



Wild cranberries...See /4B

Inside:
Senate race endorsements... See /3
Rallying for choice... See /11
Fall sports... See /1B
Blue-spotted salamanders... See /4B

the TIMBERJAY

Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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\$1⁰⁰



CRIME

Two arrested in Embarrass greenhouse burglary

Female suspect facing manslaughter charges in unrelated case involving the death of her five-month-old infant

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

EMBARRASS- An Aurora woman and a homeless man are facing multiple criminal charges in connection with a break-in at an Embarrass greenhouse last week. St. Louis County Sheriff's deputies and Babbitt police were dispatched to the Early Frost

Farms and Greenhouse about 9 p.m. last Wednesday, Sept. 28. They were responding to a report that motion activated alarms had been triggered, according to the criminal complaint.

"I'm in there several times a week because I'm growing trees for the Nature Conservancy," owner Jack La Mar said. "I noticed there has been activity

in there. I had a pretty crude security system, so I stepped it up. Wednesday night I responded to an alarm and called the sheriff's department to meet me at the facility."

After La Mar pointed out a broken ceiling tile on the floor and wires dangling from the ceiling that hadn't been there when he left around 5 p.m., officers

instructed him to remain outside as they commenced a search of the premises.

In the attached greenhouse north of the main building, officers found Sarah Marie Declusin, 29, of Aurora, lying underneath a low row of tables. They also discovered Matthew James Goodwin, 32, listed as homeless, lying on the other side

of the tables.

Outside the north greenhouse, near where Declusin and Goodwin were discovered, deputies found a pile of wires, copper line, an old cash register, and other items under a black jacket.

According to the criminal complaint, Declusin and

See...BURGLARY pg. 9



PERSEVERANCE

Persistence finally paid off

Dave Rose faced opposition from city, neighbors over RV park

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— "Once you get so deep, there's no turning back."

If RV park developer Dave Rose needed a reason to persevere in his seven-year-long battle to build his Tower RV Resort, the prospect of losing his retirement nest egg was certainly a convincing one.

Rose, who is nearing the completion of a project that

Above: RV park developer Dave Rose gestures while talking about the final steps to complete his new 32-unit RV park in Tower.

Right: Rose installed a new sign this week.

photos by M. HelMBERGER

many thought would never happen, spent years fighting prior city administration and a host of neighbors opposed

See...PARK pg. 10



GETTING THEIR SEA LEGS

Canoemobile brings outdoor classroom to town

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

VERMILION RESERVATION- The lawn behind the Vermilion Social Center was buzzing last Friday. Not with bees, but with busy elementary students from Tower-Soudan and Northeast Range.

The sun was shining, and temps were in the low 70s. The lake was calm.

The students were on a mission to learn the rudiments of canoeing. After being fitted with life jackets and child-sized paddles, they learned how to hold the paddle and practiced canoe strokes on land. When it

was time to hit the lake, they were paired up and marched, two-by-two, onto the dock, ready to lower themselves one at a time into the 24-foot Voyageur style canoes parked alongside the dock. They cruised along on Pike Bay and then returned to shore, giggling and smiling, and maybe trying to splash

Right: Students from Tower-Soudan and Northeast Range were all smiles as they learned to canoe last Friday on Lake Vermilion.

photo by J. Summit

their canoe-mate.

This is the mission of

See...CANOE pg. 10



CITY OF ELY

Council OKs ambulance bailout

Nonprofit service facing 2022 operating loss north of \$250,000

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY— The city of Ely will contribute \$62,500 to the Ely Ambulance Service before the end of the year to help cover a flood of red ink that's threatening to sink the service. The city council agreed unanimously to the contribution although council members expressed some frustration with the service and the timing of its request for help.

"It's hard to argue that we don't need an ambulance service, even though we don't run it," said council member Al Forsman. "But our budget was set and this was not part of it. For the ambulance to come to us in the fourth quarter and tell us they need this to survive is derelict in their duties."

At least it appears the city will have company in the rescue. Under a proposal discussed at the Sept. 27 joint powers board meeting, the townships of Morse and Fall Lake and Ely Bloomenson Hospital would also contribute \$62,500 apiece to cover an estimated ambulance service shortfall of \$261,000. The city of Winton would pitch in \$11,000 under the plan.

The price tag for the cities and townships could increase, depending on whether the hospital can legally donate to the cause. That question was still up in the air as of Tuesday's city council meeting.

Mayor Roger Skraba noted that Ely's

See...COUNCIL pg. 9



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Community notices

Take & Make Kits now available at Arrowhead Library System libraries

MT. IRON-The Arrowhead Library System (ALS) will be providing Eyewear/Phone Pouch Take & Make Kits to member public libraries to distribute October 17-31. The kits include fabric, supplies, and instructions to create your own protective cover for eyeglasses or a phone. Sew it by hand or by machine. Kits will be distributed at the following public libraries and ALS outreach locations including:

Aurora Public Library, Babbitt Public Library, Cook Public Library, Ely Public Library, International Falls Public Library, Mt. Iron Public Library, Virginia Public Library , Arrowhead Public Library System Bookmobile, Arrowhead Library System Mail-A-Book (patrons must qualify for Mail-A-Book services).

Please note each location has a limited number of kits - feel free to contact your local library for more information. This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at www.alslib.info or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo.

Ladies of Kaleva Soinnuttaren Tupa 32 and the Knights will be meeting Thursday, Oct.13

VIRGINIA - A joint meeting of the Ladies and Knights of Kaleva will be held at 6 p.m. at Kaleva Hall on Thursday, Oct. 13. Coffee will be served after the meeting. Everyone is welcome.

St. Louis County offers new no-fee online property tax payment option

REGIONAL- The St. Louis County Auditor’s Office has launched a new payment option that allows citizens to pay their property taxes online with no fee. The county is contracting with Paymentus for this new service, which can be accessed through the county’s website: stlouiscountymn.gov.

Through this new service, property owners can pay their taxes by e-check with no fee. Online payments can also be made with a debit or credit card or through digital wallet options including Paypal, Venmo, Google and Apple Pay; though these options include a fee. Paymentus also gives the option to schedule a payment in advance.

The deadline to pay property tax payments for the second half of 2022 is October 17. This applies to property owners not already paying their taxes through an escrow account.Traditional payment options, including paying with a check by mail or in person, are also still available.

More information on paying property taxes and payment options can be found online at stlouiscountymn.gov/propertytaxes or by calling the St. Louis County Auditor’s Office at 218-726-2383, extension 2.

Free rides to the polls on Nov. 8

REGIONAL- Arrowhead Transit will be providing free rides to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 8, for anyone who lives within a Dial-A-Ride service area. Local areas with this service include:

- Ely, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Grand Rapids, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- International Falls, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Mt. Iron, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Virginia, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Please call at least one day in advance to schedule a ride. When you call, please provide the dispatcher with the following information:

- Where to pick you up
- The location of your polling site
- When you would like to get there
- When you would like to be picked up for your return trip

To schedule a ride, call 800-862-0175. Be sure to let the dispatcher know you want to receive a free ride to the polls.



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HOLD MY (ROOT)BEER

One more practice makes perfect

by RACHEL BROPHY
Staff Writer

ELY – The musical trio Prairie Portage, made up of guitarist Barb Cary Hall, Lynn Evenson on bass and Beth Haakensen on accordion, along with eight hand-picked singers gathered at the Ely Folk School on Sunday, Sept. 25 for their final rehearsal before heading to Birch Bay Recording Studio in Babbitt to record the musical story of a local legend.

A grant last June from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council provided the opportunity to record all the music from “Root Beer Lady- The Musical,” a play written by Hall in 2016 that tells the story of the iconic Dorothy Molter, the last resident of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness who is famous near and far for the thousands of bottles of root beer she brewed each year at her Isle of the Pines home. The new recording will be used as a working tool for the show’s choreographer and for future productions.

The group has met for eight separate rehearsals – most of which were at Hall’s home. The final two were held at the Ely Folk School.

Four of the eight singers have been involved with the musical since 2016, two since 2017 and two are newcomers this year. The singers included Morgan Sauls, Susan Laine, Peggy Stolley, Dean Dewberry, Laurie Kess, David Wigdahl, Vince O’Connor and Rebecca Spengler.

Future plans for the group include a collaboration with the Ely Chamber of Commerce for performances at Ely’s Historic State Theater to take place during next year’s Harvest Moon Festival. Hall also mentioned the possibility of a ‘traveling troupe’ who would perform the musical beginning in 2023-24.



Above: Barb Cary Hall, daughter of author “Jackpine” Bob Cary, wrote The music for “Root Beer Lady-the Musical” and brought her father’s story to the stage.

Right: With a bass as big as she is, Lynn Evenson provided rhythm during the last rehearsal.

photos by
R. Brophy



CREATIVE OUTLETS

Minnesota Media Arts School classes

CHISHOLM - The Minnesota Discovery Center and Zeitgeist Arts are offering film classes at the Minnesota Media Arts School beginning this October. Students will have the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of film from talented and knowledgeable instructors, and learn what it takes to become a filmmaker. The Minnesota Media Arts School will be offering two classes: Introduction to Screenwriting and Documentary Film Production. Classes are

eight weeks long and are available in both Duluth and Chisholm.

Registration and more information is available at Minnesota Media Arts School and at Zeitgeist Arts.

➤Documentary Film Production: Chisholm at Minnesota Discovery Center. Thursdays beginning Oct. 20. Documentary film is a process of curiosity, discovery, and storytelling. In this workshop, we will explore the many different types of documentaries and

build the basic technical skills to create successful nonfiction films, including selecting compelling topics based on available resources, pre-production, lighting, sound recording, cinematography, interviewing, finding the story, and editing. Over the course of the workshop, participants will each create their own short documentaries (max 10 min) and will leave the course with the skills and experience to make many more.

➤Introduction to

Screenwriting: Chisholm at Minnesota Discovery Center. Wednesdays beginning Oct. 5 (virtual). Do you have a great idea for a feature film? Many have great ideas; only few craft them into screenplays. In this workshop, learn screenwriting fundamentals as you develop your idea from pitch to outline to screenplay. While no previous screenwriting experience is required, you should come to the workshop with ideas for short films.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Mesabi Fit Coalition seeks support

REGIONAL- After the recent announcement that the Mesabi Family YMCA is dissolving, a group of former YMCA members, area nonprofits and community leaders began meeting to discuss potential use of the facility

for continued recreation by the community. The lack of alternatives for aquatics-based fitness and family recreation are major concerns.

The Mesabi Fit Coalition, a nonprofit organization, asks all former

Y members, volunteers and other interested people to support the Coalition by going to the webpage www.mesabifitcoalition.org, squarespace.com and filling out a petition. By signing the petition, individuals are showing support

of the Coalition mission and ensuring their voice is counted in the campaign to save this facility for use by the entire community. You may also contact the group at mesabifit-coalition@gmail.com or calling 218-274-9811.

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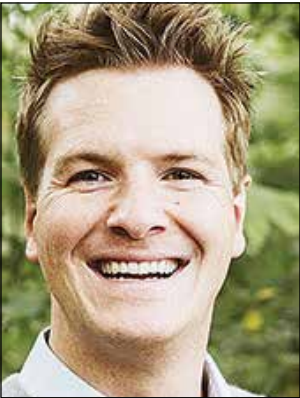
Dueling endorsements in Senate District 3

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Two former DFL state senators have split their endorsements in the race to fill the District 3 Senate seat on Nov. 8. Current District 3 Sen. Tom Bakk, who left the DFL in 2020 and now calls himself an independent, has endorsed Babbitt Mayor and Republican endorsee Andrea Zupancich in her race against Hermantown City Council member Grant Hauschild.

Meanwhile, Bakk’s mentor and former state Sen. Doug Johnson, of Lake Vermilion, is backing the DFL-endorsed Hauschild. Johnson’s endorsement comes along

Bakk backs Zupancich; Johnson endorses Hauschild



Grant Hauschild

with a list of eight other current or former local elected officials who have also announced they’re backing Hauschild. Both Bakk and Johnson were known as moderates during their time in office and they each stressed the continued importance of moderation at a time when the nation’s politics seems to be increasingly governed from the extremes.

“This is a critical time for our region,” said Johnson, who represented the region in St. Paul from 1977-2002. “I’m concerned that if we elect someone who will just toe the party line, the Northland will get left



Andrea Zupancich

behind,” he added. “Grant has a proven track record working on rural public policy, fighting for organized labor, and working with both sides of the aisle while working for another moderate Democrat, U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp.”

Bakk, in endorsing Zupancich, stressed her experience as a mayor and small business owner.

“Her experience living, working, and supporting Northern

Minnesota has superbly prepared her to work for us in the Senate. Her independent voice and pragmatic attitude will be critical as politics moves further to the extremes. Andrea will fight for local good-paying jobs, support Minnesota mining rather than outsourcing overseas, and defend our values against metro-centric politicians of both parties.”

In addition to winning Johnson’s support, Hauschild’s campaign announced a slew of other endorsements, including International Falls Mayor Harley Droba, St. Louis County

Commissioner Keith Musolf, former Tower Mayor Orlyn Kringstad, Ranier Mayor Dennis Wagner, Hermantown Mayor Wayne Boucher, Grand Marais Mayor Jay DeCoux and former Cook County Commissioner Sue Hakes. Hauschild has also received strong support from organized labor and trade unions in the region.

The *Timberjay* plans to feature Senate District 3 candidates and their answers to questions ahead of the Nov. 8 general election.

BACK TO WORK

Bois Forte to get \$2.9 million for jobs program

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Funds will aid displaced workers in regaining employment

NETT LAKE- Bois Forte Band members who have experienced job loss and employment hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic will be getting assistance from a \$2.9 million U.S. Department of Labor grant award announced on Monday.

The Band was among only 22 applicants nationwide awarded funds in DOL’s QUEST Disaster Recovery National Displaced Worker competitive grant program to support projects that enable unemployed and underemployed people to enter, return to, or advance in high-quality jobs in critical and growing sectors of the economy. These grants prioritize individuals whose employment has been negatively impacted by the pandemic and individuals from historically marginalized and underserved populations.

“The emerging new economy is not benefitting all industries or populations

equally,” said a DOL statement accompanying the announcement of the grant competition in July. “Historically marginalized individuals, including African Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, Latinos or Hispanics, and people with disabilities, as well as young adults aged 20 to 24 years, part-time workers, and people without high school diplomas experienced the most significant employment hardships during the first year of the pandemic. Nearly all of these groups have not regained their pre-pandemic employment rates and continue to experience the most significant employment barriers.”

Doris Isham, the grant manage for Bois Forte, said the grant would be used to recruit employees for identified positions lost due to reasons surrounding the pandemic.

“The hired employees

would receive training and education through community colleges or technical colleges to increase skills with a goal of higher quality employment that would be long term,” said Isham, who added that she’ll be meeting with Bois Forte management to explore other avenues to spend down the grant. “We are very fortunate to have received these funds and sincerely thank the U.S. Department of Labor for this generous grant.”

Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers was equally grateful that Bois Forte received the \$2.9 million dollar grant as it will eventually help the work force shortage both with Bois Forte Government employment and employment at Fortune Bay Resort Casino and other Bois Forte Development Corporation businesses. Those include the Y Store on Highway 169, The Wilderness at Fortune Bay golf course and the C-Store up in Nett Lake.

“Doris Isham has been working diligently for the tribe to access additional funds to address the workforce issue the tribe is faced with,” said Chavers. “We are very thankful to have Doris and our others within the organization who write grants for Bois Forte.”

As the additional planning process moves forward, the QUEST grant offers an array of other options the Band could consider, including community and participant outreach, engagement with area businesses, collaboration with other employment-related programs, and offering disaster-relief employment opportunities.

Another feature of the QUEST grant is the ability to include self-employed individuals who suffered significant economic harm or unemployment as a result of the pandemic.

“The goal of the QUEST DWG is to enable individuals who have been adversely affect-

ed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the social and economic inequities that the pandemic exacerbated to enter, return to, or advance in high-quality jobs in growth industries including infrastructure, environment and climate, the care economy, and other critical sectors as defined by the applicant with high-quality jobs,” the DOL statement said.

Tribal nations made up over a quarter of the programs receiving QUEST awards, including grants to the Mille Lacs Band, which received \$1 million, and the White Earth Band, which was awarded \$1.7 million. Fifteen statewide grants of up to \$15 million were also awarded. In total, DOL awarded almost \$200 million nationwide to support displaced workers through the QUEST program.

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Editorial

Hurricane response

Time to discuss whether storm-ravaged areas should be rebuilt

It’s often stated that Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. That might be worth considering as U.S. taxpayers are preparing to be saddled with another multi-billion-dollar financial hit to rebuild a wide swath of southwestern Florida recently devastated by Hurricane Ian.

The cost of weather disasters is skyrocketing in the U.S., and around the world, the result of the changing climate. A warmer planet generates more frequent and intense storms and the path of destruction is being seen all across the country. Yet nowhere is the devastation as costly as what we’re seeing along our coasts, particularly the Gulf Coast, which is so prone to hurricanes.

The trend line is ominous. Last year, the U.S. experienced 20 separate billion-dollar-plus weather disasters, which caused just under \$150 billion in damages. And that was a modest improvement over 2020, when the U.S. set a new record for weather-related destruction.

Over the past five years, the cost of billion-dollar disasters alone in the U.S. has totaled \$742 billion, a five-year average that’s triple the 40-year average. And that’s in adjusted dollars, so the trend line isn’t exaggerated by inflation. The cost is skyrocketing in real terms.

The scientific community has repeatedly warned that the situation is only getting worse and will continue to do so for decades to come.

When do we wise up and apply the same lessons we’ve used successfully elsewhere to limit the destruction to private property and public infrastructure? We no longer build in floodplains because doing so is a poor use of resources. Instead, communities have turned floodplains back to nature, providing habitat for wildlife while reducing the risks posed by historically normal levels of flooding.

We could do the same thing in hurricane-prone regions of the coast. We know that hurricanes will continue to intensify each year and that rising sea levels will only exacerbate the damage when hurricanes strike.

It’s important that the federal government provide as much money as it takes to help address the immediate needs of victims, but if federal taxpayers are going to foot the bill to rebuild roads, bridges, beaches, and other public infrastructure destroyed by these events, we need to be asking if we aren’t simply throwing good money after bad.

We recognize that a house on or near the seashore is a

dream for many. But, in most cases, it’s a realized dream only for the wealthy. The question is, why should taxpayers have to shell out billions to make it possible for wealthy individuals to continue to enjoy their waterfront view or their exclusive island enclaves?

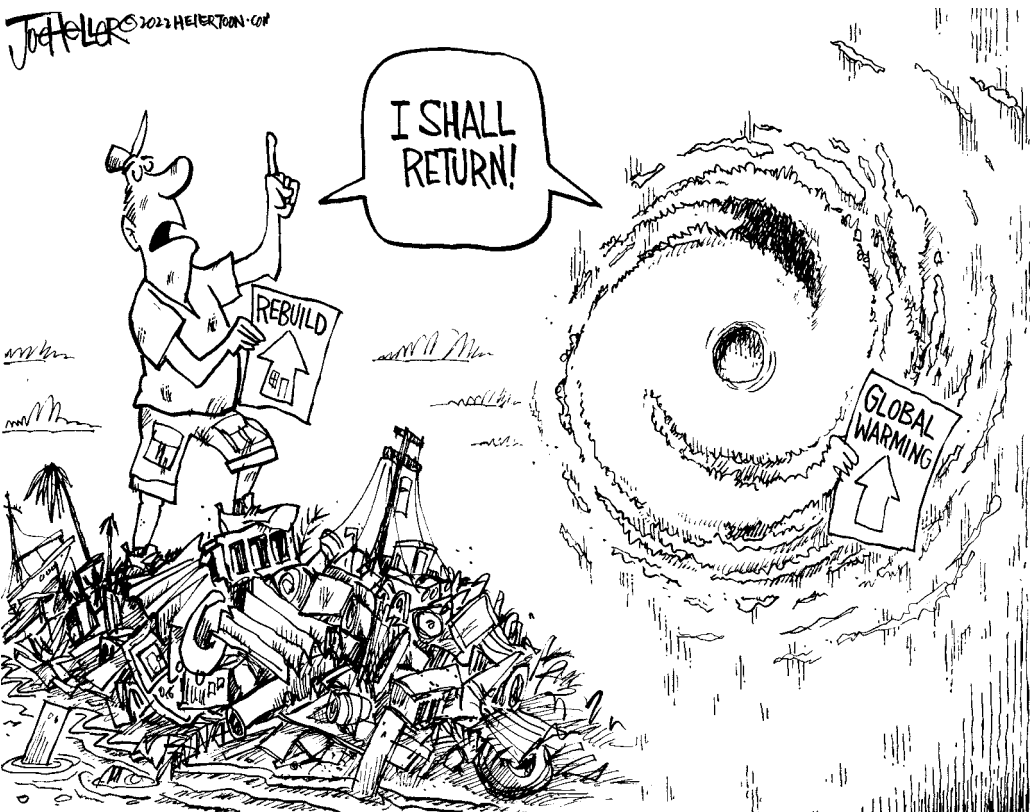
It isn’t just Florida. This is a conversation we need to be having in coastal communities all across the country. If we’re going to be planning for a future even more impacted by climate change than we see today, we need to question whether it makes sense to continue to allow development right up to the water, where homes and businesses are far more vulnerable to storm surges and the worst of the hurricane winds. Returning the most vulnerable of these areas back to natural habitat will save taxpayers the expense of rebuilding infrastructure each time a hurricane crashes ashore.

The federal government needs to reconsider policies that have encouraged coastline development and added to the price tag each time a hurricane strikes. For one, the government provides subsidized flood insurance for coastal residents. There’s a reason that flood insurance from the private sector is prohibitively expensive or unavailable in such areas — the risk and cost of eventual payouts is simply too high. So why should taxpayers have to subsidize insurance costs so the wealthy can maintain their waterfront vacation homes? If the cost of private insurance makes building on the water too costly, everyone should take the hint and rebuild further inland where the risks of catastrophic damage are lower.

It’s time, as well, to update coastal flood maps, many of which are years out of date and don’t reflect the impact of the current, much less future, rise in sea levels. Once adjusted, it’s almost certain that the number of homes and businesses considered flood-prone will rise considerably and that should guide future development decisions.

The federal government should also stop paying millions of dollars to pump or haul sand to restore beaches. With rising sea levels and intensifying storms, it’s another futile subsidy that has to stop.

We understand the desire of politicians to throw money at disasters, fearing criticism if they don’t. But we need to separate the need for immediate relief, which is vital, from the longer-term decision-making about infrastructure and policies that can help reduce the cost of such disasters in the future.



Letters from Readers

Leadership is about solving problems

We need to know where our leaders stand and what solutions they are pursuing. Pete Stauber has been anything but clear in this regard.

Stauber has called the Biden Administration’s Infrastructure Bill “an excuse to advance costly and radical policies that will have negative repercussions on rural districts like ours, and absurd particularly when it comes to transportation.” But, in January of 2022 he was “happy to announce all the grant money our northland airports were getting,” but failed to credit the source of the grants as coming from the infrastructure bill.

Per Pete: “In Minnesota’s 8th Congressional District, we’re blessed with breathtaking scenery found at Voyageurs National Park. The park is just one of the many reasons I think we have the most beautiful district in Minnesota and the country.” And yet Pete voted NO on HR2546 for multiple conservation measures that protect wild areas in our state; NO to stopping the destruction and exploitation of the natural world, putting profits to his billionaire donors ahead of protections. He voted NO on HR3684 to prepare for impacts of climate change, extreme weather events like wildfires, floods and droughts.

Stauber has been a zealous proponent of the proposed Twin Metals copper mine, as proposed by Antofagasta, owned by a billionaire Chilean family. The underground mine, plus its above ground processing and waste storage operations would be located alongside a lake with waters flowing into the BWCA. The environmental report, held back by the Trump Administration and released by the Biden Administration in July 2022, details the threat posed by mines like Twin Metals if operated outside the BWCA but within its fragile

watershed and bolsters the need for a 20-year moratorium and permanent protections.

Like other Republican representatives, Stauber uses national GOP talking points blaming the other side for problems, voting NO on helpful legislation, and using buzzwords like critical race theory to create fear and division among his constituents. All of this chaos sucks energy away from truly working on behalf of his constituents to develop real solutions. While he and the Republican Party are still stuck trying to change the outcome of the 2020 Presidential election, the Biden Administration and Democrats have gone forward with meaningful legislation to help people in their current lives and to move the U.S. into the future.

Jen Schultz, economics professor at UMD and current state Representative for District 7A is known for her ability to find common ground. She understands economics, the need for affordable housing, strengthening jobs, childcare for families, highspeed internet for businesses and remote work. She speaks to the huge call for manufacturing of products to return to the U.S. and suggests creating more economic diversity on the Range by adding the manufacturing and recycling of steel, a newer big business in the steel industry.

She starts by bringing sides together agreeing that we must keep drinking and surface bodies of water safe, and obtain federal funding (which Stauber has not pursued) to expand use of science and technology for solving problems. “It’s about coming up with solutions that serve the people.”

Read the Jen Schultz 9/15/22 interview on Boreal.org. Boreal “reached out repeatedly to Stauber’s campaign for an interview and received no response.” Last week Stauber’s campaign declined participation in the annual candidate debate sponsored by the *Duluth News Tribune*. A

Brainerd Lakes debate between both candidates is scheduled for 10/24/22, 6:30pm, Maddens on Gull Lake.

We need a change, we deserve better, let’s vote to make it happen.

Barbara Lund Gabler Lutsen

Hauschild will deliver for our region

On the way to the recent legislative debate at the Hibbing High School auditorium, I made a stop to pick up a Grant Hauschild t-shirt to wear at the debate, putting it on hurriedly in the car over my other shirt. As I walked into the auditorium I met Grant Huaschild who greeted me with a huge grin even though he doesn’t know me! He said immediately, “Did someone tell you to put that shirt on backwards?” I looked down. Sure enough! It was on backwards showing the large prominent white letters saying, “Just Deliver”!

I was embarrassed of course until later when I realized I should have left the shirt on backwards because that is what Grant Hauschild does and intends to keep doing as a Minnesota state Senator! Please vote early, by mail or on Tuesday, Nov. 8. <https://www.mnvotes.org>.

Judith Ulseth Cook

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.

Keep your bans off our books!

Throughout history, people have attempted to ban books that they felt were inappropriate or controversial. We seem to have an unstoppable delusion that we have a right to make decisions about what other people can do, say, read, or think based on our own biases.



BETTY FIRTH

was banned in 1921 because customs officials thought that it might cause readers to harbor “impure and lustful thoughts.” With an ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) challenge in 1933, the ban was lifted. How many banned books have you read? “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland”, “1984”, “Tropic of Cancer”, “Lolita”, “The Naked Lunch”, “Catcher

in the Rye”, “Beloved”, “The Color Purple”, “Kite Runner”, or “Lord of the Flies”? Books are banned for various reasons, but many that were and are deemed objectionable are by and about marginalized groups, including people of color and the LGBTQ community.

PEN America, a nonprofit group that advocates for free expression in literature, released a report in September, 2022, that shows that during the 2021-22 school year 1,648 titles were banned in 5,049 schools with a

combined enrollment of nearly 4 million students in 32 states. This organized effort to search out and list books with certain content is led primarily by a number of conservative advocacy groups that believe parents should have more control over what their children are learning.

Students aren’t always taking it lying down, objecting to the classroom censorship that restrict students and educators from discussing race, gender, and sexual orientation in K-12 classrooms and universities. Meet Elia Scott,

who started a Banned Book Club in Vandegrift High School in Texas with her friend, Alyssa Hoy, when they found out there was a list of books that were banned from the library shelves and from reading or discussion in English classes. They started organizing by asking people they knew to join them. The word spread, and the club grew, meeting twice a month in the library to read the books on that list. They posted a wish list for books because they couldn’t get them through the school or

See BANS..pg. 5

BANS..Continued from page 4

to education,” she said, adding, “A lot of people preach their opinions at school board meetings, but our focus really is making sure that every student has the ability to access and discuss these books. The best way to fight censorship is to get students involved in the conversation that adults say we shouldn’t be having.”

With young people like Elia and Alyssa paying attention and standing up for their rights, along with the educators and librarians supporting them, our future may just be in very good hands. For your reading pleasure, here are the top ten currently banned books:

1. “The Bluest Eye” (1970) by Toni Morrison, Nobel and Pulitzer Prize-winning author. Racism and sexual abuse of 11-year old protagonist in 1940s. Has been a repeated target of bans due to content: sexually explicit material, disturbing language, and an underlying socialist-communist agenda.
2. “Heather Has Two Mommies” (1989) by Lesléa Newman. One of the earliest books in children’s literature concerning LGBTQ+ issues and inclusion. Recently a superintendent at Pennridge School District in Pennsylvania requested its removal from elementary school library shelves along with other books for “referencing gender identity.”
3. “All Boys Aren’t Blue” (2020) by George M. Johnson, a prominent journalist and LGBTQIA+ activist, tells his stories growing up as a black, queer boy in New Jersey and Virginia. Considered a primer for teens who want to be allies and reassuring testimony for young Black queer men.
4. “Gender Queer” (2019) by Maia Kobabe (e/em/eir pronouns) wrote this comic style book charting eir journey of self-identity as nonbinary and asexual. Described as “a useful and touching guide on what gender identity means and how to think about it for anyone who wishes to better understand,”


- by publisher Simon and Schuster. Pulled from Fairfax, VA high school library shelves for graphic sexual content.
5. “Melissa” (2015) by Alex Gino, (they/them/their pronouns). Formerly published as “George” until 2022. Protagonist Melissa is a 4th grader coming into her own identity as a trans girl. Frequently challenged for conflicting with “traditional family structure,” the book was recently pulled from libraries in Polk County, Florida, along with others highlighting themes of race and LGBTQ issues.
 6. “Stamped: Racism, Anti-Racism, and You” (2021) A National Book Award winner by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds. The authors describe it as a “book about race to help us better understand why we are here.” They weave past with present to inform young readers “how to stamp out racism in their daily lives and why there is hope for an anti-racist future.”
 7. “All American Boys” (2015) by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. A young adult novel with themes of racism and police brutality as told by two teenagers, one black and one white. Complaints about the book include the use of profanity and messages described as “anti-police, divisive, or too sensitive.”
 8. “Lawn Boy” (2019) by Jonathan Evison. A semi-autobiographical story about a young Mexican American coming of age in Washington state dealing with issues of poverty, sexuality, and self-identity. It has been targeted for content described as homoerotic. Pulled from the Fairfax, VA, high school library shelves and one of the books involved in the ACLU’s lawsuit in Missouri against Wentzville R-IV School District, filed in February, 2022.
 9. “The Hate U Give” (2017) by Angie Thomas, a New York Times best seller young adult best seller for 50 weeks. The story of a 16-year-old from a low-income community who is a student in an

affluent prep school. She witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood friend by the police. It has been targeted by bans for its profanity and anti-police messages, banned in Texas and Illinois, and in Pennsylvania students needed parental consent to read it.

10. “Between the World and Me” (2017) by Ta-Nehisi Coates New York Times bestseller, National Book Award Winner, NAACP Image Award winner, Pulitzer Prize finalist and named one of the ten best books of the year by multiple publishers. Written as a letter to his adolescent son, the author attempts to answer the questions of how to live in a black body given the burden of history weaving reimagined history and personal experience to “offer a transcendent vision for a way forward.” Texas Rep. Matt Krause included this book in the ongoing debate about banning “critical race theory” from classrooms.

Adding to the confusion and disagreement is a lack of understanding by the public of the roles and limitations of the responsibilities of school boards, administrators, teachers, librarians, and parents. Also fueling a lot of flames is a complete lack of understanding of Critical Race Theory (CRT), which in fact is only taught at a graduate level, but the name is bandied about to cause alarm and dissension.

From ACLU.org: “The ACLU actively pursues litigation to block government action that bans books from library shelves. Students have the right to receive an inclusive education free from censorship or discrimination, and book bans infringe on that right. As we continue to fight these unconstitutional laws and policies in court, you can also join the fight by supporting students’ right to learn and read the books being banned.”



the
TIMBERJAY

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Memories of the Early Days

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

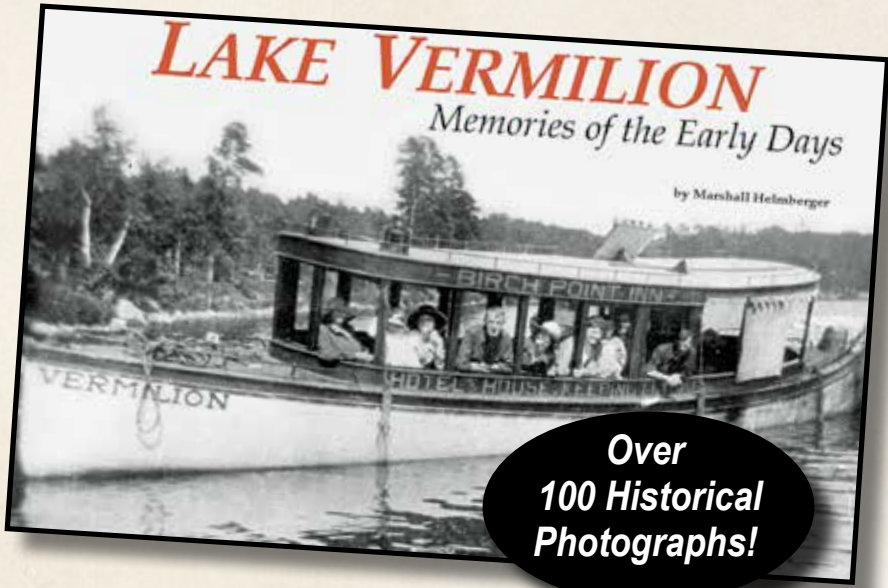
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Book Total - Mail \$39.95

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☐ Pick Up ☐ Mail

Week of Oct. 10

Monday
Embarrass Al-Anon Family Group- Hope Lutheran Church, 5088 Hwy. 21, 6 p.m.
Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 10 at the civic center.

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 Oct. 18.

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 11.
Greenwood Fire Dept.- Meetings on the first (business meeting) and third (drill) Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

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

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

Send a card to Ms. Alstrom
REGIONAL- Long-loved retired Tower-Soudan physical education teacher Carol Alstrom is in the hospital suffering from Lymphedema and having difficulty talking (unlike the loud lady we all once knew). Former students are organizing a get well soon card campaign. Cards can be mailed to Ms. Carol Alstrom, 28475 668th Ave. Litchfield, MN 55355.

Breitung Police Department holding taco fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 8
SOUDAN- The Breitung Police Department is holding a taco fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 8 from 1-5 p.m. at the Soudan Community Center. Times to be announced soon. Funds raised will be used for training and equipment costs.

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TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Big Truck Night

Breitung Township, Tower-Soudan Elementary and Early Childhood Family Education hosted their annual truck extravaganza in Soudan on Sept. 27. Clockwise from top left: Meeting Smokey Bear. Emma and Theo Purkat check out the ambulance. Amelie Zak checks out the back set of the Breitung Police car. Kids enjoy dinner outside at the Breitung Rec Area. photos by S. Ukkola



Tower Trailhead Project underway

TOWER- Work is underway on the Tower Trailhead Project, with the construction of a new canoe and kayak public access on the East Two River. The project includes construction of a new access road and small parking lot, which will be accessible from the west end of Main Street (behind the Vermilion Land Office log building). The landing is designed only for canoes, kayaks, and things like stand-up paddle boards, but not for boats. This work is being done by Mesabi Bituminous. The project is being funded with grant dollars from the LCCMR and IRRR. Future phases of the project, expected to begin next year, include repaving that block of Main Street, construction of new paved biking trail between the Mesabi Trail, the new landing, and the Hoodoo Point Trail, and construction of an all-season, 24/7, restroom facility outdoors somewhere near the civic center/train area. The city will be holding a public meeting sometime this fall to review the site plan now under development for the project.



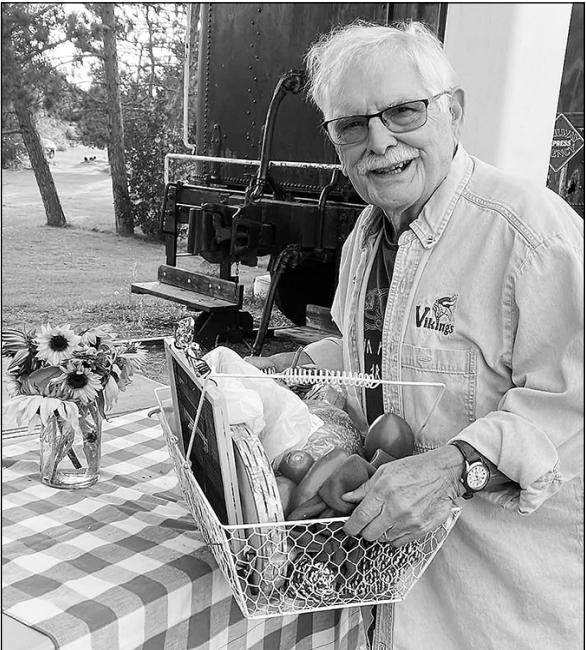
COMMUNITY NEWS

Little Church to meet Oct. 15
VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church of Vermilion Lake Township will have a committee meeting on Saturday October 15, at 10 a.m. Any community members who are interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained in our community are invited to attend. The group also hosts a men's group that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee

and conversation. All are welcome. The Little Church is located in Vermilion Lake Township on Cty. Rd. 26/Wahlsten Rd. Any questions, call Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014 (leave a message).

Gabby Suihkonen nominated for award by Laurentian Chamber
VIRGINIA- Gabriella (Gabby) Suihkonen, of Tower, is one of nine young professionals nominated for the Young Professional of the Year honor by the Laurentian Chamber of Commerce. Winners will be announced at the chamber's annual meeting on Oct. 4. Suihkonen is a clinical social worker at Range Mental Health and also supervises the Compassionate Community Response Team (CCRT) program. She has a bachelor's in Social Work and minor in Chemical Dependency from Bemidji State University, and a master's degree in Clinical Social Work from the University of Minnesota.

Holiday Craft Sale set for Dec. 3 in Tower
TOWER- Friends of Vermilion Country School will again sponsor the annual holiday craft sale on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Herb Lamppa Civic Center. Cost for an eight-foot table is \$25, and must be paid in advance. Setup is on the day of the sale starting at 7 a.m. Tables and chairs are provided. To reserve your spot, please email jsummit@vermilioncountry.org, or call Jodi at 218-753-2950. Please let us know if you require access to an electrical outlet. Payment can be dropped off at the Timberjay office or mailed to Friends of VCS, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790.



Richard Hanson was the winner of this year's Share the Harvest Basket raffle at the Tower Farmers Market. Tickets were sold all season for \$1 each, and proceeds are shared with the Tower Area Food Shelf. submitted photo

well as a former trustee of the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center, is the acknowledged authority on Minnesota's iron rich north and its impact on 20th century history. A light supper will be served at 6 p.m. in the Halunen Lobby at no charge. At 6:45 p.m., The Sectionals, an octet of Iron Range voices, will present a concert. The Sectionals filled St. Mary's Hall a month ago and are returning by public demand. The event is free and open to the public, but a free will offering will

be taken benefitting the LVCC and The Sectionals. The auditorium is on Tower's Main Street across from the Herb Lamppa Civic Center. Seating is limited to 150 but a zoom connection will be available for both the lecture and concert. Email LVCC001@outlook.com to receive an invitation.

HYDRANT FLUSHING NOTICE

The town of Soudan will be flushing fire hydrants on

Tuesday, Oct. 18 starting at 8 a.m.

Residents should expect discolored water and irregular water pressure.

COMMUNITY

Ely Police and Ely Fire sponsor 12th Annual Public Safety Open House

ELY- Ely Police and Ely Fire welcomed the community to join them for hotdogs, burgers, cake, ice cream, educational displays and exhibitions at Ely City Hall for the Public Safety Open House on Wednesday, Sept. 28. Ely Police and Ely Fire have sponsored this event annually since 2011. Fire Chief Dave Marshall said this year’s turnout was in keeping with previous years with an estimated 300-400 people in attendance.

The event showcases public safety resources in the area, provides public safety education, and thanks those who respond to help others in times of need.

Highlights this year were two canine officer demonstrations from the Hibbing Police Department and the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office. Different ways dogs are used in law enforcement were demonstrated, Dottie, the canine officer from Hibbing, is one of only three dogs in the state trained to find electronic devices. The other two dogs with this training are owned by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Another highlight was the Fire Safety House from the Hibbing Fire Department in which kids experienced a smoke-filled house and were taught different ways of escaping a fire.

A record number of 17 agencies and organizations participated in the event this year. They included Ely Police Department, Ely Fire Department, Ely Area Ambulance Service, Morse Fall Lake Fire Department, Tower DNR, U.S. Forest Service, St. Louis County Firewise, St. Louis County Rescue Squad, St. Louis County Sheriff, Lake County Sheriff, DNR Conservation Officer, Minnesota State Patrol, Hibbing Police Department, Brian Berrini American Family Insurance, Lindsey Keen State Farm Insurance, St. Louis County Law Enforcement Chaplaincy, and the Ely Kiwanis Club.



From left to right – Brantley Beatty, Kate and Laurana Smith learn about what to do if caught in a fire. photos by R. Brophy



New Ely Police Officer, Ryan Mahoney strolls by the trailer borrowed from the Hibbing Fire Department. It is called the “Fire Safety House.”



Officer Marty Thorne shows open house attendees how Officer Thor finds drugs using only his nose.

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:

- Oct. 11: Alex Falconer; Running for the Boundary Waters.
- Oct. 18: Ely mayoral candidate, Paul Kess.
- Oct. 25: Friends of Flathorn-Gegoka trails, Ben Wolfe
- Nov. 1: Meet New Elyites.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



picking time again
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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 Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m.
Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church.
AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.
BABBITT AL-ANON - Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.
CO-DEPENDENTS’
12-step support group, 5:30 p.m. Thursdays, Wellbeing Development, 41 E Camp St. 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. Conference Room B.

AN INFORMED ELECTORATE

AAUW/Rotary to host Ely school board candidate forum

ELY –The public is invited to a forum on Oct. 11, from 7 - 9 p.m., in the theater at Minnesota North College-Vermilion Campus, featuring the candidates for the Ely school board election. The event is hosted by American Association of University Women (AAUW) Ely Branch and the Ely Rotary Club.

Two candidates; Ray Marsnik and Anthony Bermel will face off for the one available two-year term on the board. Candidates seeking four-year terms, of which there are three available, are Chad Davis, Tony Colarich, Rochelle Sjoberg, Jeremy Enger, Jennifer Westlund, and Mike Scherbing. Candidate Claire White is unable to attend the forum.

In addition to the live forum, arrangements will be made for viewing after the event. More information will be available soon.

If you have questions that you would like the committee to consider for the candidates you can email them to khv771@gmail.com.

The election will be held Nov. 8. Early voting has started and will conclude Nov. 7. Anyone seeking an absentee ballot should go to <https://mnvotes.gov>. Absentee ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on Nov. 8.



IT’S PARTY TIME!

Come join the Library in Celebrating 100 years in Ely

ELY- The Ely Public Library’s official birthday is on Friday, Oct. 7, and the community is invited to come and celebrate.

Many great door prizes will be given out that day- all donated by local businesses and artists. Be sure to let us know if you have finished your “Reading through the 100s” Challenge, so that we can add your name to the prize drawing at 9:30 a.m. that morning.

The library will host a special preschool story-time at 10:30 a.m. that morning and, at 11:30 a.m., Jessie will do a related craft with kids. The Friends of the Library will start serving cake at 12:30 p.m., and past workers from the library have been invited to

meet with library patrons at this time.

The premier of a mini-documentary will be shown at 1:30 p.m. The documentary about the history of the Ely Public Library has been put together by Todd Crego from Ely Area Television. This will be followed by a live trivia contest (on the Kahoot! platform, so bring your smart phone to play) about the library’s history

at 2:30 p.m.

Activities for all ages run through the afternoon including at 3:30 p.m. try making a tissue paper stained glass craft with Tricia, join our Minute to Win It competition at 4:30 p.m., or pick up a scavenger hunt sheet earlier in the day to be ready when we start counting at 5:30 p.m.

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89.9fm - Brainerd

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FOUNDER RECOGNIZED

Lions Club gives landmark flag park a refreshed look

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- On Thurs- day, Sept. 22, six volun- teers from the Cook Lions Club spent the day giv- ing the beloved flag park on East Vermilion Drive at the railroad crossing a much-needed sprucing up, scraping and repaint- ing the 35 poles, checking and updating the hardware and lanyards, and even straightening a few of the more crooked poles.

And the Lions set something else straight that’s been a matter of some confusion in some circles in recent years. They did it with a simple line in black lettering on a new sign for the park cre- ated by Ron Maki that was placed there in July. Underneath the red-lettered “Cook Lions Flag Park,” that line reads: “Founded by Mike Picek.”

“The late, great Jerry Storm was one of the driv- ing forces to have us iden- tify that and give Mike credit, because that had kind of been lost in trans- lation over time,” said club president Steve Kajala. “The last meeting Jerry was at was when we made the motion to redo the sign and add ‘founded by Mike Picek.’”

Picek, who passed away in November 2021 at the age of 88, was a suc- cessful local businessman and community advocate who came up with the idea for the flag park in 1991. His business was right across the street.

“He just thought it’d

be a nice place to have a flag park right there and have people, if they want- ed, to put flags in mem- ory of people,” his wife Donna said. “It just kind of exploded. People were calling and coming in with flags and wanting flags in memory of so and so and that’s how it filled up.”

“His mind was always going a million miles an hour of what to do to do good,” his son Tim added.

Picek’s Christian faith was central to the way he lived his life, and Donna and Tim ticked off many examples of how he hum- bly served his customers and helped his neighbors, who included most anyone Picek discovered who had a need.

One version of the or- igin of the flag park says that Picek got the pipe for the poles from an area mining operation, and while Tim couldn’t verify that for sure, he was fairly certain that it would have been part of his dad’s huge stockpile of odds and ends at some point.

“He was a scrounger,” Tim laughed. “And I don’t care if you had something broken you couldn’t buy, he could fix it. He never threw nothing away. There isn’t anything he couldn’t fix.”

Donna said that every time she goes past the flag park she feels a sense of pride.

“I’m glad he carried it through,” she said. “It was something he wanted and he carried it through. And the sign is so nice. They came through and



Cook Lions Club volunteers spent the better part of the day Sept. 22 rehabilitating the poles at the Cook Lions Flag Park, which the club has been caring for since 1997. Left: A new park sign acknowledges the man who started the park in 1991, the late Mike Picek of Cook, as Steve Kajala checks flag fittings. Upper right: Standing atop a power lift donated for the day by North Country Rentals, Kajala, Roger Butalla, and Bob Ulseth apply a fresh coat of paint to some poles. Lower right: A few placards like this remain from the park’s early days when people donated all kinds of flags to acknowledge or remember someone. photos by D. Colburn

did well.”

Tim had a similar re- action.

“I see so many things that I know that he has done, but yes, I’m very proud of it,” he said. “I’m so proud to see his name there on that sign. He started it and it serves to fill that corner very nicely.”

Work day

The Cook Lions Club took over care of the park in 1997, and it’s been a good long while since the park has gotten this thor-

ough sprucing up and re- pair to the poles.

North Country Ren- als in Cook took a page out of Mike Picek’s book and donated a power lift for the Lions volunteers to use, a lift that Kajala said took about a half hour to drive to the park with its solitary slow gear.

While Jody Refsdahl, Dede Doi, and JoAnn Mc- Donnell worked from the ground, Kajala was joined by Bob Ulseth and Roger Butalla on the lift, which had a quirk they didn’t



know about before they started.

“Unless the ground is perfectly flat, the lift won’t go up,” Kajala said. “So we had a few areas where we really had to get creative to get the tops of the poles because the lift would not telescope on an incline.”

Kajala said the wom- en may have ended up with a bit more work to do.

“The lower parts were in worse shape because they get more of the dirt

elements and stuff,” he said. “They had a lot of sanding and wire brushing to do. More of our job was replacing the rigging and hardware and the ropes as necessary and straighten- ing some of the poles.”

After starting the job at around 10 a.m. to let the temperature warm up, the volunteers worked well into the afternoon to com- plete the project.

“We got everything that we could done, and the weather turned out perfect for it,” Kajala said.

Classical artists to perform in Cook

COOK- One of this country’s most respected live classical music au- thorities, the Piatigorsky Foundation, will present two free concerts in Cook with cellist Evan Drach- man and internation- ally-acclaimed pianist Wan-Chi Su.

Drachman is the founder and artistic di- rector of the Piatigorsky Foundation, named for his grandfather, cellist Gregor Piatigorsky. Drachman performs recitals, concerts and chamber music in the

United States and abroad.

Wan-Chi Su is an award-winning pianist who has performed as a soloist and chamber mu- sician in Asia, Europe, and throughout the U.S. She is currently a doctoral candidate at the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University.

The first concert will be on Tuesday, Oct 11 at 7 p.m. at Trinity Luther- an Church, 231 2nd St. E, and the second will be Wednesday, Oct. 12 for the students at North Woods School.

Donations at the door of the Tuesday concert are

requested by Northwoods Friends of the Arts to help cover the cost of the per- formances. NWFA, the Cook Lions Club, and the Timberwolves Snow- mobile Club are financial sponsors of the concert at North Woods School.

More information about the foundation can be found at www.piatigorskyfoundation.org and on Facebook.

Member show kicks off at NWFA

COOK- October is the month Northwoods Friends of the Arts cele-

brates the spirit of found- ing member Sue Martin with a member exhibit named in her honor.

NWFA members are exhibiting and selling one-of-a-kind crafts and art from Thursday, Oct. 6 through Friday, Oct. 28 at the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook. The exhibit can be viewed during regular gallery hours on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Meet and greet mem- ber artists and view the exhibit at a reception on

Friday, Oct. 7 from 5-7 p.m. at the gallery.

For more information about upcoming class- es and exhibits, go to the NWFA website at www.nwfamn.org.

Fiber arts month begins at library

COOK- It’s Fiber Arts Month in October at the Cook Public Library, with displays by local fi- ber artists and a free table with fiber art books, pat- terns, and notions.

Enter to win a gift basket which includes a \$25 gift certificate from

Cabin Quilting in Cook, and purchase \$1 tick- ets to win a quilted table runner or wall hanging in the Friends of the Library Quilt Raffle. The draw- ing will be on Oct. 27. The fun continues to build with gift bag giveaways Oct. 24-27; a movie, “Mrs. Harris Goes to Par- is,” at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25; and a cookie cel- ebration on Wednesday, Oct. 26.

Fiber Arts Month is sponsored by the Friends of the Cook Public Li- brary and coordinated by Margaret Jarka.

Past and present combine in homecoming week recap

by JOHN VUKMANICH
North Woods Principal

FIELD TWP- Home- coming is a tradition at high schools and colleges across the country. Where does this tradition come from and what does it ac- tually mean? For me, as a student, it meant a foot- ball game, a marching band halftime show, and a school dance. I never had any knowledge of the his- torical aspect of homecom- ing or where it originated. According to Wikipedia, the first modern home- coming was in 1911 at the University of Missouri. Mizzou faced off against the University of Kansas in one of the biggest and most intense football rival- ries of that time. Alumni were encouraged to “come home” to watch the game, hence the origin of the term “homecoming.” The game ended in a 3-3 tie, but a new tradition was established. Sometime in the course of history, high schools began having their own homecoming festivi- ties.

In modern times, high school athletics are still a part of the festivities. At North Woods, we plan

homecoming in late Sep- tember to mid-October during a week when our sports teams have home contests. As I worked on this column, I was at school hanging out until a home volleyball game ver- sus Cook County. And the football team hosted Bra- ham on Friday afternoon.

The homecoming theme this year was the Wizard of Oz. Our dress up days were Poppy Fields PJ Monday, Twist- er (mismatched) Tuesday, Wednesday Witch Twin Day, Thursday “Not in Kansas” Country Day, and Friday “No Place Like Home” Grizzly Gear.

As many parents are aware, North Woods has gone back to our pre- COVID rule of no back- packs being allowed in classrooms. This reminded me of my previous job as a band teacher at Virg- inia High School and our homecoming dress-up days back in 2004 or so. Our school had recent- ly adopted the same rule, with no backpacks being allowed in classrooms.

You would think that we had taken away Christmas. In response, the students decided that

one of the dress-up days for homecoming would include “carry your fa- vorite kettle.” No lie. The kids were carrying their books around in pressure cookers. Lucky for our modern students, they car- ry a computer or an iPad.

Gone are the days of lug- ging around a half-dozen 200-page text books!

One of the high- lights of homecoming is the homecoming dance. Dances can be formal or casual, and the dance at North Woods is a mix.

Some kids dress up, some don’t. Most important is that they have some fun kicking up their heels to their favorite tunes. As we say goodbye to another homecoming week, one thing that has remained constant over

the years is that it gives our kids a chance to have some fun, participate in activities, build camara- derie, and show off their school pride. We are proud to be the North Woods Grizzlies!

HOMECOMING ROYALTY



The yellow brick road led to North Woods School last week as the homecoming coronation in the school's gymnasium took on a “Wizard of Oz” theme. Here, Glinda the Good Witch poses with newly-crowned Queen Hannah Kinsey and King Julian Whiteman. Grace Koch, Angeline Lilya, and Emily Trip were the other queen candidates, while king candidates included Ben Kruse, Olin Nelson, and Eli Smith. photo by D. Colburn

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ADDRESSING GLOBAL WARMING

Walz promotes new climate change plan

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Gov. Tim Walz has unveiled a comprehensive framework for Minnesota to address climate change now and in the years to come, targeting transportation, clean energy, land management, health, resilient communities, and the economy.

Walz made the announcement last Friday during an event at Ecolab’s Advanced Design Center in Eagan.

“To maintain the things we love about Minnesota – our pristine lakes, incredible wilderness areas and state parks, and outdoor economy – we need to act in a collaborative, bipartisan, and forward-looking way,” Walz said in a press release accompanying the announcement.

The framework iden-

tifies immediate and long-term actions Minnesota can take to achieve the state’s vision to help communities reduce pollution that contributes to climate change, and also to prepare for extreme weather events caused by a changing climate.

Building out the electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure, enhanced use of wind and solar energy, and strategies to build carbon storage in forests and soils, as called for in the framework, will also grow the economy by creating new jobs around Minnesota, with collaboration from partners in public and private sectors, according to the release.

Katrina Kessler, commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, said the Walz administration can implement some of the proposals

on its own, while others would require approval and funding from the next Legislature, and still others could be achieved through partnerships with local governments, businesses and farmers.

The plan includes a goal of increasing the share of electric cars on Minnesota roads to 20 percent by 2030 from the current one percent, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2030, and achieving zero net carbon emissions goal by 2050.

Walz took the first steps toward creating the plan in 2019 when he established a Climate Change Subcabinet of state agency, department and board officials and a parallel 15-member Advisory Council on Climate Change comprised of citizens representing business, labor,

education, tribes, climate advocacy, and other sectors affected by climate change. The groups were necessary, Walz said then, for the state to address a continuous and worsening problem of failing to meet state climate change targets set in 2007.

Workgroups developed initial drafts of plans for each of the six areas of the framework, and this past spring more than 3,000 people helped shape the framework through public input. Minnesota’s 11 tribal nations also provided input and reviewed the plan.

Within each of the six goals, the plan summarizes challenges, prioritizes action and initiatives needed to achieve the goal, specifies measurements to gauge progress, and provides considerations for equity.

Election implications

While the plan was developed by the state in collaboration with the public, Walz faces an election in November that could threaten its implementation.

Walz said during the announcement that releasing the plan during the runup to the election should foster conversations about policy directions. “This issue will transcend whoever’s elected. This issue is not going away. It needs to be addressed,” Walz said.

As expected, conservative Republican gubernatorial nominee Scott Jensen has been openly critical of Walz’s positions on energy and climate change, and he took issue with the new 69-page climate change plan as well.

“Governor Walz’s report does mention the words ‘equity’ or ‘equi-

table’ 40 times,” Jensen said in a statement. “While equality is something we should all strive for, it’s clear that this is a political document meant to shore up his base before an election, rather than a serious solution for Minnesota’s energy problems.”

Jensen criticized the plan for excluding nuclear energy as a possible source of low-carbon electricity. Nuclear power was a component of the energy plan Jensen released in July, along with fossil fuels and renewable sources, and rejection of a tie to California emissions standards that are part of Walz’s clean cars initiative. Noticeably lacking from Jensen’s energy plan was any mention of the present and growing threat of climate change.

MPR News contributed to this report.

COUNCIL...Continued from page 1

ambulance service isn’t alone in its troubles. He said ambulance services in Tower, International Falls, and Bigfork were all experiencing financial challenges, since most rely on Medicare payments which typically don’t cover all the expenses of providing the service. That’s been a longstanding issue, but it’s been exacerbated in recent years as payroll, the rising cost of ambulances, and other expenses have jumped significantly for many ambulance services in recent years.

The Ely Ambulance has seen its financial situation erode sharply since the beginning of 2020, when the service enjoyed a cash fund balance of \$355,891. As of August, that was down to \$85,521, according to a report given to the joint powers board by Scott Kellerman. A 2021 loss of \$219,740 and the expected loss of approximately \$261,000 this year, would have left the service unable to pay its bills within a matter of weeks.

City council members recognized they had little choice but to say yes to the request. “We’re in a position where we have to pay the money,” said council member Jerome DeBeltz,

who made the motion to allocate the funds. The city had already budgeted for its standing contribution to the ambulance of approximately \$34,000 annually, so approval of the latest bill added just over \$28,000 to the city’s general fund outlays.

While the city council agreed to pay the \$62,500 requested by the ambulance, members made it clear they’re more concerned about next year and beyond if the ambulance service can’t get its finances under control. The issue is slated for more discussion by the joint powers board at a special meeting set for 11 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 12, at the Morse Town Hall.

In other business, the council unanimously approved the recommendation of the employee relations committee to restore Dave Huberty to his former position as the city’s Limited Building Official. Huberty had been suspended from that position back in July following an alleged assault on a contractor who had come to city hall to question some of the orders he had been issuing at a job site. Huberty had allegedly physically attacked the contractor, putting him in the hospital.

The League of Minnesota Cities had no objection to bringing Huberty back to work at city hall.

Huberty had been serving in recent months as the city’s part-time planning and zoning director, but he had informed the city he no longer wished to continue in that position. With his expected return to building inspections, the council approved posting the part-time position planning and zoning director position, at ten hours per week.

In other action, the council:

- Approved a resolution to assess delinquent water and sewer bills onto homeowners’ property taxes. Clerk-treasurer Harold Langowski noted that homeowners can pay up their accounts up until the point where the city sends the assessments to the county. Langowski said about 20 residences owe a total of about \$50,000 in overdue accounts.
- Authorized the use of city streets for Friday’s planned Homecoming Parade. The parade is set to begin at 1 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 7 and will start near the school tennis courts on 7th Ave. From there, the parade

is slated to continue down 7th Ave. to Chapman St., where it will turn west for three blocks, before returning south on 4th Ave. to Harvey St. and back to 7th Ave returning to the start.

- Heard from council member Heidi Omerza about the events planned for Friday at the Ely Library in celebration of the library’s 100th anniversary. Omerza was filling in for library director Rachel Heinrich, who was absent from Tuesday’s meeting.
- Gave the final reading to an ordinance authorizing the sale of Lot 54, Block 8 in Chandler Addition to Daniel Krings for \$5,000.
- Approved a petition, as drafted, authorizing the annexation of .07 acres of Morse Township to allow for the extension of city utilities to all or portions of four lots in Shagawa plat.
- At the request of Mayor Roger Skraba, held a moment of silence to mark the recent passing of former council member Terry Anderson.
- Gave the final reading for an ordinance change reclassifying Lot 4, Block 1 of Echo Property from R-1 to C-2 zoning.
- Heard from the Minnesota Pollution

Control Agency, via letter, that the investigation and/or clean-up of a petroleum tank release at the Ely Community Center has adequately addressed the situation.

- Received a letter from St. Louis County notifying the city of a public hearing on proposed amendments to the county’s short term rental ordinance.
- Heard from resi-

dent David Oliver, who complained about increases in his property taxes. “It will be close to \$3,500 for a 94-year-old house in Ely by the time you’re all all done,” he said. “And my taxes go up ten percent a year across the board.”

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BURGLARY...Continued from page 1

Goodwin both stated they were looking for Goodwin’s phone, which Goodwin claimed he had thrown at Declusin during an argument. Declusin and Goodwin were both in possession of cellphones when they were apprehended.

A shoe print consistent with the tread of Goodwin’s shoes was found on a ledge underneath the removed ceiling tile.

In addition to a yellow screwdriver and multiple keys in Declusin’s possession, a clear glass pipe containing white residue consistent with methamphetamine was found on the ground where she was discovered.

As officers attempted to load Declusin into a squad car for transport to the county jail, she physically resisted, kicking two of the officers before being subdued and secured.

Declusin and Goodwin were arraigned in St. Louis County District Court on Sept. 30.

Goodwin was charged with a single count of felony third-degree burglary. Court records indicate Goodwin has multiple prior convictions for misdemeanor theft and misdemeanor possession of a

controlled substance.

The charges against Declusin were more extensive. In addition to felony third-degree burglary, her charges included possession of burglary or theft tools, fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance, fourth-degree assault on a police officer, and obstructing the legal process.

Declusin is currently facing second degree manslaughter and child endangerment charges in Kanabec County after her five-month-old baby died while in her care. According to that complaint, witnesses indicated Declusin had allegedly been drinking alcohol, using methamphetamine and valium before falling asleep on a couch with the child, who suffocated. The complaint also listed her residence at that time as Embarrass. Declusin has multiple prior convictions for possession of controlled substances.

The nature of the relationship between Goodwin and Declusin is unknown, but they were apparently living together in a Duluth apartment in early 2019 when their landlord filed eviction proceedings against them for nonpay-

ment of rent, according to civil court records.

Extensive damage

In an interview Tuesday with the *Timberjay*, La Mar said that there was far more damage to his property than what was specified in the court filings.

“There’s a significant amount of vandalism in terms of cutting wires and pulling fixtures off the wall just desperately trying to figure out how to circumvent the alarm system,” La Mar said. “All sorts of different circuits and phone wires and ethernet cables, all sorts of systems that I used for everything from phone lines to automatic watering systems.”

The impact on his current tree-growing project is “more of an annoyance,” La Mar said, noting that what watering there is to do before winter he can do by hand. The money generated from the trees that La Mar had hoped to put toward fixing up the already dilapidated building will now have to go first toward the extensive damage resulting from the burglary.

“Since closing (the retail greenhouse), we’ve had two of our gutter-con-

nected bays collapse due to snow,” La Mar said. “It looks like, and trust me, I’ve heard plenty of comments, it looks abandoned, but it’s not. People think, looking at that greenhouse, ‘Oh, it’s dilapidated, it’s run down, I can just walk in there and it’s free pickings.’ If you don’t own the business, you have no business being in there, period.”

La Mar is also a member of the Embarrass Town Board, which gives him additional investment in addressing crime in the community, as he believes there are many vulnerable properties in the township.

“As a citizen, as a business owner, and as a member of local government, I’m very concerned about crime in our community,” he said. “I’m hoping that at the end of the day, you know, when this process goes through, and I will be able to partner with local law enforcement to put on classes or workshops or informal gatherings to share information with the township to educate people on how to better protect themselves from crime and loss.”

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<p>County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon–5pm</p>	<p>Soudan Canister Site 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun 8am–5pm</p>
<p>Embarrass Canister Site 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30–4:30pm Thu: 10am–5pm</p>	<p>Aurora Transfer Station 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am–4pm Tue, Wed: 10am–4pm Sat: 8am–noon</p>
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CANOE...Continued from page 1

the Wilderness Inquiries Canoemobile program. For over 12 years, this Twin Cities-based nonprofit has been bringing its “floating classroom” to schools around the country and taking them out onto their local waterways, ten people at a time (that’s how many fit in each canoe).

“Our goal is to get students canoeing out on their local waters,” said Wilderness Inquiries (WI) youth program coordinator Shelby Swan. “We are getting them connected to the outdoors.”

Typically, Swan said, about 80-percent of the children they work with during the year have never been in a canoe before. And this was true for many of the area children, though none seemed afraid to give it a try.

Conquering fears and doing something new is another goal of the program, and the seven WI staffers in Tower on Sept. 30 said this is often the most rewarding part of their day, as they get to watch a child who had tentatively slipped into the canoe seat return back to the dock with a huge smile on their face.

The TS and NER students were clearly having a banner day. Out on the water they attempted to paddle in sync with their canoe-mates, but no one



Above: Students wait as their canoe is loaded.

seemed to mind when an errant paddle dip splashed water back into the canoe. Some even seemed disappointed that the canoe got them back to shore without getting wet.

Onshore, students got some time with Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine Assistant Park Manager Jim DeVries, who gave a series of talks on area mammals, using furs and skulls from the park’s collection. WI often partners with other nonprofits as well as organizations like the DNR during

Top right: Mark Redetzke, of Tower, was as pleased as he could be about portaging a canoe.

Right: Boys inspect a variety of animal skins on display, while the DNR’s Jim DeVries looks on.

photos by J. Summit
their Canoemobile visits. Friends of the Boundary Waters also sent a staffer to help out at the event.

WI has four separate Canoemobile set-ups, and they travel throughout the country in the spring and



fall working with school groups. In the summer, WI hosts events throughout the Twin Cities area for school-aged children.

This is the Canoemobile’s second

trip to Tower. They last visited in 2016. These events cost about \$2,500 per day, Swan said. But usually, the majority of this cost is funded with state and grant dollars, Swan

said, and schools are only required to chip in a smaller amount. The program also receives funding from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

PARK...Continued from page 1

to the project. It’s been a trial by fire for Rose, who says he sunk every penny of his retirement savings into the 32-unit RV park. When asked if he’d do it over again, with the advantage of hindsight, he has to stop and think about it. But as he surveyed the project last week, he says he’s proud of how it all, finally, came together.

Rose has completed the sewer hookups and will be running water lines later this month. After that, it’s final landscaping, all of which should be completed in plenty of time for Rose’s Tower RV Resort to open officially next spring.

When you ask Rose what he’s happiest about, he talks about the trees. “The excavators wanted to take every tree out of here,” he said. “My wife and I said



Dave Rose sits at a makeshift picnic table at one of the RV lots, where a new owner has already parked an RV. Final landscaping is still needed but the project is now close to completion. photo by M. Helmberger

no.” He acknowledges that the decision complicated the work of connecting the park to the city’s sewer. Rose estimates it might have cost him an additional \$2,000 per RV lot, but he thinks it was worth it. “You

can’t replace some of these big trees at any price,” he notes.

Every lot, he says, comes with at least a small clump of trees that were saved from the bulldozer, mostly birch, aspen, and

white cedar. Some of the lots come with a lot more than a clump of trees, as he maintained small patches of the forest that once covered much of the roughly five-acre parcel that fronts the East Two River just upstream from Lake Vermilion. Along Lake Avenue, which leads to Mill Point, where much of the opposition to the development arose, he’s left a modest buffer of trees between RV lots and the road. He said that should help to reduce the visual impact to users of the road as well as keep dust down for the owners of the RV lots.

Unlike other RV parks in the area, the users of the Tower RV Park will also be owners. Rather than leasing the lots for a season, Rose is selling the lots, with a

current price tag in the mid-\$30 thousand range. Demand for RV lots in the area is so high that he only has a handful of lots still available, without having done any advertising. “It’s all word of mouth,” he said.

In fact, it’s often been groups of friends. As one buys a lot, they encourage their brother or cousin or longtime friend to buy a lot of their own. While Rose had expected a mostly out-of-town clientele, he said most buyers have been from the Iron Range. “I’m talking Biwabik, Tower, Mt. Iron, Virginia. I’ve sold four to folks in Hibbing,” he said. “I didn’t expect that all.”

He said he’s happy

with the mix of new residents who’ll be coming next year. “There are a lot of retired veterans,” he said. “The vast majority are blue collar folks.”

Rose figures he’ll maintain his own RV at the park, but he hopes to slowly step back from management of the facility, which will be guided by the homeowner’s association (HOA) that he’s in the process of forming. He said he’s already talked to some of the prospective new residents who want to join the new HOA board to help set the guidelines for what will become Tower’s newest “neighborhood” starting next year.

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Pro-choice rally packs the house at Ely’s Hidden Valley

by RACHEL BROPHY
Staff Writer

ELY- It was nearly standing room only last Sunday for pro-choice voters attending “ElyVotesChoice,” an event held at the Hidden Valley Chalet and hosted by Ely EMPOWER.

The EMPOWER organization was created in 2002 after the death of progressive DFL Senator Paul Wellstone, and today is an organization of 90 progressive women focused on choice, peace and justice, and women’s leadership, according to EMPOWER President Janine Patten.

The evening’s main speaker was Leah Rogne, a well-known North Country political activist and retired political science professor. Rogne spoke about the history of abortion, the upcoming elections, and the importance of voting for candidates who are committed to maintaining Minnesota’s status as a state that protects a women’s right to choose. She emphasized the importance of voting for candi-



dates who support choice. “While Abortion is currently legal in Minnesota up to viability, and the previous restrictions that were in place have been struck down, there is no guaran-

Left: Political activist Leah Rogne gestures during remarks during a pro-choice rally in Ely last Sunday.

photo by R. Brophy

tee that will remain the case if Republicans gain control of state government again,” Rogne said.

Following Rogne, several speakers took the mic to discuss more dire situations in surrounding states. EMPOWER board member Nancy Powers shared information about how a woman’s right to choose is being limited in North Dakota. Additional EMPOWER members to speak were Chris Kloppenberg, who outlined the near total banning of abortions in Wisconsin following the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, and Betty Firth, who talked about Kansas where voters recently rejected a ballot measure that would have restricted abortion rights.

EMPOWER member and “ElyVotesChoice” organizer Linda Ganister outlined several action items, some of which

included: making sure you’re registered to vote, supporting pro-choice candidates by displaying signs, wearing buttons, sticking a bumper sticker on your car, laptop, notebook, etc., donating money to support women’s health services at Planned Parenthood, getting a friend or relative to register to vote and making sure they get to the polls. These are just a few of the many ways available to take action to help promote choice.

Maddie Fahnline referenced the book, “Dirt Road Revival: How to Rebuild Rural Politics and Why Our Future Depends On It,” when she spoke of the power of homemade signs to influence local elections. She then encouraged all attendees to make use of the supplies provided to make a sign of their own.

Van and the Free Candies provided the evening’s music and started their set by leading a sing-along round to “Roe, Roe, Roe the vote.”

COVID RESPONSE

“Hero pay” starts flowing to Minnesota front line workers

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Nearly 15 months after they were first authorized, “hero payments” to over a million of Minnesota’s frontline workers of the COVID pandemic started going out Wednesday. The \$487 payments are about a third less than estimated just four months ago due to overwhelming demand.

Over 1.2 million Minnesotans applied during the two-month summer

application period, nearly double the number that state officials originally projected would receive the payments. Even after about 214,000 applications were disqualified in August for various reasons, that still left 1,025,655 Minnesotans to split equally a \$500 million pot originally anticipated to be shared by only 667,000.

Individual payments were projected to be \$750 before the summer crush of applications.

Still, Gov. Tim Walz

was quick to tout the issuance of the first payments in a press release on Monday.

“I’m grateful for the work Minnesotans did to help people across our state stay healthy and safe through the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Governor Walz. “Frontline workers are an important part of the fabric of our state and helped us continue functioning during the pandemic. Now, I’m proud to say these workers will receive \$487.45 in recognition from the State of Minnesota.”

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TOWER-SOUDAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual meeting highlights accomplishments

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

Top to bottom restoration of the city's old Fire Hall is well underway

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Historical Society (TSHS) has continued to grow and support its mission to enrich the community through education, preservation, and celebration of our area's rich history and heritage. The group has 230 members, with 58 new members joining so far in 2022. The group held its annual meeting on Sept. 27.

TSHS may be best known for its historical museum at the Tower Depot. The depot registered 1,785 visitors this year and had 19 volunteers who worked as greeters at the museum. The depot was open to the public 50 days over the summer, and the train cars were open 101 days. TSHS reported a total of 66 volunteers this year, and a total of 1,021 volunteer hours through June of this year.

But in the past few years the group has taken on a major new project, the restoration of the city's historic fire hall, which the group purchased in 2015 after a building condition and feasibility study was completed. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The group has been raising funds and writing grants to restore the building, built in 1895, which housed the first fire department north of Duluth. So far TSHS has raised the money needed to repair the roof and to repair and replace the windows and doors on the front of the building. This fall, work began on restoring the brick exterior of the building with the building's Main Street facade. Restoration work on the remaining three sides will continue next year. This work is being funded mostly with grants, including a major grant from the Minnesota Historical Society. The total cost for the brickwork repairs, including architectural fees, is \$417,000. TSHS has received \$398,000 in grants for this project, with the remainder being paid by private donations. MacDonald and Mack Architects in Minneapolis is overseeing the project. The firm specializes in historic building preservation.



Above: Josh Janeczek (on left) had the high bid on the historic Lake Vermilion map. Josh, along with the two others pictured, have been working on the brickwork restoration at the fire hall, and were guests at the annual meeting. Josh's parents honeymooned on Lake Vermilion.



Left: Tucker Nelson gave a historical overview of the Pike River Dam project. See related story on page 3B.

MacDonald and Mack Architects in Minneapolis is overseeing the project. The firm specializes in historic building preservation.

The Charlemagne's Attic sales this summer raised about \$9,500. At least 600 people visited the fire hall during the sales, and the group offered 42 public tours of the building last year. The money raised from these sales is being used to construct handicap-accessible bathrooms in the building. A newly announced \$30,000 grant from the IRRR will allow the completion of the restroom project later this year. In

addition, the group has been recommended for a \$45,000 grant from the Minnesota Historical Society for engineering/architectural planning for the final steps in the restoration project. The grant is set for final approval in November. This grant will help fund the plans needed for the interior masonry restorations and repairs, HVAC, interior improvements, and electrical needs.

TSHS has also started an annual pledge drive which so far has raised over \$21,000 for the fire hall restoration project, with 24 individuals and



Left: TSHS President Nancy Larson shows off a restored clock, donated by Allen Dahl. The clock was from the old TS High School and will be displayed in the fire hall. photos by J. Summit

Another project this year was the renaming of the civic center in honor of Herbert R. Lappa, including new signage for the building and an interpretive sign detailing Lappa's life and service to the city.

The TSHS also continued its work recording oral histories, as well as hosting a series of well-attended history talks this summer. Once the fire hall restoration is completed, the group envisions hosting regular talks in the building year-round.

Volunteers from TSHS also continued work on the Soudan

Miners Memorial Project, with six volunteers researching the history of those who lost their lives while working at the Soudan Mine. Volunteers have found information, including death records, newspaper articles, mine inspector reports, family records, or cemetery records for 128 of the 144 miners lost in mine-related deaths. The information will be used for a new exhibit at the Soudan Underground Mine State Park, which is expected to be on display in 2023.

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VOLLEYBALL

Ely juggernaut continues to roll



Crushes Lakeview, Northeast Range to stay unbeaten

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

COTTON — The unbeaten Timberwolves seem to get stronger every game and they showed it again on Tuesday as

Left: Ely's Lilli Rechichi goes up high for a kill during Monday's contest with Northeast Range.

photo by J. Greeney

they outscored Lakeview Christian Academy 25-4, 25-14, and 25-2 to further cement their reputation as the team to beat in Section 7A this year. The win came despite the absence of Kate and Rachel Coughlin, two of the team's most reliable stat producers.

The Wolves relied on crisp passing and an effective serving attack that

tallied 26 aces as they crushed the Lions on their home court. "We had phenomenal passing tonight, which allowed our offense to be quicker," said Ely Head Coach Megan Wognum after the game. "It's nice to see us using opportunities to try new things in games."

Junior Hannah Penke, who has been having an outstanding season for the

Wolves, again led the team in kills, with ten, along with nine digs and three aces. Sophomore Lilli Rechichi, who has been coming on strong, had a big night, with eight kills, five digs and seven aces, while classmate Clare Thomas posted six kills and seven aces. Senior Madeline Kallberg added

See **WOLVES...**pg. 2B

CROSS COUNTRY



Ely's Caid Chittum finished second overall during Tuesday's 11-team meet in Ely

Ely runs to victory in home meet

by RACHEL BROPHY
Staff Writer

ELY – Timberwolves runners took advantage of their home course to make a strong showing against 11 area cross country teams here on Tuesday, as the varsity boys topped the field and the girls squad finished third.

North Shore senior, Ian Thorpe set the pace in the boys' 5K, with a first-place finish of 17:16. Thorpe narrowly edged second-place finisher, Ely sophomore Caid Chittum who crossed the line at 17:24. Rounding out the top

See **RUNNERS...**pg. 2B

FOOTBALL

Spanked Injury-plagued Wolves fall 83-0 to Mt. Iron-Buhl

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

MT. IRON — The Rangers scored early and at-will here last Friday as Mt. Iron-Buhl handed the struggling Timberwolves a shellacking of epic proportions, 83-0.

The outcome was never in doubt as the undefeated Rangers, now 5-0, had been dominating opponents all season. "They're a really good football team over there," said Ely Head Coach Louie Gerzin.

The Wolves came into the contest at 0-3, although they had showed offensive spark in their previous match with Cook County, so there was at least hope that they could put a few points on the board. Yet Ely walked onto the field hampered by injuries, leaving five key starters

See **FOOTBALL...**pg. 2B



Left: Else Bee, of Northeast Range goes up for a kill while the Grizzlies' Hannah Kinsey tries to block.

Below: The Nighthawks' Danica Sundblad focuses on a dig while Else Bee looks on.

photo by D. Colburn

VOLLEYBALL

Grizzlies nip Nighthawks

Young NER team shows improvement despite record

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

BABBITT- With power hitter Hannah Reichensperger and a host of other experienced seniors gone from last year's section finals team, Northeast Range Head Coach Misty Roseth came into this season knowing she was facing a rebuilding year.

It's been all of that as the Nighthawks are winless in match play and have had to look for signs of improvement in competitiveness and occasional set wins.

See **VOLLEYBALL...**pg. 2B



FOOTBALL

Grizzlies' struggles continue

Braham spoils homecoming 44-14

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods Grizzlies gave the visiting Braham Bombers all they could handle in the first half last Friday before a late defensive collapse let the Bombers pull away for a 44-14 win.

The defense the Grizzlies put on the field against Braham bore little resemblance to the unit that got

scorched for 62 points the week before at Barnum, at least until late in the third quarter.

Braham got a gift in the first quarter when the Grizzlies had a bad snap on a punt and the Bombers took over at the North Woods 18. The Grizzlies made it tough from there, but Braham quarterback Jacob Tepley scored on a five-yard sweep

See **NW BOYS...**pg. 2B



Clearly emboldened, NER shook off the loss and cranked up the intensity a notch in the third set. Trailing early, Sunblad served up an ace in a three-point flurry that tied the score 7-7. Another three-point run put the Nighthawks up 11-8, and with sophomore Danica Sunblad at the service line NER built the lead to eight at 17-9. The Nighthawks had to fight to hold onto this one, as the Grizzlies got back to within two at 20-18, but NER held things together for a 25-21 win.



Danica Sunblad led NER with 34 digs, followed by Maizy Sunblad with 33, Allison Flug with 28, and Else Bee with 21. Maizy Sunblad led the team in kills with nine, while bee added four. Individual stats for North Woods had not been received by press time.

Roseth was pleased overall with what she saw from the young Nighthawks squad. "I'm proud of them tonight,"

A 2-0 tournament win over

The Rangers took full advantage as they literally scored at will, with help from a short field time and again, taking a 61-0 lead into the break.

With the game quickly out of reach, and with many of his starters sidelined, Gerzin did give some

unlikely players opportunities they hadn't had before. Two of Ely's linemen, senior Logan Meskill and junior Braydin Mosher, each had two carries from the backfield, good for four and six yards respectively. Other offensive highlights were hard to come by.

While the game's outcome was expected, the final score was disappointing said Gerzin. "Anytime you lose that way is frustrating. But I thought we had a good Monday practice, so I

Indeed, Gerzin said his team was now focused on this Friday's home game against North Central. "They're a good football team," he said. "They're not going to fool around. They'll come right at you."

with their running game. We're just going to have to match their strength and intensity."

Ely's Jake Cochran finished ninth (18:23), Ben Cavalier finished 11th (18:28), and Silas Solum,

In the varsity girls 5K, Proctor's Lizzy Harnell took the top spot with a time of 20:13. Ely eighth-grader, Molly Brophy was right

Ely's junior high boy's captured six of the top 20 places in the 2.6K race

with Mason Spate-Kurnava grabbing second with a time of 9:34. Right behind him was Oliver Hohenstein in third with a time of 9:38. Brooks Brenny snatched fifth place in a time of 9:45.

Ely's junior high girls saw two finishers break the top twenty with Mattie Lindsay taking 4th in a time of 10:31 and Katy Brophy placing 14th with a time of 12:03.

The Timberwolves will travel to International Falls next Tuesday to take part in the Hial Pike Invite.

The Grizzlies defense kept the Bombers bottled up deep in their end and forced a punt that gave North Woods the ball on their own 35. It was a three-and-out for the Grizzlies, but Anavey Goodsky-Spears got a favorable roll on his punt that finally came to rest

"We played the game plan like we were supposed to, guys got where they were supposed to be, and they made nice plays," Grizzlies Head Coach Joel Anderson said. "We made them work for absolutely everything they got. It was

Tepley ripped the Grizzlies for a 23-yard touchdown run, and the two-point conversion made the score 22-8. A North Woods punt from their own 15 on the next possession was returned by Braham's Tanner Noble to the 14-yard line, and two plays later Tepley connected with Logan Leniz for a touchdown that boosted the lead to 28-8. Barely a minute later, Tepley jumped a Burnett pass at the North Woods 28 and raced to the

"It was almost as if the wheels just came off there partway through that third quarter," Anderson said. "I don't know what it was. After watching the film, it was pretty evident on defense, that we kind of quit being the aggressors. Offensively, we didn't pick up guys coming through the middle, and no matter what play you call or what

"We've had a hard time having the consistency to really build the continuity on offense and get really comfortable with where we're playing on defense," he said. "But we can play with and compete with anybody in our section. We've seen it at times throughout the year. We

North Woods was scheduled to hit the road to take on 0-5 Mille Lacs this Friday in a battle of teams both hungry to notch their first win of the season. The Grizzlies will be on the road again on Oct. 14 at Mesabi East before closing out the regular season at home on Wednesday, Oct. 19 against East Central.

Tuesday's win was just the latest in Ely's undefeated season. On Monday, they dominated Northeast Range, outscoring the Nighthawks 75-26 in the match. The Wolves took the sets 25-12, 25-9,

As has become the team's pattern, the stats were widely shared once again, as Penke notched seven kills, to six for Kallberg and Kate Coughlin. Rechichi added five kills while Rachel Coughlin posted four. Penke, Visser, and Rachel Coughlin each added six digs, while

The Wolves were set to take part in the Mesabi East tournament on Saturday. They'll take on Mt. Iron-Buhl next Tuesday and Nashwauk-Keewatin on

Thursday. Their regular season wraps up the following week as they host Cook County on Monday, Oct. 17, and travel to Bigfork for their regular season finale the following day.



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The ill-fated hydropower experiment of 1912

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Members of the Tower-Soudan Historical Society gathered at the Herbert R. Lamp-pa Civic Center on Sept. 27 for the group’s annual meeting.

Tucker Nelson, editor of the *Hometown Focus*, gave a presentation of the research he has done into the history of the Pike River Dam. The dam was built by the city of Tower in 1912, but only produced electricity for a few years before the city voted to bring in Minnesota Power to provide a more reliable power source.

Nelson is no stranger to Tower. His father Brian is a Tower-Soudan High School Class of 1987 graduate, and his grandfather Jim ran Nelson’s Hardware on Main Street for 25 years.

Nelson said he had always been interested in the history of the dam, and had gotten some background information from Richard Hanson, from TSHS, which spurred his interest to investigate further.

The bulk of the information on the dam, he said, was from old newspaper articles, but the information was often contradictory.

“I am not sure how much of it was true,” he said. “And I couldn’t find any primary sources on the construction or opera-



A back view of the Pike River Dam and Engineer’s House.

tion of the dam.”

A smaller wooden dam was constructed at the site somewhere around 1900, based on historic photos, at the mouth of the Pike River. It was built by the Tower Lumber Company and used to float timber through the area.

By 1911, electrical appliances and lights were becoming popular, and the city of Tower was looking at a reliable source of electricity.

“In March 1911, voters approved \$16,000 in bonds. The vote was 117-13. The money was used to build the concrete dam and electric plant.”

The first lights powered by the dam were turned on in April 6, 1912.

Nelson said the reasoning behind the construction of the dam was environmental. A letter published in 1911 talked

about conservation of natural resources and how the construction of the hydro plant would be good for the environment and the city.

“It was reasoning like what you’d see today,” Nelson said. “The slogan was ‘Water Power for Tower.’”

The total cost for construction of the dam and plant was \$33,000. But inconsistent water levels in the river, similar to what is seen today, meant the power generated from the hydro plant was not steady enough to meet the demands of the city. Also, it appeared the engineers who designed the dam didn’t factor in the reduced flows over the winter. It took nine years to have high enough winter water flows to provide service over the winter. But after that good year

in 1920, low water levels in 1921 meant not enough electrical service for the city.

“There were a lot of ups and downs,” he said, “and the city had to rely on its old power plant. The city had to increase its rates, and even put in curfews on when electric lights could be operated.”

In 1921, Minnesota Power and Light (MPL) started advertising in the *Tower Weekly News* asking for investors. In 1924, voters approved granting a 25-year franchise to MPL by a vote of 166-6.

“That was the end of the power plant,” Nelson said. Minnesota Power has provided electric service to the city to this day.

“It was a very creative way community leaders tried to solve a problem,” said Nelson, “but ultimately the inconsistency

meant they needed a better supply.”

There are still many unanswered questions about the plant, Nelson said.

“All the news about the plant vanished once MPL came to Tower,” he said.

Nelson’s research was published in a three-part article which is available online at hometownfocus.us.

The dam is now owned by the DNR.

“It’s over 100 years old,” said Nelson. “The concrete has held up pretty well.”

Nelson said the DNR has estimated it would cost between two and four million dollars to do all the repairs needed on the same, and also determined it would not be feasible to remove the dam. The DNR has done some re-

pairs over the last year, sealing a submerged outlet to prevent the flowage from leaking as much.

“This is considered a low hazard project,” Nelson said, though they are looking at future maintenance including repairing concrete and embankment walls.

The dam, Nelson said, will be around well into the future.

“It’s not really going anywhere.”

The hydro-electric dam and plant built on the Kawishiwi River, a few years after the Pike River Dam, did go on to be a reliable electrical source and is still in operation today.

A video of the talk, from Ely TV, will be available on the TSHS Facebook page.

Find more about TSHS annual meeting on page 12.

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Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 2022

Obituaries and Death Notices

Daniel D. Rutchasky

Daniel “Dan” David Rutchasky, 57, of Cook, passed away on Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022. A Celebration of Life will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 11 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service.

He is survived by the love of his life, Margie Backes; his father, William “Bill” Rutchasky; stepfather, Roger Waisanen; brothers, Bill Jr. (Patty) and Ronald; sisters, Lois (Tim) and Pauline (Cory); and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Joyce E. Gazelka

Joyce Ellen Anderson Gazelka, 93, died peacefully in the presence of family at her lake home outside of Ely on Friday, Sept. 2, 2022. A memorial service was held on Saturday, Oct. 1 at Ledge Rock Church in Ely, officiated by her grandson, Joseph Zupetz. Family services were provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

She is survived by her brother, David Anderson of the Twin Cities; children, Sherry Zupetz Gazelka of Iron, Mark Gazelka (Rhonda) of Bemidji, Susan Swanson (Erik) of Harris, Mary Casanova (Charlie) of International

Falls, Paul Gazelka (Maralee) of East Gull Lake, Brian Gazelka (Melissa) of Spicer, Greg Gazelka (Oksana) of Shoreview, Jim Gazelka (Katherine) of Maple Grove, Peter Gazelka (Kelly) of Hibbing and Todd Gazelka (Gina) of Brainerd; and a wealth of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

H. Arden Siebert

H. Arden Siebert, 84, of Ely, passed away quietly on Friday, Sept. 30, 2022, with his loving wife by his side. Per his wishes there will be no services. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his wife, Darlene; children,

Ron (Shara) of Duluth, Shari (John) Conley of Illinois, Lisa (Zina) of Illinois and Carolyn (John) Schiltz of Ely; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; a brother; and stepchildren, Kenneth, Kelly, Patty and Christopher.

Dorothy Jalonen

The Celebration of Life service for Dorothy Hallin Jalonen that was planned for Monday, Oct. 10, 2022, has been postponed due to complications from Hurricane Ian. Arrangements are with Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

EMPLOYMENT

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Indigenous Support Interventionist

Ely Public Schools is looking for an Indigenous Support Interventionist for the 2022-2023 school year. A background check is required.

Qualifications include:

- AA Degree or 2 years of college preferred
- Preferred experience working with school-age American Indian children
- Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting
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Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

A complete application must include the following:

- Non-Licensed District Application
- Resume
- 2 letters of recommendation

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

Rate of Pay: \$17.00/hour

Hours: 6 hours/day

Deadline to apply: Tuesday October 11, 2022; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 2022

POSITION OPENING • ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS Paraprofessional

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

Qualifications include:

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

Benefits include:

- Paid sick leave, personal days and vacation
- Health and life insurance
- Flexible spending account
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Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

A complete application must include the following:

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

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

Starting Rate of Pay: \$17.23/hour

Hours: 6.5 hours/day

Deadline to apply: October 11, 2022; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 2022



Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

BERRY BONANZA

Wild cranberries are ripe in a bog near you

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— This year’s bumper berry crop continues, as a bonanza of wild cranberries are just waiting for enterprising pickers who aren’t afraid to get their feet wet. These aren’t the high bush cranberries, *Viburnum trilobum*, which aren’t a true cranberry and are found growing as a mid-sized shrub on uplands in our region.

The true wild cranberry, *Vaccinium oxycoccos*, is a

low-growing vine that winds its way through sphagnum moss in area bogs and it appears they’ve responded to the same triggers that produced a bumper crop of blueberries and other wild fruits this year. While these diminutive plants can be hard to spot as they’re often engulfed by sphagnum moss, the cranberries are often found lying on top of sphagnum hummocks, looking like somewhat smaller versions of the cultivated cranberries you find at the grocery store.

In a typical year, you’d prac-

Right: Tasty cranberries can be found in abundance in the right locations in area bogs. Areas with sphagnum moss hummocks and at least some sun are the best locations.

photo by M. Helmberger

tically starve to death looking for cranberries, but in a good year, like this one, you can pick gallons with a bit of effort. And the berries don’t even need to be red. There are several varieties of

See **BERRIES...**pg. 5B



HUNTING



Bear harvest continues to run behind last season

REGIONAL— Hunters in Minnesota had registered 1,864 bears through Monday, Sept. 26, with only a relative handful of additional registrations expected by the time the season ends on Oct. 16. If so, that would cut the state’s bear harvest by about a third over last year, when drought conditions allowed for significantly-above-average hunter success.

“It still looks like we’ll be around 2,000 bears for the season,” said Jessica Holmes, Tower area wildlife manager with the Department of Natural Resources.

Total bear registrations locally include 174 bears (69 percent male) in permit area 31, while hunters have registered 160 bears (61 percent male) in permit area 25. This year’s lower take of female bears, combined with the abundance of wild foods this year, should help ensure a heftier cub crop than usual next spring. That could help the DNR make progress on its goal to increase bear numbers in the state.

Fishing reports

Ely area

Finally, a great weekend of weather had anglers out in force and the walleye fishing didn’t disappoint! Best reports continue to come from very shallow water in 4-8 feet, over rocks. Minnows are the top bait of choice now as water temps are in the high 50’s now. How they fished them largely depended on type of minnow. Active minnows like creek chubs were very effective when fished under a bobber or on a lindy rig. Less active minnows like chubs, rainbows and pike suckers were most effective when tipped on a light jig.

Pike reports are quickly returning as pike start returning to shallow water again, as it cools to temperatures they like. Large suckers or big creek chubs, fished under a bobber has been very effective on pike. Spoons and spinnerbaits have also been very effective on pike. Weedbeds, with green weeds, mouth of bays and river mouths are the areas anglers should key in on if they are targeting pike.

Courtesy ArrowheadOutdoors, in Ely. ArrowheadOutdoorsElyMN.com



AMPHIBIANS

Life in the slow lane

Blue-spotted salamanders seem to be on the decline

I was surprised recently on one of our cool late September mornings to find a blue-spotted salamander very slowly making its way across our gravel road. It was moving slowly because the temperature was in the thirties and that puts all cold-blooded creatures in the slow lane of life.

I was surprised because it had actually been years since I’d seen a blue-spotted salamander, which is undoubtedly the most common salamander here in the North Country.

Decades ago, I would run into these small salamanders regularly, usually whenever I was moving firewood. They like to spend their days under logs on the forest floor, so a woodpile on the edge of the woods is a likely home. I still move firewood regularly, but it has been years since I’ve spotted a salamander while doing so.

But starting about fifteen years ago, we moved into a dryer weather regime in the region, with several bouts of extreme drought. While we’ve had some stretches of wet weather as well, for years we failed to catch up with the precipitation shortfalls in the dry years and

that meant that the woods here have generally been drier than was typical of thirty, forty years ago. Ephemeral spring forest pools or ponds dried up faster than before and that increases the likelihood

that the hatchling salamanders often hadn’t completed their metamorphosis into air-breathing, landlubbers by the time their watery home went dry. While they spend their adult lives on land, salamanders start their lives in the water, using external gills to breathe until they mature to the point where they

can start breathing with their lungs. But if the pools where they hatched dry up earlier than usual, they don’t make it to maturity.

This kind of thing happens in nature, and wildlife populations ebb and flow as a result. But if the trends last long enough, due to factors like climate change, the impacts to populations can become long-term. While this very cold-tolerant species, which is widely distributed in northeastern Minnesota into Canada, is still considered common overall, from my own experience, and from that of others I’ve asked,

Top: A blue-spotted salamander made its way recently across the forest floor.

photo by M. Helmberger

Right: A photo of the relatively large and distinctive egg mass laid by a blue-spotted salamander.

photo courtesy MNDNR



I would say they are certainly less common than in the past.

I suspect factors other than drought are playing a role as well. The spread of non-native nightcrawlers into our region has greatly diminished the amount of forest litter, or duff, and that allows our soils to dry out much faster than in the past. Even as adults, salamanders like to be in contact with wet soil, so drying soil reduces the quality of their habitat.

While salamanders like it moist, they generally avoid standing water as adults, except to lay their relatively large gelatinous eggs, somewhere along the edges of a snowmelt pool or pond. The online nature blogs I checked contend that blue-spotted salamanders lay their eggs in April, but I’m going to amend that to more like May in most years, at least up here. These salamanders aren’t like wood frogs, which can crawl under a few leaves and freeze solid for the winter,

only to thaw out and wake up again. They don’t freeze well, so they generally must spend the winter somewhere several feet underground, where they can get below the frost line, and I’m imagining they generally don’t make it back to fresh air until the frost is out of the ground, and we all know that doesn’t happen most years until very late April or May in the North Country.

If you haven’t seen one of these salamanders before, don’t be surprised. While the DNR website refers to them as “medium-sized,” I would definitely call them a small salamander. Four inches long is probably the biggest I’ve ever seen. That, and the fact that they spend most of their lives under rotting logs in the woods, means they’re very easy to overlook.

Unless, like me, you actually keep an eye out for the them.



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

FALL COLOR



The peak of fall color hit the North Country in a dramatic way this past weekend. The splendor should continue through at least next weekend.

COMPETITION

Vollhaber sets new record in Border Route Challenge race

REGIONAL- The Minnesota Border Route Challenge saw a three-year record fall in the eighth-annual running of an event that pits canoeists against the wilderness in unsupported treks across three routes through the Boundary Waters region.

The longest of the routes, the Kruger-Waddell Challenge, is named after the event’s founders, paddle greats Verlen Kruger and Clint Waddell, who started the Challenge back in 1968 as part of their training for larger canoe adventures. Participants start at the Sha Sha Resort in International Falls. The Voyageur Challenge is the second-longest trek, beginning at Crane Lake. The shortest, the Moose Lake Challenge, starts just outside of Ely. All routes end at the Grand Portage fort, and canoeists are given eight days to complete their chosen course.

Seventeen paddlers representing seven states participated in this year’s



Bob Vollhaber gives a thumbs-up on the Bottle Portage last month. submitted

challenges, and the record for the Kruger-Waddell Challenge of 84 hours was shattered by Bob “BeaV” Vollhaber with a time of 66 hours and 47 minutes. Paddling solo in his Wenonah Advantage canoe, Vollhaber only stopped once for about a five-hour rest, according to event coordinator Lori Johnson.

Vollhaber also holds the tandem record of 63 hours and 16 minutes set in 2019 with his paddle partner Kendra Leibel.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
45 30				55 35				53 35				56 40				57 41			
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.
09/26	60	45	0.15	09/26	61	44	0.16	09/26	60	45	0.06	09/26	54	41	0.17	09/26	61	46	0.25
09/27	51	34	0.00	09/27	54	31	0.00	09/27	53	36	0.00	09/27	50	30	0.00	09/27	54	36	0.00
09/28	49	29	0.00	09/28	50	23	0.00	09/28	49	31	0.00	09/28	59	27	0.00	09/28	51	24	0.00
09/29	57	31	0.00	09/29	58	22	0.00	09/29	57	30	0.00	09/29	64	39	0.00	09/29	58	24	0.00
09/30	na	na	0.00	09/30	63	36	0.00	09/30	62	36	0.00	09/30	72	46	0.00	09/30	63	41	0.00
10/01	72	43	0.00	10/01	71	38	0.00	10/01	71	41	0.00	10/01	61	43	0.00	10/01	72	39	0.00
10/02	57	43	0.00	10/02	62	44	0.11	10/02	58	45	0.00	10/02	63	45	0.00	10/02	57	34	0.00
YTD Total			22.39	YTD Total			24.28	YTD Total			22.59	YTD Total			NA NA	YTD Total			29.37

Outdoors briefly



Grouse hunters reporting plenty of birds in the woods

Tower Area DNR Wildlife Manager Jessica Holmes says reports from early season grouse hunters have been mostly positive.

“Much success is being had around the work area,” she stated. “Reports have been above average.”

And the best hunting of the season is just ahead as the leaves will be falling fast over the next week or two, making the birds easier to spot.

Cisco and whitefish netting opens Oct. 14 on some area lakes

REGIONAL— Recreational netting for cisco, also known as tullibee, and whitefish is open this fall on designated lakes in northern Minnesota, and is open to Minnesota residents only.

About 700 Minnesotans take part each year in this tradition of fish harvesting. Netting schedules are based on expected water temperatures. As the water temperature cools, game fish head to deeper water while cisco and whitefish come to shallow water for fall spawning.

More popular lakes for netting are often opened with 48-hour notice at public launches. These are known as Schedule I lakes, and include Basswood, Bear Island, Fall, Newton, Ojibway, Shagawa, Side, and all but a small portion of Vermilion.

Designated Schedule II lakes in northern St. Louis and Lake counties are open for cisco and whitefish netting from Friday, Oct. 14-Dec. 4. These lakes include Crane, Elbow, Isabella, Kabetogama, Namakan, and Sand Point.

The DNR allows netting when there is little chance that fish other than cisco and whitefish will be caught. Game fish incidentally taken in nets must be returned to the water immediately. Complete regulations, including designated lakes, netting schedules and requirements related to use of gear and invasive species, are available on the DNR website (mndnr.gov/Regulations/Fishing).

BERRIES...Continued from page 4B

cranberries out there, some are red, some are silver, and others are multi-colored. But they all cook up red and have that tang that makes the best cranberry sauce you’ve ever tasted. Served up this Thanksgiving with a locally-harvested wild turkey and some winter squash from the garden, and you’ll have the most traditional holiday feast

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EMPLOYMENT



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Join the independently-owned community newspaper with a national reputation for quality. The Timberjay, northern Minnesota's most award-winning weekly newspaper, has an immediate opening for a full-time editor/reporter in Ely.

Live, work, and play in the town at the edge of the famed Boundary Waters, named by Outside Magazine as one of the Ten Best Small Towns in America.

We are looking for an experienced news editor or reporter who wants to immerse themselves in a vibrant community full of colorful characters. A background in page layout (InDesign) and excellent photography skills are important as well as writing ability.

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Qualified candidates should submit a resume, cover letter, and writing and/or layout samples to Marshall Helmberger at marshall@timberjay.com.



Local Furniture Store looking for a person to work Saturdays greeting and assisting customers from 10 am - 2 pm with more hours possible. Contact Nick at Anderson Furniture, 218-741-9356. 10/7



Vermilion Senior Living

Vermilion Senior Living is hiring for HHA's and Certified Nursing Assistants.

Our Current Open Shifts Include:
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 > Overnight (11PM - 7AM)
 Including rotating weekends.

These positions are responsible for:

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Requirements:

- > Great communication skills
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- > Team-player (POSITIVE) attitudes.
- > Previous experience is preferred but not required.
- > Must be able to pass a background check.

Please contact **Hailie Brondum** at
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hailieb@mnsignaturecare.com

10/21

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GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP SEEKING FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Greenwood Township is currently looking to hire personnel to fill the Fire Chief position, Assistant Fire Chief position and the Safety Officer position. These are paid positions. The Greenwood Township Board offers a \$3,000 per year good time service credit pension, pay per run, pay per meeting, and pay per drill.

Job descriptions and Standard Operations Guideline manual are available to pick up at the town hall or by email. Please email the clerk (clerk@greentownshipmn.com) to have this information emailed with an application form.

We encourage all qualified applicants to apply by October 30, 2022.

All area fire dept members are encouraged to apply.

Greenwood Township Board
 Sue Drobac,
 Greenwood Township Board Chair

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 23, 30 & Oct. 7



Current Openings Teacher: Science and/ or Social Studies (1.0)

Vermilion Country School is seeking to hire a full-time licensed teacher for science and/or social studies for the 2022-2023 school year. Positions open until filled. Salary per established pay scale (available by request).

The Vermilion Country School is a grades 7-12 charter school in Tower. The school serves a multicultural student body of approx. 45 students, with an innovative learning model that is uniquely-adapted to this rural community. For more information, visit our website at www.vermilioncountry.org.

For more information, full job description, or an application, please email lkess@vermilioncountry.org, or call 218-753-1246 (ext. 2 for office) or call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950



VAN DRIVER

Vermilion Country School is seeking to hire a part-time van driver. Valid license and background check required (CDL not required). Route is 45-60 min., morning/afternoon.

Call Karla for information at
 218-753-1246 (ext. 2 for office)

Super Crossword

Answers

S	A	K	S	O	R	E	N	E	S	S	E	B	B	T	T	O	P
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FT (Environmental Tech I) Housekeeping and Laundry Aide (Wage starting at \$14.68/hr, \$1,500 sign-on bonus)

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 PT Unit Clerk/HUC (Wage starting at \$17.36/hr. EMT and/or NA cert. required)

Care Center

FT & PT Nursing Assistant (Wage starting at \$17.36/hr., \$1,500 sign-on bonus)

Activities

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

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FT Medical Lab Tech (Wage starting at \$23.38/hr., \$4,000 sign-on bonus)

Radiology

FT Radiologic Technologist (Wage starting at \$26.14/hr., \$4,000 sign-on bonus)
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 Casual Radiologic Tech (Independent Contractor)

Dietary

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

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humanresources@cookhospital.org

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SEND COVER LETTER AND RESUME to: Jodi Summit, Board Chair, jsummit@vermilioncountry.org, or call 218-753-2950.

QUALIFICATIONS: Minimum 4-year degree in relevant area. Administrator licensure or coursework preferred but not required. Experience with charter schools and school leadership. Experience/interest in innovative learning and creating a democratic school environment. Ability to write/manage grants, interact with state agencies, VCS authorizer, and all stakeholders. The board envisions this to be a full-time position. For more information, visit our website at www.vermilioncountry.org.

PUBLIC NOTICES

KUGLER TOWNSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The regular meeting of the Kugler Town Board will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at the Kugler Town Hall at 6 p.m.

Christopher Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 7, 2022

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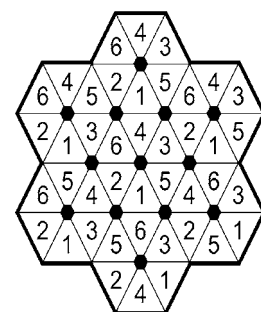


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by Linda Thistle

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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.

AA MEETING IN COOK- Sunday Night Big Book Group meets at Trinity Lutheran Church, 231 2nd St. NE, Cook, at 7:00 pm Sunday. For information call 218-666-2820 or 218-780-7670.

AL-ANON MEETING IN COOK - Ashawa Al-Anon Family Group meets at Trinity Lutheran Church, 231 2nd St. NE, Cook, at 7:00 pm Sunday. This meeting is for families and friends of alcoholics.

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.

Try out the Timberjay classifieds

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

Classified ads can be run a second time at half price (private parties only). We now accept payment by Visa, Mastercard, AmEx, and Discover. Call your ad in to 218-753-2950. Display (boxed) classifieds are billed by the “inch”- please call for prices and information on discounts.

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12 Recede

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20 “Babes in Toyland,” e.g.

21 What “U” may mean

22 — Ridge (1972 Kentucky Derby winner)

23 Birds for Yuletide dinners

26 Some Pac-12 players

27 Some antique autos

28 Fr. woman with a halo

29 Cuddly crib toys

31 Letter holders

35 Irritate

36 Post office scale unit

37 It flows in la Loire

38 Vegetable pizza toppings

42 Polling place containers

48 Feels ill

49 Weep audibly

50 Zeno of — (Greek philosopher)

51 Vie for the affection of

52 Lies next to

54 Guessing game for kids

55 Garnishes for martinis

60 Broody rock genre

62 Nonbeliever in God

63 Record half with the hit, usually

65 Forces out

69 Larry and Curly’s pal

70 Parts of respiratory systems

75 “Fake-Out” co-star

76 Zac of “The Lorax”

78 “—: Battle Angel” (2019 action film)

79 Grilled corned beef sandwiches

81 “Yes” vote

83 Things hanging from rims

87 Put into a snug spot

90 Base before home

92 Oahu gift

93 As straight as — (totally honest)

94 Year, in Portuguese

95 Speller’s clarifying words

96 Sewing kit accessories

100 Chicks awaiting meals have them

104 “16 Olympics host city

105 “— a Letter to My Love”

106 “Milk” director

107 Bellhops’ burdens

113 Hard or soft Tex-Mex items

117 Exhaust

118 Socko review

119 “Sure, sure!”

120 Fact about 12 long answers in this puzzle

125 100%, in Germany

126 Winery cask

127 People prettifying

128 Unit of work

129 Shopkeeper

130 Conks on the head

131 August sign

132 Cereal grass

130 Hi-tech organizer

131 Currently

132 Cereal grass

DOWN

1 “— bleu!”

2 Pale-faced

3 Russian ballet company

4 “Help us!”

5 Elect (to)

6 Sleep phase

7 Expunge

8 Tree homes

9 Suffix with towel

10 Apt name for a chef?

11 “No Exit” playwright

12 Looked at

13 Hopalong Cassidy

14 On the go

15 Make level

16 Female giant of myth

17 Cultivate to excess

18 Ticks away

24 British verb suffix

25 “Akeelah and the Bee” star

30 Conks on the head

32 August sign

33 Cereal grass

34 Brit’s bar

35 U.S. tax org.

38 An earth sci.

39 Carsick feeling

40 Deep hole

41 Besides that

42 Turned into

43 Numerous

44 Rakish guy

45 Body of water

46 Night hooter

47 Losing row in tic-tac-toe

52 Zipcar owner

53 Hotel stock

54 Debt slip

56 Thin-toned

57 White — sheet

58 “— girl!”

59 “Wicked Game” singer

61 City in Iraq

64 City in India

66 Big name in tight trunks

67 “The Adventures of —” (2011 Spielberg film)

68 Lips off to say

71 White rat,

72 Tale twaker

73 War vet’s affliction, for short

74 Jellied fish

77 Sturdy tree

80 — B’rith

82 Website for craft vendors

84 Yalies

85 What “X” may mean

86 Pen choice

87 Papeete native

88 Of no avail

89 Color-sensitive retina part

91 That chap

95 Song and dance

96 Measures of acidity

97 Geller of psychic acts

98 Grab a chair

99 Ad —

101 \$1,000 bills, informally

102 Unpretty

103 From Florence, e.g.

107 Israeli native

108 Overturn

109 Pooch’s bark

110 Less perilous

111 Each and —

112 Bog plant

114 URL starter

115 Israel’s Barak

116 Singer Home

117 White sheet?

121 Fuss

122 Body of water

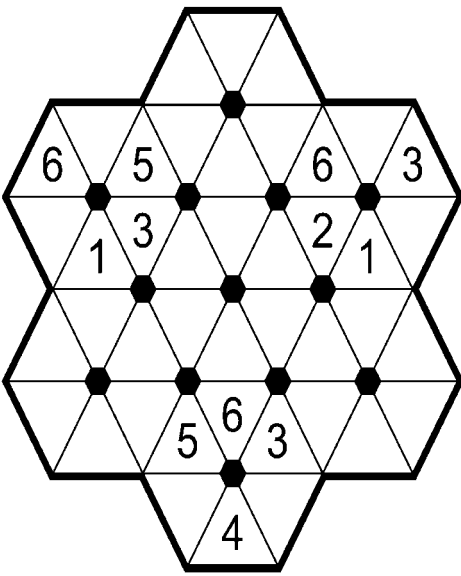
123 Give it a go

124 Navy inits.

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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Answer

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

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																			118			
119																						
125																						
129																						

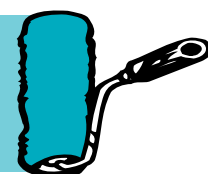
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