

weekend and the possibility of more rain.

And projections indicate that the flooding could possibly break the highest level ever recorded.

“This is a historic flood that has already exceeded the records set in 2014 and could approach setting all-time records,” Duluth National Weather Service office reported in a Monday update. “Namakan/Kabetogama Lake level is 1,121.4 feet, 15.3 inches above the peak level reached in 2014. The

level of Namakan Lake is expected to rise by 6-7 inches over the next seven days. The peak may approach or exceed the record level (of) 1,122.8 feet set on May 23, 1916. A return to wet weather could see the level continuing to rise above this record.”

A tiny glimmer of hope can be found in the data about the amount of water flowing into the lakes, which took a downturn early in the week. However, the inflow was still about double what can get out.

“As of May 23, many of the major tributaries upstream like Basswood River, Vermilion River, and Kawishiwi River have crested and are beginning to slowly drop. However, this will only slow the rise of Namakan/Kabetogama and Rainy Lake,” the NWS said. “Continued rises are still anticipated in the coming days. It will take a long time for these levels to decrease once they peak (crest), and those experiencing flooding should be prepared for weeks of high-water levels into June.”

That glimmer could dim, however, if the NWS forecast for one to one-and-a-half inches of rain across the Basin by next Tuesday comes to pass.

Larry Kec, of Kabetogama, wears two hats as he and his neighbors work hard in the present moment to hold the floodwaters at bay. He’s the township board chairman and he’s also the owner of Kec’s Kove Resort. The resort has taken a hit, but not as much as some of his neighbors, he said on Tuesday.

“Fortunately, our cabins are far enough from the lake that I’ve got water just around one of them,” Kec said. “My dock system is a floating system, so I probably have one of the only dock systems left on the lake. All the big docks are underwater. My dock houses have about three feet of water in them and aren’t useable. I just shut the power off to the dock because I had a box that’s going underwater.”

Getting access to the dock, however, took some work. Kec said that the water stretched 150 yards back behind the dock now, so he hauled in eight loads of gravel to build a road to it.

“They’re pretty good now, but it’s still coming up. We haven’t crested yet,” he said.

Other resorts haven’t fared so well.

“Some of them are in dire straits,” Kec said.

“Sandy Point Lodge is shut down, they’re completely underwater. Moosehead is shuttling people to three cabins because they can’t get to them without being in a wheelie. Arrowhead is high and dry but you can’t get to it because their parking lot is underwater.”

“Everybody’s in hip boots, that’s kind of common, either hip boots or waders,” Kec continued. “Now we’ve got people’s sewer septs going under, we just shut the neighbor’s down. We had a dike built over there that broke the other night with that heavy wind and he’s got four feet of water in his basement.”

Kabetogama got some extra help with making sandbags this week from ten members of a Duluth National Guard unit, which allowed some people to go out and assist with dike building, but Kec said they could still use more volunteers. They can’t take any more National Guardsmen because they don’t have any more space to house them. The resorts that are still operating are full and booked through Memorial Day weekend.

“We have so much sandbagging to do at resorts and private homes,” Kec said. “We’ve got plenty of dedicated hard workers, but we’re all just old. I’m a youngster and I’m 65. I’m working alongside people 78 and 89 that are going every day.”

Kec believes that many of the people who have kept their resort reservations have done so as their way of helping out.

“They figured we’ve had two years of COVID, and now all of a sudden there’s a third year with high water and their favorite establishment or resort may not be there when they want to come back,” Kec said. “I think some of them are coming just to support the businesses.”

That goodwill may need to last well into the

summer, as Kec said he doesn’t expect to see a major drop in the lake level until July.

Rising water at Crane Lake had crossed Gold Coast Road in several places on Tuesday, with numerous structures on the lake side of the road succumbing to the flood.

Art and Jody Driggs had to have three trailer houses towed away from their property to keep them from being flooded, including the one they were living in while they’re building a new house on the property. They’ve moved into an adjacent little house next to the road that’s surrounded by flood waters but is still about a foot above them.

Meanwhile, their large shop building is surrounded by sandbags but sits high enough at the moment to leave a narrow strip of concrete for a walkway. And the couple has had to tussle with a derelict gazebo.

“The gazebo has floated away twice,” Jody said. “I don’t think any of us thought it would move, but it did, and luckily it lodged on a rock and they got it out with a four-wheeler. Then we’re sitting here later and the rope broke and they said ‘There it goes again.’”

There’s a foundation for a new house on the property, closer to the water’s edge during normal times, that’s still accessible if one puts on knee-high boots to wade across the driveway. “We’ve owned this property since probably 2005, but I’ve been coming up her since probably the early 1960s,” Jody said. “I’ve seen water up in the driveway but nothing like this. And they say it’s going to come up six more inches.”

Several businesses that were surrounded by water last week were inundated by it on Tuesday, and numerous floating docks that had once been accessible weren’t any longer as the water had risen above and beyond their gangplanks.

Volunteers helping fill sandbags have the process

down to a fine art and kicked into an unheard of gear on Saturday. Outfitted with six of the eight-bag-at-a-time devices devised by Beth Bak and an additional automatic bagger, and bolstered by St. Louis County Sheriff’s deputies, they cranked out 4,000 bags that day. Local businesses and individuals have stepped up with pizzas, burritos, banana bread and more to keep the volunteers well fed.

There were still over 2,000 empty bags left, but with the addition of ten National Guardsmen on Monday, those were taken care of, too.

Park closures

Last week, Voyageurs National Park personnel were scrambling with limited resources to assess the condition of the park’s campsites. It didn’t take long for park officials to make the call to close many campsites and trails until June 1, although it’s likely that if the water continues to rise as predicted the closures could be extended and expanded.

All 14 backcountry “B” campsites and all trails on the Kabetogama Peninsula were closed, as were any frontcountry sites which have been inundated by water that has reached camping infrastructure such as tent pads, campfire rings, and vault toilets.

Additional closures include six campsites on Kabetogama Lake, eight on Namakan Lake, six on Sandpoint Lake, and ten on Rainy Lake. Closures and openings are updated online on Tuesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. at <https://www.nps.gov/voya/planyourvisit/permit-sandreservations.htm?fbclid=IwAR226P8lsH1Za-SuZG8XsjtQdPynbdVF-WrpYBgxqUftTH-xdZ-TRghG7aw3w8>.

For the most current information about lake levels, weather predictions, and related information, go to the NWS Rainy River Basin webpage at <https://www.weather.gov/dlh/RainyRiverBasin>.

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- Dr. Katie Evans, The Aging Foot •
- Naomi Sperry, Pharm D & John Schindele, Pharm D •
- EBCH Pharmacy and Hospital Services •
- Dr. Isaac Hunt, Your Aging Brain •
- Heather Holthus, RN, Aging Issues & Wellness •

Presenters and topics are subject to change

NEWS IN BRIEF

Edge Center hosts two June events

BIGFORK - June is special this year for the Edge Center because it is presenting two events in one month. The first event, part of the community wide celebration called “Wilderness Days,” will be

performed by the Ragamala Dance Company.

The Ragamala performance will be at the Bigfork city hall on Saturday, June 11 at 1 p.m. The second event will be on Saturday, June 25 at 7 p.m. on the Edge Center stage performed by “The Duluth

Transit Authority.”

The June 11 performance is free of charge. Tickets for the June 25 performance are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Masking is strongly advised for both events.

Visit www.edgecenterarts.org. The Edge

Center is located at 101 2nd Ave. in Bigfork.

Embarrass Fair needs volunteers

EMBARRASS – The 82nd Embarrass Region Fair needs volunteers to make the event happen.

The Embarrass Region Fair Association (ERFA) needs volunteer coordinators for the exhibit hall, the parade, and the pageant. Other volunteer opportunities include gatekeepers during the fair weekend (August 26 -28) and to work at the “Miss or Little Miss.”

Volunteers in any area are always welcome. For more information, contact Amber Johnson at 218-600-8517 or join a monthly meeting held the first Thursday before the first Saturday of the month at the Timber Hall/fairgrounds, 4855 Hwy. 21.

2142...Continued from page 1

percentage on the salary matrix was agreed upon for the second year of the contract,” Herring said. This was something our members were very clear about needing in order to vote yes.”

Teachers will receive a one-time \$2,000 stipend for the 2021-22 school year, the first year of a two-year agreement. Pay levels on the salary matrix for the upcoming year will increase by two percent.

“We were able to negotiate a slightly higher 403b lifetime contribution amount,” Herring continued, “but in the future would like a higher district amount matched based on years of service. We also

agreed to research our health insurance plans to make sure members are utilizing each plan to its fullest, and making sure members are on the right plan based on needs.”

The new contract sets the maximum lifetime contribution at \$55,000.

Coaching stipends were a hot topic for board members before negotiations on the new contract ever commenced last year. Coaching positions and activities directors were all bumped up by \$100, and a simmering dispute about differential pay levels was resolved by moving softball and baseball head and assistant coaching positions up to the same level

as their football, volleyball, basketball and swimming counterparts. Head coaches in those sports will be paid \$5,438 for a season. Track, cross country, and golf head coaches will be paid \$4,383, with the head coach for track and cross country receiving an extra \$100 stipend for each extra school they supervise.

In other business, the board:

➤ Heard from a district student and a parent about how bullying this year, primarily in the form of derogatory attacks from other students both in person and online, has impacted them to the point of needing regular mental health counseling ses-

sions to get through each week. The pair also criticized school administrators who they said have not handled investigations of complaints in proper and timely fashion and have not communicated effectively. Both ended their comments with a question to the board, “What will you do about this?”

As the presentation was during the public comment period of the meeting, board policy dictates that members do not respond to presenters, and they did not. However, at the end of the meeting, member Bob Larson addressed the comments and sparked a short discussion that led to members agreeing that they

should get a good overview of the processes in question in an upcoming working session before considering any future action.

➤ Approved numerous personnel actions, including accepting the resignation of North Woods boys basketball head coach Will

Kleppe from that position, effective immediately. Kleppe also submitted his resignation from the Grizzlies’ boys golf head coach position, but will coach next spring before the resignation becomes effective.

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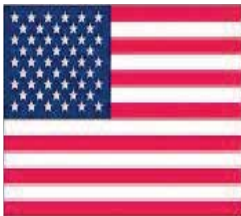
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BASEBALL

Wolves edge Broncos to improve to 12-4

Ely wins all three contests in weekend’s Veteran’s Memorial Showcase tournament



by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

INTERNATIONAL FALLS— Ely bounced back from its Monday loss to Rock Ridge, on the strength of a four-run first inning to edge the Broncos here, 7-6. The Wolves had plenty of help from the Broncos pitcher, who hit two Ely batters

Left: Ely sophomore pitcher Drew Marolt eyes his catcher intently as he winds for a pitch against Carlton in the opening game of the Veteran’s Memorial tournament on Friday.

photo by D. Colburn

and issued two walks and two wild pitches, to advance Ely runners around the bases without a single hit.

The Broncos cut Ely’s lead in half in the bottom of the second inning, with back-to-back doubles and added three more in the third inning. But Ely added runs in the third and fourth innings and clung to a 7-5 lead heading into the seventh.

A Broncos’ rally in the bottom of the inning, fueled by an opening single and a double, fell just short as junior pitcher Logan Low worked his way out of the jam for the save. Starting pitcher Gunnar Hart went two-plus innings, giving up four

runs on four hits. Freshman Caid Chittum came on in relief, throwing three innings and giving up two hits and a run before giving way to Loe.

Juniors Joey Bianco and Erron Anderson each scored twice for Ely, while Loe added two hits in the contest. The win improved Ely’s record to 12-4 on the season.

It’s said that all good things must come to an end, and that included Ely’s winning streak on the baseball field, which ended at ten straight after the Wolves fell 10-3 to Rock Ridge on Monday.

The Wolverines hit the score-

See WOLVES...pg. 4B

GOLF

North Woods golfers taking tough weather in stride

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELDTWP- Late melting snow, excessive April rains, and intermittent storms have taken their toll on Minnesota spring sports seasons, but the North Woods boys and girls have taken it all in stride.

Steady winds blowing at 17 mph aren’t considered ideal for golf, but with a mild 56 degrees and overcast skies, conditions were just fine for the Grizzlies girls to host a tournament last Friday at Vermilion Fairways in Cook.

Mesabi East won the team title with a combined 198 score. North Woods finished four with a total of 225.

The Grizzlies Tori Olson mastered the wind to card a 46 and claim fourth place, just three strokes behind winner Kelby Anderson of International Falls. Haley Bogdan logged a 55 to tie for 12th place, while Madison Dantes tied for 18th with a 59 and Morgan Burnett tied for 21st with a 63.

On the boys’ side, Davis Kleppe navigated his way through a topsy-turvy season to the top of the East Range Conference in scoring average by regular season’s end. But Kleppe was a victim of the weather demons last week at Mesabi East.

Kleppe walked off the course and into the clubhouse with a 77 and the tournament lead, and with players two and three strokes behind him, Kleppe looked good for the gold. But before the last pairing could finish their round, the clouds let loose with lightning, causing officials to immediately stop the tournament. Since not all golfers finished 18 holes, tournament managers decided to count only the front nine scores, and Kleppe went from first to third in a flash.

See GOLF...pg. 4B



SECTION 7A SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Wolves rally for playoff win

Edge Cromwell to advance to double-elimination round Thursday

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY- An enthusiastic home crowd turned out here to watch the Timberwolves win their opening round contest in the Section 7A softball tournament in dramatic fashion on Tuesday. Ely, seeded seventh, edged tenth-seeded Cromwell in a 5-4 walk-off win.

The victory advances Ely to the double-elimination phase of the tournament, set in Grand Rapids, where they were scheduled to play Thursday afternoon.

The Wolves needed a rally to overcome the Cardinals. Cromwell took a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning, and Ely answered with a single run of their own. Cromwell added a run in the third inning, and again the Timberwolves

Above: Ely’s Charly Flom raps a hit during Tuesday’s playoff tilt.

Right: Ely pitcher Katrina Seliskar winds for a pitch.

photos by K. Vandervort

answered with just one run, leaving the bases loaded. They trailed 4-2 going into their last at bat in the bottom of the seventh inning.

With the top of the order coming up to the plate, Coach Cory Lassi said he told his team, “We are where we need to be. Our top of the order is the best we can do.”

Charly Flom got the home crowd excited when she hit a grounder past first

See SOFTBALL...pg. 4B



SECTION 7A SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Grizzlies obliterate Nighthawks 24-0



by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods softball team got off to a roaring start in sectional tournament play on Tuesday, obliterating the visiting Northeast Range Nighthawks 24-0.

The game was shortened to just

After fielding a grounder at third, the Grizzlies’ Helen Koch winds to throw out a Cook County runner last Thursday.

photo by D. Colburn

three-and-a-half innings because of the lopsided score, making the Grizzlies’ offensive onslaught even more impressive.

In only three at-bats, the home team blasted 18 hits and racked up 21 RBIs. Addy Hartway went four-for-four at the plate with four RBIs, while Evelyn Brodeen topped Hartway in RBIs with five on only three hits. Skyler Yernatich and Addy Burckhardt also turned in three-hit performances for the Grizzlies.

North Woods pushed across 12

runs in the first inning and nine in the second before cooling down to just three in the third. Brodeen notched a second-inning inside-the-park home run, and two batters later River Cheney duplicated her feat.

Brodeen barely broke a sweat on the pitcher’s mound, tossing just 47 pitches over four frames. She gave up five hits and served up four strikeouts in the shutout win.

The third-seeded Grizzlies had a

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 4B



Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

LIFE AT THE LAKE

Wow! That’s a lot of water

Yeah!! Soft water for fishing opener! And lots of it! Now don’t get me wrong here, and let me make a statement for the record, I am not complaining. I am not complaining! But holy smokes, we got lotsa water!

As I sit here with my hand on the tiller of my small fishing



APRIL WAMHOFF

Did I say with my hand

boat and reflect on last summer and fall when I watched planes and helicopters draft water from Lady V to douse forest fires, I am grateful for the water. I am inconvenienced by it, and some are in worse shape than I am, but I prefer it to the drought.

on the tiller? I have a lovely run-about boat with a substantial motor on it. Gets me from mainland to my home with the 3 boys (220 pounds of 4-leggeds) in minutes. But I can’t get it in my boathouse. As a matter of fact, I can’t get the run-about into either my shore boathouse or my island boathouse. Too much water. With the boys in the boat, I can just get the fishing boat in. Without the boys, I scrape the door. Some folks in Stuntz

Right: One of many docks on Lake Vermilion that were underwater as a result of recent flooding.

Bay can’t get in to, or maybe better said, get their boats out of, their boathouses. Even if they can, the docks have water on them, or they must don their hip waders to get inside at all. I’m lucky to have a second boat to use that does get in and out.

See **WATER...**pg. 3B



WETLAND SANCTUARY

Plodding the paddies



This remarkable wetland complex always holds a few surprises

There are some places that just seem to have that secret sauce when it comes to attracting birds and, in our region, there are few places saucier than the Darwin S. Myers wildlife management area, otherwise known as the Embarrass rice paddies.

The former commercial operators of the paddies, who discontinued operations decades ago, created a series of dikes in a broad, nearly thousand-acre valley to hold back water diverted from the Embarrass River, to enable the production of domesticated wild rice.

The wild rice is gone, but the vast wetland created by the operation has been maintained by a series of subsequent owners over the years and it’s currently (and, hopefully, permanently) overseen by the Department of Natural Resources as a wildlife management area.

Visitors can explore the area by walking or biking the portion of the Mesabi Trail that now bisects the paddies as well as simply walking on any of dikes that crisscross the area.

At first, the vast, open area seems like unlikely bird habitat to those of us used to birding in the forest. But once you’ve adjusted to the big sky and tuned your senses to a more distant horizon, backdropped to the south by the Giants Range, the sights and sounds of a place that’s full of life begin to emerge in a kind of soft cacophony. The trumpeting of sandhill cranes off in the distance merges with the bizarre calls of distant pied-billed grebes mixed with the whinnying of sora rails arising from seemingly every direction. Mallards are quacking from one of the nearby pools, still filled in late May with the remains of last summer’s vegetation. Canada geese are honking and far out in one of the larger paddies, there’s a pair of trumpeter swans languidly feeding.

And there’s so much more. Redwings are calling from every direction, their shrill call notes interspersed with their more pleasing “konk-a-reee!”

The liquid notes of legions of tree swallows fill the air as well, as they swoop all around in their search for flying insects. Over the years, someone has erected nest boxes for the swallows, or anything else that might need a home and the swallows seemed to have filled every one of them



MARSHALL HELMBERGER



Top: Hundreds of acres of high quality wetlands spread out along the Embarrass River.

Above: A sora rail peeks out through a thicket of cattails.

Left: Wilson’s warblers were in abundance along the Embarrass River last week.

Below: A female redwing clings to a dead cattail.

photos by M. Helmberger



Wildflower Watch

This week’s featured flower
SWEET COLTSFOOT



The common name of the **Sweet Coltsfoot**, *Petasites frigidus*, reflects the sweet aroma of its blossoms, while its Latin name, frigidus, suggests its not afraid of cold temperatures.

In fact, it’s a plant of the Far North and it often blooms when there’s still snow in the woods and cold morning temperatures. It likes wet feet and you’ll find it most often in wet ditches, along the edges of swamps and bogs.

This plant can be difficult to key out from most books because its true leaves don’t appear for a few more weeks, and they’re often located a few feet from the flower stalk, connected via rhizomes under the surface. The flowering stalk is typically several inches to a foot high and is covered by small scale-like leaves that can easily confuse most keys. This plant is a member of the aster family, as might be surmised from its aster-like flowers, which grow in a loose cluster at the top of the stalk.

Fishing reports

Ely area

Walleyes have begun to move out of their spawning areas. Small walleyes continue to be caught in and near spawning areas, but wall-eyes worth bringing home have begun to setup on shallow, rocky, main lake points and weedbeds. Anglers are finding walleyes in ten feet of water and less. Pitching light jigs tipped with a minnow remains the most effective technique to catch these fish. Top colors continue to be gold, blue/white and pink/white.

Pike anglers have been reporting excellent fishing this last week. Heavy suckers fished under a bobber have been very effective on area lakes. Shallow mud bottom bays and river mouths are the areas to fish for the big pike. Interestingly pike anglers have been catching good numbers of mid-30-inch pike, but the big girls, over 40-inch have been few and far between so far.

Rainbows and brookies have been very active this last week. Anglers fishing from shore have been catching good numbers of both on small spoons or jig/twister. Anglers fishing from a boat have been trolling small crankbaits or cowbells, and reporting good success.

Courtesy, Arrowhead Outdoors, in Ely.

See **RICE PADDIES...**pg. 3B

WILDLIFE

Talking of turtles

by TOM EMERY
Freelance writer

REGIONAL—Here’s something you probably didn’t know. This past Monday, May 23, was World Turtle Day. You may have missed all the hullabaloo, but any day is a good time to celebrate turtles in Minnesota. With over 15,000 lakes and many more ponds and marshes, Minnesota is home to lots of turtles, and a total of nine species. Biologists and herpetologists are working to ensure the long-range future of the state’s turtles, and note that the general public can do much to help. “Turtles in Minnesota face many threats,” said Christopher Smith, the Conservation Committee chair for the Minnesota Herpetological Society. “That includes habitat loss, pollution, water quality, and road mortality, when turtles are hit on roads and highways. There’s also the commercial turtle harvest, which is a big issue that we’re trying to work with the Legislature on.”

Species of turtles are found statewide in Minnesota, though the southeast region has the largest concentrations of turtles. “To most folks, the most common turtle in the state is the painted turtle,” noted Smith. “They’re found in both urban and more natural environments. But the snapping turtle is also fairly abundant.”

Turtles play valuable roles in Minnesota ecosystems. Given that most turtles are semi-aquatic, they move energy and nutrients from aquatic to terrestrial environments, and vice versa. “They’re like nature’s janitors for wetlands, because they consume aquatic vegetation and dead or dying fish,” said Smith. As elsewhere, Minnesota turtles face a number of challenges, including on roadways, where turtles are commonly found in warmer weather. “There are several reasons why turtles are on the roads,” said Smith. “One is their movement between their winter and summer habitats. Another is the nesting season, when female turtles start moving across upland habitats, to look for areas to nest. Since many roads are often elevated from the surrounding landscape, the shoulders of the roads create a gravelly surface, which is actually good nesting habitat for a lot of turtles.

“Also, hatchling turtles that emerge near a road is another issue,” continued Smith. “The little turtles try to move to some wetland environment, and they end up on the road while they’re doing it.” Smith stresses that the biology of a turtle is different than other fish and game species. “They live for so long, much longer than many other animals,” said Smith. “A lot of turtles can live for fifty or more years,



A painted turtle basks on a moss-covered log at Bear Head Lake State Park.

photo by M. Helmberger

unlike other animals, whose lifespans are much less. Turtles are pretty slow to mature, and they may not lay their first bunch of eggs from eight to ten, or even twenty years. “So if they crawl out of their wetlands and get hit by cars, that’s decades of reproductive potential that is lost,” said Smith. “The same is true when they’re commercially harvested.”

Smith adds that turtles have few natural predators, or natural risks. “But when humans began changing the landscape, that was bad for turtles,” he said, “because it creates higher levels of mortality. Things are really looking pretty dire for a lot of turtles in the long run.”

There are many ways that citizens can protect the turtles of Minnesota. “One big way is to make sure that turtles have good base habitats,” commented Smith. “Property owners, particularly along lakeshores, can make sure that there are plenty of natural vegetations, and keep pollutants out of the water. There’s also the Minnesota Turtle Crossing Tally and Count Project, where citizens collect data from turtles on roadways to minimize the impact on turtles. That’s been a really important project, and a good way for people to get involved. “From a ground advocacy standpoint, we also need to make sure our voice is heard, that turtles are important,” continued Smith. “Speak out for the turtles, and the research funding and policy changes that are needed. Let your representatives know how much we value turtles in Minnesota.”

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
72 49					66 53					72 54					71 48					64 45				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
05/16	68	41	0.00		05/16	68	40	0.00		05/16	64	44	0.24		05/16	54	39	0.00		05/16	66	39	0.00	
05/17	56	30	0.00		05/17	55	28	0.00		05/17					05/17	64	28	0.00		05/17	54	28	0.00	
05/18	65	36	0.00		05/18	65	29	0.00		05/18	No readings at presstime				05/18	72	46	0.00		05/18	63	34	0.00	
05/19	64	45	0.42		05/19	67	45	0.20		05/19	No readings at presstime				05/19	57	46	0.16		05/19	65	43	0.32	
05/20	57	46	0.16		05/20	51	46	0.10		05/20	No readings at presstime				05/20	59	36	0.01		05/20	57	46	0.07	
05/21	61	36	0.03		05/21	61	35	0.02		05/21	No readings at presstime				05/21	46	36	0.00		05/21	56	37	0.05	
05/22	47	36	0.06		05/22	46	35	0.05		05/22	No readings at presstime				05/22	55	37	0.00		05/22	46	36	0.04	
YTD Total				6.88 93.4"	YTD Total				8.01 58.0"	YTD Total				9.37 100.9"	YTD Total				NA NA	YTD Total				10.93 76.6"

RICE PADDIES...Continued from page 2B

Right: A bobolink sits in an elderberry along the Embarrass River.

Far right: A catbird eyes the photographer from an alder thicket.

photos by M. Helmberger

during my recent visit there. Living in the deep woods, I rarely see tree swallows, so watching and listening to them as they live life on the wing is a treat.

I walk along a dike that parallels the Embarrass River and there’s a constant stream of mostly small birds. There’s a wave of Wilson’s warblers, a relatively uncommon bird, that is moving through the alder and willow thickets along the river’s edge. While this species is known to nest in the Superior National Forest, we’re at the very southern edge of their summer breeding range, which stretches well up into the Arctic. They’re ground nesters, which is one reason they can breed well above the tree line, where they favor thickets of willow brush.

The river’s edge attracts other passerines, like a noisy catbird that seems to follow me as I go, grabbing occasional sneak peaks on my progress from the thick brush that lines the river.

A little further on, a bird flushes from the grassy cover of the dike



and flies up into an elderberry — it’s a bobolink, a bird associated with open country. To me, it’s always been a strange bird, that reminds me of Janus, the two-faced Roman god. It’s as if nature merged a blackbird’s front with the back half of something else entirely. Add in it’s bubbling and unusually metallic song and it’s a bird that makes an impression.

Just ahead, as I continue my slow trek along the dike, I catch a glimpse of something scurrying into a line of old cattail stalks that follows the paddy’s edge. I didn’t see what it was, but I stand still for some time, camera poised, hoping whatever it was, gets curious enough to check me out. And soon enough, there he is, peeking from a little hole in the middle of dried stalks. It’s a sora rail, and he’s definitely curious, even though this bird’s retiring nature means he’s not about to come out in the open. This is a bird that’s more common than



most of us might imagine, but the only time I generally see them is when I flush them while ricing. The rest of the year, they stick to the thick cover of their wetland habitats, and are rarely seen by humans.

By this time, the almost non-stop honking of a pair of Canada geese, who have been sounding the alarm at my presence for at least half an hour, has faded away. Apparently, they decided I was no threat... just another odd human out poking around for a time in their world.

It was about that time, that I turned around to head home. It was a workday so there was more to be done. But before leaving, I took another moment to take in the broad sweep of this wetland valley that seems to attract so many and such a variety of birds. What is the secret sauce? I’ll leave that puzzle to contemplate on my next visit.

WATER...Continued from page 2B

Beats a semi-deflated rubber raft! Other docks are affected, too. I have only one modified dock in the water. We had to raise the legs and not push it in so far into the water, but that seems just fine. At least I have something to tie the boat up to. The beach I had last year is long gone. As reported by my coffee klatch informant, one dock owner has almost two tons, two TONS, of water in 55 gallon drums sitting on his dock to keep it from floating away!

And speaking of docks floating away, between mainland and the island, I gain dock parts and other miscellaneous debris, and of course treasures, almost every night. One night last week, on a particularly windy night, I acquired four boat

bumpers and two minnow buckets! I get some campfire wood, but I think I will still have to cut wood for next year. And as a public service message to all you boaters, that floating stuff, big and little, is in the big water, too. Be careful out there.

I’ve heard beaches, picnic areas and playgrounds are under water. I certainly have less feet of shoreline and will be expecting my tax break next year. I have lotsa water in lowland areas, too. I can’t get from my home to the dock without donning the rubber knee boots. My boots are camo and pink and lovely, and, I believe, making a new fashion statement in town, but really? I am not talking about just a little water. I walk slowly and hope the dogs don’t

run by me to create a wave. Some areas to the other side of the dock have even more water. If it weren’t for one or two large rocks, I could float the boat right into the channel. Gondola rides anyone?

So all of this is not fun but certainly livable. I really do feel for people who are suffering even more damage due to the rising water. And in my rant about not complaining, I see I have certainly expressed some displeasure in all this water. But I’m surely very happy we are not still in the drought and worried about real holy smokes. Mother Nature is fickle!

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WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

board early, with two runs in the bottom of the first. Ely answered with three runs in the top of the second to take a 3-2 lead on consecutive hits by Joey Bianco, Chase Sandberg, Eddie Prijatel, and Deegan Richards.

That might have been enough to rattle Rock Ridge starting pitcher John Kendall, but he worked his way out of the inning and kept Ely under wraps the rest of the way. Rock Ridge plated three runs in both the fourth and fifth innings to clinch the win.

Ely's senior pitcher Harry Simons took the loss from the mound, allowing nine runs on 11 hits through five innings. Sophomore Brecken Sandberg pitched an inning in relief.

Senior Mason Davis led the way offensively for Ely, with two hits including a double. The loss dropped Ely's record to 11-4.

Playing at home during the weekend's annual Veteran's Memorial Showcase Tournament, Ely dominated play, winning all three of its contests. In the Friday noon kickoff, the Wolves scored in all but one inning as they cruised to a 12-1 win over Carlton.

Sophomore hurler Drew Marolt picked up the win, giving up two runs on two hits while striking out three in three innings of work. Chittum finished up with two innings of scoreless pitching, striking out three.

Bianco, Richards, senior Mason Davis, and junior Logan Loe each had two hits for Ely.

The Wolves continued their hit parade in their Friday evening tilt with Silver Bay as they outlasted the Mariners 20-19 in a four-hour, extra-inning marathon. Loe had a huge night at the plate, going four-for-five, good for three RBIs and five runs scored. Loe also pitched the final four innings and notched

the win, while striking out five Mariners. Bianco drove in five runs, including the winning run in the eighth inning, on three hits. He also scored three times. Chittum added three hits and as many RBIs, while junior Erron Anderson and Davis notched two hits apiece.

Against Cook County on Saturday, Davis tossed a complete game two-hitter with five strikeouts and went three-for-three at the plate, notching three runs scored and two RBIs. Prijatel also went three-for-three and Anderson added two hits and an RBI.

Ely was set to begin the post-season on Tuesday and head into the playoffs looking strong. "We continue to play well defensively and our hitting is starting to come around at the right time of the season," said Ely Head Coach Frank Ivancich.



Relief pitcher Davis Kleppe tries to keep the Grizzlies within striking distance of visiting Cook County on May 19. North Woods had a tough day at the plate, losing 8-0. The Grizzlies were overpowered by Pequot Lakes the following day. Against Deer River on Tuesday, North Woods was back in the hunt, coming up just one run short in a 4-3 loss. Sectional tournament action begins next week.

photo by D. Colburn

SOFTBALL...Continued from page 1B

base and legged out a triple. Clare Thomas walked and quickly scampered to second. Kate Coughlin also drew a walk to load the bases.

Rachel Coughlin then ripped a grounder past the third base defender scoring three runs for the walk-off 5-4 win.

"We continue to do those little things that allow us to stay in the game at the end and get a chance to win. That's all we needed, and we took advantage of it," Lassi said.

The Timberwolves had eight hits for the day and were stuck out eight time. They drew three walks. Pitcher Katrina Seliskar allowed five hits, including three doubles, struck out six and walked just one batter.

Ely finished the regular season on a strong note last Friday with a 15-5 win over Floodwood. The finished with a 10-5 regular season record.

The Timberwolves



jumped to 6-0 led in the second inning, then gave up five runs in the third inning to the visiting Polar Bears. "We settled back in defensively, and our bats stayed hot for the rest of the game," Lassi said.

Seliskar allowed just

five hits in the game, including a double, and struck out six Floodwood batters, while allowing two walks. "When we only give up a couple of walks we can be in any game," he said. "We are a strong enough team with our bats and on

Left: Ely softball players celebrate after their seventh inning rally lifted them to an opening round playoff win on Tuesday.

photo by K. Vandervort

defense where we can be in the game when we throw strikes."

At the plate, the Timberwolves amassed 11 hits, including a triple by Rachel Coughlin, who went three for three, and doubles by Clare Thomas and Raven Saino. Ely batters drew six walks in the game.

"I'm really happy with how our regular season progressed," Lassi said. "At the beginning of the season when so many games were postponed because of the weather, we spent the extra time in the gym working on a lot of fundamentals, that I hoped would turn some of those close games from last year into wins. I felt like that happened. We were

able to pull off several close games into wins because we did the small things better."

Ely lost to a strong Silver Bay team, 14-4, last Thursday, May 19. The Timberwolves jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the first inning and chased the Mariners' starting pitcher, but that was all the runs they could get for the rest of the day. "We hit the ball hard, but our bats kind of fizzled from there," Lassi said. "Their next pitcher threw hard strikes and had a really nice change-up throw that kept us off balance."

Ely batters Flom, Thomas and the Coughlin sisters, Rachel and Kate, each got one hit in the game. Pitcher Zoe MacKenzie gave up 13 hits, including two doubles and a triple, and she walked two batters.

The Timberwolves' team endured two weather delays last Wednesday, May 18, at Littlefork - Big Falls to bring home a 17-6 victory. "It was definitely

a weird game," Lassi said. "We got caught in two lightning delays of 30 minutes each. We jumped up to a 5-0 lead in the first inning when we had our first delay. Then in the fourth inning, we were up 12-4 when we had the second weather delay."

Ely pounded out 11 hits in the game, including three by Kate Coughlin, who had a double and a home run, and two by Lexi Halbeg, who legged out a triple. Flom and Rachel Coughlin each added two more hits. The team had nine stolen bases in the game, and drew ten walks.

Seliskar gave up ten hits, including two doubles, and walked two batters.

"The girls did a really good job of staying focused on the task ahead," Lassi said. "Enduring two long delays and being able to jump back onto the field and focus on the game was good to see."

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

day off before traveling to Grand Rapids on Thursday for a second-round sectional game against sixth-seed Silver Bay, an 11-6 winner over Mt. Iron-Buhl. A Grizzlies win would set

up a third-round tilt the same day against the Ely-Cherry winner. A semifinal game would be on Tuesday, May 31 in Cloquet, with a sectional champion to be crowned there on June 2.

Last week

The Grizzlies warmed up for sections with wins over International Falls, 8-0, and Cook County, 11-8, while dropping a 5-2 contest at Cherry.

Check for updates on the Grizzlies' quest for a sectional championship and trip to state online at timberjay.com and the Timberjay Facebook page.

GOLF...Continued from page 1B

As a team the Grizzlies place third in the field of four, and Eli Smith tied for second with a 43. Ty Fabish carded a 48 and Ethan Byram came in at 56.

Earlier in the week at Hibbing it was Smith who had the hot sticks, tying for first with an 85 and leading the Grizzlies to a third-place finish in the six-team field. Kleppe was five stroke back in a tie for 11th, and Fabish came in at 91, one stroke behind Kleppe in 13th. Byram wasn't far behind in 16th with a 93.

Both the boys and girls teams were in sectional tournament action in Virginia on Wednesday. Results will be posted on the Timberjay Facebook page.

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Legislature fails to meet deadline, leaving billions in limbo

However, on Monday

“There is a relatively brief window of time within which we need to have an agreement that



The Social Security tax elimination would mostly benefit taxpayers who have \$100,000 or more of total income. Meanwhile, there was already a credit available to renters, but it required



But unlike the agreement on a broadband funding proposal that was passed and sent to Walz for his signature, Hortman linked the tax bill to all of the other unresolved major spending bills. The tax

“Bring the people in

“The deadline isn’t June 30,” he said. “It seems like that’s the thing, that the real deadline is June 30 when the government is going to shut down. That’s not what the constitution says. So let me challenge everybody to roll up their sleeves, and you’re not going to get everything you want, but get the work done.”



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EMPLOYMENT

POSITION OPENING
Ely Public Schools
Head Nordic Ski Coach

Ely Public Schools is looking for a Head Boys and Girls Nordic Ski Coach for the 2022-2023 winter season. Background check required.

- Qualifications include:
- Bachelor's Degree;
 - Coaching licensure or ability to obtain (certification required to be an MSHSL head coach prior to the start of the 2022-2023 season);
 - Previous coaching experience preferred.
 - Must be available for several practices/ski meets from early November through mid-February, including some weekends and during school break periods.

Full job description and application is available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

A complete application must include the following:

- District Application
- Resume
- Copy of credentials declaring appropriate License (per M.S. 122A.22)

Mail materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us

Stipend: \$5,600

Deadline to apply: June 1, 2022; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, May 13 & 27, 2022



SOUTH SHORE
CREAMERY

We are looking for fun, energetic, and responsible people. If that is you, and you would like to be a part of our team, we'd love to speak with you. Servers start at \$10-\$12/hr plus tips.

South Shore Creamery, 409 Main St. Tower
Apply online at southshorecreamery.com or call 636-474-9290.

POSITION OPENING
Ely Public Schools
Assistant Volleyball Coach

Ely Public Schools is looking for an Assistant Volleyball Coach for the 2022 fall season. Background check required.

- Qualifications include:
- Bachelor's Degree preferred;
 - Previous coaching experience preferred;
 - Must be available for several practices/games per week from August through October, including some weekends and during school break periods.

Full job description and application is available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

A complete application must include the following:

- District Application
- Resume

Mail materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us

Stipend: \$3,920

Deadline to apply: June 1, 2022; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, May 13 & 27, 2022

POSITION OPENING
Ely Public Schools
Paraprofessional (3 positions)

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for Paraprofessionals for the 2022-2023 school year; background check required.

- Qualifications include:
- Associate's Degree/equivalent or complete a Para Pro exam with a passing score (www.ets.org/parapro)
 - Preferred experience working with school age children
 - Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting
 - Ability to perform job description duties

- Benefits include:
- Paid sick leave, personal days and vacation
 - Health and life insurance
 - Flexible spending account
 - PERA retirement

Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

A complete application must include the following:

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

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us. Contact the District Office for a complete job description.

Starting Rate of Pay: \$17.23/hour

Hours: 6.5 hours/day

Deadline to apply: June 3, 2022; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, May 27, 2022

POSITION OPENING
Ely Public Schools
Grade 6-12 Principal
1.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for a Grade 6-12 Principal beginning the 2022-2023 school year; 1.0 FTE; competitive salary and fringes as per the master agreement. Background check required.

- Qualifications include:
- Current Minnesota Administration license
 - Administration experience is preferred
 - Excellent communication skills including verbal and written
 - Strong leadership skills with implementing new initiatives and programs

Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

A complete application must include the following:

- Cover letter
- District Licensed Application
- Resume
- Copy of official transcripts
- Current Minnesota Administration license
- 3 letters of recommendation

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

Start date: August 8, 2022

Deadline to apply: June 8, 2022; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, May 27 & June 3, 2022



OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

- Hospital/ER**
Casual Unit Clerk/Nursing Assistant (Current NA Cert. or EMT required)
- Nursing**
FT RN House Supervisor
- Dietary**
PT Dietary Aide/Cook
- Laboratory**
FT Medical Lab Tech
- Radiology**
FT Radiologic Technologist (\$4,000 Sign-On Bonus)
- Activities**
PT & Casual Activities Assistant

- Care Center**
FT & PT Nursing Assistant (Wage starting at \$17.36/hr - \$1,500 Sign-On Bonus)
FT & PT RN/LPN (\$4,000 Sign-On Bonus)
- Environmental Services**
Casual Laundry Aide
FT, PT & Casual Housekeeping & Laundry

TO APPLY:
www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/
More Info? Contact Human Resources
218-666-6220
humanresources@cookhospital.org

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Advertisement for Bids
Trailhead Parking Lot
City of Tower
SEH No. TOWER 148941

Notice is hereby given that Online Bids will be received by the City of Tower until 11:30 a.m., Thursday, June 16, 2022, via QuestCDN for the furnishing of all labor and material for the construction of the Trailhead Parking Lot.

The bid opening will be conducted via Microsoft Teams, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud: Trailhead Parking Lot Bid Opening, June 16, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. (CDT).

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone:
<https://bit.ly/3sTHpd4>
Or call in (audio only) +1-872-242-7640, 258147638#
United States, Chicago
Phone Conference ID: 258 147 638#

Any person monitoring the meeting remotely may be responsible for any documented costs. Message and data rates may apply.

Major quantities for the Work include:
Aggregate Base (CV) Class 5 = 998 Cu Yd
Type SP9.5 Wearing Course

Mixture (3,C) = 420 Tons

The Bidding Documents may be viewed for no cost at <http://www.sehinc.com> by selecting the Project Bid Information link at the bottom of the page and the View Plans option from the menu at the top of the selected project page.

Digital image copies of the Bidding Documents are available at <http://www.sehinc.com> for a fee of \$30. These documents may be downloaded by selecting this project from the "Project Bid Information" link and by entering eBidDoc™ Number 8150057 on the SEARCH PROJECTS page. For assistance and free membership registration, contact QuestCDN at 952.233.1632 or info@questcdn.com.

For this project, bids will ONLY be received electronically. Contractors submitting an electronic bid will be charged an additional \$30 at the time of bid submission via the online electronic bid service QuestCDN.com. To access the electronic Bid Worksheet, download the project document and click the online bidding button at the top of the advertisement. Prospective bidders must be on the plan holders list through QuestCDN for bids to be accepted. Bids shall be completed according to

the Bidding Requirements prepared by SEH dated May 2022.

In addition to digital plans, paper copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from Docunet Corp. located at 2435 Xenium Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55441 (763.475.9600) for a fee of \$100.

Bid security in the amount of 5 percent of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

A Contractor responding to these Bidding Documents must submit to the City/Owner a signed statement under oath by an owner or officer verifying compliance with each of the minimum criteria in Minnesota Statutes, section 16C.285, subdivision 3.

This Work shall be subject to minimum wages and labor standards in accordance with the State of Minnesota.

The City of Tower reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract in the best interests of the City of Tower.

Michael Schultz
City Administrator,
City of Tower

*Published in the Timberjay
May 27 & June 3, 2022*

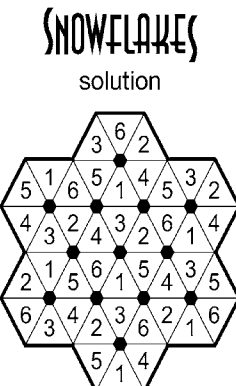
BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP
MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Bearville Township will hold an Honor Guard Ceremony Saturday, May 28 at 10:00 a.m. The Effie American Legion Post 182 Honor Guard will be conducting a Memorial Ceremony at the Bearville Township Cemetery. The Bearville Cemetery is located on Highway 65, approximately two miles south of County Rd. 22.

There will be a lunch after the ceremony at the Bearville Town Hall on County Road 22. All are welcome.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Township Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, May 20 & 27, 2022



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Janitor – Ely
\$18.19-21.46 Hourly
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\$24.23-\$29.27 Hourly • Apply by 05/31/2022

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\$23.90 Hourly • Continuous

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Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 5/27

Super Crossword

Answers

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

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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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 or vhhpdirector@gmail.com. This ad is paid for by Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners.

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

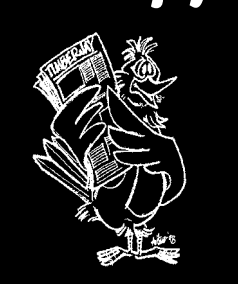
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS- Meetings every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Virginia.

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 anyone affected by someone else's drinking. Hope Lutheran Church in Embarrass hosts an Al-Anon group on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. 218-984-2037.

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.

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Day Camp at the Farm! Sessions are filling up fast. Check out our website for info: Cook's Country Connection.com

Cook's Country Connection will be open for visitors Memorial Day from 10am to 4pm.

Get Results!

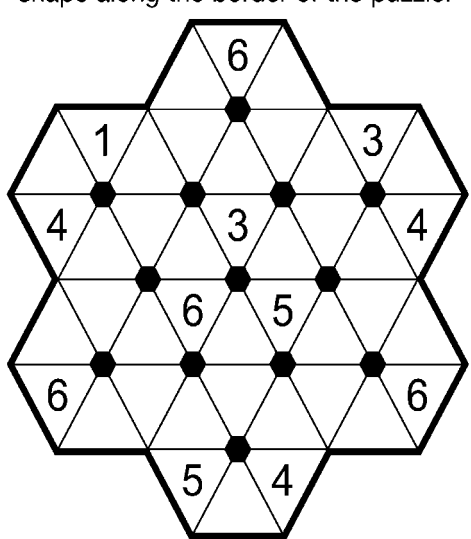


Advertise in the Timberjay!

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum.

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SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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


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

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

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

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ACROSS

1 Classic Pabst beer brand

7 Place for hay or a choir

11 Facial mask offerers

15 Barter

19 Retort to “Am so!”

20 “La Traviata” solo, say

21 Many a smartphone message

22 By way of, for short

23 He played V in “V for Vendetta” [sci-fi writing]

25 Domain

26 German “a”

27 The, in Tours

28 Tarnish

29 Galahad's title

30 Tina of pop

32 Mogadishu resident

33 “Rags to Riches” singer [Broadway]

35 Capital of Italy, in Italy

38 Golfers' positions

40 Built on

41 Jungian inner self

43 Stallion, e.g.

44 Yellow shade

46 “Little Birds” actress [Canadian music]

49 Longtime member of the Four Tops [off-Broadway]

54 Fred dancing in films

55 Tile locale

57 Fly of Africa

58 Rice dish

61 Walton who wrote “The Compleat Angler”

63 Leaves port

64 Rub roughly

68 Ventriloquist with the dummy

71 Horse pace

72 “Incredible!”

74 Delight in

75 Bus stop

77 She's asked to “peel me a grape” in film

79 Call to a pig

81 1982 Dustin Hoffman film

86 “Shameless” actress [television]

88 “The Picture of Dorian Gray” novelist [film]

91 Panache

92 La — Tar Pits

93 “The Piano” actor Sam

94 Remits in advance

98 Kids' racers on tracks

101 Lyric verses

102 American labor leader [French film]

105 Verbalized

107 Go — (no slouch)

108 Cager's hoop

109 Went flat

110 Be in arrears

113 Blind as —

114 Uncork, e.g.

116 What any of the eight people featured in this puzzle should be?

118 Dust particle

119 Blu-ray Disc producer

120 Work benefit

121 Puts into law

122 Squeezed (out)

123 Circus barker

124 Actress Harper

125 Least refined

DOWN

1 Witty Mort

2 Like facts

3 Rules, for short

4 1969 Beatle bride Yoko

5 “— I love thee?”

6 Cooks, as asparagus

7 Kitschy 1960s light

8 First

9 High-quality

10 Gift label

11 Tarnish

12 “Firework” singer Katy

13 Tree topper

14 Governor's fiscal concern

15 “Tristram Shandy” author

16 Complained childishly

17 Actor Will of “30 Rock”

18 — Rico

24 Amo, amas, —

29 Distress call

31 Strip down

32 Island group near Fiji

33 Summer shirt

34 Tiny toddler

35 Indian royal

36 Big burden

37 Breath fresher

39 Treble —

42 “Take — from me”

44 On the train, e.g.

45 Illusion on a hot road

47 Sandusky's lake

48 Merges

49 Seep out

50 In good order

51 Move a bit

52 Capital of Norway

53 Sticky home?

56 Cuba — (rum cocktail)

59 Tennis champ Andre

60 Courteous act, to a Brit

62 — secret (didn't blab)

64 Judge's wear

65 “Pardon me”

66 Done the backstroke, e.g.

67 Prefix with 104-Down

69 House unit

70 Jordanian queen dowager

73 Major combat

76 Word before hall or crier

78 Jesuit college in Worcester

80 Part of NYSE

82 Attach with laces, say

83 Lost traction on the ice

84 Waste time

85 Bioelectric fishes

87 Tiara go-with

89 Five-armed echinoderms

90 Lots to leave autos in, to Brits

92 “Lowdown” singer

93 Scaggs

94 World of Warcraft, e.g.

95 Nike rival

96 Grand home

97 Touched comfortably

98 Jewel

99 Blabbed

100 Meat sticker

103 Boxing venue

104 Plastic for a waterbed

106 Suburb of Minneapolis

109 — “Pea

110 In time past

111 Makes moist

112 Word before while

115 “The Raven” poet

116 Inclined

117 Rustic denial

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14		15	16	17	18
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ELY SCHOOLS

Ely school project enters ‘summer slam’

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Another brief ISD 696 school board meeting on Monday focused mostly on the \$21.5 million school building and renovation project about to enter the final phase, referred to as the “summer slam” by construction manager Todd Erickson of Kraus-Anderson.

The project was started in May 2021 and is expected to be completed by this September for the beginning of the school year.

“We are 81 percent complete and have three months and about 19 percent yet to complete,” he said.

He described recent progress on the structure that will link the 100-year-old Memorial and Washington buildings. The new portion of the project will feature a secured entrance to the campus, with offices for the district and two schools, school media center, a commons area that will serve as a cafeteria during the school day, new kitchen, a second gymnasium, and music and industrial technology learning areas.

“The solar wall installation is complete on the south side of the new building, and that will assist with the heating system,”

Three months remain to finish \$21.5 million build



Erickson said. “Windows and doors on the new school entry area are installed.”

He showed several photographs showing many of the architectural features inside the new building, including an arch crown above the service desk in the media center.

“Another arch feature highlights the grand entry facing the commons area,” Erickson said.

In the gymnasium, the glass doors are all installed, along with the retractable basketball hoop mechanisms and volleyball scoring platforms.

“We are working on testing

the moisture in the gym a couple of times a week. The ambient moisture in the concrete has to meet a certain level before the wood floor can be installed,” Erickson said.

Painting and acoustic tile are being installed in the new music education room this week. Ceramic tile installation in the new restrooms are about complete, he said.

“On the Memorial building, recent roof work includes removing the old heating and ventilation system units and installing the new HVAC system,” Erickson said. “The old roof vents up there appear to have been hand-made. They’re beautiful.”

“We are on track for our turnover of the new addition in September,” he told board members. “Our goal is to have (construction) bid package four, which is construction of the new boys and girls locker rooms in the Memorial building, complete by the start of school in September. We are working on (selecting) floor coverings and tiles to make sure what we are choosing will be available.”

Project expenditures

through April stood at 48 percent, or \$10,287,910, spent and 52 percent, or \$11,141,532 remaining. Of the project contingency fund of \$1,094,173, about 35 percent, or \$381,862 remains.

“We feel very comfortable on where we are at with this,” Erickson noted.

“The new doors for the classrooms in the Washington building are on site and will be installed this summer,” he added.

Principal resignation

School board members reluctantly accepted the resignation of Megan Anderson, 6-12 principal in the Memorial building for the last five years, who will step down at the end of the school year. The position will be posted immediately.

In her resignation letter, Anderson wrote, “My desire is to return to a teaching position within the middle school. I look forward to continuing the long tradition of pride in education we have in the Ely School District while teaching our future.”

Before accepting Anderson’s resignation, board mem-

bers approved hiring Anderson as a sixth grade teacher for mathematics and social studies.

Other business

In other business, the board:

➤ Accepted the retirement of third-grade teacher Martina Jarecki, effective Oct. 20. She has worked in the Ely school district for 26 years.

➤ Accepted the resignations of paraprofessionals Tam-mie Elliott, Aaron Kaercher and Laurel Kaercher, effective June 1.

➤ Hired Monica Freeman and Tracy Johnson as Summer Skills paraprofessionals for June-August.

➤ Approved the reimbursement for the Ely Track Club for their participation fees in the amount of \$1,336.25.

➤ Approved implementing a three-year-old preschool education program for the 2022-23 school year.

➤ Approved the recommendation from the school athletic director to authorize the school dance team to be certified as a competition team under the guidance of the Minnesota State High School League.

Obituaries and Death Notices



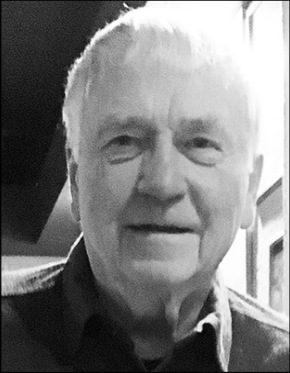
John Sheldon Majerle

John Sheldon Majerle, 74, lifelong resident of Tower, passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, May 21, 2022, surrounded by family. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 27 at St. Martin’s Catholic Church in Tower with Deacon Dan Schultz officiating. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Sheldon was born on July 23, 1947, in Soudan, to Edward F. and Anna Laura (Anderson) Majerle. He was in the graduating class of 1965 and then attended Ely Junior College. He was employed at the Tower-Soudan School as a dedicated bus driver and maintenance man for 32 years. Sheldon was an active community member, most notably serving on the Tower City Council. He was a volunteer firefighter for 25 years, and a past President of the Old Settlers Association. His passions in life included flying airplanes, training horses, watching local youth sports, and spending time with friends and family. In his retirement, he enjoyed SOS coffee with his cronies, the simple joys of driving around the horn, and happy hour at McKinley Park.

Sheldon is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years, Robin Tomsich Majerle; children, Steve (Amy) Majerle of St. Paul, Lee (Tasha) Majerle of Tower, Tucker (Kassie Hall) Majerle of Eveleth and Laura Majerle of Minneapolis; grandchildren, Sean, Emily and Cecilia; sister-in-law, Judy Majerle; and many great friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and brother, Ed Majerle.



James B. Nelson

James Bertil “Jim” Nelson, 84, of Tower, died on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at St. Mary’s Medical Center in Duluth. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 4 at St. Martin’s Catholic Church in Tower. Pastor Liz Cheney will officiate. A gathering for family and friends will begin one hour prior to the service. Inurnment will be at Hillside Cemetery in Minneapolis. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Jim was born on Feb.13, 1938, at home in Cook, to Victor and Jennie (Gustafson Jackson) Nelson. He graduated from Cook High School in 1956 and from Virginia Junior College in 1958. Jim married Jeanne Thibado in 1958. The Nelsons moved to Menomonie, Wis., and Jim graduated from Stout State College in 1961 with a degree in industrial education. The family relocated to the Twin Cities, where Jim worked for IBM. He later co-owned Wybrite, a business that serviced IBM machines. Jim, Jeanne and their sons lived in Mounds View until 1976, when they moved to Pike Bay on Lake Vermilion. Jim was the proprietor of Nelson’s Hardware in Tower from 1977 to 2002.

Jim married Jacqueline Coplin in 1997, and they continued to live on Lake Vermilion. Jim was known as Papa Jim to Jacqueline’s family. Active until his last days, Jim was always busy with many hobbies and projects. He loved fishing, hunting, and snowmobiling, and was often working on a boat, four-wheeler, tractor, or truck. He was known to fix, reuse, and save just about anything, even if replacing it would

be more convenient. Jim built remote control airplanes before obtaining his pilot’s license and flew a Piper Cub until his early 80s. Jim excelled at basketball and track in high school and in college. He enjoyed watching Cook and North Woods High School and Minnesota Vikings games, along with his grandchildren’s sports and activities.

Jim is survived by sons and stepsons, Steven (Leann Barsness) Nelson, Greg (Debra) Nelson, Brian (Dana) Nelson, Tac (Anjie) Coplin and Wade (Kara) Coplin; grandchildren and step-grandchildren, Brianna (Amanda Rolling) Nelson, Trevor (Allisen Keith) Nelson, Tucker (Ashley) Nelson, Bailee (Cody) Gores, Booker and Jaley Coplin, Shelby and Jennie Nelson, Calvin and Aurora Coplin; great-grandsons, Jaxon and Chase Tankersley and Charles Walkama; sister-in-law, Karon Nelson; nephews, Paul and Eric Nelson; former spouse, Jeanne Peterson; special friend, Judi Anderson; and extended family.

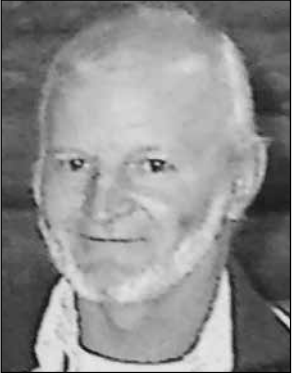
He was preceded in death by his wife, Jacqueline Coplin Nelson; parents; brother, John Nelson; half-sister, Edna May Jackson; sons, James Jr. “Jimmy” and Tucker Nelson; grandson, Colby Nelson; brother-in-law, Willis Thibado Jr.; mother-in-law, Marie Thibado; aunts, uncles and cousins.

Raymond L. Anderson

Raymond LeMoine Anderson, 94, of Cook, passed away on Monday, May 23, 2022. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, June 3 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. A lunch will follow at the VFW in Cook.

Raymond J. Lossing

Raymond John Lossing, of Cook, passed away suddenly at home. A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 28 at the Cook VFW Post 1757.



Kenneth L. Folstad

Kenneth L. “Shorty” Folstad, 74, passed away unexpectedly at home on Friday, May 6, 2022; his faithful dog Annie was by his side. A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 28 at Good Ol’ Days in Tower. All family and friends are welcome. Burial with military honors will take place at 1 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 26 at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery-Duluth. All family and friends are again welcome. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia.

Ken was born on Aug. 26, 1947, in Moose Lake, the son of Clarence and Helen (Wills) Folstad. When he was young, the family moved to Tower. Ken graduated from Tower-Soudan High School in 1966. He then enrolled in a short auto mechanic course. On Dec. 13, 1966, he entered the United States Marine Corps, where he enrolled in auto mechanic training. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Meritorious Mast, Meritorious Unit Citation, Good Conduct Medal and Rifle-Sharpshooter Award. Ken attained the rank of Sergeant E-5. He was proud of his assignment as driver for Major General R. G. Owens Jr. at El Toro Marine Base in California, where he met U.S. President Richard Nixon, as well as several movie stars. He was honorably discharged on Dec. 11, 1970.

Throughout his life, Ken worked as an auto mechanic at several car dealerships; he also managed the Tower Marina. Ken continued to fix cars and boats in retirement. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and watching old westerns and war movies on TV. He enjoyed cooking and made a great

homemade pizza. He collected old coins, especially buffalo nickels.

Ken is survived by his sons, Kenneth Peter (Julie Johnson) Folstad of Tower and Keith Edward Folstad of Soudan; grandson, Kenneth; brother, Lawrence (Linda) Folstad of Soudan; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Helen Folstad; granddaughter, Kendra Lee Folstad; siblings, Kathryn Fuson (his twin) and Lynell Yancey; and the mother of his sons, Dawn Dougherty.

Debbera J. Marinaro

Debbera Joanne Wick Marinaro, 67, of Babbitt, originally of Embarrass, passed away peacefully in her hospital bed surrounded by loved ones on Sunday, May 22, 2022, after her battle with pancreatic cancer. There will be a celebration of life at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 4 at Tank’s Bar in Babbitt.

She is survived by her mother, Loretta Wick; brother, Dave Wick; sister, Barb Manney; and children, Tracy Marinaro and Mike Marinaro.

Alice I. Hollowell

Alice I. Drevland Hollowell, 90, longtime resident of Hibbing and formerly of Cook, died on Thursday, May 19, 2022, with her family by her side. A memorial service was held on Thursday, May 26 at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Hibbing with Rev. Kevin Olson officiating. Inurnment was in Maple Hill Cemetery in Hibbing. Family services were provided by Anderson-Daniels, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Hibbing.

She is survived by her daughter, Debbie (Jeff) Rootes of Hibbing; son, Roger (Connie) Hollowell of Orr; grandchildren, Rebecca (Jeremy) Jensen, Gary Rootes, Miranda (David) Myers, Jason (Stacey) Rootes and Roger Hollowell Jr.; numerous great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, extended family members and friends.

David M. Cherne

David M. Cherne, 71, a lifelong resident of Ely, passed away on Sunday, May 15, 2022, at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital after a seven-year battle with lung cancer. A celebration of life will be held at the end of July. To send flowers or to plant something in Dave’s honor, please contact the family’s close friends, Sandy at Bloomers in Ely or Bonnie at Ely Flower and Seed. Arrangements are with Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his wife, Deb Kainz Cherne; children, Paulette (Bruce), Danielle (Jerry Wiener), Chad (Mandy) and Dwayne Walters; grandchildren who were his world and knew him as BopBop, Easton Walters, Sophia, Ian and Logan Cherne; sisters, Denise (Paul Paulisich) and Beth (Cindy Killion); brothers, Steve (Rebecca), Mark (Lynda) and his closest friend whom he considered his brother, Chuck Bodine; and many wonderful nieces, nephews, brothers- and sisters-in-law in the Cherne and Kainz families, too many to name.

Lonny W. Benner

Lonny Warren Benner, 46, of Orr, passed away on Saturday, May 21, 2022. A Traditional Wake was held on Tuesday, May 24 and the Traditional Service was held on Wednesday, May 25, both at the Bois Forte Government and Services Center. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

He is survived by his mother, Shirley Benner; brother, Brandon (Nicole) Benner; sisters, Simona Benner and Sharon Adams; nieces, Monique and Makayla Benner, Vanessa and Teresa Adams; nephews, Kalvyn and Benjamin Benner; aunts, Mavis Drift, Margaret Benner and Dawn Benner; and numerous cousins.

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* **Joshua** A. Copeland
Anthony Lester Drift
* **JessieAnne** Marsha Gayle Drift
+ **Ty Steven Fabish
Christopher Lee Fairbanks
Samuel P. Fealy
** **Trey** Gibson
Aayanna Rose Goodsky-Spears

* **Erik** Allen Hagen
Michelle Cassandra Hagen
+ **Alex Ryan Hartway
* **Joseph** Wayne Hoagland Jr.
* **Kadence** Kyra Holland
Carter Gavin Holman
Erin Laura Houde
Drayvin Isham
Reuben Duane Isham
* **Katrina** F. Jackson
* **Sierra** Jensen
Angelo Kingbird
Davis DeVere Kleppe
+AA **Abby Nicole Koch
Timothy David Lilya
Francis C. Littlewolf 111
Eagen James Long

+ **Michaela Marie Luecken
Nathan R. Martinson
+ **Sean Daniel Morrison
* **Nathan** Terrill Palm
+ **Jacob Joseph Panichi
Tessa Jo Porter
Ryan James Saarikoski
Abbigail Rosalynn Shuster
Cole Mikal Snidarich
Arianna Rose Swinson
Kaya Alexandra Tschida
+ **Olivia Nicole Udovich
Lillian Erin Voges
+AA **Brandie Nicole Walker
Brianna Leigh Whiteman
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* Honors (3.0-3.66)

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Class Quote

“Success is not final; failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts.”
By Winston Churchill.”

Class Colors

Carolina Blue, Gold and White

Class Flower

Blue Carnation

Class Song

“Good Riddance” by Green Day

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HONORING GRADUATES

Native American seniors feted with graduation recognition ceremony

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

TOWER- In a first-ever event on Tuesday, Native American seniors from ISD 2142 and three other area high schools came together with family, friends, tribal leaders, and school staff at Fortune Bay Resort Casino to receive special graduation recognition in ceremonies designed to celebrate their cultural heritage.

Bois Forte elder Vern Adams opened the ceremony with a greeting spoken in Anishinaabemowin, followed by an honor song sung by four members of the Vermilion drum circle. In addition to another honor song, the ceremony included songs for food and travel.



Soon-to-be North Woods graduates Arianna Swinson and Katrina Jackson display the necklaces they received at the Indian Education Graduation Celebration on Tuesday.



North Woods senior Angelo Kingbird joins the drum circle at the Indian Education Graduation Celebration on Tuesday. photos by D. Colburn

One by one, students from Cherry, South Ridge, Northeast Range, North Woods, Mesabi East, Mt. Iron-Buhl, and Northland Learning Center were called to the front of the ballroom to be recognized and receive a beaded medallion necklace from Superintendent Reggie Engebritson.

“Ruth Porter, one of our teachers at North Woods, made one of these for each of the students with their school logo on it,” Engebritson said.

Following a break for taking pictures, attendees enjoyed a luncheon meal and dessert.

“This is the first time we’ve

done a ceremony like this for graduation,” Engebritson said. “I’m glad we could do this, and what a great opportunity for people to get together from the different schools to just see how big this all is. I’m just sorry Kim Jordan couldn’t make it because she was instrumental in planning this.”

Jordan, ISD 2142 director of federal programs, oversees the Indian Education collaborative.

Amanada Koivisto works for the Indian Education program at Tower-Soudan Elementary and Northeast Range, and she’s also a member of the

American Indian Parent Advisory Committee, which also collaborated in planning the event.

“We had plans to start doing this a couple years back, and then COVID hit, so everything was put on hold,” Koivisto said. “We’ve been planning for the last couple of months and everything just fell into place. I’m just glad it finally happened.”

Some of the students honored could not attend, but Koivisto was pleased with the overall turnout.

“There’s a lot of track and baseball and softball and other stuff going on, so I’m honestly very happy that people wanted

to come and join us,” she said. “It’s been a hard couple of years with COVID, and I think these seniors should be celebrated.”

Formal graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2022 at each school are scheduled for next week.



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Chisholm Football Field

SUNDAY JUNE 26

WALL CLOSES TO PUBLIC AT 2 PM



2 PM: Closing Ceremony
Chisholm Football Field





Community notices

Newly formed Ely Wellness group plans Lyme disease events

ELY – The Ely Wellness Collaborative will be holding their first event, a workshop on Lyme on Tuesday, June 7 from 5 – 8 p.m. at the folk school. Gigi Stafne will lead the workshop. On Wednesday, June 8 there will be a showing of the “Under Our Skin” documentary, the untold story of Lyme disease at the Ely State Theatre at 6 p.m. with a discussion afterward. On Thursday, June 9, at 6 p.m., there will be two speakers on nutrition and a Lyme disease discussion during the event. Call Jaime Brennan at 585-755-2684 for further information.

First Saturday Market in Embarrass set for Saturday, June 4

EMBARRASS – The First Saturday Market will be held on Saturday, June 4 at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 4880 County Rd. 21 commonly known as the Weather Station. Plan to come and shop for treasures or bring your own items, rent a space and make some extra cash. Vendors sought include artisans, crafters, fruit/vegetable growers, honey and maple syrup suppliers, locally raised meats and eggs, baked goods, cheese makers, oils/vinegar and spice makers, plants and fleas market finds. The Dog House Grill food truck will be there. Contact Shireen Lee at 218-780-4945, threemaesandanolowoman@gmail.com or Jill Waisanen at 218-404-3040.

The First Saturday Market typically meets the first Saturday of the month through September but the location after June is still undetermined.

Sauna Day celebration set for June 11

EMBARRASS- Join Sisu Heritage to celebrate the Finnish tradition of sauna on National Sauna Day, Saturday, June 11. The free, family-friendly event is outdoors, rain or shine, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Nelimark Homestead and Museum in Embarrass.

Traveling saunas, including a unique tent sauna, and Lappa sauna stoves will be on display. A pulled pork meal will be available. There will be the traditional boot-throwing contest, and Wendy Sweeney will bring her adorable baby goats. Tyler Burkum will provide music from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Farmstead Artisans gift shop will be open, offering free coffee and selling an array of hand-made and homemade goodies. The shop has aprons, notecards, T-shirts, Finnish ceramics, books, rugs and much more. Tour the museum rooms and exhibits, the buildings on the grounds including the historic sauna, and the old farm implements.

National Sauna Day is sponsored by these generous local businesses: C&C Winger Construction, Wintergreen Northern Wear, Embarrass-Vermillion Credit Union and Benville Service.

The Nelimark is located on Hwy. 21 at the intersection with Salo Rd., across from the fairgrounds.

TRADITIONS

Celebrating the pow wow at Vermilion Country School

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The Vermilion Country School hosted a pow wow last week, organized with help from Adrienne Whiteman, a mother of VCS junior Abbi, who was one of the event dancers. George Strong was the master of ceremonies. He spent time explaining the power of the pow wow, the different parts, its history, the meanings of songs, the stories behind the regalia and dances, and what pow wow dancing meant to him.

Curt Moon, a dancer and flag-bearer who traveled from International Falls, talked about the stories told by his elaborate and beautiful regalia.

“The designs tell a story,” he said. They symbolize the tree of peace where the Oneida buried their weapons after ceasing their fight with their enemies and forged the Iroquois Confederacy.

“Two outfits are never the same,” he said. “The ideas come in a dream or in stories that are told.”

The porcupine quills in his headdress, standing straight up, represent a deer on alert in the woods. The Canadian maple leaf is a symbol of the country where he is soon moving to with his wife-to-be Alanna Ottetail. The ankle hairs on his moccasins honor the animals that walk among us, he said.

The Lake Vermilion Singers brought their drum, and over half a dozen dancers in regalia danced, often with students joining in on both games and dances. A group of students from the Mt. Iron-Buhl school also attended the event. David Morrison Jr. was the arena director, Jeremy Wilson was the Lake Vermilion Singers drum keeper, and Sherwin Obey was the pow wow co-coordinator, along with Adrienne Whiteman.



Clockwise from top: Adrienne Whiteman and Curt Moon were the flag-bearers during the Grand Entry. Abbi Zapata, a junior at VCS, was one of the dancers. Jordan Gawboy in his regalia. The Vermilion Singers drum. photos by J. Summit

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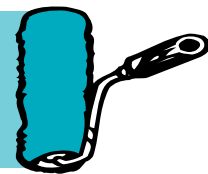
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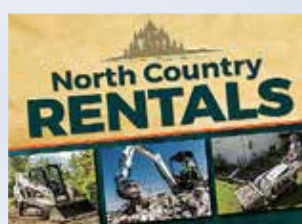
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