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the **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

VOL. 33, ISSUE 21

June 3, 2022

\$1.00

BORDER LAKES

Flood waters near peak

But high water will remain for weeks

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

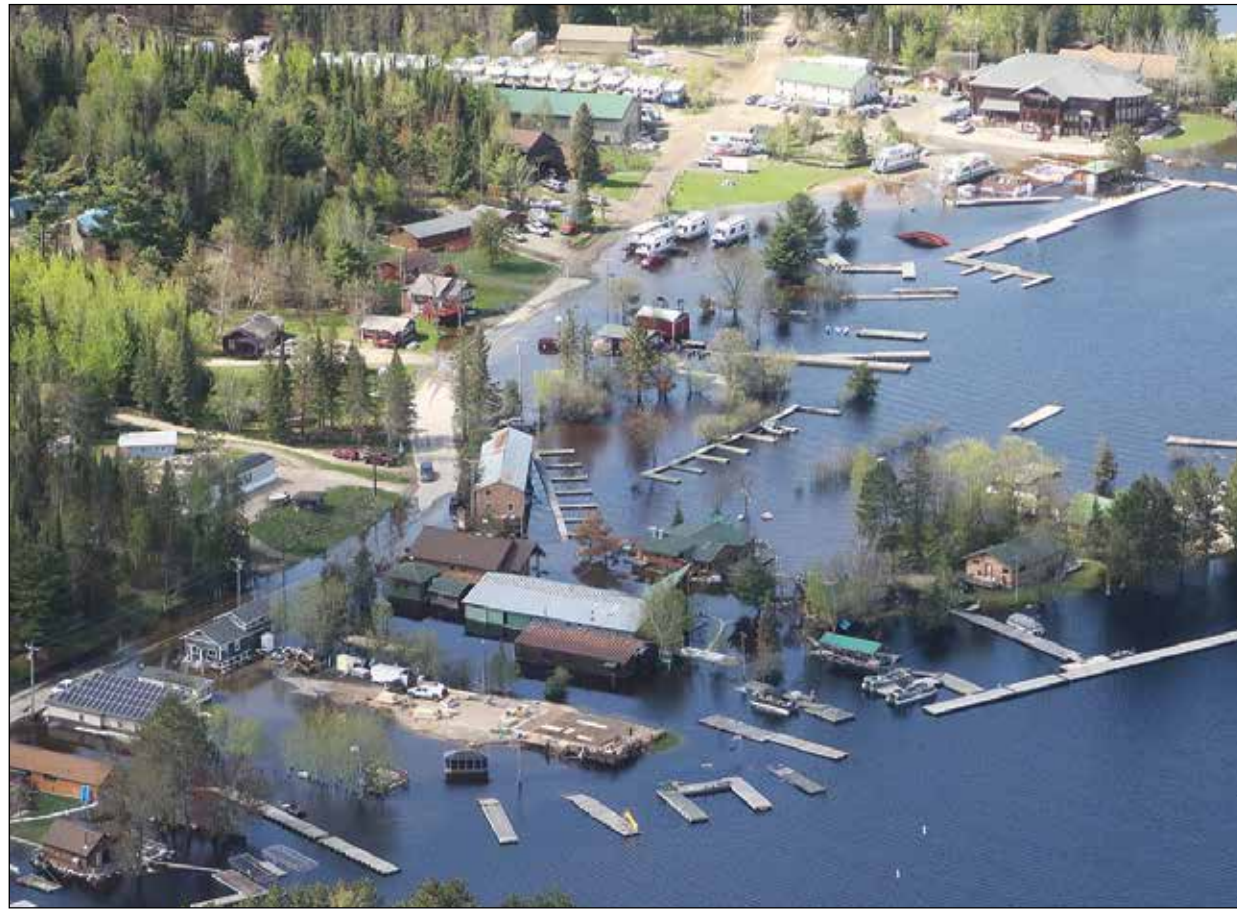
REGIONAL- The last thing the flood-weary people of Kabetogama and Crane Lake wanted to see this past week was more rain, but Sunday and Monday thunderstorms over the Rainy River Basin

may have been Mother Nature's final soggy salvo in a month-long record-breaking surge.

A week before Memorial Day, forecasters were worried the holiday weekend would usher in a week of above-average

See...**FLOOD** pg. 12

Flood waters inundate Crane Lake's Gold Coast, creating serious disruption for businesses there. See Page 12 for more photos of flooding.
photo by M. Helmsberger



A DAY OF HONOR

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN



The North Country marks Memorial Day 2022



Top: Oliver Weidemann, 5, of Ely, helps place 1,120 American flags at the Ely Cemetery for Memorial Day.
Above: Butch Toivola of the Orr American Legion stands at attention during Memorial Day services.



Steve Solkela played the accordion during a Memorial Day program in Tower on Monday. Timberjay staff photos

CITY OF ELY

Primary for mayor set for Aug. 10

Three candidates seek three seats on city council

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – City of Ely residents will go to the polls on Tuesday, Aug. 10 to vote in a primary election for the mayoral seat. A two-week filing period for the city of Ely mayor and three city council seats ended Tuesday in a flurry of candidacy filings.

One city council member, Heidi Omerza, is willing to give up her current position to seek the city's top job as mayor, and another council member, not up for re-election, is also vying for the job. They will be joined on the primary ballot by Mark Haarman.

Omerza threw her hat in the ring a week ago in another bid for the city's top elected position. She lost to incumbent Roger Skraba

See...**ELY** pg. 9

TOWER HARBOR

THS intends to proceed with townhome project

by MARSHALL HELMSBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— Barring something unexpected, it appears ground could be broken on the long-delayed townhome project at the Tower harbor as early as next month.

That's the word in a letter of intent issued by the developers this week expressing their plan to begin construction ahead of an Aug. 1 deadline established in a new development agreement between the developers and the Tower Economic Development Authority.

The TEDA board will still need to review the letter of intent as part of its due diligence, although the development agreement does not require separate approval by the board. The developers will still need to provide

See...**TOWER** pg. 10



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Community notices

First Saturday Market in Embarrass set for Saturday, June 4

EMBARRASS – The First Saturday Market will be held on Saturday, June 4 from 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 flea market finds. The Dog House Grill food truck will be there. Contact Shireen Lee at 218-780-4945, threemaresandanoldwoman@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.

United Way hosting events in conjunction with the Wall That Heals

Chisholm- The public is invited to a series of events surrounding the Wall That Heals Event. On Monday, June 6 at 6 p.m. at Valentini's Supper Club in Chisholm, the UWNEMN presents a free speaker series to prepare for the arrival of The Wall That Heals. Hibbing Community College Professor Steve Potts will present on the history behind the Vietnam War, how America got involved, and the first half of the war (up to 1968). This is the first of a two-part free speaker series open to the public to prepare for the arrival of The Wall That Heals on the Iron Range. No RSVP is needed; seating is first come, first served.

On Monday, June 13 at 6 p.m. at Valentini's Supper Club in Chisholm, Potts will present on the impact of the Tet Offensive, the changing perception of the Vietnam war, and the impact the war had on American politics and veterans. This is the second of a two-part free speaker series open to the public to prepare for the arrival of The Wall That Heals on the Iron Range. No RSVP is needed; seating is first come, first served.

On Monday, June 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Hibbing High School, there will be a free community concert, "What's Going On? Songs from the Vietnam Era" by Fabulous Armadillos. United Way of Northeastern Minnesota's United for Veterans program is proud to present this moving concert experience which combines live music, live narration, and video to provide a multi-media deep dive into the Vietnam War era to the community at no expense to attendees. No RSVP is needed; seating is first come, first served for this family friendly concert. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Prairie Fire Children's Theatre and Northern Lakes Arts Assoc. hold auditions for the Wizard of Oz

ELY - Auditions for Prairie Fire Children's Theater's original production of the Wizard of Oz will be held on Monday, June 27. Registration begins at 10 a.m. and auditions held from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Vermilion College in Ely.

Auditions are open to anyone ages 7-18 years. The audition process lasts up to two hours. Those auditioning are required to be in attendance for its entirety with the cast announced at the end of the audition. Each cast member will receive a rehearsal schedule for the remainder of the week. Some of the cast will be asked to stay following auditions for a short rehearsal.

Participation fees are \$50 for one child, \$80 for two children, and \$100 for three or more.

Up to 83 children (and adults if applicable) are needed to play the roles of Dorothy, Toto, the Munkins, Glinda the Good Witch, the Tinman, the Cowardly Lion, the Green Guard, the Wizard, the Emerald City Traders, the Flying Monkeys, the Winkies, Aunt Em, Uncle Harry, and the Yellow Brick Road. Prairie Fire Children's Theatre will direct the production and play the roles of the Wicked Witch of the West and the Scarecrow.

Rehearsals will be held 9 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. throughout the remainder of the week, with performances scheduled for Saturday, July 2, at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. in the theater at Vermilion College. Tickets will be available at the door prior to performances. Tickets are \$15 for NLAA members and \$20 for non NLAA members. Kids 12 and under are free.

LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER

LVCC prepares for "Midsummer in Norway"

TOWER- Lake Vermilion Cultural Center volunteers are busy getting ready preparing the gardens and interior of St. Mary's Hall for the "Midsummer in Norway" benefit concert on June 18. The RSVP date is June 4, so please register online at vermilionculturalcenter.org or contact Mary Batinich at malexbat@gmail.com for a written invitation.

The event begins at the Herb Lamppa Civic Center in Tower at 4:30 p.m. with a silent auction followed by a Norwegian-themed dinner at 6 p.m. featuring County Commissioner Paul McDonald as speaker. Popular area musician Steve Solkela will preside at a live auction which will feature vacation stays at homes in Lake Placid, N.Y.; Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; California wine country; and the horse country of Lookout Mountain, Ga.

Following the auction, guests will follow Norwegian-costumed artist Teresa McCue Thompson across the street to attend the "Midsummer in Norway" concert. Written, directed and produced by LVCC board member Janice Kimes, the show features musician Steve Solkela, lyric soprano Linda Bajan and Hardanger fiddlers Marlys and Robert Larson. The LVCC sends a special thanks to Larry Reynolds who will lead the rehearsals for the northern Midsummer Singers and Barbara Baldrice who will be accompanying part of the show. Re-



hearsals start on June 6 so there is still time to join the Midsummer Singers. Contact Mary Batinich at malexbat@gmail.com if you wish to join.

St. Mary's Hall and the Halunen Lobby are being staged to spiff up the interior of the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center and show the community the magnificent acoustics of the natural band shell-shaped apse end of the hall.

Also, on view for the first time, will be all 17 restored leaded stained-glass windows which have graced St. Mary's since it was built in 1888 and 1889. Many questions have been asked as to where the

iconic windows have gone. That mystery is solved and the rest of them will be placed in the next few weeks.

After the concert, guests will be able to claim their silent auction items back at the Civic Center before returning home.

The LVCC encourages community members and Midsummer guests to walk around the building to view the colorful and stunning rosemaled tympanum over the north door which is a gift from the award-winning artist Teresa McCue Thompson.

NORTHERN LIGHTS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Music Festival announces 2022 season

REGIONAL - The Northern Lights Music Festival (NLMF) announced its 19th season bringing professional classical music to the Iron Range from July 1 to July 24. The extensive offerings in July will include Mozart's opera, The Magic Flute, in two versions: a full-length opera; and a one-hour adaptation for children. In addition to NLMF's Festive Fourth! concerts and chamber music events, it will also offer a series of lectures and concerts called Working the Range, which highlight the industries that helped to create the history of this fascinating region.

American Stage Director A. Scott Parry, will create a new production of Mozart's dramatic and charming opera, The Magic Flute, joining forces with Music Director, Maestro Gavriel Heine. A new set design has been created by Angelique Powers. Soprano Kathryn Bowden will star as The Queen of the Night; David Blalock as Tamino; Meghan Lindsay as Pamina; and Minnesotan Benjamin Sieverding as Sarastro. The team has also created a special one-hour version for children's audiences. The Magic Flute and its



Conductor Gavriel Heine.

children's opera counterpart, sung by the Opera Apprentices, will be staged at Mesabi East and at Chisholm High School Auditorium between July 14 to 17.

Artistic Director Veda Zuponic stated, "We are delighted to announce our season, filled with great music and great artists. There is something for everyone—chamber music, children's programming, opera for young and old, and lectures by historians that help to explain the Iron Range to our residents and to our visitors. We love to present professional art in some of the most beautiful buildings in the world, here on the Iron Range."

To celebrate the Fourth, NLMF's traditional Festive Fourth concert will be presented

at Aurora's Mesabi East School's Veda Zuponic Auditorium on Monday, July 4 at 4 p.m. with the NLMF Orchestra, conducted by Gavriel Heine, with favorite Opera Arias sung by the cast of NLMF Opera's production of The Magic Flute. Also on the program, Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition, concludes with the monumental The Great Gate of Kiev, providing a timely and rousing ending to the program.

The Festival opens on July 2, with a gala chamber music event that features some of the star instrumentalists who will be performing throughout the season. More than 25 events will be produced and presented throughout the month, in: Aurora, Virginia's B'nai Abraham Cultural Center, Chisholm

High School, Buhl Public Library, and Hibbing High School. Chamber Music, orchestral concerts and opera events will allow residents and visitors to enjoy sitting in some of the most beautiful venues in the world, including the recently renovated B'nai Abraham Synagogue; and, of course, the historic Iron Range school auditoriums in Hibbing, Chisholm and Aurora.

After last season's successful lecture series called Sharing the Range, NLMF presents another series of lectures titled Working the Range. Guest speakers, including noted Ojibwe scholar Dr. Anton Treuer, will present lectures at B'nai Abraham Cultural Center in Virginia discussing the fur trade, the logging industry, and the mechanization of the iron mining industry.

The NLMF Concerto Competition will be held at Mesabi East on July 3. The winners of this competition will perform with the NLMF Orchestra at Hibbing High School Auditorium on Friday, July 22 at 7 p.m. Visit www.northernlightsmusic.org/2022-schedule for more information.

Tofte Lake Center holding open house on Saturday, June 4 from 2 to 4 p.m.

ELY - Tofte Lake Center (TLC), a retreat center for artists located at 2209 Fernberg Rd., welcomes residents and visitors in the Ely-area community and beyond to an open house on Saturday, June 4 from 2 to 4 p.m. Come by and discover what a nationally recognized artist residency program includes and enjoy touring the lake-side campus. All are welcome.

Tours of the property will be at 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Executive Director, Liz Engelman, together with the Board of Directors, has led the retreat center since its beginnings in 2008. She will share stories from the previous owner, Norm Saari, as well as details of current developments. Cold drinks and snacks will be available, plus plenty of comfortable space to

gather and chat with other interested folks and a few TLC alums enjoying the first-ever Adopt-A-Highway Clean-Up Weekend.

Of special interest this year, is the property-wide fire-wise balsam reduction project completed by Austin VanScoy and his crew at Dutchman Tree Service. In addition to the focus on artists and the arts, Tofte Lake Center is also mindful of creating a safer environment for their guests and neighbors in the event of wildfire. The tours will be an opportunity to experience what comprehensive fire-wise clean-up looks and feels like.

Visitors will also receive information for 2022 performances, workshops and yoga classes, all open to the public.

Tofte Lake Center (TLC) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides residencies for artists from all disciplines who crave dedicated time to work on their projects; for creatives who seek individual growth through guided workshops and retreats; for organizations that want to make time to re-focus on their goals and mission; and for leaders to gather to exchange ideas with colleagues in their field.

TLC is situated on Tofte Lake near Ely and adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. TLC honors and acknowledges the Anishinaabe and Dakota people, the ancestral caretakers of this land.

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BROADCASTING

WELY will remain on the air until September

Bois Forte officials say they're in talks with possible buyers for the financially-troubled station

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ELY - The fate of radio station WELY took another twist this past week as Bois Forte tribal officials set aside an earlier decision to close the station for good on Wednesday, extending its life for another three months.

"We are going to continue as is until Sept. 1, due to numerous interested parties that are inquiring about the purchase of WELY," said Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers. "This buys us additional time to work out a deal with one of the interested parties."

The Band announced the impending closure of the AM/FM station at the end of April, citing losses of over \$1.7 million since they purchased the station in 2005, a figure which includes the initial purchase price. At the time, tribal officials noted that they had attempted to find a potential buyer, but no viable purchaser

could be found. The extension appears to be in response to community reaction to the impending closure, with city of Ely officials and numerous local citizens looking at options to take over the station that's been a fixture in the Ely community since 1954.

In a recent Ely City Council meeting, Mayor Roger Skraba noted that the Band had offered the station to the city for free last year, but the offer was turned down at that time.

"I told them that's not something we want to run," Skraba said at the May 17 meeting. "There are several people who have been trying to buy it and they all came to the conclusion that the radio station is not profitable, and they don't want it."

Skraba indicated a local non-profit was interested in working with the city to develop a business model to take over the station and keep it on the air. Prior to Bois

Right: The shutdown of the WELY radio station in Ely has been extended to Sept. 1 to give Bois Forte officials more time to possibly work out a sale of the station. Bois Forte officials had earlier set June 1 as the date for the station's shutdown.

photo by K. Vandervort

Forte buying the station, WELY had closed at least twice due to financial shortfalls, and a steep decline in radio advertising over the past 15 years has impacted the potential revenue stream even further.

"We know that the group would have to go out and get fundraising to make up the monthly operating deficit of \$8,000 to \$12,000," Skraba said.

The Timberjay contacted Bois Forte representatives to determine if the station would continue to incur those losses over the next three months, and also to clarify Skraba's claim of



obtaining the station for free vs. the Band's current intent to try to sell it again, but Band officials declined to respond to the inquiry.

The Band's press release about the extension indicates they will work with a commercial real estate broker to handle the possible sale. It is unclear if the station will remain as is, or if a buyer will downsize operations. Although closing the station

has been forestalled until Sept. 1, Chavers said there's more work to be done.

"Let's just hope a buyer steps up to the plate and saves the station," she said. "Bois Forte has done all it can to keep the station alive, but now it's time for someone else to keep WELY, The End of the Road Radio, on the airwaves."

INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER

New wolf pups now ready for prime time

Center's newest pack members make public debut

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - The International Wolf Center's two new pups here are available for public viewing starting today, Friday, June 3.

One way for Ely Wolf Center visitors to see the pups is through an outdoor viewing area adjacent to the wolf yard, where pups will be spending time conditioning to the human component of a public exhibit.

These programs are dependent on the weather, according to Wolf Curator Lori Schmidt. They last 15 minutes each and are held throughout the day.

Another way to see the wolf pups is with a one-hour behind-the-scenes tour. These tours are only

available for members of the Center. Information about membership is available at www.wolf.org.

The center is also conducting a pup naming contest, beginning today, and will announce the names at a special virtual fundraising event on Tuesday, June 14, according to Director Krista Woerheide.

Advance tickets are available for purchase.

"Everyone who wants to guarantee themselves a chance to see the pups should get an advance admission ticket," she said. "To get tickets, click the 'Book Now' button on the lower right-hand side of the page at www.wolf.org. For members of the Wolf Center, entrance tickets are free. We recommended that members also book their tickets in advance."

The Ely Wolf Center planned to add pups in 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic forced officials to delay those plans for one year.

The Wolf Center planned to add two pups last year, but was only able to obtain one. "Adding pups this

year was important for the health of the pack, and to allow our yearling wolf, Rieka, to experience some pup behavior she lacked as a singleton," Schmidt said.

The International Wolf Center is a non-breeding exhibit, and when pups are added, they coordinate with another professional animal organization. The source is dependent upon reproductive plans within their facility and availability. The Ely Wolf Center always acquires captive-born pups.

The 2022 pups were acquired from a USDA regulated facility in Minnesota. They will join the three wolves in the Exhibit Pack, including Axel and Grayson, each six years old, and Rieka, who turned one year on May 23.

Right: The two new pups at the International Wolf Center take a siesta. They'll be available for public viewing beginning Friday, June 3.

submitted photo



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Editorial

Inaction on guns

Some Americans don't care enough about the carnage to change our ways

“Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it.”

George Santayana

For Americans in the 21st Century, it can seem at times that we are stuck in an endless loop of tragedy, fueled by the sickness and hate that has found such a hold in America. We've become numb to mass shootings as the latest carnage is soon overshadowed by the next bloodletting in some other hapless community. The bodies from the racist attack in Buffalo hadn't even been buried when the next gunman opened fire in Uvalde, Texas, killing 19 young children and two adults. The sorrow that such acts inflict on the families is nearly bottomless.

In every case, the excuses for inaction begin nearly as soon as the gunfire is silenced. There is no question that there are multiple factors that play into every mass shooting. But most of those same factors, whether mental illness, bullying, or radicalization on the Internet, are factors experienced in every country. America is the only country in the world where this happens routinely, and it's because we are awash in guns designed to kill large numbers of people.

We have no fear of guns, in general, here at the newspaper. Most of us have guns at home and we certainly have no desire or expectation that they will be taken away by the government. Claims that any sensible regulations on access to guns and related paraphernalia represent a slippery slope toward confiscation are scare tactics used by extremists who are, quite simply, unmoved by the carnage that has become virtually emblematic of America in recent years.

The two most recent mass shootings were similar to many, if not most, that we've experienced in the past. The shooters were young males who were able to buy assault weapons, large-capacity magazines, body armor, and hundreds of rounds of ammunition at a moment's notice. They could do so because, and only because, this is America and we are governed by a political system that is beholden to the most radical voices on the issue of guns.

Gun regulations are perfectly constitutional, which is why you can't own a machine gun or a nuclear bomb, even in America. The debate is over what kind of regulation can help reduce the threat of rampant gun violence.

Our most recent tragedies have put the lie to the notion that more guns are all we

need to put a damper on mass shootings. In both Buffalo and Uvalde, armed and trained law enforcement officers on the scene were unable to stop the shooters from wreaking their carnage. As is often the case, the police are outgunned by young males who aren't yet old enough to buy cough medicine or a beer in many states but who, nonetheless, have ready access to America's deadly arsenal. They are also allowed to buy body armor that allows them to kill more innocent people.

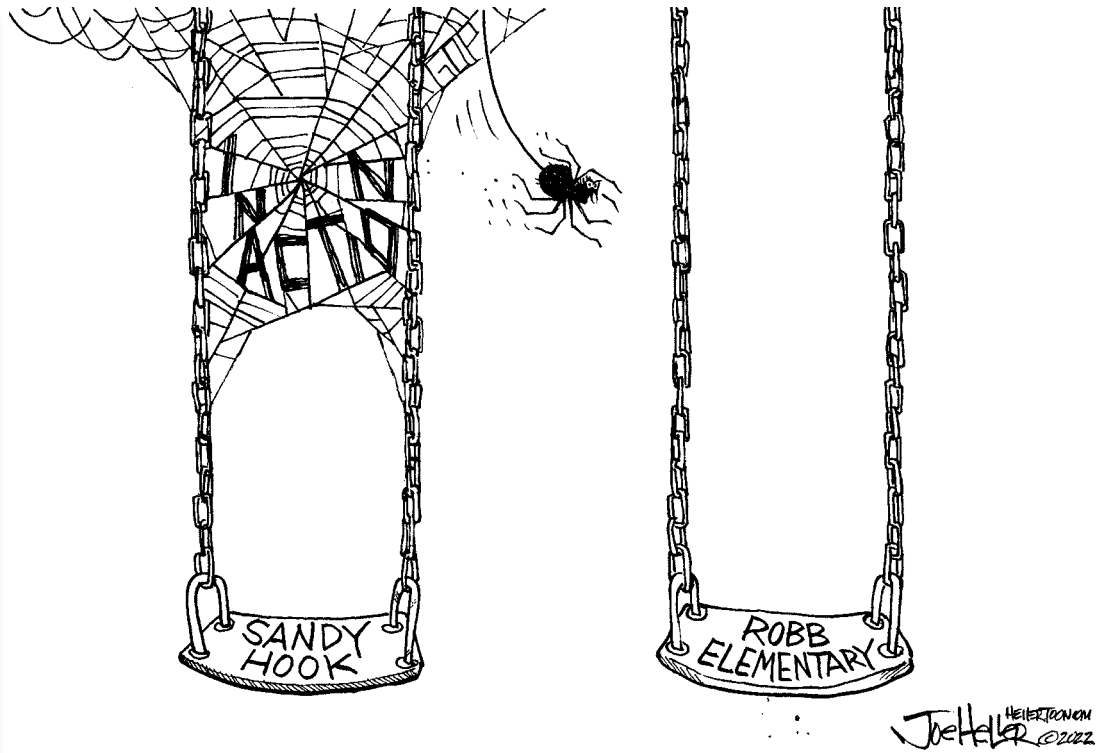
The suggestion that we can solve the problem by arming teachers is nonsense. If trained police can't stop these shooters, how do we expect a teacher to do it?

We do know that it is possible to stem gun violence because other countries have been successful in doing so, in every case by making it more difficult to obtain deadly firearms. We know that the 1990s assault weapons ban reduced the number of mass shootings, and that the incidence of such shootings tripled in the years since the ban expired.

We could certainly stand to know more about the ways in which gun legislation impacts gun violence, but Congress, led by the Republican Party, passed a law that has all but eliminated federally-funded research into gun violence. That's right. We can't even ask the questions that need to be asked, because the radicals who dictate America's gun laws are afraid of the answers.

We should also be asking why it is that troubled 18-year-olds can legally buy body armor. In a sensible nation, the availability of such protective gear would be limited to law enforcement or those with a demonstrated need for such protection. Mass shooters now routinely use body armor to fend off attempts by law enforcement to stop them. Body armor, which has no constitutional protection whatsoever, is just another means of inflicting a higher body count, including among emergency responders.

The reality is that there are things we could do to at least slow the endless loop of gun violence in America. In the end, however, Americans simply don't care enough to take those steps. We continue to elect political leaders who offer phony excuses, ridiculous “solutions”, or meaningless thoughts and prayers. And it all repeats itself the next time the shooting starts. And if there is one thing we know for certain about America these days, it is that the shooting will, inevitably, start again.



Letters from Readers

Trump proved that Saranpaa was right

After reading Jimmy Saranpaa's letter (5-27-22) about how anyone can be president, even with dementia.....he is right on target.

Donald Trump, who he supports, has much more than advanced dementia. Beyond his ego, there are his failed business adventures, and his inability to connect with reality, including his extended love for Putin and Russia. That's not to mention his constant lies. Trump clearly proved ANYONE can be president. Trump and his dream of becoming the first American dictator is still going on with his constant "I won" BS. Dementia is terrible for sure, and Trump is the grand example of it.

The sad part is, the chumps suck it right up.

Barry W. Tungseth
Ely

Compared to Trump, Biden is like Lincoln

Quoting from the far-right *New York Post*, as a letter writer from Orr did recently in a put-down of Joe Biden, is the equivalent of quoting Tucker Carlson, the Putin-admiring disgrace from Fox News. Which is appropriate, I suppose, since both the *Post* and Fox News are owned by that 'beacon of truth and enlightenment'- neo-fascist billionaire Rupert Murdoch.

Biden's performance so far may seem 'dismal' to many - then again, he inherited a mess, exacerbated by world events. And he may not be the most inspiring of speakers, partly due to the stuttering problem he's spent a lifetime trying to overcome. But by any other metric, compared to his predecessor, he's Abe Lincoln.

Lynn Scott
Soudan

Tower-Soudan elementary is a gem

The Tower Soudan Elementary School is a hidden gem in this community. I understand people sending their kids to school in another town due to

daycare availability, but I would like to share my experience with our school. This is a small community and classrooms have fewer students than a lot of schools. There may be fear that this leads to less social growth or educational benefit.

My impression is completely the opposite. This school has fought for and allowed my children to succeed above and beyond the limits of their classroom, both academically and athletically.

The teachers have more individual dedication to these students, their success, and genuinely care about these kids. The kids that struggle academically receive more attention and dedication to help them thrive and the students that are excelling are pushed to new levels or given work that meets their educational needs.

Socially does it get any better than knowing everyone? Teachers treat them like family, and you watch these kids that blossom into an incredible level of confidence. If you want your own proof attend a school concert in which kids take the stage, grab the mic and shine. There is so much work that goes into decorating and preparing these programs and it all shows. They are fantastic. This school wants your kids to shine.

That's more than a lot of schools can offer purely due to numbers or staffing limitations so they get lost in the shuffle and learn that school is a struggle. Not here though, each and every child matters. The principal, Mr. Jirik has worked hard to bring opportunities and sports back here and has dedicated his own time and efforts to make that happen! Basketball, football, baseball, and soccer! If you come and watch, you see that there are still a significant number of children in this community. This school is excellent, amazing and wonderful! From the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank everyone working at the school, you all impact these kids' lives on such a grand scale and prepare them to take on the world as they grow by believing in them and showing them their own potential.

Valerie Turnbull
Tower

New business abides by county comp plan

Part of St. Louis County's comprehensive plan for expanding lake use and access was to bring businesses to the area that fit the county's plan. The county wanted new businesses in to promote tourism and lake use. Bayview RV Resort fit the county's plan perfectly. The Conditional Use Permit (CUP) granted by the county, gave us the opportunity to provide this tourism and lake use as part of their plan.

As you can see the interest has been overwhelming and very positive. Part of our request from the county was if we were going to put the investment in to build this 44-site resort, we also needed the county to let us provide lake access to these 44 tenants. Dock space was a huge issue for us. If the county wanted our business to promote tourism and lake use, then we needed the county's support to provide enough dock space for our tenants. The dock plans and size were sent to the DNR and St. Louis County for them to look over even though this was not required. We did this to make sure this followed the county's comprehensive plan and there was no issue with the design. We received approval from both entities.

Bayview RV Resort is an all-seasonal resort, no transient rentals. Feedback from many people including close neighbors has been very positive since we opened in 2019. Not as much noise, no more late-night yelling and parties that were taking place in the cabins, and just a bunch of real cool tenants in our resort enjoying themselves that are all new to the area. New tourism and lake access. Just what the county asked for.

Now for some people on the lake, change is difficult. For some of the neighbors close to us, this is disruptive. I understand the concerns. Progress can change the whole dynamic of something. And this business did just that. So, if you all are in favor of tourism, lake use, and progress, then we

See LETTER...pg 5

I can cross Scotland off my bucket list

In the last two columns I have been writing about my trip to the United Kingdom in late March to early April. This is the third and final installment and then I will go back to my regular nonsense.

During dark events in our lives and in our country, I continue to seek distraction through the recollection of time joyfully spent in travels. You may recall, our group of five



SCARLET
STONE

ladies and Scottish driver Kevin, first stayed in Wales and visited friends and the Rhos male choir, the harbor town Portmeirion and Ruthin Castle.

We then left Wales traveling to the Lake District, in north-west England. It is famous for its lakes, forests, mountains and historic literary associations. We

spent a night in the charming village of Ambleside at a historic bed and breakfast. That evening, March 30, I jotted a note that I have since discovered which sums up my thoughts; "It's dusk, I am sitting in The Lily, a restaurant on Lake Road in Ambleside. Am I really here eating this great fish dinner? I look out at the stone building across the street and I can nearly convince myself I might be back in Virginia, Minn. except the buildings have different names and are constructed of stone. Moreso, the food, clothing, lan-

guage are all different here. Isn't it a thrill? I am very fortunate and amazed every day that I get to be here...in Great Britain."

While rambling north through the countryside with rolling hills, curvy lanes and babbling brooks, we visited Hill Top Farm, the holiday home and studio-sanctuary of children's author and illustrator Beatrix Potter whose story, "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" was a staple on every child's bookshelf when I grew up. She was very keen and insightful, leaving her house and property to

the National Trust so that today, it is very nearly like it was while she was living there, which I greatly appreciated. Tables, chairs the grandfather clock, dishes, a detailed applied bed quilt and more remain as always...we were told by a curator. Her gardens had the old rakes, tools, fences, stone paths and shrubs that had long since decided to stay. I could have stayed too. I was further impressed to discover Beatrix Potter was a fierce campaigner

See SCOTLAND...pg 5

Letters from Readers

How about freedom that allows kids to grow up in America?

As I drove north from the Cities last weekend, a pickup sped past sporting a bumper sticker paraphrasing Thomas Jefferson: "I prefer dangerous liberty to peaceful servitude." A decal pasted above it depicted the outline of an assault rifle. Three days after the second anniversary of George Floyd's extrajudicial execution in Minneapolis, four days after a kid with an assault rifle slaughtered 19 terrified fourth-graders and two teachers in Uvalde and two weeks after another kid live-streamed his massacre of ten peaceful shoppers in a Buffalo grocery store (with an assault rifle), the ignorance and tragic ironies of this proclamation left me speechless.

Jefferson's original statement, in Latin, ("Malo periculosam, libertatem quam quietam

servitatem.") was taken from a letter to James Madison in which he contrasted three styles of government: none at all, democratic and authoritarian. Of democracy he wrote: "...wherein the will of every one has a just influence, as is the case in England in a slight degree, and in our states in a great one." It was Madison who proposed the Second Amendment, intending "...the right to bear arms" as a safeguard against the potential of oppression by a tyrannical government.

Americans have always loved their idioms, but it behooves us to consider the origins of the slogans we chant and whether or not they contain truth or are still relevant. An increasingly popular idiom reminds us that "Freedom is not Free." Let us not forget that this is precisely what Memorial Day is all about, a moment to honor the millions of men and women who have given their lives to protect the freedoms that we cherish.

We equate our freedom with our system of government, which, as originally conceived, guaranteed that "the will of everyone has a just influence"? Yet, according to one poll, 72 percent of Minnesotans support stricter forms of gun control, and this is in a state in which many, many people bear arms. Meanwhile, a minority of Americans, citing the Second Amendment and represented by the NRA, have the politicians quaking in their boots lest they lose the next election. Tyranny? What could be more tyrannical than a well-heeled group dictating how our politicians vote or an adolescent in body armor slaughtering innocent shoppers for their ethnicity and one of his clones massacring fourth-graders in a Texas school-room? Our tyranny comes from within and the proof lies in the exponentially increasing number of concealed handgun permits being issued. Most applicants are law-abiding citizens who fear not

a tyrannical government, but arm themselves for protection from their fellow citizens because of the failure of our government to give them that protection.

For months the media and our politicians have focused our attention on the war in Ukraine. It took the carnage in Buffalo and Uvalde to shift our attention, but we are yet unable to obtain a clear understanding of the reality that we live in, a reality that continues to worsen because our politicians lack the moral courage to stand up to the NRA, the integrity to speak the truth and the resolve to initiate solutions that have proven effective throughout the developed and free world. The carnage in Texas and New York, shocking as it is, pales in comparison to the atrocities in Ukraine, and yet so far this year well more than four times as many people have been shot and killed by their fellow Americans than Ukrainian civilians have died in the war with Russia. The gun lobby in this country bellows:

"Guns don't kill people, people kill people." This is nonsense. It is people with guns who kill people. Limit the types of guns that people can acquire, and we can begin mending our society. This approach has demonstrably worked throughout the free world. In Western Europe, for example, the rate at which citizens shoot and kill each other is only four percent of what it is in the U.S. because European politicians had the backbone to legislate sane gun laws without impinging on the rights and freedoms of their constituents.

Dangerous liberty may be our current reality. However, peaceful servitude is not the only alternative. If we could only stop fighting among ourselves and admit that the right of a fourth-grader to reach adulthood supersedes anybody's right to own an assault rifle, perhaps we could actually have peaceful freedom.

David B. Stanton Cook

LETTER...Continued from page 4

all should be excited that our business accomplished this for the County and area. But one can't take the position, that they are all for it, "but just not in my backyard". People, you cannot

have it both ways.

Now let's focus on the positives our business brought to the area. Besides the above mentioned:

► Tavern in the Bay opened daily at 11 a.m.

with an all new menu and improvements.

► Provided 20-plus new people with jobs.

► Provided 44 new families lake access not from the area.

► Slowed boat traffic down.

► Reduced lakeshore erosion.

► Created safer boating conditions.

► Created safer swim-

ming conditions.

► Eliminated parking on neighbor's beaches, littering and urinating.

I ask you all just take a deep breath and enjoy Tavern in the Bay and our

fine resort this summer. Who knows, you may even have fun!

Dean Ribich Bayview RV Resort

SCOTLAND...Continued from page 4

on local conservation issues and protected large areas of the Lake District from development.

We also visited Abbotsford, the country estate of Sir Walter Scott who wrote "Lady of the Lake", the Waverley Novels, and "Ivanhoe" to name a few of his works. The estate is on the River Tweed with park-like grounds and a home's interior filled with beautiful architecture, furnishings, wall coverings and treasures. It's so much to absorb for a person, such as myself... who doesn't "get out" too often and it becomes nearly overwhelming to push through so much rich history in the course of seven actual touring days. I felt the need to just pull away by myself a couple times a day and be in nature, walk down a path, study an ivy and not listen to the guides or try to cram in details from headset summaries as if I were going to have to pass a quiz. Time was limited, and I was able to fill in details of places I visited by watching YouTube when I got home.

On our way north, our Highland van driver Kevin, stopped at the historic village of Gretna Green on the Scottish side of the border between England and Scotland. It was very humorous listening to him talk to us about this famous wedding place referenced in so many movies and stories. Here is a romantic history tidbit: The Clandestine Marriages Act of 1753 prevented couples under the age of 21 from marrying in England or Wales without parental consent so couples crossed the border to marry in the

famous venue that was actually a blacksmith shop. It sounded like something I would have certainly done once upon a day. We all sat at a table in the coffee shop near the blacksmith shop and watched various couples dashing by in wedding attire. Ladies in white dresses and gents in kilts passed by holding hands as Kevin, with a twinkle in his eye, made jokes about the young lads and lasses signing their lives away. I was able to record his stories on more than one occasion and have them as humorous keepsakes from the trip.

I enjoyed the food too and disagreed with stories I'd heard that it was "lacking"...the beef stews, fish and chips, puddings, pasties were all great, but I found no need to try Haggis, the national dish of Scotland. It's made of the liver, heart and lungs of sheep or another animal with added mutton suet, oatmeal, onion and spice packed into a sheep's stomach and boiled. I did not need to do that....no.

One of my lifelong goals had been to get to Edinburgh Scotland. I have always been fascinated with the life of Mary Queen of Scots and my lineage on my mother's side goes back to the Beatons and MacBeth's of Scotland. The Beatons provided medical services to the Royal House of Scotland, from King Robert the Bruce until the 18th century. The city is a bit hilly to walk and the oldest streets along the Royal Mile such as High Street and Abbey Strand are between Holyrood Palace (the Queen's residence in Edinburgh) and Edinburgh

Castle and are made of cobble stone and lined tightly with shops and other fascinating structures.

There were so many places that I would like to have visited, the museums, Holyrood Palace, John Knox's house, but we really only were able to quickly tour Edinburgh castle and do some quick shopping while we were there. The castle sits on top of the plug of a long-extinct volcano and as I walked uphill on the narrowing cobblestone street towards it I couldn't help but feel the layers of history and acknowledge the souls that had walked and lived along those once very dirty streets.....people who struggled and made their living as crofts (tenant farmers), domestic servants, soldiers, fisherfolk, shipbuilders, weavers, spinners and pub owners. I also thought, had I lived back then, I would have been in much better physical condition and not puffing uphill to the castle with last night's portion of rich toffee pudding weighing me down. Once up inside the fortress of Edinburgh, I saw sandstone walls around me and gray skies with a view to the Firth of Forth, the river that meets the North Sea. A strong sense of tragedy and darkness loomed there among the various structures that make up Edinburgh castle. It was very windy and cold with occasional sleet sheering my hooded head which added to the mood in general. I enjoyed shopping and seeing all of the plaid fabrics, kilts, sweaters and things that are uniquely Scottish.

At one point I veered into World's End Bar for

a Guinness and an adventure. The place had low ceilings, stone walls and cozy places to sit. The bartender informed me that it was built in the 1600's and was named World's End because it was actually located right at the edge of Edinburgh with one of its exterior walls having been part of the original fortress (flodden wall) which used to protect what is known as Old Town. The gates to the city were located right outside with brass cobbles still intact in the street marking the spot. What a thrill that I had been drawn inside, up the small tile steps that led inside to that rich-draught Guinness with its creamy white head.

While staying in Edinburgh, Kevin took us on a day trip to the southern highlands near Loch Ness and to visit Doune Castle, which was a filming site for Monty Python, Game of Thrones, and Outlander to name a few. We also drove down to Glasgow where we would drop off our travel partner Sofia, a student from Texas studying at University of Glasgow. All day long, Kevin told stories in the van as we traveled, laughing and snacking on "Digestives" he had bought....(Scottish biscuits or cookies first developed in 1839 by two doctors to aid digestion). I found them a poor comparison to our Keebler Fudge Stripes and don't see how a cookie can aid in anything quite honestly, aside from weight gain. Not to be a prude....I consumed my fair share.

All good things draw to a close and we ended our trip in Manchester, saying our goodbyes to our friend and van driver Kevin, with

hopes of seeing him on our side of the pond one of these days.

It was the best that a trip could offer. People always tell me they don't care if they ever get to Europe because there's so much to see in the United States. I agree there is much to see in our country but it lacks the history and different culture so you can take the Corn Palace...but I'll opt for Edinburgh Castle.



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

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

Publisher	Marshall Helmberger
General Manager	Jodi Summit
Cook/Orr Editor	David Colburn
Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
Office Manager	Michelle Toutloff
Office Staff	Sharon Legg
Graphics/Ad Sales	Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales/Sports	Jay Greeney

Official Newspaper:
City of Tower, Townships of Bearville, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, Crane Lake, Kabetogama, Greenwood, ISD 707.

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

Subscriptions Available:
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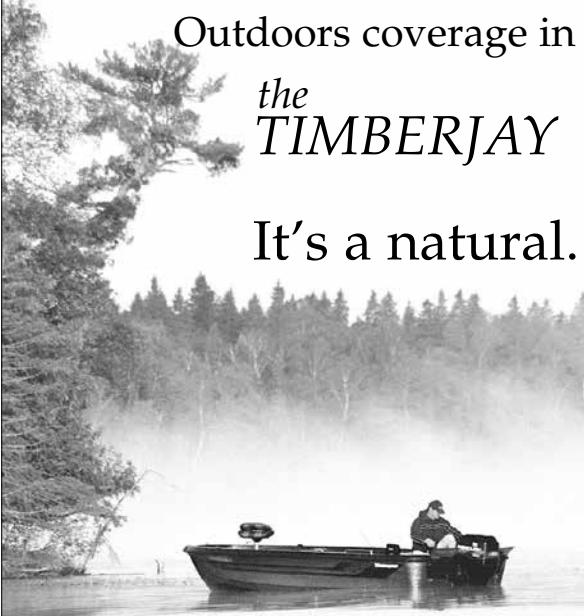
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Week of June 6

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.

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

Special music at the coffee an' church on June 12

TOWER- Where the heck is the coffee an' church you ask? That's easy to answer said a spokesperson from the church. It is the little white church on the corner of North Second and Spruce Street in Tower, also known as St. James Presbyterian.

Kathy Siskar will be singing "God Bless America" in celebration of Flag Day. She will be accompanied by Greg Kuchar on guitar and his wife Denise on electric drums.

Next you might ask, what is the an'? Again, an easy answer. Coffee will be served in the foyer starting at 9:30 a.m., take your cup of coffee into the sanctuary, and enjoy visiting with members and friends.

Then enjoy the worship service starting at 10 a.m., followed by more coffee an' downstairs in the social room with more fellowship. All are invited to come and celebrate Flag Day.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



Oceans of Fun...

Tower-Soudan Elementary held its annual spring concert under the direction of music teacher Michelle Anderson and band teacher Kyle Ballou.

Above: Grades two through six performed the finale, "Oceans of Fun".

Left: Students from Kindergarten and first grade performed Baby Beluga and Rock Lobster.

Below: Students in grades three through six sang songs about sharks, whales, octopus, and sea turtles.

photos by J. Summit

TOWER-SOUDAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Discover history this summer; how you can help

TOWER-SOUDAN- The Tower-Soudan Historical Society is thrilled to update you on local history happenings and new exhibits and experiences planned for you this summer.

Enjoy your experiences as you discover the history of the Tower-Soudan-Lake Vermilion area, the places, the stories and the people.

Historic Fire Hall Restoration

The ongoing restoration of the historic fire hall at 504 Main Street starts in June and will continue throughout the summer. The building's exterior masonry will be repaired and rehabilitated from June through September. The project has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society; the Department of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation; Minnesota Power and Minnesota Power Foundation; Frandsen Bank and Trust; and through the community members who have made donations to the restoration fund.

History Talks on Main Street

Our popular History Talks series kick starts on Monday, June 27 at 2 p.m. at the Breitung Community Center. *Timberjay* editor David Colburn will join TSHS curator Richard Hanson in presenting the Charles Nelson Story. Historical treasures 100 years old, including the 48-star American flag that once draped the coffin of Charles Nelson, the first area soldier killed in battle in World War I, will be on display. Refreshments will be served during the two-hour open house and presentation. There is no charge to attend, but free-will donations will be accepted, so the TSHS can purchase materials for a future permanent display planned for the historic fire hall.

The Marttila Drug Story will be featured on Saturday, July 16, at 4 p.m., at the Herbert R. Lamppa Civic Center. The History Talk is being coordinated on the day of the Old Settler's Booyah event. Dave Anderson will present the history

and highlights shared by the descendants of the Konst and Walter Marttila family. Refreshments will be served. Wouldn't it be spectacular if we could replicate the famous drug store ice cream as a treat? Vicky and Charlie Carlson are hosting this event. There is no cost to attend.

Our final History Talk of the summer will be held in mid-August - the date and location has not yet been determined. Diana and Terry Sundahl, new owners of the former Olson Grocery and Hardware Store building, are hosting the event. The stories of their grandfather Herman T. Olson, and their father Robert Olson and family will be shared by Lynn Olson and Debbie Olson Shields. Herman T. and Robert Olson were active citizens and pillars of the community.

Watch for more information throughout the summer about the History Talks on Main Street. We appreciate the support of our business owners in sharing the history of their buildings, and all the history and wonderful memories they evoke.

Annual TSHS Membership

If you are not a member or your annual membership has expired, please contact us at the depot museum or by calling, texting or emailing our TSHS secretary at tshs-secretary@gmail.com, or 218-750-0193.

Your annual membership support of \$10/individual, or \$20/family, supports our Mission: Dedicated to community enrichment through education, preservation, and celebration of the rich history and the heritage of the Tower-Soudan and Lake Vermilion area through people, artifacts and stories.

Business sponsorships will be solicited from our businesses who wish to enrich our community by preserving the value of our shared history through distribution of the Self-Guided History Maps at their place of business. Watch for our letter and brochures coming your way.

Subscribe to the TIMBERJAY! Call 218-753-2950



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.**

ISD 696

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

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:

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

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



Ely High School Class of 2022 graduation tonight

ELY – The Ely Memorial High School Class of 2022 will gather tonight, Friday, June 3, at Veteran’s Memorial Field here for commencement ceremonies.

Just 30 graduates will take part in the festivities which marks a return to pre-COVID celebrations

with choir and band performances scheduled.

School band director Sarah Mason, who is leaving ISD 696 at the end of the year after seven years, will deliver the commencement address. Seniors Jon Hakala and Micah Larson (who temporarily left the school last

fall over required COVID public health protocols) will speak on behalf of their class.

Megan Anderson, 6-12 principal who recently announced her resignation from her ISD 696 administrative post to return to the classroom here, will present the Class of 2022

to Interim Superintendent John Klarich and school board chair Ray Marsnik who will present diplomas.

Fourteen out of the 30 graduates are honor students, with a grade point average of 3.5 or above. Graduates of the Class of 2022 received \$88,000 in local scholarships this year.

Members of the Ely Memorial Class of 2022 paraded through Washington Elementary School last week on their way to commencement rehearsal.

photo by K. Vandervort

AROUND TOWN

ECR gears up for summer enrichment programs

ELY - The summer enrichment program returns this year to provide an opportunity for Ely kids to spend time learning, playing, and creating together.

The program, facilitated by the staff of Ely Community Resource (ECR), features outings to local attractions and natural areas. This year ECR is offering a variety of activities and kids can choose what they are interested in doing or learning about.

Group sizes will need to have a cap for appropriate supervision and safety. This means that enrollment is not unlimited.

“We are still not in a position to be childcare providers or babysitters, but we have morning activities Monday through Friday this summer, and afternoon activities Monday through Thursday,” said ECR Executive Director Julie Hignell.

The program is open to kids currently in 2nd grade

through currently in 6th grade for many activities. Some activities are for kids in grades 6-12. “As in years past, drop off and pick up locations will be noted on the schedule of activities you will receive. We strive to make them convenient,” Hignell added.

The 11-week program will run from June 13 to Aug. 26. Morning activities run from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., and Monday through Wednesday afternoon activities run from 1 - 3:30

p.m. “We are planning a series of field trips for Thursday afternoons that will run from 1 - 5 p.m.,” she said.

Class offerings include: ► 2nd – 6th Grade: Garden Club, Art Club, Eco Club, Healthy Kids Club, Field Trips, Maker’s Mornings.

► 6th – 12th Grade: Video Production Club, Writer’s Workshop, Game Club, Outdoor Adventure Club, Gender/Sexuality Alliance Group.

For registration, and more information, contact: ECR, 111 S 4th Ave E, Ely, MN 55731, or call 218-365-5254.

“We will keep a list of interested families if registrations go beyond the number we can handle well. You are responsible for transporting your child for drop off and pick up. We hope to facilitate some car-pooling to reduce stress on working families,” she added.

READING IS KNOWLEDGE

More than a dozen Ely Elementary students in grades three to five recently took part in a “Battle of the Book” competition at Cloquet High School where the Ely kids competed against students from the two Cloquet elementary schools. The students have been preparing for this “battle” all year long. Each participant was responsible to read between five and 12 books from a designated list, then took part in a quiz-style competition about the content of the books they read. With each correct answer, their team scored points. submitted photo



OUR COMMUNITY

Northwoods Pride: An invitation to tell the stories of Ely

Sometimes I can’t see the forest for the trees, and at other times, I can’t see the trees for the forest. I can see and appreciate all the environments that I lived in during my life - especially the small rural communities with a history closely connected to the land surrounding them.

The most valuable resources in those areas are the people that bring their independent nature, work ethic, community mindedness, proud heritage, and willingness to give for the common good.

I am nearing the end of my 75th year, 45 of those years living in Ely. Among my friends and acquaintances are those who have connections to this area for generations, over their lifetime, intermittently, only recently, or having never

been here. Ely’s history spans over 100 years and the region’s physical landscape, human heritage and all other lifeforms have led to what I find here today.

Every day is an anniversary and potential celebration of something. And often, days may be struggles to live and work through. The outcomes from those celebrations and struggles over time have led to all the people and characteristics that I am rewarded by life in the Ely area. Ely is not just a town. It is a “Northwoods,” “Arrowhead”, “Laurentian Shield”, “boundary waters”, “Superior National Forest”, “Voyageurs National Park”, “Lake Superior”, part of an interrelated consortium of cities, townships, counties, nations, and a state and a province.

And you cannot live

anywhere, no matter how rural, and not realize the almost unfathomable connections that exist to the earth and all that lives on it. There is something to be learned wherever one lives about how to approach life. There are always struggles in life for humans or any other life form. Although different views contribute and challenge any small communities’ ability to work through its challenges, I am proud of all that our region’s environment offers and I am proud of the human and other resources that our region has brought to the tasks at hand.

This is the 100th anniversary of Vermilion Community College, formerly Ely Junior College. Like many elements of our area, the college has provided the ongoing value

of a higher education institution in the center of the Arrowhead. Starting this year, the college has become the Vermilion Campus of Minnesota North College along with Rainy River, Mesabi, Hibbing, and Itasca. Like every other resource of the area.

During my 45 years here, I have learned of its history and seen its services lead to the development of human resources for our area and elsewhere.

I have followed the lives of students, faculty, administrators, and facilities at the college, and I am looking for the stories from them and others that will combine to enable an anniversary celebration of the college and its role in our area’s local and greater community. A timeline for the college including

sites, facilities, administrators, staff, academic and community programs, faculty, students, housing, and experiences.

The Ely Junior College began in 1922. Celebrating 100 years is more than just an anniversary, it is 100 years of remembrances, happenings, and stories. And for a town like Ely and a state like Minnesota, it is history and part of the lives of individuals, a town, and a larger community.

Engage with me, your local newspapers, the Ely-Winton Historical Society, and community members, to share stories and begin to build a detailed chronology. Think back, you have so many stories of our area that will help others make the community connection.

By Bill Tefft, Ely

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



a rainy summer? thunder boomers with lightning

water gauge rising

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

Monday 10 am-6 pm
Tuesday 10 am-6 pm
Wednesday 10 am-6 pm
Thursday 10 am-6 pm
Friday 10 am-6 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.

Timber Days group aims to top last year's reboot

Expect to find regular favorites with some fun new wrinkles tossed in

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Some might attribute the rousing success and huge turnout for the 2021 edition of Cook's Annual Timber Days festival to the opportunity to toss away the shackles of COVID restrictions and renew a favored traditional community celebration.

But for both old and new organizing committee members for this year's event, scheduled for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday June 10-12, success boils down to giving people the activities they've come to enjoy while adding in some new wrinkles that will keep the festivities fresh and exciting. "It's been very energetic," said Susan Thomas, one of the returning committee members. "We lost some members, which we're sad about, but we have some new members this year that we're excited about. We've got it so organized from past years.

We're delighted and it's going really well."

Thomas admitted that it could be hard to beat last year.

"How do you top it? It was just so perfect," she said. "We're just hoping for the same, just as amazing."

Those with limber arms and an eye toward taking local celebrities down a notch will get their chance with this year's signature new attraction, a dunk tank that will be available all three days of the festival.

"We're looking for local celebrities, legends, whatever you want to call them, to be there, but we're not telling people who they are at this point," Thomas said.

A high-tech wrinkle will be introduced by the Iron Mosquitoes robotics team from Northeast Range School, which this year included several North Woods School students. On Saturday, team members will demon-



Lawnmovers will be zooming down River St. in Cook for the annual Timber Days festival, which will be held June 10-12.

strate the robot they built and took to state this year, and then will participate in Sunday's parade, Thomas said.

Making belated returns to this year's lineup after being put on hold last year will be children's games and the always popular Friends of the Library Book Sale. Kids should also be on the lookout for face painters and pony rides.

And then, there are the tried-and-true favorites.

"Elvis will be back by popular demand, and it's free again," Thomas said. Ticking off just some of the events, Thomas said Friday will feature the firefighters' challenge and bean bag competition again, and Saturday favorites will include the car show, pet show, magic act, and fireworks. Riding lawn mowers will hit the streets for racing on Sunday, and after the much-anticipated parade, led by this year's grand marshal Steve Kajala,

drawings for fabulous raffle prizes in the park will wrap things up.

And of course, from Friday through Sunday, a wide array of vendors will be available to peddle specialty items and food. Folks with a sweet tooth should be on the lookout for a new cookie vendor that's been added this year, Thomas said.

It's a huge undertaking to put on Timber Days, and it couldn't be done without the ongoing support of the business community.

"Our local businesses are amazing," Thomas said. "They're where most of our money comes from through their sponsorships. We have overwhelming response from them. And our raffle tickets? We have ten huge prizes this year. The top prize is \$1,000 cash, and then there are nine other prizes that are all wonderful."

There's another new event on Saturday that

isn't part of the official Timber Days lineup that the committee is encouraging people to support, Thomas said. The Cook Fireman's Relief Association is holding a pancake breakfast fundraiser from 8-11 a.m. on Saturday at the Cook Fire Hall. A \$10 ticket will buy healthy helpings of pancakes, sausage, coffee, and juice and kids 10 and under eat for free. All proceeds will go toward updating and replacing equipment. Come meet the fire department, tour the fire station, look at the trucks and enjoy some pancakes!

"Everybody who comes is going to have lots and lots of opportunities for fun," Thomas said. "Hopefully the weather will hold out again for us this year. We're all excited."

Check the Cook's Annual Timber Days page on Facebook for complete and updated listings of events and activities.

Ambulance studied to improve long-term viability

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- At last week's Cook City Council meeting, council member Karen Hollanitsch, who serves as the chair of the ambulance advisory board, reported on recent work she, Mayor Harold Johnston, and City Administrator Theresa Martinson have been doing in collaboration with ambulance service personnel to review all aspects of the service to ensure that it continues to operate effectively.

Hollanitsch noted that it is important to schedule staff in a manner that most effectively covers the primary times that the service could be called to make transfer runs, as those are an integral component of

ambulance finances.

Interim director Karen Schultz works 24 hours a week, and to supplement coverage during peak transfer times, crew members Rick and Emily Nelson were approved as part-time EMTs. Each will be paid an hourly wage in addition to the EMT on-call and run rates.

"We've given them the flexibility to kind of share their hours and make sure that they're covering the best times to be able to do those transfers so that the city will get the best bang for their buck," Hollanitsch said.

Everything from job descriptions and staffing to training and community engagement are getting a look, Hollanitsch said, and feedback from ambulance staff will be an important

component of the review. Hollanitsch said an anonymous online survey will be made available for staff to provide their opinions.

Hollanitsch said they're also looking at ways to improve communication with the public and respond to people who have expressed an interest in what's happening with the service.

As the review and planning continue, all will be done with an eye toward financial accountability.

"We are fiscally responsible to the taxpayers," Hollanitsch said. "We have to look at changes that aren't going to be just more money and increased taxes." As ongoing review and discussion lead to possible changes, Hollanitsch said

that they intend to remain flexible.

"We're letting everyone know that nothing's cut in stone," she said. "If they don't work out, we'll change it again. But we need to keep this critical service in Cook."

Timber Days

Carrolle Wood updated the council on preparations for Cook's Annual Timber Days festival scheduled for June 10-12. An addition this year will be a large open-sided tent in the city park to give people a shady place to sit or to have some protection from inclement weather.

She asked the council for approval to close half a block of 2nd Avenue SE from River St. west to the alley to better accommodate vendors and enhance

safety. Council members instructed her to work with city staff to assess the situation and come up with a solution that will accommodate any needs businesses or others in the area might have.

Noting that the Timber Days organizing committee is always thinking a year ahead, Wood asked the council to consider allocating the \$10 fee collected by the city from each vendor back to the committee to be used for fireworks. Wood said that the committee would like to increase the size of the display next year, and also said that prices for fireworks have increased. The festival is a huge draw for the city, and its vendor arrangements are unique, Wood said. After extended discussion, the

council voted to approve distributing the collected fees to the Timber Days committee.

In other business, the council:

►Reviewed progress on the development of a new blight ordinance intended to improve compliance and enforcement relative to the one currently in effect.

►Received monthly ambulance, fire, and liquor store reports for April.

►Heard from Wood that Friends of the Parks is investigating options for paving the parking lot at the new Veteran's Riverfront Park. A preliminary working estimate placed the cost at about \$45,000.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Book club to meet on June 14

COOK- The Readers and Rappers Book Club will be meeting on Tuesday, June 14 at 1 p.m. at the Cook Community Center, 510 Gopher Dr. The book to be discussed is "The Island of Sea Women" by Lisa See.

"The Island of Sea Women" is a powerful story of female divers of the Jeju Island in South Korea. The story follows two girls over many decades, illuminating a unique culture where women are in charge, engaging in dangerous, physical work, and the men take care of the children.

There will be no book club meeting in July. We will have two books for discussion in August. "Silenced to Death" by Donna Graham, and its sequel "Falling Silent" also by Donna Graham.

Farmers' Market returns to Cook park on June 18

COOK- The Cook Area Farmers' Market will open for the season on Saturday, June 18 in Cook City Park.

The Market will be open from 8 a.m.-noon every Saturday morning through September. Come enjoy fresh locally grown produce, baked goods, freshly roasted coffee,

handmade soap, honey, baked goods, hand sewn goods, arts and crafts. Join the festive, weekly community gathering and maybe take a buggy ride or two.

Lions will sell burgers for Timber Days festival

COOK- The Cook Lions Club will once again be grilling burgers for Timber Days, starting at noon on Friday June 10 and continuing through the weekend. Advance lunch orders for burgers (minimum order of five) will be delivered to your local business in Cook on Friday. Call Jody at 218-256-3118 to place your order. Enjoy a delicious meal while supporting the many philanthropic activities the Lions Club does in the community throughout the year.

NWFA announces photo winners

COOK - "Mr Chompy," a playful and intriguing cat photo taken by Heather Fealy, won first place in the 12th annual Northwoods Friends of the Arts Photo Contest from among 76 works entered.

Second place went to Marcia Bergquist's entry "Cooper's Smile," and Bill Conger's picture "Happy Tree" was award-

ed third place by the voting public.

NWFA congratulates all the winners and expresses thanks to all the participants and those who came by the gallery to vote.

Taiko drumming presentation coming to library

COOK - Cook Public Library will host TaikoArts Midwest, a free, all-ages program about the history and cultural context of taiko drumming in Japan and the U.S., at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, June 9.

This hour-long program is a combination of performance, lecture and interactive activities. Au-

dience members will learn about taiko drums, how they are made, and kuchishoka, how rhythms are described and taught. This program is sponsored by Arrowhead Library System and funded in part or in whole by the Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

NWFA Spring Arts Expo is underway through June 25

COOK- The annual Northwoods Friends of the Arts Spring Art Expo opens Friday, June 3 with a 5 p.m. reception and runs until Saturday, June 25 at the gallery in Cook.

The Expo is a once-a-year opportunity for mem-

ber artists to exhibit and sell art and crafts without exhibit fees. Artists will keep all the proceeds from items sold during the month of June.

Included in Spring Art Expo is the big raffle ticket sale. Tickets are \$5 and the winner (first name drawn on Aug. 5th) will chose between 50% of the cash ticket sales or a beautiful acrylic painting by Jim DeVries called "Old Rocky." A second winner will receive the prize that the first winner did not choose.

You will find calendars, greeting cards, paintings, prints, sculptures, books by local authors and sewing and knitted crafts at the gallery during

open hours from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The gallery is located at 210 S River St. in Cook. Look for additional Spring Art Expo announcements on the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Facebook page.

 <h2>Area St. Louis County Solid Waste and Recycling Facility site hours</h2>		
Ash River Trail Canister Site 11391 Ash River Trail Summer Hours Wed: 1pm-4pm Sat: 2:30pm-5:30pm	Kabetogama Lake Canister Site 10150 Gamma Rd Summer Hours Mon. & Wed: 9am-noon Sat: 10:30am-1:30pm	Sturgeon Canister Site 8380 Hwy 73 Hours Sun: 8am-noon
Orr Canister Site 4038 Hwy 53 Summer Hours Tue: 9am-1pm, Thu: 2pm-7pm Sat: 8am-noon, Sun: 10am-2pm	Portage Canister Site 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Summer Hours Tue: 2pm-6pm; Thu: 10am-1pm, Sat: 1pm-5pm; Sun: 3pm-6pm	County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77 Summer Hours Tue: 1-6pm, Thu: 8am-1pm Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: noon-6pm
Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm	St. Louis County Environmental Services Department 1-800-450-9278 Office hours 8-4:30 Mon. thru Fri. stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle
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U.S. FOREST SERVICE

USFS pauses all prescribed burns for the summer

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

REGIONAL - The Superior National Forest did not go forward with the Kangas 6 and 7 Prescribed Fire units, located south of Ely, last week as scheduled, and will not start fires anytime this spring season.

The Chief of the Forest Service announced a pause of prescribed fire operations on National Forest System lands.

“Because of the current extreme wildfire risk conditions in the field, I am initiating a pause on prescribed fire operations on National Forest System

lands while we conduct a 90-day review of protocols, decision support tools and practices ahead of planned operations this fall,” said Forest Service Chief Randy Moore.

“Our primary goal in engaging prescribed fires and wildfires is to ensure the safety of the communities involved. Our employees who are engaging in prescribed fire operations are part of these communities across the nation. The communities we serve, and our employees deserve the very best tools and science supporting them as we continue to navigate toward reducing the risk

of severe wildfires in the future,” Moore said.

Before prescribed fire ignitions ever take place on the landscape, extensive planning occurs. Landscapes are analyzed for prescribed fire treatments and the effects on community well-being, vegetation, hydrology, threatened and endangered species and other values.

Extensive standard operating procedures to authorize prescribed fires include developing and coordinating a burn plan, site preparation, public notifications, weather and forecast monitoring and validation before a deci-

sion is made to go ahead.

In 99.84 percent of cases, prescribed fires go as planned. In rare circumstances, conditions change, and prescribed burns move outside the planned project area and become wildfires.

“The review will task representatives from across the wildland fire and research community with conducting the national review and evaluating the prescribed fire program, from the best available science to on-the-ground implementation,” Moore said. “Lessons learned and any resulting program improvements will be in

place prior to resuming prescribed burning.”

Wildfires are increasingly extreme because of climate change, drought and dry fuels across many parts of the country. Prescribed burn operations are essential tools managers need to protect communities and first responders, improve forest conditions and reduce the threat of extreme fires.

The USFS oversees the nation’s largest prescribed fire program and conducts an average of 4,500 prescribed fire projects annually, treating more than 1,400,000 acres of National Forest System lands.

“As identified in the 10-year Confronting the Wildfire Crisis strategy, it is imperative for the Forest Service and partners work together to increase fuels treatments by up to four times current levels in the West, including using prescribed burning as well as mechanical and other treatments,” he said.

“The pause will have minimal impact on these objectives in the short- and long-term since the agency conducts more than 90 percent of its prescribed burn operations between September and May,” Moore said.

ELY...Continued from page 1

by just 13 votes in a special election last year. Skraba is running for a seat in the state legislature, currently occupied by State Rep. Rob Ecklund, and is giving up his seat as Ely mayor.

This is the third time Omerza has sought the mayoral position. As her council seat is up for election this year, Omerza would exit Ely politics if she loses her mayoral bid.

Council member Paul Kess is also seeking the mayor’s seat for the third time. He has served on the city council for about two decades, starting in the 1990s.

“I hope to continue the progress Ely has made in our economy and infrastructure,” Kess said. I serve on the budget committee and am continue to help keep our taxes low. I am committed to making Ely a better place.”

Harmon has lived “off and on in the Ely area for 50 years.” He lists his residence on Kawishiwi Trail, outside the city limits.

“I have 30 days before the election to provide an affidavit of (city) residency, which I will do,” he said. “I am looking for a manufacturing facility where I will also have a permanent mailing address.”

In running for mayor, Harmon said, “I would like to have a say in what happens here. In two years, I will prove that I’m a good

mayor in what I will provide the city as far as jobs.”

For the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 8, Ely voters will choose the mayor from the two top vote-getters in the primary. The new mayor will serve a two-year term.

For the four-year city council posts, to be elected Nov. 8, three candidates are vying for the three open seats.

Angela Campbell and Albert Forsman are both seeking re-election. Newcomer Adam Bisbee, 1004 E. Chapman St., is also seeking a seat on the council. Six or more

council candidates would have also forced a primary election.

Over at the Ely School District, ISD 696 will also hold school board elections on Nov. 8. Positions now held by Tony Colarich, Ray Marsnik, and Rochelle Sjoberg are up for grabs for four-year terms. The position held by Chad Davis, who was appointed earlier this year to fill a board vacancy, is also open for a two-year term. Candidacy filing will take place later this year No primary election will be held.

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Face Painting	City Park	Noon - 6pm
Friends of the Library Book Sale	Book Barn, 1st St SE	Noon - 6pm
Music in the Park	City Park Gazebo	Afternoons
Music at the Old Muni	The Old Muni	Various
FRIDAY		
"Celebrity" Dunk Tank	Downtown	3pm - 7pm
Firefighters Challenge	Downtown	5pm
Bean Bag Tournament	Downtown	6pm
SATURDAY		
Pancake Breakfast	Cook Fire Dept Hall	8am - 11am
"Celebrity" Dunk Tank	Downtown	Noon - 6pm
Kids Games @ TG's Creative Collections	2nd Ave SE	10am - 6pm
Barrel Train	Downtown	10am - 3pm
Pet Show	City Park Gazebo	11am
Magic Show	City Park Gazebo	Noon
CLASSIC CAR SHOW *Car show registration begins at 10:30am	Downtown	Noon - 4pm
Pony Rides	River St & 2nd Ave W	Noon - 6pm
Elvis Show Free Admission	City Park Gazebo	6pm
FIREWORKS	Doug Johnson Park	Dusk, 10:15pm
SUNDAY		
Church Service , officiant Brian Burton	City Park Gazebo	11:30am
"Celebrity" Dunk Tank	Downtown	Noon - 3pm
Lawnmower Races *Lawnmower registration begins at 10:30am	Downtown	12:30pm
Cook Lions Club Timber Days Parade	Downtown	3pm
Raffle Prize Drawing	City Park Gazebo	After Parade
Flag Retirement Ceremony	Cook VFW Post 1757	After Parade

NOTICE

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NOTICE

Range Cooperatives, Inc. Annual Shareholders Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Shareholders Membership Meeting of Range Cooperatives, Inc. The meeting will be called to order at:

6 p.m. on Monday, June 10, 2019
at Range Funeral Home Fellowship Hall,
911 16th St. North, Virginia
(Please note new time and location.)

- Registration and Lunch will be served from 4:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. in the Range Funeral Home Fellowship Hall.
- The regular business meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in the Range Funeral Home Chapel.

Regular business will be transacted at this meeting, which will include presentation of reports, election of directors, and any other business that may come up.

The speaker will be Marshall Blaukat
CPA, audit manager of CarlsonSV.

David Stanaway, President
Michael Boyd, Secretary

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CORONAVIRUS

Current COVID-19 wave is slowly losing steam

Risk of reinfection rises as subvariants gain a foothold in the Midwest

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The latest statewide numbers indicate the most recent COVID-19 surge has leveled out and is losing steam, but case levels in St. Louis County are still at levels comparable to mid-February when the massive Omicron-driven wave was on the wane.

The Minnesota Department of Health, like the Centers for Disease Control and others, once included new cases added daily as a primary indicator of the COVID pandemic's progress. With a large portion of testing having shifted to at-home tests, cases are now significantly undercounted, but still are useful for clues to trends.

And what's being seen statewide in the past couple of weeks is encouraging. The seven-day average

of new cases peaked in mid-May and has been trending downward. A more reliable indicator, hospitalizations, has also dropped. And the CDC has been flipping counties all across the state from orange to yellow or green on their COVID map to reflect improving community status.

But as of Wednesday morning, St. Louis County was still shaded orange, one of only seven in the state with a community COVID level of 'high,' not particularly surprising given the historical lag time COVID waves have shown for moving into and out of northeastern Minnesota.

While the state's seven-day case average peaked on May 11, the same figure for St. Louis County didn't peak until May 16, hitting 115.7. The county has been trending down since then,

but still remained at 78.9 as of May 26.

Also notable is the measure of COVID in wastewater samples. From April 3 to May 18, the northeast region saw an increase of 178 percent in wastewater COVID load, with a recent three-percent drop consistent with indicators that the current wave has at least plateaued.

The May surge in St. Louis County clearly encompassed the North Country, as 120 cases were reported for the six zip codes monitored by the *Timberjay* from April 28 to May 26. Over half of those cases, 69, were in Ely, followed by Cook with 24. Both of those communities showed more cases in the early part of the month. Ely had only nine new cases in the May 26 report, and Cook had none.

Tower was the other

zip code with double-digit cases, 14, during the period, but its highest weekly total of six came in the May 26 report.

However, the case trend in northern St. Louis County is headed in the desired direction, with the most recent data for cases per 100,000 people registering less than half of that for the county as a whole, and just a third of that for Duluth.

The uncertainty at this point comes from the newest Omicron subvariants of the virus, which have all been identified in the state. The most recent wave was driven by BA.2, which accounted for more than 90 percent of cases nationwide by late April and was more contagious than the original Omicron variant. BA.2.12.1, BA.4, and BA.5 are more contagious still, although none

appear to be causing any more severe illness than their predecessors.

BA.4 and BA.5 were identified in South Africa in April and quickly grew to more than 70 percent of new cases there.

However, the biggest threat from BA.4 and BA.5 appears to be that their unique mutations are better than any previous variants in eluding the body's defenses, whether natural or vaccine/booster induced.

Since those who have had COVID already are at greater risk of reinfection with these variants, and because vaccines and boosters are less effective at stopping them, BA.4 and BA.5 have a larger potential pool of people to infect.

CDC data released on Tuesday indicated that BA.4/5 have a solid foothold in the country,

accounting for over six percent of new cases last week. But the variants are right on Minnesota's doorstep. In Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri, 12.4 percent of new cases are being caused by BA.4/5.

Whether BA.4/5 eventually becomes dominant or other variants or subvariants emerge to supplant them, the warnings health officials have been sounding for nearly a year have become the "new normal" — the coronavirus continues to adapt and mutate, doing so at a rate which makes developing variant-specific vaccines difficult. Researchers are continuing work on possible vaccines specific to Omicron, with the hope that it will also be effective to some degree against Omicron subvariants.

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"Blue Water Big Band" August 5

TOWER...Continued from page 1

full construction plans and evidence of sufficient financing for the project before TEDA will convey the property in question.

The project developers, doing business as Tower Harbor Shores, LLC, (THS) had been stuck in neutral for several years as the city of Tower worked to provide the developers with clear title to that portion of the site on which

they plan to build.

The city finished wading through that legal morass last year and conveyed all of the harbor property to TEDA at that time. TEDA has since inked a modified development agreement with Tower Harbor Shores, which calls for the construction of 12 townhomes on two of the three blocks platted for the project. THS may still build on the third block, but that development, should it move forward, will be subject to a second development agreement. TEDA officials have pushed for a mixed development on that block, with both commercial and residential space.

to determine the final price tag for the townhomes. "The general contractor is bidding out everything to subs as we speak," said Schoenfelder.

According to local project coordinator Orlyn Kringstad, the buildings will be built with structural insulated panels, a process that speeds construction and provides for a super-insulated final product. Kringstad, who served as Tower Mayor from 2019 until his resignation last year, has indicated he's now an hourly employee of Tower Harbor Shores, rather than an investor. Kringstad divested himself of his original ownership stake in the project back in early 2019 to avoid a potential conflict of interest as mayor.

The townhomes are expected to be available in two and three-bedroom configurations and all will overlook the city's harbor. Buyers will also have the ability to lease an accompanying boat slip, although the details of how that will be made available have yet to be worked out. The harbor is directly connected to Lake Vermilion, via the East Two River channel.

Call 753-2950

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The developers say they have identified and been working closely with their primary contractor on the specifics of the construction and some design changes intended to both improve the look of the buildings while keeping costs as low as possible during a period of significant inflation and shortages of some building supplies. According to project manager Jeremy Schoenfelder, his team is now finalizing the selection of interior finishes, appliances, and fixtures in order

to complete a homeowners' association agreement and a common interest community (CIC) plat, although project manager Jeremy Schoenfelder said all of that is in the process of being completed.

Water and sewer connections for the first phase of the project, which will include six townhomes, were installed late last year as part of the city's Pine Street reconstruction.

Under the timeline in the development agreement between THS and TEDA, construction on the first six units is supposed to get underway by Aug. 1, but Kringstad said the company hopes and expects to break ground sometime in July. Completion of the first six units is currently scheduled for June 1 of next year.

Meanwhile, the company will have until April 1, 2023 to provide notice of intent to proceed on the second block of six townhomes, with construction slated to get underway on that second phase by July 1.

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VACATION

Survey: Gas prices, inflation impact summer travel decisions

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— More than two years into the pandemic, Americans report that gas prices and inflation will impact their summer travel decisions more than concerns about COVID-19, according to a new survey conducted by the polling firm Morning Consult and commissioned by the American Hotel and Lodging Association.

The findings could have an impact on summer travel to northeastern Minnesota, where some area resorts are already struggling with the effects of record high water.

Memorial Day weekend marks the start of summer travel season, a traditionally busy time for the hotel and resort industry. And this year, nearly seven in ten

Americans (69 percent) report being likely to travel this summer, with 60 percent saying they are likely to take more vacations this year compared to 2020 and 2021.

That finding seems consistent with what lodging facilities are seeing in northeastern Minnesota. “We’ve spent the last three Mondays visiting with chamber members involved in lodging and we’re hearing they have very strong reservations at this point,” said Eva Sebesta, executive director of the Ely Chamber of Commerce. “We had a few conversations about gas prices and whether it would influence folks. I don’t think there was a huge level of concern. I expect will be another really good summer based on the conversations I’ve had.”

While the cost of a road trip may be a bit higher this season, Sebesta notes that the past two years, when the area saw large numbers of new visitors to the area who were primed for outdoor experiences, appears to be paying off again this year. Interest in outdoor activities spiked during the COVID-19 pandemic, since indoor activities presented a higher risk of infection.

Sebesta said the Boundary Waters was particularly popular as large numbers of people seemed to covet the isolation that the wilderness provided. It appears that interest in the wilderness has yet to abate. “I’m hearing that Boundary Waters permits are really booked up for the season,” she said.

Even so, the new survey found that 57 percent of

respondents indicated they are likely to take fewer and shorter leisure trips as a result of inflation, particularly gas prices, while 44 percent said they are likely to postpone trips and 33 percent are likely to cancel plans. Eighty-two percent say gas prices will have at least some impact on their travel destinations.

What respondents tell pollsters, however, may not always be consistent with what they eventually decide to do. Sebesta notes that even though gas prices are high, the additional cost of gas is a surprisingly small factor compared to the other costs of travel, including dining, lodging, and other activities.

The survey of 2,210 adults was conducted May 18-22, 2022. Other key findings include:

► 68 percent of Americans agree they have

a greater appreciation for travel because of missed experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic

► 57 percent are planning a family vacation this summer, a majority of which plan to stay in a hotel.

► 46 percent are likely to travel overnight for a family event such as a wedding, birthday, anniversary, or family reunion.

► 25 percent are likely to travel for Memorial Day; 32 percent for 4th of July; and 27 percent for Labor Day.

► 60 percent say they are likely to take more vacations this year compared to 2020-2021.

► 60 percent are likely to attend more indoor gatherings.

► 57 percent are likely to take longer vacations.

► 56 percent are likely to take trips to farther-away destinations.

► Due to current gas prices, 57 percent are likely to take fewer leisure trips, 54 percent are likely to take shorter leisure trips, 44 percent are likely to postpone trips, and 33 percent are likely to cancel with no plans to reschedule.

► 90 percent say inflation is a consideration in deciding whether to travel in the next three months (39 percent major consideration, 31 percent moderate consideration, 20 percent slight consideration, 10 percent not a consideration).

► 78 percent of Americans say that COVID-19 infection rates are a consideration in deciding whether to travel this summer (33 percent major consideration, 23 percent moderate consideration, 22 percent slight consideration, 22 percent not a consideration).

CONSTRUCTION SEASON

Breitung Township preparing for summer road projects

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

Soudan - The good news from Breitung Township Maintenance Supervisor Tom Gorsma is that the township is almost caught up on spring road maintenance. In April, Gorsma had told the board that they were unable to grade the township’s gravel roads yet because of wet conditions.

And that is good news for the township, because the maintenance department has a lot of projects that will be getting underway this summer, as well as taking care of damage from some late spring storms.

“The docks are all down at McKinley Park Campground,” he told the board at their May 26 meeting, “but four of them are underwater and not usable yet.” As of May 26, Gorsma reported they were starting to see lake levels starting to slowly drop, but with two substantial rains that fell over Memorial Day weekend, lake levels may not be low enough to use those docks at this time.

The board accepted a bid from Mesabi Bituminous

to crush class-five gravel in the township gravel pit. The company was already planning on setting up their crusher at that location to crush for another job, so the deployment fee for the equipment is half the usual rate.

The board also heard about some damage caused to the bike trail to McKinley Park by a contractor who was doing some work for the township on the adjacent sewer lines. That section of trail is scheduled to be re-surfaced this summer anyway, but the town board will send a letter to the contractor expressing their concerns over the damage that occurred when heavy equipment was dragged down the trail.

“There should be some consequences for their decision,” said Breitung Chair Tim Tomsich.

Complaints had been made by a community member to both St. Louis County Commissioner Paul McDonald and to the Mesabi Trail staff about the damage.

The Tower-Breitung Waste Water Board (TBWWB) will be opening bids for the forced main and manhole replacement

project on June 15. The project will be replacing manholes and other infrastructure from Tower all the way to the wastewater ponds near McKinley Park. The paved bike trail will be closed during some of this work, and once the work is completed, the bike trail will be resurfaced. The TBWWB has a \$250,000 grant for the project, and if costs are higher, will acquire a PFA loan for the difference.

The town board also decided to move ahead with the paving of the road from St. Martin’s Catholic Church to Highway 169. The township has received \$40,000 from IRRR for the project. Approximately 160 feet of the road is in the city of Tower, and the township will be asking the city to pay the costs of that portion of the blacktop. The quote from Mesabi Bituminous for the blacktopping was

\$76,000. St. Martin’s will be resurfacing their parking lot at the same time. Project costs will increase if new culverts are needed.

This road is not officially a township road, but it is a public road, since it has been maintained by the township over time. The simplest way to create the official township road will be to pass a resolution at the next annual meeting in March 2023. A family that lives on the road is also requesting the township place a reduced speed limit on the road, since they have observed a lot of traffic coming off Highway 169 at high speed and not slowing down.

The board heard that the main permanent dock at the Stuntz Bay Landing was damaged by ice and high water. The dock is owned by the Stuntz Bay Association and is main-

tained as a private launch. The Stuntz Bay Association is looking at options for a rolling or floating dock, as well as possibly turning the dock over to the DNR, which would mean it would become a public landing.

Police report

Police Chief Dan Reing reported there were 72 calls in May, as of May 24. There was one arrest for domestic assault and one citation for speed (18 mph over speed limit). Reing attended the Iron Range Chiefs Association meeting and discussed ideas for holding more regional trainings for officers, which would reduce training costs.

Other business

In other business the town board:

► Approved purchasing new surface material for the playground at the recreation area. The cost will

be approximately \$3,000.

► Is still waiting for a quote on dust control for the gravel roads. The township will only move ahead if this can be done prior to July 4.

► Will survey township properties for blight and send out letters if needed.

► Accepted the resignation of fire department training officer Cade Gornick, fire department member Anthony Broten, and police department part-time staff George Burger.

► Will set a time to negotiate with the police union, and voted to enroll the new police staff into PERA.

► Heard that Sen. Tina Smith’s staff will be hosting a forum about housing at the Breitung Community Center on Wednesday, June 15 at 9 a.m.



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FLOOD...Continued from page 1

precipitation. Instead, the system blew through in two days, dropping an average of close to two inches across the basin with locally heavier showers and damaging high winds in some areas, but by Tuesday, Duluth National Weather Service (NWS) Meteorologist Joe Moore had a decidedly sunnier outlook to provide.

“This was pretty much the last chance for notable precipitation in the next six to ten days,” Moore told the *Timberjay*. “It looks like a great dry weather pattern for northern Minnesota, which is great news for the flooding.”

Moore said that the rain would create a “little bump” in stream flows as the moisture works its way through the basin, but that the recent trend of decreasing inflows into the basin would continue.

“It’s not like we’re going to see a significant push anything like what’s been going on,” he said.

The drier weather pattern also means that chances for setting all-time highs have decreased. “At this point it looks like we’re probably going to fall short of that 1916 level for Kabetogama and Namakan, which is certainly good news,” Moore said. That 1916 record pre-dates formalized controls on water levels in the region and also occurred before there was much residential or commercial development, like resorts, on the lakes affected by the flooding.

This year’s flooding has already surpassed anything experienced in the past century, including the previous high water mark, set in 1950, and while the rate of rise has slackened, more water is still flowing into the basin than is flowing out. Monday’s NWS projection was for Namakan Lake to rise another one to two inches, peaking on June 5 and then beginning to fall. Rainy Lake is projected to rise eight to 11 inches during the same period, but will continue rising into the following week, regardless of precipitation.

“Areas currently experiencing flooding and having to perform mitigation measures will likely continue to deal with these issues for the foreseeable future,” the NWS Monday update said. “Lake levels will likely continue to rise into June and continue to cause extensive damage to docks and shoreline property.”

Activity continued apace throughout the region to try to blunt the impact of the flooding. After a short pause

over the weekend, volunteers in Crane Lake were back in full force on Monday at the sandbag operation at Anderson’s.

“Thank you everyone from cabin owners, locals in town and outside our community, guests staying at resorts, staff and local businesses who helped sandbag today and from the beginning of this horrible record-breaking flooding,” said Beth Bak in a social media post. “We did approximately 1,890 bags today for a total of 11,390 bags. Donations coming in from people who can’t make it, it’s been amazing!”

But as the sandbag barriers rise around resorts and homes, they’re in danger of toppling after being pounded by waves generated not by nature, but by boats.

No-wake zones have been established on all of the lakes in the Rainy River Basin, requiring that boaters within 300 feet of shore throttle down to eliminate damaging waves. Apparently, many watercraft aren’t heeding the warning.

“Folks, we’ve already had reports of sandbag walls falling from boat wakes,” the Kabetogama Fire Department posted on its social media page on Monday. “Resorts, please make sure your rental customers know how dire it is to keep wakes at a minimum of 300 feet away from shorelines. Also, these conditions are extremely dangerous for boaters. Debris can float above and below the surface of the water. Slow down – no wake.”

“Humans appear to present the most immediate threat to the sandbag barriers, as gusty winds over the next few days should have minimal impact,” Moore said.

“Talking to the people affected by the flooding, the south shore of Kab and south shore of Rainy, they’re really sensitive to north winds and east winds,” Moore said. “Most of the stronger winds the next few days are out of the west, so the wave direction should be away from people’s properties, at least through the next five to seven days.”

Moore also reinforced the call for boaters to observe the no-wake zones.

“We don’t want those sandbagged areas to be breached,” he said. “It’s so many hours of backbreaking work – their whole lives are at risk. It’s really critical that people follow these instructions.”

And while a turning point is in sight, flooding conditions won’t be going away any time soon.



Top: Docks and much of the grounds at the Pine Aire Resort on Lake Kabetogama remained underwater this week.

Second from top: A camper makes the best of it, sitting outside his RV at Crane Lake.

Above: Trees peek out from flooded islands on Lake Kabetogama.

Right: Floodwaters approach the Kettle Falls Hotel and cover the walkway between the dock and the hotel.

Timberjay photos by M. Helmberger and D. Colburn

See more photos online at www.timberjay.com





SPORTS

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SPORTS HISTORY

A half century of girls running fast

Back in 1972, Title IX had opened up a new world for girls, and many wanted a piece of it

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- “We didn’t have track shoes,” said Margie (Grahek) Johnson, “we just had little white tenners.”

But those little white tenners were enough to get this Tower-Soudan ninth grader a trip to the first ever Minnesota State Girls Track Meet in 1972.

That year was an important one for girls’ sports. Congress passed Title IX, a federal civil rights law that was part of the Education Amendments of

1972. The law prohibited sex-based discrimination in any school or any other education program that receives funding from the federal government. While it wasn’t specifically aimed at sports, especially at the high school level, the passage was instrumental in expanding the opportunity for girls to compete at both high school and college levels.

And as the first-ever state-sanctioned girls sport at the Tower-Soudan High School, the track program influenced generations of families, both for the new student athletes and

their coach Carol Alstrom.

The first year

It was Margie’s first year of track. The school had a new physical education teacher, Carol Alstrom, who had started teaching in Tower the year before. In 1971 she started an informal track program. In 1972, the program became official, and 70 high school students signed up.

“It was nuts,” said Carol. “It was a lot.”

Not only did Carol have to figure out how to coach 70 girls new to the sport, but she also

Right: Margie Grahek, later Margie Johnson, poses with her track coach Carol Alstrom back in 1972, when she qualified for the first-ever Minnesota State Girls Track Meet.

submitted photo

had to contend with not having a track or track equipment.

“We ran mostly in Soudan, on the streets and backroads,” she said. Carol recruited volunteers to help build hurdles and to build a pit for practicing the

See **GIRLS...**pg. 4B



7A PLAYOFFS

Wolves stun Barnum with seventh inning rally

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

AURORA— A dramatic seventh-inning rally over Barnum here on Tuesday, left the Timberwolves flying high during the first two games of double elimination in the Section 7A tournament.

Ely made it to the winner’s bracket contest after crushing Littlefork-Big Falls 10-0 earlier in the day.

In the nightcap, the Bombers had held Ely scoreless through five innings and were up 4-0 as the sixth got underway. Occasional rain showers and high winds plagued both teams throughout the contest, but Ely errors had proved more costly up to that point. But the Ely bats, which had been held in check by Bombers’ pitching, began to come alive in the final two innings. In the sixth, senior Mason Davis and juniors Preston Hines and Joey Bianco all had hits as Ely added two runs to the board to cut the Barnum lead in half. The Bombers added two more runs on a couple of Ely errors in the top of the seventh, taking what seemed to be an insurmountable lead into the bottom of the final frame.

But that’s when Ely blew it open with a five-run scoring blitz. A critical Barnum error allowed Ely junior Erron Anderson to reach first. Then Davis ripped a single, followed by a walk to load the bases. Ely junior Logan Loe was hit by a pitch to score Anderson, who was sitting at third. Senior Eddie Prijatel drew yet another walk, cutting the Barnum lead to 6-4. Senior Jacob Towley, who

See **ELY BOYS...**pg. 4B



BASEBALL

Ely wraps up regular season with a win

Late rally tops Deer River; lifts Wolves after earlier losses

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

DEERRIVER— Freshman Cade Chittum rapped a two-run single in the top of the sixth and notched a save from the mound in the bottom of the seventh as he helped lead Ely to a 7-5 come-from-behind victory over the Warriors in their regular-season finale here last Friday.

The Wolves headed into the Section 7A playoffs, which kicked off Tuesday, as the third-seed, with a 14-6 record.

Friday’s game marked a nice recovery after back-to-back losses earlier in the week.

Junior Joey Bianco had a hot bat against the Warriors as well, notching three hits,

Above: Ely sophomore pitcher Andrew Marolt winds to deliver during last Thursday’s home contest against Chisholm.

Right: Ely junior Joey Bianco outhustles an infield hit for a single.

photos by K. Vandervort

including a two-out double in the top of the seventh to give Ely an insurance run. Sophomore Drew Marolt had singled to start the final frame and Bianco’s hit brought pinch runner Sam Leeson home. Chittum and senior Harry Simons both had two hits on the afternoon.

Junior pitcher Gunnar Hart started for Ely and went four innings, giving up three runs on six hits. Sophomore Brecken



Sandberg pitched two innings of relief, giving up two runs on two hits, while fanning four Warrior batters.

Friday’s win came on the heels of Ely’s 7-5 loss to Two Harbors as a three-run seventh-inning Ely rally fell short. Junior hurler Logan Loe took the loss, giving up six runs on 11 hits through five innings, while striking out four. Senior Chase Sandberg paced Ely with three hits and three RBIs, while

Bianco and sophomore Deegan Richards added two hits apiece for the Wolves.

Also, on Thursday, the Wolves struggled against Chisholm pitcher Jude Sunquist, who fanned 14 Ely batters, while giving up just one run on five hits to lead the Bluestreaks to a 6-1 win. Sunquist added two doubles and an RBI to help his cause

See **BASEBALL...**pg. 4B

GRIZZLIES GOLF

Girls team, Kleppe, earn state golf berths

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- The North Woods girls’ golf team is headed to the state Class A tournament after claiming the Section 7A championship last week on May 25-26 in Virginia.

North Woods sophomore Tori Olson made a solo trip to state last year as a freshman, but this year she’ll have plenty of company as the first-place

Right: Six North Woods golfers will be competing in the Class A state tournament in Becker on June 14-15 after turning in qualifying performances at the Section 7A tournament in Virginia. Members of the qualifying first-place girls team include, from left, Abbigail Shuster, Morgan Burnett, Haley Bogdan, Madison Dantes, and Tori Olson. Davis Kleppe qualified for the boys.

submitted photo

Grizzlies’ two-day total of 780 strokes was 52 better than runner-up Pine River-Backhus.

Olson placed second in the tourney, firing 86-87 for a 173 total, just two more than top medalist Kianna Johnson

of Walker-Hackensack-Akeley, who was trying to qualify individually.

While Olson has been a consistent low scorer for the

See **GOLF...**pg. 4B





Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

MESABI TRAIL

Tower to Ely stretch nears completion

Trail officials still seeking a workable route to connect Tower to County Rd. 26

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Construction is now underway on the final two segments of the Mesabi Trail that will connect Tower and Ely, and both segments should be completed later this spring or summer. It marks a major milestone in the now nearly quarter-century long effort to

complete the 145-mile-long trail stretching from Grand Rapids to Ely.

Trail contractors Low-Impact Excavating began work on the roughly three-mile stretch from County Rd. 88 to Ely last week. The segment should be fully built and paved by the end of August, according to longtime trail director Bob Manzoline.

Meanwhile, work on a

roughly two-and-a-half-mile section of the trail in the Wolf Creek area has been underway for some time and Manzoline said he expects that contractor Mesabi Bituminous should have the trail completed and paved by the end of the month. That segment of trail had been delayed by a reluctant landowner, but Manzoline said the landowner eventually agreed to sell the necessary

land, rather than provide an easement.

While this summer's work will complete the trail between Ely and Tower, it won't be the final connection. That designation will fall to the stretch between Tower and County Rd. 26, which is still in the planning stage. The reluctance of several

See **TRAIL...pg. 3B**



THE NEIGHBORS

Bandits in the brush

Their "witchity-witchity-witchity call is a common sound in the North Country

Don't look now, but there's a masked male hiding in a brushy thicket near you. There's no need to worry, however, since I'm talking about one of our more abundant warblers, known as the common yellowthroat, whose bandit's mask is undoubtedly its most distinctive feature.

This species is also among our later arriving warblers, typically showing up here in the North Country in late May, primed to take advantage of our annual insect explosion to raise another brood, and maybe more. Every year, they loudly announce their arrival in the area with their "witchity-witchity-witchity" call, usually from a nearby alder or willow thicket.

Like most warblers, yellowthroats zero in on a specific habitat, which in their case almost always involves wet areas with nearby brushy thickets. Here in the North Country, that usually involves alder, willows, dwarf birch, or young or stunted tamarack, although they can adapt to a wide range of different circumstances across their large breeding range. They have one of the largest breeding ranges of any warbler, extending from northern Georgia to the Yukon. They're a somewhat furtive

Above: A male common yellowthroat in the heavy cover of a willow thicket.

Right: A maskless female yellowthroat peers out from dense alder.

photos by M. Helmsberger

bird, as you might guess, but the males can be pretty aggressive at defending their territory, often resorting to a wing-flutter and scolding chatter when confronted by a rival. They have reason

for their concern, since their mates aren't always as faithful as one might think. Female yellowthroats, which lack the prominent mask, are known to sing as well as the males, and their songs frequently attract other potential mates. The female yellowthroats aren't

averse to two-timing, which is perhaps one reason the males work hard at fending off interlopers.

Of course, it takes two to tango, so it's clear that the male of the species is willing to step out when the occasion presents itself. It may all be focused on maximizing their progeny, but it's hard not to recognize that birds have plenty of soap opera in their lives, just like we humans.



Let's just say there's a lot going on out there in the bushes.

And while there is plenty of debate around the subject in the human world, it turns out that size matters when it comes to yellowthroats. The size of the male's black mask, that is. The size of the mask can vary

significantly between individuals and studies have found that males with larger masks tend to have better luck attracting a mate, as well as the occasional paramour.

Perhaps yellowthroats just

See **YELLOW...pg. 3B**

Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower

LEATHERLEAF



As the name suggest, the **Leatherleaf**, *Chamaedaphne calyculata* has a tough leathery leaf that's designed to last more than one year.

This is a low flowering shrub, a member of the heath family, which includes blueberries and, like blueberries, they have a small, white, waxy, bell-like flower that appears quite early in the season. Unlike blueberries, however, they grow in a straight line along outer plant stems and don't produce a delicious berry.

This is a plant of the bog and you'll often find it lining wet ditches in boggy areas, mixed in with Labrador tea and bog laurel, both of which will soon be blooming as well.

The leatherleaf can be told from Labrador tea by the lack of fuzz on the underside of the leaves, and from the bog laurel by the latter's showy magenta flowers.

Fishing reports

Ely area

Walleye fishing continues to be very good for anglers. With water temps hovering around 55-degrees, the bait of choice can be difficult to figure out, lake by lake. A jig and a minnow continues to be the most productive bait right now, but soft plastics, crankbaits and a leech fished under a bobber, all are effective as well.

Thankfully, depth range has been consistent, with 14-17 feet of water during the day proving to be the most productive. During the evening, a slip bobber and a leech, fished right off shore is slowly getting better and better. We want the water temps to hit 60 before it's at its best.

Smallmouth bass are starting to show up in anglers' daily catches. Many anglers have been reporting bass up on their beds. Anglers have simply been fishing slow in shallow, rocky bays with tube jigs, Ned rigs and suspending jerk baits, to catch them.

Pike anglers continue to catch good quality pike in the shallow bays and around river mouths. Anglers have been catching them with large suckers, under a bobber. For pike anglers unable to find suckers, large spoons, large spinnerbaits and large streamers will work just as well.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors in Ely.



Near Kettle Falls Hotel, the lime green of fresh aspen leaves contrast with the dark green of pine, spruce, and water looking north to Rainy Lake.
photo by M. Helmlinger, flight courtesy Adventure Seaplanes, 612-749-1337 for flight information.

TRAIL...Continued from page 2B

landowners to grant easements along a former rail grade has complicated planning for the roughly five-mile-long stretch. "We've been beating the bushes looking for a route," said Manzoline, who noted that the situation may push a significant portion of the trail into the Hwy. 135 right-of-way. While a manageable approach, road corridors typically lack the scenic qualities trail officials have tried to emphasize.

Assuming a route is finalized, Manzoline said he expects, or at least hopes, that construction of the final segment will be completed next year, just in time for Manzoline to call it a career. Manzoline, who has spearheaded the construction of the trail since the beginning, plans to retire once the final segment is in place.

In fact, the St. Louis and Lake Counties Rail Authority, which oversees the trail, has already hired Manzoline's eventual replacement, Sarah Ciochetto, who was recently brought on as deputy director. Manzoline said he's ready to fade into retirement after more than 20 years of trail planning, seeking trail funding, and overseeing trail construction. He said he expected the trail would take 10-15 years to build, not 25, but that funding issues created considerable delays at various points along the way. "That was the biggest obstacle," said Manzoline. "Having to wait for funding."

Despite the waiting, Manzoline said there was always plenty to do to advance the trail. "It's a three-stage process," noted Manzoline. "You were always planning one segment, working on land acquisition for another, or involved in actual construction."

The timeline was so extended that the rail authority will begin resurfacing one of the original segments of the trail, which runs through Tower, later this year. The segment would have been resurfaced last year, but the rail authority decided to coordinate its work with sewer upgrades undertaken along the corridor in recent months by the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board.

Manzoline is hopeful that the resurfacing can be completed this summer, but the project is currently on hold while he waits for approval from a DNR hydrologist, who is reviewing and needs to sign off on bridge plans for reconstruction of the trail's bridge across the East Two River, near Junction Road. Manzoline said he needs an okay soon in order to get bids approved and have a contractor in place for the work during this year's construction season.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
60 40				66 42				64 40				63 41				63 42			
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.
05/23	55	30	0.00	05/23	54	28	0.00	05/23	55	30	0.00	05/23	64	37	0.01	05/23	53	35	0.00
05/24	63	37	0.00	05/24	64	34	0.00	05				05/24	70	45	0.00	05/24	62	35	0.00
05/25	72	45	0.00	05/25	71	42	0.00	No readings at presstime				05/25	55	45	0.00	05/25	70	41	0.00
05/26	54	46	0.23	05/26	53	43	0.23	05				05/26	64	46	0.10	05/26	54	42	0.20
05/27	58	33	0.01	05/27	58	30	0.00	05				05/27	75	39	0.00	05/27	60	31	0.00
05/28	76	39	0.00	05/28	76	30	0.11	05				05/28	61	48	0.00	05/28	75	35	0.00
05/29	59	52	0.09	05/29	59	47	0.01	05				05/29	66	54	0.00	05/29	60	52	0.18
YTD Total 7.21				YTD Total 8.36				YTD Total 9.37				YTD Total NA NA				YTD Total 11.31			

YELLOW...Continued from page 2B

have to work harder because they're a common target of our most common nest parasite, the brown-headed cowbird, which lays their own, typically larger, eggs in other birds' nests. Yellowthroats have developed some defenses, including starting new nests right on top of the old parasitized one.

The females select the nest sites, which are usually located near the ground, but rarely on the ground since they often nest in wet areas. It's well-concealed, often tucked into a

patch of old cattails or reeds, sometimes with an accompanying roof that provides additional protection for the nestlings. The young birds develop incredibly quickly, going from a freshly laid egg to a fledged bird in just over three weeks.

Despite the contrasting colors of the male yellowthroat, they can be difficult to spot, even when singing. Other than their yellow throats, this bird is mostly olive drab, so it blends in well in the thick vegetation that is their primary

habitat. But they can often be coaxed into revealing themselves through "pishing," which is a soft, scolding shushing sound that birders often make to attract a bird's attention. It won't hold their interest long, but yellowthroats are generally curious and will pop out of the heavy cover to get a look at who or what is making that racket, and it may well give you the chance to get a look at this colorful bird.

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DRAIN

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- Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
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DRY

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SECTION 7A GIRLS SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Timberwolves make quick exit from playoffs

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

GRAND RAPIDS – The Timberwolves suffered a quick exit from the Section 7A girls softball tournament played here last Thursday, falling first to Cherry and then North Woods in the consolation round.

The Wolves prevented a rout even as they faced long odds against the Tigers in a 7-0 loss. We were playing the best of the best in our section,” said Ely Head Coach Cory Lassi. “We faced a pitcher that is very dominant and threw a perfect game against us last year.”

Ely pitcher Katrina Seliskar gave up 11 hits in the contest, but

she kept them mostly scattered, which helped limit Cherry’s run totals. Yet, a run here and run there allowed the Tigers to rack up more than enough runs against Ely’s well-contained batters. Cherry’s pitcher fanned a whopping 15 Ely batters, while issuing no walks.

“We had some good at-bats, fouling some pitches off and working the count, and I was pleased with how we battled,” Lassi added. Ely hitters Charly Flom, Kate Coughlin and Raven Saino all managed to reach base for Ely.

“Defensively, I thought we played really well,” Lassi said. “We gave up 11 hits, but it didn’t seem like we were just getting shelled.”

The Wolves seemed poised for a comeback in the consolation round as they came out swinging, grabbing a 5-0 lead over North Woods early, but the Grizzlies pushed back to keep the score close. Tied at six in the sixth-inning, the Grizzlies racked up seven runs to blow the game wide open.

Down 13-6, the Wolves did their best in their final at-bat, but a four-run inning wasn’t enough to bridge the gap. “I was really proud with how the girls battled. We got to the point where we had the tying run on deck,” he said. “They didn’t give up.”

Ely batters recorded 16 hits in the game, including four hits each for Kate Coughlin and Clare Thomas, who hit a double. Rachel

Coughlin also doubled on two hits. Seliskar added two hits. The team drew four walks and had three strikeouts.

On the mound, Zoe MacKenzie allowed seven hits. She had two strikeouts and allowed five walks.

“A lot of good came out of this season,” Lassi said. “I knew that we had a lot of girls gone at various times throughout the year. We played 18 games and only had our full line up for six of those games. That provided opportunities for other players to step in and get experience. That only bodes well for next year.”

The Timberwolves will have big shoes to fill in 2023, with three full-time starters graduating this week.

Kate Coughlin led the Timberwolves this season with 29 hits and 31 RBIs in 58 plate appearances. She had seven doubles, a triple and a homerun. Charly Flom and Katrina Seliskar led the team with 63 at-bats each. Flom had 23 hits, including two doubles and a triple, and scored 28 runs. Seliskar added 15 hits.

As a team, The Timberwolves had 64 stolen bases in 18 games this year, led by Clare Thomas with 14. Flom added 13. Kate Coughlin added 12. And Zoe MacKenzie had six.

Seliskar finished her senior year on the mound with an 8-3 record. She gave up 101 hits over 65 innings, struck out 43 batters, and walked 27.

Grizzlies out of playoffs on a double dose of Silver Bay

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

CLOQUET- Silver Bay was a double dose of trouble for the North Woods softball team in the 7A sectional tournament, as the Mariners bumped the Grizzlies out of the event with a 9-1 win in their elimination round game on Tuesday.

After steamrolling Northeast Range 24-0 in the opening round, the third-seeded Grizzlies drew Silver Bay for a second-round game on May 26 in Grand Rapids. The sixth-seeded Mariners beat Mt. Iron-Buhl 10-7 in their tourney opener.

Silver Bay jumped out to an early 4-0 lead with two unearned runs in the first inning and a pair of runs on an RBI single in the second. Mariners hurler Danika Thompson shackled North Woods

hitters through three innings, and reliever Hope Ernest did the same in the fourth.

Karah Scofield got the Grizzlies on the board in the fifth when she smacked a single to bring home River Cheney, and a grounder by Addy Hartway brought Lauren Burnett home to narrow the gap to 4-2. Skyler Yernatich reached base on a fielding error, scoring Scofield, and Hartway knotted the game at 4-4 when she stole home.

The Mariners got to North Woods pitcher Evelyn Brodeen for three singles, a double, and a walk in the top of the seventh inning, scoring four runs to put the Grizzlies in an 8-4 hole going into their last at-bat.

North Woods rallied with an RBI single by Hartway and a two-run double by Brodeen, but came up one run short, losing

8-7 to drop into the elimination bracket.

Win over Ely

A familiar foe, the Ely Timberwolves, awaited the Grizzlies in the next game. The Wolves won their opening game against Cromwell-Wright before being knocked into the elimination bracket courtesy of a 7-0 loss to Cherry.

North Woods and Ely met twice in the regular season, with the Grizzlies winning both.

A hallmark of this year’s North Woods squad has been keeping cool under pressure, with multiple come-from-behind wins on its resume, and they had to draw on that experience again after Ely scored five runs in their first three at-bats.

Yernatich slammed a bases-loaded triple in the bottom of the third, then scored on an Avery Thiel grounder to make

the score 5-4.

After Ely added another run in the top of the fourth, the Grizzlies responded with an RBI single by Hartway and an unearned run by Burnett on an error to tie the game 6-6.

Ely pitcher Zoe MacKenzie got off to a rough start in the bottom of the sixth, walking the first three Grizzlies she faced and then giving up a run on a wild pitch. North Woods took quick advantage with an RBI single by Hartway and a two-run double by Helen Koch to go up 10-6. Koch came around to score on a single by Thiel, Yernatich scored on an error, and Cheney, in her second at-bat of the inning, hit a double to drive home Ella Cornelius for the Grizzlies’ seventh run of the inning and a 13-6 lead.

The Wolves mounted a comeback with four runs in the top of the seventh, but came up

short, exiting the tourney with the 13-10 loss.

Mariners again

The Grizzlies had a chance for payback on Tuesday as Silver Bay fell into the elimination bracket courtesy of a 5-3 loss to Cherry.

However, with Hope Ernest on the mound again for the Mariners, the North Woods offense couldn’t get on track. The Grizzlies mustered a solitary run in the fourth inning when Burnett ripped an RBI double, and had only five hits for the game.

Silver Bay broke the game open late, scoring seven runs in the final two innings for a 9-1 win.

North Woods finished the season with a record of 12-4. The Grizzlies improved on last year’s sectional tournament performance when they were eliminated in three games.

GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

long jump.

“We dug a long jump pit on the west end of the Tower field,” she said. “I used to go to Embarrass to get sawdust chips every year. I had to borrow someone’s pickup.”

It wasn’t ideal, Carol admitted, but for her team, it was often life changing.

“At that time, I was really, really shy,” said Margie. “I remember all the support from people in town. It was quite a thrill.”

Margie qualified for that first state meet in the long jump, an event she was introduced to by Alstrom.

“I don’t think Margie will ever forget that trip to state,” said Carol.

She also went to state the following year, this time wearing actual track shoes. Her junior year she injured her hip, which ended her long jump career, but Margie continued to compete in running events, though she didn’t again earn a state track berth.

Coaching track

Carol was first introduced to track at Bemidji State University. She was a softball player and played for Bemidji State her fresh-

man and sophomore years, but then the college dropped the sport.

“I needed something to do with my time,” she said. “So, I tried track. I knew nothing about it.”

Alstrom went on to compete in the shot put, discus, javelin, and softball throw. After she graduated, she took her first (and only) teaching job at Tower-Soudan, where she worked to teach the track skills she had learned to the eager group of girls she was coaching.

Athleticism ran in Alstrom’s family. While Carol got to travel to that first state girls track meet with Margie, she also got to watch her own sister compete.

Susan Alstrom, a student at International Falls High School, had also earned a spot at that inaugural 1972 state meet. She won the first gold medal of the event for shot put, and she also took gold in discus. Susan, like her older sister, went on to teach and coach girls’ sports.

In a recent interview with KARE 11 news, Susan spoke about her early experiences.

“You know, it upset the boys. Yeah. Of course, we were stepping in their territory,” said Susan, who ran for the International Falls team.

“It changed my life entirely,” Susan said. “I was thinking about going pre-med. And after that, I’m like, you know, I’ve got to do something where as many girls can get this opportunity as possible. So, I kind of changed my whole major and my whole focus in life.”

Girls sports continue

Carol Alstrom kept the track team going for most of her career at Tower-Soudan. In later years, softball became more popular, and she turned her coaching attention in that direction.

“Sports gave the girls so many opportunities,” she said. “They were so excited to be able to do something.”

Alstrom had plenty of memories to share about her time leading the track program.

Coaching track in northern Minnesota also meant contending with cold spring weather.

“I have pictures of us practicing in two feet of

snow,” she said.

Track is unique among high school sports, Alstrom noted, because each team member got to try individual events.

“I worked to find their best event,” she said, “and sometimes what they thought they wanted to do wasn’t what they were good at. Everybody wanted to be a sprinter.”

Alstrom coached many successful teams and won some meets against much larger schools.

“There was only one all-weather track and that was in Grand Rapids,” she said. “There were often 20 schools that would show up for track meets on the weekend.”

Over the years, she coached several Tower-Soudan athletes who qualified for the state meet, including Julie (Abrahamson) Suihkonen, Jeralyn Heikkila, and Linda (Micklich) Schmidt. A few boys trained alongside her girls’ team over the years, and one of them, Carl Dagan, also earned a trip to state.

She remembered coaching Dean Salo, an eighth grader who fell

over one of the hurdles and fell face-first onto the cinder-covered track.

“He heard me hollering to get up and finish,” Alstrom said, “and he did. When he started his pilot training and would run into an obstacle, all he could keep thinking about was my yelling at him to get up and finish.”

Carol was an outsized influence for many of her students in Tower-Soudan, both athletes and those just stuck with her for PE class. Carol even introduced eventual husband, Randy.

“She was my mentor and my everything,” said Margie. “She was such a strong force.”

And while track ran in the Alstrom family, Margie also got to pass the love of the sport to her own daughter Whitney (Johnson) Cobby.

“I don’t remember her ever pushing me much,” Whitney said. “I liked to be active and involved in high school sports.”

Both Whitney and her older sister Courtney played team sports, but Whitney was also drawn to the individual competition

of track.

Whitney, like her mother, excelled in the long jump and triple jump, but also competed in other running events. She competed in the section meet in 2005, hitting 33’6.5” inches in the triple jump and a time of 1:57.43 in the 4x200 meter relay, but not quite fast or far enough to earn a trip to state. Whitney went on to run track at University of Wisconsin-Superior but had to stop after an injury.

But there might be more track in the Grahek/Johnson/Cobby family line. Margie has been talking with her granddaughter Harper Cobby, who is only eight, about competing in track when she gets to high school.

“It would be a good sport for her,” said Margie.

And maybe someday Carol will get to meet the third generation of her first track team. Carol has also been a long-time volunteer official at the state meet, so perhaps she will meet the children and grandchildren of those she coached over so many years.

The Wolves were slated to be back in action on Thursday, when they’ll face Cherry at 2 p.m. in Aurora. A victory will advance Ely to the semi-fi-

ELY BOYS...Continued from page 1B

came in as a pinch hitter, reached on an error, driving in two more runs to tie the game. The Bombers intentionally walked Bianco, who has been hot at the

plate all season, to reload the bases. But that left Chittum, another tough customer for pitchers, and when he ripped a sacrifice fly, it easily drove in the

winning run, completing a remarkable comeback for a walk-off win.

The Wolves preceded their exciting finish with an easy, 10-0 rout over

the Vikings in a game that was ten-run in the fifth. Davis threw four innings of one-hit ball, striking out five, to notch the win. Bianco and sophomore

Deegan Richards led the Wolves at the plate, with two hits apiece. Richards ended up with four RBIs and a triple, while Bianco added a double and a triple.

BASEBALL...Continued from page 1B

as Chisholm broke open a 2-0 game in the top of the fourth, adding four runs with help from four walks and two hit batters.

Bianco managed to do Ely’s only real damage

against Sunquist, connecting for two hits, including a double to score Ely’s only run.

The Wolves had better success against Northeast Range pitchers last

Wednesday, as they notched a 9-3 win in a five-inning contest shortened by rain. Northeast Range drew first blood but their 1-0 first inning lead didn’t last long as Ely scored four

runs in the bottom of the frame. Loe doubled and Bianco singled to lead the charge. The Wolves added four more in the second inning, helped by two NER errors. Richards rapped a

three-run double to give Ely what proved to be an insurmountable 8-1 lead at that point.

Junior Erron Anderson pitched all five innings, allowing just three runs on

two hits, while issuing five walks and striking out five. Anderson helped his cause with a single and an RBI.

GOLF...Continued from page 1B

team this season it was the Grizzlies’ strength down the lineup that set them up for the championship. Senior Morgan Burnett claimed fifth place with a two-day total of 186. Sophomore

Madison Dantes was 20 strokes back in tenth place with 206, and senior Haley Bogdan was right on her heels in 12th with a 213. Abigail Shuster rounded out the scoring for North

Woods with a 231, placing 17th.

Boys field

With a realigned sectional featuring powerhouse Duluth-Marshall,

which won the team title by 57 strokes over Waler-Hackensack-Akeley, sixth-place North Woods still came through with a state qualifier, Davis Kleppe.

Kleppe led the East

Range Conference in scoring average this season, and he came through with rounds of 79 and 78 in the sectional tourney for a 157 total, placing fourth in the 53-man field.

The Class A tournament will be contested June 14-15 at Pebble Creek Golf Club in Becker.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Donald R. Price
Donald "Don" Raymond Price, 87, died peacefully at his home on Lake Vermilion on Monday, May 23, 2022. A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, June 10 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service.

Don was born in Everett, Pa., to Melvin Celson Price and Ethel Mae Calhoun. Don lived in 15 different states because of his father's occupation. The state of Washington was one of his favorites, where his father helped build the Grand Coulee Dam. While attending high school there, he was asked to play a trumpet-solo intro to "Hail to the Chief" for Harry Truman, who was dedicating the completed dam. He continued playing his trumpet throughout his life as a member of many bands and drum and bugle corps. In later years, he enjoyed attending concerts with his wife and friends. He graduated from Teddy Roosevelt High School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1953 and attended Junior College in Virginia, Minn., graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree. He then completed an electrical apprenticeship program to become a licensed electrician.

Don met Marcia Vos and they were married in 1956; they made their home in Cedar Rapids for eleven years while raising three children. The family made wonderful friends there but decided to embark on a new adventure, returning to Minnesota to buy and operate Vos Resort from Marcia's parents Marvin and Jeanette Vos in 1969. Don started a marine business on the lake and after twenty years sold the resort but moved Up North Marine Sales and Service to Cook. These years of public service and traveling gave them the opportunity to meet and make lifetime friends with people across the country. Don and Marcia retired on Lake Vermilion at Paradise Point and win-

tered at Goodland, Fla., for years, until acquiring an RV to once again travel the country, often to places Don once lived.

Being retired also gave Don more time for his hobbies and his "toys" which included airplanes, cars, and countless other things that moved. His passion for flying started at a young age by building model airplanes and he constantly had an airplane, large or small, being rebuilt or constructed from a kit in his shops. He began flight instruction in his teens to become a pilot, and continued flying a floatplane all his life. Don helped form an EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) Group while living in Cedar Rapids, and tried to attend the Wisconsin Oshkosh Fly-in and Convention every year. He also enjoyed modifying cars and took pride in keeping all vehicles - new and classic - in top shape. Don spent hours kicking tires at classic car events such as Back to the Fifties in St. Paul, where he recently showed his latest classic car, a 1957 Chevy.

Don forever stayed busy doing projects for himself, family and friends. He belonged to organizations such as car clubs, helped organize the Cook St. Louis County Rescue Squad, and was a member and officer for lake and resort associations. He was committed to the churches where he lived and a member of Cook Trinity Lutheran Church. He reminisced about how he braved climbing the church tower when first installing the bell. Although not always active, he was also proud to be a lifetime Masonic member.

Don loved life and loved sharing time on Lake Vermilion with friends and family, joining with other pilot and car guys, meeting the gang on Wednesday for lunch at South Switch or The Landing, sharing his pecan beverage, tackling a sausage pizza at the VC or finding a place that made chocolate malts as good as he made for guests at the resort. (Wendy's and Gordy's were close contenders.) One of his first jobs was being a soda jerk and he started young finding assorted jobs to help finance his love for "toys" and to buy gas for "cruising".

His continual devotion, assistance, and fix-it advice will be missed by all.

Don will be deeply missed by his wife of 65 years, Marcia; son, Dave (Deb) Price; daughters,

Diane (Mark) Pascuzzi and Deb (Dave) Stehlik; six grandchildren, Kevin (Jess) Best, Tony (Amanda) Pascuzzi, Gina (Justin) Nukala, Kelsey (Cam) Roemhildt, Taylor Stehlik (Michael O'Meara) and Connor Stehlik; and ten great-grandchildren, Izzy, Vinny, Josey and Charlie Pascuzzi, Kaleb and Ava Best, Logan and Addison Roemhildt, Natalie O'Meara and Avery Nukala.



Elsie E. Maturi
Elsie Edith Maturi, 87, of Virginia, passed away on Sunday, May 22, 2022. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 11 at Calvary Lutheran Church in Orr. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. The family would prefer live plants to flowers. Memorials in honor of Elsie may be made to the Chisholm Library, Orr Ambulance Service, or Calvary Lutheran Church. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Elsie was born to Adam and Hilja (Siltala) Takkinen on Dec. 19, 1934, in Chisholm. She attended school in Chisholm, graduating from Chisholm High School in 1952. Elsie was united in marriage to Melvin Maturi on Sept. 27, 1952, in Van Buren, Ark. Sadly, Melvin passed away in October 2000. Elsie said that if she hadn't married Melvin, she would have wanted him for her best friend, and that he was an honorable and good person. Her companion later in life was Conrad Belfiori, who had graduated from high

school with Elsie. They reconnected at their class reunion five years ago, and had a special love for each other.

Elsie loved to walk her dog Bella three or four miles every day, stopping to talk to everyone wherever she went. She also enjoyed her flower gardens in the summer. Finnish was her first language, and she was fluent in its use, writing letters to her cousins in Finland. She enjoyed traveling, with trips to Finland, Sweden, California, Texas and Maine. One of her favorite fulfillments later in life was helping at the Orr School with Terry Kaiser. She made people laugh, and saw the good in everyone. Her family meant everything to her.

Her family and friends were lucky she was in their lives, and are better people for having known her.

Elsie is survived by her son, Melvin (Carolyn) Maturi, granddaughter, Krystina (Chad) Nickola and great-grandchildren, Kai and Camden; daughter, Cathy (Dean) Rosier, granddaughter Kelly (Easu) Ford and great-grandchild, Mya; granddaughter, Laura Rosier and great-grandchildren, Nolan and Jordan; grandson, Eric (Diana) Rosier and great-grandchildren, Jack and Brendon; wonderful companion, Conrad Belfiori; special friends, Chuck and Netta Thompson, Wendy and Randy Long, Mary Jo Volker, BB Paulson, Tami Beckwith, Kathleen Laakkonen and Sally; and other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and husband, Melvin.

Geraldine Koski
Geraldine Syrjanen Hendrickson Koski, 92, of Ely, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at Ely Bloomenson Hospital in Ely. A memorial service will be held on Friday, June 3, with visitation starting at 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. service at the Ely Gospel Church. Funer-

al arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia.

She is survived by three children, Marty Hendrickson of Aurora, Tami (Craig) Lassi of Babbitt and Jean (Kevin) Nelson of Babbitt; eight grandchildren, Amy, Allison, Joe, Isaac, Nickolas, Katie, Curtis and Jordan (Teila); seven great-grandchildren; and brother, Raymond Syrjanen.

William Palo
William "Bill" Palo, 83, of Ely, passed away on Sunday, March 27, 2022, at Essentia Health-St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 11 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. Visitation will be for one hour prior. Memorials are preferred to the Ely Baseball Association. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Genevieve "Gen" Pirtz Palo; sons, Brian (Jennifer) Palo and Bill (Melanie) Palo; daughter, Suzanne (Mike) Becker; grandchildren, Matt, Katie, Michael and Luke Palo, Ben, Will and Lauren Becker, and Ava and Wyatt Palo; sisters, Irene Wilson, Helen Huovinen, Melia (Tony) Shikonya and Ann Sandys; many nieces and nephews; and good friend and fishing partner, Bill Horvat.

Rose L. Newman
Rose Lee Peshel Newman, 94, of Ely, passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 16, 2022, at Solvay Hospice House in Duluth. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 18 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. Visitation will be for one hour prior. Burial will follow at the Ely Cemetery. Memorials are preferred to an Ely area charity or organization such as Veterans on the Lake Resort or Northwoods Partners. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funer-

al Home of Ely.
She is survived by her sons, Paul (Kris) Newman, John (Pamela) Newman and Mark (Tammy) Newman; and grandchildren, Rachael, Katherine, Nicholas, Caitlin and Brandon.

Rev. Morris E. Janssen
Rev. Morris E. Janssen, 86, of Ely, passed away at the Ely Assisted Living facility on Friday, May 10, 2022. Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, June 5 at Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, June 6 at the Ely Gospel Tabernacle. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his children, Dawn (Chuck) Lukas of Merritt Island, Fla., and David (Jenny) Janssen of New Ulm; grandchildren, Jillian (Darren) Lilja, Amrita (Casey) Peterson and Carter Manning, all of Ely, Bethany Janssen and Nathaniel Janssen, both of New Ulm; great-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren, Beau Peterson, Sophia and Kameron Manning, Mackenzie and Mitchell Peterson, all of Ely; and numerous other relatives and friends.

Darleen F. Johnson
Darleen Faye Thomas Johnson, 89, of Orr, passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 22, 2022. A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 18 at Calvary Lutheran Church in Orr. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

She is survived by her son, Thomas (Brenda) Johnson; daughters, Lori (Joel) Astleford, Wendy (Rick) Deatherage and Marsha Renee (Bobby) Bechtold; grandchildren, Heather, Christianne (Chris), Robert (Alicia), Jennica, Kaitlyn, Tauren (Chris), Molly Margaret, Meghan (Corey) and TJ; 15 great-grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces.

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Northwoods Transfer Station 9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt Summer Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm Tue: 9:30am-3pm Wed: noon-6pm	Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd., Cook Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm
County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp Summer Hours Tues: 1-6pm Thurs: 8am-1pm Sat: 8am-5pm Sun: noon-6pm	Soudan Canister Site 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun: 8am-5pm
Embarrass Canister Site 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30-4:30pm Thu: 10am-5pm	Aurora Transfer Station 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm Sat: 8am-noon
Household Hazardous Waste Facility 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm

Summer hours effective April 15th through September 30th
For solid waste and recycling information go to www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle

St. Louis County Environmental Services Department
1-800-450-9278
Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday

Open Daily: Mon.-Fri. 8 to 8:30, Sat. 8 to 7, Sun. 9-6
5471 Hwy 7 (West Virginia/Mt. Iron) • (218)749-2981

EMPLOYMENT

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



SOUTH SHORE CREAMERY

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South Shore Creamery, 409 Main St. Tower
Apply online at southshorecreamery.com or call 636-474-9290. 6/3



Janitor – Ely

\$18.19-21.46 Hourly
Apply by 06/08/22

Equipment Operator Junior

\$20.55-\$24.81 Hourly • Apply by 06/10/2022

Heavy Equipment Mechanic

\$23.90 Hourly • Continuous

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

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MAIL CARRIER

Hiring for full time and possible part time position for contract mail route in Babbitt.

Starting pay is about \$115/day, average day is 5 hrs.

Must be reliable and have a dependable vehicle. Mandatory background check, drug test and clean driving record required.

Send resume to ross.routes790@gmail.com

Published in the Timberjay, June 3 & 10, 2022



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Adult Day Services

Adult Day Services Director (Current LPN Licensure required)

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PT Dietary Aide/Cook (Wage starting at \$14.18/hr.)

Laboratory

FT Medical Lab Tech

Radiology

FT Radiologic Technologist (Wage starting at \$26.14/hr. \$4,000 Sign-On Bonus)

Activities

PT & Casual Activities Assistant (Wage starting at \$17.36)

Care Center

FT & PT Nursing Assistant (Wage starting at \$17.36/hr - \$1,500 Sign-On Bonus)

FT & PT RN (Wage starting at \$35.17/hr. \$4,000 Sign-On Bonus)

FT & PT LPN (Wage starting at \$19.65/hr. \$4,000 Sign-On Bonus)

Environmental Services

FT, PT & Casual Housekeeping and/or Laundry Aide (Wage starting at \$14.18/hr)

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www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/

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PUBLIC NOTICES

City of Tower Consumer Confidence Report

The 2021 Consumer Confidence Report (Drinking Water Report) for the City of Tower water supply is available for the public to review at Tower City Hall.

This report includes information on the city's water quality testing for 2021.

For more information, you can call Tower City Hall at 218-753-4070.

Published in the Timberjay, June 3, 2022

CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333. The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

Assumed Name: Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 1090 Manitou Park Rd., Tower, MN 55790
NAMEHOLDER(S): Tower-Soudan Chamber of Commerce, 1090 Manitou Park Rd., Tower, MN 55790.

I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

Dated: May 24, 2022
SIGNED BY: Lara Whiteside

Published in the Timberjay, June 3 & 10, 2022

Legal notices are online at timberjay.com

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.

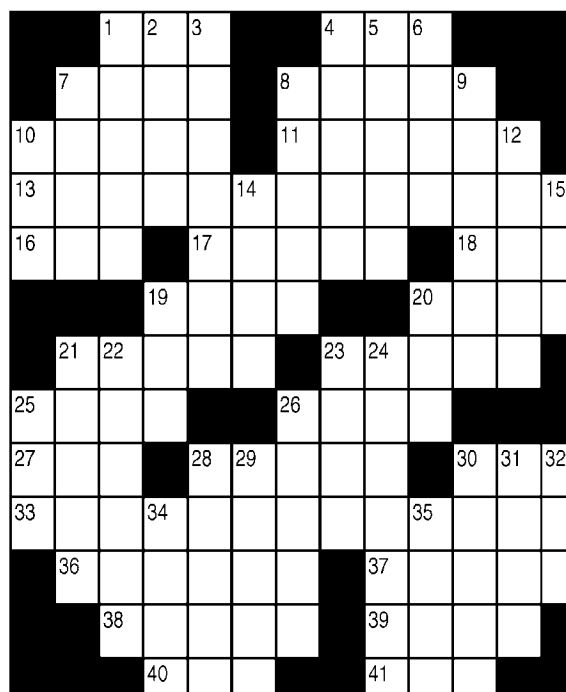
Michael Schultz
City Administrator,
City of Tower

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

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Scratch
4 Hosp. scan
7 Ashen
8 Ridicule
10 Director Forman
11 Seek, as office
13 Breakfast order
16 Simile center
17 Four-star reviews
18 FDR project
19 107, to Cato
20 Actor Johnny
21 Velocity
23 Apple centers
25 And others (Lat.)
26 French cheese
27 Plopped down
28 Pink hue
30 Insult, slangily
33 Steakhouse order
36 Eucalyptus eaters
37 Start of a supplication
38 Move furtively
39 Smile
40 Trail the pack
41 Thesaurus wd.



DOWN

1 Island south of Sicily
2 Oodles
3 Set aside
4 Bea Arthur sitcom
5 Littlest litter-mates
6 Data
7 Name of 12 popes
8 Fountain of Rome
9 Precisely
10 CEO's deg.
12 Answers an invitation
14 Incursion
15 Phone bug
19 Cartoon frame
20 Rap's Dr. —
21 Desolate spots
22 Cookout
23 Beach crawler
24 Drilling platforms
25 Mentalist's claim
26 Invigorating
28 Salsa singer Cruz
29 Borneo ape, for short
30 "Mack the Knife" singer
31 "This — outrage!"
32 Pigs' digs
34 Teen hangout
35 Grand Ole —

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Super Crossword

Answers

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

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by Linda Thistle

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

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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CLASSIC CARS

International car show cruises to Lake Vermilion June 9-12

TOWER — Fortune Bay Resort Casino has been home to several car shows in the past, but auto enthusiasts will see a new twist when the InterMarque Car Club rolls into town with its 2022 Rendezvous.

"You will see a variety of vintage sports cars and vintage motorcars from Saabs to Jaguar sedans to vintage Mini's, from a multitude of countries," said Todd Bjernkes, a longtime club member. "There will be a selection of what we call 'Modern Classics' new body style Minis, Lotus', modern Jaguar sedans, and convertibles. Some of the offerings will be quite rare and unique."

The 2022 Rendezvous takes place June 9-12 with Fortune Bay serving as the headquarters for the estimated 175 club members who are coming from both the U.S. and Canada. Some of the events scheduled include a Thursday night mixer, Friday scenic car cruise and a poker run to the Ely and Tower area, followed by a car show at Fortune Bay from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 11.

"The club has been great to work with," said Fortune Bay's Brian K. Anderson. "They are very detailed oriented and passionate about their hobby. We encourage the public to come out for the free car show to check out these unique automobiles. We'll have live music, featuring Jason Streitz and The Long Odds, plus food and beverages."

Anderson said the InterMarque club is also raising money for the local Boys and Girls Club by having attendees place a dollar or whatever denom-

Intermarque Car Club is chock full of vintage sports cars



Expect to see a wide variety of vintage, classic, and unique new cars from around the world at the public car show on Saturday, June 11 at Fortune Bay.

ination they'd like, into a container set up near each automobile on display at the show. The automobile with the most money in the container will win the People's Choice award.

"That is a really nice touch by the club and the money raised will be put to good use by the Lake Vermilion Boys and Girls Club," said Anderson.

Club member Terry Jacobs said InterMarque started 30 years ago as a way to get individual foreign sports car clubs to commingle and share their love of each other's cars. To further this love, Jacobs said, the InterMarque group began reaching out to include all foreign automobiles makes, models and years. The group focuses on an annual "Spring Kick-Off" each year where they assemble as many cars and owners as possible.

"Our Kick-Off in May took up four blocks of downtown Osseo, so it's a pretty big deal," said Jacobs.

Due to the larger annual event being sidelined for two years because of

the pandemic, Jacobs said he expects to see a wide array of British, French, German, Japanese, Italian, and Swedish cars at the event.

"It's open to all models and there will be some awfully cool cars at our show," said Jacobs. "Many will be from the 50s and 60s but some will be new."

As for a little of the back story, Jacobs said The Rendezvous 2022 represents a tradition of bi-annually hosting the Canadian foreign sports car clubs. He said the last one, which was scheduled for Kenora, Ontario, was canceled for viral reasons.

"That was two years ago," explained Jacobs. "Last fall, a few of us were discussing whose turn it was, so we decided to pitch in and host the Rendezvous. Going north is a tradition we have when we host. It also helps Canadian owners decide to join in when not many miles are involved."

The planning process has been time-consuming, but Jacobs is confident the club made the right choice

in bringing it to the Lake Vermilion area.

"We're looking forward to a fun-filled few days in the Lake Vermilion area," Bjernkes said. "Fortune Bay Resort Casino was selected because of its proximity to the spirited Canadians, the local attractions, and the high quality of the entire facility."

And speaking of the spirited Canadians, Bjernkes said there will be a friendly U.S. versus Canada for the best poker hand after Friday's Poker Run. Stops along the way include Grand Ely Lodge, Ely International Wolf Center, Northern American Bear Center, Soudan Underground Mine, Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum, and finally Fortune Bay.

"That should lend to some good-natured ribbing at the expense of the loser," said Jacobs of the winning poker hand, which will take place in The Woodlands Ballroom Friday at 8 p.m.

While the Rendezvous is a time to focus on the present, Bjernkes said

that another one of InterMarque missions is to recruit a young demographic to help keep the club vibrant.

"Most of the club members have been in the hobby for a number of years," said Bjernkes, who has been in the club for 15 years. "As our members age, we want the excitement of our passion to be passed on to the younger set— we try to do this

through our involvement with charitable shows that are family-friendly."

Jacobs said the list of expected sports cars that will be on display is endless and might just be A to Z, or as he joked, "AC Bristol to Volkswagen."

All in all, Bjernkes said a big part of this event is the way clubs of the upper Midwest get to interact with their neighbors to the north in a socially relaxed atmosphere, with some friendly competition.

"As we venture out on a trip to Rendezvous or any other location, one of the concerns for many vintage car enthusiasts, 'Is everything going to hold together on my pride and joy?'" asked Bjernkes.

"Testing our cars on longer trips is part fear and part pride," explained Jacobs. "Fear that you did not make a repair correctly and pride that you did a correct job. Either way a friend is there to help if necessary, but these cars are reliable and we can't wait to head north to show them off."



Ely-Winton Historical Society

100 Years of College Experiences
Wednesday, June 8 • 7 PM

This History Night will be held in
Vermilion Community College Classroom 104
(Program is FREE but donations are accepted.)

Bill Tefft has spent 45 of his years considering the place of Ely Junior College, Vermilion Community College, and the newly formed Vermilion Campus of MN North and its impact in people's lives. Join him for an evening of looking into the changes over the years – locations and facilities, faculty and staff, student body and programs, services to the immediate area and visitors from around the world.

Join us prior to this event, at 5:00 PM in the Whiteside Park pavilion, for the Ely-Winton Historical Society Annual Meeting, where we will discuss the current happenings in the Society and our plans for the future!

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Mahlia



Owen

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Gage



Dakota



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Friday, June 3 • 7 PM

VCS Class of 2022

Dakota Hanninen, Gage Monsrud, Mahlia Shuster, Owen Stellmach

Class Motto: If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere.

Class Tree: Quaking Aspens

Class Song: "Good Riddance" (Time of Your Life) by Green Day

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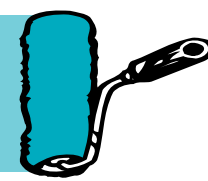
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