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The **TIMBERJAY**



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COMMUNITY LOSS

Wolf Center's Axel euthanized with kidney failure

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Axel, an ambassador wolf at the International Wolf Center, was euthanized on Sunday due to advanced kidney failure. Axel was a nearly eight-year-old arctic wolf with a bright white coat and an excitable personality. He was a popular ambassador at the center, teaching thousands of visitors about wolf behaviors and adaptations.

Last Friday, the center's wolf care staff reviewed security camera footage and observed Axel having a seizure. He was moved to the retirement enclosure, where staff closely monitored him 24 hours a day. On Saturday night, he exhibited a few behaviors that led staff to conclude he was feeling worse. He did keep eating and consistently greeted the wolf care team.

The center's veterinarian, Kristine Woerheide, devel-

oped a plan for a blood draw for labs completed at the Ely Veterinary Clinic. The lab work confirmed that Axel was in severe kidney failure, which likely contributed to his seizures.

Because of Axel's complex medical condition, the irreversible kidney failure and concerns about his quality of life going forward, the center's veterinarian and staff concluded humane euthanasia was the best option. Axel

Right: Axel, one of the ambassador wolves at the International Wolf Center, had to be euthanized this week.

passed away surrounded by his wolf care team.

"This is a big loss for all of us, but our team came together to support each other and make the right decision for Axel," said Krista Woerheide, the interpretive center director

See...**AXEL** pg. 9



CITY OF TOWER

Market study finds demand for senior housing

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— A initial market assessment prepared by Maxfield Research and Consulting, finds considerable potential demand for new housing in Tower, with an emphasis on new housing opportunities for active seniors in a downtown location. The analysis also found potential for the construction of market rate housing for a general population in a lower density setting elsewhere in the community.

The assessment, meanwhile, found less potential for a downtown apartment appealing to those 54 years of age or younger. "Development costs and muted demand prevents a single development of this size from being financially feasible at the site," noted the report. "In most circumstances, demand of at least 40 to 50 units is needed to support market rate rental housing in a downtown site location."

City officials are currently working with the Minnesota Housing Partnership to explore the construction of a downtown apartment building, most likely located on the vacant Main Street site between the *Timberjay* office and The Car Wash. The state of Minnesota allocated considerable funding for new housing last year and the city is hoping to be able to obtain some of that funding to provide more housing opportunities in the city.

See...**STUDY** pg. 9



SUDAN MINE

Fire causes minor damage

Park employee sent to hospital with smoke inhalation

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

SUDANMINE— Local firefighters responded here on Tuesday to a fire in the engine house at the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park that sent one park employee to the hospital with minor smoke inhalation. Two other workers were examined on scene by personnel from the Tower Ambulance.

According to park manager Jim Essig, the fire started in an attic area adjacent to the engine room, which contains and powers the enormous

cable spool that operates the mine's main hoist. A worker at the site reported seeing flames and smoke in the attic space, which was difficult to access.

The fire appears to have been caused by heat buildup in a cast metal grid that's designed to absorb heat generated during the operation of the hoist, particularly at slower speeds.

Adding to the challenge was the fact that park officials wanted the fire extinguished without the use of water, which they feared could break the metal grid, which is brittle and could crack if it was

Above: Greenwood firefighter Brian Trancheff knocks 140-year-old glass from a window in the engine house at the Soudan Mine to ventilate smoke from a small fire in the building.

photo by M. Helmsberger

subjected to rapid cooling. In the end, the firefighters covered the grid with a tarp before extinguishing some of the nearby wood that was still smoldering.

While the engine house is primarily brick and highly resistant to fire, an attic

See...**FIRE** pg. 10

ELY SCHOOLS

ISD 696 fills half of its budget gap

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely School Board pruned \$225,089 from its proposed 2024-25 budget and added \$37,200 in new revenue sources at a special meeting on Monday. The financial belt tightening is part of a two-year effort to plug a half million-dollar shortfall for the upcoming school year. The board approved the proposed cuts and revenue increases 5-0, with board member Rochelle Sjoberg absent.

"This is just the beginning of an ongoing process for the next year to two years," said Superintendent Anne Oelke. "This is only half of a finished product."

The school board will spread the effect of the shortfall over two years to minimize the impact to the district's

See...**SCHOOLS** pg. 9

VIOLENCE

Orr man faces new charges over domestic assault

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- An Orr man charged in an assault in Ely last year, was arrested Friday in Duluth on a new felony charge of domestic assault by strangulation.

Tate Jordan Cly, 20, whose address is listed in the complaint as 4638 Indian Point Rd., in Orr, was booked into the Duluth county jail at 1:43 a.m. Friday after police responded to a report of a domestic assault at an apartment in the 600 block of E. Fifth



Tate Jordan Cly

See...**CHARGES** pg. 9



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Community notices

Minnesota Deer Hunters host annual feed and seed member appreciation event

BRITT - The Sturgeon River Chapter of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association invites members to the Wooden Table Inn on April 30. Doors open at 5 p.m. The evening's festivities include a meal at 6 p.m. with a short program. Cost for the event is \$5 per member for a brat, burger, beans and chips.

There will be gun raffles, apple tree raffle and door prizes. Each adult member will receive a dozen saplings and five pounds of seed for your food plot, with a limit of two adults per family. Memberships will be available at the door. For questions, call Jen at 218-780-9101.

"Running Mates" auditions are May 7 and 8

VIRGINIA - Stages of the Range Players will hold auditions for "Running Mates (or the family party)" on May 7 and 8 from 4:30 - 7 p.m. at Hope Presbyterian Church basement (use the back door), located at 212 Fifth St. S. Performance dates are July 14 -16, and 21 - 23 in Eveleth. Find more information at s.r.p.theater@gmail.com or call 218-780-1264.

Puzzles, pancakes and movies all upcoming events at Timber Hall Event Center

EMBARRASS - Mark your calendar for several fun and delicious events coming up at Timber Hall located at 4855 Highway 21 all sponsored by the Embarrass Region Fair Association.

On Saturday, May 4, join us from 8-11 a.m. for the Teacher Appreciation pancake breakfast. This is the last pancake feed of spring and as always features all-you-can-eat pancakes, choice of ham or sausage links, fruit cup, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee. Teachers eat free. The price for adults is \$7, children (6-10 years) \$4, and under 5 years eat FREE.

The DAV will once again be accepting donations of gently used clothing, outerwear and shoes. Please make sure to pack items in white garbage bags.

After breakfast, donate blood at the Memorial Blood Centers bloodmobile. Go to mbc.org/iDonate to pre-register.

On Friday, May 10 take in Movie Night at Timber Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m. Bring your blanket, pillows, or beanbag chair and enjoy a family friendly flick on the big screen. Popcorn is provided. This event is free for all to enjoy.

Then on May 11 there will be a Jigsaw Puzzle Competition from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Join us for some fishless fun, great conversation, and a 500-piece puzzle. Prizes will be awarded to first and second place winners. Bring your favorite beverage. There will be food available for purchase.

Preregistration for this event is required. Participants aged 13+ - \$10/person or \$40/team of 4. To register, text or call Sue at 218-750-2718 by April 30.

Ely citywide rummage sale and retail shopping event is Saturday, May 18

ELY- Kick off your summer with a trip to Ely for the 13th annual citywide rummage sale, business crazy day sale, and the used equipment and watercraft sale. This is one-day event is on May 18, with rummage sale hours running from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Business hours will vary. The event map with the sale locations and lists will be available at the Ely Chamber of Commerce office, 1600 E Sheridan, starting May 14, or at ely.org/citywide.

Dozens of Ely residents will offer garage and rummage sales throughout the city. Many retail businesses will offer a day of store savings. Stop by the Ely Chamber of Commerce Saturday morning for the map, then head out to shop all the great sale locations. Plan to make a day of it in Ely. There will be plenty to shop for and don't worry about going home hungry. Restaurants will be open to serve even the hungriest shoppers.

Residents and businesses that would like to participate in the event can stop by the chamber of commerce office to register. Rummage sale registration is \$10 and includes a sign (while supplies last), listing on the map, and media advertising. Registration closes on Wednesday, May 9. Registration forms are available at the Chamber or on the website at ely.org/citywide.

READ
the
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Holy Cross Youth
Presents



Join us at the Orr Community Center

(Old Legion Hall)

Sunday, May 5th

1:00-3:00pm

(Doors open at noon for lunch)

20 games

\$10 per card

Blackout game - \$1 per card

Winner of Blackout is a split of the pot

Check out the raffle baskets for \$1 per chance

Lunch \$8

Taco boat w/cookie & water or coffee

Pulled pork sandwich w/cookie & water or coffee

All proceeds go to the Holy Cross Youth Fund to help with Mission Trips and Summer Camps.

WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE

Minnesota North College's EMPOWER program to host free summer camps

HIBBING - The Empow(HER) summer camps are open for enrollment. Girls ages 14-17 can sign up for classes across the Iron Range and experience work in the trades.

There are three sessions:



JUNE 10-13
MINNESOTA NORTH COLLEGE HIBBING
515 E 25TH ST, HIBBING

Hands-on Projects in:

- Automotive
- Heating and Cooling
- Electrical Maintenance & Construction



JUNE 17-18, 20-21
MINNESOTA NORTH COLLEGE EVELETH
1100 INDUSTRIAL PARK RD.

Hands-on Projects in:

- Electrical Controls
- Industrial Mechanical Technology
- Welding



JUNE 24-27
THE FORGE- IEDC
1201 7TH AVE SE GRAND RAPIDS

Hands-on Projects in:

- Carpentry
- Solar Power
- Welding

EMPOWER, through this workforce development program, seeks to support the education of women entering high-wage, high-demand non-traditional fields and roles, such as welding, IT, auto mechanics, diesel and heavy equipment me-

chanics, electrical maintenance, law enforcement, HVAC, industrial mechanics, carpentry, natural resources, and engineering just to name a few. These fields are well-represented across the Iron Range, and support mining, construction, transportation, and heavy-industry sectors. This also meet goals around diversifying these workforces, bringing new perspectives and talent to these fields.

EMPOWER also recently hosted "Women in the Workforce" job fairs across all Minnesota North College campuses. Since 2023, more than 450 students from local high schools have attended this event. These events have allowed students to feel supported and guided while getting their education in a trade program.

A former diesel student and EMPOWER graduate said, "EMPOWER has helped me with finding information

I needed, tools to do my schoolwork in the shop and honestly just the comfort of knowing there are other women involved in these courses that are mainly men which makes me feel better about being able to accomplish this course."

Sign-ups for this camp can be found at bit.ly/Empower-Camp-2024. Participants can sign up until May 15. Transportation is available if needed. For more information, please contact Angela Heikkila at angela.heikkila@minnesotanorth.edu.

Minnesota North College prepares lifelong learners and engaged citizens through inclusive, transformative experiences reflecting the character and natural environment of the region. For more information about Minnesota North College, please contact Annika Freiburger at annika.freiburger@minnesotanorth.edu.

TESTIFY virtual event features Justice Alan Page and daughter Georgi Page-Smith

ONLINE - Retired Minnesota Supreme Court Justice, Alan Page, and his daughter, Georgi Page-Smith, have a date across the state - with you!

On Tuesday, April 30, at 7 p.m. people across Minnesota are invited to join Page and Page-Smith in a live, virtual conversation about their TESTIFY: Americana Slavery to Today exhibit from The Diane and Alan Page Collection.

"Before reconciliation, there must be truth - and the truth can be ugly," said Page of the exhibit. "But we cannot reconcile and move forward if an increasingly louder group of people continue to deflect, minimize and sweep

history under the rug."

The TESTIFY exhibit has been shown at libraries across the state, both with the physical collection and a series of high-resolution photographs by photographer Josh Grubbs.

"It is an invitation to hear what our experience has been and our perspective of the collection, these objects and history," explained Page-Smith. "Bring yourself; bring an open mind."

The TESTIFY conversation will be in webinar-style. Once logged on, participants will be encouraged to submit questions. You must preregister for the event by going to bit.ly/TESTIFYconversation.

Learn more about TESTIFY and see some of the collection, visit www.dapcollection.com.

This program is available for patrons throughout the state and is presented by library systems across Minnesota, including: Arrowhead Library System, East Central Regional Library, Great River Regional Library, Lake Agassiz Regional Library, Metropolitan Library Service Agency, Plum Creek Library System, Southeastern Libraries Cooperating, Traverse des Sioux Library Cooperative and Viking Library System.

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with

money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. To learn more about ALS Legacy Events, visit www.alslib.info or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo.

The Arrowhead Library System (ALS) is a regional public and multi-type library system covering seven counties in the Arrowhead region: Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods and St. Louis counties. ALS provides professional support for 27 member public libraries and offers two outreach services for regional residents: Bookmobile and Mail-A-Book.

SAFE DISPOSAL

Prescription drug turn-in events set for April 27

NATIONAL - Saturday, April 27, is National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, an opportunity

for people to safely dispose of unused or expired medications. Drop boxes will be staffed and avail-

able for take-back events from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the St. Louis County Sheriff's offices in Virginia and Hibbing. Medications to be disposed of should be brought in in their original containers with any personal identifying information crossed off.

National Prescription Drug Take-Back day takes place twice a year to highlight the importance of getting rid of medications that are no longer needed. Proper disposal of prescription and over-the-counter medications in a local drop box helps prevent accidental poisoning, reduces the possibility of medication misuse, and prevents water pollution and other environmental

threats.

Meanwhile, numerous law enforcement agencies and pharmacies in St. Louis County offer secure disposal boxes where medications can be disposed of anonymously year-round. A list of locations, along with information about what is or isn't accepted, is available online at stlouiscountymn.gov/medwaste.

While take-back programs are the best way to dispose of old drugs, transportation and access issues may make it difficult for some people to discard medications. Anyone who is unable to access a local drop box can contact Maggie Myers at 218-471-738 or MyersM@stlouiscountymn.gov for information about alternative disposal methods, such as a free medication mail-back envelope or a DisposeRx kit.

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ENERGY POLICY

Climate Group discusses Minnesota's nuclear moratorium

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Should Minnesota repeal its moratorium on building new nuclear power plants? That was the topic taken up by retired physicist and professor Barbara Jones, who offered a deeply-researched slide presentation at the April meeting of the Ely Climate Group.

"Why are we here today talking about nuclear power?" Jones asked as she kicked off her presentation. She noted that Minnesota will need twice as much power in 2040 as it uses today, and that will present an enormous challenge at a time when traditional forms of energy must be phased out.

"Minnesota has a mandate to be 100 percent carbon-free by 2040," she said, and that means carbon-based power sources like coal and gas have no long-term future in the state.

If Minnesota's two nuclear power plants stay in operation through that date, she noted, Minnesota will still need to expand its wind and solar power capacity from 31 percent to 88 percent of the state's total demand—which means the state will rely heavily on sources of energy that aren't always reliable.



Hudson Kingston (standing) and Barbara Jones. photo by C. Clark

Clean, reliable, and cheap

"Everyone wants electricity to be reliable, clean, and cheap," Jones said, "but coal and gas are not carbon-free, wind and solar are not reliable. Nuclear is reliable and clean, but it's not cheap."

Even with advances in large battery storage technology, wind and solar provide unsteady power to the electric grid, said Jones. That leaves nuclear as a steady, if costly, power source capable of reliably meeting Minnesota's projected electricity needs, she said.

Advances in nuclear power

Jones reviewed advances in nuclear plant design, highlighting the trend toward safe, advanced reactor models and small, more affordable, modular reactors. She also included a review of American nuclear trends with comparisons to the rest of the world.

Jones described the current small modular reactor (SMR) projects underway in the U.S. like the Oklo SMR in Idaho and Ohio, and the TerraPower Sodium SMR in Kemmerer, Wyo. Jones touched on the denial in 2022 of Oklo's application to build a

prototype SMR design at the Idaho National Laboratory.

Oklo is a newcomer to the nuclear engineering industry. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission turned down its application for failure to provide sufficient safety and design details. "These are some of the problems these start-ups with new reactor designs face," Jones noted.

Barriers to new nuclear

Jones reviewed the hurdles to new nuclear power in Minnesota, which include concerns over safety, the lack of a dedicated disposal site in the U.S., and legislative

barriers like the current Minnesota moratorium on new nuclear plants.

Jones touched on nuclear safety issues, putting context to government and industry statistics on deaths and injuries.

"Power industry deaths are nothing compared to deaths by firearms ... Looking at just making electricity, coal is the deadliest with over 24 deaths per terawatt-hour, followed by other carbon sources like oil, biomass, and (natural) gas. Nuclear is way down there in comparison, with 0.03 deaths (per terawatt-hour) ... but none of these numbers account for fossil fuel's damage to climate."

Legislation

Jones also reviewed the current state of legislation around the country regarding nuclear power, including states like Illinois which have rescinded or, like Minnesota, are working on repealing their moratoriums. She presented a list of five bills currently in committee in the Minnesota Legislature that would alter Minnesota's stance on new nuclear power, ranging from funding studies to straightforward repeal of the moratorium.

Hudson Kingston, who was in attendance, pointed out that the Minnesota's nuclear moratorium may soon disappear because of a renewable energy bill moving in com-

mittee right now.

"What's moving this week is something that where [the bill authors are] saying make it so solar and wind don't need a certificate of need. But what [the bill] actually says is anything that is carbon free no longer needs a certificate of need. So sneakily, they are getting rid of the nuclear moratorium because nuclear is carbon-free energy," he said. Kingston is the legal director for the rural environmental advocacy group CURE.

Whether any of the current bill affect Minnesota's nuclear moratorium will become law remains to be seen.

Jones concluded with her own recommendations, including passing a carbon fee and dividend, abandoning the nuclear moratorium, closing coal and natural gas power plants, building many more renewable energy facilities, keeping the old nuclear plants running, and building small modular reactors on coal power plant sites. The alternative, she said, is either escalating climate change or insufficient electrical power to meet future needs.

Jones' fact-dense presentation is now available for viewing on the Ely Climate Group's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDuZS3c-Dr14.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ely hoping for \$4.556 million workforce housing grant

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Ely took the plunge on Tuesday and gave the greenlight to a \$4.56 million grant proposal it is seeking from the Minnesota Housing and Finance Agency (MHFA) for its proposed workforce housing project, called "Wilderness Escape."

The city council voted to approve the application for the grant at a special meeting

Tuesday evening. The city has been working on the application since last summer, including revising its citywide housing study, and the submission is due April 30.

The Legislature allocated \$39 million for grants this year, far more than the roughly \$3 million typically allotted for the program.

City clerk-treasurer Harold Langowski told the city council that the grant request was based on the latest esti-

mates for the construction of the 37-unit apartment building. "That is the latest cost estimate as of last Friday," he said. "It still falls within the guidelines of what we can apply for." He added that the MHFA grant amounts cannot exceed 50 percent of the total project cost.

While Ely is the applicant, the city's Housing and Redevelopment Agency will be the owner and manager of the Wilderness Escape project.

The apartment building will have seven studio units, 15 one-bedroom units in two different sizes, 12 two-bedroom units in two different sizes, and three three-bedroom units.

MHFA will make its grant awards in August. Ely's economic development consultant, John Fedo, says that Ely is well-positioned to have its grant application approved. When Ely redid its housing study last year, the study reported that Ely had a 0.7 per-

cent vacancy rate for affordable rental housing, so the city's need is dire. If Ely gets its grant, the project will be the first multifamily housing built in the city in more than 17 years.

Around nine percent of Ely's workforce commutes from 25 to 50 miles away. Another 20 percent travels to work from over 50 miles away. All employers interviewed in the study had trouble hiring because of a lack of housing.

REAL ESTATE



Buyck-\$589,000 198.7-acre hunting retreat surrounded by state and federal land. 670 ft on the Vermilion River. Trail system and deer stands throughout the property. Has 2 BR, fully furnished 24'x30' cabin with electric and propane stove. Also has a 36'x45' Morton Pole building with sauna, game processing room, and guest room.



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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Corporate piracy

It's time to bring corporate raiders like Alden Capital to heel

“Where is the outrage?” That was the question rightly asked by fellow publisher Reed Anfinson, of Benson, Minn., in an op-ed that appeared last week in this newspaper and many others around the country that decried the pending closure of eight more once-thriving newspapers in Minnesota, including some that were among the very best weeklies in the state just a few years ago.

While newspapers have faced headwinds in the age of the internet, none of these newspapers are closing for truly economic reasons. And, in each case, these newspapers have continued to fill a critical niche in their small cities, as the primary or in many cases the sole source of news about the functioning of their communities.

They face closure not because of an inexorable economic reality that will eventually send all newspapers to the grave. They closed because our government, our culture, our society, allows vandals to wreak their havoc in America and call it capitalism.

These eight venerable papers, unceremoniously tossed on the trash heap of history, are disappearing because pirates organized under a corporate title, known as Alden Capital, have decided that they would rather take resources that had maintained viable businesses that served a critical public purpose and strip them to add more zeros to the bottom line of their primary shareholders.

Alden owns many newspapers, but it has no interest in the news. For Alden, newspapers are simply opportunities to enrich themselves at the expense of communities served by these newspapers and, ultimately, at the expense of America. When Alden gains control of a newspaper, the outcome is predictable. They slash workforces beyond the bone, sell off real estate, raid cash reserves, and jack up subscription prices for a short-term profit boost before readers begin to see the impact of the bloodletting.

Take the *Pioneer Press* in St. Paul, the state's oldest and second-largest newspaper. Before Alden came on the scene, the paper employed over 200 union news workers, including reporters, editors, and photographers. But when Alden gained control, the paper was stripped. The print plant was sold off. The paper's main office and associated real estate went shortly after. Then again, they didn't need an office since the workforce was slashed mercilessly. Today, fewer than 30 news staff remain.

As the *Pioneer Press* and dozens of other venerable newspapers around the country were

being stripped, Alden's founder and CEO Randall Smith was using the proceeds to, among other things, buy up a total of 16 mansions in Florida. Each of them represented the jobs of dozens of people who were providing an important service to their communities, as well as the legacy of so many who worked at their newspapers before them.

The eventual outcome for each of these newspapers is the same. Once Alden has squeezed the last of the lifeblood out of them, they dispose of the corpse like rotting fruit. Alden Capital is so vile that it typically won't even entertain offers from community members seeking to reinvest and restore their community newspapers. Alden isn't just money-grubbing... these people are truly vandals, interested mostly in destroying what is good.

It didn't used to be this way. Indeed, when the founders drafted the U.S. Constitution, corporations, at least in their modern form, did not exist. Many of the founders, particularly Thomas Jefferson, feared the impact of concentrated economic power and would have taken steps to control such forces had they existed at the time.

But early corporations in America were issued charters and only for purposes deemed in the public interest, and their charters could be revoked if they didn't live up to their commitments.

Sadly, in the America of today, we simply accept that corporations can form for the purpose of destruction for private enrichment. A corporation like Alden can organize to strip viable businesses (that do serve a public interest) of their assets and throw countless Americans out of work, to concentrate wealth in the hands of individuals who, by the definitions we should have learned in Kindergarten, are simply evil.

If there is a role for the government in saving newspapers, it should surely involve putting an end to an entity like Alden Capital. As the Supreme Court has stated, corporations are people. Yet we would never allow an individual to roam the streets engaging in the kind of mayhem Alden Capital wreaks every day before breakfast. We'd lock 'em up and throw away the key.

Instead, we just shake our heads, assuming we're helpless to change an economic system that has come to benefit a tiny few at the expense of the many. And the more that we allow companies like Alden Capital to shutter our sources of credible information, the more helpless we really are.

So, yes indeed, where is the outrage?



Letters from Readers

Stauber again shows his lack of integrity

Rep. Pete Stauber, I read your e-mail explaining your vote against aid to Ukraine and would like to remind you that your voters are not as gullible as you would like to believe. I found it interesting that in your opening sentence it's Biden's "weakness" that caused Putin to invade Ukraine. This is revisionist history at its best. You apparently forgot that your chosen candidate called Putin's invasion "genius, smart and wonderful" and during his presidency he elevated Putin and undermined the NATO alliance and spread anti-Ukraine propaganda. Your candidate promises to hand over Ukraine to Russia if he is elected again. You must have a very different idea of what constitutes strength for us and our allies.

Please stop parroting Russian propaganda regarding "transparency surrounding the funding" and that European countries have failed to take on their "fair share" of the funding. The U.S. has spent \$75 billion in military, financial, and humanitarian aid, followed by Germany and the U.K. The European Union as a whole has contributed \$93 billion in aid to Ukraine. Israel by comparison, has been the largest recipient of U.S. aid, receiving about \$300 billion in total. Fiscal prudence does not seem to be your motivating factor. In your own words "...is fighting for its very existence and we cannot abandon them." But you don't view Ukraine through the same lens that you view

Israel. Shame on you. History will be your judge.

Your "America First" agenda is nothing but political theatre. Thoughtful policy making requires more thought than mere slogans. It doesn't fit neatly on a bumper sticker. It's too bad that you couldn't follow the example of your House majority leader in your vote on Ukraine, but that would have required integrity, and you sir, have aptly demonstrated that you have none.

Michele Jackman
Virginia

Thanks for continuing support and understanding

Dear Members of the Ely Community,

I am writing to provide transparency regarding the financial health of our school district. Over the past several months, our administration team has worked tirelessly to navigate financial challenges stemming from various factors.

The challenges we currently face are the result of a combination of declining enrollment, an increase in expenditures, the expiration of federal funding from the pandemic, continued increased operating expenses, and unforeseen circumstances such as the recent economic downturn. Despite our best efforts to mitigate the impact of these challenges, the Ely Public School District is faced with the difficult task of making tough decisions to ensure the long-term financial stability of our district while continuing to provide

a high-quality education for all students.

Our administration, department heads, finance committee members, and school board members have been working tirelessly to identify areas where budget reductions can be made. Our reductions will impact various aspects of our district's operations, including staffing, programs, and services. Our goal is to keep these reductions as far away from students and programs that impact our student's learning.

We understand that news of budget reductions may be unsettling for our community members, and we want to assure you that we are committed to minimizing the impact on our students and maintaining the quality of education that the Ely Public School District is known for. We will strive to make thoughtful and strategic decisions that prioritize the needs of our students and align with our district's values and goals.

We will remain transparent and communicative, providing regular updates to our community through local papers. We value your feedback and support as we work together to navigate these challenging times.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we confront these difficult decisions. I am confident that we will emerge from this challenge stronger and more resilient than ever before.

Anne M. Oelke
Superintendent
Ely Public Schools

COMMENTARY

Discovering the past through digital newspaper archives

If there's one thing I've loved about the digital age, it's the ready window into history provided by searchable online newspaper archives.

It's become a regular practice of mine on Wednesdays after we get the *Timberjay* off to the presses to log onto the Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub, maintained by the Minnesota Historical Society, to see what was making front-page headlines in the *Tower Weekly News* and *Ely Miner* 100 years ago that particular week.



DAVID COLBURN

As a relative newcomer with no local roots, it gives me some fascinating insight into the history of my new home.

A couple of weeks ago I was slightly started to discover this front-page headline in the *Tower Weekly News* for April 11, 1924: "Cross is burned here Wed. night." The article described a 24-foot by 12-foot cross wrapped in oil-soaked cotton batting that burned for over an hour

in the Johnson meadow along East Two River and "in a direct line with Main Street." The article noted similar incidents had occurred in Virginia and Eveleth.

I was aware of the 1920 Duluth lynchings and knew of the 1920s Ku Klux Klan revival in the U.S. but hadn't really thought much about its history in Minnesota. From another quick search of the archives, I discovered that there was an active Klan chapter in Virginia at the time, and that the archives include at least three newspapers that were pro-Ku Klux Klan papers, likely published by them, including

the *Voice of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan*, The *Minnesota Fiery Cross*, and *The Call of the North*. There's quite a lot of history to be learned there if one cares to delve into them — they reported Klan activity from Minnesota and around the country.

In the *Fiery Cross*, I found this description of the Ku Klux Klan's "program" for 1924: militant, old-fashioned Christianity and operative patriotism; back to the Constitution; enforcement of the 18th amendment (prohibition); and enforcement of present immigration laws and enactment of more stringent laws on immigration. Sounds like themes ripped

out of today's headlines, not yesterday's. Perhaps there's some truth after all to the quote that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

Ah, but nefarious activities and political commentary aside, historical newspapers give one a glimpse into the lives of regular people. Newspapers were the social media of the day, routinely reporting on birthday parties, social gatherings, school happenings, athletic contests, hospitalizations, real estate sales, small business openings and closings, and more. On the same front page as

the burning cross was a story about Deputy Game Warden Harry Anderson (presumably no relation to the actor of the same name in the sitcom "Night Court") and his six-year-old son Glen falling through thin ice on Lake Vermilion in their car. Anderson cut a hole through the top and pushed the boy to solid ice, and the boy raced to shore and brought back a pole that Anderson used to get himself onto solid ice. Elsewhere it was reported that Mr. and Mrs. Gust Peterson were Duluth visitors on Monday, Wm.

See PAPERS...pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Humans rarely pause to think things through

Humankind has faced some serious problems of supply and demand over the centuries of this earth's existence. Whether it be food, water, shelter and building materials, or energy, we have learned to adapt and actually exploit what resources there are in order to survive. Furs, timber and iron ore have been the premium resources here in the north-land.

Presently, most of us rely on petroleum to power our cars and warm our houses and coal still plays a major part in making electricity to make mod-

ern life possible. We often have to learn the hard way that there is usually a price to pay for use of these commodities.

Air, soil and water pollution resulting in human harm are unfortunately the result of an industrialized world. So, who would think that sand, besides being the source of making glass, would be a resource other than the attractant that gets us to the beautiful beaches here and in the tropics of the world? For those of us who have done building projects, we know that sand is needed in mixture as well as gravel and cement to make a foundation or footings of concrete. Blocks are made of concrete. Sand is used in "fracking" oil and

gas deposits to get the final drop of resource out of the well.

The "Sand Mafia" on YouTube (Humanity is Running out of Sand and it is a Huge Problem/EN-DEVR documentaries) really opens the eyes and mind about this resource that we take for granted. Apparently, damming rivers interrupts the natural flow of sand to the ocean beaches. Building too close to the beach stops the natural cycle of sand movement and as a result, the sand gets undercut from the building foundations. Sand mining the world over in the oceans is disrupting food sources and homes of islanders.

Global climate

change causes melting glaciers to raise the ocean levels which also leads to island and beach erosion.

Frac sand comes from southeast Minnesota and there is quite a controversy over mining it there. Countries all over the planet are building more with concrete, which raises the demand for sand. However, the salt in ocean sand is not washed out of it, and as every construction worker knows, salt is not good for concrete. So, high rise hotels in ocean front properties could be at risk of collapse.

The learning curve for all of humankind's projects is always steep. We try to make the world safer, but often the rush is to "prosperity and prog-

ress" without a thoughtful pause as to how our activities will change the world.

**Mark Roalson
Hoyt Lakes**

Questions for the ever-changing world

Modern linguists and modern grammarians do not proscribe. They describe. All languages change. They have always changed. They will always change. Juliet no longer asks, "Wherefore art thou Romeo?" She asks, "Why are you Romeo?"

**Jim Ganahl
Cook**



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!

PAPERS...Cont. from page 4

Eldridge moved his Tower shoe repair shop to Duluth, and Pete Flaim was in the Soudan hospital after suffering the misfortune to have a small bone in his right leg broken while at work loading railroad ties near the Pike Bay Lumber company mill.

My first big dive into digital newspaper archives came a number of years ago when researching family history in Kansas. I never knew much about my father's father, Harry Colburn – the grandfather I knew about was Dad's stepfather. His biological dad had died when he was a young child. The big unknown I unearthed that none of us, including Dad's sister, knew about was that Harry had been married before he married my grandmother. But through newspapers I was able to trace much of

Harry's youth and young adulthood as he became involved in the family milling business.

I've done two research projects here in Tower that couldn't have happened without the digital newspaper archives. The first was related to Charles G. Nelson, a Soudan man who was killed in action in World War I. Through newspapers I reconstructed some highlights of early family history and activity surrounding his induction into the military, traced his travels to boot camp and his unit's trek to New York to head overseas, and his eventual return to Soudan and burial in Lakeview Cemetery. Tapping additional records archived online, I pinpointed the exact spot where he was killed in action and initially buried in France, as well as ex-

tensive information about his unit's movements and battle engagement.

The second project you may have read recently is about the forgotten Pine Island iron mine. That history was wholly cobbled together from old newspaper reports, as no official records of the mine are known to exist.

A recent exploration for fun came when a friend who lives in the Kansas house of my childhood posted pictures online of an antique oak hutch he and his wife bought, including a picture of a shipping tag on the back of it with the name Percy Henry, Tipton, Missouri on it. I found out I could access the old Tipton newspapers online and set about discovering more about the man who owned the hutch. He was a successful local banker who loved buying and selling

new cars, and he eventually became a prominent banker in Kansas City. I found more than 30 clippings about Percy, including his wedding photo. My friend was delighted to get the history. I was delighted with the hunt for Percy.

If you have family roots in this area and haven't done so, check out the Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub online and do a little poking around – you might find out something about an ancestor you didn't know. The archives have newspapers back to 1849.

Or, like me, just take a look for history's sake, to understand the times and the folks who built this area into the place it is today.

For broader access to newspapers and topical research, try a subscription service like the one

I use, Newspapers.com, or check the Library of Congress site Chronicling America, which has digitized newspapers from across the country from 1756 to 1963.

By the way, when searching for topics, you may need to get creative. For example, there were very few references for "Pine Island mine" in my search, but many more when I split the phrase into separate search terms of "Pine Island" and "mine." The latter search produced many more unrelated hits, as when someone may have visited Pine Island the same week something newsworthy happened at an unrelated mine. Searching old newspapers can be tedious at times, but well worth the effort when you tease out the little gems of history that lay within the digitized print.

Keep it Clean,
ST. LOUIS COUNTY



AURORA TRANSFER STATION
5910 Hwy 135 N, Aurora

HOURS
Mon, Thu, Fri: 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Tue, Wed: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Sat: 8 a.m.–Noon

EMBARRASS CANISTER SITE
7530 Koski Rd, Embarrass

HOURS
Thu: 10 a.m.– 5 p.m.
Sat: 12:30 p.m.– 4:30 p.m.

NORTHWOODS TRANSFER STATION
9384 Hwy 21 N, Ely/Babbitt

SUMMER HOURS
Mon, Thu-Sat: 8 a.m.–3 p.m.
Tue: 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
Wed: Noon–6 p.m.

SOUDAN CANISTER SITE
5160 Hwy 169, Soudan

HOURS
Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun:
8 a.m.–5 p.m.

REGIONAL LANDFILL
5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia

HOURS
Mon-Fri: 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Sat: 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY
5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia

HOURS
Tues and Sat: 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
218-749-9703 | OFFICE HOURS MON - FRI 8 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Summer hours effective April 15 - September 30



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the
TIMBERJAY



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Subscriptions Available:
St. Louis County: \$48 year Elsewhere: \$62 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover/AmEx. NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$119 year or \$12 per month.

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

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

Week of April 29

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 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is May 21.

Greenwood Fire Dept.- Training 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.

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

**TSHS weekly winner**

TOWER- The winner of the Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash prize for week 39 is DJ Kerkow of Cambridge.

History Tidbit: The story of the cabin that sits among some cedars on the western side of Tower's City Park is also the story of Mike Smulter, the man who built it.

Mike Smulter was born in Finland. He and his parents emigrated to Minnesota in the early 1900's and they settled in the Embarrass area. As Mike grew into a young man he also acquired excellent carpentry skills and was considered a "craftsman."

One early spring day in 1912, Mike bought a train ticket to Tower. After boarding the train, he refused to sit in the smoking section of the train. Smoking his pipe caused such a commotion that the conductor stopped the train and ejected him. A short time later, an ore train came down the tracks and Mike, trying to catch a ride, slipped under the car wheels. One of his legs was amputated below the knee. Mike eventually recovered. A skilled craftsman, he carved a wooden leg for himself.

Story to be continued next week.

Soudan canister site hours remaining the same

SOUDAN- An ad published April 12 in the Timberjay showed shortened hours at the Soudan Canister Site on Wednesdays and Sundays, but the ad sent by St. Louis County Environmental Services was in error, and a new ad is now available in this week's paper with the corrected hours.

The hours at the Soudan Canister Site are staying the same at 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. These are year round hours.

Summer hours at the Hwy. 77 Canister Site are Tuesdays from 1 – 6 p.m., Thursdays from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., Saturdays from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sundays from 12 noon – 5 p.m.

Read It
HERE

TOWER AREA FOOD SHELF

Food Shelf receives \$8,000 grant for updates

TOWER – At a time when individuals and households throughout Minnesota are experiencing hardships in numbers never seen before, the Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless Foundation is working hard to ensure their funding reaches those in need in every corner of the state.

In their most recent spring funding cycle, Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless has granted Tower Area Food Shelf \$8,000 toward a new HVAC system in their recently purchased property which requires several updates to accommodate food operations.

Tower Area Food Shelf (TAFS) currently leases a small basement for its operations, which lacks basic amenities like a bathroom and running water.

This space is insufficient to handle the high volume of traffic the food shelf receives. In August of 2023, TAFS acquired the St. James Presbyterian Church building at a very reasonable price; however, the building required some renovations before it could be used for food shelf operations.

The food shelf has very limited monetary resources available for emergencies and does not have sufficient savings to cover the updates that needed to be completed. The property updates needed to be completed so operations can transition to the new building as soon as possible.

Once operating in the new location, which they expect to move into by early summer, the food shelf will have capacity to expand services and increased

hours of operation, allowing more individuals and families experiencing food insecurity to access emergency food services.

Further, in addition to managing food shelf operations, they intend to establish a thrift store in the basement of the new facility to assist in covering the utility expenses for the food shelf.

Since 1986, the Open Your Heart Foundation has ensured that emergency shelters, food shelves and domestic violence shelters throughout Minnesota have the tools, equipment, and infrastructure necessary to best serve those in need.

Open Your Heart awards funds every three months and provides emergency support within days during a crisis. They support programs in communities where many traditional funders do not

reach – food shelves, domestic violence shelters, and homeless programs in small communities and sparsely served remote corners of the state. Through this direct support, Open Your Heart helps these organizations provide safe and dignified environments for people experiencing food and housing insecurity across Minnesota.

For more information about Open Your Heart, grantees or the grant application process visit www.oyh.org. To learn more about Tower Area Food Shelf visit <https://secondharvestnorthland.org/agencylocator/tower-food-shelf-aeoa>.

EARTH DAY

**Students celebrate Earth Day**

Pat Helmberger worked with students at Vermilion Country School to raise awareness of plastics and plastic recycling as part of an Earth Day program. After learning about the impacts of plastics on the environment, several students decided to work on raising awareness of the issue. Pat Helmberger did her part by giving students reusable shopping bags, and also visited businesses on Tower's Main Street on Earth Day, April 22, to hand out reusable bags. Top left: VCS teacher Amy Hendrickson marched with students Bailey Pratt and Elliot Koschak to raise awareness on Monday. The students will be working on a longer-term project relating to plastic recycling. Top right and left: Pat Helmberger, costumed in empty plastic bags. photos above left and right by M. Helmberger and photo at left submitted by VCS.



COMMUNITY ED



TS Elementary soccer kicked off last week. The program meets on Thursdays, for ages 7-12, and runs through May 23. photos by J. Summit

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Band Concert at NE Range

BABBITT- The Northeast Range Spring Band concert will be held on Tuesday, April 30 starting at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium in Babbitt. Students from both Northeast Range and Tower-Soudan will be performing in the elementary band and high school band. This is open to the public and all are welcome. The bands

are directed by Christine Mackai.

Singers needed for Tower-Soudan Memorial Day program

TOWER- Anyone who enjoys group singing is invited to join with the Tower-Soudan Area Singers to help celebrate Memorial Day. The annual program to honor all military Veterans will be

held in the Herb Lappa Civic Center on Monday, May 27 at 10 a.m.

Rehearsals for the program will be on Mondays, May 6, 13, and 20 at 5 p.m. in the music room at the Tower Elementary School. Participants are asked to enter the building through the 3rd St. (north) entrance.

Traditional patriotic music will be performed for and with the audience.

The music and folders will be provided. If you have any questions contact Rolf Anderson at 218-753-3262.

Looking for used tin roofing material for TSHS project

TOWER- A small group of volunteers, led by Joe Morin, will be replacing the roof on the Old Settler's Cabin at the mini-park that is main-

tained by the Tower-Soudan Historical Society.

They are looking for donations of gently-used corrugated tin in decent condition.

They will need at least 20 sheets that are 24"x9' or 24"x10'. Tin that is 26" wide would also work. The pieces need to be at least 9' long.

Anyone with material to donate can contact Morin at 218-780-7306.

AROUND TOWN

Too mulch love for Ely's trees

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Braving the balmy 30-degree Minnesota spring weather, seventeen mulch-eteers from five different organizations came together early Saturday morning to mulch the 300-plus trees that the Ely's Tree Board has planted over the last ten years.

The morning got started with tree board and Friends of the Trees of Ely co-founder Mary Groeninger breaking the ground—literally—to demonstrate the proper way to mulch. After breaking up last year's mulch, she instructed, "Remember to make a mulch donut, not a mulch volcano." Groeninger explained that mulch which touches the trunk can lead to undesirable insect invasion.

After the mulching lesson, the group broke up into smaller parties. The groups headed off to mulch trees along Chapman and Washington Sts., in Whiteside Park, and along the Trezona Trail.

The volunteers included Austin Van Scoy and his young son Rolan from Dutchman Tree Service; the advisor and liaison to the tree board from Minnesota North

College, Rita Koch; and members of AmeriCorps, the Ely Tree Board and the Friends of the Trees of Ely.

The city of Ely donated the mulch and lent out some of the equipment for the morning's mulching effort. The coordinators of the event handed out maps to mulching locations so no one would accidentally bark up the wrong trees.

Leafing the trees behind, the volunteers finished their work morning with lunch at the First Presbyterian Church, organized by tree board co-founder Val Nestruk.

Upper right: Mary Groeninger (far left) gave basic tree mulching instructions to volunteers on Saturday, April 20, using a young tree at Whiteside park as a hands-on example. Lower right: Some of the mulching volunteers who couldn't leaf Ely's trees alone, standing in front of the Dutchman Tree Service truck on Saturday morning. The volunteers contributed their labor to mulch several hundred trees planted by the Ely Tree Board over the last decade. photos by C. Clark



In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

ELY – The Tuesday Group community educational lunch gathering meets every Tuesday at noon at the Grand Ely Lodge. Participants have an opportunity to order lunch. For those interested in being a host, or who have a speaker suggestion, contact Lacey Squier by email at ElyTuesdayGroup@gmail.com or call her at 218-216-9141.

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

► April 30: In the Face of Fire: Part two of a series featuring two perspectives on fuels reduction in forests.

► May 7: Conversation with a Loon Enthusiast with Ely's Loon Ranger, Sherry Abts.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



still not yet ready
spring brings snowflakes and strong winds

days of colder temps

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-2 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.
AA FRIDAYS - 7 p.m. Fridays, First Presbyterian Church, 262 E. Harvey St., Ely.

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

BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Thursdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church.

AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely.

BABBITT AL-ANON - Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.

CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step support group, 4:00 p.m. Tuesdays, Wellbeing Development, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 712 S. Central Ave., 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.

Ely Band to premier original work

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely City Band (ECB) will premier an original arrangement for reed trio and concert band on Tuesday, July 30. The Sonora Winds, a professional woodwind trio, commissioned ECB conductor, Karl Kubiak, to arrange the original piece for the band.

The Minnesota-based Sonora Winds formed in 2016. They have toured the nation performing chamber music, especially lesser-known works in danger of being lost in the modern trend of standardized performance programs.

The trio features Madeline Miller on oboe, Anastasiya Nyzkodub on



The Sonora Winds. Left-to-right: Anastasiya Nyzkodub, Marta Troicki, and past Ely City Band member Madeline Miller . submitted photo

clarinet, and Marta Troicki on bassoon. Miller and her father, Jeff Cherne, are both past members of the ECB.

The commissioned piece is still in the works, according to Kubiak. He told the *Timberjays* that the composition will be

an "original arrangement of classic polkas with a twist."

The ECB is entering its 135th season this summer. The band will perform in Whiteside Park starting Tuesday, June 25. The next concert will be on Thursday, July 4, after the Fourth of July Parade. Then, the band will perform every remaining Tuesday for the rest of July.

The band is open to anyone who wants to play. Rehearsals will be on Mondays in the band room at the Ely Public Schools campus, though the first rehearsal will be on Tuesday, June 11. For more information, contact Kubiak at karlkubiak1@gmail.com.

ECR auction great success

ELY- The non-profit Ely Community Resource held its first live art auction since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic at Ely's Historic State Theater on Saturday evening. The event raised more than \$18,000 for the organization, which offers a wide array of programs and services for Ely area youth.

"We are truly blown away," said Executive Director Julie Hignell about the results of the fundraiser.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Ely Public Library

ELY- The library board will meet on Wednesday, May 1, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The Curiosity Cohort for adults will meet on Thursday, May 2 at 1 p.m. The activity will be learning about heraldry and designing a coat of arms. Preregister so the library can order enough materials for participants.

The library will host a presentation on Tuesday, May 7, from 11 a.m. to noon, by Minnesota photographer and public speaker Jay Grammond on the state's barn quilts, art pieces that adorn the side of barns.

The library will celebrate National Etiquette Week on Wednesday, May 8, from 2-3 p.m. This program on minding your manners is for all ages. Preregister so the library can order enough materials for participants. Registration is limited to 25.

The library will hold a Kahoot online trivia game for all ages on the Babysitter's Club series books 11-15 by Ann Martin. Preregister

with an email address so the library can send the link for the trivia game. The Kahoot will start at 3 p.m. on Friday, May 10, and end at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, May 14.

The Get Crafty group will hold a session for adults on making DIY bath scrubbers on Thursday, May 16, at 1 p.m. All materials will be provided. Preregister so the library can order enough materials for participants.

Preschool Storytime is held every Friday from 10:30-11 a.m.

All library events are at the Ely Public Library at 224 E. Chapman St., unless otherwise noted.

Ely Spring Clean-up Days April 26-27

ELY- The Ely Spring Clean-up Days will be Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27. Friday hours will be 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday hours will be 8 a.m.-noon or until the dumpsters are full, whichever comes first. Bring your aluminum cans, scrap metal, building materials, dead appliances, and furniture to

the dumpsters set up in Whiteside Park. The use of the dumpsters is for residents inside Ely city limits only. Please bring a picture ID and a current Ely Utilities Commission bill. Do not bring tires, cardboard, mattresses, box springs, hazardous waste, televisions, monitors, household trash, and yard waste—these items will not be accepted.

Craft Fair April 27

ELY- The Grand Ely Lodge, 400 N. Pioneer Rd., will host a Mother's Day craft fair on Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. with over 25 crafters and vendors.

Braver Angels

ELY- the Ely chapter of the Braver Angels will meet on April 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. First Ave. E.

The group teaches how to talk about contentious issues without alienating those with opposing viewpoints. Braver Angels welcomes people of all political views.

Ely Fire Department

ELY- The Ely Fire Department will hold their fire truck push-in ceremony at city hall on Wednesday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to watch the FD's newest engine and platform trucks be pushed in for the first time.

Dorothy Molter Annual Meeting

ELY- The annual meeting of the Dorothy Molter Museum will be on Monday, May 6 from 5:30-7 p.m., open to all museum members in good standing. See rootbeerlady.com/programs-events to RSVP.

Dog Training

ELY- Ely Continuing Education will offer beginning and advanced dog training on Monday evenings, May 6 through June 24 at the Ely Ice Arena on S. Fourth Ave. E. Park in the lot at S. Fourth and White St. Cost is \$120. The beginning class will be 6-7 p.m. and the advanced class will be 7-8 p.m. For more details and to register, go

to <https://www.ely.k12.mn.us/communityed>.

Medicare Class

ELY- Ely Continuing Education will offer a free Medicare 101 on Wednesday, May 8, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the media center at the Ely Public Schools Campus, 600 E. Harvey St. Enter through door No. 1, and turn right. The media center is on the right across from the new gym. The class will explain the confusing landscape of Medicare options and benefits, taught by local Ely Medicare expert Joe Weise. Register at <https://www.ely.k12.mn.us/communityed>.

Ely High School All Class Reunion

ELY- The Ely High School All Class Reunion in honor of 100 years of the Ely Memorial High School building will be June 29-July 6. Information and register at elyallclassreunion.com.

HAPPY TRAILS

Johnson retiring from State Farm Insurance agency

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- It's the end of an era for the gregarious and community-minded Tim Johnson, who is stepping away from his State Farm Insurance Agency next week and stepping into retirement.

Before moving to Cook in 2009, Johnson said he knew he wanted to become part of the fabric of the community and find ways to give back.

"I think we have an obligation as businesses to give back, because I wouldn't survive without the people of this region," Johnson said. "That's how my business has been built."

Johnson reminisced on Monday about many of the activities and or-



Tim Johnson

ganizations he's been involved with in the area, from Friends of the Lake Vermilion Trail and Volunteers in Education to his service at North Woods School.

"I believed in getting involved in the community," Johnson said. "I've done a lot with the school, career fairs and things like that. I've been asked to go into the classrooms quite a bit, too, especially

on the high school side to talk about different things, whether it's insurance or careers in general, and resumes and things like that. I've done a lot of defensive driving and financial education type programs. It's all been fun. I always loved that piece."

Johnson also loved giving donations to local organizations through State Farm's "Quotes for Good" program. While State Farm provided a small stipend for support, most of the money came from Johnson's business.

"That was a good win-win - it was a fun thing to do," Johnson said.

Planning for the future after Johnson's wife Debbie retired as a third-grade teacher at North Woods School two years ago, the couple built a home in

Johnson's boyhood hometown of McGregor, on Big Sandy Lake, and he's been commuting to work in Cook since then. He plans to spend more time on the road in retirement, but this time for pleasure.

"We do plan to travel, we want to take little mini road trips, and we want to travel around the country and overseas," Johnson said. "And our three adult children all live in the Twin Cities, so that's nice - we're just a couple hours away at a moment's notice when we want to go down and see them or they want to come up and see us."

Johnson's last day is Tuesday, April 30, but new State Farm agent Mike Dahl, of Eveleth, will soon be on the way.

"He's a great guy,

much younger than me, as you might imagine," Johnson laughed. "He's moving the office from my current location, ironically into the space that I leased when I first came up here. Technically he starts June 1, but my team is going to be taking care of customers and he'll be back and forth just about every week."

Johnson said he's selling his location to a local business that will be relocating after doing some renovations to meet their needs.

Johnson doesn't have any sort of farewell event planned, but word has gotten out and he's been receiving plenty of good wishes.

"I can't go to the post office or somewhere without someone flagging

me down and saying, 'I heard you're leaving,'" he said. "People have been great - they're excited and happy for me. Most, I think, because they're just genuinely happy." He paused and laughed lightly again, and employing his wry sense of humor, he said, "Maybe a few are happy to see me go."

For those who haven't expressed their best wishes but would like to, they're welcome to stop by Johnson's office.

"I'll be here every day the rest of the week and Monday and Tuesday," he said. "I couldn't believe how much I've accumulated in my office. There are a lot of loose ends to tie up, but that's fine. It's all part of the gig"

LETTER OF INTENT

Brodeen headed to Georgia for collegiate cross-country

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- North Woods senior Evelyn Brodeen answered the call of the South last week, signing a letter of intent at the school to run cross-country and track next year for Truett-McConnell University, a private university in Cleveland, Ga. Located in the scenic foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in northeast Georgia, Truett-McConnell is a Division I NAIA school known for its robust athletics and Christian liberal arts education.

"I started looking at schools down south, because I've always kind of wanted to be down there. So I just put in some recruiting forms just for fun to kind of see what would happen," Brodeen said. "The coach reached out to me right away. It's really pretty, it's in the mountains -- it's like my ideal school. And I was able to get a pretty good scholarship, so financially it was a smart decision for me." Brodeen said she began running for fun as a youngster, and her mother, Alaine, also a runner,

served as a role model for her. Brodeen said her enthusiasm for running amped up when she ran her first half-marathon when she was 13, a race she ran with her mother, who was recovering from chemotherapy for cancer at the time.

"That was really cool that she was able to go out and run a half," Brodeen said. "It was me, my aunt, my grandma, and my mom, we all ran it, and I guess that kind of just inspired me."

Cross-country came into the picture when the Brodeens moved to Orr in 2020 to take over the Island View Resort. That's when she met Addison Burckhardt, a fellow runner who became not only a training partner but a fast friend.

"Addison definitely got me into it," Brodeen said. "We just became friends right away and I started running. I was able to train with her and I had a team and a teammate right away."

Dan Squires has been the resident North Woods assistant coach for the combined team with the South Ridge Panthers



Alaine and Brett Brodeen, of Orr, celebrate with their daughter, North Woods senior Evelyn Brodeen, after she signs to run for Truett-McConnell University in Georgia. D. Colburn photo

under Head Coach Jeremy Polson, and he talked about Brodeen's development over the years.

"She started in eighth grade and just got better over time," Squires said. "She was easy to work with, a hard worker, and a good person to be around. When Evelyn first came in eighth grade, Addison was our top runner. Over time, the last couple of years Evelyn became our top runner. They handled it very well. They were able to push each other and work together, and that just made them both better."

but the Bears of Truett-McConnell won out, and Brodeen is looking forward to the opportunity to attend school with the team she runs for. "I'm excited to be able to train with my actual team and get to know them and have good friendships," Brodeen said. "It will definitely be different."

In choosing cross-country, the multi-sport athlete is saying goodbye to two other activities, softball and hockey. Brodeen has been a mainstay at pitcher for the Grizzlies softball team since her freshman year but is still nursing that hip injury and may not be able to compete this season. She also played hockey for two seasons on the co-operative team with Hibbing.

"I've played softball my whole life," Brodeen said. "But there's just something about running that makes me feel really good and motivates me. It's a good way to stay disciplined and it's something you can do for your whole life. It's sad because I do love softball, but running was the way to go."

Meanwhile, her parents, Brett and Alaine, have come to terms with Evelyn heading off to Georgia, although they harbored hopes she might stay closer to home.

"Both Alaine and I graduated from Bethel University," Brett said. "We were kind of obviously hoping she'd go there." "It'll be hard without her at home at first," Alaine added. "But I'm excited for her. There will be a lot of opportunities and the team travels all over the country, so it'll be fun for her."

When Brodeen starts at Truett-McConnell, she'll have a leg up on most of the new students there. She's not only graduating with a North Woods diploma, but will have an associate's degree from Minnesota North College to her credit as well.

While she's undecided at the moment on a specific career, Brodeen said she loves science and math and will likely to look at possible careers in sports medicine, possibly physical therapy, or another science-related field.

YOUTH UNITED CONTEST

Olson gets UWNEMN award

FIELD TWP- North Woods senior Victoria Olson has been named as a finalist in the United Way of Northeastern Minnesota "Youth United Contest."

For the contest, the United Way asked high school seniors across the region what they saw as the biggest need in their communities and what ideas they had to address them.

Olson made the cut as one of seven finalists by describing the need she sees for social activities for youth in her community and a beautiful but

underutilized community center. She proposed free events tailored to different age groups to build social connections and improve mental wellbeing. She plans to attend University of Minnesota Crookston to major in Elementary Education.

Finalists were selected by UWNEMN's Community Impact Committee. Committee members first reviewed anonymous submissions then selected semi-finalists to interview. \$10,000 in scholarship funds have been distributed among the finalists.



Victoria Olson

The contest was sponsored in part by NewRange Copper Nickel as well as UWNEMN's Community Impact Fund thanks to the support of local donors.

Sopoci goes to state speech

FIELD TWP- North Woods junior Amber Sopoci was a finalist in the Minnesota State High School League Class A State Speech meet on April 19, 2024 in Shakopee.

Sopoci, competing in serious interpretation of poetry, earned her way into the state meet by winning first place at the Class 7A sectional meet.

At the state meet she competed against 23 students, and was ranked fifth

in preliminary rounds, qualifying for the finals. Performing for a panel of five poetry judges, Sopoci placed seventh among the eight finalists.

Sopoci competes with the Northeast Range speech team as part of a co-operative agreement between the schools and is coached by Jennifer Kaufenberg. Two other Nighthawks qualified for the state meet, Eva Morgan in storytelling and



Amber Sopoci

Trevor Zaitz in informative speaking, but neither reached the finals of their events.

COMMUNITY NEWS

NWFA block print class is open for registrations

COOK- Artist and retired North Woods School art teacher Lyn Reed will teach "How to make Block Prints" on Saturday, June 15 at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook.

Student can make a simple picture of flora or fauna or develop a personal "coat of arms" as they learn to carve a design in soft but firm material to create a printable design when dipped in paint and applied to paper.

Materials are provided for this class, which will meet from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and costs are kept to the minimum at NWFA, a nonprofit membership arts organization.

Registration is required by calling Alberta at 218-666-2153, sending an email to nwfamn.org@gmail.com, or dropping in at the gallery at 210 S River St. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

North Woods bands to play on Friday

FIELD TWP- The North Woods bands promise a night of music that will be out of this world when they present their spring concert "Through the Galaxy" this Friday, April 26 at 7 p.m. in the North Woods commons. It could be a real space jam, so come out and support these Grizzlies musicians.

Last chance for good stuff at NWFA

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts reminds patrons that the "Good Stuff" Art Garage Sale continues at the gallery at 210 S River St. through Saturday, April 27. In addition to beautiful, thought provoking artwork on exhibit, donated art and other items are on sale. Come browse the sections during gallery open hours of 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Registration is happening now for NWFA's annual Spring Art Expo from June 5 through June 29. Member and non-member artists are

invited to exhibit their work at the gallery and no commission is charged on the sale of artwork during the expo. The deadline to register is May 22. Registration forms are available at the gallery or online at nwfamn.org.

Take part in Cook transportation needs survey

COOK- Take the Cook Transportation Needs Survey to help this community collect information on the travel barriers affecting Cook area residents. Information will help to develop solutions to transportation problems.

Surveys and drop boxes may be found at the Cook Public Library, the Homestead and Pioneer HRA buildings, Cook Scenic Rivers Clinic and Zup's Grocery.

**Read It
HERE**

SCHOOLS...Continued from page 1

students.

Oelke unveiled the shortfall at the school board's March study session, near the end of negotiating next year's teacher and staff contracts. The shortfall was created by increases in wages and benefits and a loss of revenues, especially from the termination of COVID-19 funds, as reported in the March 29 edition of the *Timberjay*.

The ISD 696 finance committee created the list of proposed spending cuts and revenue increases based on recommendations made by the administration, faculty, and staff.

Proposed cuts

The school board approved the following spending reductions:

➤ \$19,968—Reducing school nurse hours from 8 to 5 per day. This returns the school nurse hours to what they were before COVID-19. This reduction was

approved by the district's health coordinator.

➤ \$2,694—Reducing one cafeteria aide from 3.75 to 2.75 hours per day. All the other aides are already at 2.75 hours.

➤ \$1,958—Reducing secretary workdays in the summer. Both school secretaries felt comfortable with the proposed reduction.

➤ \$15,479—Eliminate the high school/middle school principal and add an assistant principal working 200 days. The current administration has one full-time superintendent/elementary principal and one high full-time school/middle school principal. The new administrative structure will be one full-time superintendent/K-12 principal and one assistant K-12 principal.

➤ \$85,189—Cutting three paraprofessional positions, for a reduction from 26 to 23 paraprofessionals, which is justified by declining enrollment.

➤ \$18,018—Reducing paraprofessional hours from 32.5/week to 31.5/week

➤ \$29,905—Reducing the English department from 3.0 full-time positions to 2.8 full-time positions. This is possible due to a current teacher leave of absence and eliminating one low-enrollment elective.

➤ \$9,000—Eliminating the contracted business manager position and consolidating the business and payroll managers into one position.

➤ \$31,887—Reducing salary for social science teacher positions achieved through retirement.

➤ \$6,500—Reducing summer help from three to two student employees.

➤ \$1,000—Eliminating the student cafeteria employee during the school year.

➤ \$3,500—Replacing the current student security software package.

New revenues

The school board approved the following new revenue increases:

➤ \$25,000—Donation from the Ely Educational Foundation Course Diversity Fund to support fine arts elective.

➤ \$4,800—Increasing participation fees by \$15. These have not been increased for approximately 20 years.

➤ \$1,200—Moving volleyball to a tier one sport.

➤ \$5,000—Increasing gate fees by \$1. Gate fees have not been increased "for years."

➤ \$1,200—Increasing the price of athletic passes from \$180 to \$200 for a family pass, \$90 to \$100 for an individual pass, and \$54 to \$70 for a student pass.

2024-25 deficits

Even with the cuts and added revenue, the district will still be in the

red for the 2025 fiscal year. "We'll have to decide how much we're going to deficit spend," Oelke said, referring to the district's finance committee, "and that will be in the budget proposal for June." Any deficit will come out of the unassigned general fund.

The finance committee is not yet in a position to finalize how much the district will be in the red next year. The committee must wait for any changes the Legislature may make to operating and capital project levies and education funding formulas for 2024-25.

"We'll be exploring capital project levies," Oelke explained, contingent on legislative changes. The district currently doesn't have one but would consider adding one "if it makes sense for our school and for our taxpayers as well," Oelke added.

Oelke remarked that finding new ways to save

money and increase revenues will continue. "This is going to be a two-year process. We still have a lot to do. We might be looking at more cuts, or we might increase (enough) revenue that we don't have to do as many cuts."

Ely School Board Chair Ray Marsnik reminded the board and attendees at the meeting about Minnesota's statutory limits on any district's deficit spending. He explained that a deficit in the general fund "cannot exceed more than two and a half percent of your revenue," otherwise the district could be subject to fiscal enforcement actions by the state.

"We've talked about this before," Marsnik cautioned, "and it's something that we definitely have to keep our eye on But we've had a healthy general fund, and this is why we can afford to do this (for 2024-25)."

CHARGES...Continued from page 1

St. in Duluth.

According to the probable cause statement filed with the court, when officers arrived at the apartment, they made contact with a 20-year-old woman who had dried up blood around her mouth, physical signs of injuries to her face, and reported that it felt like her gums were torn open. Cly was also present, and reportedly attempted to interfere while the woman was being interviewed. He was handcuffed and physically resisted officers as he was taken to a squad car.

Crying and rocking back and forth as she spoke to officers, the woman told them she and Cly had been dating for about

a month and a half. She said Cly appeared "very intoxicated and was acting strange" when he arrived at her apartment. She said she thought Cly may have cheated on her and the two got into an argument. The woman reported that Cly allegedly pushed her against the kitchen wall three times before getting her to lay down on a living room bed, where he straddled her chest, retraining her. She said Cly opened her jaw with his right hand, his fingernails embedding in her gums, and put his left hand down her throat trying to suffocate her. The woman estimated this continued for five to six minutes before she was able

to get away. According to the report, she was bleeding substantially from her face and the woman reported that when Cly saw that he broke down crying, saying he was sorry and that he loved her.

Cly was incarcerated with bail set at \$5,000. If convicted of the felony charge, he could be imprisoned for up to three years and fined up to \$5,000.

Prior charges

On Sept. 23, 2023, after interviewing Richard Joshua Petrizilka at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, Ely police arrested Cly in an apparent knife attack. Petrizilka, according to court records, had suffered knife wounds to

his left shoulder and the back of his head, marks around his neck, and a bloody face from a fight with Cly.

Reportedly arguing about an incident from years prior, Petrizilka claimed he and Cly wrestled for a few minutes before Cly went upstairs, returned with a knife, and attacked him before fleeing Petrizilka's home. Petrizilka claimed Cly has threatened to kill him. Cly was arrested at the residence a few hours later. According to the complaint, Cly admitted to officers that he had been drinking, argued and wrestled with Petrizilka, and grabbed a knife with the intent of threatening Petrizilka. Cly

claimed that Petrizilka grabbed him, and he realized Petrizilka had been cut. He said he tried to apologize and fled the scene.

Cly was charged with second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon, a charge which carried maximum penalties of seven years in prison and a \$14,000 fine. He was also charged with threats of violence with reckless disregard for risk, a felony which has maximum penalties of five years of imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine.

In November, Cly's attorney filed a plea agreement with the court that he would plead guilty to the threat charge in return for dismissal of the sec-

ond-degree assault charge. Pursuant to the agreement, on Jan. 4, St. Louis County District Court Judge Robert Friday dismissed the assault charge and issued a stay of sentencing on the threat felony, instead ordering supervised probation for three years for Cly. Under the terms of his probation, Cly was to undergo evaluation and comply with any recommended treatment options, not use or possess alcohol or controlled substances, not possess firearms, and to follow all state and federal laws. If Cly is found guilty of violating his probation, the court may institute additional penalties, up to imposing the sentence previously stayed

STUDY...Continued from page 1

The Maxfield report found potential demand within Tower's primary market area for up to 87 market rate and 51 units of affordable active adult units through 2029. "We estimate the site in Tower could capture 35 and 25 units, respectively," notes the report.

The Maxfield study was an initial assessment. Should city officials opt to move forward, they would likely retain Maxfield to conduct a feasibility study of a specifically identified project.

The initial assessment concludes that about 75 percent of the demand for rental housing would come from Tower's primary market area, which includes the city and several adja-

cent townships. The rest would come from outside the market area, mostly from seniors from the Twin Cities who are interested in the outdoor recreational amenities available in the area. The report specifically lists Lake Vermilion and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness as amenities that are likely to attract active seniors, particularly recent retirees.

According to Maxfield, the area's population trends argue for apartment options geared toward seniors, with some allowance for younger residents as well. "For example, younger and older people are more attracted to higher density housing located near city services and entertain-

ment while middle-aged people (particularly those with children) traditionally prefer lower-density single-family homes," notes the report. "If an all-ages rental project was entertained at the downtown site, the target market would be seniors but could also market to younger households desiring rental housing."

The report concludes that expanding opportunities for middle-aged families would best be done through the construction of townhomes, twin homes, or villas in lower-density settings. That housing is currently being developed elsewhere within the city.

The impact of the baby boom continues to make

itself apparent as the study found that older adults and seniors make up 57 percent of the population within Tower's primary market area currently, a population that is expected to continue to grow.

Within Tower itself, the population continues

to trend older as well. As of 2020, those over age 55 constituted 46 percent of the population within the city.

New housing could help to arrest a gradual decline in the city's population, which Maxfield estimated at 396 currently,

a decline from the 430 residents identified in the 2020 census. Maxfield projects the city's population will continue its slide, reaching just 377 by 2030 without the creation of additional housing.

AXEL...Continued from page 1

in Ely.

"Axel is already greatly missed by our care team and everyone who knew him, but we are certain that we made the right decision for him," said Wolf Curator Giselle Narváez Rivera. "We also made sure that his last day was peaceful and that he was surrounded by

people who shared a strong bond with him."

Axel and his littermate, Grayson, came to the International Wolf Center in 2016 from a facility in Canada. Grayson is still a member of the exhibit pack.

"Our ambassador wolves allow people to observe real wolf behav-

ior, which can inspire learning and dispel myths about wolves," said Grant Spickelmier, executive director of the International Wolf Center. "People also build strong connections with our ambassadors, which makes the loss of Axel hard for our whole community."

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A Warm Thank You

As we celebrate volunteer appreciation month in April, Volunteers in Education (VinE) would like to give a warm thank you to our volunteer tutors who generously contribute their time, skills, and compassion to our students. Your dedication is the core of the VinE tutoring program, and your efforts truly make a valuable impact on our students' lives. Thank you for all that you do!

| | |
|---|---|
| North Woods School (Cook, MN) Marleen Zak Jared Bangs Catherine Farley Bailey Conger | Tower-Soudan Elementary (Tower, MN) Catherine Farley Dr. David Farley Karen Saarela Barb Levie Debbie Hoffman Marleen Zak Laura Niles |
| Babbitt Elementary School (Babbitt, MN) Jon Evridge Kathleen Graber | North Star Elementary School (Eveleth, MN) Barbara Bozicevich Christie Dixon |
| Mt. Iron-Buhl Schools (Mt. Iron, MN) Kendra Puig Becky Bachman | Laurentian Elementary School (Eveleth, MN) Melissa Pothén Mary Jacobsen Anita Skenzich Laurie Oates Roxanne Kelson Sue Harvey |
| Cherry School (Iron, MN) Lynn Hilde Lynne Hilde Aili Nelson Joseph Smith Lori Edstrom | |

VinE looks forward to continuing this important work as the 2023/24 school year winds down and plans are made for 2024/25. Please consider becoming a VinE board member, volunteering as a tutor, and/or providing financial support. Feel free to contact Teresa de Venecia or visit the VinE website if you are interested in supporting VinE in any of these ways.

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COUNTY SCHOOLS

Board approves raises for teachers, health staff

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- The St. Louis County School Board ratified labor contracts for teachers and health assistants at Tuesday's regular meeting, agreements that include wage increases as the district faces a difficult budget year for 2024-25.

Both groups had entered the current academic year under previous contract agreements as negotiators proceeded to craft new ones. The teachers' agreement is a two-year deal from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025, while the agreement for health assistants runs through June 30, 2026.

Under the district's agreement with Education Minnesota Local 1406, the minimum pay for a bachelor-degreed teacher with no additional credits will go from \$47,703 in 2022-23 to \$49,134 for

the current year, a three-percent increase. In the second year of the contract, 2024-25, that salary will rise again to \$50,608, another three percent increase.

Elementary school teachers assigned to teach two grades of students during a single class period will receive prorated compensation of up to \$2,250 per year based on the number of hours the assignment is for.

Activity director and coaching stipends will remain the same, with head coaches for football, basketball, volleyball, swimming, softball and baseball receiving \$5,438 and those for track, golf, cross-country, speech, First robotics, and one-act play receiving \$4,383. Pay for extra-curricular activity sponsors/advisors in most cases increased slightly, ranging from \$2,604 for pep band on the top end down to \$295 for color guard director.

Health assistants, repre-

sented by Teamsters General Local Union No. 346, will see a bump in their hourly wages from a minimum rate of \$16.47 in the prior two-year contract to \$19.88 for 2023-24. The nearly 20-percent increase reflects both the lack of any raise in 2022-23 and the need to be competitive against other potential employers in recruiting and retaining employees. The rate on the top end of the salary matrix, step five, is \$21.53. The base rate will increase by \$.20 per hour in 2024-25 and \$.30 per hour in 2025-26, an increase across the term of the contract of about two-and-a-half percent.

The board also approved the revised 2023-24 budget and projected 2024-25 budget as reviewed at length in an April 9 working session and reported in the April 12 edition of the *Timberjay*. Decreases in student enrollment have resulted in a

decrease in state aid flowing to the district, and while the board has already trimmed ten full-time teaching positions for next year, district finance director Kim Johnson projects that the anticipated shortfall will put the district into statutory operating debt, requiring the district to file a plan with the state Department of Education to remedy the deficit.

"We have a lot of work to do to try to figure out how we are going to, in the long run, eliminate our SOD problem and get back on track with limited enrollment and funding options," Johnson told the board at the working session.

In other business, the board:
► Received a brief report from Superintendent Reggie Engebretson.

► Heard a report on activities and programs at Northeast Range from Principal John Vukmanich.

► Received a \$7,352.89 gift from the North Woods PTO

presented by Emily Koch for an elementary field trip fund for the school.

► Approved a professional services contract with Range Mental Health for 2024-25.

► Approved a five-year clinical experience teaching affiliation agreement with the University of Minnesota.

► Hired Miranda King as a paraprofessional at NER.

► Hired Jennifer Burnett as assistant track coach at North Woods.

► Hired Ella Smith as a Little Grizzlies Student Helper at North Woods.

► Accepted the retirement of North Woods teacher and district Q Comp coordinator Kim Jirik.

► Accepted the resignation of North Woods van driver Alicia Bisbee.

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Federal lawsuit by "sovereign citizen" dismissed

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

SODAN- Breitung Township received some good news this past week on a couple different fronts. First, a federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit against Breitung Police Officer Jim Battin that had been filed last fall in the U.S. District Court in Minneapolis.

The lawsuit, filed by Jonathan-David Fuller, came after a run-of-the-mill traffic stop in Breitung Township, when Battin discovered that Fuller was driving with a suspended license.

Fuller is part of the sovereign citizen movement, a loosely-affiliated group of anti-government activists, litigants, tax protesters, financial scammers, and conspiracy theorists. Sovereign citizens have their own pseudo-legal belief system based on misinterpretations of common law and claim to not be subject to any government statutes unless they consent to them.

Breitung Police Chief Dan Reing said that Fuller did not protest when Battin issued him the ticket last fall, but Fuller filed the lawsuit on Oct. 11, 2023, and a summons was issued to Battin. Fuller paid a \$402 fee to file the case.

Fuller filed a "Global-Postal-Union-Treaty" notice against the township in U.S. District Court, and the suit went on to state the matter was a "Martial-Law-Neutral-Claim Suit."

The judgment dismissing the case said, "it is not clear how a treaty can also be a lawsuit," and added there was no obvious claim presented in the document or a specific request for relief.

United States District Judge John R. Tunheim ruled that the lawsuit was frivolous, noting the language, style, and accoutrements of the "Global-Postal-Union-Treaty" included Fuller's literal fingerprint on each page of the document, which are familiar hallmarks of the sovereign citizen movement.

"Courts show no hesitation in rejecting as frivolous arguments based on the theory of sovereign citizenship," the judgment noted, and said the federal court had no jurisdiction in the matter.

The township received notice that the lawsuit had been dismissed on Dec. 14, 2023. The Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance Trust covered the township's expenses in the suit. As far as Reing knew, the ticket had been paid. The case was dismissed without prejudice, which gave Fuller a 90-day window to refile his complaint. But the complaint was not refiled, so the township's attorney contacted the township on April 4 and said the litigation has been vacated.

Road funding

In other positive news, the township will be receiving \$544,000 from the state's Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) for the rerouting of the Thompson Farm Rd.

The project has an estimated total cost of \$633,000, including engineering, which is not eligible for LRIP funding.

The rerouting of the road will create an access for the new ATV campground in the state recreation area, as well as access to the Taconite Trail. The township will now work with MnDOT and St. Louis County, and township engineer John Jannick, who said bids on the project probably couldn't go out until the fall.

"We were hoping to get it done this year," said Chairman Tim Tomsich, who said this new road route will also connect to a road being built in the state park.

Tomsich said the township is seeking help with the engineering fee portion of the project from both the DNR and MnDOT. He said the project was one of 400 submitted to the LRIP program this year, and it was deemed one of the most important for funding.

Other township proj-

ects this year include the Stuntz Bay Rd. project, and work on infrastructure on Center St.

Police report

Breitung Police Chief Dan Reing said March had been a very busy month with 93 calls. The department conducted two investigations, one was assisting the BCA and resulted in a felony charge for a dishonored check. Reing asked that area residents be mindful of emergency vehicles with flashing lights, and be sure to pull over at the earliest, safest location.

Chickens

The township received a query from a resident who wants to build a chicken coop and was confused by the wording of the current township animal ordinance. The ordinance states that each residence is allowed up to three animals, and that four chickens is equivalent to one animal.

"I'm not worried about chickens," said Reing, since the department would

not be in charge of enforcement.

Tomsich said the township should update and clarify the ordinance and would revisit the issue at their May meeting.

Trails

The board opted to table a request from Aaron Kania to designate a portion of an existing trail by the McKinley Park gravel pit as non-motorized, so the township can get more information on the wider trails plan. There is a section of the motorized Prospector Trail that would take motorized traffic in the area. The trail Kania mentioned would be part of a hiking trail that would bring people to McKinley Park.

Tomsich said he didn't have any objection, but wanted to see how the request fits into the current trails planning that was done by Tower and Breitung, and the township and city's efforts to finish the loop trail between the two campgrounds.

FIRE...Continued from page 1

floor that had been installed a number of years ago is made of wood and could have generated a larger fire. In addition, the roof of the building is supported by very large and dry wooden timbers, which could catch fire as well, creating the potential for roof collapse.

But the prompt response by the Breitung, Tower, and Greenwood fire departments helped to keep the fire under control.

Park staff were using the engine and the hoist at the time of the fire, as they were replacing one of the immense metal cables that operate the century-old hoist.


Tuesday's fire was the second significant fire at the park in the past 13 years. Wood timbers near the bottom of the mine shaft caught fire in March 2011 and resulted in the suspension of underground mine tours until the following year. The underground tours were suspended eight years later due to the COVID pandemic and had not yet reopened as the park took the closure as an opportunity to make long-term improvements to the mine shaft itself.




Firefighters lift a ladder into place along the east wall of the engine house at the Soudan Mine. photo by M. Helmberger

The underground tours were scheduled to begin again next month, for the first time in several years, so the engine house fire initially raised concerns that those tours could once again be suspended. But the damage proved to be minimal and will not affect plans to begin underground tours again next month.

In addition to the three local fire departments, the Tower Area Ambulance Service responded to the scene for medical backup and subsequently transported the injured individual to the hospital.





Hospital Connection

DEA Medication Takeback Day

Q: What is the DEA National Rx Takeback Day?
A: The DEA National Rx Takeback Day, scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2024, is an initiative by the Drug Enforcement Agency that relies on the active participation of our community to collect and safely dispose of unused medications. According to the DEA website, 332 tons of unused medication were collected during their April 2023 Takeback Day. Too often, unused prescription drugs find their way into the wrong hands, resulting in dangerous and often tragic outcomes. By participating in this initiative, we can all play a part in preventing such incidents.


Q: Why should I dispose of unused medication?
A: Unused or expired prescription medications are a personal concern and a public safety issue. Proper disposal of unneeded drugs is a crucial step that saves lives, protects the environment, and enhances the health of our community. By preventing medication misuse, overdose, and addiction, your decision to dispose of your old, unused, or unneeded medications can make a significant difference in our community's safety and health.

Q: Locally, where can I safely dispose of unused medications?
A: Sites are available throughout the communities that EBCH serves. These sites are available for anonymous medication disposal; no questions will be asked.

- **Ely City Hall/Police Department:** 209 E Chapman St. Ely, MN 55731
- **Babbitt Police Department:** 71 South Drive Babbitt, MN 55706
- **Vermilion Pharmacy:** 1613 Farm Rd. S Tower, MN 55790

For more information, you can visit the DEA website at <https://www.dea.gov/takebackday>.

Hospital Connection is an ongoing feature of Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH). We are excited to share our most recent updates and information in a question-and-answer format featuring a new topic each week. We will share important information about healthcare at local, state, and national levels, along with exciting information about EBCH, our services, and how we are a partner in the communities we serve. You can also find more information about EBCH by visiting our website at www.ebch.org. Like our Facebook page to keep up with current events and announcements.



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SOFTBALL

Wolves split in week's softball action

Rout Deer River in home tilt on Tuesday, fall at Cherry as Tigers rally in the late innings

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY — The Wolves softball squad combined for 16 hits here on Tuesday as Ely routed the Warriors 15-1. “We jumped out to an early big lead scoring nine in the first,” said Ely Head Coach Cory Lassi. “We kept the pressure on them offensively, it was a nice way to bounce back after a couple of close losses last week.”

Zoe MacKenzie notched the win, allowing no earned runs while scattering five hits and striking out seven Deer River batters. “I thought we played great defense behind Zoe,” said Lassi.

Freshman Peyton Huntington had a huge day at the plate, going 3-4, including a triple, while scoring twice and driving in two runs. Fellow freshman Grace Flynn went 2-2, including a double, while notching three RBIs and scoring twice. Junior Clare Thomas went 2-3, scoring once and notching two RBIs, while fellow junior Maija Mattson went 2-2, with an RBI and two runs scored. Sophomore Ella Perish went 2-4 with two RBIs and a run scored.

The Wolves ran into trouble late in the game against Cherry last Thursday.

“We were leading most of the game, but had a bad fifth inning where we gave up six runs,” said Lassi. “We

Right: Ely hurler Zoe MacKenzie delivers a pitch during Tuesday's home game against Deer River.

photo by J. Greeney

fought back to take a three-run lead going into the seventh. We were up one when Cherry had runners on second and third with two outs. They came up with a clutch base hit to walk off with the win.”

Senior Hannah Penke had a strong offensive outing for Ely, going 3-4, including a triple, scoring three times and notching an RBI. Thomas

See **WOLVES**, pg. 2B



SOFTBALL

North Woods tops Chisholm

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

CHISHOLM- The North Woods softball team made the most of a road trip to Chisholm on Tuesday, downing the Bluestreaks 10-3.

Nevada Gauthier got the Grizzlies off to a fast start by drawing a walk in the first at-bat of the game and coming around to score on a single by River Cheney.

Gauthier was in the mix again in the second when the Grizzlies scored their second run. Evalyn Thiel reached base on a walk and scored when Gauthier connected and reached base on an error by the Chisholm first baseman.

The Grizzlies defense and pitcher Addison Burckhardt were solid through five innings of play, with three up, three down frames in the first and fifth innings. In the top of the fifth the Grizzlies extended their lead to 4-0 with Gauthier and Burckhardt crossing the plate, and that led into a wild sixth inning in which North Woods batted around the order and then some, scoring five runs on patience

See **GRIZZLIES**, pg. 2B

GIRLS GOLF

NER-Ely takes second, Grizzlies fourth at Virginia

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- The Northeast Range-Ely girls golf team scored a second-place finish among six teams competing in the Rock Ridge meet at Virginia Golf Course on Tuesday.

Leading the way was senior Abby Koivisto with a 10-over-par 45 in the nine-hole event, good enough for fifth place in the 25-player field. Junior Danica Sunblad shot 49, placing fifth, juniors Maizy Sunblad and Danica Sunblad carded identical 49s to tie for tenth, and junior Carena DeBeltz rounded out the team scoring with a 14th-place round of 53.

The team's score of 196 was 16 strokes back of winner Rock Ridge.

Meanwhile, the North Woods girls golf team shot their way to a fourth-

See **GOLF**, pg. 2B



BASEBALL

Late inning runs lift Ely over North Woods

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- Riding the arm of starter Owen Marolt, the Timberwolves notched a 5-1 come-from-behind victory over the Grizzlies on Tuesday at North Woods.

Both Marolt and Grizzlies' starter Louie Panichi had to work out of bases-loaded jams in the first inning.

After North Woods fielders retired the first two Ely batters on ground outs, Panichi loaded the bases with three consecutive walks, but the Wolves failed to capitalize as Elliot Levens popped out.

North Woods worked Marolt for a pair of walks around two strikeouts before Levi Chauklin got the game's first hit with a sharp liner to center for a single,

Above: Ely starter Owen Marolt went the distance against the Grizzlies on Tuesday, collecting eight strikeouts.

Right: Ely shortstop Caid Chittum prepares to throw out a North Woods runner.

photos by D. Colburn

loading the bases. Marolt got out of the jam moments later with a nifty pick move to first to catch Chauklin off base and end the scoring threat.

The Grizzlies took the lead in the bottom of the third after Carson Johnson reached base on an error by Ely shortstop Caid Chittum. Talen Jarshaw laid down a sacrifice bunt to move Johnson into scoring position, and Johnson came home on a sharply hit ball

See **BASEBALL**, pg. 2B



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Obituaries and Death Notices



Mary Lou Carlson

Mary Lou (Sundell) Carlson, age 88 of Duluth, passed away on April 13, 2024, at BeeHive Assisted Living in Duluth. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Memorial Service at Grace Lutheran Church, 5454 Miller Trunk Hwy., in Hermantown on Thursday, May 9. Pastors Christoph Schmidt, Roger Munson and Bill Fossom officiating. Burial in the Minnesota Veterans Cemetery-Duluth to follow. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the Alzheimer's Association, 4960 Miller Trunk Hwy. #700, Hermantown, MN, 55811 or the Worship and Music Committee at Grace Lutheran Church in Ely, 301 Conan Street, Ely, MN, 55731 would be appreciated. Arrangements are by Williams-Lobermeier-Boettcher Funeral Home.

Mary Lou was born in Ashland, Wis., on May 10, 1935, to August and Edith (Saari) Sundell. She was a graduate of Duluth Denfeld High School and married Robert "Bob" Carlson on July 6, 1957 in Duluth. Mary Lou began her working career at Western Electric in Duluth followed by many years in sales at Paper Capers, Engwall's Florist and Peterson/Anderson Florist.

Mary Lou was a member of the Duluth Chamber of Commerce

Ambassadors where she was awarded Ambassador of the Year. She also received the Outstanding Service Award from the City of Duluth and a Certificate of Commendation from Governor Rudy Perpich.

She was active with the Brownie and Girl Scout troops at Grant Elementary School where she received the Bronze Scout. Mary Lou was past president of the Y Wives.

Following their retirements, they built their home on Eagles Nest Lake 4 in the Ely area and spent many years in the Ely community. Mary Lou was a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Ely and Trinity Lutheran Church in Duluth.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Jim Sundell.

Mary Lou is survived by her husband, Bob; twin daughters, Deann (William) Munson of Duluth and Luann (Carl) Munson of Duluth; two grandchildren, Aunika and Jorgen Munson; a sister, Betty (Roger) McKeever of Hermantown and beloved extended family. Mary Lou's family would like to thank all the staff at BeeHive Assisted Living for the wonderful and loving care they provided, as well as Gentiva Hospice.

William J. Rutchasky

William Jeffrey "Willy" Rutchasky, 67, of Cook, passed away on Sunday, April 21, 2024. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 27 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service.

Daniel R. Malecha

Daniel Roman "Dan-

ny" Malecha, 52, of Myrtle Lake-Orr, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at the Cook Hospital with his wife Abi by his side. Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, April 26 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 27, with a visitation one hour prior to the service at the Calvary Lutheran Church in Orr. Lunch and fellowship will follow at Myrtle Lake Resort. All are welcome to celebrate the life of Danny; he would want that.

He is survived by his wife, Abi Stadler Malecha; daughters, Ashley (Steve) Francen and Serena (Jonathan) Malecha; son, Justin Malecha; father, Leonard Malecha; siblings, Mark (Julie) Malecha, Sandy McDonald, MaryLu (Terry) Basty and Sonia Malecha; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Larry R. Rosett

Larry Richard Rosett, 68, of Babbitt, died on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. Arrangements are pending with Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Aurora.

Bernadine J. Krtinich

Bernadine Joan "Bernie" Oja Krtinich, 88, longtime resident of Babbitt, passed away on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, surrounded by her family. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by

her sons, Danny (Connie) Krtinich and Steve Krtinich; grandchildren, Jeff Krtinich and Stacy Krtinich, Katie (Jordan) Richards and Joe (Charlisse Sartain) Krtinich; great-granddaughters, Evelyn Margot Krtinich and Ann Bernadine Richards; sister, Annette (Bob) Pozos; sisters-in-law, Mary Ann Elfering and Ginny Oja; and nieces and nephews.

Jeanette M. Kosorok

Jeanette May "Jean" Mikolich Kosorok, 87, of Ely, passed away on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, in her home surrounded by her daughters. A private family memorial will be held at a later date. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her daughters, Veronica (Jim) Bolte, Roxane Harri and BillieJo Edman (financé Bob Hendrickson); son-in-law, Terry Spieker; sisters, Fran Kendall and Tootsie (James) Moravitz; brothers, Donald (Caroline) Mikolich and Tom (Diane) Mikolich; grandchildren, Casey, Billy, Shane, Cody, Nick and Abbie; and great-grandchildren, Colton, Hadley, Reese, Sloan, Eileigh, Jace and Karsyn.

Delores J. Starkman

Delores Jean Voss Starkman, 77, of Ely, passed away on Friday, April 19, 2024, at Babbitt Carefree Living. Private services will be held and burial will be in White Iron Cemetery. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her husband, Gary; sons, Michael and Dan; grandchild-

ren, Dylan and Danica; da, Robin and Roy. and siblings, Patricia, Lin-

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| ORR CANISTER SITE 4038 Hwy 53 | SUMMER HOURS Tue: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Thu: 2 p.m.— 7 p.m. Sat: 8 a.m.—noon Sun: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. |
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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest service plans 7,000 acres of burning

Spring prescribed fire season largely weather-dependent

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— If you see or smell smoke in the North Country this spring, don't be surprised. Fire crews on the Superior National Forest fire have begun their spring prescribed fire season and, weather permitting, they hope to burn just over 7,000 acres over the next several weeks within the two million acres of the national forest located outside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

(prescribed burns in the BWCAW are planned separately).

Prescribed burning often has a narrow window of opportunity, as it is usually conducted in the spring and fall before green up and after green vegetation has died off, when vegetation is more combustible.

While the forest has prescribed fire plans developed to burn up 7,059 acres, burning all planned acres depends on many factors such as weather and vegetation conditions, fire staff availability, and other considerations. Early

spring drought has also reduced prescribed burning opportunities.

Why use prescribed burning?

Prescribed fires help reduce hazardous fuel build-up and the risk of intense wildfire. In addition, they improve and maintain forest health and wildlife habitat and eliminate invasive species. The meadow and forest ecosystems in northeastern Minnesota are fire-dependent and rely on periodic fires to stay

See **BURNING**, pg. 5B



LAKE VERMILION OUTLOOK

West end is suddenly hot

Latest DNR survey finds record walleye numbers in Vermilion's west basin

LAKE VERMILION— How things have changed on Lake Vermilion's west end. Not that many years ago, resort owners on the lake's western half were bemoaning low numbers of walleye, particularly fish smaller than the protective slot limit.

Those complaints aren't likely to be heard this year, at least based on the results of the DNR's fall fish survey, the results of which were released last week, averaged 22.1 walleye per net, the highest number of walleye ever recorded in the western basin. Those strong numbers helped keep the lake-wide average walleye catch rate at 16.7 fish

Above: If you're looking to put a smile on a young angler's face this season try the west end of Lake Vermilion.

Right: Lake Vermilion continues to have a protected slot limit of 20-26 inches.

photos by M. HelMBERGER

25th percentile historically for that basin.

As usual, the populations continue to be driven by recent moderate to strong year-classes in 2018 and 2021.

But a weak year class in 2022 appears to be responsible for the decline in total walleye numbers, particularly in the eastern basin. But that decline is unlikely to be noticeable to anglers this summer, as the prospects for angler success remain high.

"Overall, decent numbers of fish can be found from 13 to 20 inches, which is generally the size range anglers prefer to harvest," notes Hennen in his report. "Additionally, above average numbers of small fish from 10 to 13 inches were present in the population last fall. These fish will grow throughout the 2024 fishing season and provide ample catch



and harvest opportunities in 2024 and beyond. High numbers of fish 20 inches and larger will continue to provide memorable catch opportunities throughout the lake."

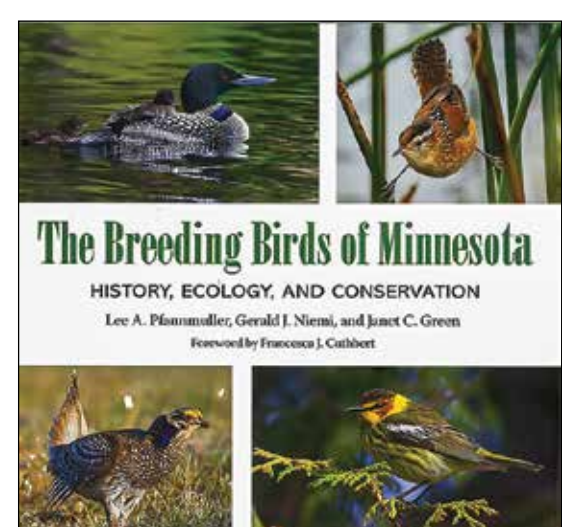
While the average walleye count on the eastern basin was relatively low for Vermilion, it was still exceptionally high for most lakes in Minnesota, reflecting the remarkably productive fishery that Lake Vermilion represents.

According to Hennen, Vermilion's walleye population is heavily dependent on the strength of individual year-classes, which have tended toward boom and

bust in recent years. The lake experienced strong year-classes in 2016 and 2018, while preliminary estimates point to 2021 as another strong year-class. By contrast, the 2017 and 2020 year-classes were weak, and 2022 appears to also be weak.

The outlook for the 2023 year-class, however, looks hopeful. As part of the DNR's annual survey on Lake Vermilion, fisheries staff conduct electrofishing to detect young fish too small to capture in nets and the results from that effort offer the first glimpse at the

See **SURVEY**, pg. 5B



NATURAL HISTORY

New book represents a major achievement

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— A monumental and authoritative new book is likely to be a must-have for every serious birder in the Upper Midwest. "Breeding Birds of Minnesota," published by the University of Minnesota Press, offers a truly jaw-dropping amount of information from three of Minnesota's premier birders on every bird species known to breed in Minnesota. The book includes maps, population graphs, outstanding photos, and detailed natural histories, including breeding habitat, population abundance, and conservation.

It's not light reading to be sure. The dense, large format, hardcover book is 685 pages, includes 1,145 color images, and weighs in at just under nine pounds. It is exhaustive and a truly substantial achievement in the study of birds in Minnesota, which will make it an indispensable resource for the serious birder or the novice looking to increase their knowledge about the remarkable assemblage of bird that breed in Minnesota.

The state's incredible diversity of birds is a reflection of Minnesota's unique location as the only state found at the convergence of four major biomes, including boreal forest, aspen parklands, eastern deciduous forests, and prairie.

The book is the first comprehensive and in-depth assessment of the state's breeding birds since T.S. Roberts published his foundational two-volume "Birds of Minnesota" in 1936.

This latest contri-

but ion highlights some of the critical issues facing bird populations and show that not all of the change in bird populations has been for the worse since Roberts published his original treatise. The book highlights the remarkable recovery of some bird species once seemingly consigned to extirpation in the state, including the American white pelican, the sandhill crane, and common raven, not to mention the trumpeter swan. Meanwhile, the book also reveals the dramatic declines in other species, such as black terns and eastern meadowlarks, over the past several decades.

The assessment of each bird species' current status is drawn from the results of hundreds of individual reports from observers over the course of five breeding seasons that formed the basis for the online Minnesota breeding bird atlas.

The book's three authors include Lee Pfannmuller, who served as state planning coordinator and interim executive director at Audubon Minnesota and also as director of the Division of Ecological Resources at the DNR. Gerald Niemi is a retired professor of biology, based at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Janet Green has been observing and studying the state's birds since the 1960s and has been active with the National Audubon Society and the Minnesota Ornithologists Union. She has co-authored many Minnesota bird books and is co-founder of the Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory.



MARSHALL
HELMBERGER

BURNING...Continued from page 4B —

healthy. Prescribed fire also is culturally significant to indigenous people of this area.

Planning for fire

Prescribed fire plans are proposed and approved through environmental analysis, often in conjunction with timber harvest operations and environmental review documents are available on the Superior National Forest's website's projects page, found at www.fs.usda.gov/projects/superior/landmanagement/projects.

Burn plans for each unit define critical safety factors, weather conditions, air quality standards, personnel availability and environmental regulations that must be met. These are continually monitored before the burn proceeds to determine feasibility of moving forward with the prescribed burn, during and after the burn.

"We were able to do a select few prescribed burns for oak blueberry habitat improvement last month, and now are waiting until conditions improve to do the meadow burns and other burn treatments such as under-burning and broadcast burning. Under-burning is low-intensity and targets the forest floor vegetation like brush and small trees. Broadcast burning is a more moderate burning technique applying fire to specific areas to meet desired conditions for forest health objectives. We'd like to use all these options for prescribed burning for specific units to reduce excess fuel build-up," said Nick Petrack, the Superior and Chippewa national forests' fire management officer.

Types of prescribed fire projects include:

➤ Under-burning is a low intensity fire that

burns beneath the canopy of live trees. The understory materials that would be consumed include small down, dead, woody material and live forbs, shrubs and seedlings. Some live mature trees may be burned, but the intent is to maintain the forest canopy.

➤ Broadcast burning is a prescribed burning activity where fire is applied generally to most or all of an area within well-defined boundaries for reduction of fuel hazard, as a resource management treatment; or both burn intensity varies throughout the treatment unit depending on vegetation, fuels, and topography. These burns create a new stand at the young age class. However, unburned areas or lightly burned areas within the unit may be common.

➤ Site preparation burn is a broadcast burn applied across a harvest unit. Harvest slash is consumed to reduce fuel hazards to acceptable levels, while duff and brush competition is reduced to acceptable levels to promote successful regeneration.

➤ Pile burns are burn piles of operator slash after harvest or piles as a result of hand piling.

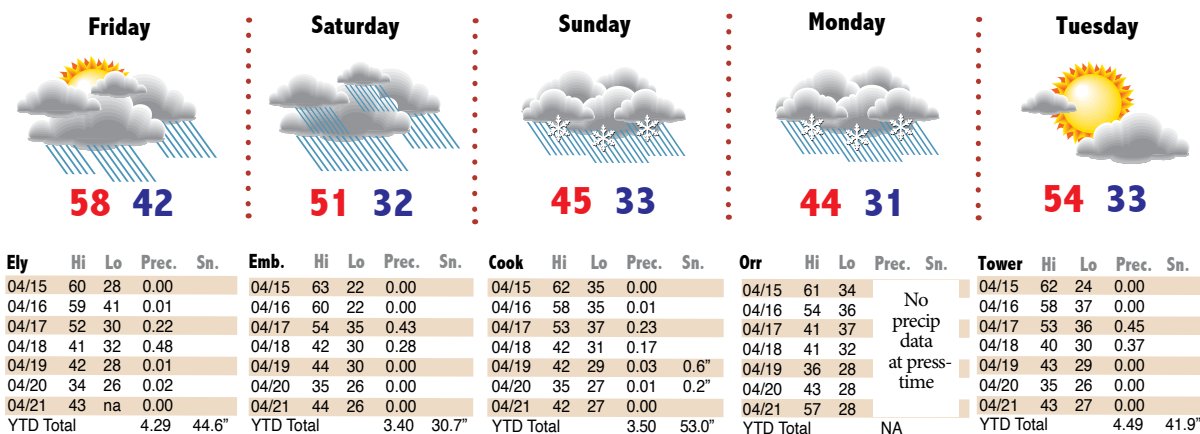
➤ Mosaic burns are done where burn intensity varies throughout the treatment unit depending on vegetation, fuels, and topography, creating a mosaic pattern in the unit.

During active burning, smoke and flames may be visible from roads and areas near the burn unit. Smoke may settle in low areas in the evening hours.

Affected individuals will be notified of prescribed fires that are conducted on national forest system lands in their vicinity the day of the burn.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



SURVEY...Continued from page 4B —

strength of that year's reproduction. According to the report, the electrofishing tallied 118.3 fish per hour, which was on track with the long-term average, suggesting that 2023 will, at least, be a moderate year-class. The fish samples averaged 5.6 inches in length, which was slightly above normal. That can bode well for the percentage of young walleye that survive the winter.

Yellow perch

Anglers on Vermilion should find plenty of perch this year as well, including many large enough to harvest. "The 2023 lakewide gill net catch rate of 30.0 fish per net was slightly above average compared to previous surveys," noted Hennen's report. "The average size of those fish was fairly large with notable numbers over 10 inches and even some fish over 12 inches."

As with walleye, the perch results showed differences between the lake's two basins. The western basin's catch rate of 38.5 fish per net was impressive, but more of those perch were small— more a nuisance than a harvest prospect. On the east end, the perch numbers were lower at 24.3 fish per net, but many more larger perch were found there. And even though the numbers were lower on the east end, the results still showed perch numbers above the long-term average for the basin.

Northern pike

The northern pike population in Vermilion continues to show a declining trend and in the 2023

survey, the DNR caught just 12 northern, or an average of 0.6 fish per net, ranging in size from 25 to 39 inches. The decline in overall pike numbers coincides with a shift in the population toward larger fish due in part to the protective slot limit, which has been in place since 2003.

Panfish

The DNR conducted spring trap netting of both crappies and bluegills in 2023 and found sufficient numbers to justify targeting these species, even though Vermilion tends to hold fewer panfish than many other Minnesota lakes. The trap netting found higher numbers of both species on the lake's west end. The survey found an average crappie size of 10 inches, with multiple fish over 13 inches sampled from both basins. Anglers looking for bluegills would do best focusing on the lake's west end. Bluegills captured averaged six inches in length, with fish over nine inches found on both ends of the lake.

Muskie

The DNR did not conduct an assessment of the lake's muskie population in 2023. The muskie population was established via a stocking program that began in the late 1980s with the goal of providing a low-density, high-quality fishery. During the most recent targeted assessment conducted in 2019, muskies averaged 44.7 inches with over 40 percent of fish measuring 45 inches or larger. Additionally, about 11 percent of the fish sampled

were 50 inches or larger. Assessment options for obtaining adult population estimates along with evaluating recent stocking strategies and natural reproduction are being considered for the future.

Fisheries management

As one of the state's largest lakes and a popular fishery, the DNR conducts fish surveys annually as part of the agency's management efforts. In addition to fish surveys, the DNR conducts regular creel surveys, water quality monitoring on Vermilion along with fish contaminant and disease inspections, zooplankton surveys, and aquatic invasive species surveillance.

The DNR is reminding anglers that special regulations exist for walleyes where all fish from 20 to 26 inches must be immediately released. There is a possession limit of four walleyes with only one fish over 26 inches allowed. Anglers are also reminded that since 2019, northern pike have been managed under the Northeast Zone regulations requiring immediate release of all angled fish between 30 and 40 inches with only one over 40 inches allowed in a two fish possession limit. Separate regulations exist for dark house spearing which allows spearkers to have two pike in possession but only one may be over 26 inches. All other fish species are managed under current statewide fishing regulations.

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- Immunizations
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NOTICE
CITY of TOWER

The City of Tower will be
FLUSHING HYDRANTS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1
Starting at 10 AM

Residents should expect discolored water.

For the safety of our customers, beginning Monday, June 3, 2024, we will require an ID when picking up certain controlled medications. Contact the pharmacy if you have any questions about your prescription pickup.

MAY IS EYE HEALTH MONTH

- Foster & Thrive Eye Health with Lutein and Antioxidants 60 Tablets: **\$6.99 Sale**
- PreserVision Lutein 50 Soft Gels: **\$17.99 Sale**
- PreserVision AREDS 2 Chewables 60 Chewable Tablets: **\$23.99 Sale**
- PreserVision Aread 2 90 Mini Soft Gels: **\$27.99 Sale**
- Ocuvite Adult 50+ Lutein Zeaxanthin Omega 3 50 Mini Soft Gels: **\$14.99 Sale**

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READ THE TIMBERJAY!

EMPLOYMENT



HUMAN RESOURCES GENERALIST
Human Resources Technician 2
Permanent, Full-Time

The Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation is seeking to fill the permanent, full-time (1.0 FTE) position of Human Resources Generalist (Human Resources Technician 2).

This position provides professional level Human Resources work for the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation. Areas of responsibility include: Serving as the agency HRIS transaction specialist; Serving as the Workers Compensation Coordinator/ Claims Manager and Safety Officer; Assisting in recruitment, selection and affirmative action efforts; Assisting in handling employee inquiries regarding labor relations issues and insurance benefits as well as HR policy inquiries; Maintaining personnel files and records and HR forms and policies; Coordinating drug and alcohol testing; and Providing support to agency HR and Operations functions. This position will deal with confidential documents as defined by M.S. 13.37.

This position is located in Eveleth, MN with the eligibility for a mixture of in office and telework. Occasional travel to events is required.

Learn more and apply online at
mn.gov/careers
Job ID: 75561

Application deadline: April 29, 2024

GREAT BENEFITS PACKAGE! Full time positions are eligible for low cost medical and dental insurance, employer paid life insurance, short-term and long-term disability, pre-tax flexible spending accounts, retirement plan, tax-deferred compensation, sick leave, paid personal days.

AA/EOE, Veteran Friendly
published in the Timberjay, April 26, 2024

CABIN CLEANERS
 Pike Bay Lodge on Lake Vermilion is hiring cabin cleaners. Weekends+, competitive wages. Call or email Jay at 218-753-2430 or info@pikebaylodge.com. 4/26c



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Looking for Summer Kitchen Staff
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\$28.17 - \$34.22 Hourly
Apply by 05/08/2024

Planner/Planner Senior (2) (Virginia or Duluth)
\$28.17 - \$38.28 Hourly
Apply by 05/08/2024

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

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 426

PUBLIC NOTICE

FIELD TOWNSHIP

The Field Township Board will conduct a cemetery review of the Field Township cemetery on May 14, 2024 at 5 pm..The road review will follow with the regular board meeting reconvening at the Field Town Hall after the reviews are completed.

Pat Chapman/Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 26, 2024

EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP
Notice: Important Information Regarding Assessment and Classification of Property
This may affect your 2025 property tax payments.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Township of Eagles Nest shall meet on May 11, 2024, Starting at 10 AM, at Eagles Nest Town Hall 1552 Bear Head State Park Road, Ely, MN 55731.

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made. If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed.

Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to your county board of appeal and equalization. Contact St. Louis County Assessor at (218)365-8236.

Published in the Timberjay, April 26, 2024

MORCOM TOWNSHIP
Important Information Regarding Assessment and Classification of Property
This may affect your 2025 property tax payments.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Township of Morcom shall meet on Wednesday, May 1, starting at 5:00 p.m., at the Bear River School/Community Center, 12512 Hwy 22, Cook, MN 55723.

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made. If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to your county board of appeal and equalization.

You must submit a letter in writing to the clerk, Sasha Lehto, morcomtownshipmn@gmail.com, or call Sasha Lehto, Clerk, at 218-969-5812.

Published in the Timberjay, April 26, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEIDING TOWNSHIP

The Leiding Town Board will conduct their annual road inspection on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, starting at 4 p.m.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 26, 2024

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
Certificate of Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

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

ASSUMED NAME: Dahl's Sawmill and Lumber
 PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 6930 HIGHWAY 169 VIRGINIA MN 55792 USA
 APPLICANT(S):
 Name/Address: Jesse C. Dahl, 6930 HIGHWAY 169, VIRGINIA, MN, 55792 USA
 By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.
 DATED: April 12, 2024
 SIGNED BY: Jesse Dahl

Published in the Timberjay, April 26 & May 3, 2024

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION
 Court File No. 69VI-PR-24-59

Notice and Order of Hearing on Petition for Summary Assignment or Distribution and For Formal Probate of Will Exempt Estate Notice to Creditors—Non-Exempt Estate

Estate of Charles Michael Johnson, Decedent

Notice is given that a petition has been filed requesting that the Estate assets be summarily assigned.

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and if no objections or claims are filed or raised, the Court may issue a decree distributing or assigning the Estate's assets.

It is Ordered and Notice is now given that the Petition will be heard on May 20, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. by this Court at

Virginia, Minnesota. * This hearing will be held remotely via Zoom Technology.

Notice is further given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

BY THE COURT
 Andrew R. Peterson
 Judge of District Court

Jennifer Miller
 Court Administrator
 Chelsea Opdahl, Deputy

Attorney for Petitioner
 Angela E. Sipila
 Sipila Law Office, LLC
 412 1st St. S.
 Virginia, MN, 55792
 Attorney License No: 024501x
 Telephone: (218) 741-5000
 FAX: (218) 741-5000
 Email: ange@sipilaw.com

Published in the Timberjay, April 26 & May 3, 2024

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Notice to Bidders: **Qualified** bidders may submit bids for the project at the historically designated **Tower Fire Hall for Interior Rehabilitation**. Work for this project includes: new HVAC system, new electrical service and fixtures, interior rehabilitation, new bathrooms, and a new entrance system on the south elevation.

The building is located at **504 Main Street, Tower, MN 55790**.

Owner will receive lump sum bids until 2:00 pm local time on **May 28, 2024**.

A **MANDATORY** pre-bid meeting for all bidders will be held at 2:00 p.m. local time on **Thursday May 9, 2024**. Prime bidders who plan to submit bids must attend this mandatory meeting.

A full description of the project, including procurement and Contracting Documents, can be obtained after March 30, 2024, by contacting the **Architect**, Todd Grover at MacDonald & Mack Architects at toddg@mm-architects.com. Documents will be emailed to prime bidders. No deposit required.

Published in the Timberjay, April 26, 2024

OPENINGS

Vermilion Country School (VCS) is seeking applicants for the following positions:

Vermilion Country is a project based learning school seeking to expand our staffing. We are adding new positions! Also interviewing for positions for the 2024/25 school year for other licensed teaching positions. Currently open for interview on a rolling basis - call 218-248-2485 or email info@vermilioncountry.org for more information:

Licensed Teaching positions grades 7-12 (B.A. or teaching license required):

- Special Education Teacher (licensed)
- Literature/Language Arts and/or Social Studies (licensed)
- Science and/or Math Interdisciplinary Teacher (licensed)
- Social Worker (skills and students services focus on individual and small group skills work. LSW, LGSW, LICSW, Licensed School Social Worker, or alternative certification considered LADC etc.)

Student Support and Community positions (no education license required) Benefits Eligible

- Special Education Assistant /para(Special Education) (Hourly \$17.50 - 24.50/HR +)
- Student Success Counselor (\$40,000 annual salary)
- Student Success Program Specialist, (hourly \$24-\$30/hr+ DOE)

Part Time:

- Transportation Driver (Van) 5-20 hours per week. Hourly rate DOE
- Transportation Driver (Class C School Bus) 5-20 hours per week. Hourly rate DOE

For inquiries, contact
info@vermilioncountry.org and/or 218-248-2485

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 "House" actor Omar
 5 Nick and Nora's dog
 9 Mountain pass
 12 Mend socks
 13 " - to differ!"
 14 Flamenco cheer
 15 Marmaduke, for one
 17 Allow
 18 Realm
 19 Protuberances
 21 French article
 22 Filled fully
 24 Gear teeth
 27 Understood
 28 Hoodwink
 31 Scary cry
 32 Flying saucer
 33 Perch
 34 Attempt
 36 Knock
 37 School support orgs.
 38 Object (to)
 40 Battery size
 41 Ibsen's Gabler
 43 Golfer Sorenstam
 47 Land in la mer
 48 Bruce Springsteen hit
 51 JFK regulator
 52 "Her" actress Rooney

DOWN

1 Rim
 2 Italian cheese, for short
 3 Ready, as for surgery
 4 Slowpokes
 5 Staffer
 6 Govt. loan agcy.
 7 Toe count
 8 Representative

53 Taj Mahal site
 54 Unwell
 55 Melville mariner
 56 Detergent

9 Pricey powder
 10 Sheltered
 11 Favorites
 16 Three, in Rome
 20 British ref. work
 22 To date
 23 Perched on
 24 "NCIS" ailer
 25 Sound of delight
 26 Bargain
 27 Mentor
 29 Zadora of "Hairspray"
 30 Roswell visitors

35 Slugger Williams
 37 Bamboo eaters
 39 Molten rock
 40 Some
 41 LP player
 42 Israeli airline
 43 Basra resident
 44 Shakespeare villain
 45 Actress Sedgwick
 46 Pronto
 49 - -di-dah
 50 Mouths (Lat.)

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

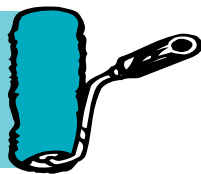
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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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: P equals W

QNQDOVC PXM CXGXCXRKX
PNCZ GYOXF PYLT VGLYKOW
VMNDL LTX PNCOF'W SVCYNDW
XSYOW: PYKZXF-QXFYV.

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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.

SIMOKBIM SEM CXML RXB
IMNMYLM OAXLM OCC. YS
QYCC KBILYLM CXGV
OHSMI RXBI VXXU EMOOSE
EOK LOGYKEMU.
— XV TOGUYGX

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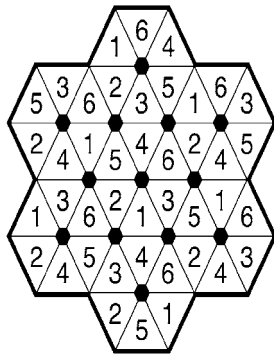
Super Crossword

Answers

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

SNOWFLAKES

solution



Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

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

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Ice cream portion | ___ C ___ | One-mast sailboat | ___ L ___ |
| 2. Beginning | ___ S ___ | Electrical plug | ___ L ___ |
| 3. Park chair | ___ E ___ | Group of grapes | ___ U ___ |
| 4. Talking bird | P ___ | Treat for Bugs Bunny | C ___ |
| 5. Paired with gin | ___ N ___ | Subject | ___ P ___ |
| 6. Eat voraciously | ___ R ___ | Pious | ___ T ___ |
| 7. Bracelet location | ___ R ___ | Old card game | ___ H ___ |
| 8. Beautiful | ___ V ___ | Secluded | ___ N ___ |
| 9. Stockholm native | ___ W ___ | Velvety leather | ___ U ___ |
| 10. Dirty look | ___ R ___ | Open space | ___ D ___ |

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