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the TIMBERJAY

Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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\$1⁰⁰



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

IRRR grants OK'd for area communities

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRR), on Tuesday, awarded just over \$7.1 million in grants and other funding affecting communities across the Taconite Tax Relief Area. Funded projects included

Tower, Ely, Breitung among major funding recipients

\$461,900 for outdoor recreation in Tower, which was the largest single line item under the trails portion of the grants approved this week.

The city of Ely will receive \$130,755 for planning and design of a new section of ATV trail

and \$150,000 for street improvements. Other northern St. Louis County communities awarded funding this week included Crane Lake, Breitung Township, and the city of Babbitt, while the Ash Lake area will benefit from broadband funds awarded to Paul

Bunyan Communications for a fiber project in that community, located north of Orr.

IRRR officials stressed that it is using its funds, in part, to help communities leverage other sources of state, federal, and local dollars. In the end, the commu-

nity project funding approved Tuesday is expected to leverage a total of \$83 million in total investment.

At the same time, the IRRR board approved a 2023 fiscal year spending plan that totals \$52 million and includes continued financial support dedicated to

See...IRRR pg. 9

MOVING ON



GRADUATION 2022



High school graduations for area schools were held last weekend. At top: Vermilion Country School graduates include, from left, Owen Stellmach, Mahlia Shuster, Dakota Hanninen and Gage Monsrud. Above, Ely High School graduate Bryce Fairchild received his diploma from school board chair Ray Marsnik. Right: Kaya Tschida is a member of North Woods School Class of 2022. Timberjay staff photos



BOIS FORTE

Historic transaction returns tribal lands

Band acquires huge swath of acres from The Conservation Fund

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

NETT LAKE- The size of the Bois Forte Band reservation sectors at Nett Lake and Deer Creek grew by an astounding 28,000 acres on Tuesday through the largest tribal buyback of ancestral lands ever executed in the country.

A large crowd was on hand at the pow wow pavilion at the Nett Lake government center to witness representatives from the Band, The Conservation Fund, and Indian Land Tenure Foundation sign the paperwork that returns the former Potlatch holdings to the Bois Forte people nearly 140 years after it was wrested away from them.

“With today being as historic as it is for Bois Forte, it’s not only Bois Forte. It’s historic for Indian country,” Bois Forte tribal chairwoman Cathy Chavers said. “Today we are acquiring, not through legislative action at all, we are acquiring and restoring over



Cathy Chavers

See...LAND pg. 10

CITY OF COOK

Timber Days tabs Kajala for parade grand marshal

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- For those eagerly awaiting the big parade on Sunday that caps off the three-day Timber Days festival here, a word of advice. If the parade moves at the speed of its grand marshal, Steve Kajala, get there early and don’t blink, or you may just miss it.

One would think

that running his prospering Prudential Financial Planning Services office in Cook, riding herd over his five children, hunting and fishing, collecting cast-iron cookware and chain saws, and teaching cooking classes would be more than enough to run anyone ragged, but not Kajala. He thrives on activity as well as giving back to the community, and in his four years in Cook he has become a

Timber Days Grand Marshal Steve Kalaja poses with his children, Parker and Evan on either side, Lila and Chloe in the middle, and Vince kneeling below. photo by D. Colburn

prominent volunteer for many of the town’s philanthropic activities.

“When I got the call and they said, ‘We would like you to be the grand marshal, I was like wow, I know, I do a lot, but I haven’t been here all that

long. But they said they wanted to recognize people who are making a difference in the community, and also that they wanted to encourage other people who maybe haven’t been

See...COOK pg. 10



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Community notices

Old Settlers planning underway; time to renew your membership

BREITUNG TWP- The annual Old Settlers Reunion and Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 16, with booyah dished up at 12 noon sharp. Memberships are \$10 paid in advance. Please make checks payable to Vermilion Range Old Settlers, and mail to P.O. Box 724, Tower, MN 55790. Memberships are also available the day of the picnic, but pre-payment is preferred to make the registration line move faster at the picnic!

Membership in Old Settlers is open to anyone born or living on the Vermilion Iron Range. The money raised through memberships pays the expenses of putting on the annual picnic. If you have never tasted Old Settlers booyah (meat and vegetable soup prepared from the same recipe year after year), you are in for a treat. The meal is cooked overnight over wood fire in 100-year old iron kettles, and it always tastes amazing. Take-outs are also available if you are unable to stay for the picnic, live music, and raffles.

This year’s president is Steve Tekautz. Music will be provided by Steve Solkela and his one-man band.

Tower Farmers Market season begins on Friday, June 17 from 4-6 p.m.

TOWER- The Tower Farmers Market will open for the season on Friday, June 17 at The Depot. The hours designated for selling are 4-6 p.m., as agreed upon with the city of Tower. The market board is asking vendors and customers to please respect those hours for doing business.

It’s going to be a great season. Vendors will be back with garden produce, canned goods, flowers, bread, soap, woodworking, eggs, pies, cookies, knitting and felting, herbs, jelly, honey and much more.

Several events are planned to coincide with the market this summer. Kids Day will be back and the Pickup Truck Opera will do a pop-up preview of The Magic Flute in August. Watch the *Timberjay* and the TFM Facebook page for dates and times of these and other events.

The cost for a space is \$35 for the season or \$5 per day. Just show up with your table; no preregistration required. Returning and new vendors with any questions can contact Janna at 218-749-2186 or Mickey at 218-984-3951.

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

REGIONAL- The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra, with local stars of the stage, presents its annual North of Broadway concerts in Virginia on Friday, June 17 at 7 p.m. at Mesabi Range College and the next night, Saturday, June 18 in Ely at 7 p.m. at Vermilion Community College. For more information and ticket sales visit www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org.

Lunch Bunch to meet at Vermilion Club

GREENWOOD TWP- The Lunch Bunch (formerly Red Hat Belles) will meet for lunch at the Vermilion Club, Thursday June 23 at 12:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Judy Politano at 218-410-0395 or Judy Ketola at 218-753-3982 by June 20. We welcome everyone new and old members, as well as guests.

TSHS board to meet on June 15

SOUDAN- The Tower-Soudan Historical Society will hold its regularly scheduled board meeting on Wednesday, June 15, at 2 p.m., at Breitung Community Center in Soudan. Please NOTE CHANGE in start time. The meeting is open to the public, and guests are welcome. This year’s membership dues (\$10 single; \$20 family) may be paid at the meeting or mailed to TSHS, PO Box 465, Tower MN 55790. Membership supports TSHS operating expenses at the depot-museum and allows the society to continue its vision, mission, and projects.

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SISU HERITAGE
Sauna Day set for June 11 in Embarrass

EMBARRASS- Join Sisu Heritage to celebrate the Finnish tradition of saunas on National Sauna Day, Saturday, June 11. This free, family-friendly event is outdoors, rain or shine, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Nelimark Homestead and Museum in Embarrass located on Hwy. 21 at the intersection with Salo Rd., across from the fire hall and the fairgrounds.

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

The Farmstead Artisans gift shop will be open, offering free coffee and selling an array of handmade and homemade goodies. The shop has aprons, notecards, T-shirts, Finnish ceramics, books, rugs and



much more. Tour the museum rooms and exhibits, the buildings on the grounds including the historic sauna, and the old farm implements.

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

LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER
Midsummer fundraiser on June 18 to feature silent and live auctions

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center benefit, Midsummer in Norway, will take place on Saturday, June 18 at the Herb Lamppa Civic Center and across the street at St. Mary’s Hall. The event starts at 4:30 p.m. with a silent auction, followed by a dinner, live auction, and musical program. Preparations are in high gear. The LVCC is pleased to announce some of the auction items.

The silent auction this year includes unique baskets, activities, goods, and services. New this year are guided hikes on the Tower trails (the Ancient Cedars Trail or the Pine Ridge Trail) and a guided cross country ski adventure on the Howard Wagoner Trails. Shelby, the Tower Pie Lady, will not only offer her pies but also a pie-making lesson for four. The Presbyterian Painter, Pastor Doug Workman, will again offer two hours of painting. Long-time local resident, Pauly Housenga, is donating a log cabin style furnished doll house which she skillfully assembled and also includes a three generation family of dolls. Lake Vermilion Houseboats is offering something our winter residents will enjoy, a full day rental of 2 snowmobiles and Adventure Seaplanes is donating a half-hour



flight on one of their float planes. Also new this year is an Indonesian dinner for six to be prepared by Brenda and Karel Winkelaar and a Rock Cornish Game Hen dinner for 10 to be held in the Halunen Lobby in St Mary’s Hall. This dinner will include a presentation on the history of St. Mary’s Hall. Popular items being offered again this year include two tickets to the Minnesota Wild and four rounds of golf at the Wilderness Golf Course. Merchants in Tower, Ely, Cook, and Virginia are donating gift certificates for goods and meals. The silent auction will begin at 4:30 p.m. on June 18 under the tent at the Herb Lamppa Civic Center.

Four vacation options will be in the live auction, led by musician and auctioneer Steve Solkela. Two bed and breakfast type stays in private



Auction items include this log cabin dollhouse with furniture and dolls, and a vacation stay in the horse country near Chatanooga.

homes are being offered: five nights in California wine country, and three nights in the horse county of Look-out Mountain, Georgia (near Chattanooga, Tenn.). Also, two week-long stays will be offered in resort communities: a week in a condominium in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; and a week in a three-bedroom townhouse in Lake Placid, N.Y. Plan your bidding strategies for these great opportunities.

Reservations are coming in fast for Midsummer in Norway and are due now. You may still register online at vermilionculturalcenter.org or by contacting Mary Batinich at malexbat@gmail.com.

MUSICAL
‘Quiltmaker’s Gift’ returns to Ely in July

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - ‘The Quiltmaker’s Gift’ returns to this community at the end of the road this summer. This family-friendly one-act musical will grace the stage of Ely’s Historic State Theater on Friday and Saturday, July 15-16 at 7 p.m., and on Sunday, July 17 at 1 p.m.

“If you missed the State Theater’s inaugural live event in late January 2019 just prior to the world-wide life changing reign of COVID-19, there is now another opportunity to enjoy this fable for our times that celebrates the joy of giving,” said Director Laurie Kess.

Susan Germek is the new musical director, and Karen McManus and Muffin Nelson return as producers for the 2022 event.



manage lights and sound, and Pat Bieber will coordinate volunteers. An ensemble of Mesabi Symphony Orchestra members and local musicians provide live music.

Returning cast members include Vince O’Connor as the Old Man, Karin Schmidt as the Bear and Chorus, Marcia Homer and Jill Shaughnessy as soldiers, and Morgan Sauls as Chorus.

New cast members include Ian Lah as the King, Lissa Miller as the Quiltmaker, Andy Weise as the Child and Emily Weise and David Wigdahl

as chorus members.

“This is the story of a quiltmaker who helps a greedy king learn the secret of true happiness,” Kess said. “The Quiltmaker’s Gift,” written by Jeff Brumbeau and illustrated by Ely’s own Gail deMarcken, was first published in 2000 in Duluth by Pfeiffer-Hamilton and later sold to Scholastic. It won the Book Sense Book of The Year award in 2000 for best children’s picture book.

“Quilts are the ultimate gift,” said well-known local quilter Dorothy Sand. “They provide

warmth and beauty at the same time.” Quilters around the country embraced the book and propelled sales. It inspired a sequel “The Quiltmaker’s Wish”, two books on quilting with patterns from the book and several theatrical productions began in 2003.

Gail DeMarcken has illustrated 10 books including “Born To Pull” by the late Bob Cary of Ely. She notes a children’s book is considered a success if it sells 10,000 copies. This book has sold more than 750,000 copies worldwide and has been translated into Chinese, Korean, Greek and German and was on the New York Times best-seller list for more than a year.

Tickets will be \$15 for adults and \$5 for children. Premium seats in the first six center rows will be \$25 each and will be available soon through Ely’s Historic State Theater website at www.elystatetheater.org.

This Ely summer activity is made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, and by the Donald G. Gardner Humanities, the Rotary Club of Ely, Lake Country Power and the Kiwanis Club of Ely. Community collaboration plans for this production, focused on area seniors, are underway and will be announced soon.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ely Zup’s Market celebrates a family tradition

Ribbon-cutting celebration at new store here marks 106-years in business

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - The family of the late John Zupancich formally celebrated the continuation of a century-plus tradition with the grand opening of the new Zup’s Food Market here last Thursday.

“This store is a testament to the unending support of the Ely community and the unwavering commitment of the corporation,” said Ed Zupancich, corporation president, as he cited the company’s beginnings when his great-grandfather started his business back in 1916. “Your support for Zup’s Markets has made us grow.”

A large crowd of company officials, grocery supplier representatives, local dignitaries, store employees and community supporters gathered in the parking lot of the former Shopko facility to mark the opening of the 32,000-square foot store on Ely’s east end.

“It took a long time to get here,” store manager Jim Zupancich said. “It took two years to put this together and we are



so happy everything came true.”

Jim continued, “Our great-grandfather John started his business more than 100 years ago. He had seven sons, Edward, Ludwig, John, Albert, Joe, Leonard, Bill and one daughter, Auntie Angela, who are all looking down on us today feeling proud of what we have done here in Ely.”

Jim listed all the grandchildren and great-grandchildren who have a part in the family business, including the “Baloney Brothers” who work in the Ely store’s meat department.

“It was great to be part of this project that we’ve been talking about for more than two years,” he said. “We were going to remodel the store on the top of the hill and we decided it still wasn’t going

Jim Zupancich (center), with help from the large Zupancich family, cut the ribbon to signify the grand opening of the new store.

Left: Barbecue ribs were on sale at the event.

photos by K. Vandervort



to be big enough.”

Zup’s bought the other grocery outlet in town, Northland Market, and combined the staff from each store to make one expanded facility.

“It took the Richards’ who owned that store, Jay from the J&L Hardware store, Essentia Pharmacy, county and city offi-

See ZUPS... pg. 5

BORDER LAKES

Flood waters begin to drop at Crane and Kab

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL - The flood-stricken communities of Crane Lake and Kabetogama had a new reason for hope last weekend when the inflow of water creating historic rises in lake levels finally fell below the amount of water flowing out of the Namakan basin.

The peak blew past the highest recorded levels in 2014 by 21 inches, but thankfully fell seven inches short of the all-time high in 1916, according

to the National Weather Service Duluth office. Lake levels could fall anywhere from six to twelve inches by Monday.

The flurry of emergency activity has been shifting to Rainy Lake, which was already two inches higher than its previous record set in 1950, a year somewhat similar to this with early heavy rains falling on snowpack and ice and a late ice out. Rainy Lake is also 21 inches higher than in 2014, and the rise is expected to continue into mid-June, although at a slower pace.

Gov. Tim Walz and U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar and

Tina Smith visited International Falls over the weekend to receive a briefing and tour flood damage. Last week Walz extended the National Guard deployment to the Rainy River basin until the emergency conditions subside or June 30, whichever occurs first.

But Crane Lake and Kabetogama are far from finished with the flooding, even with dry conditions forecast for the week and weather service officials note it will potentially take weeks to see normal summertime water levels.

Perhaps the biggest continuing danger to lakefront properties

is the potential for wave damage to sandbag barriers and structures. Local resorts have been reminding their patrons to observe the “no wake” rule within 300 feet of shorelines, and some are providing maps illustrating the most flood-friendly route and no-wake zones.

Reports of runaway docks, boats, deck furniture and more are still being regularly posted to regional social media groups, but calls for assistance filling sandbags in Crane Lake and Kabetogama have dwindled significantly this past week.

Damage assessments

Meanwhile, steps are underway to estimate the amount of damage from various severe weather events in order to possibly apply for federal emergency disaster assistance. Since April 22, the state has been impacted by ongoing severe spring weather including snowmelt flooding, rain-induced flooding, and a near continuous series of severe thunderstorms with heavy rains, flash flooding, damaging winds, large hail, and tornadoes. The Red River and several major rivers and lakes in the Rainy River

See FLOODING...pg. 5

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OPINION

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e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Using lies to divide

Stauber attacks his own constituents in bid to mislead about expansion of BWCAW buffer

Do we really need to add to the division and distrust that already exists in our region over the issue of protecting the Boundary Waters from mining pollution? It’s a question worth asking after Rep. Pete Stauber’s recent testimony in Congress that repeated his vilification of supporters of an expanded buffer zone around the BWCAW as enemies of northeastern Minnesota.

“It’s about ending an industry that has employed Minnesotans and Iron Rangers for over 130 years,” Stauber falsely testified in the recent hearing of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources. “And it’s about keeping opportunity, wealth, and economic development out of northern Minnesota.”

Yes, according to Stauber, anyone who worries about sulfide-based copper-nickel mining upstream of one of the BWCAW’s primary watersheds simply wants to see everyone in northern Minnesota live in poverty.

Stauber is not just attempting to mislead, he’s attempting to divide by deploying the kind of us vs. them demagoguery that has been part of the political playbook in our region for far too long. It wasn’t any better when that kind of nonsense was spewed by Iron Range DFLers.

Yet times have changed. Views in our region are not nearly as monolithic as they used to be. Many of the “enemies” that Stauber regularly attempts to vilify these days are his own constituents, people who have moved into the region and invested in permanent homes and businesses here. Small towns in rural America face many challenges, but the fact is, small towns that base their economies on outdoor recreation do better than almost all the rest. Communities that base their economies on mining invariably struggle.

But it’s hard to have a rational conversation about our future when we have politicians who routinely vilify those who see things differently. We have enough division and hate in this country without our so-called “leaders” fomenting more of it.

Rep. Stauber knows that Rep. Betty McCollum’s bill to expand the mining buffer zone by 225,000 acres will do nothing to end “an industry that has employed Minnesotans and Iron Rangers for over 130 years,” yet he makes this false statement anyway. That says more about him than the people he’s targeting.

The bill in question won’t impact any existing mines and it specifically does not prohibit iron ore or taconite mining in the affected area. In case Stauber is unaware, that’s the industry that

has employed Iron Rangers for more than a century.

Stauber says opponents of sulfide mining just want to deny economic opportunity to northern Minnesota residents, a statement that is both presumptuous (he reads minds, now?) and flat-out wrong.

Here’s a fact: It is supporters of wilderness protection who have brought most of the new economic opportunity to the Ely area in recent decades and who now employ a significant percentage of area residents. Far more residents of Ely work in wilderness-connected jobs than work in mining, and it’s those jobs that are threatened by sulfide-based mining. And we’re talking about more than outfitters, motels, and wilderness-edge camps. As the wilderness and the experiences it provides attract more people to our area, a certain percentage opt to buy land, build homes and businesses, impacting a long list of good-paying economic sectors, like construction, excavating, finance, building supplies, insurance, and home furnishings.

As we documented in our 2017 report, “Ely’s Golden Goose,” townships surrounding Ely largely power its economy, and most of those residents, both permanent and seasonal, are highly skeptical of sulfide mining. While a sulfide-based mine would undoubtedly generate new income in the Ely area, it risks undermining many of the sources of economic activity that currently provide even more income to the area and have a greater opportunity to grow over time.

A pair of Harvard economists reached similar conclusions, finding that in the vast majority of scenarios they examined, the income losses due to a new mine near the BWCAW would exceed any income gains from mining within just a few years.

Yet it’s nearly impossible to have a rational, evidence-based debate on the merits of the issue when our region’s politicians are actively working to further divide and inflame residents of the area, rather than searching for common ground. Unfortunately, Rep. Stauber appears to be taking his cues from some of the most radical elements in his party, deploying the kind of hateful rhetoric we’ve seen from the likes of his political pal Paul Gosar, the white supremacist congressman from Arizona, or Marjorie Taylor Greene, the hate-spewing firebrand from Georgia.

We’re divided enough in northern Minnesota. We don’t need any help from politicians who spew falsehoods for political gain.



Letters from Readers

ATV trail would diminish the peace and quiet of Eagles Nest

I have long come to Minnesota’s northern woods and the Eagles Nest area for its quiet laid-backness, its pristine wilderness in which to recreate, and the hospitality of the gentle, down-to-Earth people that live here. For thirty-six years I have chosen this tranquil area as a vacation destination to bring friends and family, to gladly spend my hard-earned dollars in your region in exchange for an escape from the revved up dissonance of my hometown’s urban expansion and so-called “improvements” in the name of economic development. I come here to take a step back in time to what generations of Minnesotans and loyal vacationers have long understood to be a uniquely special place in which to mend one’s soul amid connection with the natural world, the call of a solitary loon, and your welcoming communities that have long lured so many to these woodlands.

While I am one of many who value such sentiments and prize my downtime, I recognize, if not appreciate, that there are those who gravitate toward more highly energetic forms of recreation, such as the thrill and camaraderie of a rip-roaring adventure through timberlands on an ATV. While not my cup of coffee, I do not begrudge them their enthusiasm. Nonetheless, regarding ATV trail expansion into Eagles Nest Township, the Ely-Tower area already has its established trails, along with currently proposed alternative routing for new trail development in areas that wisely avoid encroachment on the traditionally quiet-by-design and popular residential areas of Eagles Nest. For the benefit of all, expansion of one form of recreation must endeavor to avoid impingement upon the inherent value of another form

of recreation, especially if residential and business interests are to peacefully coexist and be sustained long term. I am genuinely convinced that the piercing whine and repetitive drone of ATV traffic through this particular township will fundamentally destroy the very essence of that which draws me and many others back decade after decade. I therefore urge all concerned parties to avoid damaging Eagles Nest Township’s longstanding reputation as a go-to place for quiet leisure and an idyllic base from which to explore and support the greater region. Instead embrace a less intrusive and less destructive trail expansion plan that excludes Eagles Nest Township and aims to address the ambitions of the Prospectors ATV Club.

Steve A Johnson
Seattle, Wash.

America must summon the will to act on guns

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the families ...,” hollow words of empty rhetoric soothe the self to absolve one’s responsibility for the carnage in yet another mass murder. Spineless condolences, followed by cowardly inaction makes one complicit with hate and evil deeds. We should ask “Who are we?” For the sake of humanity we must cease being moral zombies.

Lest we forget, zombies are dead persons, seemingly alive, but mute and mindless in a supernatural spell for a sinister purpose. The Supreme Court of the United States opened the doors for corporate domination to decapitate political democracy. Hordes of lobbyists have been unleashed, loaded with big bags of money to seduce the U.S. Senate.

Without background checks, no bans on weapons of war in the streets, open carry and “stand your ground” laws have not made our schools, church-

es, synagogues, supermarkets and workplaces any safer. To increase the bottom line at any cost, powerful elements of global wealth, have triggered a war of us against ourselves. Flooding our society with 400 million guns fueled by hate speech drives us into the darkness of home-grown terrorism.

Economic despotism rules the day to change American Exceptionalism from the laudatory to depravity. Tyranny of wealth has infected our society with division and inoculated us from taking action against terror. The power of wealth benefits from “anything goes.” An economic system that destroys communities, destabilizes society and does not serve people, must perish.

The power of love can galvanize us to challenge the power of material wealth. Allow us to adopt and live with SISU, a Finnish term, that gives us courage, perseverance and resilience to do what is right against enormous adversity. We know the facts, understand the analysis and possess the values to summon a spiritual will to act.

Harold Honkola
Stillwater

We welcome your letters

The *Timberjay* encourages letters to the editor. You can submit letters by mail at PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790, or email letters to marshall@timberjay.com.

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.

Letters are a great way to offer your input to the *Timberjay*’s editorial page. We want to know what you think!

Being a teacher in a challenging time

Last week, National Public Radio featured a poem created by Kwame Alexander, NPR’s 2022 poet-in-residence that that included submissions from listeners entitled “Who Will Clean Out The Desks”. It was a way to acknowledge the extraordinary work of our nation’s teachers as part of National Teachers Month.



KATHLEEN
MCQUILLAN

Over three hundred memoirs and stories poured in to inspire the poem, an example of what’s known as a “crowdsourced” poem. Alexander’s recitation with NPR host, Rachel Martin, moved me to tears.

It was my original plan to share the poem in its entirety, in this space where my essay appears, but journalistic practicalities rendered that idea

impossible. The power of the poem’s message has not left me.

Entries were requested long before the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. However, some submissions arrived in the days following that sad event that took the lives of nineteen children and two teachers. Despite the poet’s intention to celebrate the work of teachers, Alexander could not ignore those later submissions expressing the horror and grief sweeping through Uvalde and our entire nation.

That same week, I met with a friend who had retired after many years of teaching in our area schools. She was experiencing shock and heartbreak after hearing of that distant rural community in Texas. Through the course of her career, she had lost many of her students to unexpected tragedy. Grief resurges every time she recalls those times.

I, too, remembered the painful shock that struck our community each time we lost one of our children. She and I recounted nearly a dozen inci-

dents that had prematurely taken those young lives. Together, we empathized with the people of Uvalde. I saw the sorrow in her eyes. Teaching had been “more than a job” to my friend. It was her calling. Her students’ visions for themselves were part of her own. She was deeply invested in their futures. And then suddenly, they were gone.

Days later, I am looking around me. My world seems oddly calm. My immediate

See **TEACHERS...**, pg. 5

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Greenwood Clerk Debby Spicer resigns, in writing this time

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- In a terse six-word sentence, Greenwood Clerk Debby Spicer resigned, in writing, from her position, effective May 31.

She left a simple signed note which stated “I quit,” in large type, along with a note saying where she had left township keys.

The town board is expected to act on the issue at their meeting on June 14. When the elected treasurer Belinda Fazio resigned in April, the board appointed Jeff Maus to fill the spot until the next township election.

This is the second time this spring the clerk told the board she was resigning, but back in March when she left the town board’s reorganization meeting after the board refused to increase

the clerk’s pay, she rescinded her notice and resumed her duties. But she then clashed with town board members at their May meeting, refused to produce minutes, and again left the meeting midway, claiming “If I get paid for those extra hours, you get the minutes.”

The Greenwood Town Board, since 2020, has clashed with their clerk. In the summer of 2020, the board unilaterally reduced the pay for elected clerk Sue Drobac and cut back the town clerk office hours from 20 to 12 hours a week. The board also reduced the treasurer’s salary, but left supervisor salaries the same. At that time Drobac claimed she was unable to complete the required clerk duties in that timeframe.

When Drobac left, the board hired Spicer that fall as interim clerk, at an hourly rate of about \$27 per hour. Spicer ran for the

seat in 2021 to fill the remainder of Drobac’s term, knowing that the board had reduced the hours and salary for the position. That term ended in 2022, and she once again ran and was re-elected over write-in candidate JoAnn Bassing. She told the board that prior verbal communication with then-Chair Mike Ralston and Supervisor Carmen DeLuca had assured her she would be paid for any excess hours she worked.

“I spoke to Mike immediately after the meeting,” wrote Spicer in a document she submitted to the *Timberjay*. “He stated, with Supervisor DeLuca present, that it would be taken care of in the March meeting – but it went unmentioned, as with the April meeting. Both Ralston and DeLuca later claimed they ‘don’t remember’ those conversations – WOW!”

She also wrote that “During the 2021 election period (which actually began in December 2020), I worked 58+ extra hours I have not been paid for. I was told I was salary and was to work until the job was done. I have also been denied the extra hours submitted covering the 2022 election period and there are two more elections this year and rolls right into the 2023 March election.”

Spicer also claimed that it was not within the clerk’s statutory duties to take minutes at the monthly township meetings or to even attend them, after she consulted with Minnesota Association of Township’s (MAT) attorney Steve Fenske. While state statute clearly states the clerk take minutes/record the proceedings of town meetings, she said that only applies to the annual town meeting, not board

of supervisor meetings.

This contradicts information in a flyer produced by MAT on how to run for township office, which clearly states:

“What are the duties of a town clerk? A town clerk performs a variety of duties for the township, including: keeping meeting minutes; providing notice of meetings, filing and preserving the town’s records, and serving as the chief election office for the town. The primary duties of the clerk are listed in Minn. Stat. 367.11, but there are many other references to clerk’s duties spread through the statutes, and the clerk frequently performs other tasks needed for the town to function effectively and efficiently.”



Several hundred people attended the grand opening. photo by K. Vandervort

ZUPS...Continued from page 3

cial and several banks to make all this work,” Jim Zupancich said.

He then launched into an extended list of thanking everyone who made the day finally happen. “Without you we wouldn’t have a store in Ely,” Zupancich

said.

He said the new store includes “more than 5,000 new grocery store items” and includes both an adjacent liquor store and pharmacy facility.

The Minnesota Department of Iron

Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) played a key role, including infrastructure work, in assisting with the development of the former Shopko facility.

“We like to help communities that like to help

themselves, and Ely is one of those communities,” said Mark Phillips, IRRR commissioner.

Roger Skraba, Ely mayor, added, “We need businesses like this in Ely. Hopefully that will set the stage for another car dealer-

ship which we would like to see back in Ely. An anchor like this holding businesses here in Ely is a big deal. I thank the Zupancich family for investing in Ely, in their future.”

Beside Ely, Zupancich Brothers Inc. have stores in

Babbitt, Tower, Cook and Silver Bay. “We hope we’re here for another 106 years,” Jim Zupancich said.

FLOODING...Continued from page 3

basin remain above major flood stage.

Teams from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Homeland Security and Emergency Management division (DPS-HSEM) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) began their third week of preliminary damage assessments (PDAs) across the state on

Tuesday. They will verify eligible costs for severe weather damage to public infrastructure and public response sustained since April 22.

The teams will review the scope of the severe weather damage, determine if it exceeds local and state resources, and include repair cost estimates. Much of the damage related to

flooding in the Rainy River basin will be difficult to assess as it is still under water.

Based on local initial damage assessments, HSEM projects the eligible damage expense will exceed \$27 million which is nearly three times more than Minnesota’s statewide indicator for public assistance of \$9.3 million.

Once the assessments are completed and it is determined that Minnesota would be eligible, Gov. Tim Walz would then need to send a letter to President Joe Biden through FEMA to request assistance. Only the president can make a federal disaster declaration.

TEACHERS...Continued from page 4

distractions are a way to defend a false illusion of safety that protects me from unimaginable heartache. I suppose, we all want to believe that these episodes of threatening turbulence only happen somewhere else. And even though these tragic events are brought to us by reporters in faraway places, down deep we know that they can and do occur anywhere when least expected.

Early each morning, my little companion, Duffy, wakes me with a subtle restlessness and a soft bark. I rise to take him for our routine stroll down the driveway. I love that it’s spring so we can pause and indulge in the serenity and beauty of dawn. Once back indoors, I fix my toast and coffee and turn on the radio for the headlines covering the previous day’s happenings, never very uplifting these days. I begin to craft my “To Do” list — things that must get done today, and those I’d like to do, if I find the time. Phone calls to family and friends, “business” that must be attended to, maybe a break from chores to read a poem or two. (Let the distractions begin.) Never do my lists build in extra time for coping with some unex-

pected event that completely puts my original plan to sunder. Generally speaking, my life seems predictable unless, of course, fate has something else in store. I should know better than to take calm waters for granted.

In reality, life is a mixture of mundane routines mingled with ever-emerging chains of events that compete for our attention and response. The external world has its way of squeezing into our private mental and emotional terrain, constantly reshaping our choices. Choices about where to direct our energy. Choices that present risks and opportunities to explore, listen, and learn. To advance our understanding and build confidence. To express ourselves, and build community. The “real stuff” of life.

Alexander’s poem rejoices the way teachers introduce our youth to the “real stuff of life”. In the process, our teachers give away little pieces of themselves — day after day, year after year — because they know that their students matter. They genuinely care about them!

It’s June now. For teachers and students, it’s


been a long nine months. “Graduation” implies moving on to the next level. It’s meant to be a time of pride and joy for important accomplishments. But this year, our June celebrations are once again marred by tragedy. Our teachers are not only exhausted by nine months of hard work and the many academic and interpersonal responsibilities they’ve carried. This year, many will bear the overwhelming burden of grief. Now is an important time for us to reflect on what it means to be a teacher in today’s world. Stop and imagine for a moment the challenges, and risks, of standing in front of a classroom full of hungry hearts and minds at a time that challenges beyond measure our security and hope. There’s no doubt that teachers deserve a generous outpouring of recognition, respect and gratitude. Kwame Alexander’s poem

helps us focus on just that.

We’ve all had teachers who left an indelible impression on us — the ones who offered their heart and soul to us and to our own children. Consider all the times they struggled with heartbreak over the students who were, in a very unique sense, their children, too.

If you need something to help carve out a moment of reflection, Kwame’s poem will provide a way. Read it, or better yet, listen as he and Rachel recite it aloud. Google “Who Will Clean Out The Desks”. You’ll be moved. Then, if possible, you may find time to reach out and share a few kind words, a “Thank-you!”, to a teacher. Trust me. It will go far to “make their day!”

You can read or listen to “Who Will Clean Out The Desks” in its entirety by visiting www.npr.org/2022/05/31/.



Quilting Connects Us!

JUNE 16 - 18

Minnesota Quilters' Quilt Show and Conference

River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud, MN

www.mnquilt.org/mq2022

Show Hours

• Th & F, 9 - 6


• S, 9 - 4

Tickets \$15

Quilt Exhibits

Classes & Lectures

Vendors





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Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details and payment at www.timberjay.com.

Moving? Questions about your subscription?
Call the Tower office at (218) 753-2950.

Week of June 13

Monday
Embarrass Al-Anon Family Group- Hope Lutheran Church, 5088 Hwy. 21, 6 p.m.
Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on June 13

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.

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on June 14.

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

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

Fourth of July Donations

The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board would like to thank the following individuals and families for their donations this year.

Donations are still needed and can be mailed to: PO Box 461, Tower, MN 55790.

Thank you to:
Tom & Kathy Tellepsen
Brian & Jennifer Palo
Gary Heikkinen & family
Don & Beverly Reed
Ted & Gail Esala
Allen & Patti Dahl (In memory of Daniel Broten)
Jim Marttila & Kathy Meyerle
David & Dori Skramsted
Tom & Peggy Brula

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

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



Sixth grade graduation

Family and friends gathered at Tower-Soudan Elementary on June 1 for the graduation of the sixth-graders, who are now leaving for area high schools, as well as the Kindergarteners, who are moving up to first grade. Pictured (clockwise from top left) Arlene King, Claire Jonas, Bentley Crego, Landon Wellander, and Jack Ranua. Teacher Scott Chiabotti introduced his graduates and handed out diplomas. photos by V. Ranua



Young learners all ready for first grade...



The Kindergarten class waited for their time in the spotlight.

Auxiliaries raise money for veterans through poppy sales

REGIONAL- American Legion Auxiliary Unit 220 from Mt. Iron raised \$208 from poppy sales this year, which was donated to Veterans on the Lake in Ely. Donations were overseen by Delores Clark at the Tower-Soudan Memorial Day service, and by Cathy Wright, in conjunction with fundraising for the Fourth of July.

Betsy Clark organized poppy sales in Tower for the Cook VFW Post 1757 Auxiliary. Their proceeds were donated to organizations that help area veterans.

The VFW Buddy Poppy program provides compensation to the disabled and needy veterans who assemble them. By law all donations collected go to support the military members and veterans in need, and to support youth and educational programs.

WELCOME BACK



Tower-Soudan Elementary alumni and NE Range students (from left) Wyatt Gorsma, Owen Koivisto, Audrey Anderson, and Hannah Reichensperger spent the day at their old school helping out with Track and Field Day activities. photo by J. Summit

Explore Tower-Soudan history this summer

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.

Charlemagne's Attic
The popular second-hand sale event at the historic fire hall will be held on July 29-30; and again on September 9-10. We may hold a short sale

on the day of the St. Martin Catholic Church rummage sale too. Watch for flyers and news articles!

We need YOUR help. Please clean out your garage, basements, attics, cabins and sheds. We are accepting donations of anything antique, unique, vintage, collectible, cabin or fun. We are not accepting clothing, garage sale items or books. Contact Nancy Larson at 218-750-7514, Louise Gately at 515-229-8757, or Linda Folstad at 218-750-0193.

Self-Guided History Tour Map

Our self-guided maps will be distributed at the train depot museum and at TSHS sponsoring businesses through the Tower Soudan Lake Vermilion area. Thirty places of historic significance and links to more information is found in this amazing brochure. Discover the history of our area on your own and learn about our ancestors!

Tower Train Depot Museum and Train Cars

The depot museum will be open on Friday,

Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 am to 4:00 pm starting Memorial Day weekend and continuing through Labor Day. Volunteers will greet you and answer questions at the museum. The train cars may be opened every day if volunteers are signed up to open and close the cars daily. Consider volunteering at the train depot museum. We hope to be open during other days of the week if enough volunteers come forward to help out. No experience needed as we will train you!

Tower-Soudan-Embarrass Bookmobile Schedule

Every third Wednesday:
June 15; July 6 and 27; Aug. 17; Sept. 7 and 28; Oct. 19; Nov. 9 and 30; Dec. 21

Britt (Sand Lake Storage): 9 - 9:30 a.m.
Bois Forte (Boys & Girls Club): 11 - 11:30 a.m.

Greenwood (Town Hall): 12 - 1 p.m.
Soudan (Post Office Vicinity): 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Tower (Civic Center): 3:45 - 4:30 p.m.
Embarrass (Hwy 135 & Hwy 21): 5 - 6 p.m.

You can see the full bookmobile schedule on the website, alslib.info/services/bookmobile. For more information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, contact the Arrowhead Library System, 218-741-3840, email at als@alslib.info, or website at alslib.info.



SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Summer vacation starts with Youth Art Camp

ELY – Fifty Ely area youth spent part of their first week of summer vacation at a Youth Art Camp here, sponsored by Greenstone Arts, and held at the Miner’s Dry building.

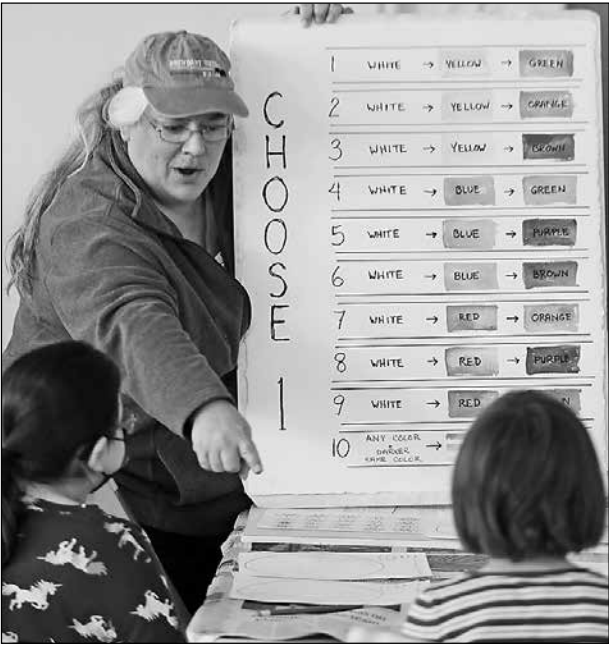
Four professional artists and many volunteer helpers led the youth through a three-day workshop of art projects.

On Tuesday, the following artists were available to present a variety of art mediums and offered the students an opportunity to develop their artistic talent. Leah Reusch featured glass jar luminaries, Judy Fredrickson helped students design T-shirts; Nancy Hernesma offered clay creations, and Paya and Gail DeMarcken, taught the technique of creating batik.

Later during the workshop, artists Lee Nelson taught leather work and bracelet creations, Christine Fredricksen offered Minecraft painting, and Clare Taylor and Sandy Brantley focused on water-color notecards.

An art show was held on Thursday for the students to show off their creations.

Top: Courtney Forsberg works on a clay creation at Youth Art Camp. Far right: Kenzee Jauhola designs a t-shirt. Right: Artist Paya DeMarcken reviews a color chart with art students. photos by K. Vandervort



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 14: Meet Hudson Kingston of PEER and Maggie Schuppert of CURE.

➤ June 21: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Title IX with Deb Sunderman and Cynthia Hauge Jorde.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



nature’s endless green with yellow and sky blue mixed green marks on water

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.

Studio North presents: ‘Could I Have This Dance?’



Studio North Dance Studio presented their 23rd dance recital last Saturday at Whiteside Park. Dozens of area youth from pre-school to high school practiced for months to perfect their dance routines. They held two outdoor shows before hundreds of family and friends. Above: The Competition Teams opened the show with “Back Again.” Below left: The Junior Competition team presented “Wings.” Below right: Presly Marzella performed “Ain’t seen Nothing.” Bottom: The Monday Preschoolers performed “Speckled Frogs.” photos by K. Vandervort



CITY OF ELY

Ely population continues to decrease as city grapples with rising costs

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY- The population of this small community at the end of the road continues to decrease despite a robust real estate market that continues to see just about everything selling. Meanwhile, city officials continue to grapple with increasing costs of doing business, such as replacing a work truck.

City council members discussed the latest census figures from the Minnesota State Demographic Center Tuesday night. As of April 1, 2021, the population of Ely was estimated at 3,209 people, down from 3,460 in the previous census, and the household estimate stands at 1,601.

Mayor Roger Skraba

said, “Things seem to be steady here. Businesses are looking to grow. There’s community members moving around. We keep going the other way, but we seem to have sold all our houses.”

While the latest population figures are subject to review, council members did not have the appetite to challenge the latest census figures. The deadline is June 24.

“I think in Ely, people participated (in the 2020 census) pretty well,” said Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski. “It didn’t help that the (COVID-19) pandemic occurred at the same time. We worked with a great census group. I think they did a pretty good outreach getting their census workers and getting every-

thing going. I do know that there were areas that were undercounted for various reasons. I don’t know if we are in that group, but 3,209 is the number they are looking to certify.”

Changes in vacancy rates, conversion of summer homes to year-round use, and changes in employment opportunities are the types of things, according to State Demographer Susan Brower, that her office would like to hear about when evaluating the population estimate.

Council member Paul Kess, added, “It is not an unexpected drop. To me, it is not worth the expense to challenge.”

Replacing a simple work truck for the Department of Public Works has left city officials

with a short list of quotes and available choices for a new pickup truck, with the cost well over the budgeted amount.

Officials set aside \$40,000 in anticipation of replacing the aging 2006, 3/4-ton four-wheel drive plow truck in the city fleet.

“It is rather rough condition,” Langowski said. “This vehicle plows all the sidewalks and does cleanup after snow removal. It has served us well, but it is time to upgrade.”

He added, “As many of you are aware, right now the market in looking for vehicles is very difficult.”

Four quotes, all from one area dealership, Ken Waschke Auto Plaza of Virginia, were received. “The lowest bid is a 2022 GMC one-ton regular cab

that meets the majority of our specifications for the cost of \$46,416. In the market today, that is probably the best we are going to see. I hope it is still available,” Langowski said.

The other bids included another GMC regular cab truck for \$49,841, a GMC 3/4-ton double cab and a RAM 3/4-ton regular cab truck, both of which were more expensive.

“Fleet pricing for 2023 models won’t be out until later this year and availability for those vehicles is unknown,” Langowski said. “I would guess you wouldn’t see those vehicles until next spring and we really need a new vehicle for this next winter. Other dealerships did not respond because they have no inventory and no hope of getting

any inventory.”

The preferred items for the vehicle, including snow plow capability, trailer hitch and light hook-up and trailer brakes controller, will be added by the city workers as available. “This is just a very basic work truck,” he said.

The council unanimously approved the purchase.

In other business, Mayor Skraba suggested that Thursday, June 23 will be proclaimed “Linda Fryer Day” in the city of Ely. A portion of Seventh Ave., from Sheridan to Harvey St., adjacent to Whiteside Park, will be renamed Linda Fryer Way in honor of the longtime Chamber of Commerce director who passed away earlier this year.

IRRR...Continued from page 1

business development as well as public works infrastructure and broadband. The budget focuses on leveraging capital, improving the quality of life, and retaining and creating jobs.

Specifically, the 2023 budget includes \$21.3 million for public works infrastructure and business and industry, which amounts to 40 percent of the budget. The agency is poised to fill funding gaps for one-time federal dollars that are currently available.

The budget also is expected to advance economic development with \$22.5 million in resources flowing through the community and workforce development programs and supporting the Giants Ridge recreation area.

The 2023 IRRR budget puts more funding toward several existing grant programs, including the residential redevelopment program, which will see funding increase from \$275,000 last year to \$750,000 this year. Downtown building rehabilitation and the business energy retrofit programs will see an additional \$250,000 apiece this year. Meanwhile, both the EDA partnership and Downtown Streetscapes programs were zeroed out. The agency is also eliminating funding for its film incentive program as well as its partnership with the Natural Resources Research Institute.

Community projects

Specific local community development projects approved on Tuesday, include:

➤ \$461,900 to help the city of Tower leverage \$600,000 in funding from the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources, or LCCMR, for construction of a trail connection and trailhead near the city’s harbor just north of the Hwy. 169 bridge. As part of the project, the city will extend its Main St. to the East Two River, providing access and parking for the trailhead and planned kayak and canoe launch site. The project will include construction of a restroom and other amenities near the trailhead as well as development of a site plan for the harbor to support future construction of connecting trails in the area.

➤ \$130,755 for the city of Ely to plan, design, and construct a portion of the Bear Run ATV trail, which will connect the Mud Creek and Wolf Lake roads to the Taconite trail just west of Ely. The trail is expected to provide a boost to resorts in the area, as interest in ATV riding continues to grow. The project will be funded by an additional \$150,000 from the state’s dedicated ATV account.

➤ \$250,000 to Crane Lake Township for reconstruction of Bayside Drive from Handberg Road to the existing DNR boat access point on Crane Lake. The township will be designating Bayside Drive as a township road and the planned reconstruction will be to county and township standards. The improved road standards will improve safety ahead the planned construction of a \$2.7 million Voyageurs National Park visitors center next to the boat landing.

➤ \$200,000 to Breitung Township as part of a \$1.01 million project to replace water and sewer infrastructure for several areas, including First Ave., Stuntz Bay Rd., Poplar St., Main Street, Church St., and Spring Rd. The DNR, CDBG, and the township will contribute the remaining funds to the project.

➤ \$250,000 to the city of Babbitt for phase II construction of a new wastewater treatment plant. The facility, portions of which are nearly 70 years old, has reached the end of its useful life, and it is not economically or technologically viable to renovate. The MPCA indicated that a new low-level mercury limit will be added to the next Babbitt plant operation permit. As such, the existing wastewater treatment facility will need to be replaced to meet the new permit limits. The project also includes lining or replacement of old sewer collection system piping. The IRRR funding is just a

small portion of the \$10.35 million project. The city has also received other state and federal grants as well as a \$3.7 million loan from the state’s Public Facilities Authority.

➤ \$150,000 to the city of Ely for utility work and reconstruction of Pattison Street and E 9th and 10th Avenues as well as a road and utility extension for a new roadway on Sibley Court Dr. The city is contributing \$1.154 million toward the project.

➤ \$165,000 to the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade to construct a helipad and a new docking system for the brigade’s emergency

response. The brigade is contributing \$40,000 in donated funds to the \$205,000 project.

➤ \$101,000 to Paul Bunyan Communications to serve up to 75 currently unserved residences in the Ash Lake area with broadband. St. Louis County is providing \$101,250 toward the project, while Paul Bunyan is contributing \$67,750.

While the projects ultimately received unanimous support from the IRRR board, a \$1.5 million line item for development-related infrastructure for a new 132-room hotel adjacent to the Iron Trail Motors Event

Center in Virginia drew questions from Sen. Tom Bakk. “Are we subsidizing the construction of a hotel that will compete with existing ones?” he asked.

IRRR’s Chris Ismil responded, noting that the funding will only go

toward public infrastructure to support the project. “There are no bricks and mortar involved,” he said. The hotel project is expected to bring an estimated \$30.67 million investment to Virginia.

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SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Tofte Lake Center to host 'Rumble Strips' next week



ELY - A thought-provoking dance performance, "Rumble Strips," will be presented by the April Sellers Dance Collective on June 15-16 at Tofte Lake Center in Ely.

"Rumble Strips uses gender identity as an entry point to address our current fractured political landscape, where the willingness to work collectively is hindered by rigid allegiance to single perspectives," a performance press release said. "In a shared world, we must carve out the dangerous space where we align ourselves with people who do not match our own identities, race, gender, or political agenda."

An evening-length ensemble work incorporating movement, music, text, and humor, 'Rumble Strips' is performed outdoors for an immersive yet physically distant experience.

Choreographer Sellers addresses friction points between what we have been told we are, what we want to be, and how we come together. Visit their video blog at www.aprilsellers.com for more information.

The Tofte Lake Center is located at 2209 Fernberg Rd. in Ely. Phone 218-365-7769 or email info@toftelake.org. Reservations are strongly suggested, please email info@toftelake.org.

The audience must arrive by 7 p.m. Wear walking shoes, estimated walking time is 5 minutes. Bring a blanket, towel, camp stool, or chair, bug spray, and beverages. 'Rumble Strips' is accessible to all audiences and is wheelchair accessible.

To request special services, accommodations or assistance for this event, including requests for sign language interpreter or golf cart transportation, or any individual needs requests, please contact April Sellers, revdanceworks@gmail.com, or 612-558-8209 as far in advance of the event as possible.

LAND...Continued from page 1

28,000 acres of land, and our tribe of 3,500 members does not have to pay a dime. It's a note for others that anything can happen, anything is possible. We never dreamed this would be possible."

Becoming possible

When the Bois Forte ceded over two million acres of land to the U.S. government in an 1866 treaty, they reserved for their exclusive use 100,000 acres at Nett Lake and 23,000 acres at Deer Creek. But 20 years later the government began dividing much of that land for sale to timber companies and homesteaders.

Decades later, the land became part of the holdings of Potlatch Corporation, a timber company that at one time was the single largest private landholder in the state with about 330,000 acres of land across northern Minnesota.

Chavers said that a few years ago Band leaders talked with Potlatch Deltic, the successor to Potlatch. While company officials were open to seeing the land returned to the tribe, they indicated the Band would have to pay for it. At best, the tribe determined they would be able to acquire only 100 acres at a time, Chavers said.

"We put it on the back

burner for a while," she said.

But things changed dramatically in 2020 when the company sold its remaining 72,000 Minnesota acres to The Conservation Fund, a national nonprofit with a mission to acquire and protect working forests. Kim Berns-Melhus, Minnesota director for the group, knew what should happen with a portion of those acres.

"I had a vision when we acquired the Potlatch lands that these 28,000 acres belonged to Bois Forte," she said.

Meetings and planning ensued, and the Indian Land Tenure Foundation, a national community-based organization dedicated to helping American Indian nations recover and control their homelands, was brought into the mix.

Bois Forte would still have to buy the land, this time from the conservation fund, but the deal was structured to take advantage of Minnesota's Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA), which provides direct incentive payments to property owners to encourage sustainable use of forest lands. The annual SFIA incentive payments Bois Forte will receive will cover the costs of paying The Conservation Fund.

"Right now it's at \$21

an acre," Chavers said. "So that's where the money comes from to purchase the land."

The Shakopee Mdewakanton also played a major role, providing a \$500,000 grant to help with the closing costs for the acquisition, a contribution for which Chavers expressed deep gratitude.

Signing ceremony

The formal proceedings were opened with an invocation by spiritual advisor Vern Adams, followed by pipe, honor, and healing songs performed by the Bois Forte Singers drum circle.

In her remarks, Chavers praised the vision and leadership of the tribal council for their commitment to reacquiring ancestral tribal lands. "We are proud to be here today to bring this land back to our people," Chavers said. "Our ancestors are looking down on us and they are very happy because that land is now coming back."

"It's very important for us here at Bois Forte," Tribal Council Secretary/Treasurer David Morrison St. said. "It's important for our young children who are small and learning how to fish and trap. And the land that we are going to be getting back is going to help

our spiritual people with the medicines and the plants that are growing that will be part of the reservation. It means a lot to every one of us here at Bois Forte, and we're very proud to be part of the process that's happening today."

Larry Selzer, President and CEO of The Conservation Fund, said the collaboration with Bois Forte is in perfect harmony with the Fund's mission.

"The restoration of these lands is an important part of our nationwide effort to make sure that forests stay as forests, providing clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, habitat for wildlife, recreational opportunities and economic opportunities," Selzer said. "Through collaboration, dedication, and a shared vision, the Bois Forte band, the Indian Land Tenure Foundation and The Conservation Fund have accomplished something profound, something permanent, something to cherish for all future generations."

Cris Stainbrook, President of the Indian Land Tenure Foundation, noted that what was accomplished in this historic land deal sends a positive message to other Native nations.

"It says these large-scale transactions can,



From left, The Conservation Fund CEO Larry Selzer, Indian Land Tenure Foundation President Cris Stainbrook, and Bois Forte Chairperson Cathy Chavers listen to the Bois Forte Singers perform. photo by D. Colburn

should, and will be done," he said.

After the ceremony, Berns-Melhus added some personal context to emphasize just how significant reuniting the Band with their land is.

"I've been working in land conservation and with Indian tribes for almost 40 years. It's the most historic thing in my career and it just brings joy to my heart," she said.

Meanwhile, Chavers was at a loss to put words to her emotions.

"It's so overwhelming for me," she said. "Because of the historical trauma in the boarding schools, I was never taught my history or my language. My mom and dad never talked about it. So, until I got out here I didn't know anything, but I'm learning. And so today, having this land – I can't even explain how it feels. We didn't think we'd ever be able to buy our land back."

COOK...Continued from page 1

active to start, because it does not take that long to make a difference. I said that works for me."

Cook has been sort of a home away from home for Kajala all his life. The son of George and Margaret Kajala, of Virginia, the Kajalas had a place along Oak Narrows on Lake Vermilion, where they spent a great deal of time over the years.

"We loved the area and always came up to the lake to the cabin here," Kajala said. "And now it's my house."

After graduating from Virginia High School in 1998 and then completing

a degree from University of Minnesota-Duluth, Kajala embarked on a career as an independent financial adviser. While he started in the Twin Cities, he stayed connected to the area here by opening offices in Virginia and Grand Rapids.

That changed as Kajala's career shifted to working for established financial companies Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch.

"I lived in Duluth twice, Destin, Fla., Tampa, Fla., Albany, N.Y., and then back in the Twin Cities," Kajala said. "I spent five years living in the suburbs in the Cities and had no

time to come up here. And I was like we have this place on Lake Vermilion that doesn't even get used, and this is where I wanted to be, so I made the decision to come back."

Prudential was a company that proved to be a good match with Kajala's desire to relocate.

"They were very favorable to having people in small towns," he said.

Community engagement

Kajala's first experience in volunteer activities came when he joined the Cook Lions Club.

"I didn't join right

away, I joined in the winter of 2019 and got quite active there."

So active that he became club president, and the Lions would be hard-pressed to find a better ambassador.

"The Lions Club is just fantastic," he said. "I don't know that there's anywhere in the world that has a per capita membership number like we do. In a town of not even 600 people, we have 64 Lions in town. We're drawing some from outside the area, but still, that's phenomenal. It makes it fun, enjoyable, and easy compared to nonprofits where

it's literally two or three people doing all the lifting at every event."

As with most organizations, the COVID pandemic affected some of the club's activities, but it didn't stop Kajala from pursuing a goal to diversify the membership.

"When I joined the Lions Club I was 38 or 39, and there was only one other individual in their thirties. A lot of our active members are in their eighties, and most of them are over 65," he said. "Now, we've got close to a double-digit number of folks who are under 50, and several under 40 in the club. It's been fun to bring them in, and for a lot of them, it's their first volunteering experience and they've really taken to it."

Kajala has been very active in the Cook Friends of the Parks organization as well. If you had driven past the new Veterans Riverfront Park on Monday, you'd have seen him there, with other volunteers, planting trees donated by Cook Hospital staff.

And he's also had an active role on past Timber Days organizing committees, serving as a co-chair for putting together last year's event. Chances are good that if there's a need for volunteers for a particular issue, Kajala will be tempted to add a helping hand.

"I obviously enjoy volunteering, and that's the reason why I do it," he said.

But he encourages anyone with an interest in volunteering to jump right in. There are plenty of established groups that are active and welcoming to newcomers.

"What I would say is just give it a try because it's probably not going to be as hard as you think it is," Kajala said. "A lot of people think putting on multi-day events is a lot of hard work, but when you spread it out it's not that bad."

And if there are a few extra hands jumping in, Kajala might just spend a little more time with his kids doing all of the things they love together. "There's Parker, who's 17, Evan is 16, Vince is 14, Lila is 11, and Chloe is nine," he said. "We love to travel, we love the outdoors, boating and swimming, some fishing, although that seems to fall by the wayside sometimes. And there's hunting and four-wheeling and snowmobiling and canoeing. We really enjoy doing that stuff." Not surprisingly, he's also raising the next generation of volunteers. You might just see one or two or more if you stop by the Lions Club Brat Shack at Zup's Market, or look closely at volunteers picking up litter along Hwy. 1, or, or, or ... because it's good when your needs are met, Kajala said, to turn to taking care of the needs of others and the community.

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ISD 696 must wait for school project cost overrun answers

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Ely High School Class of 2022 sent on their way

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY—The 30 members of the Ely Memorial High School Class of 2022 gathered at Veterans Memorial Field here for commencement ceremonies last Friday. The outdoor festivities on a beautiful early summer evening marked a return to pre-COVID celebrations with both the Pop Choir and high school band performing.

Megan Anderson, 6-12 principal, presented the class to Interim Superintendent John Klarich and school board Chair Ray Marsnik, who distributed diplomas.

“All too quickly, these kids have grown up, and now they are ready to soar,” Anderson said. “Class of 2022, on behalf of all your teachers and educators, please know how proud of you we all are. It has been an honor to watch you grow. We simply wish you the best.”

She quoted P.T. Barnum, “Trust me, they don’t know it yet, but the world is going to love you.”

Anderson said as she reflected on quotes from “The Greatest Showman,” the theme of both the choir and band selections for the evening, “The past few years have felt a bit like a circus. We combined distance learning, COVID, a building project, numerous trips to (athletic) sections and semi-finals and the like. But you have all managed and done so amazingly well. No one ever made a difference from being like everyone else.”

Seniors Micah Larson (valedictorian), Jon Hakala (salutatorian), and Harry Simons, addressed their



The 30 members of the Ely Memorial High School Class of 2022 toss their mortarboards into the air after commencement ceremonies last Friday held at Veterans Memorial Field. photo by K. Vandervort

classmates.

“The graduates here today wouldn’t be here today without the immense support of our teachers who spent the extra five minutes with us, to the myriad of community organizations who poured volunteer efforts and donations into our countless sports and activities, and most importantly, our parents and families who brought us into this world and dedicated their lives to us from day one,” Larson said. “Only with this support system are we able to celebrate this exciting milestone in our lives.”

According to the class speakers, “The 30-member class of 2022 boasts three future electricians, a photographer, diesel mechanic, meteorologist, dental hygienist, nurse, philosopher, two elementary teachers, biologist, cosmetologist, lawyer, pharmacist, heavy equipment operator, chef, air traffic control dispatcher, entrepreneur, U.S. Army infantryman, and others who have not decided what to be when they grow up.”

School band director Sarah Mason, who is leaving ISD 696 at the end of the year after seven years,

delivered the commencement address.

“I have taught these students since they were in the sixth grade and, oh, how time has flown,” she said. “Time just manages to move more quickly each year. I won’t go into the craziness of the last couple of years. We all know what happened. Rest assured, this class has persevered and very much earned this day.”

She gave some advice to the graduates.

“Take a breath and know that the journey that you are about to embark on isn’t set in stone. Nor

should you feel that every decision you make is going to determine your entire future. You don’t have to accomplish everything in a straight line. You have time to change your major, your college, your career, where you live, everything. Figure out what makes you happy. You deserve at least that. Don’t take life so seriously. Never let someone treat you like a yellow Starburst because you are a pink Starburst.”

The Memorial High School Pop Choir, under the direction of Michael Rouse, performed, “A Million Dreams,” from

“The Greatest Showman.” The Memorial High School Band, under the direction of Sara Mason, performed “From Now On,” also from the same show.

Following the presentation of diplomas, the graduates participated in the traditional mortarboard toss. A vehicle parade, escorted by the Ely Police Department, wound its way through town.

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.

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SECTION 7A BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

Back-to-back wins send Ely to finals

To face South Ridge for 7A title after downing Chisholm, Cherry in extra innings

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

AURORA — It was do-or-die for the Timberwolves as they headed into the semi-final round of the Section 7A baseball tournament, played here on Tuesday. Having lost the prior Thursday to Cherry, the Wolves had no second chances in the double elimination tournament, and they were going up against some of the toughest pitching in the section.

To move on to the finals, they needed to get past Chisholm and second-seeded Cherry in back-to-back contests— and that’s exactly the rabbit that the Wolves pulled from their hats, both times in extra innings and both by a 5-4 margin. They were now set to face top-seeded South Ridge on Thursday.

“What a great day for Ely baseball and these players,” said Ely Head Coach Frank Ivancich. “To go out and win two extra inning elimination games says a lot about the character of these players.”

It seemed enthusiasm may have given Ely the edge. Wolves fans appeared to dominate the

Above: Ely junior Joey Bianco rips a single during Tuesday’s contest with Chisholm.

Right: Ely catcher Chase Sandberg eyes second base as he drills a throw to stop a would-be Chisholm base stealer.

photos by D. Colburn

stands for Tuesday’s games and they provided raucous support with each twist and turn. Ely players were hanging out of their dugout and cheering along with the fans, adding to the momentum.

The Wolves had expected to face Chisholm ace Jude Sundquist, but the Bluestreaks started his brother, Noah Sundquist, instead and the Wolves were able to capitalize, putting points on the board early. Mason Davis ripped a single and he advanced to third on sacrifice bunts from Chase Sandberg and Drew Marolt and later scored on a wild pitch.

Chisholm tied it in the third, but the Wolves added

See **BASEBALL...**pg. 2B



BUSINESS

Lodge owners battle floods and Canada to stay afloat

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

SAND POINT LAKE- It was love at first sight when Doug Hall ventured from his Georgia home to discover the beauty of the region encompassing Crane Lake and Sand Point Lake, and like many, it wasn’t long before the Delta Airlines jet engine mechanic and his wife, Cindy, were on the lookout for a cabin to buy.

Possibilities came and went, but six years ago they happened across a different opportunity – Sand Point Lodge, a six-cabin resort on the Canadian side of Sand Point Lake, was for sale.

Hall found others interested in investing in the property with him, so he hired an accountant and an attorney to move the deal forward.

“And when it comes time to pull the trigger, everybody started craw-fishing,” Hall said. “I told my wife that everybody’s out and asked what we wanted to do, and she said let’s go for it. We’ve been there since 2016.”

At first, everything went even better than they had hoped.

“It was phenomenal. The first three years were just unbelievable,” Hall said. “We were just taking on more customers and got busier and busier and busier.”

The Halls quickly discovered that they hadn’t just purchased a resort. They were the owners of the hub of a community that took root on the Canadian shores of Sand Point Lake in the early 1900s, and they enthusiastically embraced that role, according to Darryl Ponder, who owns one of the roughly 70 cabins in the area.

“Doug and Cindy are terrific,” Ponder said. “It’s the only lodge, the only store on the Canadian side of the lake. But Doug and Cindy have gone far past that. They get a call at 1 a.m. that somebody’s lost on Red Horse Bay and Doug’s in his boat going out in the middle of nowhere to try to find them. It’s a social hub where people will get together. Sand Point Lodge is where everybody gathers and has a pizza. It’s kind of the heartbeat of the community.”

But today, it could be said that Sand Point Lodge is on life support, a victim like many others of two barren years of COVID closures that’s now threatened by record-high flooding and burdensome Canadian border restrictions that could lead to yet another lost tourist season.

Border snafu

The Halls’ major problem is simple, it’s one shared by their neighboring cabin owners, and a solution has been maddeningly elusive.

See **SAND POINT...**pg. 2B

MOVING ON

Bogdan commits to bowl for Viterbo U

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- As a young kid, recent North Woods School graduate Haley Bogdan discovered bowling.

“I started when I was in third grade,” she said. “I have a fond memory of bringing home two flyers one night, one for soccer and one for bowling. After a lot of deliberation – as much as a third grader can have – I decided to try the youth bowling league in Virginia.”

Bogdan will be making a lot more fond bowling memories beginning this fall after signing a letter of intent to bowl for Viterbo

University, a private Catholic college in Lacrosse, Wisc.

“I’m looking forward to new competition in college,” Bogdan said. “Although the tournament format is very similar to what we’re used to for the high school season there are new people, lanes, and experiences. As a college bowler you’re not only able to bowl in your required meets and tournaments but you can also go into nationals and Team USA trials if you choose.”

From her humble beginnings at the Plaza Bowl in Virginia, where her first teammates were three boys from North Woods School, Bogdan has made quite the mark on the

Haley Bogdan and Viterbo University bowling coach Jim Socha are all smiles after she recently committed to bowl for the Wisconsin university.

submitted photo

lanes. The girls team she bowled with in 2016 went to their first state tournament and won. They stayed together, continued going to state, and won it all again in 2019.

But the championships don’t stand out as much for Bogdan as does creating a brand new high school team in Virginia in 2019.

See **BOGDAN ...**pg. 2B



SAND POINT...Continued from page 1B

“We can’t get there,” Hall said.

Canada closed its borders to noncitizens because of the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020, and didn’t start easing those restrictions until August 2021, wiping out two full seasons for Sand Point Lodge. Hall said that “99.9 percent” of their customers are U.S. citizens who access the resort by going through Crane Lake and checking in at the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) remote station at Government Island about one-and-a-half miles away. And trying to replace some of those losses with Canadian customers wasn’t an option because the Halls couldn’t get there to open up.

“They wouldn’t even allow us in during COVID,” Hall said. “They wouldn’t allow us on our own property.”

Hall eventually got to the lodge last August after the restrictions were eased, but he couldn’t take the approximately 10-mile boat trip from Crane Lake because the CBSA didn’t reopen the Government Island station, although all the other remote stations were reopened, Hall said. His only alternative was to use a boat ramp at Lady Rapids on the Namakan River in Canada, having to go through International Falls to get there. That’s also how Ponder got to his cabin, and he described the ordeal of getting there.

“Having what would normally be a 10- to 20-mile boat ride across Crane Lake, now we have to go 181 miles around and it takes three hours and 47 minutes by Google Maps to do that. That’s like asking



High water and Canadian COVID restrictions have left Sand Point Lodge struggling to survive.

all the folks in Fort Frances to have their only boat launch being in the eastern suburbs of Winnipeg. That’s like having your only boat launch for Minneapolis now being past Duluth in Two Harbors.”

The last 38 miles is down a dirt road, Hall said. “And then you have to come off that road and it looked like a four-wheeler path to the boat ramp,” he said. “There’s not a dock. There’s no way I can convince my customers to make this trek. Once you launch your boat you’ve got to find a place to park the boat, your truck and your trailer. At best there’s enough room to park three vehicles with boat trailers. And they expect all my guests and 77 cabin owners to bring all their boats all the way around and all of us are supposed to park in there somehow. It’s impossible.”

And if someone has a problem, mechanical or medical, there’s no cell service at the ramp, Hall

said, and it could be days before someone might happen by to be of help. Meanwhile, when Hall reached Sand Point Lodge last August, he found some new residents. “Because the camp had been unattended for two years the beavers moved in and set up camp,” he said. “We had 26 trees down in the camp, three of them laying on cabins. It took me four weeks just to clean up the mess.” This spring was supposed to be different, but then came the rains of April and the flooding of May and June. CBSA didn’t reopen the Sand Point station because of flooding and provided no other alternative. Seeing that the restrictions were still in place in late April, Hall began contacting various Canadian officials and offices, but got nowhere, and by last week had heard only empathetic responses from local officials, like those in Fort Frances, but nothing at

all from the people who could change things. Even describing the potentially hazardous conditions due to flooding at the lodge fell on deaf ears.

“I have six propane tanks and they’re all over half full, so we’re looking at 4,000 gallons of propane,” he said. “I have a 2,000-gallon gasoline tank sitting beside a 500-gallon gas tank full of gasoline. It’s all sitting down where the floodwaters can reach.”

Hall reached out to some folks on the Canadian side to survey the property and secure the tanks, but that doesn’t solve the cash flow issue. After the *Timberjay* talked with Hall last week, the CBSA announced that it would provide an emergency access phone line for property owners to get in to see about possible flood damage. The CBSA is apparently serious about the property owner bit, as there have been reports that approval has been denied for relatives who aren’t

listed as an owner.

“I know one gentleman who was elderly and needed some help, wanted to bring his grandson in, and was told that the grandson can’t go in to help him,” Ponder said. “I had another gentleman who wanted to bring his brother and was told his brother could not go in to help him, so it’s extremely limited.”

Ponder said a simple solution would be to reinstate the Remote Area Border Crossing Program, which allowed people to get an entry permit to use when a remote station was not available, and just add on the proof of COVID vaccination requirements, but for now it remains suspended.

With the floodwaters having peaked and started slowly trending downward, there’s a possibility that in a few weeks conditions would allow the Government Island station to reopen. Ponder also said they needn’t wait that long. “There’s a house there at the site. The office is flooded right now, but the house is actually well above water line and it’s OK,” he said. “We stand by as a community ready to help to the degree we can. There are numerous offers of temporary housing from lodges to private cabin owners if they needed a place to stay. If they need us on an emergency basis to tie docks down or do some sandbagging or something of that nature, we’re ready to help. We just very much would like the CBSA office to open.”

Meanwhile, reflecting his conviction that Sand Point Lodge is an essential part of the community, Ponder set up a

GoFundMe late last week to raise money to help, and as of Wednesday 66 donors had contributed more than \$17,000, \$5,000 more than Ponder’s original goal.

“The response from you all has been amazing, overwhelming, and quite humbling, especially in light of the fact that this flood is affecting everyone and their properties,” the Halls wrote in a social media post. “Without hesitation so many have come to our aid, and have given us a leg up in this particularly difficult time. Your contributions and prayers are deeply appreciated and will allow us to get on the road to recovery!”

Hall was uncertain if they could survive a third lost season, but with the extra assistance and even a partial season, he’s hopeful. “We’re trying to be optimistic and we’re going to shoot (to open) July 1,” he said. “We had people who were scheduled to come in June and put their plans off to July and August, so we can still salvage part of it to try to get enough revenue to pay the winter bills and hold on till next year.”

Sand Point Lake property owners wishing to enter Canada by private boat can call the CBSA at 807-274-5473 and should call in advance of their arrival. They should also complete their ArriveCAN mandatory information before entering Canada.

BASEBALL...Continued from page 1B

three more runs in the fourth inning to regain the lead. Sandberg and Marolt each notched RBI singles and Joey Bianco ripped an RBI double to aid Ely’s cause.

Chisholm added a run of their own in the bottom of the fourth and added two more in the seventh to knot the game at four apiece at the end of regulation.

Chisholm brought in Jude Sundquist to start the eighth, but Ely was ready to rumble and drew three straight hits, by Eddie Prijatel, Marolt, and Logan Loe to load the bases.

Bianco then drew a walk to force in the go-ahead run.

While Chisholm threatened in the bottom of the inning, Loe, who had come on in relief, got out of the inning to claim the save.

That left the Wolves to face Cherry, who had handed them their sole loss of the tournament last Thursday. And unlike their contest with Chisholm, it was the Wolves who had to rally for the win.

It was a pitcher’s duel early as both starters kept the scoreboard quiet through five innings. Loe

started for Ely and he left the game after five innings, having reached his pitch count. He had scattered five hits up to that point, allowing no runs.

Cherry pitcher Sam Serna kept the Wolves guessing early on, allowing just one hit through five innings on the mound.

In the sixth, Cherry’s Beau Berry ripped a two-run blast off Ely reliever Drew Marolt to give Cherry the momentary lead. But Ely came back in the bottom of the frame on consecutive hits by pinch hitter

Jacob Towley and Bianco. Caid Chittum moved both runners into scoring position on a bunt. A groundout by Deegan Richards and a base hit by Erron Anderson brought both runners home to knot the game at two heading into the seventh. After a scoreless seventh, Cherry looked headed to an extra-innings victory after they put two more on the board in the top of the eighth. It was just the challenge that Ely needed. Ely’s Richards opened the bottom of the inning with a double to center and when

Anderson reached on an infield error, it brought Richards home to close the gap to one run. A Sandberg hit and a walk by Preston Hines loaded the bases for Prijatel, whose infield grounder scored Anderson to tie the game. That’s when Loe brought home pinch runner Sam Leeson on a perfectly-executed squeeze bunt for a stunning come-from-behind walk-off win to send the Wolves to the finals.

It was a total team effort, noted Ivancich. “All 17 players contributed

today,” he said. “We used five different pinch runners in our two games and used four pinch hitters in our two games, as well as five pitchers,” he said.

The Wolves will likely face their toughest test on Thursday as they face top-seeded South Ridge for the right to go to state. Catch the results of that game online at timberjay.com and in next week’s print edition.

BOGDAN...Continued from page 1B

“Virginia hadn’t had a team in many years, so it was a new start,” Bogdan said. “Our first season was a little rough trying to learn the new rules and formats of the events.”

This year Bogdan qualified for the Minnesota State High School League girls state tournament.

“It was a little scary for me because I had never bowled with only girls before,” she said. “It was a lot of fun, and I finished tenth.”

“I think the thing I like most about bowling is the friendships and connections you can make,” Bogdan said. “A lot of other high school sports don’t

allow you to do that and still be a good competitor, but with bowling you’re able to be friends and enemies at the same time.”

New connections are also something she’s excited about when she heads off to Viterbo.

“It’s a smaller school, and from what I’ve heard everyone is very connected. I will be studying sports business management and leadership, and will hopefully come back to Minnesota with my degree to work with youth bowling,” Bogdan said.

Memories of the Early Days

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

Written by Marshall Helmberger • Published by the Timberjay

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Obituaries and Death Notices



Virgil McCue

Virgil “Squeek” McCue, 85, of Cook, passed away peacefully at home on Monday, June 6, 2022. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 11 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook. Visitation will be held at 3 p.m. with the service following at 4 p.m. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Squeek was born in Bear River on April 17, 1937, to Charles and Aleda. He grew up in Bear River and attended Bear River and Alango schools. Squeek married Carol Aune on Dec. 23, 1955, and they were married for 66 wonderful years. Squeek worked as a logger with his brother Larry, owned his own logging equipment sales and repair shop, worked for the REA, on the Alaskan Pipeline, as a Cook Ambulance volunteer, and finished his working career at Abramson/KGM Construction working as a heavy equipment mechanic and welder for over 25 years.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, snowmobiling (he was a founding member of the Cook Snowmobile Club), RVing and traveling, making new friends from across the country and Canada. Squeek was a lover of music; he played the harmonica, and always encouraged others to play any instrument. The thing he enjoyed most was visiting with his family and friends, who benefited from his wisdom and guidance. His motto was, “Life has no reverse, only forward gears.”

Squeek could fix anything for anyone, except the loss he felt losing his daughter to cancer in 2008. Squeek began his sobriety recovery journey on July 1, 1978. He was very dedicated and involved in that recovery

with AA, having 43 years sober, something he and his family were very proud of. Squeek will be remembered as a caring, hardworking, happy, proud man.

Squeek is survived by his wife, Carol; sons, Mike (Shona) and Bob (Fran); son-in-law, Dale; 11 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; brother, Larry; sister, Barb Seopa; sister-in-law, Karen; and many nieces, nephews and loved ones.

He was preceded in death by his parents; beloved daughter, Tammy; brothers, Tom and Don; and sisters, Florence, Betty and Charlotte.



Darleen F. Johnson

Darleen Faye 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.

Darleen was born on June 13, 1932, in Excelsior, to Edward and Margaret (Young) Thomas. She grew up and graduated from high school in Excelsior. Darleen was united in marriage to John “Jack” L. Johnson on May 2, 1952; they had four children. Darleen loved everything about being a homemaker and hosting family holidays. When life required her to work outside the home, she rose to the occasion. A hard worker, she did many jobs well. However, she ended her career doing what she was passionate about, running the restaurant at Sunset Resort on Ash River.

Always one to be busy, Darleen enjoyed many hobbies - embroi-

dery, quilting, baking Christmas cookies, and playing a mean game of cards were her favorites. Darleen was a member of Calvary Lutheran Church. She was deeply religious and devoted to her family.

Darleen 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. Darleen had the joy of welcoming 15 great-grandchildren; she was fortunate to have close relationships with many nephews and nieces.

She was preceded in death by her former husband, Jack; brother, Dale Thomas; and sister; Phyllis Wright.

Mona J. Jarnstrom

Mona Joyce Strom Bullert Jarnstrom, 93, of Lake Vermilion-Tower and Bonita Springs, Fla., passed away on Monday, Dec. 13, 2021, at Edgewood due to leukemia. She will be remembered for her witty one-liners and easygoing personality. A celebration of life will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 18 at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower, with a luncheon to follow. Memorials are preferred to St. James Presbyterian Church, PO Box 413, Tower, MN 55790.

Mona was born on Sept. 21, 1928, in Eveleth, to John Arthur “Art” and Eva Strom. She was best known for working in her father’s store on the main street of Eveleth, Strom’s Variety, and later the Ben Franklin Store. After graduating from Eveleth High School in 1946, she attended Eveleth Junior College and Duluth Business School.

Mona married Royal Jarnstrom in 1948 and together they had four daughters. After Royal passed away in 1976, and left with six-year-old Kristie to raise, Mona attended Mesabi Community College and graduated from the University of Minnesota-Duluth in 1980 with a degree in Business Education. Mona taught at

Minnetonka High School and Minneapolis Technical College and retired from Minneapolis North High School in 1993.

In 1993, Mona married Loyd Bullert and moved to Lake Vermilion, only three miles from the 1925 Jarnstrom family cabin where numerous kids learned to waterski, take sauna, and jump off the dock. After her worldly travels, sitting on the shore of Lake Vermilion at her cabin was Mona’s favorite place to be.

Mona is survived by her loving daughters, Ramona Walberg of Virginia, Renee Holloway of Lake Vermilion-Tower, Lynn Dee (Mark) Lehto of Lake Vermilion-Tower and Kristie (Marc) Baumgartner of Bloomington; grandchildren, Jeff (Jenny) Holloway of Shorewood, Matthew (Amanda) Holloway of Minnetonka and Jesse (Abby) Brula of Burnsville; and great-grandchildren, Rory and Drew Holloway, Will Holloway and Maddox Brula.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Royal Jarnstrom in 1976; sister, Norma (Laurie) Aho in 1977; beloved son-in-law, Don Holloway in 2011; and husband, Loyd Bullert in 2011.



Kari W. Steenerson

Kari Wallace Steenerson, 56, of Babbitt, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, May 31, 2022. A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 2 at the Hide Away in Babbitt.

Kari was born to Wallace and Audrey Steenerson, in Ely, on Dec. 1, 1965. He grew up in Babbitt and graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in Babbitt in the class of 1984; he received his AA degree from Ver-

million Community College.

Throughout Kari’s life, he was a jack-of-all-trades. He worked as a lifeguard, managed Jubilee Lanes, worked for Gen II, K & A Hauling and Carefree Living, was a city of Babbitt employee and in Essentia Health maintenance. Most recently, he worked at Fortune Bay in security, as a valet, and in maintenance.

His interests included his family, his lifelong friends (including the Hide Away crew), his dogs Lacey and Gizzy, hunting, bowling, motorcycles, four-wheeler rides, rebuilding cars, the family reunions at Mille Lacs Lake, and perfecting his Norwegian Christmas baking. He was an avid live music supporter across the Range.

Kari was known by family and friends by many names - Pie, Kare-Bear, Unk, Unckie, Uncle Scary. Whatever he was called, he was always known for his smile, chuckle, soft-spoken nature, and for being there when someone needed him - be it at the end of a snowed-in street, or late shift to ensure you were safely to your car, working so families could celebrate the holidays together, as a designated driver, a listening ear, or being a voice for the humane treatment of animals. His giving

spirit continued to help others through the gift of organ donations.

Kari is survived by his mom, Audrey Steenerson of Babbitt; sisters, Kim Anderson of Ely and Kay Chisel of Appleton, Wis.; nephews, Aaron Anderson of Ely and Cory Chisel of Appleton Wis.; niece, Tara (Jason) Pohlkotte of Lebanon, Pa.; great-nephews, Noah Anderson, Owen Pohlkotte and Rhodes Chisel; great-niece, Ava Pohlkotte; and numerous uncles, aunts, cousins and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his dad, Wallace Steenerson; uncle, Arne Steenerson; and brother-in-law, Roger Anderson.

Dolly Babnick

Per Dolly’s request, there will be no funeral service. Celebrations of life were held on Saturday, June 4 in Duluth and on Sunday, June 5 in Iron.

She is survived by her daughters, Tammy Weiss (John Koskiniemi) of Iron, Brenda Edmundson (Les Hujanen) of Tower and Lisa Lannroos (Rick Gorsuch) of Eveleth; brother, Fred Weiss of Cook; and grandchildren, Dylan, Matthew and Joshua Hummel, Tyler and Tanner Edmundson.

80th Annual Meeting of
Embarrass Vermillion Federal Credit Union
at Timber Hall in Embarrass.
Tuesday June 21st
starting at 6pm!!
Food at 6, business meeting 6:30, drawings
after and lots of fun!

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Scavenger hunt for
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- **Who:** Open to current members aged 13-17
- **What:** \$500 scholarship
- **Where:** Must attend the annual meeting and be present to win
- **How:** Put your name in a drawing for a certificate* to be redeemed at the credit union.
- *Certificate funds will be held in account until needed and a check will be written out to the school at the beginning of the first term or semester.

**EVFCU has the right not to award this scholarship to any and all applicants.

The team at EVFCU are looking forward to seeing you!

Branches in:
Tower, Embarrass,
Aurora,
Vermilion (Fortune Bay) & Nett Lake

Outdoors briefly

Take a kid and fish for free this weekend

REGIONAL— You can fish for free June 10-12 in Minnesota as long as you take a kid 15 years or younger along with you.

It’s the annual Take a Kid Fishing weekend, designed to encourage Minnesotans to introduce young people to outdoor pursuits.

“Fishing together with kids is a fun way to spend time in the outdoors,” said Benji Kohn, volunteer mentor program coordinator with the Department of Natural Resources. “Making great memories can be as easy as finding some rods and reels, finding or buying worms for bait,

and heading to a nearby lake to give fishing a try.”

Youth 15 and younger do not require fishing licenses at any time of the year, though they must observe all fishing seasons and other regulations. Take a Kid Fishing weekend allows adults to fish without a license as long as they take a child fishing with them. Minnesota residents also may generally fish in state parks

without a fishing license if the body of water does not require a trout stamp.

Learn to fish resources

The DNR’s Learn to Fish page (mndnr.gov/GoFishing) covers fishing basics, where to fish, how to catch different types of fish, and the importance of fishing ethics and being stewards of Minnesota’s natural resources.

IT’S THAT
TIME AGAIN!

**The Tower Cemetery Board
asks for your support.**

Thank you all for your past donations.

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

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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 13, 2022
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



Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

LIFE IN THE WOODS

Is an insect apocalypse just ahead?

Record wet spring combined with loss of bats could yield worst bug season in years

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Are we headed for a mosquito apocalypse here in the North Country? Perhaps a black fly bonanza? Or a deer fly debacle? Maybe all of the above?

In fact, the circumstances appear to have aligned themselves for one of the worst

bug seasons in our area in recent years, and it's already become apparent according to what we're hearing from folks and experiencing in our own backyard in Vermilion Lake Township.

We know the bugs will be bad in June. That just comes with living in the North Country. But this year could be worse than usual, thanks in part to last year's drought,

which was followed by one of the wettest springs in memory.

It can be complicated writing about bugs like mosquitoes in Minnesota in part because we have so many different varieties— more than 50 different species of mosquitoes, each with different habitat preferences and seasons. But in general, a drought year leaves more mosquito eggs out on the

landscape. Mosquitoes generally lay their eggs in standing water, or in low areas that would likely flood after heavy rain. In a dry year, many of those eggs don't hatch, but most mosquito eggs have the ability to remain dormant for several years, just waiting for wet conditions to allow them to hatch. Those conditions

See INSECTS...pg. 5B



Mosquitoes and black flies have emerged in large numbers already this spring, testing the willpower of area residents. The deer flies should be emerging soon, and will add further to the hordes of biting insects.



DROUGHT RESPONSE

When it snows in June

Last year's drought likely sparked a storm of aspen fluff this year

If you've noticed more of that white fluff in the air in recent days, you're not alone. It's the fluff that female aspen trees produce in order to disperse their seeds and it's been piling up to a degree we haven't seen here in quite a while. Road edges have appeared white at times, almost like snow, window screens have been clogged with the stuff and lakes and ponds have had a noticeable skim of white as well.

So, what exactly is going on?

It's hard to say for certain, but it's likely related to last year's drought. Extreme drought, like we experienced last summer and fall, stresses virtually all plants, and that includes trees. You might think that drought stress would prompt plants to produce fewer seeds as a result, as they focus their limited resources on survival. Yet drought often has the opposite effect, particularly in trees, as it triggers a burst of seed production. It's as if the tree is preparing for its own demise by ensuring that more of its progeny have a chance to survive in the future.

The abundance of fluff this year actually got me thinking a bit more than usual about a tree that we often take for granted around here. We actually have three species of the genus *Populus*, including *Populus tremuloides* (quaking aspen), *Populus grandidentata* (big-toothed aspen) and *Populus balsamifera* (Balsam poplar) that are commonly found in our area and they all use fluff as a means of seed dispersal, so the fluff we're seeing now could be from any of these three species.

Only the female trees produce fluff, which begins to disperse as their fertilized catkins mature and open, which typically



MARSHALL
HELMBERGER



Top: Like most female aspen in our area this year, this big-toothed aspen has put its energy in the production of seed catkins, which are contributing to the abundance of aspen fluff this spring.

Above: Aspen fluff accumulates like snow in the grass along Holter Road, near Tower. The fluff is unusually abundant this year, likely a response to last year's drought.

photos by M. HelMBERGER

occurs in our region in late May to early June. Aspen trees are *dioecious*, which means that they are either male or female. Many plants have both male and female parts (and are known as *monoecious*), but some plants are one or the other. What's interesting about aspen is that the male or female trees tend to grow together in clumps or small groves. That's because aspen grow as interconnected clones that are joined via their root systems, so what appears to be a grove of very similar trees may actually be a

single organism that has produced multiple stems from its single root system. In this sense, when we cut an aspen tree, we are actually cutting a stem or branch from the larger whole. That's one reason that aspen are so quick to regrow after they've been logged or burned in a fire— an extensive root system is already well established and it can direct substantial resources to rapid regrowth. It's not unusual for aspen sprouts to grow eight feet in the first year after logging or fire. Aspen are very intolerant of shading, so that quick response helps give them a jump on other trees that typically have to resprout and grow from seed.

Some of these aspen clones are extremely old and it could be argued that aspen are among the longest-lived organisms on earth. There's an aspen clone in the mountains of Utah, known as the Pando clone, that researchers have concluded is approximately 80,000 years old. If so, that

See ASPEN...pg. 5B

Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower
YELLOW VIOLETS



It may seem an oxymoron, but there are actually two species of violets in Minnesota that have yellow, rather than violet colored flowers.

The **Downy Yellow Violet**, *Viola pubescens*, is relatively widespread in our region, while the other species is limited to prairie regions of the state.

This is an early and fairly prominent bloomer, typically larger than the other common violets in our area. Look for a stem that's about eight inches high, with lightly toothed, heart-shaped leaves. The yellow flowers have a typical violet shape and if you look close, you'll see the fine purple veining toward the flower's center.

Fishing reports



Paige Zimmer, from Sioux Falls, S.D, shows off her catch.

Kabetogama area

As is the norm recently, we will start with the water conditions and the effect it is having throughout the area. The good news is that Kab has crested and the outflow is greater than the inflow. As of yesterday, the levels on Crane Lake (342.284) are still a little higher than Namakan (342.083) so we have stabilized but not much recession. The weather forecast looks great! No rain and minimal winds which will help reduce the shoreline erosion considerably as well as getting the water levels to begin to drop. Feels like we have turned the corner and finally headed in the right direction. Boating activity has been low and there has been a definite change in attitude as most are going slow respecting the no wake zone much further out than established. Thank you!

See FISH...pg. 5B

GAINING NEW SKILLS



VCS eighth-grader Libbie Schaffer, was among about two-dozen students from the Tower-based charter school to receive wilderness skills instruction recently in Ely. submitted photo

Learning in the outdoors
VCS students gain wilderness skills

ELY- About two dozen students from the Vermilion Country School in Tower received a hands-on chance to learn outdoor skills from experienced guides here in Ely recently.

Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness partnered with Spirit of the Wilderness outfitters to provide the all-day skills building course for the students in grades 7-12. The skills included canoe paddling, canoe portaging, and orienteering, and it was all held at Semer’s Park on Shagawa Lake on May 25. Students also had a chance to investigate some of the animal species that live here in the North Country.

Students worked in small groups, rotating through a series of educational stations. At the portaging station, students worked together on a few team-building games before practicing their communication and teamwork as they portaged a canoe. They rotated to the next station, where they learned compass and map-reading skills, and used these to navigate around an orienteering course set up in the park. At the animal adaptations station, students gathered evidence on common Northwoods species and used this knowledge to identify animal artifacts. Finally, students had a chance to canoe the south bay of Shagawa Lake with help from guides from Spirit of the Wilderness outfitters, based in Ely. The day included a lunch at the Semer’s Park pavilion.

“Even with some light rain, the students fully embraced paddling and all of the Boundary Waters skills,” said Alison Nyenhuis, the Education Director for Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness. “They brought such positive energy and asked great questions about the wilderness. We look forward to continuing to work with them in the future.”

VCS Director Mary McGrane noted that the day fit well with Vermilion Country’s strong environmental education mission. “This activity day rein-

forced skills and knowledge we want our students to know, including map and compass skills, portaging a canoe and the team-work needed to have a safe and enjoyable canoe trip, and solid canoe paddling etiquette. Hopefully, our school and Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness partnered to facilitate the next generation of young paddlers and stewards of our environment,” McGrane added.

The program was funded through the Friends of the Boundary Waters’ “No Boundaries to the Boundary Waters” program, which works with schools across the state to deliver a Boundary Waters curriculum to students at no cost to schools. In addition, the No Boundaries program provides scholarship opportunities for students from diverse and underserved communities to go on weeklong Boundary Waters adventures in the summer.

Funding for the No Boundaries to the Boundary Waters program was provided by the Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources. For more information on the program or to get your school signed up, visit www.friends-bwca.org/outdoor-education.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
73 47					70 45					72 49					72 54					75 56				
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.
05/30	71	54	0.42		05/30	71	59	1.11		05/30	69	53	0.49		05/30	75	59	0.00		05/30	71	53	0.87	
05/31	77	59	0.65		05/31	77	59	0.88		05/31	77	53	1.47		05/31	61	46	1.10		05/31	77	58	2.24	
06/01	62	42	0.05		06/01	62	41	0.06		06/01	60	41	0.04		06/01	66	39	0.06		06/01	61	41	0.08	
06/02	69	38	0.01		06/02	67	39	0.00		06/02	68	40	0.00		06/02	64	43	0.00		06/02	67	34	0.00	
06/03	66	41	0.03		06/03	65	40	0.00		06/03	65	41	0.01		06/03	61	39	0.00		06/03	65	41	0.00	
06/04	63	39	0.03		06/04	62	37	0.00		06/04	68	41	0.00		06/04	70	41	0.00		06/04	62	40	0.00	
06/05	72	33	0.00		06/05	71	31	0.00		06/05	71	40	0.00		06/05	66	34	0.00		06/05	70	31	0.00	
YTD Total			8.40		YTD Total			10.41		YTD Total			11.38		YTD Total			NA	NA	YTD Total			14.50	

INSECTS...Continued from page 4B

have been served up perfectly this spring, so expect an even larger hatch than usual.

Most of the mosquitoes that hatch in the spring have the potential to live most of the summer, pestering birds and mammals here, including we humans. In the past, the spring hatches would diminish over the course of the summer as predators, like bats, consumed large quantities of them. A single little brown or northern-long-eared bat can consume 1,000 mosquitoes in an hour of feeding and a nursing female bat may need to consume 4,500 mosquitoes or similarly-sized insects in a day, according to the U.S. Forest Service. Bats were once our best friends in the fight against mosquitoes, but whitenose syndrome has wiped out about 95 percent of them, and it will be decades, if ever, before bat populations can recover to the level we used to experience here in the North Country.

That means our forests are likely to have more mosquitoes, and for longer periods of time, in the summer than we used to experience here. Add in our current circumstances, of drought followed by flooding, the deck is stacked for a truly horrible mosquito season.

And mosquitos aren’t the only insect pestering us in the woods right now. The black fly explosion this spring appears worse than usual as well. Black flies, commonly called gnats by some folks in our area, hatch from running water and there’s more of that than usual thanks to our wet spring.

And while they haven’t really appeared yet, thanks to our cooler-than-average May, the deer flies will be out very soon and the wet conditions should help to ensure a healthy crop as well. Unlike black flies, deer fly larvae grow and hatch in mucky conditions, most typical in our area in wet ditches or swamp edges. They normally peak in our area in mid-June to early July and can deliver a painful bite. The good news, if there is any, is that deer fly larvae typically take at least a year to develop in the muck, so they’re unlikely to be as affected by variations in precipitation as mosquitoes or even black flies. If last year’s drought killed off some deer fly larvae, we could actually see fewer of these nasty biters than in a typical year. Time will tell on that.

Regardless, it’s likely to be a tough few weeks in the woods. I guess we should be glad we can escape indoors. Just imagine what the next few weeks will be like for the bears and the deer and the moose. It’s times like these when it’s easy to recognize the downsides of life in the wild.

ASPEN...Continued from page 4B

would far surpass the age of even the oldest bristlecone pines, which have long been seen as the oldest living trees, known to live up to 5,000 years.

Vegetative reproduction, through sprouting, is an effective way for a plant to maintain itself where it already exists, although it comes with limitations. While a clone that sustains itself for 80,000 years is amazing, it is only possible in a relatively stable environment. Researchers have discovered that the Pando clone, for example, appears to be dying, likely a victim of climate change and other human impacts on the environment.

Sexual reproduction, through seed-making and distribution is how plants establish themselves in new areas, but it also provides long-lived plant species an opportunity to adapt over time to changes in their existing habitat. Sexual reproduction mixes genetic material in new and different ways, providing for the changes that allow a species to be successful in a changing world.

Aspen are remarkably effective in both types of reproduction, which is probably one reason they’ve been so successful.

Aspen is what are known as a pioneer species, in that they are quick to revegetate disturbed areas, particularly in the wake of fire, through seeding. All that fluff allows the seeds to be widely distributed by the wind. When those seeds land on a disturbed site, with plentiful sunshine and appropriate soil, they will grow into a new tree. Over time, that tree can create its own clone, eventually generating a grove of genetically-identical “trees.”

In the right conditions, these clones can survive for thousands of years. And produce plenty of fluff along the way.

Anglers that are getting out are still doing extremely well. Patterns are constantly changing with most presently catching fish in the 12-25 ft. range with a jig and minnow still producing best. Eater sized fish mixed with the bigger ones are making for some great days on the lake.

There had been some rumors floating around that some resorts had shutdown operations completely. This is not accurate as we are up and running with some having just minor inconveniences. Before making any decisions on your planned vacation PLEASE give your destination a call for accurate conditions!

Courtesy Gateway Store, Lake Kabetogama

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- Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
- Trash unused bait

DRY

- Everything at least five days before going to other waters
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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

Legal notices are online
at timberjay.com

POSITION OPENING

Ely Public Schools

Social Studies Teacher

0.609 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year; 0.609 FTE; competitive salary and fringes as per the master agreement. Background check required.

Qualifications include:

- Current Minnesota 7-12 Social Studies teaching license
- Preferred teaching experience with middle school levels
- Excellent communication skills including verbal and written

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 teaching 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 30, 2022
Application review to begin: June 14, 2022; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, June 10, 2022



OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Hospital/ER

2 PT Registered Nurses (Wage starting at \$35.17/hr. \$4,000 sign-on bonus)

Adult Day Services

Adult Day Services Director (Current LPN Licensure required)

Dietary

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)

TO APPLY:

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

More Info? Contact Human Resources

218-666-6220

humanresources@cookhospital.org

The Cook Hospital & Care Center offers competitive pay and benefits including PBA retirement, Health and Dental coverage, Life and LTD.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- Bridge
- Dallas hoopster, briefly
- Untalkative one
- Architect Saarinen
- Inseparable
- Reply to "Shall we?"
- Legal document
- Sailor
- Privy to
- Debriefed person?
- Crib cry
- Enigma
- Mudville slugger
- "Certainly!"
- Half of CIV
- Exploits
- Goof up
- Fine spray
- Pickle holder
- "— was saying ..."
- "Olympia" artist
- Batting position
- Scruff
- Help
- Eager
- Energy
- Yon folks
- Anti-fur org.
- Before

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19			20	21				
			22			23					24	25
26	27	28				29				30		
31					32				33			
34				35				36				
37			38				39					
		40					41			42	43	44
45	46				47	48			49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

- Wheelchair access
- Texter's sign-off
- Last letter in London
- Garfield's pal
- "Chocolat" actress
- From — Z
- AOL rival
- Devious
- TV spots
- Aleppo's land
- French river
- Chanteuse Eartha
- Stephen King pooch
- Now, in a memo
- Peace
- Emilio of "The Breakfast Club"
- Address for Toscanini
- Venomous viper
- Roast VIPs
- Tennis star Rafael
- Identified
- "If — a Hammer"
- Big rig
- Ilk
- Suitable
- Dog doc
- Rage

DOWN

- Stitched
- Andean land
- Saharan
- Observes
- Slogan
- Santa — winds
- Dutch artist
- Scale

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PUBLIC NOTICES

KUGLER TOWNSHIP

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Christopher Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, June 10, 2022

2022-2023 and 2022-2024

Cook Hospital Bids

For Propane

Two separate sealed propane bids will be accepted until 4:30 pm, June 27th with contracts to begin October 2022.

Propane Bid #1: 180,000 gallons for 2022-2023
Propane Bid #2: 360,000 gallons for 2022-2024

A contract for 24-hour emergency service and biannual maintenance of vaporizers must be included in Bid #1 and #2. Must be able to provide backup propane tank of 2,000 gallons or more and keep it filled in the event of an emergency or main propane tank failure.

The sealed bids must be marked "Propane Bid #1 and Propane Bid #2" and be delivered or mailed to Cook Hospital, Teresa Debevec, CEO, 10 Fifth Street SE, Cook, MN 55723.

Bids will be opened at the Board Executive Committee Meeting of the Cook-Orr Healthcare District on June 28th at 4:30 PM.



Published in the Timberjay June 10, 17 & 24, 2022

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

Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

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

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. Country | ___ A ___ _ _ _ _ | Idea | ___ O ___ _ _ _ _ |
| 2. Bring down | L ___ _ _ _ _ | Lawnmower | M ___ _ _ _ _ |
| 3. Chitchat | ___ _ _ T ___ _ | Flag | ___ _ _ N ___ _ |
| 4. Glow | ___ H ___ _ _ _ | Backbone | ___ P ___ _ _ _ |
| 5. Petunia, e.g. | F ___ _ _ _ _ | More sluggish | S ___ _ _ _ _ |
| 6. Musical pulse | ___ _ _ _ O | Allure | ___ _ _ _ T |
| 7. Keep in custody | ___ _ _ _ _ N | Fine point | ___ _ _ _ _ L |
| 8. Santiago's country | ___ _ _ _ E | Youngster | ___ _ _ _ D |
| 9. Fuzzy fruit | ___ _ _ _ H | Tranquility | ___ _ _ _ E |
| 10. Use the tab key | ___ _ D ___ _ _ | Originate | ___ _ V ___ _ _ |

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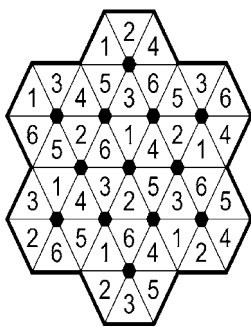
Super Crossword

Answers

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

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

Ely AA OPEN GROUP MEETINGS-

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

MS SUPPORT GROUP-

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

ORR AA meets

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

ELY CO-DEPENDENTS MEETING-

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

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS-

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

BABBITT AL-ANON-

meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the upstairs of Woodland Presbyterian Church.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP-

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

VIRGINIA AA WOMEN'S MEETING-

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

SPAN	MAV	CLAM
EERO	ONE	LETS
WRIT	TAR	INON
NUDIST	MAMA	
	CLOSED	BOOK
CASEY	YES	LIJI
USES	ERR	MIST
JAR	ASI	MANET
OPEN	STANCE	
	NAPE	ASSIST
AVID	VIM	THEY
PETA	ERE	RAMP
TTYL	ZED	ODIE

Even Exchange

answers

1. Nation, Notion 6. Tempo, Temp

2. Lower, Mower 7. Delain, Delail

3. Banler, Banner 8. Chile, Child

4. Shine, Spine 9. Peach, Peace

5. Flower, Slower 10. Indent, Invent

Adverstising

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SUPPORT GROUPS

AA OPEN MEETING-

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

ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA MEETING-

Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Community Church, 1515 E Camp St., Ely.

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH DRUGS,

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

HIV/AIDS?

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS-

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

AA FRIDAYS-

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

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Super Crossword

LUCKY COMPLEMENT

ACROSS

1 Statesman Kefauver

6 Psi follower

11 Very top

15 “Dancing Queen” quartet

19 Political muscle

20 Plain — (obvious)

21 You, to a Quaker

22 — rock (“70s genre)

23 “... the Sorcerer's Stone,” “... the Chamber of Secrets,” etc.

26 Carpentry file

27 Mr. Chips player Peter

28 Desert of the Southwest

29 Harm's way

30 Fashion line?

32 Solon of Athens, Thales of Miletus, etc.

35 “Casino Royale” actress Green

38 Director Howard

40 Sinusitis-treating doc

41 Bullring cries

42 Hawikuh, Cibola, etc.

47 Since Hector was —

48 Lilt syllable

51 Allow access to

52 Stole third, perhaps

53 Rhine tributary

55 Adorable sorts

57 Like tornado winds

59 WWII prez

61 C1, C2, etc.

63 Mao — -tung

64 “Beetle Bailey” dog

67 Hope that one may

69 Uber rival

70 Great Pyramid of Giza, Colossus of Rhodes, etc.

75 “Very funny!”

77 Heavenly

78 Gin fruit

79 Paranormal skill, in brief

82 “Infant,” “whining school-boy,” etc.

85 Albeit, for short

87 Boxer's combo

89 Singer Franklin

90 Photo badges, e.g.

92 Rockies ruminants

95 Diarist Nin

96 “My Gal —”

97 — Mawr, Pennsylvania

99 Envy, gluttony, etc.

102 Trilogy, often

103 Furious

104 Little peeve

105 See 25-Down

106 Red, orange, etc.

112 Barber's sprinkle-on

115 Jetson tyke

116 Criticize petulantly

118 “Eh Cumpari” singer Julius

122 Petri dish stuff

123 100-meter hurdles, high jump, etc.

126 Romantic outing

127 Provo's state

128 “... his wife could — lean”

129 Justice Dept. employees

130 Plum pit, e.g.

131 Makes illegal

132 Acting Buddy

133 Number of items in each set featured in this puzzle

DOWN

1 Imitate

2 Shutter strip

3 Bullring bull

4 Italian coins

5 Shag or bob

6 Siouan language

7 Witty sayings

8 These, in Acapulco

9 Actress Davis

10 Extremely light porous solid

11 Words before clinking glasses

12 45 player

13 “A mouse!”

14 Marks, as a ballot

15 Consents (to)

16 Bugle noise

17 Elementary

18 Abundant

24 Anjou and Bosc

25 With 105-Across, singer of the 1960 #1 hit “I'm Sorry”

29 Before printing, for short

31 Bovine noises

33 Dandy guy

34 “Orfeo ed Euridice” composer

35 Brilliant success

36 Looks at

37 Driving a car

39 Browns' org.

43 Third of IX

44 2002 scandal company

45 PC pic file

46 Rated most likely to win

47 Sharp range ridges

48 Minutia

49 Moray milieu

50 The “A” of PDA: Abbr.

54 Sacred Egyptian cross

56 Cost to cross

58 Brit's “Inc.”

60 Size again

62 Hood for a monk

65 Be rife (with)

66 Consecrate

68 Acid artisan

71 Hops kiln

72 FedEx, say

73 Hugs, in a billet-doux

74 Of kidneys

75 Actor Lukas

76 Indian tourist city

80 Sty dwellers

81 Sheriff's band

83 “Wow!”

84 Partner of Wells

86 Outmoded

88 USN jr. officer

91 Justice Antonin

93 Family

94 Sulky mood

98 Veer, as a ship

100 Many an orphan, in time

101 “Therein lies —”

102 Sawed logs

103 12 in a year

106 Digests a digest, say

107 Pool film

108 Furious

109 Channel airing

110 Detox place

111 Espom —

113 Molten flows

114 Minos' island

117 Musical pitch

119 “As seen —”

120 Eye affliction

121 The “A” of PGA: Abbr.

123 Nerve center

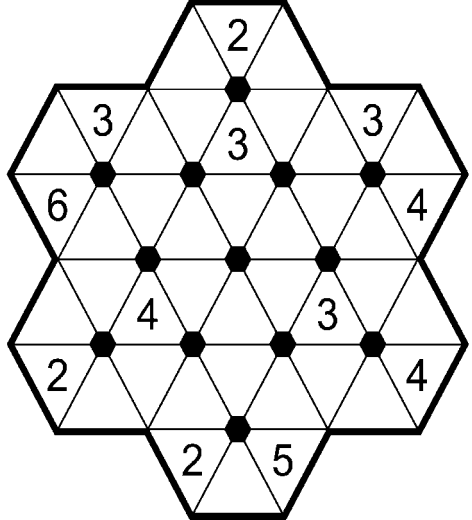
124 JFK guess

125 Dijon denial

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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Weekly SUDOKU

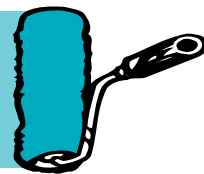
Answer

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

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14		15	16	17	18	
19						20						21					22				
23					24						25						26				
27							28									29					
			30			31		32						33	34						
35	36	37			38		39		40				41								
42			43	44				45	46				47					48	49	50	
51						52					53	54			55		56				
57					58		59		60		61		62								
63				64		65	66		67		68					69					
		70	71					72							73	74					
75	76					77							78					79	80	81	
82				83	84					85		86			87		88				
89							90		91		92		93	94		95					
96				97		98			99	100					101						
				102				103					104					105			
106	107	108					109				110	111		112		113	114				
115								116					117		118				119	120	121
122														125							
126																					
130																					



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