



We wish all of our readers a warm, safe, and happy New Year

The Timberjay office will be closed Dec. 26 - Jan. 6. No paper will be published on Jan. 6.

the **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

VOL. 33, ISSUE 51 December 30, 2022 \$1⁵⁰

APPOINTMENTS

Ida Rukavina to head IRRR

Pike Township native brings a diverse resumé of service to the job

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Ida Rukavina, a Pike Township native, will be the next commissioner of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation. Gov. Tim Walz made that announcement on Dec. 21, as current commissioner Mark Phillips heads into retire-

See related story

► Mark Phillips looks back on his eight years with the IRRR. **Page B1**

ment. Rukavina will assume her new role beginning in January. The announcement was

greeted with accolades from across the area.

“Ida Rukavina is an excellent choice to serve the Northland at the state Capitol,” said Rick Cannata, Mayor of Hibbing. “She is well-positioned to work across business, nonprofit, and public sectors to grow the Iron Range economy. As mayor, I’ve gotten to know Ida and I look forward

Right: Ida Rukavina will begin her new job on Jan. 4.

to working with her in this new capacity.”

Rukavina, the daughter of the late Iron Range lawmaker Tom Rukavina, brings an already extensive career in public and

See...RUKAVINA pg. 9



INVESTMENT

IRRR okays \$2 million for Ely’s school construction

Cook receives major grant as well

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The Ely school district received \$2 million worth of good news coming out of the Dec. 21 Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation board’s quarterly meeting. The funding will help the district cover cost overruns on the district’s \$20 million 21st Century School building renovation project.

The district had lobbied the state Legislature last spring for assistance and was hopeful a projected \$9 billion surplus would work in their favor to secure the needed funds. But the session adjourned without a deal on how to spend the surplus, leaving the funding shortage issue unresolved.

The \$2 million the IRRR authorized for Ely, along with another \$4.7 million for the new Rock Ridge school district to cover their school construction cost overruns, are intended to be short-term cash infusions as opposed to outright grants. The IRRR specified that both school districts will work collaboratively with legislators to pass bills to reimburse the agency’s school account in the amount of the short-term infusion.

Infrastructure grants

The city of Cook will receive

See...IRRR pg. 10



HISTORY OF PROHIBITION

The Range was “Never Dry”

The region’s colorful Prohibition history on display at MN Discovery Center

by **JODI SUMMIT**
Tower-Soudan Editor

CHISHOLM- If you think history is boring, pay a visit to the new temporary exhibit at the Minnesota Discovery Center (MDC) which examines a particularly colorful period of Iron Range history. “Never Dry: The Rise of Prohibition on the Iron Range” opened on Dec. 8 and will continue well into 2023. The exhibit explores the

impact of Prohibition, both before and after the implementation of the 18th amendment, on the Range. Areas of the Range became “dry” before the 18th Amendment went into effect in 1920, because of a rule enforcing no liquor sales on areas in what were called “Indian Territory” starting back in the mid-1850s. This left towns on the western end of the Range dry, while it was still legal to sell and drink alcohol in a neigh-

Above: Joe Lopac, of Mt. Iron, takes a close look at a still owned and operated by his grandfather during Prohibition.

Right: MDC researcher Jason Scorch talked about the new exhibit during its recent grand opening.

all photos by J. Summit

boring town. After Oklahoma, Minnesota had the largest

See...LIQUOR pg. 10



BUSINESS EXPANSION

J&L Hardware will have new name, new location in the new year

by **CATIE CLARK**
Ely Editor

ELY- Inside the former Zup’s building, boxes of hardware inventory are stacked, waiting for their contents to be unpacked onto shelving. The quiet inside is interrupted every few minutes by the sound of electric power tools. The interior of the structure looks more like

Plan to reopen as a True Value in the former Zup’s store

a hardware store and less like a remodeling project by the day.

For over four decades, J&L Hardware has been shoehorned into a long narrow space on Chapman Street, alongside its sister business, Ben Franklin Craft and Rental. All that is about

to change as the Poshak family completes remodeling their new and vastly larger hardware store location in the old Zup’s building just off the corner of 3rd and Sheridan.

Their original opening date of Jan. 1 is less than two weeks

away and it will likely be a nail-biter. According to Jay Poshak, whether they can open by then depends on getting all the pieces of the store up and running in time. The store’s point-of-sale system, for example, needs to be operational before the store can

open for business, but with supply chain delays and the approaching holiday, that might not happen before the end of the year.

New location

The Poshak family has owned and managed J&L Hardware since 1976. They

See...HARDWARE pg. 9



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Community notices

Law Enforcement Appreciation Pancake Breakfast set for Saturday, Jan. 7 at Timber Hall in Embarrass

EMBARRASS- The Embarrass Region Fair Association is hosting a pancake breakfast from 8-11 a.m. at Timber Hall in recognition of local law enforcement personnel. All-you-can-eat pancakes, choice of ham or sausage links, fruit cup, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee are on the menu. Law enforcement personnel and children under 5 years eat free.

There will also be an assortment of donated books and puzzles to take home and enjoy, and a craft table will be set up for kids. Adults \$6, children (6-10 years) \$3, and under 5 years free.

Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge #40 to meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 5

VIRGINIA – The Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge #40 will meet in the Virginia City Hall Clubroom. Please bring wrapped gifts for playing Crazy Dice. The serving committee is Wayne, Bernie Christiansen and Sara Palazzari. Anyone interested in Norwegian culture is invited to attend.

NLAA is proud to announce increased art show stipend

ELY- Applications for the 2023 Northern Lakes Arts Association (NLAA) 2023 show season are currently being accepted through Jan. 15. Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, the stipend for artists who are selected has been increased from \$250 to \$350.

For the 2023 season NLAA wishes to showcase the works of BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ artists. Applications are available at <https://www.northernlakesarts.org/2023-art-show-application>.

Lake Country Power seeking scholarship applications, beginning Jan. 1

COHASSET – Graduating high school seniors whose parents or guardians are members of Lake Country Power (LCP) are invited to apply for the Les Beach Scholarship. The rural electric co-op expects to award college scholarships valued at \$4,000 each to more than 35 high school students in 2023. Scholarship recipients can qualify for up to \$4,000 over four years to help pay for college or technical education. Scholarships are renewable for up to eight semesters, and students must maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher. Award winners must also keep full-time enrollment status at a technical school, community college or university.

LCP will offer one scholarship for every five successful applications submitted per school to offer more opportunities for students in the co-op's local communities.

The online application process opens Jan. 1, and high school seniors whose parents or legal guardians are LCP members have until 11:59 p.m., Jan. 31, to apply. The electronic application is available at www.lakecountrypower.coop, under My Cooperative > Community > Scholarships.

The Les Beach Memorial Scholarship is made possible through unclaimed capital credits. The scholarship honors a former co-op employee and recognizes student commitment and contribution to local communities.

LCP also offers \$1,000 scholarships to five area community college foundations and three Minnesota lineworker schools to support students in trade schools and community/technical college programs. Applications for these scholarships are available directly through the colleges.

FREE CPR CLASS

To the first 20 RSVP's for Greenwood Township residents



- Hands only CPR
- The class will be lead by a certified CPR instructor from MN North College
- Class to be held at the Greenwood Township Hall on

Wednesday, January 18 at 6pm

Reserve your spot by sending your RSVP to: firedept@greentownshipmn.com or call 218-753-2231

FREE CPR CLASS

Interesting Fact:

• Did you know that citizen CPR performed in the first minute of a witnessed heart attack can double or triple the persons chance of survival.

Source • American heart association

UNITED WAY

Making spirits bright for area veterans

UWNEMN packed and delivered holiday meals to veterans in need

REGIONAL-For six years, United Way Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN) has partnered with local service clubs to pack and distribute holiday meal kits to Iron Range veterans in need, many of whom are homebound. The packages are filled with enough food for veterans and their families to enjoy throughout the weekend and are typically delivered the week before Christmas.

In the first year, UWNEMN delivered to 18 veterans. By 2020, the delivery was 50 veterans; that number has now grown to 72 veterans. "We are so pleased to announce that we increased our numbers served this year and expanded delivery to the Koochiching County community in our service area," said UWNEMN Community Impact Coordinator Michelle Lampton.

"The expansion required additional volunteers and fundraising. We are dedicated to making the holidays special for all the veterans in our service area and appreciate the support of anyone who is willing to help us do so in any way," Lampton said. "With the way the cost of food has increased in recent years, we know this program means so much, and it also takes a little more to make it happen."



Packages typically include a ham, two pies, two pounds of fresh fruit, two pounds of fresh vegetables, milk, eggs, bread, butter, juice, bacon, two boxes of breakfast bars, two boxes of cereal or oatmeal, cans of soup and vegetables, crackers, and more. Volunteers helped pack and deliver 17 kits for Koochiching County veterans on Dec. 20 and 55 kits for Iron Range veterans on Dec. 22.

"This expansion is an important one for UWNEMN", said UWNEMN Executive Director Erin Shay.

"The size of our footprint has

traditionally made it difficult to provide programming like this in every corner of our service area, but thanks to the increasing support of donors and volunteers, we are no longer so constrained," Shay said. "Not only am I proud to see our outreach with local veterans become more robust each year, but the ability to show our gratitude and support to all veterans in our service area, that's what matters most." United for Veterans is a program unique to the United Way of Northeastern Minnesota. To learn more, visit www.unitedwaynemn.org/united-veterans.

LAKE COUNTRY POWER

Operation Round Up® has now donated over \$3 million to local community programs

COHASSET – Through the contributions of Lake Country Power's participating members, the Operation Round Up® Electric Trust Board recently approved \$51,950 in assistance to local community programs during its quarterly meeting – helping surpass \$3 million in giving since the program's inception in 2004.

The cooperative's Trust Board reviewed and considered 49 grant applications and distributed funds to 40 projects and programs this past quarter.

Most recent recipients in our area include:

- Ely's Historic State Theater – free tickets for film festival
- Orr Ambulance Service – purchase equipment
- Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota – meals for low-income, high-risk seniors
- St. Louis County Rescue Squad – GPS handheld units
- Queen of Peace Quilters – lap quilts for adults, baby, valor quilts
- Project Care Free Clinic – basic healthcare for uninsured/underinsured
- Well Being Development – transportation, food, isolation, anxiety services
- Ely Community Health Center – Ely free clinic
- American Association of University Women – STEM workshops



Pictured (from left) Bobbi Maish, Operation Round Up® trust board president; two representatives from Polar Cubs Childcare Center with Greg Schulzetenberg of Lake Country Power in the middle; and a representative from the St. Louis County Rescue Squad.

- Babbitt-Embarrass Womens Club – holiday gift bags
- Northwoods Partners – Tasty Tuesday
- Polar Cubs Childcare Center – office start-up equipment
- Story Portage – 23rd veteran community education program
- Mesabi Humane Society – spay and neuter program

Operation Round Up® is a charitable program unique to electric co-ops, which is designed to provide financial assistance to worthwhile activities and community projects by "rounding up" members' electric bills to the nearest dollar. The average donation of each participating

Lake Country Power member is less than \$6 annually.

Among Lake Country Power's 43,000 members, 67-percent of all active electric accounts participate in the program through voluntary contributions. Interested members can opt into the Operation Round Up® program by calling the cooperative at 800-421-9959 or using an online form at lakecountrypower.coop.

Applications are available online at www.lakecountrypower.coop. The next application deadline is Feb.15.

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TRIBAL AFFAIRS

License plates to raise MMIR awareness

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Tribal license plates designed to bring new visibility to the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous persons were unveiled jointly by Bois Forte and Fond du Lac Band leaders at a Dec. 20 ceremony held at the Black Bear Casino Resort.

Drawing inspiration from the international movement for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, the intent to also highlight violence against Indigenous boys and men and two-spirit people is reflected in the large “MMIR” lettering, which stands for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives.

After a bill in the state Legislature for state issued MMIR plates failed to pass last year, Bois Forte and Fond du Lac moved forward to issue their own.

“Today emphasizes our tribal sovereignty,” said Bois Forte Chairwoman Cathy Chavers in remarks made at the ceremony. “This is a huge accomplishment for us, because we’re working together as two tribes, and we hope other tribal nations will follow. We hope the state will follow as well, to have a state plate with MMIR.”

Believed to be the first ever



Bois Forte Band Chairwoman Cathy Chavers and Fond du Lac Band Chairman Kevin Dupuis display the new Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives license plates available to band members living inside the two reservations.
Photo courtesy of Shane Drift

license plates created to bring attention to this issue, Chavers believes the unique design will generate conversation.

people seeing a plate, they’ll say ‘Hey, what is that plate?’ Then they’ll ask questions, and they’ll know, and we won’t be invisible.”

As license plates issued by tribal government, the plates will only be available to band members living inside the Bois Forte and Fond du Lac reservation boundaries.

MINING LITIGATION

Area groups, businesses seek to intervene in Twin Metals case

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— A coalition of environmental groups and businesses filed a motion this week to intervene on behalf of the Biden administration’s decision to cancel mineral leases critical to Twin Metals, which claims it has plans to develop a copper-nickel mine near Ely. Twin Metals is asking a federal judge to force the Bureau of Land Management to renew the two federal mineral leases critical to the proposed mine. The lawsuit is before Judge Christopher R. Cooper of

the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Interveners in that case include Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, the lead organization of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, and ten area businesses, along with Friends of the Boundary Waters.

NMW and the ten businesses argue that they will face significant harm should Twin Metals, a venture primarily owned by Chile-based mining giant Antofagasta, be allowed to revive its proposal to build a sulfide-based copper mine along rivers, lakes, and streams

that flow directly into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

“Toxic mining has no place next to America’s most visited wilderness,” said Becky Rom, national chair of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. “The Boundary Waters is a national treasure, and the Biden administration made the right decision, based on science and the law, to protect this place for future generations.”

Steve Piragis, owner of Piragis Northwoods Company and a prospective intervenor in the case, said in a declaration filed

with the court, “The threat that sulfide ore mining represents hits me and our business at the core of our existence. Thousands of paddlers pass through our doors each summer, telling us how important this pure wilderness is to their lives and their psyches.”

The Twin Metals’ suit alleges that the Biden administration engaged in arbitrary and unauthorized decision-making when Interior Department Deputy Solicitor Ann Marie Bledsoe Downes overturned a Trump-era legal opinion issued by then-Interior Solicitor Daniel Jorjani. Jorjani had determined

that Twin Metals had an absolute right to three ten-year renewals under the original lease. Twin Metals was seeking the third and final of those permit renewals when the Obama administration canceled the leases in 2016.

Jorjani’s opinion, issued in 2017, overturned previous opinions issued by Interior legal counsel from the Reagan, Bush, and Obama administrations, which had all determined that any lease renewal was discretionary on the part of the Interior Department. Based on Jorjani’s opinion, the Trump administration ar-

gued it had no choice but to reinstate the leases that the Obama administration had canceled.

In reversing Jorjani, the Biden administration was largely consistent with the view of previous administrations, based on the language in the original 1966 leases, which appeared to condition any right of renewal on the start of mining operations within the first 20-year term of the leases. Yet no mining operation has gotten underway in the more than 50 years since the leases were originally issued.

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ANGORA 6 BR recreational cabin with wrap-around covered porch on 80 acres. Cabin to be sold fully furnished. **MLS#143805 \$425,000**

COOK 17 acres bordering city limits with over 1,000 ft of Little Fork River frontage. **MLS#144481 \$50,000**

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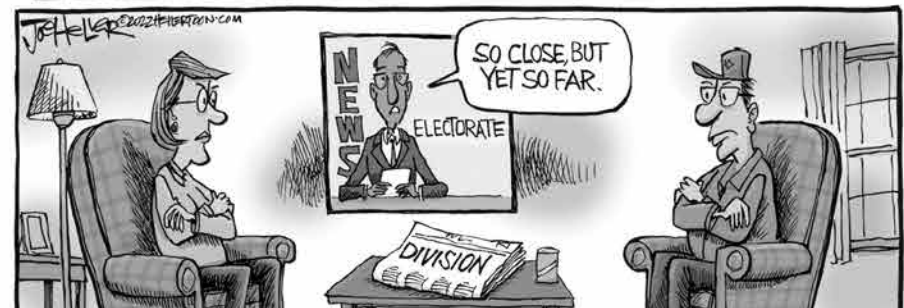
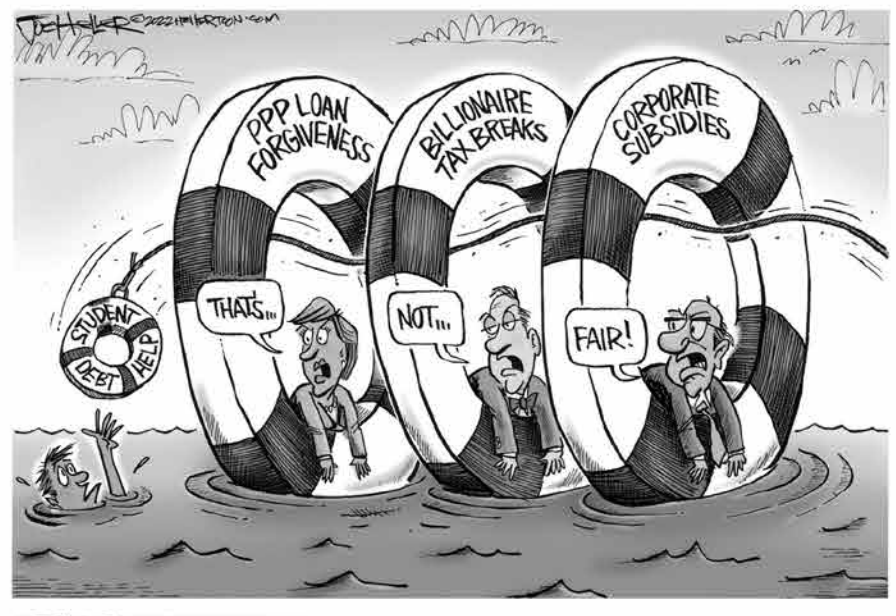
OPINION

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

"CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW...ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;"
The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Joe Heller's FAVORITE CARTOONS of 2022

A look back at some of the top issues from Joe Heller's drawing board in 2022.



ELY COMMUNITY RESOURCES

ECR awarded community conservationist award

REGIONAL- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) awarded Ely Community Resource (ECR) the 2022 Community Conservationist Award during the MASWCD annual convention in Bloomington.

North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District with support from Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District nominated Ely Community Resource noting that the organization has consistently provided enriching, immersive, and authentic opportunities for youth to engage with natural resource issues and investigate the natural world around them. Recent activities included:

► **Stormwater drainage awareness and Eco Club:** Students designed both a storm drain stencil and door hangers to educate the community about the importance of keeping pollutants from entering the storm drain system.

► **Ely Water Project:** Students participated in investigative projects related to aquatic invasive species and native species from crayfish to zooplankton and also supported the collection of water chemistry data.

MASWCD hosted its award luncheon on Dec. 13, in Bloomington. Hazardous travel condition kept ECR from accepting the award in person. A video recording of Lauren, one of the Ely Water Project students, and lead staff Jill Swanson accepting the award was played at the luncheon. The award was then presented in person to Executive Director Julie Hignell, Ely Water Project lead Jill Swanson



Above: Students in the Eco Club raised awareness about storm water pollution.



Left: Liz Anderson from Lake County SWCD took students to Garden Lake to take some water chemistry readings.

submitted photos

ty of the Ely area and help build that sense of community with Ely youth.

“We are so happy Ely Community Resource received this award,” said Becca Reiss, Community Conservationist with North St. Louis SWCD. “At the award luncheon, people commented how they wish they had an organization like ECR around where they grew up. I think people in Ely are well aware how great ECR is. It’s wonderful to see them get state level recognition also.”

The MASWCD partners with the MPCA by representing the soil and water conservation

districts of Minnesota like North St. Louis and Lake County, delivering education and leadership opportunities that support effective conservation practices.

For more information on Ely Community Resource and their programs, contact 218-365-5254. For more information on local Soil & Water Conservation District Programs, contact North St. Louis SWCD at 218-749-2000 or Lake SWCD at 218-837-8370.

and student participants Lauren and Abby by the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District at their December meeting in Virginia.

Ely Community Resource was nominated because their programs spark interest in sci-

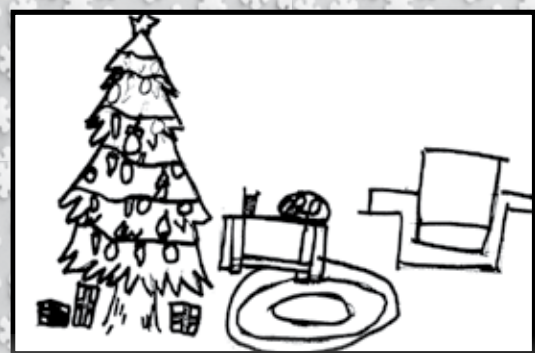
ence, raise awareness about natural resource issues, and motivate youth to care and understand about water issues in their community and across the globe as they become our future conservation leaders. They also truly are a part of the communi-

Wishing You A Peaceful Year!
from The Vermilion Club



Winning Artist • Jade Drift
GRADE 6

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE!
from the Tower Soudan Agency



Winning Artist • Kayla Drift
Grade 5

We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words. Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO EVERYONE!
from Vermilion Land Office



Winning Artist • Quinn Jordan
Grade 5

Have A Peaceful New Year!
from ReMax Lake Country



Winning Artist • Savannah Abts
Grade 6



the **TIMBERJAY**

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Season's Greetings!
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Anelise Brodeen
Grade 6

MERRY "Sithmas" TO YOU!
from Zup's Cook



Winning Artist • Daniel Zupancich
GRADE 5

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TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY

Week of Jan. 2

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Greenwood Fire Dept.- Meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Thursday

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

Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Rec. Board, Jan. 10

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 8:30 a.m. at Good Ol' Days. Requests for funding must be made in writing, in advance of the meeting, and mailed or delivered to Tower City Hall, PO Box 576, Tower, MN 55790.

St. Paul's hosting special New Year's service and brunch

SOUDAN- St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church is hosting a special service on Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023.

"When the Pastor's Away, St. Paul's Will Play" will feature live music by Deb Tuominen and Louise Wiermma, with the service led by the women of the church. The congregation invites the community to start the New Year out right. Worship begins at 10 a.m. and is open to all. There will be a free brunch following the service, catered by Marco. RSVPs appreciated but not required, please call 218-753-3047.

"A New Journey" for St. James

TOWER- With the retirement of Pastor Doug Workman at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower, the Session has supplied the pulpit with the following speakers for January: Jan. 1, New Year's Day, JoAnne Connell; Jan. 8, Pastor Ellen Taube; Jan. 15, Greg Kuchan; Jan. 22 and 29, Rev. Rebecca LeMenager.

Worship services are at 10 a.m. on Sundays, with coffee served before the service, and coffee afterwards in the social room. All are invited to attend.

Every Sunday, during the service, there is special music with Greg Kuchan on guitar and his wife, Denise Kuchan on electric drums. On Jan. 1, weather-permitting, Sonja Connell and her father Jay Carlsgaard will be performing on viola (Sonya) and piano (Jay). Both are travelling to Tower from Bemidji, and will also be performing special music prior to the service at 10 a.m.

Come early, and see us as St. James looks forward to "A New Journey."



More fun from the Tower-Soudan Elementary holiday concert. Above and left: Students in grades 3 - 6 performed the mini-musical "The Big Chill." Music teacher Michelle Anderson said this was a student (and teacher) favorite, and had been performed once before. Bottom left: Younger students charmed the crowd who attended the concert. Below right: The elementary band, with players from Tower-Soudan and Northeast Range, played three songs. Bottom right: Students read the poem "The Night Before Christmas" at the start of the show. photos by J. Summit



BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Breitung Board hears from Eagles Nest trail group

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- Members of the Eagles Nest Trail Advocacy Group came to talk to Breitung Town Board on Dec. 20 about proposed ATV trails that would run between Ely and Breitung, passing through Eagles Nest Township.

While Eagles Nest Township has had a large number of township residents opposed to a proposed ATV route, Breitung has not heard much, if any, opposition to the proposed new trail route, which will connect existing area trails to the planned ATV campground area in the Lake Vermilion Soudan Underground Mine State Park.

Eagles Nest residents Tim Rund and Greg Juneke said that their group is not against responsible ATV use by residents, but is against having an "ATV super highway" run through the township. Rund said he was impressed with Breitung Township's relationships with Congress and the DNR and their involvement in planning trails through the township. He said that Eagles Nest hasn't had the same opportunity to influence their own trails plan. Rund said there would be no positive economic impact to

the township either, since Eagles Nest doesn't have anywhere for trail riders to spend money.

He said that his group was fighting for their residents' rights to quietude, a right guaranteed by Minnesota State Law. Rund said that as funding for trails has increased, funding for supervision of the trails and safety (conservation officers, police, fire, ambulance) hasn't increased with it.

Breitung Chair Tim Tomsich said that the portion of the trail in Breitung is proposed to go near Thompson Farm Road and the dump.

Tomsich said that the Mesabi Trail found that 135,000 bikes went through Breitung and had an impact of \$135,000, numbers that suggest ATV trails would also bring more revenue to Breitung.

In other news, the town board:

- ▶ Heard the skating rink earning shack will be open after Christmas. Hours on weekends and school-closed days are from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Weekday/school days hours will be from 4 to 8 p.m. The rink will be closed during inclement weather.

- ▶ Maintenance Supervisor Tom Gorsma extended his thanks to the community members who have been shoveling out the township fire hydrants.

- ▶ Approved a contract for providing law enforcement services to the City of Tower for 2023 beginning Jan. 1 for \$76,992.

- ▶ Paid a partial pay estimate of \$106,329 for the force main improvement project to Jola and Sopp Excavating in Eveleth.

- ▶ Heard from wastewater board liaison Greg Dostert that the water plant upgrades are on hold. Though the wastewater board was awarded \$3.75 million from the state, they haven't seen the funds from the Army Corps of Engineers. The wastewater board sent letters to Rep. Pete Stauber and Sen. Amy Klobuchar asking for help moving the project along.

- ▶ Passed a resolution accepting a 50/50 grant from the DNR for six sets of wildland fire-fighting equipment for new fire fighters. The cost of the equipment totals \$6,000.

- ▶ Heard that Chairman Tim Tomsich has been working with IRRR and JPJ Engineering to create a five-year plan to update the township's infrastructure. Tentative projects for 2023 include street, curb, gutter, storm sewer and sanitary sewer improvements on 1st Ave. from Superior St. to Gordon St. and street, curb, gutter and storm sewer improvements on the northern half of

Church St.

- ▶ Heard that police body cams are now up and running.

- ▶ Heard that four rink attendants and the maintenance supervisor attended a CPR training class held by Police Chief Dan Reing. Another CPR class will be held in January.

- ▶ Heard that manholes will start being replaced after Christmas.

- ▶ Approved the license application for tobacco sales for the Soudan Store.

- ▶ Received a newsletter from Habitat for Humanity. The town board asked the clerk to remind Habitat for Humanity that there is a lot available on 4th St. set aside and available to build on.

- ▶ Reviewed the November Police Report. There were 60 calls, one citation for driving after revocation, one citation for misdemeanor theft, one formal complaint for gross misdemeanor charge for Driving After Cancellation. There were three investigations, and two agency assists, including the apprehension of a felon in Cook. There was one arrest on a warrant.

- ▶ The next town board meeting is Thursday, Jan. 26, at 12 noon.

WASSAIL, WASSAIL ALL OVER THE TOWN

Ely TV's holiday concert fun for all

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Ely Area Television held two holiday concert events at the State Theater on Dec. 14 and Dec. 21. On both days, the event started with live entertainment followed by an hour-long pre-recorded segment including a wide array of Ely-area musicians. This

was the third year that Ely Area Television has hosted this event.

The live entertainment on Dec. 14 was Steve Sokela's "Over-Populated One-Man Band." On Dec. 21, the live portion was the Ely High School Pop Choir, conducted by Michael Rouse.

The pop choir performance was more of an au-

dience participation sing-along of favorite holiday songs. To aid in the sing-along, Billie Rouse handed out cue cards for audience members to hold up during the singing of "The Twelve Days of Christmas." She also handed out, and sometimes tossed, sleigh bells throughout the audience for "Jingle Bells" and "Jingle Bell Rock."

Between the addition of the props and Billie Rouse's infectious enthusiasm, it was obvious that the audience had a lot of fun singing along with the choir.

The hour-long pre-recorded portion of the program produced by Todd Crego of Ely Area Television featured local musicians. The video was filmed

and edited at the downtown Ely studio of the non-profit Cyko Art Productions.

"We shot the film in the studio," explained Curt Laine, the director of Cyko Art Productions.

"The pre-recorded portion took over 250 hours of volunteer time, including four hours of shooting for each act along with editing and sound."



Michael Rouse conducts the Ely High School Pop Choir at the Dec. 21 Ely Area Television Concert. Photo by C. Clark



Billie Rouse tosses sleigh bells to the audience for the sing-along with the Ely High School Pop Choir. Photo by C. Clark

AN OLD ELY NAME

What's in a name?

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

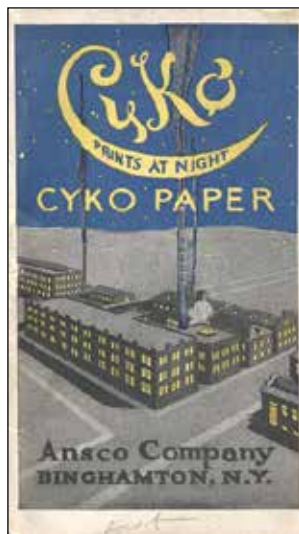
A Finn named Otto Hokkanen owned and managed the first Cyko-named business in Ely in 1917 and ran it until 1949. Hokkanen's Cyko Art Studio specialized in portrait photography.

"Back in those days, Cyko Art was synonymous with photography," explained Curt Laine, who is the current owner of Cyko Art Studios LLC. "The word usage got dropped during the depression."

Cyko was once a leading brand of photo paper made by the Ansco Co. Ansco was the firm that held the patent for the first successful flexible camera film. Eastman Kodak stole Ansco's film technology, which allowed it to grab a large portion of market share from Ansco. The patent infringement case was settled in court 1905, and not in Kodak's favor.

Eero Laine buys Cyko

Eero Laine, Curt Laine's father, bought the Cyko Art Studio business



1922 Cyko paper ad

from Hokkanen in 1949. "My father didn't want to do studio work," Laine remarked. Eero turned the business into a camera store rebranded as Cyko Art and Camera.

"My father added a record shop in the late 1950s," said Laine, "and then a hobby shop." Eero eventually added same-day film developing. In 1962, he branched out into offset printing.

As Cyko and Ansco lost brand recognition, the Cyko name often was confused with the sound-alike word of psycho.

"Customers used to come into the shop, wanting to meet Mr. Cyko," Laine related.

Saving the name

Curt Laine grew up in Ely but left in the mid 1970s to pursue a successful career in film and video production.

"My brother Roger took over the printing business in the 1990s," Laine commented. His brother branded the offset printing business as Roger's Printing.

After talking it over with his brother, Laine incorporated the Cyko Art business name in 1998. When Laine moved back to Ely, he set up two business entities using the Cyko name in 2020: a commercial company called Cyko Art Studios LLC and a non-profit called Cyko Art Productions.

Laine leased the second floor of the building that houses the NAPA auto parts store for the use of both business entities. It includes video and sound capabilities one would expect to find in New York or Los Angeles, with studio space, professional production equipment, and a state-of-the-art video editing system.

"Our goal is educating people on how to use communication tools and social media ... to benefit the community and the people who live here," Laine explained. The non-profit has worked with Ely Area Television and the Ely Community Resources to mentor students in making and editing video. Cyko Art Productions has also provided the studio space and equipment for the Ely Area Television's pre-recorded concert footage.



Curt Laine. Photo by C. Clark

Wick-ed Ely candle business

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Heather Magee's local Ely craft business has taken off this year. She bought the Ely-based Cozy Nest Candle Co. from Doreen Rausch at the beginning of 2022 when Rausch retired and moved to Texas. She rebranded the business as the Five Pines Candle Co. when she discovered just how many craft businesses used "cozy nest candles" in their names.

"Doreen ran her business for ten years, so I had big shoes to fill," Magee remarked. "In my first six months, my sales didn't match Doreen's. Now, the business is doing well, and we've maybe quadrupled her sales."

Wilderness inspired candles

Magee had never made a candle before she and her husband moved to Ely in April 2021. After she bought Rausch's business, she threw herself

into becoming a master candle maker, researching and making candles with different waxes, wicks and artisanal fragrances.

"Doreen's inventory had 39 varieties and 12 categories. I knew I wanted more simplicity," said Magee.

After months of experimenting and testing, Magee settled on her niche product, her "wilderness inspired" jar candles with wooden wicks and a high-end wax.

Magee's candles are made with a coconut apricot wax, "It's a luxury wax that's new to the (candle) market. It's long-burning. For a nine-ounce candle, paraffin will burn around 35 hours. This new wax will burn 55 hours or more with my wooden wicks."

The choice of wooden wicks was the result of Magee's research.

"I discovered that many cotton wicks are treated with toxic chemicals. I didn't want that for my customers ... my customers come first," she

said.

Magee uses wooden wicks that are untreated and are Forest Service Certified. The FSC program ensures that certified products come from responsibly managed forests that provide a trio of environmental, social, and economic benefits.

Expanding business

While new to candles, Magee is not new to business. She owned and managed her own salon business for 30 in the Kansas City area before moving to Minnesota, first to the Twin Cities area, and then to Ely.

Magee sells her candles online, at an expanding number of stores, and at the Ely Folk School makers' markets of every month through March.

"I have my candles in 14 stores right now. Half of them are signature custom candles and the rest are sold as Five Pines candles," Magee remarked.



Heather Magee of Five Pine Candles at the December Makers' Market and Mixer at the Ely Folk School. Photo by C. Clark

The retailers selling her candles are as far away as Lake Placid, NY, and Brownsville, Texas. In Ely, her candles are sold at Piragis.

In 2023, Magee has plans to add "life products" for hair and skin that are free of the toxic chem-

ical additives found in many mass-market items. She also stated that she's close to hiring someone to help with sales and shipping.

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.

The Tuesday Group is now on its annual holiday hiatus and will be back after the first of the year.

2023 Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

- Jan. 3: Meet new Elyites.
- Jan 10: End of the Road Film Festival.
- Jan 17: Ely Free Clinic.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



making a clean start
on a crooked road to light
commit to honor

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

Monday 10 am-6 pm
Tuesday 10 am-6 pm
Wednesday 10 am-6 pm
Thursday 10 am-6 pm
Friday 10 am-6 pm
Phone: 218-827-3345

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous

OPEN AA - 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.

SUNDAY NIGHT AA - at St. Anthony's Catholic Church is canceled.

ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA - Every Monday at noon at 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.

North Woods student named to statewide women's cabinet

Jessy Palmer wants to give back to her Bois Forte community with career

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- North Woods School junior Jessy Palmer's world is about to expand in ways she hadn't ever considered until this fall, with opportunities coming her way for statewide advocacy and networking in collaboration with a dynamic group of Minnesota women who have been appointed by Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan to the Young Women's Cabinet.

"The Young Women's Cabinet is a partnership with the Women's Foundation of Minnesota and the Governor's Office, and it's been in existence since about 2016," said Cynthia Bauerly, the lead for the Young Women's Initiative. "Each year, we gather a cohort of young leaders who have already demonstrated that they are leaders in our community. The age range is 16 to 24, and we have high schoolers, folks who are in college, and we actually have a couple who are in law school. Some have already graduated from college and are working."

The cabinet provides opportunities for young women of color, Ameri-

can Indian young women, young women from Greater Minnesota, LGBTQ+ youth, and young women with disabilities to "bring the solutions that they know they need to happen for them and for their colleagues to be successful in Minnesota," Bauerly said.

Palmer already had a fairly busy schedule this year, in part because of how goal-directed she is. She's already set on pursuing a career as a registered nurse, and she's taking classes through Minnesota North College as well as other high school coursework. When she eventually becomes an RN, it's her intent to put her skills to work at home on the Bois Forte reservation. "I'm hoping I can work at my local tribal clinic," Palmer said. "I know they're really short on doctors and nurses right now, so I'm hoping I can help as much as I can over there."

She's also been working with a new Native American Student Association at North Woods. The goal of the group, Palmer said, is to plan activities and exhibits to introduce and infuse more about Anishinaabe culture into the school. It's also been an experience that's height-

ened Palmer's own interest in learning about the culture.

"I kind of feel like I barely know my own culture and my own teachings and stuff," she said. "I feel like more kids should be allowed to learn their culture and their language and their teachings more often, and to be able to actually perform them at school or in public."

Palmer learned about the Young Women's Cabinet from her older sister, North Woods Indian Education Interventionist Stacy Palmer, who encouraged her to apply. "When I first signed up for it I thought I'm probably not going to be accepted, but I'll just do it for fun and see if I get in or not," Palmer said, smiling. "And then I got in and I was really surprised."

Palmer recently had her first orientation meeting with the other cabinet members via Zoom, and while she was initially a bit nervous, going through introductions and getting right to work on learning basics about state government put her at ease. She's looking forward to more, and there will indeed be a lot more to come.

Bauerly said that the Young Women's Cabinet



North Woods junior Jessy Palmer, a Bois Forte Band member, has been appointed to the 32-member Young Women's Cabinet.

will be meeting every other week, most times virtually, but with opportunities for some in-person meetings. They'll all be going to St. Paul to connect with legislators and state officials, as well as each other.

And the most important work will be to develop strategies for advancing initiatives to promote better opportunities for young women around the state who are in some way challenged in their efforts

to lead active, productive lives contributing positively to their communities.

"I'm kind of glad that the age group is like that, because I feel like more people should listen to what our younger generations are experiencing nowadays," Palmer said. "I feel like nobody listens to us anymore, they don't care about what we feel like because we're just young and don't know

what we're doing. But that's not true. We have feelings and we know what's going on. We have our own opinions and people should listen to us. And we should be heard."

To learn more about the Young Women's Initiative, go to <https://www.wfmmn.org/ywi-mn/about/>.

Council passes five percent levy hike

COOK- After months of scrutiny, the Cook City Council adopted a five percent increase in the property tax levy for 2023 at its Dec. 15 meeting.

A six-percent increase had originally been proposed, but through the work of city staff and a series of monthly budget work sessions, the council was able to drop a percentage point from the increase.

The new levy will generate an additional \$23,375 in 2023, raising the take to \$490,885. When taking into consideration additional revenue

from local government aid and other sources and then subtracting projected expenses, the budget adopted by the council shows a surplus of \$364.

Ambulance

The suspected engine problem with the Cook Ambulance Service 2014 Ford rig No. 2 reported in November was diagnosed as internal cylinder damage that required replacement of the engine, according to Director Roland Schoen's report.

The quote obtained from Hibbing Ford listed the cost of the engine

as \$5,532 and additional parts for installation at \$4,011. Labor was estimated at \$6,034, bringing the total to \$15,577, and the repair was authorized.

In other business, the council:

► Considered two bids for a new ambulance but found that the companies did not bid out the same specifications, which meant that the bids were not directly comparable. City Administrator Theresa Martinson was going to consult with the city attorney about how to proceed.

► Reviewed a new

proposed pay model for the ambulance service that would provide increased compensation for taking on more call hours, and a differential of \$2 per hour more for EMTs vs. EMRs to account for the increased training requirements for EMTs to maintain their certifications.

► Accepted a \$25 donation from the Bloom Lahti VFW Auxiliary for the library book fund.

HEIAM FOUNDATION GIFT



The Heiam Foundation recently made a donation of four Keurig coffee makers for the break areas of the hospital. In addition, each employee received a \$50 gift card for Zup's from the Heiam Medical Foundation. Pictured are Teresa Debevec foundation president Sally Ludlow.

ARTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Artists on Main Street program concludes successfully

COOK- In 2020, the City of Cook was chosen as an Artists on Main Street community by Rethos and Springboard for the Arts. The community received a total of \$30,000 to partner with local artists and creatives to address challenges affecting the Main Streets of today, and it the case of Cook the focus was downtown River St.

\$20,000 was designated for the first year of the project and \$10,000 for the second. Between 2020 - 2022, artists and collaborators created 14 unique projects highlighting businesses, organizations and public spaces on River Street.

The City of Cook worked with Northwoods Friends of the Arts to promote the program, and local photographer Becky Smith to capture project images.

The list of projects and contributors was extensive.

Permanent projects

► A Resting Place (Handmade Benches): Jim DeVries

► Art Scavenger Hunt: Jim DeVries

► Barn Quilts Gallery: Kathy Sacchetti, JoAnn Anderson, Linda

Bergerson, Maggie Manion, Liz Villnow, Alberta Whitenack

► Color Our World (Wildflowers at Veterans Park): Priscilla Hiiipakka, Leah Gilley, Oriah Gilley, Kady Scofield, Rory Bundy, Elizabeth Udovich, Victoria Gilley, Jennifer Scofield, Merilee Scofield, Danika Udovich, Memory Malone, Steve Kajala, Vincent Kajala, Evan Kajala, Howard Hiiipakka

► Let's Soar on River Street: Shawna Kishel, Lauren Nelson, Ron Maki, Gary Whitenack, Tim Lilya, Bill Gruska

► Original Wings Mural artists and collaborators: Chloe Adkisson, Emily Alt, Aleah Bangs, Sophie Bangs, Jazmin Buchholz, Gabyl Buchholz, LeRoy Brook-Swan, Shenze Chavez, Grant Chittum, Lila Chosa, Roseblossom Chosa, Carol Connor, Orion Dagen, Lauren Dargontina, Abby Dargontina, Wyatt Devine, Jesse Anne Drift, Kayla Drift, Aleesia Geshick, Kailani Geshick, Charlie Holmes, Jessi Isham, Rueben Isham, Arlene Norman King, Owen Koivisto, Brittan Koskela, Ella Kruse, Evelyn Kruse, Haley Leinonen, Alexia Lightfeather, Abby Norman, Trenton Roybal, Ev-

elyn Thiel, Rylee Vaughn, Dallas Villebrun, Ariana Vines, Lyn Reed, Susan Anderson, Jo Hollen, Kris Musto, Aurelia DeNasha, Art Dale

► Solar Lights on River Street (Light Poles): Linda Kronholm, Margaret Jarka, Avery Thiel

► Some Music, Chimes & Jumping Joy: Elizabeth Storm, Tim Lilya, Crystal Phillips

Seasonal Projects

► Flower Pots on River Street: Margaret Jarka, Avery Thiel, Linda Kronholm, Greta Root, Sienna Quick, Leah Quick, Autumn Quick, Janis Campagna, Sherri Swanson, Bailey Conger, Sue Kolstad, Lindi Wilenius, Elizabeth Storm, Sandy Stapp, Linda Greenberg, The Watering Can

► 2022 River Street Holiday Decoration Contest: River Street businesses

Temporary Projects

► Art Starts on River Street (NWFA program): Alberta Whitenack, Lisa Hyppa, Kris Musto, Crystal Phillips, Northwoods Friends of the Arts, North Woods students

► Clouds Now (Art on the Library pergola): Elizabeth Storm, Michelle

Cheney, Travis Weather-ton, Tim Lilya, Crystal Phillips

► Fairy Houses: Marggo Johnson

► Under the Bumbershoots (Umbrellas on the Library pergola): Elizabeth Storm, Jerry Storm, Crystal Phillips

Promotional

► River Street Business Guide: Elizabeth Storm, Crystal Phillips, Art Unlimited

Thank you to all who participated in the Artists on Main Street program. Special thanks to

Elizabeth Storm, Alberta Whitenack, Crystal Whitenack and Dawn Kehoe for their work throughout this program.

LIFESAVERS



LifeLink III Paramedic Taylor Swiegmann, left, came to the Cook Ambulance Service regular training meeting on Dec. 3 on a special mission. Swiegmann was there to present the service with a Lifesaver Award. Accepting the award were ambulance service crew members Karen Shultz, Amy Luecken, and Will Fisher. The trio were on call when they were alerted to an infant in distress. Their quick response was credited with saving the infant's life.

submitted photo

RUKAVINA...Continued from page 1

quasi-public leadership to the job.

"Ida Rukavina worked for me for years as my northern Minnesota outreach director. She is incredibly smart and an intrepid and innovative leader," said Sen. Amy Klobuchar in response to

the announcement.

Rukavina has also worked as a union leader and has most recently served as the executive director of the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools. She earned her B.A. from Clark University and a master's degree in Advocacy

and Public Leadership from the University of Minnesota - Duluth.

"I am honored for this opportunity from Gov. Walz and Lt. Gov. Flanagan to serve the people of the northland in this role as Commissioner of the Department of

Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation," said Rukavina. "I am looking forward to working with people and communities of the Taconite Assistance Area to continue working towards a future which includes jobs that support families, a strong educa-

tional system, and thriving cities and towns."

Gov. Walz said the selection of Rukavina reflects her impressive leadership abilities. "With extensive experience serving schools, townships, and cities on the Iron Range, she is dedicated to ensuring

that local communities in northeastern Minnesota have the resources they need to thrive," said Gov. Walz.

HARDWARE...Continued from page 1

bought the former Zup's and Northland Market buildings in early fall 2021 with the intent of moving out of their cramped space on Chapman Street.

The husband-and-wife team of Jay and Jacki have been planning for a while to expand into new store locations. Those plans have been many years in the making, as revealed by their shelving purchases two years before they bought the Zup's and Northland

properties. The Poshaks bought hundreds of feet of shelving from the Ely Shopko and Family Dollar stores when they closed.

Activity at the former Zup's building has been proceeding for most of the year. "We purchased the buildings around a year ago," said Jacki Bregier-Poshak. We started remodeling at the end of March and we started stocking inventory around Nov. 1." When the *Timberjay* visited

the new location, Jay was installing a paint-products display while Jacki and her son Kale were stocking inventory.

The new hardware store location will allow the Poshak's to carry many more items. "We're expanding a lot of our product lines," said Jay Poshak. "I used to only stock a few tires and now I have the room to carry a lot more." Poshak remarked that the new 21,000 square-foot

store location will allow the business to expand their sporting goods, fishing gear, and rentals lines, to name just a few.

Rebranding

The new hardware store will have a new name, KJ's True Value Hardware. When Jay's parents opened the original store on Chapman Street in 1976, they named it J&L Hardware. The initials were those of Jay's parents, Jerry

and Linda. Jay and Jacki bought out Jay's parents in 2015.

The name of the new hardware store is based on the current Poshak family: J for Jay and Jacki, and K for their two children, Kale and Kamryn.

Future plans

Only the hardware side of the family businesses will be housed at the former Zup's store. The dry goods and craft business will

remain at the Chapman Street location for now. The Poshaks intend to get the new True Value store up and running. Then they will begin work on remodeling the former Northland Market building, which will become the new home for the dry goods and craft business.

IRRR...Continued from page 1

\$238,000 to put toward an estimated \$2.1 million project for road reconstruction and storm sewer improvements for Vermilion Drive and North River Street. St. Louis County will fund \$1.5 million of the project, with the city expected to kick in \$212,000. A \$150,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) will cover the remainder of the projected cost.

The City of Winton was awarded \$65,000 to upgrade a water storage tower, construct a new underground vault structure and operations building, upgrade the water tower control system and install

a backup generator connection. The total estimated cost of the project is \$156,000.

Trails funding

The Northeast Regional ATV Trail Joint Powers Board will receive \$1.96 million for upgrades and connector trail construction on the following trails: Prospector ATV, Voyageur Country ATV, Ranger ATV, Northern Traxx, and Quad Cities ATV.

The regional project will extend trails, fill gaps and connect ATV trails in northern Minnesota in a 1,500-mile-plus system that will eventually run from International Falls to

the Iron Range, and from Ely to Grand Marais on the North Shore.

The project will also assist in funding an economic impact study, to be conducted by the University of Minnesota Extension Service.

Giants Ridge indoor facility

Currently, Giants Ridge is exclusively an outdoor recreational facility, but that will be changing after the IRRRB awarded \$8.2 million for construc-

tion of a 12,000-square-foot indoor facility that will house a swimming pool, sports court, indoor spa, and more. The award includes funding for site

work, a parking lot, and landscaping. The project is expected to go out for bid next fall.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS



Artist • Kasen Dostert • Grade 6



Artist • Kooper Dostert • Grade 6

New Year's Day Service

Sunday, January 1
at 10 AM

"While the pastor is away...
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Special music with
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Catered meal following the service
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NO CHARGE

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but not necessary
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All are welcome!




Enjoy Holiday Fun!
from BARB HEGG-Vermilion Land Office



Winning Artist • Bradley Winans
GRADE 1

Have A Snowy Fun Holiday!
from Fuel & Food/Soudan Store



Artist • Emmett Flood
Grade 2

Ho Ho Ho...Happy New Year!
from KGM CONTRACTORS



Winning Artist • Haven Bangs
Kindergarten

HAVE A MAGICAL HOLIDAY SEASON!
from Little Blessings Gift Shop & Beauty Bar



Artist • Jackson Udovich
Grade 4

Have A Holly, Jolly Christmas!
from Lumber Orr Hardware



Winning Artist • Cooper Long
Grade 6

BE MERRY THIS SEASON!
from North Star Credit Union



Winning Artist • Jase Kuhlman
Grade 2

LIQUOR...Continued from page 1

number of federal agents in the nation. Residents in St. Louis County voted to go dry in 1918. So, in many ways, Minnesota was a test case for Prohibition, and as the exhibit showed, it was not destined for success.

“Keen observers of what happened in Minnesota might have predicted how well drying out the nation would go,” wrote exhibit researcher Gary Kaunonen in an article published earlier in December in the *Hometown Focus*, “but any negative reports or reality-based assessments of Minnesota’s “dry regions” fell on deaf ears. The fervor of teetotaling progressive reformers, religious revivalists, and even anti-immigrant racists such as the Ku Klux Klan swept the goals of the 18th Amendment into federal law on Jan. 16, 1919.”

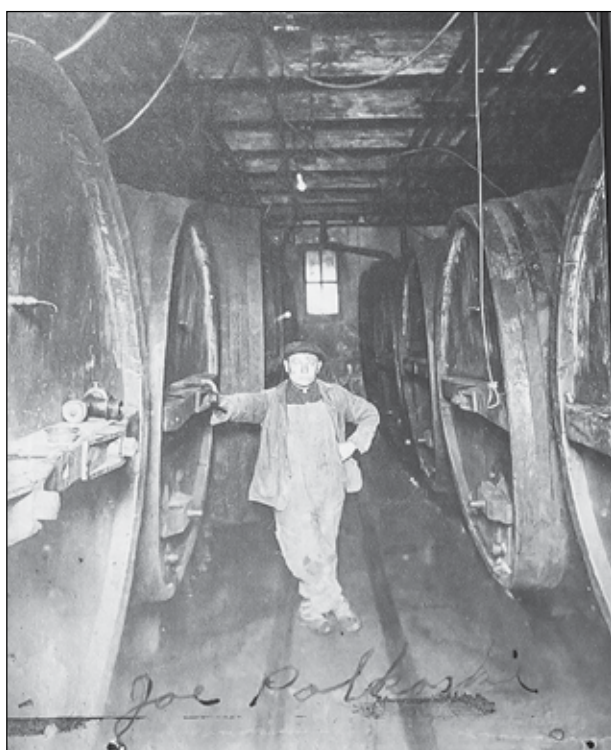
“This is a different and messier side of history,” said exhibit curator Allyse Freeman. “We are telling this history from the bottom up, focusing on the experiences of the working class and recent immigrants.”

Freeman said Prohibition in our area was nothing like the “Roaring 20s,” but there still was plenty of alcohol and bootlegging.

The exhibit highlights the “creativity and ingenuity” of Rangers as they found ways to produce and sell liquor during this time period, according to Kaunonen. You will also see stories of local residents both for and against Prohibition.

MDC researcher Jason Scorch was part of a team that assembled over 50 stories of bootlegging on the Range.

“We are sure there are more stories out there,” he said. “Please share yours with us.”



Many of these stories are available as part of the exhibit, some narrated by area residents, and others dictated and dramatized by Scorch. These oral histories include tales of traveling the Range with moonshine, and the creative ways this underground economy tried to keep one step ahead of law enforcement, sometimes successfully, other times not.

An immigrant baker in Hibbing baked bottles of his 120-proof moonshine inside loaves of bread.

“The feds found out and broke open all the loaves of bread set for delivery,” Scorch said. “But it was a Tuesday, and the booze only was delivered on Fridays!”

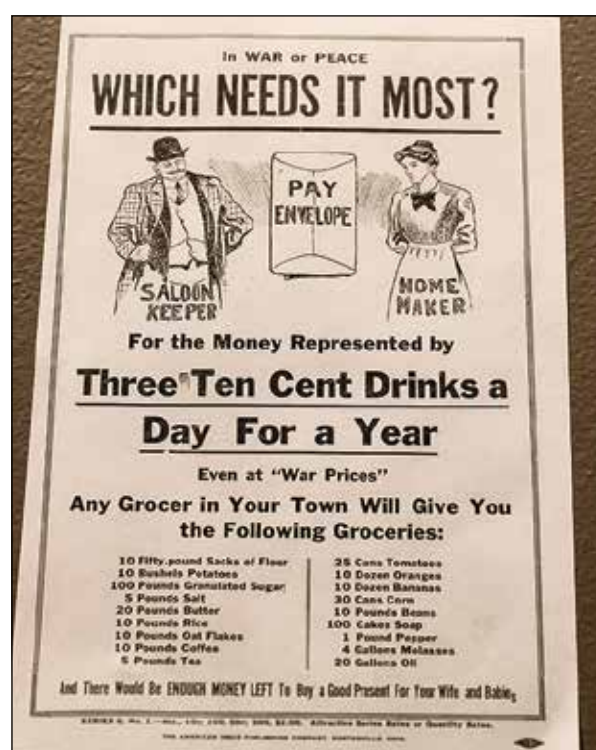
In 1951, when the Ostrov Grocery Store building in Virginia was being renovated, workers found a secret room in the basement. They found a trove of drink bottles, labeled “Naturally Good Orange Drink.” After opening and drinking a

few, the workers passed out, the story goes. The exhibit features one of the two remaining still-corked bottles.

The exhibit highlights these stories, along with the history of what led to the passage of the laws, the anti-immigrant and anti-Native American biases that led many in the area to support the enactment of prohibition, and the stories of those who lobbied to have the law repealed.

Impacts on local businesses, families, and local governments, who lost the tax dollars generated from liquor sales, are also part of the story of prohibition on the Iron Range.

“This abrupt stop cut deep into the Range’s local economy,” said Kaunonen. “In 1900 alone, Virginia collected \$12,470 in liquor license fees, along with \$280 in liquor license application fees. In today’s dollars that is over \$450,000. The next highest source of income for Virginia was municipal court fees



Far left: A worker stands in the beer cellar at the Tower Brewery sometime before Prohibition took effect.

Left: A flyer posted in the early 1900s on the Iron Range suggests the extent to which alcohol consumption impacted families in the region.

Above: One of the only remaining bottles of “orange drink” found in a secret compartment in the old Ostrov Market in Virginia. The bottle actually contains moonshine.

to flavor his moonshine, which was quite popular.

The exhibit also includes stories of how the laws were enforced, the crime surrounding the illegal sale of liquor, and those who were both for and against outlawing alcohol, and the reasons why.

The exhibit is open during regular MDC winter hours, Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., with extended hours and free admission after 3 p.m. on Thursday, when MDC is open until 8 p.m. MDC is closed on Sundays and Mondays. Learn more on their website at www.mndiscoverycenter.com.

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RETIREMENTS

He made his mark at Iron Range Resources

In eight years at the helm, Mark Phillips changed direction and culture at the influential state agency

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— After eight years at the helm of the most influential state agency on the Iron Range, Mark Phillips is heading into retirement—but not without having made his mark on the region.

Phillips, whose career spanned four decades in both the public and private sector, helped shape significant changes in the direction of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation and in the culture of the agency itself. While every IRRR commissioner puts their stamp on the agency, Phillips, whose eight-years at the helm was tied with Sandy Layman for the longest tenure of

“I’m sad to see him go. He was always able and willing to talk with us on any project.”

Former Ely Mayor
Chuck Novak

any commissioner in the agency’s 80-year history, leaves having made a bigger impact than most.

“I have kind of a four-prong mantra that became our guiding philosophy,” said Phillips, who sat down for an extended interview this week from his home on Lake Vermilion. While the

Right: Mark Phillips in a summer shot taken at his home on Lake Vermilion.

photo courtesy IRRR

agency has long focused on job creation, Phillips pushed the agency to focus on quality over quantity.

“We were already beginning to face the workforce shortages at that time,” he said. “If you just create jobs, well, we’re going to create more workforce problems for the existing businesses. But if people are leaving for better paying jobs, that’s a good thing.”

Phillips also worked to turn the agency away from what he often described as “chasing smokestacks,” toward a greater emphasis on building communi-



ties on the Range that offered a high quality of life. Phillips said such an approach not only makes life better for existing residents but makes area communities

more attractive for new residents as well, some of whom will become entrepreneurs in order to

See PHILLIPS...pg. 2B

Robotics is opening doors for the Iron Mosquitoes

With sponsorship from Apple, the team is seeing new opportunity

by RACHEL BROPHY
Staff Writer

BABBITT— Winning a major sponsorship has opened doors for the Iron Mosquitoes, the robotics team from Northeast Range School.

They’ve been on a roll ever since last May, when the team made it to the state robotics tournament for the first time, where they nabbed a Design and Engineering award from Dunwoody College of Technology.

Then, in October, several members of the team were invited to Palm Springs, Calif. to take part in the 2022 American Indian Science and Engineering

Society (AISES) National Conference.

Coach Ryan Lindsay explained how the invite to Palm Springs came about.

“A couple of years ago there was a thing that went out where FIRST wanted to know about our Native American participation on our team, so we filled out a survey,” he said. Lindsay explained that FIRST is an acronym (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) for the nonprofit organization that puts on the robotics tournaments and events. “We didn’t know what it was for, but there’s like three or four teams up north that have some Native participation,” he said. “So last year we had four Native students out of

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY



the 18 or so total participants, so like 25 percent. We found out the reason that (the survey) went out was because Apple was looking to support teams, and they were working with AISES to try to identify some teams with Native American participation.”

What came next was a surprise the team didn’t see coming, Lindsay said.

“We ended up getting some nice corporate spon-

See ROBOTICS...pg. 2B



Above: Members of the Iron Mosquitoes robotics team were able to attend the AISES national conference in Palm Springs in October.

Left: Robotics students did a demonstration at Tower-Soudan Elementary earlier this month. Pictured are (l-r) Ian Sundsahl, Raymond Boshey, and Owen Koivisto.

submitted

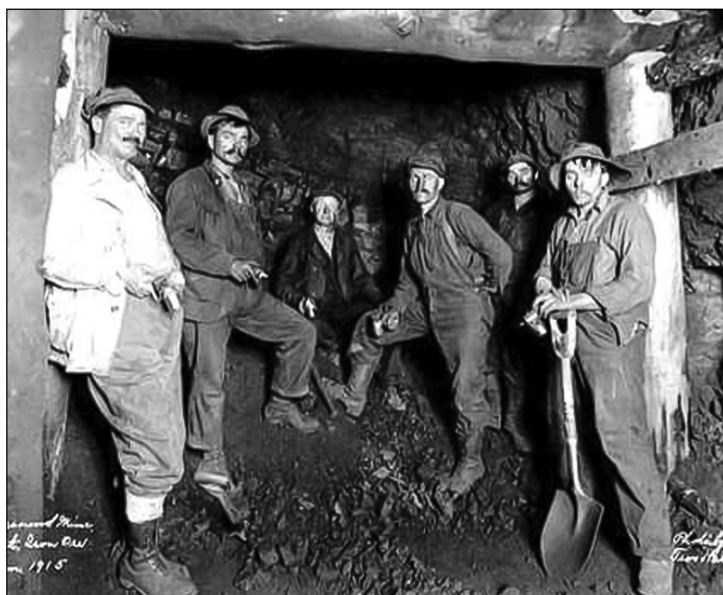
RANGE HISTORY

The promise of jobs drew thousands of immigrants to the region

by DAVID LAVIGNE
MNopedia

During the early twentieth century, the population of the Iron Range was among the most ethnically diverse in Minnesota. Tens of thousands of immigrants arrived from Finland, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Canada, England, and over thirty other places of origin. These immigrants mined the ore that made the Iron Range famous and built its communities.

Minnesota has three iron mining ranges, which are collectively known as the Iron Range. The Vermilion is the northernmost, and it began shipping ore in 1884. The Mesabi Range is the largest, and it started ore shipments in 1892. The Cuyuna Range first shipped ore in 1911 and is the southernmost range.



operations, the population of the three ranges expanded rapidly. In 1885, there were fewer than five thousand people living on the Iron Range. By 1920, the population

exceeded a hundred thousand. This growth was spurred by the need for labor in the mines and corresponded with a massive wave of immigration from

southern and eastern Europe. Immigrants eventually constituted more than half of the Iron Range population. In the mines, they formed 85 percent of the workforce.

Forty-three different nationality groups populated the Iron Range. The earliest immigrants were Finnish, Swedish, Slovenian, Canadian, Norwegian, Cornish, or German. After 1900, the origins of the population expanded, with Italian, Croatian, Polish, Montenegrin, Serbian, Bulgarian, Romanian, Slovak, Hungarian, and Greek immigrants filling mining jobs. A sizeable Jewish population started main street businesses. Chinese immigrant men ran restaurants and laundries.

When the population began to stabilize after 1910, Finns made up the single largest immigrant nationality. They

constituted a quarter of all foreign-born persons. Slovenes and Croats—referred to collectively as “Austrians”—were the next largest group at over 20 percent of the immigrant sector. Italians and Swedes each made up close to 10 percent of the foreign-born population.

For immigrants, life on the Iron Range was not easy. Mine laborers worked long hours and received low wages. Underground mines operated on a contract labor system—an arrangement in which miners received payment based on the amount of ore produced—which led to bribery. Miners paid to get assignments in the most accessible and therefore most profitable ore. Mining work was also dangerous. Hundreds of deaths occurred due to accidents, with

See IMMIGRANTS...pg. 2B

PHILLIPS..Continued from page 1B

remain in a place they enjoy.

That idea, in part, encouraged Phillips to reverse an agency policy that restricted investment in some outdoor recreation activities, like hiking, mountain biking, and ATV trails. During his tenure, the agency poured more than \$13 million into regional trails, helping to leverage an additional \$16 million in investment.

While Phillips said he received some pushback on the trail investments, some of those investments, like the Redhead mountain biking trail in Chisholm, have attracted a tremendous amount of ridership, both from locals as well as visitors. He also backed considerable investment in new trails and amenities at Giants Ridge.

Phillips also pushed the agency to play a helping role in advancing projects, rather than regularly serving as the primary funder of many projects, as the agency had done for years. Now, the agency is routinely using its resources to leverage as much as ten dollars from other funders, including other state and federal grants, or private sector loans, for every dollar invested by the agency.

Phillips was also determined to bring a change of culture to the agency, to encourage and empower the agency's employees to trust themselves while giving them more latitude to do their jobs.

It was a culture shift he experienced during his decade of work at Minnesota Power. "When I first went to Minnesota Power, it was like the military," he said. "But the leadership made the change," and it was one that Phillips recognized as a step forward. Phillips said it suited his style in either case. "I've always been more of a team player than a top-down kind of person," he said.

Phillips was also receptive to concerns about some of the challenges faced by communities in the region. As the lack of available workers became increasingly apparent, the agency began investing in childcare to the tune of about \$1.9 million, an investment that leveraged about \$14.7 million in total investment. The commitment to furthering childcare opportunities ticked at least two boxes for the agency, since it expanded workforce availability while enhancing quality of life for young parents who

have struggled with childcare in the region for years.

A long background in economic development

Phillips, who is 72, grew up in Eveleth, but like many talented Iron Rangers, the pull of greater opportunity took him away from home, at least for a time. He earned a business degree at UM-D back in the 1970s but was soon back on the Range when then-IRRR commissioner Gary Lampa recruited him. He spent five years at the agency in the 1980s when he, among other things, established a business lending program that's still in existence. He spent two months in the banking field at Norwest, but when Minnesota Power approached him, he accepted a job with the company. While Minnesota Power is an electric generator, the company also invests in regional economic development and that was a mission that became a focus during his ten years with the company. He later left to join the Northeast Ventures Development Fund, a venture capital firm based in Duluth.

Throughout his work in northeastern Minnesota, Phillips and his wife Patty

continued to live in Virginia, but in 2005 they made the move to the Twin Cities, where Phillips worked for a time as a business consultant. Among his clients was Kraus-Anderson, who eventually hired him as a business developer, a position that entailed extensive travel throughout the state.

"I've really been in economic development my whole career," said Phillips.

He returned briefly to government in 2011, when Gov. Mark Dayton recruited him to be commissioner of the Department of Employment and Economic Development, but Phillips said the administrative nature of the job never really appealed to him so he eventually returned to Kraus-Anderson, where he expected to retire a couple years later. But when the IRRR job came open at the end of 2014, Dayton asked Phillips to take it on. Gov. Tim Walz reappointed him to the job in 2018.

His wife Patty had just retired when Dayton made the offer and the switch would give them the opportunity to come back to the Range and live full-time at their summer home on Lake Vermilion.

"I was pretty excited," said Phillips, who believed

his diverse resumé was a good fit for the agency.

He turned out to be right, and his departure will certainly be noticed by employees at the agency as well as local officials who worked with him over the years.

"I'm sad to see him go," said Chuck Novak, the former Ely mayor who worked regularly with Phillips and those under him to advance a wide range of projects in the city. "He was always able and willing to talk with us on any project," said Novak. "And he assigned his staff appropriately. You really couldn't ask for better."

Longtime IRRR communications director Sheryl Kochevar, who has worked under eight different commissioners, said she found Phillips and the cultural change he brought to the agency to be an inspiration. "He trusted the employees to always do what was right," she said. "He inspired our communication team to strive for excellence and I think we are a better team because of his leadership."

While Phillips brought a change in the agency's traditional approaches in several areas, Kochevar said she felt he had broad

support within the agency for the changes and she credited his diverse experiences in economic development as one reason his time at the agency was meaningful. She said Phillips' time in both the public and private sectors as well as his time spent living outside the Iron Range gave him a broader perspective on the agency's work.

"I think he had a wider vision. I'm going to miss him," she said.

Phillips said the IRRR job was really his second act, since he had been planning to retire when Dayton made the offer.

If there's a third act for Phillips, he said it will be as a volunteer for causes he supports. But first he needs to beat the cancer diagnosis he's been battling for the past five years. Despite several rounds of chemotherapy, Phillips has continued to do his job as commissioner and tried not to let his health issues get in the way.

He's optimistic by nature and even though previous rounds of therapy haven't been totally successful, he's looking ahead to the new challenges yet to come.

"I'll be involved in one way or another," he said.

ROBOTICS..Continued from page 1B

sponsorship (from Apple) - like real money that makes a big difference," he said.

Lindsay said that while the sponsorship was quite a bit of money, "it goes fast for robot parts." Then this year the Apple sponsorship money tripled, said Lindsay. "Which was like WHOA! We can afford to do some stuff! So that was really nice."

That wasn't all. Apple also invited members of the Iron Mosquitoes, as well as members of the Red Lake and Cass Lake teams, to display in their booth at the AISES national conference. At that point Lindsay said he asked the staff at Apple how they'd like to see their sponsorship dollars used. Apple representatives told Lindsay they want to support outreach and have kids be exposed to things, such as the FIRST program.

"I think the guy who pushed the grant is an engineer from Apple and he coached a team out there," said Lindsay. "They paid for most of our trip and shipping our robot out and they had a booth in the college and career fair



Left: The Iron Mosquitoes with their robots at the AISES conference.

submitted

"There's been community members who have helped," he said. "The Regional Tribal Council and Pam Hughes Prevention Program and Vermilion parent group helped send the kids on the trip, too. They helped us out a lot. And the district chipped in, too."

Now back from their California adventure, the Iron Mosquitoes are far from languishing until January when the new challenge is released for robotics teams. Outreach is a big part of what the team does to inspire upcoming young students to discover an interest in robotics.

As part of this outreach, seven members of the team put on a demonstration at Tower-Soudan Elementary for students earlier this month. Team members demo drove the robot around the gym and a couple of student volunteers even got to shoot balls with the robot. Students

there and they said 'You guys are responsible for this booth.'"

Lindsay said that it was an Apple booth, but the four teams ran the booth and drove their robots around while making connections with other conference exhibitors and attendees. Some of the other exhibitors included IBM and Tesla. Lindsay said that the networking was an invaluable part of the experience.

"We met lots of people from all over the country and the kids got exposed to lots of things," he said.

Senior Zoey Cameron credits her time on the team with giving her the confidence to spark up a conversation with just

about anyone. "The most fun part of it was building better human capital. We talked to major companies like Tesla, major companies who I feel could help our team get even bigger," she said.

Zoey was one of the six students who attended the conference on behalf of the Iron Mosquitoes - four (counting Zoey) who had been on the team and two more Native students from school who Lindsay says show a lot of potential.

"I hope they join the team," she said.

Lindsay noted that the trip to Palm Springs wouldn't have been possible without some help from closer to home as well.

were able to check out three different stations - electrical, pneumatic and motors. While the robotics demonstrations are always a lot of fun, they're also a valuable and effective way for kids to get excited about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Tenth-grader Ian Sundahl, who does Weld and Build for the Iron Mosquitoes, first experienced robotics when he was an elementary student in Tower.

"I was first interested in robotics when the team came to my elementary school to present the robot," he said.

Sundahl said he joined the team in ninth grade and was part of the group who went to California, where his responsibility was to take care of the pneumatics demonstration.

"I plan to have a career in machining or engineering," he said.

Senior Driver Owen Koivisto, who, like Sundahl, first got interested in robotics after seeing a demonstration at Tower Elementary, found his own way to pay it forward

to young people. He was awarded a 2022 FIRST Equity and Inclusion Financing Initiative grant to put on two robotics camps at the Boys & Girls Club Vermilion and Boys & Girls Club Nett Lake. Junior Hailey Lindquist, who is Lead Programmer for the team, will also be participating in the camps.

"I will be doing a small code session since I program for this team and love helping with our outreach. It's great to be able to show kids what we are able to do as high school students, and getting involved with younger people shows them that they can do this, too," she said.

There was no shortage of enthusiasm for the team's future, which was evident when Lindquist added, "This year, we are really planning to put in as much time and effort as possible to win a regional competition. We had an amazing last season and we can definitely make it this year."

IMMIGRANTS..Continued from page 1B

the deadliest being the Milford Mine disaster in 1924.

Beyond the industrial workplace, immigrants faced other challenges. The cost of living was high. To maximize savings, immigrants lived in substandard housing conditions. In a practice known as the "hot bed system," day- and night-shift workers alternated sleeping in the same beds. Unmarried immigrant women labored long, hard days as domestic servants. Married women rarely worked outside the home, but they supplemented family incomes by keeping boarders or lodgers.

In addition to material hardships, immigrants confronted social prejudices. Native-born Americans occupied the best-paying jobs at the mines. They viewed immigrants from northern European countries as "desirable" workers. For example, many Cornish immigrants entered supervisory roles. Southern and eastern European immi-

grants, however, occupied lower positions in the workforce hierarchy. Mining company officials described these immigrants as "black races" who were physically and intellectually inferior.

Community leaders likewise looked down on southern and eastern European immigrants. They objected to immigrants' congested living situations, imbalanced sex ratios, perceived immorality, and association with political radicalism. The fact that many immigrants were Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, or Jewish caused further anxiety. Local chapters of the Ku Klux Klan developed during the 1920s in opposition to Catholic and Jewish immigrants.

Despite these challenges, immigrants adapted to the new circumstances. One key adaptation strategy was the formation of ethnic institutions. Saloons and socialist worker halls offered refuge from the hardships of mining. Fraternal and mutual

benefit societies guaranteed financial support when accidents or deaths occurred. Churches and synagogues provided a spiritual home. Immigrants also constructed boarding houses, temperance societies, shops, consumer cooperatives, and newspapers.

Another adaptation strategy was the retention of connections with the homeland. Many immigrants came to the Iron Range only temporarily. Their aim was to save money and return to their countries of origin. During the early years of mining development, when most immigrants were men, this was especially common. But immigrants maintained homeland connections even when they moved permanently. They sent home money and exchanged letters with friends and family in the old country.

Ethnic institutions and homeland connections divided the immigrant population on the Iron Range. Each immigrant group had its own community life, and

tensions existed between groups. In larger cities, for example, there were usually separate Catholic churches for the Irish, Slovenian and Croatian, and Italian populations. Immigrants continued to speak their native tongues. They resided in ethnic clusters. They married partners of the same nationality.

Over time, though, ethnic distinctions diminished. Shared experiences created a new, interethnic identity. One such experience—and a third strategy for adapting to life on the Iron Range—was workplace organization. The first large-scale strike occurred in 1907, when the Western Federation of Miners organized an ill-fated walk-out on the Mesabi. In 1916, the Industrial Workers of the World led the most important labor conflict in Iron Range history, but it failed as well.

Americanization efforts were more successful in breaking down ethnic distinctions. Following the 1916 strike, mining

company officials sought to prevent further labor unrest by investing in corporate welfare programs. They supported community beautification projects, model villages, gardening contests, visiting nurses, picnics, and Christmas parties. The construction of modern parks and recreational facilities led to Iron Range communities fielding excellent athletic teams.

Public schools and libraries were especially important to Americanization efforts. Adults attended night schools to learn English and prepare for citizenship examinations. In an effort to target women, instruction even extended into immigrant neighborhoods. However, the greatest attention went to the children of immigrants. Iron Range school buildings were palaces of learning. When Hibbing built a \$4 million high school in 1923, it was among the most impressive in the nation.

The era of mass immi-

gration to the Iron Range ended at the close of the 1920s. In 1924, the U.S. Congress passed legislation that limited immigration from southern and eastern Europe. At the same time, iron mining operations became increasingly mechanized, reducing the size of the labor force. As second and later generations gradually outnumbered their immigrant forbearers, the Iron Range shifted from an "immigrant" population to an "ethnic" one.



Obituaries and Death Notices



Charlotte A. Gallagher

Charlotte "Dottie" Ann Gallagher, 80, of Cook, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022. A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 6, 2023, at the Evangelical Covenant Church in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Lunch will follow immediately after the service. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Dottie was born in Appleton, Wis., on June 18, 1942, to William and Alice (Fernlund) Gruska. Dottie enjoyed gardening, knitting and crocheting. She loved to feed the hummingbirds and just sit and watch them. She also enjoyed visiting with people. Dottie was a soft-spoken and kind hearted woman. She will be dearly missed.

Dottie is survived by her daughters, Lorrie Lappi and Terri O'Gallagher; brother, Bill Gruska; and many grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dan Gallagher; parents, Bill and Alice Gruska; daughter, Carol Gallagher; brother, Gene Stanley; and two grandsons, Tony Galazen and Jeremy Lu-ecken.

D. Russell Norha

D. Russell "Russ" Norha, 80, of Plymouth, originally of Embarrass, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022. A memorial service was held on Monday, Dec. 26 at Gearty-Delmore Plymouth Chapel.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Linda; daughter, Anita (Scott); son, Eric (Katie); grandchildren, Josh, Ben, Bri, Kayden and Livie; brother, Ron (Sue) Norha; sister, Lois (Tom) Steichen; and many other relatives and friends.

Phyllis V. Edblom

Phyllis Victoria Benson Trygg Edblom, 87, passed away at St. John's Hospital on Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023, at the First Baptist Church in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

She is survived by her children, Sara Joslin, Danny (Joan) Trygg, Kurt (Patti) Trygg, Brian K (Cathy) Trygg and Brian A (Kelly) Trygg; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Denese E. Johnson

Denese E. Johnson, 76, of Tower, died on Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022, at the Cook Hospital. Funeral arrangements are pending with Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Gilbert.

Frances A. Zeman

Frances A. Zeman, 83, of Cook, passed away on Monday, Dec. 19, 2022, in Mission, Texas. A funeral service is being planned for the spring of 2023.

Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Denise M. Brunner

Denise M. Brunner, 64, of Angora, passed away on Monday, Dec. 19, 2022, at St. Mary's in Duluth. There are no services planned at this time.

Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

ISD 2142 school levy to drop for 2023

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- The ISD 2142 School Board adopted a 2023 levy at its Dec. 13 meeting that will be slightly reduced from 2022.

The pay levy for 2023 will be \$6,825,245.67, down \$128,997.88 from 2022, a 1.85 percent decrease. The district's overall budget is supplemented by multiple state and federal revenue streams. While districts statewide have been planning for possible decreases in their budgets for the 2023-24 school year, that scenario could change depending on how the DFL-controlled state legislature and Gov. Tim Walz de-

cide to allocate a massive \$17.6 billion budget surplus in the session that begins in January.

Board members also took a look at the actual audited 2021-22 budget and adopted 2022-23 budget. A comparison of beginning and ending figures for the general fund balance and total fund balance reveals how those balances have been shrinking.

The district's general fund balance at the start of the 2021-22 year was \$6,382,536, but actual expenditures of \$37,008,439 exceeded revenues by \$1,539,149, taking that balance down to \$4,843,387. The 2022-23 adopted budget projects another approximate

drop in the balance of just over \$1.2 million.

Adding in the balances of five additional fund accounts, the district's total fund balance across the two-year periods shows a drop of slightly more than \$3 million, to \$5.966 million.

In other business, the board:

► Accepted resignations from North Woods Head Baseball Coach Dwayne Walters and North Woods custodian Steve Correll.

► Hired Jenette Pratt as full-time Site II Secretary at Tower-Soudan.

► Hired Randy Opdyck as part-time custodian at Northeast Range.

► Approved the calendar for regular school board meetings for 2023.

► Gave special thanks to outgoing member and past board chair Dan Manick for his eight years of service representing North Woods School.

► Reviewed a \$25,000 proposal from TeamWorks International to conduct a strategic planning process.

► Conditionally reinstated a district student who had been suspended last May for 12 months.

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from **RUSS HYPPA ACCOUNTING**

Winning Artist • Samantha Amundson
Grade 3

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from **Fortune Bay**

Winning Artist

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Grade 1

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from **Waschke of Cook**

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Grade 3

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Ely Community Health Center

Thursday evenings 5:30-7 p.m.
111 S 4th Ave E, Ely
- No appointment necessary -

Contact us for more information
218-365-5678 or email us
director@elycommunityhealth.org

Happy New Year!
from
First National Bank of Cook

Winning Artist

Peyton Schuster
Grade 1

Have A Very Happy New Year!
from **Northwoods Friends of the Arts**

Winning Artist • Leah Las
Grade 4

EBCH
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The neighbors you trust.**

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- Immunizations
- Diabetic testing supplies

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AS ELY'S TRUSTED COMMUNITY PHARMACY

JANUARY SPECIALS

SKIN CARE MONTH

RxLocal mobile app now available! Scan QR code to download, or search RxLocal in your smartphone's app store.

\$15.96 Cetaphil Cream 16oz	\$4.99 Vanicream Cleansing Bar 3.9oz	\$15.43 Aquaphor Ointment 14oz
\$12.49 Nature's Truth Super Strength Hair, Skin, and Nails 165ct	\$10.19 Sarna Sensitive Lotion 7.5ml	

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COME JOIN OUR TEAM!

Waschke Family Chevrolet is currently seeking an Auto Body Technician and an Automotive Detailer. Stop in and apply in person at 126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, or inquire by phone at 218-666-5901, or send resume to Dgrecinger@waschke.com.

WANTED!

Waschke Family Chevrolet is currently seeking an A/B technician. Prefer GM Certified but will train. Base pay plus incentives! Stop in and apply in person at 126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, or inquire by phone at 218-666-5901, or send resume to Dgrecinger@waschke.com. tm

Laboratory and X-Ray Technician
Closes: 01/13/2023

Position Purpose: The Laboratory and X-Ray Technician manages the activities of the laboratory and x-ray department in accordance with clinical, administrative policies, Federal, State, IHS and CLIA regulations; recommends department procedures and methods of operation, assigns, and supervises the activities of all personnel in the department. The incumbent is responsible for performing x-ray examinations and lab collections and testing, urine drug screens, infectious control, and safety for the clinic setting. Incumbent is responsible for supply ordering for all materials and related duties to support patient care.

Website Address:
<https://boisforte.com/jobs/>
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PUBLIC NOTICES

FIELD TOWNSHIP FILING NOTICE

Affidavits of candidacy may be filed with the Field Town Clerk at 9998 East Lind Rd., Angora from Tuesday, January 3, 2023, through Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 5 p.m. for the offices of:

- 1 Supervisor - 3-year term
- 1 Treasurer - 2-year term

Filing Fee \$2.00.

Please call the clerk to make an appointment to file your application, 218-780-7012. The clerk's office will be also open Jan. 17 from 1-5 p.m. for filing.

Pat Chapman, Clerk, Field Township

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 23 & 30, 2022

Vermilion Lake Township Notice of Filings

Filings for the following offices will open on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 and close on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

- Supervisor 3-year term
- Treasurer. . . . 2-year term

Filing fee: \$2.00

Candidates: File Affidavit of Candidacy by appointment only at the CLERK'S OFFICE, 6703 Wahlsten Rd. The clerk's office will be open the last day of filing from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Call 218-749-2902 and leave a message.

Election will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Crystal Alaspa, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 16 & 30, 2022

Nurse Practitioner
Closes: January 09, 2023

Position Purpose: The Nurse Practitioner provides diagnostic, preventative, and therapeutic health services to patients and family members at the Bois Forte and Vermilion Clinics; with the ability to function as an independent practitioner. The Bois Forte Health & Human Services and IHS goal is to raise Indian Health status to the highest possible level.

Website: <https://boisforte.com/jobs/>

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 9, 16, 23 & 30 2022



Current Openings LICENSED TEACHER

Vermilion Country School is seeking to hire a full-time licensed teacher for the 2022-2023 school year. Position open until filled. Salary per established pay scale (available by request). Due to growing enrollment, we have openings in science, social studies and language arts. In our school's teaching model, teachers can teach across the curriculum.

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 jsummit@vermilioncountry.org, or call 218-753-1246 (ext. 2 for office) or call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950

PT PARAPROFESSIONAL (afternoons)

Vermilion Country School is seeking to hire a part-time paraprofessional to work afternoons (M,Tu,Th, Fr 12:30-3:30 p.m., and 12:30-1:30 p.m. on Wed.) Please call the school office at 218-753-1246 ext. 2 for details.

CITY OF BABBITT
Assistant Recreation Coordinator
Winter hours are afternoons and evenings, and work encompasses maintaining the ice arena. \$16 an hour, 32 hours per week.

Teen Center Attendant
Hours are evenings. \$14 an hour, 14 hours per week.

Can apply at Babbitt City Hall, or on the City of Babbitt Web page tm

Legal notices are online each week at timberjay.com and at <https://www.mnpublicnotice.com/>

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEIDING TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF FILINGS

Filings for the following offices open on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, through Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 5 p.m. for the offices of:

- 1 Supervisor: 3-year term
- 1 Treasurer: 2-year term

Filing fee is \$2.

File the Affidavit of Candidacy at Clerk's Office. Please call 218-355-0163 (cell) for the clerk's office hours.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 23 & 30, 2022

Notice of Election MORCOM TOWNSHIP
State of Minnesota, County of St. Louis

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that we will hold a township election on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at the Bear River School.

Offices open for election:
1 Supervisor, 3 year term
1 Treasurer, 2 year term

Filing period closes on January 17, 2023. Contact Sasha Lehto, at 218-969-5812 to make an appointment to file. Open office hours will be held from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 12059 Hwy. 22, Cook, MN 55723 for filing as well.

Sasha Lehto, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 30, 2022 & Jan. 13, 2023

FUNERAL SERVICES



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Virginia 741-1481 Hibbing 263-3276
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Care Center
FT & PT Nursing Assistant (Wage starting at \$17.36/hr., \$1,500 sign-on bonus)

Hospital/ER
PT Registered Nurse (Wage starting at \$35.17/hr., \$4,000 sign-on bonus)
PT Unit Clerk/HUC (Wage starting at \$17.36/hr. EMT and/or NA cert. required)

Environmental Services
FT (Environmental Tech I) Housekeeping and Laundry Aide (Wage starting at \$14.68/hr., \$1,500 sign-on bonus)
Casual Laundry Aide (Wage starting at \$14.68/hr)

Laboratory
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)
Casual Ultrasound Tech (Independent Contractor)
Casual Radiologic Tech (Independent Contractor)

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

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

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King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12										
15										
18										
21	22			23		24				
25										
28										
31										
34										
37										
40										
43										
46	47	48								
49										
52										
55										
58										
61										

ACROSS

- 1 Dallas cager, for short
- 4 Reindeer herder
- 8 Persian leader
- 12 Hit CBS series
- 13 Vicinity
- 14 Roof overhang
- 15 Like some salad dressings
- 17 Frat letters
- 18 Duo
- 19 Sikhs' headwear
- 21 Enjoy, as fine food
- 24 Luau bowlful
- 25 Guitar's kin
- 26 Yule quaff
- 28 Desert flora
- 32 Simple
- 34 Drench
- 36 Lunch herb
- 37 Pesto herb
- 39 Super Bowl VIP
- 41 P followers
- 42 Joke
- 44 Learned one
- 46 Sans
- 50 Lucy of "Elementary"
- 51 Coup d' —
- 52 "Deathtrap" playwright
- 56 Impetuous
- 57 Toy block name

DOWN

- 1 Roman 1105
- 2 " — was saying ..."
- 3 Wine producers
- 4 Snorkeling site
- 5 Altar constellation
- 6 Impudent
- 7 Settle a debt
- 8 Belgrade native
- 9 "Funny!"
- 10 Bard's river
- 11 Big name in oil
- 16 Farm female
- 20 Sinbad's bird
- 21 — luck (accidental success)
- 22 Furniture brand
- 23 At once
- 27 Jewel
- 29 French chicken dish
- 30 Undecided
- 31 "Meet Me — Louis"
- 33 Pizza slices, often
- 35 Sports bar sets
- 38 Asian language
- 40 Wan quality
- 43 Screen Actors —
- 45 Compete
- 46 Existed
- 47 Slanted type (Abbr.)
- 48 Chore
- 49 Sloth's home
- 53 Khan title
- 54 Post-op area
- 55 Little louse

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

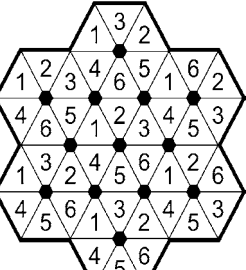
6	9	7					4
	4		9		2		
3				8		7	
1				9	6		8
5		8			1		
		2		1			5
3				5			1
2		3					4
		6		7	4	3	

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!

solution



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HOSPICE

VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS can provide help for patients and their families in ways such as: comfort care, massages, last wishes and more...

PET CREMATION

VISIT VermilionPetCremation.com or call 218-780-8069 for pet cremation details and rates.

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

MS SUPPORT GROUP- meets the second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Babbitt Municipal Building...

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...

VIRGINIA AA WOMEN'S MEETING- Ladies by the Lake. Tuesdays at 12 noon. Peace United Methodist Church...

AA MEETING IN COOK- Sunday Night Big Book Group meets at Trinity Lutheran Church...

AL-ANON MEETING IN COOK - Ashawa Al-Anon Family Group meets at Trinity Lutheran Church...

AA OPEN MEETING- Thursdays at 7 p.m. at Woodland Presbyterian Church...

ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA MEETING- Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Community Church...

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...

HIV/AIDS? For confidential compassionate local support call the Rural AIDS Action Network...

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.

King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

Grid of crossword answers: MAV LAPP SHAH, CSI AREA EAVE, VINEGARY RHOS, TWO TURBANS, DINEON POT, UKE NOG CACTI, MERE WET NOON, BASIL MVP QRS, GAG SAVANT, WITHOUT LIU, ETAT IRALVIN, RASH LEGO JICI, ELKS DEAR NUT

WANTED

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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: ♦♦♦♦ Difficult

Super Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Serengeti trek, 7 Freeway exit, 14 Calm assurance, 20 Neighbor of Saturn, 21 Sun porches, 22 Dell machine, 23 Aficionado of air ducts?, 25 Capital of Cuba, 26 Jean jacket material, 27 Email chuckle, 28 Soccer player Hamm, 30 Citrus peels in recipes, 31 "House" actor, 34 Aficionado of wild, irrational talk?, 37 Contributor, 38 — spell over, 40 State of fury, 41 Fly with no co-pilot, 42 Thus, 43 Hail — (yell "Taxi!"), 45 Las Vegas-to-Denver dir., 47 Ending for Japan, 49 Aficionado of bellies?, 52 Aficionado of sweet fillings?, 58 Pet-rescuing org., 59 Walked very stealthily, 62 San — (California county or city), 63 CIA missions, e.g., 66 Give the boot, 68 River of Paris, 69 Louisianans of French descent, 70 Café au — (light brown), 72 Aficionado of confidential matters?, 75 Shapes of parentheses, 76 Member of a ruling family, 78 Sank, as a, 79 Writer Wiesel, 81 Once surnamed, 82 Cuban-born writer Calvino, 83 Downgraded, 85 Ward with Emmys, 87 Aficionado of wickedness?, 89 Aficionado of apartment managers?, 94 "Taking Woodstock" director Lee, 95 NFL stats, 98 Loch —, 99 Jethro — (rock group), 100 Do pool laps, 104 Sir, to Brits, 106 All mixed up, 108 High-quality black tea, 109 Aficionado of Mauna Loa snacks?, 112 Set free, 115 Fetus holders, 116 Be mistaken, 117 "— culpa", 119 "Going Rogue" author Sarah, 120 Sends in, 122 Aficionado of customs officials?, 127 Painting on plaster, 128 Made even, 129 Rocky's last name in "Rocky", 130 Electronic keyboards, for short, 131 Escape artists, say, 132 Like finger paintings, DOWN: 1 Chevy Equinox, e.g., 2 "Rules — rules!", 3 Spanish dance in triple time, 4 Lobbies, 5 That which destroys, 6 Long Island airport town, 7 Opposite of west, in Germany, 8 Chocolate kiss wrapper, 9 Elevator stops, 10 Went longer than expected, 11 Dog noise, 12 Florida's "Magic City", 13 Grilled Italian sandwiches, 14 Silvery-gray, 15 Town square, 16 Energizes, 17 Congress' Alexandria — -Cortez, 18 Cerebral, 19 "Donnie —" (1997 Johnny Depp film), 24 Current unit, 29 Assented, 31 Laudatory poems, 32 Funny Sahl, 33 Wound cover, 35 U-Haul rental, 36 Tableland vessel, 39 Be up against, 43 Confront, 44 Rush after Stone, 46 Cut-rate, in brand names, 48 "Easy A" star, 50 Likely, 51 Model, 53 Actor Christopher, 54 Mexican peninsula, 55 Road reversal, 56 Trespassing deterrant, 57 Dancer Bob, 60 Flying Pan, 61 Spanish squiggles, 63 Vintage tune, 64 Premium channels, 65 Mideastern peninsula, 67 "Danke —", 69 "Hear ye!" yellers, 71 Like most NBA players, 73 Boisterous, 74 "That's somebody — problem", 77 Couch, 80 Pixie, 83 Pea or lentil, 84 Sandy hill, 86 Tiny blood vessel, 88 Actress Swenson, 90 Ring out, 91 Big pet food brand, 92 Mucho, 93 Painter Paul, 96 Aykroyd of "Soul Man", 97 Up a tree, 100 Blue toons of the 1980s, 101 Aqueous, 102 Deliverers of frozen blocks, 103 The Red Foxes' college, 105 Macho, 107 TV sleuth Remington, 108 "The Taking of — 123" (2009 thriller), 110 Last — effort, 111 Brand of cellulose fiber, 113 NYSE debut, 114 Fish piercers, 118 Big PC brand, 121 "Rescue us!", 123 "Law & Order: —", 124 NFL stats, 125 Neither hide — hair, 126 Week division

CryptoQuote answer We often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude. — Cynthia Ozick

CryptoQuip answer North Carolina town with a freakishly high population of particular baby birds of prey: Kiddy Hawk.

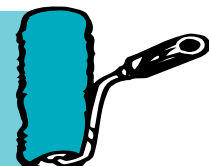
Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers: 6 5 9 7 3 2 8 1 4, 8 7 4 1 9 5 2 6 3, 2 3 1 4 6 8 5 7 9, 4 1 7 5 2 9 6 3 8, 5 6 3 8 4 7 1 9 2, 9 8 2 6 1 3 4 5 7, 3 4 8 9 5 6 7 2 1, 7 2 5 3 8 1 9 4 6, 1 9 6 2 7 4 3 8 5



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CryptoQuote
AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, **A** is used for the three L's, **X** for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

SP FJDPR DXQP JFM TMXRDPG
DWP KPMB DWLRTC DWXD EFCD
GPCPMKP FVM TMXDLDVGP.
— ABRDWLX FYLAQ

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Super Crossword

Answers

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

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: **B** equals **H**

HUAPB RGAUKEHG PUZH ZEPB G
DAMGTEJBKN BEFB VUVLKGPEUH
UD VGAPERLKGA SGSN SEAYJ UD
VAMN: TEYVN BGZT.

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