



Inside:

Bois Forte candidate forum... See /3

Helium is flowing in Babbitt... See /10

New exhibit at Int'l Wof Center... See /2B

Summer Visitors Guide...inside

The **TIMBERJAY**



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\$1⁵⁰

THE LEGISLATURE

Hauschild amendment boosts funds for area EMS

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Ambulance services in greater Minnesota will see significant financial assistance beginning later this year as a result of final passage of an amendment authored by Sen. Grant Hauschild, DFL-Hermantown.

Hauschild's amendment, which provides \$24 million in supplemental aid, was part of a broader package of changes to the state's emergency medical system approved by the Legislature. "Our EMS network



Sen. Hauschild

is facing a dire financial situation throughout the state, threatening the ability of Minnesotans to get the urgent care they need," said Hauschild. "This emergency aid is urgently needed to provide an immediate lifeline that will help stabilize EMS and ensure people in communities like the ones I represent and throughout Minnesota continue

Right: The Ely ambulance service is slated to receive almost \$265,000 in one-time money to help cover an operational funding gap. Other area services are scheduled to receive the new revenue as well. See details on page 9

file photo

to get the care they need."

While the \$24 million is substantially less than the \$120 million Hauschild had originally proposed, he noted that the original funding proposal included money for ambu-

See...**FUNDING** pg. 9



SPRING ELEMENTARY CONCERTS

Youthful VOICES

Above: Harper Olsen, Karmina Chosa, and Raven Rettke sing loud and proud during the Tower-Soudan Elementary spring concert.

Right: North Woods Elementary students Luke Cheney, Jordan Herdman, Reese Whitney, Brayden Amundson, Weston Quam, and Gunner Fultz show plenty of expression as they perform a tropical-themed piece for a standing room only crowd at last Friday's vocal and instrumental music concert.



WINDFALL

Tower, Ely to receive millions in new tax law

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL-While the Minnesota Legislature failed to pass a capital improvements bonding bill this session, many important Iron Range projects will still move forward thanks to the efforts of two area lawmakers who secured an \$80 million funding package through the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation in this year's tax bill.

Rep. Dave Lislegard, DFL-Aurora, and Sen. Grant Hauschild, DFL-Hermantown, each proposed measures in their respective chambers to leverage future taconite production tax revenues to pay off the \$80 million worth of bonds to be issued for specified community projects and groups, many of which that had struggled to come up with the necessary funds to proceed. Rep. Roger Skraba, R-Ely, supported the effort by signing on as a co-author of Lislegard's bill.

"What we've seen with the

See...**WINDFALL** pg. 9

See related **OPINION**

Lawmakers deliver for the region **pg. 4**

BWCAW

Search ongoing for missing canoeists

Four people in two canoes go over Curtain Falls

by **CATIE CLARK**
Ely Editor

REGIONAL— A search was continuing as of this week's *Timberjay* press time for two men who went missing when their canoe went over Curtain Falls on the U.S.-Canadian border last Saturday evening. The two men were part of

a party of four in two canoes, both of which went over the high-volume cataract that spills out from Crooked Lake on the east into Iron Lake on the west.

Reis Grams, age 40, of Lino Lakes, and Jesse Haugen, age 41, of Cambridge, remain missing and are presumed dead in the wake of the incident. Meanwhile, Kyle Sellers,

age 47, of Ham Lake, was airlifted with serious but non-life-threatening injuries, to Essentia Medical Center in Duluth. A fourth individual, Erik Grams, largely escaped injury in the incident. A fifth member of the party, Jared Lohse, age 33, was not in either of the canoes that went over

See...**SEARCH** pg. 9



Curtain Falls in the Boundary Waters was the site of a two-canoe, four-paddler accident on Saturday evening that left one seriously injured and two missing.

photo by B. Hartley



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Community notices

Quilter Bonnie Lundorff featured guest at June 6 quilt show in Tower



TOWER - Vermilion Dream Quilters is pleased to share a trunk show and presentation by Bonnie Lundorff of Willow Wood Market Designs of Bemidji on Thursday, June 6, at 6:30 p.m. in St. Martin's Catholic Church Social Hall located at 108 N 2nd St. Attendees

should enter through the lower-level doorway, under the portico.

Bonnie's passion has been working with fiber, quilting and stitching - including needle felting, wool applique, stitcheries, rug hooking, and/or traditional pieced projects for more than 30 years.

Bonnie says working with her hands calms her mind and brings her to a less complicated time. When she creates, she sees the hands of her mother, aunts and grandmother. The connection is strong to these hard-working Scandinavian farm women who lovingly made useful and practical clothing, rugs and quilts as well as beautiful and intricate hand-drawn and crocheted pieces, all by using simple tools and materials. Her designs are her tribute to honor these amazing women. She now teaches and presents trunk shows of her designs at her shop and at fiber related events all over the upper Midwest.

Embarrass Memorial Day service

EMBARRASS- Embarrass will hold their annual Memorial Day service on Monday, May 27 at 9 a.m. at the Embarrass Cemetery. Coffee and refreshments will follow at the Embarrass Town Hall.

People's Music: Songs of the IWW on June 6 at Minnesota Discovery Center



CHISHOLM - Folk/punk musician and storyteller Shannon Murray, hailing from the north woods of Minnesota, is set to ignite the stage at the Minnesota Discovery Center on June 6 at 6 p.m. with their captivating presentation of "People's Music: Songs of the IWW." Inspired by the revolutionary spirit of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), Murray's performance promises an unforgettable blend of music, storytelling, and social justice history.

The IWW labor union, affectionately known as the "Wobblies," uses music as one of their most persuasive organizing tools in the fight for justice. Tom Morello writes of the IWW's music, "The IWW literally wrote the book on protest music. These songs, some written many decades ago, address the same issues facing us today: poverty, police brutality, immigrant rights, economic and racial inequality, militarism, threats to civil liberties, union busting." From Minnesota's own labor history to the startling revelation of Wobblies in their own family tree, Murray's presentation is a testament to the enduring relevance of the Wobbly legacy connecting past and present-day struggles through song.

Shannon Murray is a fiscal year 2023 recipient of a Creative Support for Individuals grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Babbitt Golf Assn. awards scholarships

BABBITT- The Babbitt Golf Assn. has awarded \$12,500 in scholarships to five graduating seniors from Northeast Range High School. Each scholarship is for \$2,500. The scholarships were awarded to Ruby Milton, Matthew Bock, Wesley Sandy, Hailey Lindquist, and Natalie Backe. The scholarship money is raised through an annual tournament held on Labor Day weekend. This is the 26th year the golf association has awarded scholarships; to date, they have awarded a total of \$223,000 to 131 graduates.

FUNDRAISER

Anchors of Hope fundraiser run benefited area families



TOWER- The 6th Annual Anchors of Hope fundraiser 5K run was held on May 18 in Embarrass. Anchors of Hope is an area volunteer group that raises funds to assist families struggling with cancer. This year's run raised money for two families, the Lawrence Klingsheim family of Babbitt and the Paula Barnes family of Tower. Both have been diagnosed with stage four cancer. Both had many family members and friends participate. Klingsheim is an associate pastor at the Embarrass Evangelical Free Church. Barnes is a retired nurse and medical technician, who is also a long-time volunteer and coach for the Tower-Soudan School. Almost 100 runners and walkers participated in the event. The location of the race changes year to year depending on



Above: Paula (Trucano) Barnes is pictured with her two daughters, husband, sister, grandchildren and other family who came to support her during the event. photo by J. Summit
Above left: Barnes with Lawrence Klingsheim. submitted photo

the families involved. For more information, contact Carol Haasl at 218-750-7175.

PUBLIC SAFETY

AAUW and EMPOWER team up to address human trafficking

ELY - The American Association of University Women (AAUW), Ely Branch, in collaboration with Ely EMPOWER has embarked on a project to raise awareness of the human trafficking issue and its impact on our families and friends. The state of Minnesota requires all lodging employees to receive training to identify and report potential human trafficking victims. This project is designed to make our community more aware of the issue, increase protection and safety in our community, and provide additional resources to area businesses. Providing this resource is critical to ensure any victim who lives or visits here is aware of the help.

Mary Setterholm, AAUW public policy chairperson, said "One of the first projects will be to distribute posters to key businesses with public restrooms that trafficked individuals may utilize. These posters briefly define trafficking and

offer access to help for those who seek it." Any business that is not contacted about the poster but that feels it has a location to display one, should contact the Ely Chamber of Commerce. AAUW will work with the Chamber to assure additional posters are available.

Following and expanding these efforts, AAUW is partnering with NLAA and the Ely Folk School to sponsor a poetry reading by Elizabeth Gade at the Folk School on June 12, at 5:30 p.m., where she will introduce her new book, "Shame Wrangler." Elizabeth Gade is a Minnesota-based bisexual poet and human trafficking survivor. Writing is her radical way to connect with fellow survivors. This is Gade's second book of poetry focused on issues faced by victims of human trafficking.

Human trafficking is defined as the sale of a person for the purpose of sexual acts or forced labor.

It trails only drug trafficking in the size and scope of this criminal enterprise. There are more than 20.9 million victims globally and the average age a victim is first sold is 12 years of age. A 2015 FBI study found that of all the states, Minnesota had the third highest number of human trafficking cases. Setterholm said, "We see these same posters across the country. In an area such as ours with a large tourist population and a lot of remote land, providing this resource is critical."

The AAUW Ely branch Public Policy Committee supports a strategy of advancing gender equity for all women and girls in the areas of research, education and advocacy. The committee strives to engage public participation in the effort to ensure individual rights and serve the needs of the community.

HONORING HISTORY

Sponsors still needed as Iron Range prepares to celebrate 4th Annual Juneteenth Festival on Wednesday, June 19

VIRGINIA - Voices of Ethnic and Multicultural Awareness (VEMA) will hold the 2024 celebration on historic Chestnut Street, Wednesday, June 19 from 11a.m.-3 p.m.

"The idea of holding and growing this festival each year is to host and introduce the event in a new range city each year until we can hold it at one central space," said VEMA co-founders Nathaniel Coward and Seraphia Aguallo-Gravelle.

VEMA has been actively growing awareness for Juneteenth, Freedom Day here on the Iron



VEMA co-founders Nathaniel Coward and Seraphia Aguallo-Gravelle.

Range. This year Coward is asking to involve even more of the community's input for planning and celebration.

This year, the city of Virginia has approved of the closure of the 500 block on Chestnut Street, Virginia's historical strip

of local shops and eateries. With the hosting support of The Lyric Center for Arts, VEMA will bring the festivities to the "Remembering Marty" Pocket Park with performances by Eli Little and more. The block will be filled with food and family-friendly activities, specifically highlighting a "create your own kite station," which pays honor to the very first Juneteenth celebration. The goal is to have 159 kites in the sky to commemorate each year that has passed since The Emancipation Proclamation finally hit the confederate states, making ALL slaves free on June 19, 1865. It would take two years after Lincoln's executive decree in 1863 to reach those in the furthest western Texas areas.

Sponsorships are still needed in an effort to provide fantastic activities such as the all-day water battle, musical chairs, chalk art, cornhole and chess tournaments, bounce houses and more. Please reach out to info@vemamn.org to become a sponsor by June 1 or to address any further questions. Learn more about VEMA and the amazing work the organization does at VEMAMN.ORG.

Article and photos submitted by Lindsey Audrey, friend and representative of the event



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BOIS FORTE

Tribal election set for Tuesday, June 11

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor



Cathy Chavers Hannah Lehti-Chosa Perry Drift Edward Villebrun

ORR- The candidates for Bois Forte tribal chair and District One tribal council representative came together on Saturday at the Orr Community Center to discuss with band members what they hope to accomplish should they win in the June 11 tribal general election.

The format was less a debate and more an information forum for candidates to share their plans and visions for governance, as the candidates answered questions posed by moderator Jaylen Strong without directly responding to each other.

Incumbent tribal chair Cathy Chavers and challenger Hannah Lehti-Chosa joined District One hopefuls Edward Villebrun and Perry Drift for the event which was conducted in front of a small crowd and a larger audience listening in to the KBFT 88.9 FM radio broadcast.

As a two-term incumbent, Chavers had the advantage of political experience when formulating her responses to Strong's questions, while the other candidates relied on their experiences with the band's businesses, services, past practices, knowledge of broader issues, and feedback from interactions with potential constituents. Candidates were given three minutes to respond to questions, with the forum lasting almost two hours.

Lehti-Chosa was the first to respond to a question about candidates' backgrounds for tribal leadership. She noted her experience as Director of Marketing at Fortune Bay Resort Casino, having steadily moved up the ranks through positions with increasing responsibilities.

"I've been working at Fortune Bay since I was 16, almost 20 years," she said.

Lehti-Chosa noted that she has a bachelor's degree in marketing and business management and has worked with the tribe in several different areas, including work with ISD 2142 and the Rock Ridge High School Indian Education program.

Chavers said that she has been working for the Band for over 40 years, starting at the Nett Lake post office in the mid-

1970s. Along with experience in education, Chavers worked in health care for the tribe for about 30 years, she said.

"I've been involved in many of the departments on the reservation for many, many years in various capacities - budgeting, administrative supervision, meeting with outside agencies and going about and doing those types of things for tribal government and for the departments."

Chavers, who also serves as the president of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, mentioned her experience working with local, state, and national committees on matters of importance to the Band. She noted, as well, that she is an elder, and while not possessing a college degree, she said she has learned a lot through the years that would benefit the Band through another term as chair.

Drift said he had worked for the Band for two years, and before that took college courses in Bemidji in insurance, business, macro- and microeconomics, and language before stepping away to provide for five children he cares for.

"But the more specialized knowledge I have that I feel can benefit the tribe is my affinity and yearning for creating language tools for small children that can help get our language back," Drift said. "Language and culture is what I breathe. I also love business, I love numbers and statistics, I love knowledge in general."

Villebrun, a past candidate for tribal council, has also served on the general election board. He noted his experience working with the school board, as a member of the conservation committee, and said he's worked for the Band for most of his life.

When asked what each candidate planned to do for off-reservation band members, Villebrun said his priorities were addressing housing and home-

lessness and providing more services to children. He said the band should reserve money to help.

"I've heard that we don't help off-reservation kids very much," he said. "I want to look into that and try to help the kids out there."

Drift also honed in on the issue of homelessness as a long-standing issue, while acknowledging that the financial costs of addressing the issue "would be kind of tremendous." He said the band needed to be innovative and seize business opportunities that could benefit off-reservation members, while at the same time "not changing who we are." Spiritual and cultural identity were themes Drift repeatedly came back to throughout the forum.

Chavers said she would like to expand the Band's urban offices and also mentioned diversifying the band's businesses as a way to fund more services for off-reservation members. She also said she'd like to have program directors go to the urban offices monthly to offer resources and provide services. She talked about providing for elders and using telecommunications technology to give off-reservation members more opportunities to participate in various Band committees.

"But you know, it all boils down to money," she said.

Lehti-Chosa emphasized partnering with the state and pursuing grants to create off-reservation housing options, in addition to diversifying tribal businesses. She stated a need for improved communication overall, noting that often communication is lacking between the Vermilion and Nett Lake sectors, let alone to off-reservation members.

"It we're not hearing it on the Vermilion side, I can only imagine how bad it is for off-reservation members," she said.

Better communication

would allow greater participation by off-reservation members in tribal programs, she said.

Strong asked the candidates to get more specific about their plans for economic development.

Chavers kicked off this round of answers by mentioning the Band's new foray into the cannabis business. Noting that gaming revenue has plateaued, she emphasized building on what the Band has by more strongly promoting Fortune Bay as a tourist destination. "We need to market our wild rice, we need to market who we are. That would be a great way to get people up here. This is God's country," Chavers said.

Chavers also touted government contracting as a way many tribes have developed revenue streams and provided employment opportunities. She noted that the Band would be getting revenue from its carbon tax credit program. And she said that the Band's Johnson Lake property could be developed to be rented for corporate retreats. She also said that the Band's culture and language should be involved in any developments the Band pursues.

Lehti-Chosa said that once the cannabis business starts making money, it could be used to revitalize the gaming operations, noting that they don't have enough employees to keep everything running the way it should.

"Enhance the culture to attract more employees so we can improve our services, improve our amenities, and actually create that resort destination place that's really what we're there for," she said.

Lehti-Chosa said she believes doing so will increase both gaming and resort revenue, which in turn will enhance all of the Band's businesses and create more revenue streams and future business opportunities.

Drift also mentioned the cannabis business and said that the Band should not neglect the revenue that could come from non-cannabis items that are often sold in dispensaries, such as clothing items. He also agreed

with promoting more tourism while respecting spiritual locations, with a strong infusion of culture and language that would make visitor experiences more appealing.

"Showing people and telling what a place signifies spiritually and how the old Anishinaabe thought could be really appealing," he said.

Marketing will be important to the success of the cannabis business, Villebrun said, and he suggested that a dispensary should be placed where it will be seen and people will stop. And while it would be a significant investment, Villebrun said the hotel at Fortune Bay should be expanded, which would generate more revenue by allowing The Wilderness golf course to host big tournaments and perhaps even attract a PGA tour event.

When it came to the question of recruiting and retaining tribal citizens, the candidates echoed common themes of proving good jobs with good wages, focusing on the youth, enhancing workplace culture, and providing affordable housing options.

Strong asked how the candidates would stay accountable to resolutions, bylaws, and rules adopted by past tribal councils, and again general themes emerged that those things need to be researched and codified for ready knowledge about what those things are, and that many that are outdated need to be revised or eliminated. Drift said they should be assessed for their spiritual soundness.

"We've just got to really take a good look at what's benefiting our people versus what's hindering them from growing in any type of position or job that they're in," Drift said.

Candidates answered additional questions ranging from what they would do to impact future generations to what they would do to support elders, and from how they would incorporate more language and culture into tribal government to transparency about tribal finances.

The forum wrapped up with the candidates fielding a few questions from the audience and making closing statements in a final pitch for Band member votes.

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OPINION

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“CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW...ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;”

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

Media misinformation

The economy continues to outperform the media narrative

The major media in the U.S. are continuing to fail the public, and that failure is playing a major role in the current state of the presidential race. If polls can be believed, large majorities of the American public give President Biden poor marks for his handling of the economy, and inflation is the biggest factor in that view.

It's no surprise, since the major media, from cable news to papers like the *New York Times*, have been relentless in their coverage of inflation. That's appropriate, since inflation directly affects Americans in their everyday lives.

Yet, lost in that coverage is the kind of context that came out just this month from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, or CBO, which looked at what really matters, which is the growth of incomes versus the rise in prices. The cost of goods, of course, is only one part of the puzzle. The cost of a hamburger or a loaf of bread today is many multiples of what those same things cost in the 1950s, yet Americans spend a lot lower percentage of their incomes on basic goods today than they did back then—because average incomes in the country have risen even faster than prices over that period. The price of basic goods is largely irrelevant as long as families see their incomes rise even faster, since they'll still end up with more money in their pockets at the end of the day.

The CBO, in their report, looked at the rate of inflation since 2019 (before the pandemic), and compared it to the average rate of income growth in the country. And to be sure that big wage gains at the top of the income scale didn't tilt the numbers, they looked at incomes by quintile, so we could see how those in the bottom 20 percent were faring as well as those in the top 20 percent and those income groups in between.

The CBO looked at price increases based on the Consumer Price Index-Urban, or CPI-U, which includes everyone living in a town of 10,000 or more. That's about 93 percent of the U.S. population.

The findings? For all income groups combined, the cost of the same basket of consumer goods and services, including housing costs, rose an average of 4.5 percent annually during that period. That ranged from 1.2 percent in 2020 to a high of 8.0 percent in 2022, followed by a drop to 4.1 percent in 2023.

Price increases varied somewhat by income level because the typical basket of goods and

services varies somewhat by income. Prices for those in the lowest quintile rose the most, at an average of 4.7 percent annually over that same period, while prices for the top quintile rose by a somewhat slower 4.4 percent per year.

Yet incomes rose faster than that across the board, leaving the average American consumer better off financially than they were prior to the pandemic and under the previous administration.

And here is where the media's misrepresentation of the situation has distorted the public's view of our current economic circumstances. A number of recent surveys have consistently found that if you ask Americans about their personal financial circumstances, a sizable majority (around 60 percent) will say they are good to excellent. In other words, they are feeling the effects of a good economy, one in which their income growth is outpacing inflation.

But when asked about the economy in general, Americans have a much gloomier outlook. Yet, since most of us are only familiar with our own economic circumstances, we rely heavily on the portrayals of economic conditions that appear in the media.

And every time an inflation number comes out, it's headline news, complete with the obligatory interview with a consumer or two bemoaning the price of gas or a dozen eggs (which incidentally have fallen back to roughly where they were before the pandemic), while the reporters never ask whether the consumer has seen their wages jump at work, which we know is happening because of the income data based on company payrolls.

Of course, it doesn't make for such compelling reporting if your “man on the street” complaining about the price of burger just got a nice raise at work and can easily afford the price increase and still have more money left over.

By most economic measures, we're experiencing one of the strongest economic periods in decades, and that's why large majorities of Americans say they're doing just fine. But when the media focuses relentlessly on negative economic news, without providing the kind of context that Americans need to truly understand the situation, we end up with a strong economy that has left most Americans feeling good about their personal finances, while thinking everyone else is struggling. It's a false narrative and it's a disservice to the country.



Letters from Readers

Truth Tellers

The letter writer from Ely taking Joe Biden to task in the May 17 issue (“Biden and his lies”) apparently wants us to think that there is equivalence when comparing Biden's ‘lies’ to those of his predecessor. To use a sports metaphor, that's like comparing JR varsity football to the NFL. Good luck with that!

As for the ongoing disaster in Gaza, between Hamas's deliberately horrific and savage attack in Oct., and Israel's brutal, ham-handed response, there is much blame to go around, making for an extraordinarily complicated and difficult situation that would test the most capable of administrations. But to think that an ignoramus like Trump, with his likely line-up of cabinet cronies and yes-men advisors, would handle this, or any other world crisis, better than Biden, is just the height of delusion. Joe Biden may have his shortcomings, but compared to Donald Trump, he's Abe Lincoln.

Trump's aversion to the truth always reminds me of the old, well-used adage — “you can tell he's lying, because his lips are moving.” On that note, I concluded some time ago that most of what Trump says, especially these days, means absolutely nothing — it's just jibber jabber, nonsense, whatever he feels like saying at that moment.

But to quote the *New York Post* to back up your claims? The far-right *Post*, whose parent company is News Corp., until recently run by non other than Ru-

pert Murdoch, that ‘beacon of enlightenment’ who also just happens to own disgraced Fox News. The same Fox News who ADMITTED to promoting Trump's lies about election fraud, for the express purpose of ratings — and was fined almost \$800 mil in the process? Any ‘news’ coming from far-right sources like the *New York Post*, or the *Washington Examiner*, and especially from Fox News primetime, is tainted from the start.

Lynn Scott
Soudan

Making space to discuss the situation in Gaza

Thank you to the about 95 people who joined us, the Ely Palestine Solidarity Group, and the Northern Progressives on Tuesday, May 14 for a screening of the film *Israelism* and small group discussions.

The ongoing genocide in Gaza is a complex topic and we so appreciate everyone willing to be vulnerable in exploring the conflict, and our biases surrounding it.

In recent conversations with a range of Ely community members and through the *Israelism* screening, we see that so many of us are struggling with comprehending what's happening. We're unsure, maybe we're scared to say the wrong thing, and maybe we feel like we're not supposed to be talking about it.

But when things sit in silence, the harm continues to perpetuate. The Ely Palestine Solidarity Group intends to make space for Palestine in

our small rural community.

Our goals are to take tangible steps in supporting Palestinian lives and ending the genocide. We recognize that all of us are either a part of or affected by oppressive imperial systems and therefore we all need to work towards and maintain endurance in our collective liberation. The purpose of this group is to relay reliable sources of information, to support each other in grieving, learning and growing, and to organize and empower people to take action.

The Ely Palestine Solidarity Group— Anna Heil, Emmy Ferguson, Kate Cowley, Lisa Pugh, Lucy Soderstrom, Madden Reed, Maggie Jesme, and Rachel Hedlund



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!

COMMENTARY

Legislators come through when Legislature doesn't

In the normal course of the legislative cycle, this was a year the Minnesota Legislature was expected to pass a bonding bill to fund. To be sure, it was to be smaller than usual, given the \$2.6 billion in funding provided for capital improvement projects last year with the state's huge budget surplus.

Still, Gov. Tim Walz prefaced the legislative session with his own desired list of projects for a borrowing bill totaling



DAVID COLBURN

\$982 million, with nearly half of the money devoted to rehabilitating state-owned facilities. Support for water and transportation infrastructure, public safety, and housing and the environment were other priority areas in the plan. It was a responsible plan, Walz argued, in the face of over \$3 billion in local government requests.

Also, before the session started, House

Speaker Melissa Hortman, DFL-Brooklyn Park, made it abundantly clear that, “The state's borrowing bill will be the biggest order of business.”

If we were to use Hortman's statement as a measuring stick, it's also abundantly clear that the just-completed session of the Legislature was an abject failure. Given Republican opposition to more spending, it was always a longshot, but I sincerely believe with a stronger sense of compromise in the Legislature some sort of agreement could have been reached. After all, what legislator doesn't like being able to bring

home the bacon for their local constituents?

But compromise seems to be less and less a part of the legislative process, and down the homestretch of the session things became more and more contentious. And the point of no return for the bonding bill may have come in the wee hours of the morning on April 22 when DFL Sen. Nicole Mitchell slipped through the basement window of her mother-in-law's house dressed in black with the alleged intent of taking items that belonged to her deceased father. The resulting felony burglary charge further polarized

an already divided Senate, with Republicans filing an ethics complaint and trying to get Mitchell's voting privileges revoked and the DFL defending the right of the citizens of Mitchell's district to have representation and Mitchell's right to due process. With the increased animosity between the parties, getting the three-fifths majority needed to pass a bonding bill in the time remaining turned out to be an impossibly high hurdle to clear. A much smaller cash-only capital improvements bill requiring only a majority vote was passed by the House, but in the chaotic final

minutes of Sunday's final Senate floor session the vote came 30 seconds too late to meet the midnight deadline for passage, and it, too, died.

But in a prescient reading of the political tea leaves, Rep. Dave Lisle-gard and Sen. Grant Hauschild saw the challenges and formulated an escape plan of sorts that would get Iron Range communities the funding they needed for many important projects sooner rather than having to wait two years for the next bonding bill cycle. With Rep. Roger

See FUNDING...pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Responsibility for roads in Greenwood Township

At the May 14 Greenwood town board meeting, Supervisor Rick Stoehr made a motion, seconded by Supervisor John Bassing, to have the township attorney assist in establishing a mechanism for assessing the property owners served by Township 4136, or Birch Point Extension, to cover the cost of upgrading that road to a standard that would allow St. Louis County to resume the snowplowing contract, with shoulders wide enough for safe pedestrian travel.

The motion failed after discussion, on a

3-1 vote, with Bassing abstaining because he lives on the road. During discussion, Supervisor Paul Skubic stated that he didn't think that the township "was at that point yet."

Actually, many Greenwood taxpayers believe that we are at that point so that the county, or a suitable private contractor, will resume snowplowing the road.

The "extension" was historically never formally declared as a township road. The township assumed responsibility for it inadvertently many years ago when one of the early town supervisors asked the county plow driver to plow a little further past the end of the Birch Point Rd. Co. 651 so the school bus could go fur-

ther and turn around.

Eventually the county ended up plowing the entire length of the extension, eventually having the township enter into a paid contract for the plowing. It worked reasonably well back when the county had smaller, single axle dump trucks for plowing. Over the years, the county trucks became much heavier and larger. In the meantime, the property owners along the extension, at their own expense, and with no involvement or permission from the township, paved the road in two separate lengths.

The county has notified the township several times in recent years that it didn't want its expensive trucks plowing the extension due to the veg-

etation growth along the road and the fact that the blacktop is too thin for the big trucks to travel on. The township hired contractors to clear vegetation, but residents along the road resisted, often vehemently. The blacktop is breaking up, and the county understandably doesn't want to be responsible for it.

The result is that in the summer of '23, the county notified the township that it would no longer plow the extension with current conditions, but that the county would reconsider if the road could be improved.

The township then put out a bid for a contractor to plow the road, with no response. Which brings us to now.

The extension is not a

"through" road. There are no public landings or businesses along it. The county plat shows it as a 66 ft. wide road in a 100-year-old plat, so there is plenty of room to widen it and bring it up to standards that make it plowable and safe for vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

The township has no obligation to replace the privately laid, thin, deteriorated blacktop. In my opinion, either of two things need to happen. The property owners along the extension can use their existing Birch Point Interior Association, or form a new road association to assume complete responsibility for the extension, as has been done on other platted residential roads in the township. I believe that would re-

sult in the best, common sense outcome, fair for all Greenwood taxpayers. Or, the township can do as Supervisor Stoehr's motion directed and explore assessing residents along the extension to pay the costs of upgrading the road to standards which will be agreeable either for the county to resume plowing it, or so that a contractor with large enough equipment will bid and be able to do the job.

Time is quickly passing, and I believe that the town board and the property owners along the extension need to choose one of these two options, each being fair to all Greenwood taxpayers, and to get ready for a regular winter.

**Lee Peterson
Greenwood**

FUNDING...Cont. from page 4

Skraba signing on to Lislegard's bill in the House as a co-author, the plan was to leverage future tacomite tax receipts to pay off about \$80 million in bonds to be issued now. The three-fifths approval requirement for a standard bonding bill didn't apply here. With DFL lawmakers shepherding the measure through a DFL-controlled Legislature, odds of success were good, excellent even in comparison to the bonding bill.

They did have to deal with objections from Republicans who argued that the bill circumvented both the bonding bill process and the usual course of business at the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, but Lislegard and Hauschild were determined advocates for using locally-generated revenue to tackle local needs, and were supported by precedent. Although as Hauschild pointed out in a conversation with the *Tim-*

berjay, it was the first time the process would be used to fund smaller local community needs rather than a major construction project. The gambit worked as hoped, with the bills passing their respective committees and chambers and being incorporated along with eight other bills into the gargantuan tax bill rammed through in the waning hours of the legislative session.

So, while the rest of the state is left to cool its heels for the next two years, the Iron Range will be awash in the activities funded through Lislegard's and Hauschild's efforts.

To be sure, there are some items in the list that appear to make immediate sense, while others may raise a few eyebrows in wonder. Three million dollars each for Tower and Lone Pine Township/Nashwauk for water and sewage treatment projects, for example, will let those needed projects

move full steam ahead now. The \$5.25 million for sports facilities for the Ely school district is something that will raise eyebrows in many circles – after all, there are always those who see better uses for scarce funds than sports, something the NFL champion Kansas City Chiefs were reminded of earlier this year when Kansas City taxpayers rejected a proposal for public funding of a new football stadium there. This writer will try to walk the fine line between raising an eyebrow and still celebrating the award for the sake of future students who will surely benefit from the improvements. And, of course, I wouldn't have quibbled much at all if the bill had included \$2 million to replace the poorly constructed substandard swamp of a football field at North Woods. Just walking the sideline of that field is an adventure, let alone playing on it. I guess it's safe

to say I'm glad I'm not the one making the decisions about what gets funded and what doesn't. There's never enough to go around for all the needs.

Right now, the communities of the Iron Range have about 80 million reasons to be thankful because of the savvy actions of two local legislators who were determined to put local dollars to use here at home now. To be sure, they needed the help of their colleagues to get the bill through to the finish line, but credit goes not so much to the Legislature but to the two lawmakers who read the landscape and came up with a viable plan to capitalize on what they saw. The Legislature failed on a bonding bill for the entire state, but we're not in the same foundering boat as the rest. It's time to move forward on the Iron Range now – put the pedal to the metal and full steam ahead.



John Kannas and Beth Hartshorn

Ely hospital employees honored

ST. PAUL- Two employees of the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital were among 40 hospitals and individuals recognized by the Minnesota Hospital Association at their annual conference. The awards were given to recognize the health care workforce and their innovations, commitment to quality, and dedication to patient care.

Beth Hartshorn was recognized as Pharmacy Employee of the Year, and EBCH received recognition for our Clinical and Quality Innovation,

specifically accepting the award as the leader of our quality improvement efforts was EBCH Staff Educator John Kannas.

"There is amazing work being done every day to provide the highest quality care to our patients," said Dr. Rahul Koranne, president and CEO of MHA. "It is not only incredibly important to honor the teams and individuals doing this work, but also valuable to convene these frontline leaders to share and learn from each other."

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VERN'S GREENHOUSE & NURSERY

the TIMBERJAY

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

Week of May 27

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 June 18.

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 42 is Barb Peyla of Tower.

History tidbit: The first fire reported, which began a 1/4 mile northeast of Black Bear Café, 10 miles southwest of Tower, raged to the north along Hwy. 169. A downed powerline was the cause of the fire. Minutes after the first fire was called in, a second blaze was reported near the Saari farm in Pike Township, eight miles south of Tower. This second blaze, which eventually stalled out just a 1/2 west of Tower, proved to be the most destructive of the two fires.

Whipped by 40-mph southwest winds, the fires raged out of control. High winds and inaccessibility to the areas were a deterrent to the firefighters. With "extreme" fire conditions, fire behavior was described as "erratic" and burning debris from the advancing fires were blown ahead creating numerous "spot" fires, which helped spread the blaze. These conditions allowed the fire to spread across almost a 1/2 of water at the Pike River Flowage. The DNR reported the second fire that threatened Tower traveled eight miles in eight hours.

To be continued.

Tower Farmers Market to open June 14

TOWER- The Tower Farmers Market opens for the 2024 season on Friday, June 14. Hours and location remain the same, 4-6 p.m. at the Depot. Kids Day is returning in July and there will be music and other special happenings throughout the summer. The Tower-Soudan Historical Society plans to keep the Depot Museum open during market hours and will host several events on Fridays. AEOA will be back with its Power of Produce, SNAP, and Market Bucks programs. Favorite vendors are returning, and new vendors are always welcome. Call Janna at 218-780-6955 or Mickey at 218-404-9486 with any questions.

Memorial Day Tribute set for Monday, May 27

MEMORIAL DAY

TOWER- Plans are being finalized for the Tower Soudan area-wide annual Memorial Day Tribute to be held on Monday, May 27, at the Herbert R. Lamp- pa Civic Center from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. This tribute will honor the military service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform, their families at home, and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

The names of local Veterans killed in action and deceased Veterans will be read. A medley of patriotic songs will be sung by the Tower-Soudan Area Singers under the direction of Rolf Anderson.

If you know the name of a recently deceased Veteran whose name should be added to our roll call, or if you need to make a change to last year's list of Veterans, contact Barb Peyla. Call or text 218-410-7883 or send an

email to bngpeyla@gmail.com.

The program will conclude with a traditional Memorial Day wreath placed on a symbolic Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in a ceremony to be held outside the Civic Center.

Refreshments provided by the Tower-Soudan Civic Club will be served before and following the tribute. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this heartwarming event.



Members of the Tower-Soudan and Northeast Range Elementary Band performed at the Tower-Soudan School on May 16. Band members include: flutes- Lexa Barsness, Maci Horn, Mona Swartz, Harley Banks, and Clayton Haus; Clarinets- Mark Rettke, Madison Fisher; trumpets- Miranda Mackai, Ethan Olson, Breezy Bushman, Kija Chosa; saxophones- Hunter Meskill, Quinn Jordan, Dylan Crego, Shenze Chavez; trombone- Bowde Klatt; French horn- Skylar Cameron; percussion- Mason Mostek, Clementine O'Brien, Arthur Gapinski, Kayla Drift, and Breaua Warren. photo by J. Summit

GRADUATION SEASON



Northeast Range Class of 2024

BABBITT- Thirteen seniors are graduating from Northeast Range High School in Babbitt on May 31. The following is a list of the graduates names, with their future plans:

Natalie Backe, attending Minnesota North- Itasca then to Bemidji State for elementary education; Matthew Bock, attending Minnesota North- Vermilion then to study engineering at a four-year college; Edee (Allison) Flug, attending Minnesota North; Abby Koivisto, entering the U.S. Navy and pursuing a career in aviation structural mechanics; Hailey Lindquist, attending Minnesota North- Hibbing then to a four-year college for computer science/software development; Zander Lislegard, entering the workforce; Mikko Maki, entering the workforce and thinking about trade school; Rafael Marroquin, planning to attend college; Ashton Mattison, planning to join the military; Ruby Milton, attending University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire for a bachelor's in musical theater; Shelby Sailors, attending Minnesota North- Hibbing; Wesley Sandy, attending Minnesota North- Vermilion then entering the U.S. Army; David Serena, entering the workforce, thinking about going to school for welding. submitted photo.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Service at the Little Church on June 2

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church of Vermilion Lake Township will host a service and potluck on Sunday, June 2 at 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend, and the group is always looking for people interested in keeping this historic church building maintained and a part of the community.

There is a men's group that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation. There is also a new women's group that will begin at 10:15 a.m. on Thursdays. All are welcome. The Little Church is located on Cty. Rd. 26/ Wahlsten Rd. Questions, call Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

Charlemagne's Attic last chance sale May 24-25

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Historical Society needs to clean out the inside of the old fire hall for the interior renovation work planned for this summer. The group is planning one final sale on Friday and Saturday, May 24 and 25 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., both days. Items will be priced to move! New to the sale are mid-century modern furniture pieces, an antique settee couch and matching chair, Singer sewing machine in a cabinet, electric stove, kitchen and household items, artwork, and more.

Volunteers needed at the Depot Museum this summer

TOWER- Are you willing to share your time and enthusiasm greeting visitors to the Tower-Soudan Historical Society depot-museum this summer? The society is excited for the upcoming tourist season. The depot-museum will open on Friday, May 24. Last year the depot welcomed over 2,000 visitors. The historical society hopes to have the depot-museum open from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays with area volunteers. Your help and support are crucial. The society is looking at three-hour shifts (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

and 1 - 4 p.m.) throughout the summer (Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend) and volunteers are able to sign up for days whenever it fits their schedule. Training is provided. The experience is rewarding and fun. Please consider signing up for a shift or two over the summer. Bring a friend. Contact TSHS Vice-President Linda Folstad at 218-750-0193 for more information.

New Tower Car Show set for June 1

TOWER- The Tower Café had a great turnout for their car show on May 18, and they are planning the next event for Saturday, June 1 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Entry fee is a donation of non-perishable food or cash for the

Tower Area Food Shelf. Some lucky car show participants won door prizes including gift certificates to the Tower Café and Ubetcha (a big thank you to Ubetcha for the card donation). If any other shops in Tower would like to donate prizes for the next car show, please drop them off at the café.

Bookmobile stops

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Bookmobile will be in the area on Wednesday, May 29; there is no bookmobile stop in June. Stops include: Bois Forte: 11 - 11:30 a.m.; Greenwood: 12 - 1 p.m.; Soudan: 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.; Tower (Civic Center): 3:45 - 4:30 p.m.; and Embarrass (Hwy 135 & Hwy 21): 5 - 6 p.m.

AROUND TOWN



Left: The Timberjay spotted this blue 1920s Chevrolet F-Series sedan parked outside of Northern Grounds in Ely on Sunday morning. Right: The Frisky Otter opened in Ely last Friday. The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner. 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:

► May 28: Lauren Bennett McGinty, Executive Director, Explore MN Tourism

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.

Sheridan Street Delicatessen opens in Ely



Sarah Nielsen (center), owner of the newly-opened Sheridan Street Delicatessen at the cash register of the new eatery on Sunday morning. photo by C. Clark

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- A new eatery opened on Ely's main drag on Saturday when the Sheridan Street Delicatessen unlocked its doors at a sleep-challenged 5 a.m. The deli serves breakfast and lunch selections, pastries, and a complete selection of hot barista-made beverages.

"We opened on March 18," said owner Sarah Nielsen, "and things started slow, and then were super crazy." Nielsen's been working on the deli since last summer. "I started in August," she told the Timberjay. She purchased the former Front Porch Café property in November,

wanting to open "what was missing in Ely." Nielsen wants her business to become a place where people can talk and socialize with friends over food.

Nielsen, age 36, described herself as working in the restaurant business since she was 14. She is from Willmar originally. She came to Ely to attend Vermilion Community College, before it became Minnesota North College, to study environmental science. While here, she met her future husband, Elyite Mike Nielsen. She's lived in Ely ever since.

The Sheridan Street Delicatessen is at 343 E. Sheridan St. The deli will be open Wednesday through Sunday, 5 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Smokey Bear at Ely Public Library

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Smokey Bear is celebrating his 80th birthday and stopped by the Ely Public Library on Monday to give away birthday gifts in honor of the event.

"Smokey gives gifts on his birthday," explained Superior National Forest Fire (SNF) Prevention Technician Nicole Selmer. "The best gift anyone can give Smokey for his birthday is to prevent forest fires."

Smokey arrived with a USFS firefighting crew out of Leavenworth, Wash., who flew in last

week to help with the current SNF program of prescribed fires. "This is day seven for us on a fourteen-day rotation," said crew member Katie Davis. "We've been working on the prescribed burns and today, we're helping Smokey."

Smokey drew a mixed crowd of around twenty, comprised of infants to seniors. At least half of crowd were kids. Smokey gave away stickers, cell phone finger socks, holographic refrigerator magnets, carabiners, birthday patches, embroidered keychains, and buffs.



Smokey Bear and fans on Monday at the Ely Public Library. photo by C. Clark

Veterans' program at Ely's Historic State Theater

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Ely's Historic State Theater will honor Veterans on Memorial Day with a special program on Sunday, May 26, at 1 p.m. The event is free for Veterans. General admission will be \$7.

The theater will show the director's cut

of the 2012 film "Souvenirs," originally released as "Memorial Day." The film will be preceded by a brief patriotic program featuring the Ely Honor Guard, the Ely Large-mouth Brass Ensemble, and other live music. The film will be followed by a question-and-answer session with the filmmakers and Ely native Mary Kay

Spaulding, who acts in the film, and a reception in the lobby afterward.

The lobby will also host an exhibit of children's patriotic artwork, sponsored by the non-profit Ely Community Resource, and a resources table on Alzheimer's and other senior issues, hosted by Northwoods Partners. Also on display will be

World War II memorabilia sponsored by the Ely-Winton Historical Society. The event will also collect used American flags in need of retirement for respectful disposal.

The film "Souvenirs" recounts the tale of two Veterans, a grandfather who served in WWII and his grandson Kyle who served in Iraq. In the mov-

ie, Grandfather Bud relates three stories of his WWII experiences to the 13-year-old Kyle, which later mirrors Kyle's own adult experience in Iraq. The file contains simulated but realistic war scenes.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Ely Public Library

ELY- The library will be closed on Monday, May 27.

The spice for May is caraway. Pick up a spice kit with a sample and recipes at the circulation desk.

The Library Scientists group for grades 4-6 will hold a session on pollution on Friday, May 24 from 3-4 p.m. The event will include a hands-on project. Pre-register so the library can order enough materials for participants. Registration is limited to 25.

The library will hold a Kahoot online trivia game on "Peter Pan" by J. M. Barrie and "Pippi Longstocking" by Astid Lindgren. The Kahoot will start at 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 30, and end at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, June 4. Register in advance so the library can email participants the link to the game.

The Get Crafty group will meet on Wednesday, June 5,

from 11 a.m. until noon. The group will decorate kindness rocks for the library's new kindness garden. Register in advance so the library can order enough materials for participants.

The library board will meet on Wednesday, June 5, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The Friends of the Library Book Clun will meet on Monday, June 10, from 3-4 p.m. The book for discussion will be "The Four Winds" by Kristin Hannah.

The Friends of the Library annual meeting will be on June 11, from 1-2 p.m.

The library will hold an open crafty session with Tricia. The library will open up the supply cupboard and pull out old projects to use or to put together new and different creations. The open crafting will be on Wednesday, June 12, 1-2 p.m.

The Library Scientists group will meet on Thursday, June 13, from 11 a.m. until noon. The

participants will learn their way around a microscope using one of the library's. Preregister for this program so there are enough supplies for all participants. Children attending will need adult help.

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.

Book Sale Donations

ELY- The Friends of the Library will accept donations for the annual fundraiser book sale at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. First Ave. E., on Friday, June 14, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; on Saturday, June 15, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and on Monday, June 17, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The Friends of the Library will accept books, CDs, DVDs, board games, and puzzles for the annual sale. Do not donate magazines, textbooks, encyclopedias,

or "Readers Digest Condensed Books." None of these will be accepted.

Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- The library will be closed on Monday, May 27.

The book club will meet on Monday, June 3, at 3 p.m.

Preschool story time is every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. All library events are at the Babbitt Public Library, 71 South Dr., unless otherwise noted.

Correction

The Timberjay ran the May 10 "Breathing Out" poetry column twice, in both the May 10 and May 17 editions. The May 17 "Breathing Out" is shown to the right, above this week's "Breathing Out." The Timberjay regrets the error.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



raven so high up
looking down squawking hello

privileged viewpoint

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



rain mixing with sun
cool winds soothing higher temps

a short northern spring

A FAVORITE TRADITION CONTINUES

Cook's Annual Timber Days gears up for another run

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- If you love traditions, you won't want to miss this year's Timber Days festival in Cook beginning Friday, June 7 and running through Sunday, June 9. All the favorites that folks have come to love about Timber Days are back again this year, from the fireworks of Elvis impersonator Sean Wallin to fireworks in the sky, and everything else.

However, people will find something new this year, too, as Cook's Country Connection will be bringing in some of their friendly animals for a petting zoo on Saturday in the B.I.C. Realty parking lot. It's part of a kiddie adventure trifecta when combined with pony rides and the nearby popular kids' games at TG's Creative Collections on 2nd Ave. SW.

If you want to get started on the fun early this year, the Cook Public

Library is open at 9 a.m. Friday for the Friends of the Library Book Sale, with vendors opening to the public at noon. Organizers say they've recruited a star-studded list of business owners willing to take a plunge for the cause when the dunk tank opens at 1 p.m. The firefighter's challenge, bean bag tournament (Friday only this year), and a pair of musical options will round out the downtown festivities, but the fun's not over until you head out to the Cook Community Center to cheer on the participants in the Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners 5K Run and Walk at 7 p.m. Call 218-742-2369 for information on how to register for this fundraising event, and call early to guarantee getting a t-shirt and swag bag. Race day registration will be available.

Prep your engines for high-octane fun on Saturday, which includes the Classic Car Show from noon to 4 p.m. Anyone



The signature climax of any Timber Days celebration is the participation of area loggers in bringing up the end of Sunday's parade. D. Colburn photo

wishing to show off their wheels should show up on the north end of River St. at 10:30 a.m. for registration. There will be cash awards and prize drawings for registered drivers.

Get your body fueled up for the day with a hearty breakfast at the Firemen's Pancake Breakfast at the Cook Fire Department Hall from 8-11 a.m.

There will be magic in the air downtown and a magic show in the park at noon, following the pet show at 11 a.m. (registration at 10:30). In the afternoon get your BINGO on with the North Woods Travelers at the community center at 1 p.m., and get your groove on with the Beefeater Brothers at the Old Muni beginning at 2 p.m. Be back in the

park for the Elvis extravaganza at 6 p.m., and party into the night with live music at the Old Muni and Cook VFW and another fireworks spectacular at the Doug Johnson Park at 10:15 p.m.

The calming grace of Sunday morning's church service in the park at 11:30 a.m. may be just the thing for people to find balance against the roaring com-

petition of the lawnmower races that begin at 12:30 p.m., on River St. The big parade kicks off at 3 p.m. led by Grand Marshal Arnie "Pete" Johnson, and will be followed by the raffle drawing in the park. Those who need a little help easing down from the weekend's excitement might want to take in an encore performance of the Beefeater Brothers at the Old Muni from 4-7 p.m. Cook VFW Post #1757 will bring Timber Days to an official close with a flag retirement ceremony following the parade and raffle drawing.

And speaking of the raffle, you can get your \$1 raffle tickets at the Timber Days booth next to the library during the festival. But save some money for the many arts, crafts, and food vendors that do their part to enhance the time-honored tradition of Timber Days in Cook.

COMMUNITY NEWS



North Woods Elementary students perform with vigor at last Friday's concert, conducted by music educator Lorenda Daugherty. Some of the students who performed were, top left, Obadiah Kapayate and Otto Anderson; top right, Kyrie Rose; bottom left, Uno Ruuska, Charlotte Pascuzzi, Ladd Pretti, Hadley Bundy, Addy Manick, Cora Lantry; and bottom right, Bradley Winans and Savannah Kinler. Photos by D. Colburn

COMMUNITY EVENTS

North Woods student art show continues at NWFA

COOK- Come see a variety of student art submitted to the Minnesota State High School League Art Competition, including North Woods' five "Best in Show" winners, at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery from May 15-29.

The students whose work is on display are: Trinity Vidal, Ella Smith, Lemar Drift, Mya Kinsey, Cynthia Kirkman, Haley Leinonen, Emily Grahn, Rory Bundy, Nia Gaskell, Rose Christian, Alex Niles, Sheyenne Schuster and Jaida Lambert.

The exhibit is at the gallery located at 210 S. River St. Open hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Next week is the final week for this special exhibit of student talent, so

don't miss this opportunity to see what talented student artists the community has.

Big Lions Club sale is coming Saturday

COOK- For deals almost too good to be true, the Cook Lions Club One Day Sale is the place to go this Saturday, May 25 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Some of the items for sale include couches, living room chairs, dining room furniture, and much more.

The sale will take place at Unit No. 8 at Vermilion Drive Storage on Hwy 24.

All sales are cash and carry.

Graduation is May 31 at North Woods

FIELD TWP- Graduation ceremonies for the North Woods Class of 2024 will be at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 31 in the school gymnasium.

NORTH WOODS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 2024

Cook Area Friends Of Aviation Ray Hill Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000, Helen Koch.

Joel Kantola Memorial Scholarship, \$1,500, Helen Koch.

Larry Baker Music Scholarship, \$6,00, Annabelle Calavera.

Cook Lions Club Jerry Storm Memorial Scholarship, \$1,500, Addy Hartway and Evan Kajala; \$1,000, Annabelle Calavera, Cadense Nelson.

Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, \$1,000, Jonah Burnett, Addy Hartway, Cadense Nelson.

Cook Chamber Of Commerce Scholarship, \$500, Madison Taylor.

North Star Credit Union Scholarship, \$500, Addy Hartway.

Cook Timber Days Service Scholarship, \$250, Evan Kajala, Tiauna Peltier.

Cook Timberwolves Scholarship, \$500, Emily Grahn, Luke Will.

Cook VFW Scholarship, \$1,000, Addy Hartway, Victoria Olson.

CSS Upward Bound Scholarships, Matthew Laveau Scholarship, \$200, Helen Koch, Cadense Nelson, Madison Taylor; Phil Hubert Alumni Scholarship, \$500, Helen Koch.

Daniel E. Morrison Sr Memorial Scholarship,

\$1,000, Jessy Palmer.

DeDe DeSannoy Turi Kaml (DDTK) Scholarship, \$5,000, Madison Dantes, Victoria Olson, Tiauna Peltier.



Annabelle Calavera received a Hockel scholarship.

Ed Borowiec Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000, Victoria Olson.

Jack Banovetz Memorial Scholarship, \$300, Annabelle Calavera, Victoria Olson.

Lake Country Power Les Beach Memorial Scholarship, \$4,000 (\$1,000 per year for four years), Victoria Olson.

Oakes Family Scholarships, \$300, Jonah Burnett, Evelyn Brodeen, Annabelle Calavera, Addy Hartway, Haley Leinonen, Madison Taylor.

Courage To Grow Scholarship, \$200, Cynthia Kirkman, Ella Smith. Paul Anderson Memorial

Scholarship, \$1,500 per year for four years, Evelyn Brodeen, Jonah Burnett, Victoria Olson.

PEO Scholarship, \$500, Addy Hartway, Helen Koch, Tiauna Peltier.

Range Engineering STEM All Star, \$250, Jonah Burnett, Cadense Nelson.

St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church, Service - \$1,000, Victoria Olson; Arts, Music, Food Industry - Trinity Vidal; Technical -- \$1,000, Cynthis Kirkman.

Tony Cornelius Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 each, Brandon Cook, Evan Kajala, Cynthia Kirkman, Ella Smith.

United Way Of Northeastern Minnesota's Youth United Essay Contest, \$1,600, Victoria Olson.

Virginia Elks Lodge #1003, \$1,000, Madison Taylor.

Watering Can Garden Shop Scholarship, \$500, Addy Hartway, Madison Taylor.

Alfred and Ethel Stone Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (renewable up to 4 years), Evelyn Brodeen.

Breckenridge Charitable Trust, \$5,228.33, Addy Hartway.

Cook Healthcare Auxiliary Scholarship:

\$1,000, Jonah Burnett, Addy Hartway.

Cook News Herald, \$200, Victoria Olson.

Cook Volunteer Fire Department, \$500, Emily Grahn, Chloe Johnson.

Cook Zups Scholarship, \$1,000, Addy Hartway.

Doug Johnson Scholarship, \$1,000, Ella Smith; \$500, Emily Grahn, Chloe Johnson, Cynthia Kirkman.

Frank Fortun Memorial Scholarship, \$500, Cadense Nelson.

Gabe Vogt Scholarship, \$250, Trinity Vidal.

Genfinity Foundation Scholarship, \$8,000, Brandon Cook, Cadense Nelson, Jessy Palmer;

11th grade recipients, Sheyenne Schuster, Sierra Schuster, Lydia Trip.

Grace Ellen Whiteside Martin Memorial Scholarship, \$500, Evelyn Brodeen.

Hockel Scholarships, \$100, Annabelle Calavera.

JosH Rutar Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000, Madison Dantes, Luke Will.

Memorial Blood Centers Blood Drive Scholarship, \$800, Addy Hartway.

Nancy Parvi Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000, Cynthia Kirkman. Northwoods Riders

Scholarship, \$500, Cynthia Kirkman.

Orr American Legion Scholarships, \$1,000, Jonah Burnett, Madison Dantes, Alexandra Holm.

Orr Lions Club/Louise Wolff Scholarship, \$1,000, Evelyn Brodeen, Addy Hartway, Evan Kajala.

Sean Michael Sara-

zine Memorial Scholarship, \$500, Annabelle Calavera.

Burger King Scholarship, \$1,000, Jonah Burnett, Victoria Olson.

NAFEPA Iva McCants Scholarship, \$5,000, Addy Hartway.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP



Addy Hartway, pictured here with North Woods Principal Kelly Engman, competed against students from across the nation for one of four \$5,000 scholarships given by the National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators. Not only did she win the Iva McCants Scholarship, NAFEPAs officials informed the school that Hartway was the highest-rated applicant among all of the students who applied. D. Colburn photo

FUNDING...Continued from page 1

lance services across the state, including the metro region. While the funding is now less, Hauschild said it's much more targeted to assist smaller services in rural Minnesota. The funding amounts in the new law are based on a point system determined by the number of EMS responses qualified services undertake and other factors, and the formula is going to direct significant new one-time resources to area ambulance services (see accompanying sidebar), ranging from \$264,384 for Ely to \$114,140 for Cook. Tower is slated to receive \$123,957, while \$160,177 is earmarked for Orr.

Tower Ambulance Director Dena Suihkonen said she liked the point system, which favors the smallest ambulance services. "It's focused on the ones that are bleeding right now," she said. "That means we will get real help up here."

While the one-time supplemental aid will help, Hauschild acknowledges it's not the final answer. "We all know that this is only a band-aid and that over the long term we must find a sus-

tainable funding model for EMS services," he said. "This influx of aid and the important changes we are making to our EMS system are vital steps forward, but I will continue to push for robust investment that will ensure the long-term stability of EMS in Minnesota."

Most ambulance services in northern St. Louis County have been reporting sizable financial losses in recent years and that has forced many small cities and townships to backfill funding gaps to maintain the critical service.

The new EMS law, which was given final passage early last Saturday morning, also creates the Office of Emergency Medical Services to replace the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board, or EMSRB, which has faced criticism for lax management of the state's ambulance services.

Pilot program

The package also includes \$6 million to fund a "sprint medic" pilot program in St. Louis County

as well as two west-central Minnesota counties. The pilot program is designed to test the effectiveness of using roving paramedics who would operate across the boundaries of up to several ambulance coverage areas and would respond in personal vehicles to medical calls, in hopes of improving response time and the level of care that can be provided to patients at the outset of that response. Paramedics are more highly trained than Emergency Medical Technicians, or EMTs, and can administer more medications, insert breathing tubes, and establish intravenous lines.

The sprint medics would likely be deployed in various places day-to-day depending on which area ambulance services are facing staffing shortages. Depending on the calls, they could perform a variety of functions, potentially assessing patients before ambulances arrive, or accompanying patients to the hospital if a transport is needed.

Depending on the type of 911 call, a sprint paramedic might be sent first to assess a patient, or at

the same time as a single EMT in the nearest ambulance. If a transport to a hospital is needed, the paramedic would leave the sprint vehicle behind and monitor the patient during the ambulance ride. In some cases, the paramedic could handle treatment on scene and keep ambulances with advanced-life support equipment from being dispatched unnecessarily.

Suihkonen said she saw the sprint medics as a way to provide advanced life support, or ALS, intercepts without having to engage the Virginia ambulance. "To me that would be huge," she said. "It would almost double the availability of ALS intercepts." The medics would be deployed to ride along with an ambulance and could provide ALS care along the way to the hospital.

The sprint medic concept has been shown to be effective in more urbanized areas but whether they are practical in lightly populated regions, like northern St. Louis County, remains to be determined.

Estimated EMS funding amounts in Hauschild measure

Babbitt	\$106,790
Bigfork	\$150,894
Bois Forte	\$65,729
Cook	\$114,140
Hoyt Lakes	\$163,447
Int'l Falls	\$207,794
Grand Portage	\$43,971
Gunflint Trail	\$74,843
Lake County	\$314,334
Littlefork	\$202,447
Orr	\$160,177
Tower	\$123,957
Cook County	\$195,556
Ely	\$264,384
Blackduck	\$226,083
Essentia EMS	\$1,040,246

Funding amounts courtesy Sen. Grant Hauschild

SEARCH...Continued from page 1

the falls.

The accident prompted a massive search and rescue effort and a closure order by the U.S. Forest Service for a large area in the vicinity of the falls. The falls is located in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and the Curtain Falls portage and campsites on both Iron and Crooked lakes tend to see considerable activity in the wake of fishing opener.

The five friends were reportedly fishing near the top of the falls, something they had done on previous trips to the area.

"They've been in there before. They're familiar with the area," Nate Skelton, a division com-

mander with the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, told *Minnesota Public Radio*.

"Four of them were basically anchored at the top of the falls fishing, which they've done in the past, and it sounds like one of them may have had an issue and the other one went to try to give some assistance and both canoes and four people went over the falls."

The fall's drop, at approximately 20 feet, isn't the highest falls in the region, but the volume of water flowing over the drop is immense, which has long made it a cataract to avoid.

The search

The report of the incident came into dispatchers just before 7:30 p.m. on Saturday evening. The sheriff's office and the St. Louis County Rescue Squad, which had been staged at the Duluth Air Show on Saturday, quickly responded to the report and had begun search and rescue efforts by Sunday. "Members ran search sorties this evening until it was too dark to see and are sleeping on the ground tonight in order to be up to run more sorties at first light," noted the sheriff's office in a Facebook post Sunday evening. "An Advanced Base Camp is staffed all night to 'keep an

ear on' those in the field. Curtain Falls is extremely difficult to access, and we are depending heavily on our aviation partners to transport equipment, supplies, and personnel in and out of the backcountry," the Facebook post continued.

Search efforts continued on Monday despite adverse weather and difficult water conditions presented by the falls. Searchers brought in drones as well as a remotely operated underwater vehicle to search under the surface at the base of the falls.

The sheriff's office received help with the search from the Duluth office of the National Weather Service,

Adventure Seaplanes, North Air Care, Virginia Fire Department, DNR, USFS, Minnesota Air Rescue Team, Minnesota State Patrol, St. Louis County Emergency Management, the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, Ely and Tower airports, Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, and Essentia Health-Duluth.

Closure order

To help the search efforts, Superior National Forest officials closed a large area in the immediate vicinity of the falls to prevent bystanders from disrupting search activities.

The closure, which expired at midnight on

Wednesday, prohibited entering "all trails, campsites, portages, rivers and lakes" in the closure area including Iron Lake, Crooked Lake west of Sunday Bay, the LaCroix-Bottle portage and the LaCroix-Iron portage.

The order was not issued to individuals already camping in the area. "What the order does is give us the option to vacate campsites in the closure area if the search requires it," said Carl Skustad, Kawishiwi District Wilderness Manager. "We're not going around asking people already there to leave if we don't need to."

WINDFALL...Continued from page 1

IRRB is that a lot of our communities in the core Iron Range are producing the iron ore and the tax proceeds," Hauschild told the *Timberjay* on Tuesday. "Unfortunately, it was our feeling that a lot of that money was going outside of the core Iron Range, and that's fine, but at the end of the day we wanted to be sure that our fair share came back to the core communities. We also think that it's really important that we fund and give back at a grassroots level."

"We funded core services on the Iron Range, everything from the water project in Tower to cafeteria items for the Babbitt and Tower schools to recreation groups, all of those things that stay in our communities and improve the quality of life," Hauschild continued. "That's not to say that I don't support funding big industry projects or those types of things, but at the end of the day our first and foremost perspective should be the people and the communities, and that was really the goal of this effort."

"Senator Hauschild and I have been working to cut taxes and invest in our local communities," Lislegard said in a press release. "The projects in this bill are benefitting the communities and people whose hard work in our taconite mines fuel our region's prosperity. They are the ones who rightly deserve to share in these resources to enhance their communities, and that's what we're committed to ensuring."

Hauschild said he and Lislegard began working on the measure after assessing that the political landscape appeared challenging for passage of a standard bonding bill—a view that

proved prescient.

"It was our sense that the Republican minority was not interested in bonding," he said. "We supported bonding, and we pushed for it as hard as we could, but the lack of seriousness behind the offers that came from the other side made it very clear that these projects were not going to get funded. We made sure that our request in the bonding bill were separate from those in the tax bill, so that if there had been a bonding bill we would have gotten more projects funded, rather than having duplicates."

Hauschild's and Lislegard's proposals met with some resistance from Republicans in committee hearings who voiced concerns that such a thing hadn't been done before. Hauschild narrowed in on the crux of the objection.

"We have bonded IRRRB money and leveraged our dollars many times," he said. "The folks that said we've never done this before are saying we've never done this before for the core people and communities. We've done it for industry, we've done it for complexes like the Iron Trails Motor Center. The difference is that people seem to be upset for some reason that we're giving it back to the people in the core communities."

The funded projects are in addition to the normal grant application and award process communities have routinely used to access IRRRB funding, so other projects not directly funded by the bonds in the tax bill stand to benefit as well, Hauschild said.

"What this did is it actually lessened the burden on the agency for that process," he said. Now they don't have to think

about that Tower project—they can fund some other community stuff."

Tower water project

The new \$10.7 million drinking water treatment plant to serve Tower and Soudan already had the go-ahead from the Tower City Council while city and Breitung Township officials pursued additional funding for the project, which Tower Mayor David Setterberg said Tuesday was about \$2 million short. Setterberg was decidedly enthusiastic about receiving the \$3 million designated in the tax bill for the project.

"It's pretty exciting—as far as the water treatment plant goes, it was a godsend," Setterberg said. "Originally, we went after bonding money, and we actually had the House and Senate committees come up to the area and we did presentations, but at the end we kind of got kicked out. So, we worked really closely with Grant Hauschild, and Roger Skraba was aware, too—we kept in close contact with them the whole time."

Setterberg said the award will benefit local water consumers, who might have had to assume a larger share of the costs that will now be defrayed by the award. But that doesn't mean the communities will get out of paying something. Setterberg said they would still be getting a \$1 million loan from the state's Public Facilities Administration.

"They've come in and evaluated that no matter what, the area can afford a \$1 million loan," Setterberg said. "They said they're going to cover us up to this much and you are going to have to put some skin in the game for that amount, so what it does

is reduces the amount of shortfall we have." Setterberg said he would be looking into the possibility of applying some of that \$3 million award to the sewer pond expansion project.

"We actually received a million dollars from (U.S. Rep. Pete) Stauber for that, and it was also supported by (U.S. Sen. Amy) Klobuchar," he said. "With that one you need a 25-percent match, so now hopefully we can also use some of the \$3 million to provide a match to that million."

School cafeterias

ISD 2142 St. Louis County Schools will receive a \$600,000 grant, \$400,000 of which is designated to cover cost overruns for the septic system rehabilitation project at South Ridge School. But the remaining \$200,000 will be used for improving the cafeterias at Northeast Range and Tower-Soudan schools.

"The \$200,000 is to get new lunch tables at both schools and do something with the flooring in the cafeteria at Northeast Range," said Superintendent Reggie Engebritson. "We are very grateful to our local legislators for these dollars because when prices went up, the only way to complete the project was to use our general fund dollars, which would have left us with less money for students and programs. The lunch tables at both Northeast Range and Tower-Soudan are very old and not in the best working condition, so these dollars will help us buy new tables that will last us for many years to come."

Buyck Fire Department

Another project receiving \$950,000 in funding is a new fire and training hall for the Buyck Volunteer Fire Department.

"My reaction to this is beyond grateful," Chief Kathy Weiland said. "We're very appreciative of all the work that Rep. Lislegard, Sen. Hauschild, and Rep. Skraba did, as well as the Costin Group that helped put this package together and get it through."

North County area projects included in the bond awards include:

► \$750,000 to the Voyageur Trail Society for a joint maintenance facility with Voyageur Country ATV in the city of Orr.

► \$2.08 million to Northland Learning Center for construction costs.

► \$12.8 million for Giants Ridge for facility upgrades.

► \$5.25 million for the Ely school district for baseball field renovations and a new athletic complex.

► \$400,000 for Veterans On The Lake for demolition of existing structures and construction of a triplex compliant with ADA standards.

► \$300,000 for the Northern Lights Music Festival to support programs, with \$100,000 annually for three years.

► \$500,000 to the Northland Foundation to assist businesses or resorts that were economically damaged by floods in 2022 or 2023.

► \$25,000 to Northwoods Friends of the Arts in Cook for facility upgrades and programs.

► \$50,000 to the Bois Forte Band for food shelf expenses.

► \$100,000 to the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center to improve and renovate the facility and its displays.

► \$50,000 for the Pioneer Mine historical site in Ely for maintenance and displays.

► \$100,000 for the Cook Timberwolves

Snowmobile Club for trail maintenance and equipment.

► \$100,000 for the Vermilion Penguins Snowmobile Club for trail maintenance and equipment.

► \$25,000 each to the Ely Igloo Snowmobile Club, Crane Lake Voyageurs Club, Voyageur Snowmobile Club, Prospector Loop ATV Club, Babbitt ATV and Snowmobile Club.

Property tax relief

The broadest impact of the tax bill will be felt by homeowners on the Iron Ranges. The legislation would increase the Taconite Homestead Credit from an average of \$289-\$315 per household to \$515, a nearly 77 percent increase. The credit has lost much of its impact since being frozen in 1998. The credit applies to homeowners in school districts in the Taconite Relief Area, including Ely, St. Louis County, and Mesabi East.

"By increasing the Taconite Homestead Credit, we can provide relief to Iron Range families immediately and permanently," said Hauschild. "After a 26-year freeze, it's the right thing to do for the Iron Range."



CITY OF ELY

Vandalism and other police matters top Ely agenda

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely Police Department received a large share of attention from the Ely City Council at its most recent meeting on Tuesday. The council and Police Chief Chad Houde discussed the vandalism over the weekend in Whiteside Park and the city's Rec Center.

"I am appalled by what I've seen ... pigs who defecated on trash can lids down at the Rec Center," stated city council member Al Forsman, commenting that it costs the city's public works department time and money to clean up after these incidents.

Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski added that it's not just kids who cause vandalism problems, noting the adult-caused vandalism last year in Whiteside Park. Houde urged anyone who spots any vandalism activity to call 911.

The city council also approved the funding to outfit

Ely's new patrol vehicle at a total cost of \$31,908. The purchase of the new squad vehicle was approved at the previous city council meeting on May 7.

At the recommendation of the budget committee, the council directed the city staff to develop a plan and cost analysis to implement body and squad car cameras for the police department. "I'm in favor of getting both (body and squad car cameras) but it is going to be a big chunk of money ... so we should pick one or the other," said Houde.

Houde said body cams would be the better choice for the rural policing that Ely does and advised that the city should plan to acquire the body cams first. He said the city will need to develop a formal plan regulating body cam use for the police department and hold a public hearing. He noted that a regulatory requirement for body cams was only a matter of time, stating, "There isn't a mandate yet but it will be coming in the future."

In other business, the city council:

- Heard a presentation by Barbara Jones of the Ely Climate Group about inserting sustainability and energy efficiency goals into Ely comprehensive planning documents. Jones gave examples of what Ely might want to consider using Grand Marias and the "Morris Model" from Morris, Minn. The Ely Climate Group's recent endeavors with the Morris Model and energy-efficient buildings and vehicles will be the subject of an upcoming article in the *Timberjay*.

- Approved \$168,697 for the purchase of parts for the city's new dump truck from Crysteel Truck Equipment.

- At the recommendation of the budget committee, directed the city staff to work with the staffs of the softball and youth baseball leagues on the expectations and agreement for use and maintenance of the city's baseball and softball fields.

- Approved \$2,565 for the

purchase of a mailbox cluster for the single-family lots on Sibley Drive.

- Approved the purchase of new street barricades from Locators and Supplies for \$3,386.

- Approved a public hearing on June 18 at 5 p.m. to hear comments on the water intake and Burntside water main replacement project. The city has been working on assembling the funding for this project since the spring of 2023.

- Approved the submission of an investigation grant to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for the redevelopment of the old railroad depot property. The state informed the city and developer in April that it wanted more borings done on the property to characterize possible soil contamination.

- Approved the mortgage satisfaction for Madalynne Reese and Kathleen Quigley recorded as Document No. 1058697.0 on July 12 for the \$10,026 residential rehab loan for 1139

E. Washington St. to install a moisture barrier in the basement.

- Approved the first reading of Ordinance No. 377, adding to the Ely City Code, Chapter 20, Section 20.1.30 to amend the city's zoning map. The city council also scheduled a public hearing on Ordinance 377 for June 4 at 5:15 p.m.

- Approved claims for payment from the city and Ely Utilities Commission for May 21 totaling \$239,427.

- Approved Resolution 2024-023 authorizing the Ely Blue Line Club to apply for a raffle permit.

- Approved a temporary liquor license for the Ely Fire Relief Association for June 2, July 6, and July 26-28 in Whiteside Park.

- Approved a listing contract with Keller Williams Classic Realty NW for East Spaulding to list "First Addition, Lot 6, Block 4" for sale. The one-year contract will take effect on May 31.

DEVELOPMENT

Helium flowing at Pulsar's completed gas well

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

BABBITT- Pulsar Helium broke the ceramic plug in its helium exploration well southeast of Babbitt on Tuesday. Breaking the seal—known as a packer—let the gas flow freely through the completed well casing for the very first time. Before Tuesday, the well was not in a production-ready state.

Pulsar's pressure testing contractor began work on Wednesday. The flow tests will repeat a cycle of venting the well for 12 hours and then letting the pressure build back up a total of three times. After receiving the test results, Pulsar's reservoir characterization contractor in Denver will deliver its results by the end of July. Those final numbers will determine if Pulsar builds a \$50 million helium extraction plant at



A slight blue haze shows the gas venting from Pulsar Helium's "exploration borehole" seconds after the flow valve was cracked open for the first time on the just completed well. photo by C. Clark

the well site.

The firm started work in January and completed its casing and initial borehole geophysical survey

by the end of February. Then, the Superior National Forest closed the Dunka River Road due to adverse late winter and early spring

road conditions. As soon as SNF reopened the road at the beginning of May, Pulsar was back out at the site, performing additional

seismic and borehole geophysical surveys, and prepping the well for pressure testing and gas production.

Pulsar's helium borehole is pushing Minnesota into new policy territory. Minnesota is not an "oil patch" state with a pre-existing regulatory framework for gas production from wells, but the recent discovery has prompted the Legislature to move forward with that process. In a measure approved last week, the Legislature set a temporary moratorium on gas permitting until an interim regulatory policy can be reviewed and approved by lawmakers.

Meanwhile, the Legislature authorized

the Department of Natural Resources and the Pollution Control Agency to undertake an expedited rulemaking process and establishes a Gas Production Technical Advisory Committee comprised of state and federal agencies and the University of Minnesota.

When Pulsar started work, it built its well using a permit for a traditional mining exploration borehole because of the lack of a regulatory framework appropriate for gas exploration and production wells. Now that Pulsar's "exploratory borehole" is a functioning gas production well, Minnesota now needs to catch up to permit and regulate it as such.

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EBCH
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Community Hospital

Hospital Connection
Mammography

Q: What is a Mammogram?
A: A mammogram is a specialized type of X-ray imaging used to screen for breast cancer in its early stages. During a mammogram, the breast is compressed between two plates, and X-ray images are taken from various angles. These images can reveal abnormal growths or changes in breast tissue that may indicate the presence of cancerous or precancerous cells.

Q: Who should get a Mammogram?
A: The guidance regarding when to start screening with mammograms has recently been in the news, along with updated guidance. We always recommend speaking with your Primary Care Provider to determine the best course of action for you. Typically, mammograms are recommended for women aged 40 and should be done annually after that. Women at higher risk, such as those with a family history of breast cancer or specific genetic mutations, may need to start screening earlier or undergo additional screening tests, such as breast MRI.

Q: Can I get my Mammogram at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital?
A: Yes – 2D and 3D Mammograms are available at EBCH. It is always recommended that you contact your insurance company to determine what type of mammography is covered. Contact our Radiology Department at 218-365-8737 for complete details.

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.

ebch.org | 328 W Conan St.
Ely, MN 55731
218-365-3271

Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital is committed to caring for and enhancing the health and well being of the community it serves.

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

Field hearing airs complaints on VNP access

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- A recent congressional subcommittee field hearing in Hayward, Wis. provided a venue for an International Falls houseboat rental operator to air local concerns about actions taken by Voyageurs National Park that could restrict access to the park for visitors and businesses alike.

The meeting on Monday, May 13 was convened by the U.S. House Subcommittee on Federal Lands to look at "Improving Access and Opportunities for Hunting, fishing, and Outdoor Recreation on America's Federal Lands." The subcommittee chairman, Republican Rep. Tom Tiffany, represents Wisconsin's Seventh District, where Hayward is located.

Joining Tiffany for the event was Minnesota's Eighth District Rep. Pete Stauber and Georgia's Tenth District freshman Rep. Mike Collins, both Republicans.

The partisan nature of the hearing became clear during Tiffany's opening remarks. "The public lands access that sustains the lifeblood of our communities is under attack," Tiffany said. "Public lands in Wisconsin and across the nation are under threat from extreme preservationists that want to lock up lands, limit access, prevent responsible management, close roads and trails and shut down many of the activities Americans love participating in on our public lands. Since taking office, President Biden has been using tools like

the Antiquities Act to lock up lands in pursuit of his radical "30 by 30" agenda, which is set a goal to preserve 30 percent of the land and water in the United States by 2030. For hunters and sportsmen, this radical agenda is unfolding in a death by a thousand cuts."

Among the five witnesses invited to deliver prepared remarks was Tom Dougherty, owner of Rainy Lake Houseboats and president of the Voyageurs Country Houseboat Operators Association. Dougherty also serves on the board of directors for the Voyageur Country ATV Club.

"I am here today to speak on behalf of stakeholders surrounding Voyageurs gateway communities - advocating for local outfitting operators, fishing guide services, resort owners, houseboat operators, local government, visitors and locals alike," Dougherty said. "We are faced with unnecessary barriers when accessing the vast waterways (of VNP)."

Dougherty contrasted access conditions when the park was formed 50 years ago to the present day.

"Fast forward 50 years, the National Park Service has enforced new water rights restrictions around more than 50 percent of the park," he said. "We now fight for easy access to more than 218,000 acres of Voyageurs National Park, including one-third of that acreage which is water. Unrestricted water access is critical to our livelihood, local tourism economy, and necessary for an inclusive visitor experience."

Dougherty echoed

themes familiar across the North Country, beginning by re-asserting that when the park was formed, Minnesota did not cede the waters in the park to the federal government, and that the state retains jurisdiction over those waters, jurisdiction that should be reinforced by congressional action, he said.

Next, Dougherty targeted the park's proposed Frozen Lake Surface Use Plan, a proposal released last year that received vigorous pushback from the public and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. It represents access restrictions that have been going on for years, Dougherty noted.

"There once was 100 miles of snowmobile trails on the Kabetogama peninsula - today there are only 18 miles of land trails," Dougherty said. "Recently, the truck portage through Mukooda Lake was restricted to permit-only access making it no longer accessible by automobile and ATV. The route provided a safe passage around dangerous ice conditions. The public has long relied on access to the frozen lake surfaces for winter recreational activities. Access by all types of vehicles is crucial to providing opportunities, especially those with disabilities."

"The economic impact on local operators has been detrimental, with reduced access limiting the scope of their operations and ultimately restricting access to the public," he added.

Stauber asked Dougherty to expand upon the impact the park's restrictions have had on the recreational economy.

"We have the gateway communities of Crane Lake, Ash River, Kabetogama, and International Falls, and when the park was first formed, we were promised an increase in visitors to the area," Dougherty said. "We really haven't seen that, although the visitorship is good and it's solid. But it is important to the area communities. The number of resorts that are there is astronomical. Some of the resorts have been there for a number of years, and then some new ones have popped up along the way. To put a number on it, well, I'm not prepared to do that today. But I certainly could submit something in the next few days."

Dougherty cited the new commercial use authorization application process as another hindrance on local operators and the area's tourism economy.

"The proposed CUAs will limit public access by hindering the ability of

businesses to operate effectively within Voyageurs," he said. "The visitor experience is compromised as fewer services and recreational opportunities are available, especially for those with disabilities."

Stauber asked Dougherty to describe how the CUA process has changed. Dougherty referred to the 2022 arrest and tasing of Ash River houseboat operator Justin Ebel by VNP law enforcement rangers in his response.

"The previous process was rather simple, it was just basically one paragraph," Dougherty said. "Now we have several pages of stipulations, essentially is what they are. For instance, for the houseboat operators, they developed a list of stipulations due to a set of unfortunate circumstances that arose in 2022 where we had a lake operator actually get arrested for a disagreement

with law enforcement. Out of that these stipulations were developed, and the stipulations are broad. We spent basically the entire winter negotiating with Superintendent (Bob) DeGross, who was accommodating. I think that most of the recommendations for the stipulations and things are coming from regional and possibly Washington."

In addition to asking for congressional action to reinforce Minnesota's water rights in the park, Dougherty called for a federal audit surrounding decision-making about Voyageurs' water rights jurisdiction and CUA guidelines.

"We want to offer full access to our nation's uniquely water-based Voyageurs National Park to all people," Dougherty concluded.

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SECTION 7A SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS

Ely edges Floodwood in playoff opener

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY — Last Saturday, Floodwood proved a pushover for the Timberwolves softball squad in a 19-4 Ely rout. But they proved anything but in Monday's opening round of the Section 7A playoffs as the sixth-seeded Wolves hung on by their claws to claim a 4-3 victory to advance to the next round.

"This game was a lot tougher than Saturday," noted Ely Head Coach Cory Lassi. "Their pitcher did a very nice job being around the

Wolves wrap regular season with back-to-back routs

strike zone and threw with a high velocity. I was proud of the way that we battled and focused all game. It would have been easy to come in and overlook this team because of the game on Saturday. I never felt like we looked past them, and that is important in a game like this."

Ely benefitted from another strong pitching performance by sophomore Zoe MacKenzie, who gave up no earned runs and struck out eight and walked none in a five-

Right: Senior Hannah Penke tags out a Floodwood runner as she attempts to steal second base. photo by J. Greeney

hit performance. "Zoe had great command today," said Lassi.

Peyton and Makenzi Huntington did most of the damage on offense for Ely. Peyton, a freshman, went 2-2, including a triple, scored once

See WOLVES...pg. 4B



SECTION 7A SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS

Grizzlies advance in squeaker

Face surprisingly tough challenge from tenth-seeded Littlefork-Big Falls

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods Grizzlies kept their fans on the edge of their sectional playoff seats on Monday, breaking a tie in their final at-bat to defeat Littlefork-Big Falls 6-5 and advance to the second round of play on Thursday in Grand Rapids.

The game got off to a rough start for the Grizzlies when the Vikings' second batter, Kadence Schmidtbauer, tagged North Woods starter Addison Burckhardt

Above: The Grizzlies' Emarie Gibson makes a big splash as she slides into third base during last Thursday's water-logged game against Cook County. photos by D. Colburn

Right: The Grizzlies' River Cheney dives for home to score the tying sixth inning run in Monday's 6-5 win.

for a two-run homer. The Grizzlies managed to get out of the frame without any more damage.

See SOFTBALL...pg. 4B



BASEBALL



The rains came, but the game must go on, despite the horror of every parent responsible for laundering their son's uniform. North Woods' home baseball game against Cook County last Thursday was a muddy, sloppy affair, as evidenced by the aftermath of Talen Jarshaw's headfirst slide into third base. The mud stains were worth the long road trip for Cook County, who went home with a 10-0 win. The Grizzlies scheduled Tuesday game against Deer River was rained out.

Pitching rules as Ely prepares for post season

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY — Mesabi East pitcher Dakota Kruse fanned an even dozen Ely batters and slammed a two-run homer here on Monday as the Giants dropped the Timberwolves to 8-9 on the season. The 5-1 loss came after the Wolves split their games during the weekend's Veterans Memorial Showcase, held Friday and Saturday in Ely.

"We really struggled at the plate at times over the past five games," said Ely Head Coach Frank Ivancich. "As I've told our team we are going to face most teams' top pitchers as was the case in this five-game run."

While Kruse was tough on the mound, the Wolves did manage five hits, including two by junior Caid Chittum, who maintained his hot streak with two hits. Senior Elliott Levens delivered a

See BASEBALL...pg. 4B

GIRLS GOLF

Olson ties for win in home tourney

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK- In a soggy shootout at the East Range Conference girls golf tournament at Vermilion Fairways last Friday, North Woods' Tori Olson mastered the slop

Left: North Woods senior golfer Tori Olson watches a putt head toward the hole during Friday's tournament at Vermilion Fairways. submitted photo

NER-Ely golfers take team second

for a share of the individual title, and the NER-Ely squad captured second place.

While not the same as the rivalry between, say, Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson, any time Olson and International Falls ace Kelby Anderson go head-to-head there's likely to be a heated battle for the top spot on the leaderboard, and Friday was no exception.

Olson offset three late bogies with birdies on the first, second, and fifth holes to shoot an even par 39 on the day, while Anderson carded one birdie and one bogey to also register a 39. As there is no tie-breaker procedure in regular league meets, the pair shared the championship, finishing six shots ahead of

See GOLF...pg. 4B



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Outdoors

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SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST

Fry Fire brought under control

Prescribed burn in Isabella escapes containment, but water drops, weather help firefighters

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

ISABELLA— The U.S. Forest Service declared a prescribed burn that went awry last week fully contained as of May 19, as light rain showers and higher humidity helped firefighters keep the Fry Fire—originally planned for 72 acres— limited to 186 acres. The fire was located less than a mile east of the Happy Wanderer tavern along Hwy. 1 in Isabella. No

structures were immediately threatened by the blaze.

The fire was part of an ambitious program of prescribed burning set for 2024 as the forest service works to reduce fuel loading from dead and downed trees, particularly balsam fir that has been hit hard in recent years by a combination of drought and spruce budworm.

The forest service had begun its prescribed burn shortly before 11 a.m. on May 15 and declared it a wildfire

just over two hours later after a spot fire took off in an area of dense vegetation. Fire officials called in water dropping aircraft to suppress the fire and they were effective in slowing the immediate fire spread. Cloud cover moved over the fire area later in the afternoon and humidity levels increased which helped ease fire activity. Additional crews and engines were brought in to assist working on the fire.

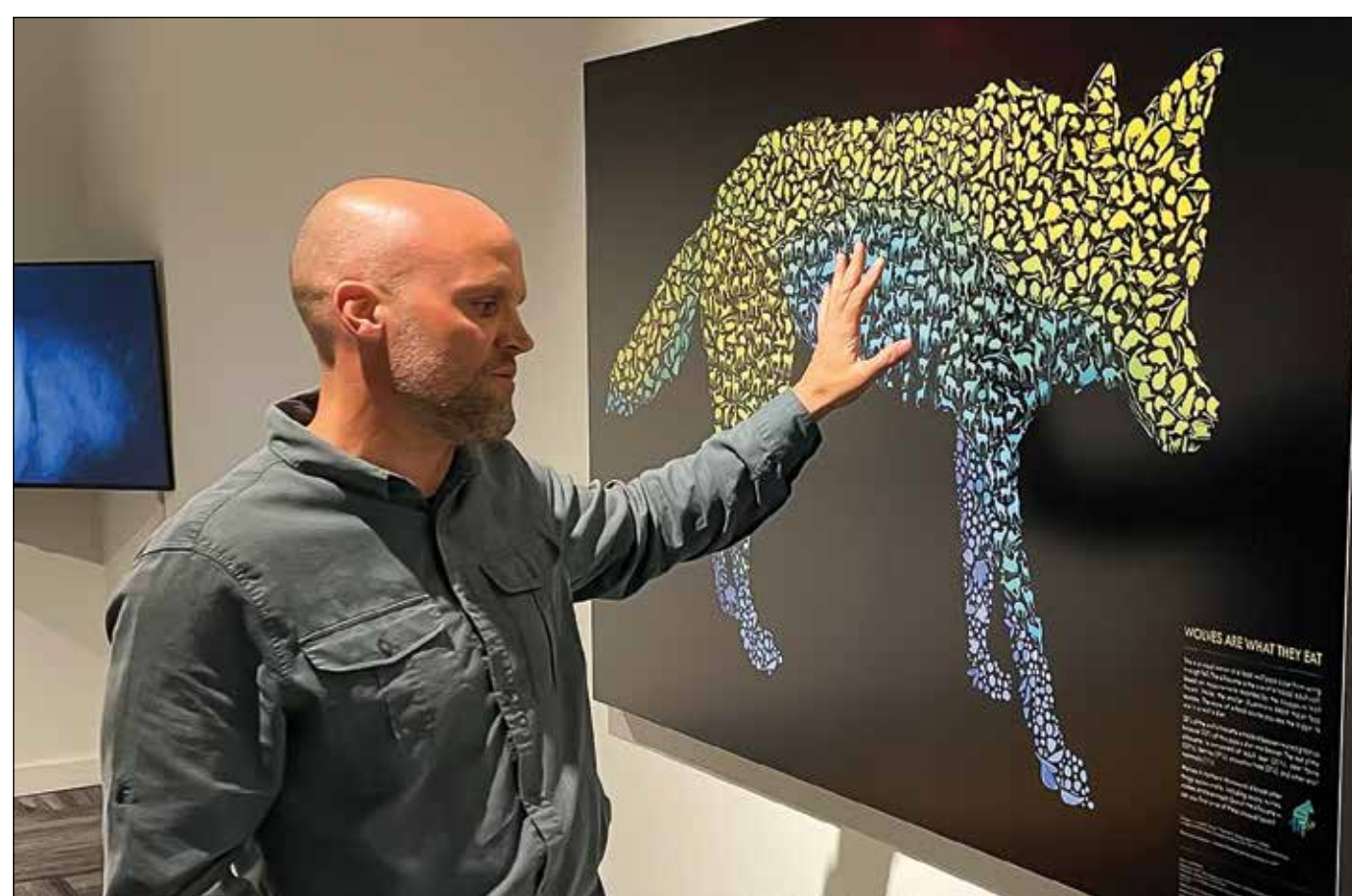
Forest service officials say that the weather condi-

Right: An image from the Fry prescribed fire before the burn went out of control.

photo courtesy USFS

tions were well within the parameters, or prescription, that they had set for the fire. Yet questions are always asked whenever a prescribed burn goes outside its planned boundaries. The *Timberjay* did request the specific pre-

See **FIRE...pg. 3B**



VOYAGEURS WOLF PROJECT

A study in images

Researchers, graphic designer, and International Wolf Center collaborate in new exhibit

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

ELY— Making scientific concepts and findings accessible to a general audience has long been a challenge for researchers. Most scientific journals have little readership outside academia and the articles that appear in them are rarely written to be accessible to anyone outside a particular field of study.

The researchers involved with the Voyageurs Wolf Project have done far more than most in recent years to

Top: Joseph Bump of the University of Minnesota, explains one of the images in the new exhibit.

Right: Lead researcher Tom Gable with an image reflecting the impact of wolves on beaver populations.

photos by M. HelMBERGER

build broad public awareness of some of their novel findings about wolf behavior in and around Voyageurs National Park. And now they're collab-

See **EXHIBIT...pg. 3B**



Wildflower Watch



This week's featured flower

WILD OATS

The **Wild Oats**, *Uvularia sessilifolia*, is an early season wildflower that can be easy to overlook. It's small, rarely over ten inches in height and the pale yellow, bell-like flower isn't as showy as the other similar species, the large-flowered bellwort.

This is a species found in upland locations, often in places that are heavily shaded once the leaves are fully out. Because it tends to spread vegetatively, this flower is often found in small patches on the forest floor.

Wild oats is one of this plant's common names. It is also known as sessile-leaved bellwort.

It was long considered a lily but has since been reassigned to the Autumn Crocus family, which includes large-flowered bellwort and blue-bead lily, otherwise known as Clintonia

Outdoors briefly

DNR urges attention to rules regarding use of hydraulic jets

REGIONAL— The DNR is again recommending that lake property owners familiarize themselves with the rules regarding the use of hydraulic jets, which are designed to blast muck and aquatic plants away. Even though they can be purchased in Minnesota, they cannot be used in any way that disturbs the bottom of a waterbody or uproots plants.

A person may legally operate a hydraulic jet if it is placed at the surface of the water in such a way that it does not disturb the bottom or destroy rooted aquatic plants. It should be directed slightly upward toward the water's surface. This can prevent dead vegetation and duckweed from collecting around docks.

"We want people to know why it's important to protect aquatic plants," said Shane McBride, DNR aquatic plant management consultant. "Plants are important to lakes and rivers because they help maintain water clarity, prevent erosion, stabilize the bottom of the waterbody, and provide habitat for fish and wildlife. Aquatic plants are protected under state law."

Specific regulations governing aquatic plant removal can be found on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/shorelandmgmt/apg/regulations.html). To apply for an aquatic plant management permit, visit the Minnesota DNR's permitting and reporting system (mndnr.gov/mpars).

MIGRATION

A white-crowned sparrow seems content to stay

Bird migration is always an interesting time for those of us who like to observe the natural world, in part because you never know who will show up and how long they'll stick around.

Most migrants that are headed north of our region tend to stay only a few days, so I was surprised this spring when a white-crowned sparrow became a regular under our bird feeder for at least three weeks beginning about mid-April.

I see them most years

during migration, but typically only a few days at most as they pass through on their way to

northern Canada, where they breed on the tundra or in low shrubs on the northern edges of the forest. This was the first time I could recall seeing one (and I'm quite sure it was the same bird) virtually set up shop in the yard for a period of weeks, and it has lingered to the point where I've begun to wonder if it was just going to stay all summer.

While this is one of our



MARSHALL HELMBERGER



largest sparrows, it can be easy to overlook, in part because it could be easily mistaken for one of the North Country's most common summer birds—

the white-throated sparrow—many of which sport a very similar black-and-white striped

See **SPARROW...pg. 3B**

Outdoors briefly

Bass season opens May 25

REGIONAL— The catch-and-keep season for bass opens Saturday, May 25. Largemouth and small-mouth bass can be easier to catch in spring and early summer when they spend

more time in shallow water. Learn more about how to fish for bass and other species at the DNR's learn to fish webpage (mndnr.gov/gofishing/how-catch-fish.html).

SPARROW...Continued from page 2B—

head. The white-crowned sparrow, however, lacks the yellow eye spot and the bright white chin of the white-throated sparrow. While the white-crowned is also slightly larger on average, there's probably enough variability that this isn't a reliable indicator.

The two species can easily be distinguished by their song, but I can't recall ever hearing a white-crowned sparrow sing. I did listen to their song on an app, and it's buzzy with a nice trill at the end, but nothing that is going to stand out from the crowd. The same, of course, cannot be said the white-throated sparrow, whose beautiful whistled "Oh-Canada-da-da song is one of the North Country's most iconic sounds.

While the white-crowned sparrow is a common bird in North America, here in Minnesota we only get to see it on migration, which means typically for a few days in

the spring and again in the fall. They breed in summer north of Minnesota or in high elevations in the West and they spend winters across the entire southern two-thirds of the U.S., from central Iowa south to central Mexico, where they feed mostly in grassy or brushy areas, or come to feeders for sunflower seeds and cracked corn.

I put a nice spread of cracked corn, sunflower seeds, and little millet on the ground both summer and fall to bring in those migrating sparrows and juncos so that may be one reason my white-crowned sparrow is hanging out a bit longer than usual.

Interestingly, research has found that these sparrows tend to pair up with the same mate year-after-year, assuming that both members of the pair survive. Come the end of the breeding season, they go their separate ways until next year. Hopefully, my lingering sparrow will get the urge soon enough.

FIRE...Continued from page 2B

scription for the Fry Fire, but the information was not immediately forthcoming from the forest service. "We don't have the specific numbers for the conditions that were recorded that day, we'll get those as we conduct a more in-depth review," said Tim Engrav, public information officer.

According to Engrav, the forest service will be taking a more in-depth look at the weather recordings and fire behavior in the near future. "Right now, we don't [know] if the weather conditions were significantly different a few hours later at the prescribed fire location," said Engrav. "We do know that the spot fire got established in a stand of denser forest fuels with budworm-killed spruce and fir present. Immediate action was taken to suppress this spot fire using the holding and contingency resources that were on site."

The forest service insists they had the resources in place and available to respond to the wildfire.

"We had holding and contingency resources specifically assigned to this prescribed fire that we were able to assign to the spot fire immediately," said Engrav. "There were additional water dropping

aircraft positioned in the state for wildfire response which were available to be ordered to assist. We had additional crews and engines on the [national forest] assigned in other locations that could be and were reassigned to support the wildfire suppression response."

Had some of those resources been occupied on other wildfires, however, the circumstances could have proved more challenging for the forest service.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
57 41					57 39					66 43					64 44					66 46				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
05/13	69	32	0.00		05/13	70	28	0.00		05/13	69	41	0.00		05/13	61	37	0.00		05/13	69	40	0.00	
05/14	59	31	0.00		05/14	61	29	0.00		05/14	59	38	0.00		05/14	64	36	0.00		05/14	60	29	0.00	
05/15	63	na	0.00		05/15	64	30	0.00		05/15	63	38	0.00		05/15	66	39	0.00		05/15	64	32	0.00	
05/16	66	40	0.25		05/16	68	39	0.15		05/16	66	41	0.30		05/16	48	41	0.96		05/16	67	39	0.00	
05/17	47	38	0.23		05/17	50	33	0.25		05/17	50	40	0.42		05/17	70	36	0.19		05/17	49	35	0.40	
05/18	66	46	0.04		05/18	69	41	0.15		05/18	70	43	0.02		05/18	73	52	0.00		05/18	70	40	0.08	
05/19	77	na	0.00		05/19	78	38	0.00		05/19	77	47	0.00		05/19	66	46	0.00		05/19	77	40	0.00	
YTD Total			7.45		YTD Total			6.67		YTD Total			5.95		YTD Total			NA		YTD Total			7.79	

EXHIBIT...Continued from page 2B

orating with the International Wolf Center and a graphic designer to present a new exhibit that provides a unique perspective on their ongoing studies.

The exhibit, titled "Starvation, adaptation, and survival," is now open at the International Wolf Center in Ely. It runs through Oct. 20 and is likely to attract considerable interest given the public awareness of the research underway at Voyageurs.

"These guys are celebrities online," said Grant Spickelmier, executive director of the International Wolf Center, who noted that the website hosted by the research team has developed a huge following, fueled by the steady stream of trail camera videos the research team regularly posts of wolves, wolf pups, and other assorted wildlife captured through the network of cameras they use as part of their research. Those videos have been shot mostly in summer months, a period of time that has been largely ignored by wolf researchers until recently due to the difficulty of tracking wolves in summer.

Their research has documented behaviors previously unknown to wildlife researchers, including wolves that fish and eat blueberries, and have provided a better understanding of the importance of beaver to the summer diet of wolves in the region.

But while the videos are fun to watch, they provide just glimpses of the voluminous data that a multi-year study like the Voyageurs Wolf Project gathers. Finding ways to present years of data in a manner that's easily understandable was the mission of the main researchers, Tom Gable, Austin Homkes, and Joseph Bump, all three of whom



Above: A video of wolf pups is also part of the exhibit.



Right: One of several graphic images depicting individual wolves or wolf packs that are part of the Voyageurs Wolf Project study.

photos by M. Helmberger

were in Ely last week for a soft opening of the exhibit open to media.

To help, they turned to Kimberly Boustead, a Twin Cities graphic designer and illustrator who left a full-time job at a marketing firm to spend more time using her talents for environmental education. Using suggestions for the research team, Boustead created a series of images that tell the story of the team's findings, from a breakdown of a wolf's diet to the ways that their presence in the ecosystem serves to check the impact beavers on the forests of the region.

"It's been a real collaborative process with Tom and Joe," said Boustead. "They had the original vision and turning it into the final images was a back-and-forth process." By using the same color pallet and wildlife symbols throughout the images, it helps viewers more quickly understand the concepts being demonstrated in the larger, more colorful images.

"The goal was to make it very

visual and very different," Boustead added.

The exhibit also includes more detailed looks at individual wolves included in the study, such as wolf VO83, of the Cranberry Pack, who has become remarkably adept at hunting beaver, having killed at least 42 of them during the ice-free season in 2020. Or there is VO36, a breeding male who was captured on camera while defending his pups from a black bear that wandered too close.

Each of the images of individual wolves comes with a QR code that links directly to a far more in-depth summary of information about the individual wolf and its pack that viewers can read on their phone.

"The really neat part about working with them, is that they're so great about teaching people, and now I'm part of that, too," said Boustead.

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TRACK

Grizzlies compete in Polar League meet

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

TWO HARBORS—Titles were up for grabs at the Polar League Championship track meet in Two Harbors on May 15, but North Woods tracksters competing with the South Ridge Panthers came home without any gold hardware to show for their efforts.

The Panthers finished well down the team standings, with the boys placing seventh and the girls placing ninth in the ten-team

event. The combined squad had numerous top-five finishers, but failed to top the winner's podium.

For the boys, North Woods' Alex Burckhardt took advantage of a break in the Grizzlies' baseball schedule to run in the 3200 meters and ended up just shy of claiming a championship, finishing second with a time of 10:21.05. Khalil Lightfeather-Spears ran the race in 11:15.47 to place seventh, and Lincoln Antikainen finished right behind in eighth with a time of 11:15.47

The Grizzlies were represent-

ed on all of the relay teams. For the 4x100, Evan Kajala, Trajen Barto, Wyatt Ellefson, and Brady Hellman placed eighth with a time of 53.24. The 4x200 relay of Aidan Hartway, Barto, Kajala, and Darren Larson clocked in with a 1:44.54 and a sixth-place finish. Jonah Burnett, Hartway, Quinn FierkeLepp and Sawyer FierkeLepp raced to third-place finish in the 4x400 relay with a time of 3:50.8. Burnett also ran on the 4x800 relay team with Tyler Morse and both FierkeLepps, placing second with a time of

8:58.33.

Burnett placed fourth in the high jump with a leap of 5'6", while Barto sailed to a 15th-place finish in the long jump with a 15'10" effort.

On the girls side, and mirroring her brother, Addison Burckhardt stepped away from the softball pitcher's mound to compete in the 3200. She ran the circuit in 13:31.19, placing third. Izzy Pascuzzi also captured third in the high jump with a leap of 4'8".

Other top-10 Grizzlies com-

petitors included:

400—Corra Brodeen, ninth, 70.17; Addy Hartway, tenth, 70.24.
1600—Zoey Burckhardt, seventh, 6:10.77.
4x100 relay—Mya Kinsey, Gabby Franks, Alana Jensen, Makayla Gilbson, ninth, 62.72.
4x200 relay—Corra Brodeen, Addy Hartway, Harmony Aikey, Izzy Pascuzzi, sixth, 2:01.77.
4x400 relay—Corra Brodeen, Scarlett Vanderschuren, Madison Ellefson, Violet Vanderschuren fourth, 4:44.61.
Long jump—Izzy Pascuzzi, sixth 14'5.25".

Ely track competes at Rock Ridge meet

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

HIBBING- The Ely boys and girls track squads took part in the Steve Kerzie Invitational track and field meet at Rock Ridge High School last Saturday, with the girls placing third and the boys finishing fifth in the seven-team event.

Violet Udovich was the only Ely athlete to bring home gold, winning the 400 meters crown with a time of 1:01.22

Top-15 finishers for the Wolves included:

100m—Miriam Messerschmidt, seventh, 14.04;

Alyssa Ice, 12th, 15.47; Maddie Johnson, 14th, 16.01.

200m—Anna Larson, sixth, 29.27; Miriam Messerschmidt, tenth, 29.65; Selam Houle, 15th, 31.25.

400m—Addison Forsman, 11th, 1:08.92; Elsa Ellerbroek, 12th, 1:09.8; Isabella Macho, 13th, 1:11.41.

800m—Ivy Ohlhauser, ninth, 2:47.11; Elsa Ellerbroek, tenth, 2:48.8; Addison Kannas, 14th, 3:03.31; Alison Poppler, 15th, 3:09.49.

1600m—Molly Brophy, fourth, 5:41.29; Mattie Lindsay, seventh, 5:52.21; Katy Brophy, eighth, 6:08.89.

4x100 relay—A. Alyssa Ice, Lydia Shultz, Miriam Messerschmidt, Anna Larson, fifth, 55.50; B. Bela Moskowitz,

Stella Koivisto, Kaija Shultz, Selam Houde, 11th, 1:03.43.

4x200 relay—A. Lydia Shultz, Violet Udovich, Anna Larson, Grace LaTourell, third, 1:51.55; B. Alison Poppler, Chantel Ridings, Bela Moskowitz, Isabella Macho, tenth, 2:18.17.

4x400 relay—Lydia Shultz, Sarah Visser, Violet Udovich, Grace LaTourell, second, 4:13.44.

4x800 relay—Mattie Lindsay, Elsa Ellerbroek, Katy Brophy, Molly Brophy, second, 10:55.56.

Shot put—Rachel Carter, tenth, 26'8.5".

Discus—Alyssa Ice, fourth, 93'6"; Kaylin Visser, fifth, 93'5.5"; Sarah Visser, eighth, 84'1"; Rachel Carter,

tenth, 80'2".

High jump—Lydia Shultz, fourth, 4'8"; Violet Udovich, eighth, 4'4".

Long jump—Addison Forsman, fifth, 14'0.75"; Stella Koivisto, 12th, 12'0.25"; Alyssa Ice, 13th, 11'10.75"; Brynn Larson, 14th, 11'10.25".

Triple jump—Sarah Visser, third, 31'3.5"; Addison Forsman, eighth, 28'3".

Boys

The top performance turned in by the Ely boys belonged to Leo Stalmer, who placed second in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 44.41 seconds.

Others top-15 finishers for the boys included:
100m—Dylan Durkin,

13th, 12.78.

200m—Caleb Larson, 13th, 26.39; Henry Zgonc, 15th, 28.54.

400m—Eli Olson, sixth, 56.8; Noah Axlessen, 13th, 1:04.57.

800m—Silas Solum, third,

2:14.42; Wyatt Devine, seventh, 2:24.17.

1600m—Oliver Hohenstein, eighth, 5:15.75; Brooks Brenny, tenth, 5:28.95.

3200m—Blake Houde,

third, 12:35.87.

110m hurdles—Leo Stalmer, sixth, 18.14.

4x100 relay—Caleb Larson, Wyatt Mattson, Milo McClelland, Tory Hughley, seventh, 51.34.

4x200 relay—Dylan Durkin, Wyatt Mattson, Milo McClelland, Tory Hughley, fifth, 1:42.56.

4x400 relay—Eli Olson, Caleb Larson, Silas Solum, Leo Stalmer, third, 3:54.29.

4x800 relay—Milo McClelland, Wyatt Devine, Brooks Brenny, Oliver Hohenstein, fourth, 9:30.17.

Shot put—Wyatt Mattson, sixth, 35'0"; Tory Hughley, 15th, 30'10.5".

Discus—Wyatt Mattson,

11th, 96'10".

Long jump—Eli Olson, eighth, 17'6"; Leo Stalmer, 13th, 16'9.5".

Triple jump—Eli Olson, third, 38'3.25"; Silas Solum, seventh, 36'0"; Tory Hughley, 11th, 34'2.5".

The Wolves were scheduled to compete in a sub-sectional meet at Mesabi East on Thursday.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

and drove in two additional runs. Makenzi went 2-2 as well, scoring twice.

With the win, the Wolves were set to face third-seeded South Ridge on Thursday.

Ely had a much easier time with Floodwood in their regular season finale at home on Saturday, as they manhandled the Polar Bears 19-4.

"We did a great job jumping out to an early lead," said Lassi. "I felt like every ball that we hit was hit hard. We were able to take advantage of some of their mistakes on the field to put together big innings. I thought we played very well defensively."

Senior Hannah Penke had a huge day at the plate for the Wolves, going 4-4,

including three doubles. She rounded the bases four times for runs and notched six RBIs, accounting in one way or another for just over half of Ely's 19 runs. Peyton Huntington had another strong outing as well, scoring four runs and notching an RBI on three hits. Junior Clare Thomas scored twice and drove in a run on a hit, while

freshmen Grace Flynn and Amelia Penke each drove in two runs.

At Two Harbors last Friday, the Wolves exploded in the later innings to romp over the Agates 16-2.

"We had a slow start offensively, but once we went through the order the first time, our bats came alive. I thought we did a great job making an

adjustment after our first time through the order," said Lassi.

MacKenzie was dominant from the mound, allowing just two runs on two hits, while striking out seven in six full. "Zoe gave us great energy pitching," said Lassi. "At one point she struck out five batters in a row."

Thomas had a huge day

offensively, racking up five hits, including two doubles, while driving in three runs and scoring three times.

Amelia Penke went 4-4, notching four RBIs and scoring once, while Flynn went 2-3, scoring twice and racking up two RBIs.

BASEBALL...Continued from page 1B

run-scoring hit for Ely in the sixth inning, but it was too little, too late.

Playing on Saturday, the Wolves showed their potential in a 5-0 shutout of International Falls. At the plate Chittum and Sam Leeson paced the Ely attack with two hits apiece. Senior Drew Marolt had a hit and drove in two runs with a double in the fifth to extend Ely's lead.

Sophomore pitcher Hunter Halbakken scat-

tered eight hits and struck out nine in five innings of work for the win.

Ely began the day on Saturday with a easy blowout over Cook County. Chittum, who started and finished on the mound, was in total control as he struck out 11 while surrendering just two hits in the five-inning win for the Wolves. Chittum paced the offense with two hits and three RBI's. Senior Deegan Richards and junior

Ben Leeson each added a double and drove in a run as Ely cruised to the easy win.

Ely faced tougher competition in back-to-back pitcher's duels on Friday. In the morning game against Warroad, Marolt had another strong outing on the mound, allowing just two runs on three hits while striking out four. But Warroad pitcher Brock Thompson allowed just one run on five hits, while striking out four to

notch the 2-1 win.

Warroad scored single runs in the second and third innings to take an early 2-0 lead. Ely struck in the bottom of the sixth as Brecken Sandberg singled in Sam Leeson who led off the inning with a base hit. Deegan Richards notched two hits for Ely.

In the afternoon contest, Cherry stand-out pitcher Jason Asuma proved too hot to handle as he fanned 11 Ely batters

enroute to a 2-1 win in a game that went to extra innings. Asuma also delivered the game winning hit as he drove in Isaiah Asuma in the top of the seventh to break the 1-1 tie game.

Ely starter Brecken Sandberg matched Asuma as he struck out 10 while walking three and giving up four hits. Ely picked up its only run in the bottom of the sixth when Drew Marolt doubled in Chittum, who had led off the inning with

a single.

Despite the back-to-back losses, Ivancich saw plenty to like. "We had two great baseball games, well-pitched by all," he said. "Overall, it was a great day of baseball for us. We faced two good pitchers today and gave ourselves a chance to win both of those games."

SOFTBALL...Continued from page 1B

As they've done often this season, the Grizzlies came back in the bottom of the first, with Burckhardt reaching when she was hit by a pitch and scoring on a River Cheney triple. Evalyn Thiel walked and stole second and a single by Ella Kruse brought the runners home for a 3-2 lead.

But while the Grizzlies threatened repeatedly over the next four innings, they couldn't push a run across the plate as the Vikings scored two in the second and one in the fifth for a 5-3 advantage head into the bottom of the sixth inning.

With the season being over with a loss, the Grizzlies got in gear with Addison Burckhardt smashing a too-hot-to-handle shot to third to reach on an error, and then stole

second. Cheney nailed another hard hit that the Vikings' third baseman couldn't handle, giving North Woods runners at first and second. Both runners moved up a base on a passed ball, and Evalyn Thiel walked to load the bases.

Kruse stepped up to the plate and rapped a single to center field, with Burckhardt crossing the plate for one run and Cheney diving head first into home for the tying run.

Now pumped up, North Woods shut down the Vikings in the top of the seventh. Shortstop Emarie Gibson erased the first batter with a sharp throw to first, a line drive by the second hitter straight back to the mound was snagged by Burckhardt for the

second out, and after a fielding error allowed a runner to reach Burckhardt fielded a grounder and flipped the ball to Cheney at first to retire the side.

The Grizzlies first batter up, Nevada Gauthier, sent the signal to the Vikings that their season was about to be over by hammering an uncatchable liner to center that made it all the way to the fence, with Gauthier's hustle turning it into a triple. Zoey Burckhardt reached on an infield grounder, then moved into scoring position with a steal. After Addison Burckhardt was out on an infield fly, North Woods cleanup hitter Cheney stepped to the plate. A big clutch double scored Gauthier from third, cashing the Grizzlies' ticket to the second round.

Head Coach Dee Ann Sandberg was glad to see the Grizzlies catch fire late.

"We were slow the whole game, so we needed to pick it up and get on it," she said. "It takes us so long sometimes to get going, but they knew they had to do it. We came out on top, that's all that matters now."

The win was a solid comeback from a crushing Friday home loss to International Falls. The Broncos scored at will while the Grizzlies scored just once in the 16-1 run-rule shortened drubbing. The Grizzlies got a sour taste of their own medicine, having doled out an equally dominant 17-2 beatdown on Cook County the day before. That game was played on a field more suited for ducks than soft-

ball, as rain that stopped just 15 minutes before gametime turned the field into a swampy quagmire.

Back to tournament play, the Grizzlies were scheduled to play second-seeded Moose Lake/Willow River on Thursday in Grand Rapids. If they win, they would play a second game that day against the winner of the South Ridge-Ely game.

GOLF...Continued from page 1B

the field.

The Grizzlies finished fourth in the five-team tourney, with Laurin Glass coming in 22nd with a 69, Carsyn Burnett placing 26th with a 74, and Sophia

Hoffman finishing 27th with a 76 on the water-logged course.

Meanwhile, the NER-Ely team has another good showing in the team competition, although their

221 total was well behind winner Rock Ridge. Abby Koivisto turned in the team's best round with a 50, good enough for seventh place. Cylvia DeBeltz placed tenth with a 54,

Maizy Sunblad shot a 56 for 12th, and Carena DeBeltz ended up in 16th-place with a 61.

TOWER-SOUDAN

CITYWIDE-SALE

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JULY 27 • 8-3

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218-235-1377
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List Available July 25-Local Stores

Cook VFW
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Open: Wed-Mon:
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HAPPY HOUR 3:30-6:30 PM
Pull Tabs (Lic #00390)

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Opens: 5 PM
Games Start: 6:30 PM

FRIDAY
BURGER NIGHT • 4:30-7 PM
1/3 LB BURGER - \$6

206 1st St SW, Cook, MN

FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESSES

SBA District Director visits Lamppa Manufacturing

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Lamppa Manufacturing hosted some special visitors this week. On Tuesday, Brian McDonald, Minnesota district director of the Small Business Administration, and Shawn Wellnitz, CEO of the Entrepreneur Fund, were on hand to formally award the SBA's Minnesota Family-Owned Business of the Year award.

Lamppa CEO Garrett Lamppa, along with his parents, Daryl and Cheryl, and son Leif received the honors, along with the employees at the small, rural manufacturing plant.

McDonald expressed his belief that Tower would soon become the "sauna capital of the world," and talked about the importance of the 500,000 small businesses in Minnesota, which employ about 50-percent of the state's workforce. Lamppa Manufacturing, which creates sauna stoves and wood furnaces, was honored for its strong growth and its contribution to the local economy, McDonald

said.

Wellnitz talked about the work the Entrepreneur Fund does with as many as 1,600 small businesses in northern Minnesota each year.

State Rep. Roger Skraba expressed his support for small businesses, and he noted he had worked with Rep. Lislegard and Sen. Hauschild to get \$1 million in new dollars in this legislative session, to be used as loan funds.

"My goal is to help keep businesses' costs down, so businesses can rise up," Skraba said. "We have nothing but room to grow up here."

Skraba also talked about the quality of the Lamppa stoves. "The Kuuma stove's reputation is just like gold," he said.

Garrett Lamppa credited the company's growth to the work of his father, Daryl, whose designs and engineering work have created the cleanest wood-burning sauna stoves and wood-fired furnaces in the country, and perhaps the world. He also said they were lucky to have a good group of employees.



From left: Shawn Wellnitz (EF), Brian McDonald (SBA), Garrett Lamppa with son Leif, Cheryl and Daryl Lamppa, State Rep. Roger Skraba. photo by J. Summit

"Manufacturing is tough in a small community," he said.

Garrett said he is lucky to have a job where he is happy to come to work each day.

"People who are into sau-

nas are cool." Since a large portion of the sauna stoves and furnaces they sell are picked up at the plant in Tower, they get to meet new customers almost every day.

Garrett also showed off two new models of the BluFlame wood gasifying sauna stove, bringing the new line up to three sizes of stoves, to fit different sizes of saunas.

Obituaries and Death Notices

**Dr. John V. Urick**

Dr. John Victor Urick, 91, of Lake Vermilion, passed away quietly at his lake home on Tuesday evening, May 14, 2024. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, June 1 at Bauman Funeral Home in Tower. Visitation will be at 10 a.m. followed by a service at 11 a.m. The family would like to thank the wonderful staff at Virginia Hospice for their immense help and Dr. Elleby and Dr. Friday for their kind and compassionate care.

John was born on April 17, 1933, to Victor and Lily Erdine (Nordstrom) Urick in Biwabik. He graduated from Biwabik High School in 1951. John was drafted and served two years in the U.S. Army. He would fondly reminisce about his tour of duty in Hawaii and getting to enjoy the days on Waikiki Beach. John enrolled at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, graduating with a degree in Education. Realizing that teaching wasn't his calling, he continued his education at the University of Minnesota and graduated in 1962 from the School of Dentistry.

John married Patricia Evelyn Prevost of Duluth on June 19, 1959. They would enjoy a long and loving marriage of almost 65 years. John was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, friend and mentor. John was very loyal and very giving. He was an excellent dentist who enjoyed his patients and tried to provide them with the best care possible. John practiced in St. Cloud for 37 years before retiring in 1997 to return to his beloved Lake Vermilion.

John was a member (and previous president) of the St. Cloud Dental Society, Minnesota Dental Association, St. Cloud Country Club, St. Cloud Trap Shooting Club, the Vermilion Lake Association and American Acad-

emy of General Dentistry. He was also a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Tower.

Beyond all his personal and professional successes, John was a "salt-of-the-earth" kind of guy. His subtle wit would create smiles and laughter from family and friends. He was always willing to give a helping hand to anyone who needed it and quietly performed charity dentistry.

He would often say, "I've had a wonderful life, caught all the fish I've wanted to, and done a lot of great hunting with friends, loved my family and friends, and I'm ready to meet the Lord." John lived life fully and enjoyed life up until the very end. It was a gift to know him and enjoy his company.

In retirement, John and Pat would spend their winters in St. Petersburg, Fla. John enjoyed his fishing, hunting, tending his vegetable garden (parsnips were his favorite), and was a voracious reader of World War II books. He often spent time tinkering in his workshop and always found projects to do around his lake home.

John is survived by his wife, Pat; sons, John and James; grandchildren, December, Skyler, Jenna and Abigail; several nephews and nieces; and special cousin, Ken Danz.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and sister.

Doris J. Kantola

Doris J. Johnson Kantola, 98, of Cook, beloved wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt passed into the presence of her Lord on Saturday, May 18, 2024, at Cook Care Center. A celebration of life was held on Thursday, May 23 at First Baptist Church of Cook. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

She is survived by her children, Joan (James) Edblom of Virginia, Doreen (Galen) Bergman of Brien and Terrance (Bernadine) Kantola of Cook; grandchildren, Launa (John) Hanna, Shannon (Gail) Bergman, Jill (Todd) Mavec, Judy (Eric) Iverson and Stacy (Levon) Kalemkarian; eight great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

**Kenneth H. Kube**

Kenneth Harold "Ken" Kube, 83, of Thief River Falls, passed away on Monday, May 20, 2024, at the Thief River Care Center. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, May 22 at Gosen Church in McIntosh with Pastor Gary Johnson officiating. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 31 at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi. Visitation will take place one hour prior to the service. Memorials are preferred to the Gosen Church or St. Andrew's Community Resource Center.

Ken was born on June 3, 1940, to Alvin Harold Kube and Edith Marie (Gauger) Kube in St. Paul. He grew up on St. Paul's West Side and graduated from Humboldt High School in 1958. During high school he played hockey and got to travel the state. On his ventures up north in those days, he said they lost many games to the great hockey teams of northern Minnesota. Ken went on to the University of Minnesota and worked as a draftsman. He was part of the team that designed Alvin, a deep-sea submersible that discovered the Titanic. On a family trip, he took his kids to Woods Hole Institute in Massachusetts to find the sub gone to sea, their own version of Family Vacation.

Ken suffered from horrible stuttering and tried to find jobs where he would not need to talk to anyone. When he was in his 20's he was told that if he was ever going to kick the stuttering, he needed to find a job that depended on his ability to talk. So Ken started cold call selling life insurance door-to-door. This was just what was needed to open the flow of speech; some would argue it nev-

er turned off. He went on to be a multi-million-dollar producer for Lutheran Mutual/ CUNA. He started his own agency and mentored many others and was very successful because of his near photographic memory and the ability to remember people's names and important things about them.

In 1989, he was convicted of mail fraud and was sentenced to 22 months at the Duluth prison. Ken took this as a sign to change the direction of his life. He spoke to others about what led him to this spot and got very involved with Prison Fellowship. He had the opportunity to travel, but still called Minnesota home. He was often found sitting and talking, helping others when he could. He had a strong relationship with many Amish; he liked their simpler life and would often give them rides and take them to appointments. He even had the opportunity to join in on some barn raisings and truly enjoyed that.

Ken was married to Karen Lamp on May 5, 1968, and they had two children, Eric and Sara. Their marriage was dissolved in 1990. He was very proud of both his children and would often speak of them with great pride and passion.

In Ken's life he led church youth groups, mined for gold, owned and raced horses, hunted and fished, served as Mayor of West St. Paul, loved to ride his barstool go-kart, traveled, built office buildings, homes and restaurants, and took adventures with his dog, like their trip to Alaska in a van with 230,000 miles on it. He sold insurance, garage doors, bathrooms and cars; he was a passionate man of Minnesota sports and had the opportunity to work with the Vikings, Twins and Wild. He loved to visit the Texas hill country.

In Ken's last year, he was blessed to be living at the Thief River Care Center. He was cared for graciously and kindly. Many thanks go to all the staff. He took time to get to know the other residents there and would ask residents and staff alike if they knew Jesus and would share his faith.

No matter where Ken called home, he would

work extra hard to get involved, meet his neighbors, and join a church family. Within a very short time everyone knew who he was, and he would know all of their names, what they did, and what they needed help with. He was the first to step up to help and to recruit others to help when needed. His heart was great, and he shared his faith in Jesus far and wide.

A very special thank you to the family that adopted him as an honorary grandfather - Lori, Pat, Shandi, Kinsley and Mathew. Thank you for caring for him and bringing him into your family. Ken's journey on this earth now is done; many were blessed by the intersection of their lives with his. He told many jokes and the lucky ones even got to hold his stool sample. We surely hope heaven is ready for his passion, work ethic and sense of humor. Maybe the angels will not notice when he plays his harmonica a bit off key.

Ken is survived by his children, Eric (Amy) Kube and Sara Kube; grand-children, Jake, Lucy, Addison and Megan Kube; ex-wife, Karen Matheny; and long-term companion, Dee Dee Miller.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and sister, Carol Kube.

Russell A. Edman

Russell Allen Edman, 97, longtime resident of Babbitt, died on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at Heritage Manor in Chisholm. A celebration of life will be held at the Babbitt Beach Pavilion on Tuesday, July 2 from 2 to 4 p.m. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his sons, Russell Edman Jr. of Virginia and Bruce (Lynn) Edman of McKinney, Texas; grandchildren, Jeff (Christie) Edman, Katie (Matt) Hiti and Ross (Brittani) Edman; six great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Marion Kangas

Marion Skala Kangas, 86, of Ely, passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 19, 2024, in the Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 24 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. Visitation will be for one hour before. Burial will follow in the Ely Cemetery. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her son, John; daughters, Linda (John) DeBeltz and Barbara (Gary) Torgerson; and grandchild, Braden Torgerson.

Chester C. Leathers

Chester C. Leathers, 84, of Cook, passed away on Thursday, May 2, 2024, at his home. A private family burial will be held at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery at Saginaw. A celebration of life will be held at the Cook VFW on Saturday, June 29 from noon to 3 p.m. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his special friend, Joanne Minnetti of Bloomington; son, Steve (Bobbi) Leathers; daughter, Mari Beltezure (Steve Blanck); grandchildren, Camryn and Andrew Beltezure; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Gary J. Starkman

Gary J. Starkman, 80, of Ely, passed away on Friday, May 10, 2024, at his home. Private services will be held and burial will be in the White Iron Cemetery. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his sons, Michael (Sherry) and Dan; grandchildren, Dylan and Danica; and sister, Kathy Douglas.

Bernard T. Mettler

Bernard Thomas "Bernie" Mettler, 60, of Long Prairie, formerly of Embarrass, died tragically in a UTV accident on Saturday, April 13, 2024.

A memorial service was held on Monday, May 20 at the Evangelical Free Church of Embarrass with Pastor Marlin Bjornrud officiating. Memorials are preferred and may be sent to Joshua Mettler, 5606 E Taylor Rd, Embarrass, MN 55732.

EMPLOYMENT

ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS POSITION OPENING .80 FTE English Teacher

Ely Public School District is looking for a .80 FTE English Teacher starting the 2024-2025 school year. We are an EC - Grade 12 district, seeking an energetic, self-starting, personable, and highly motivated individual. Background check required.

Qualifications include:

- > Current Minnesota teaching license in 7-12 English/Language Arts or other applicable Minnesota teaching license.
- > Preferred Master's Degree
- > Preferred teaching experience with high school levels
- > Excellent communication skills including verbal and written

Responsibilities:

- > Demonstrate knowledge of subject matter through effective teaching practices, with expectations of high student achievement.
- > Assess student progress, modify instruction, and improve student learning.
- > Communicate and collaborate with parents and the school community to foster individual student success and growth.
- > Plan, organize, and teach competency-based English courses.
- > Demonstrate effective classroom and equipment management.

Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

A complete application must include the following:

- > Cover letter
- > District Licensed Application
- > Resume
- > Copy of official transcripts
- > Current Minnesota teaching license
- > 3 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email lwestrick@ely.k12.mn.us. Contact Memorial MS/HS Principal Jeff Carey at (218) 365-6166 ext. 1726 or jcarey@ely.k12.mn.us with any questions.

Application review to begin: 5/13/2024; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, May 24 & 31, 2024

PART-TIME OR FULL-TIME POSITION AVAILABLE at the TOWER SOUDAN INSURANCE AGENCY

We are currently looking for a part-time office employee with good customer service skills and computer skills. This employee would be taking care of customer's insurance needs along with other general office duties. This position could turn into a full-time position as an insurance agent. We would provide all the necessary training.

If interested, please call 218-753-2101 or e-mail tsagency@frontiernet.net

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

The HRA of Ely is currently accepting applications for a Maintenance Technician Position. Special Engineer boiler's license is a plus, and is required within the first 6 months of hire. This is a full-time position that includes a benefits package. Starting wage is \$22/hr. Application and Job Description can be picked up at the Pioneer Apartments Office 114 N 8th Ave E #111. Deadline for accepting applications is Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 3:00 pm. The HRA of Ely is an equal opportunity employer.

Kristen Zobitz, Executive Director

Published in the Timberjay, May 24, 2024

ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS POSITION OPENING 1.0 FTE 6th Grade Teacher

Ely Public School District is looking for a 1.0 FTE 6th Grade Teacher starting the 2024-2025 school year. We are an EC - Grade 12 district, seeking an energetic, self-starting, personable, and highly motivated individual. Background check required.

Qualifications include:

- > Current Minnesota Teaching License: K-6 Elementary Education with 5-8 Mathematics preferred
- > Preferred teaching experience with middle school levels
- > Excellent communication skills including verbal and written

Responsibilities:

- > Demonstrate knowledge of subject matter through effective teaching practices, with expectations of high student achievement.
- > Assess student progress, modify instruction, and improve student learning.
- > Communicate and collaborate with parents and the school community to foster individual student success and growth.
- > Plan, organize, and teach competency-based lessons.
- > Demonstrate effective classroom and equipment management.

Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

A complete application must include the following:

- > Cover letter
- > District Licensed Application
- > Resume
- > Copy of official transcripts
- > Current Minnesota teaching license
- > 3 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email lwestrick@ely.k12.mn.us. Contact Memorial MS/HS Principal Jeff Carey at (218) 365-6166 ext. 1726 or jcarey@ely.k12.mn.us with any questions.

Application review to begin: June 4, 2024; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, May 24 & 31, 2024

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 M

T SAWUORY PWARVC IS CQN
PW FRRFO UVRHMTMX VHFRN
FQYHW. T XIRAA T'P YRMFHVVW
PRMFHVVVW SNRSHNRY.

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Super Crossword

Answers

MOCHA	SALAAAM	ARMSRACE
USUAL	PIUSVI	DIOCESSES
GOLDEN	ARCHES	ADVANCES
SLIT	DREI	NCOEERFILE
ENOLA	DAUGHTER	OFZION
AMA	OKRA	NEATONSA
FIRST	OLAF	STUNAPS
TOYOTA	SEQUOIA	UPSILON
TAXI	UNRATED	HELLA
TAM	LEIA	AGATEJASPER
ONEDGE	RFK	OSUAMTRAK
OSXYO	SEMITE	LIAMTRAXY
TWINE	VANESSA	LALLA
LECARRE	ALPINE	GLACIER
EROSARI	ETNA	MENSA
TAN	NOLIN	VERB
GMCYUK	ONDENALI	ASCOT
OIL	SLR	SOVARKS
AVES		
ALEUTIAN	NATIONAL	PARK
TEARINTO	IDUNNO	ARTIE
SYRINGES	DETEST	PIECE

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 Make over
- 5 Lucy of "Kill Bill"
- 8 Sch. for tots
- 12 Flair
- 13 Leb. neighbor
- 14 Bart's sister
- 15 Suffix for million
- 16 Kipling poem
- 18 "Even Now" singer
- 20 "Old MacDonald" refrain
- 21 French article
- 22 PC linkup
- 23 Type of wheat
- 26 Prayerful chants
- 30 Commotion
- 31 Do sums
- 32 "As I see it," to a texter
- 33 "How-to" books
- 36 Dull
- 38 Boy king
- 39 Mandible
- 40 Gold mold
- 43 Capital of Nicaragua
- 47 Work force
- 49 Reddish brown
- 50 Jai —
- 51 Flamenco cheer
- 52 Pedestal part
- 53 — Hari

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

- 54 Quirky
- 55 Swindle
- 17 Campus big-wig
- 19 Permit
- 22 Young fellow
- 23 "Cheers" bartender
- 24 Hi-tech organizer
- 25 Very long time
- 26 Rx writers
- 27 Shred
- 28 "— dream- ing?"
- 29 Turf
- 31 Flight stat
- 34 Perfect place
- 35 Car
- 36 Mover's vehicle
- 37 Prizes
- 39 Hollywood's Leto
- 40 Mosque VIP
- 41 "The Lion King" lioness
- 42 Bitty biter
- 43 Blend
- 44 Avocado dip, for short
- 45 Fed. food inspector
- 46 Physics bit
- 48 Romance

DOWN

- 1 500 sheets
- 2 Director
- 3 Kazan
- 4 "Anna Christie" playwright
- 5 Long rides?
- 6 Caesar's "vidi"
- 7 Coffee vessel
- 8 Lament
- 9 Anger
- 10 Actor Morales

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF VACANCY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners will make six (6) appointments: One (1) Small Cities representative, One (1) Chisholm representative, One (1) Ely representative, One (1) Northern Townships, One (1) Hermantown representative, and One (1) At-Large representative to the St. Louis County CDBG Citizen Advisory Committee with terms expiring December 31, 2027. The CDBG program provides funds for community facilities, public infrastructure, economic development, housing activities, and public service activities.

The CDBG Advisory Committee holds one public hearing and three public meetings to review applications and provide funding recommendations. Meetings are typically held in January between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. CDBG Citizen Advisory Committee members are paid \$50 per diem and mileage at the current county rate. Members will need access to and an understanding of computers.

Persons interested in being considered for this appointment should submit an application no later than **June 30, 2024** to: Phil Chapman, Clerk of County Board, 100 North 5th Avenue West, Room 214, Courthouse, Duluth, MN, 55802, fax: 218-725-5060, or e-mail chapmanp@stlouiscountymn.gov.

To apply online, go to www.stlouiscountymn.gov/clerk, click on the "Application for Citizen Advisory Committee". Applications are also available in the County Auditor's Office in the Duluth Courthouse and in the Government Services Center in Virginia or by emailing chapmanp@stlouiscountymn.gov. You may also request an application by calling 218-726-2385.

NANCY NILSEN, COUNTY AUDITOR
BY: Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board

Published in the Timberjay, May 17 & 24, 2024

Read us Online at www.timberjay.com

weekly edition online
Wednesday afternoons

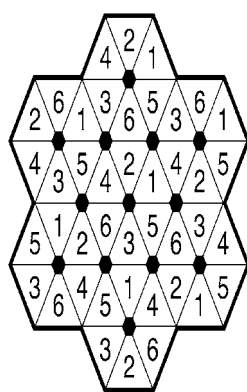
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SNOWFLAKES

solution



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

Considerations of personal privacy, time and resources prevent the newspaper from investigating ads placed in the classified section. If you respond to an ad, we urge you to use the same care and prudence that you would use when conducting business in any other situation.

AUTOMOTIVE

Langevin Auto & Truck Repair
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Hours: 8 AM-5 PM M-F
2 Miles South of Tower
218-749-0751

HAIR CARE

DREAMWEAVER SALON & DAY SPA - Open Monday-Friday 8:30 - 6:30. 218-666-5594. tfn

HOSPICE

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

PET CREMATION

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

HELP WANTED

Age 55+ workers needed for PT light custodial/groundskeeping at the Lake Vermilion State Park. Contact Green View at 651-639-1913. 5/24V

FOR LEASE

FOR LEASE: Nice country parcels, 4-10 acres. Long-term only. Text 218-290-5370. 6/7

Try out the Timberjay classifieds

Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum. Classified ads can be run a second time at half price (private parties only). We now accept payment by Visa, Mastercard, AmEx, and Discover. Call your ad in to 218-753-2950. Display (boxed) classifieds are billed by the "inch"- please call for prices and information on discounts. Call Today - 218-753-2950

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GARAGE SALE

GARAGE TOOL & MISC. SALE: Craftsman Tool Cabinet, small tools, wrench and socket sets, pneumatic tool set, CharBroil electric grill, small charcoal grill, army wool blankets, garage vacs, women's bike, cat kennel etc. May 24-25, 9-2, 2806 Wakemup Village Rd., Cook. 5/24

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Sun: 9 AM-4 PM
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kaxe.org

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

TOPS- Meetings every Monday at 4:45 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Virginia.

BABBITT AL-ANON- meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the upstairs of Woodland Presbyterian Church.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

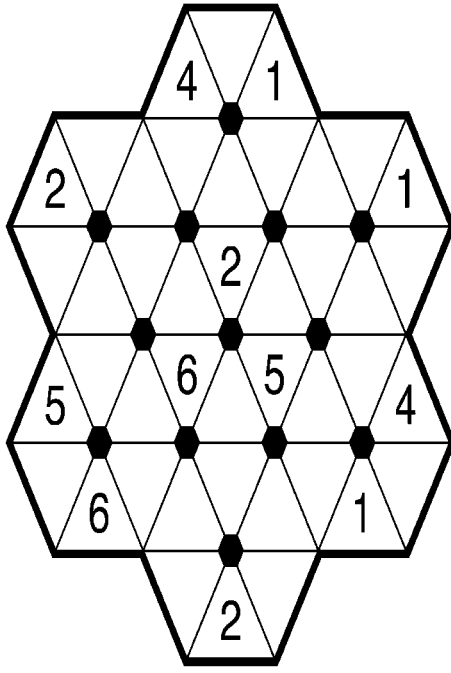
AA FRIDAYS- 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 262 E Harvey St., Ely. Meets in the basement.

AA MEN'S PRIMARY PURPOSE meeting, Tuesdays at 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 226 E Harvey St., Ely, 218-235-3819

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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UNSPOILED EXPANSES

- ACROSS**
- 1 Choco-coffee flavor
 - 6 Low bow of respect
 - 12 Global rivalry concerning weaponry
 - 20 Customary
 - 21 Last pope of the 1700s
 - 22 Bishops' jurisdictions
 - 23 Iconic logo of McDonald's [Utah]
 - 25 Proceeds forward
 - 26 Long, thin cut
 - 27 Three, in Germany
 - 28 Sgt., say
 - 30 Poet's "always"
 - 31 Suffix with percent
 - 32 "— Holmes" (2020 Millie Bobby Brown film)
 - 34 Biblical metaphor for Jerusalem [Utah]
 - 38 Drs.' org.
 - 39 Slimy veggie
 - 41 "Swell!"
 - 42 Hush-hush
 - 43 Original thing
 - 45 Regal name of Norway
 - 47 Erwin of old Hollywood
 - 49 Dozes
 - 53 Full-size SUV introduced in 2000 [California]
 - 58 It's between tau and phi
 - 60 Curbside cry
 - 61 Not given an assessment
 - 63 Very, in slang
 - 64 Scottish cap
 - 67 "Star Wars" royal
 - 69 Opaque quartz with banding [Alberta]
 - 71 Nervous
 - 74 Pol who was "John-John's uncle"
 - 76 Coll. in Columbus
 - 77 Big name in train travel
 - 78 Mac computer platform released in 2014 [California]
 - 81 Actor Neeson
 - 83 — 10 (acne medication)
 - 84 Strong string
 - 85 Actress Redgrave
 - 87 "Ooh" or "tra" follower
 - 90 British spy novelist John
 - 92 Ice mass descending a mountain valley [British Columbia]
 - 97 Love god
 - 98 Magnate Onassis
 - 100 High volcano in Sicily
 - 101 Society for brainiacs
 - 102 Bronze-hued
 - 104 "Sheena" star Gena Lee —
 - 108 Action word
 - 110 "ASAP!"
 - 111 Full-size SUV introduced in 1998 [Alaska]
 - 116 Natty necktie
 - 118 OPEC supply
 - 119 Type of 35 mm camera
 - 120 Part of USSR: Abbr.
 - 121 Torah cabinets
 - 123 Rd. crossers released
 - 125 Like Attu's island chain
 - 128 What each of seven key words in this puzzle is the name of
 - 131 Really rant at
 - 132 "Beats me"
 - 133 Shaw of jazz clarinet
 - 134 Vaccine injectors
 - 135 Abhor
 - 136 Game token
- DOWN**
- 1 Coffee holders
 - 2 Italian encore song, often
 - 3 Concerning cooking
 - 4 Couldn't help but
 - 5 Beer for a Brit
 - 6 Box lightly
 - 7 Terrier breed
 - 8 Saint — (island country)
 - 9 Hearth waste
 - 10 Get back at
 - 11 Violinist Elman or actor Auer
 - 12 Computer pioneer Lovelace
 - 13 Person on a bus, e.g.
 - 14 Classic soul song by Curtis Mayfield
 - 15 Wolfs (down)
 - 16 Sidekick of Stimpy
 - 17 PC character set acronym
 - 18 Singer Green formerly on "The Voice"
 - 19 Ruhr city
 - 24 Its cap. is Bismarck
 - 29 Ex-Giant Mel
 - 33 Ton of, casually
 - 35 Not pleasurable, colloquially
 - 36 Aurora, to the Greeks
 - 37 Most wacky
 - 38 Astern
 - 40 TV's O'Donnell
 - 44 Mayberry's Otis, e.g.
 - 46 Brand of bottled water
 - 48 Sassy quality, for short
 - 50 Elite NFLer
 - 51 Medieval war weapon
 - 52 Catty
 - 54 Wheel bars
 - 55 Singer Rita
 - 56 "Othello" role
 - 57 Sloping
 - 59 Counterfeit
 - 62 Needle case
 - 64 Flute sound
 - 65 Respond to
 - 66 Toluca locale
 - 68 Rombauer of cooking
 - 70 Actor Malcolm- Warner
 - 72 Line of family rulers
 - 73 Attendee
 - 75 "Hooked on Classics" label
 - 79 At any time
 - 80 Seer's skill
 - 82 Pool growth
 - 86 Tuscany city
 - 88 Baby sheep
 - 89 Top pilot
 - 91 Irritating
 - 93 Outskirts
 - 94 Be a pioneer
 - 95 Arcane
 - 96 Uncooked
 - 99 B&B, e.g.
 - 103 Big Texas city
 - 105 Has too much, with "on"
 - 106 Brezhnev of the USSR
 - 107 Enter forcibly
 - 109 Tabula —
 - 111 Bleating beasts
 - 112 Singer Cyrus
 - 113 Not fuzzy
 - 114 Talk formally
 - 115 Singer Cleo
 - 117 Italian isle
 - 122 Make tangled
 - 124 — -Ball
 - 126 Geller of the paranormal
 - 127 Denials
 - 129 "For shame!"
 - 130 Indy circuit

Legal notices are online each week

at timberjay.com and at <https://www.mnpublicnotice.com/>

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

SELL It HERE

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

REDO	LIU	PREK
ELAN	ISR	LISA
AIRE	MAND	ALAY
MANILO	EJE	ETO
LES	LAN	
SPELT	MAN	TRAS
ADO	ADD	IMO
MANUALS	VAP	TD
TUT	JAW	
INGOT	MAN	AGUA
MANPOWER	RUST	
ALAI	OLE	DADO
MATA	ODD	SCAM

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20																		
23																		
26																		
38																		
43																		
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64	65	66																
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84																		
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97																		
111	112	113																
118																		
125																		
131																		
134																		

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



Tower-Soudan Elementary students in grades K-6 performed their spring concert on May 16, featuring songs about all sorts of creatures. Students were dressed up as butterflies, caterpillars, slugs, bats, snakes, spiders and more. After selections by small groups, the entire school joined together to sing "Creepy Creatures." photo by J. Summit

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Residents upset over request to create walking-only trail segment

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

SOUDAN- Several McKinley Park area residents urged the Breitung Town Board this past week to reject a proposal to close an existing trail to motorized use. It was a response to a recent request from the Wagoner Trails Club to consider closing a portion of an existing, but not formally-designated, ATV trail to create a walking trail that would connect to McKinley Park Campground.

Doug Erickson, a retired game warden, said he is 100-percent disabled (as defined by the Veterans Administration) and uses his side-by-side ATV to access the area in question.

"I go to the gravel pit and shoot," he said. "I don't leave a mess. It is easy access for me. I can't walk there."

Erickson also claimed that the city of Tower had passed an ordinance that creates a crime for using ATVs on trails closed to motorize use.

"This is a misuse of the police department," he said.

Erickson's claim was incorrect. The city of Tower has not passed an ordinance to this effect, according to city clerk-treasurer Michael Schultz. Rather, the council passed a motion to close sections of two former woods roads, which had been incorporated into the Pine Ridges hiking trail, to motorized use, citing the easy access to other ATV trails in the immediate vicinity. Also, there was no request for enforcement by the city, only the posting of signs.

Erickson dismissed the idea that the ruts and mud puddles caused by ATVs are an issue for walkers. "If you're on a hike why can't you go through a mud puddle?" Erickson asked.

Three other residents from the McKinley Park acres area also spoke up.

Doug Anderson said one of the main draws for his purchase of a home in the area 18 years ago was the easy access to recreational land. He said he spends time each year helping maintain the ATV trails in the area.

"The hiking club stated an imagined risk, not stating facts,"

Anderson said. "They were certainly trying to convince you a natural trail can't sustain ATV use. Anderson said the trails in question were in no worse shape now than when he moved here 18 years ago, and they only sustain low-speed ATV use.

Anderson said the club's request showed no regard for public accessibility.

"It was based on whims, not facts," he said. "There is no option but to deny their request entirely."

"I just want that trail open," said Erickson.

The town board noted they had not made any decision, and were hoping to get more information from Aaron Kania, who had made the request on behalf of the trails club. Kania was not able to be at the meeting, but plans on attending the June 20 meeting.

"I am in favor of leaving it be as is for now," said Chairman Tim Tomsich.

Tomsich noted that the point about handicap access was important, and also had questions about enforcement.

"But we should wait to hear more information from the other side," Tomsich said.

No decision was made, and the issue will be back on the agenda next month.

Other trails news

The township has applied for a Blandin Foundation grant to cover planning costs for the trail routing and environment work for the completion of the McKinley-Hoodoo Point trail loop. Tomsich said parts of that trail would need to be on the road shoulder, due to wetlands, so St. Louis County would also be involved in the planning. The township will hear in July if their grant request was awarded. If it is, they will then apply for additional grant funding for 2025 from the DNR and IRRR for the actual construction costs. Any costs not covered by grants would need to be funded by the township and the city, which jointly maintain and own parts of the "around the horn" loop.

Chickens and quail

The board will be clarifying the township's animal ordinance to limit the number of hen chickens to 12 per dwelling (no roosters allowed). A resident had questions about the current ordinance, which had some confusing language. The current animal ordinance allows three pets per household. Chickens will still be counted as one-quarter of a pet. The township will be working with the township attorney to revise the ordinance, which will only pertain to households in Soudan proper, not the rural parts of the township.

But the board also discussed a question from clerk Amber Zak, who said her family wanted to raise quail for eggs.

"Quail aren't noisy so you don't see them addressed in other locations' ordinances," she said. The board decided to add in quail, at one-eighth of a pet.

See BREITUNG, pg. 9B



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VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL



Vermilion Country School students lent a hand to the city of Tower maintenance crew and picked up litter at the mini-park, train depot, and on Main Street on May 17. Students even climbed inside the train engine and cleared out trash that dated back at least to the 1960s.
photos by J. Summit



Tickets available for Midsummer at LVCC on June 15 in Tower

TOWER- This year's Midsummer fundraiser will have both a new look and a look back since the fundraiser started 12 years ago. Midsummer will be held on Saturday, June 15, with a dinner and silent and live auction at the Lamma Civic Center, followed by entertainment at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center across the street.

This year's major fundraiser for the LVCC will be held on Saturday, June 15 and will feature the final program written and directed by board member Janice Kimes (pictured above), who has created wonderful musical programs over the past 12 years. Featured this year will be stars from the past, including Steve Solkela, Deb Prutsman, Linda and Ryan Bajan, Scarlet Stone, and this year, a delightful dance to a Finnish waltz featuring JoAnn Halunen with Soudan residents Joe LaForte and Randy Winkler.

The cultural center, featuring classic red doors just like the entryway to the original St. Mary's Episcopal Church, which was built in 1889. The building was moved nearly 10 years ago to its current location on Main St. It has been under restoration ever since and is nearing completion, hopefully in 2025. Thanks to a recent IRRRB Grant, the interior of the Halunen Lobby is being finished as well as the Abrahamson art gallery in the northeast corner of the building.

Dinner speaker will be representative Grant Hauschild, who has some exciting news to share with us. The silent auction promises a wonderful variety of items and the live auction features the ever popular and entertaining Steve Solkela.

BREITUNG...Continued from page 8B

Other business

In other business, the board:

- Heard updates on summer infrastructure projects, including the Stuntz Bay Road work. The contractor will be doing the work in late summer. At some point, the road from Jasper St. to the park entrance will need to be closed for a week. The township is asking the state park to allow access through the park for people who use the Stuntz Bay landing to get to and from their lake-access only properties.

- Approved sending police chief Dan Reing to a two-day training in Phoenix in July. The program is for experienced GREAT program instructors. Reing uses this pro-

gram at the local elementary and charter school. This training would allow him to also work with families of high-risk youth. The training costs may be reimbursable through a state program, but the township approved paying for his flight (expected to cost around \$250) and hotel room. The training itself is free of charge.

- Approved the purchase of two benches with memorial plaques that will be placed at the ballfield by the concession stand. They are being funded by the families. One is in memory of Lon Lamppa, the second is for Terry "Bearhunter" Anderson. Both were long-time supporters and coaches for the baseball program. The township noted that such purchases

and plaques need to be approved by the town board, so they are consistent with the current style and that the plaques are appropriate.

- Will send letters about blight to four residences.

- Approved setting up a township Facebook page which will be used to publicize township events, recreation, and other notices. Clerk Zak and Supervisor Erin Peitso will manage the page.

- Set the date for the Breitung Community Picnic for Saturday, July 6 from 12 - 3 p.m.

- Passed a resolution in support of improvements to Hwy. 169 between Soudan and Ely.

- Said there will be a public hearing about the Thompson Farm Rd. relo-

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Midsummer Memories

Cost
\$75
Person

Don't Miss
This Annual
Gala!

Saturday, June 15, 2024

Herb Lamppa Civic Center • Tower, MN

4:30 PM • Silent Auction Opens
6 PM • Dinner

Guest Speaker: Grant Hauschild
- Minnesota State Senator -

Live Auction by Steve Solkela

Entertainment follows at
The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center

**Register at 218-753-4100 lv. message OR
Online link: vermilionculturalcenter.org**

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By
June 4

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Discounted gallon must be of equal or lesser value.

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50% OFF**

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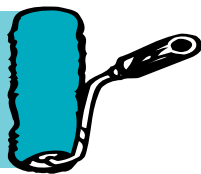
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