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The **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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FIRE PROTECTION

Proposed OSHA regs worrying many fire officials

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— A proposal to adopt a new regulatory framework for fire departments across the country, could have a significant impact on smaller, volunteer services, like many of those here in northeastern Minnesota. That's the concern raised by top officials within the fire service, who fear that the new regulations, if adopted as

proposed, could force many smaller fire departments to shut down due to high costs and the loss of personnel.

The new regulation, dubbed the Emergency Response Standard Plan, is an effort by the federal Occupational, Safety, and Health Administration, or OSHA, to provide greater protections for firefighters across the country. Supporters of the proposal note that even as firefighters face an increas-

ing number of health risks, ranging from exposure to cancer-causing agents to traffic accidents, safety regulations have changed little in decades.

That's why even critics of the proposal don't view the issue as black and white. "In the long run, it might not be bad for the fire service," said Hibbing Fire Chief Eric Jankila,

See...OSHA pg. 9



Left: Volunteer firefighters from Vermilion Lake fight a cabin blaze. Small volunteer departments could be impacted by proposed new regulations.

file photo

BOIS FORTE

Chavers re-elected

Incumbent survives strong challenge by Hannah Lehti-Chosa

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook/Orr Editor

NETT LAKE- Bois Forte tribal chair Cathy Chavers won a third consecutive term in Tuesday's tribal election, according to official results. Chavers edged Hannah Lehti-Chosa by just six votes, 252-246.

Lehti-Chosa led Chavers by 16 votes once all the ballots cast on Tuesday were counted, but Chavers led 69-47 in the absentee ballots, a 22-point margin that ultimately swung the race to the incumbent.

Lehti-Chosa won in the Nett Lake, Duluth, and Minneapolis districts, while Chavers had the edge in Vermilion.



Cathy Chavers

Chavers was first elected in 2016 when she won just over 51 percent of the vote in the primary election against long-time tribal chair Kevin Leecy and challenger Shane Drift. In her second run for the position in 2020, she easily outdistanced challenger Miranda Villebrun Lilya by 135 votes.

Chavers' experience and accomplishments were barely enough to fend off the challenge from Lehti-Chosa, the director of marketing for Fortune Bay Resort Casino who came into the contest with no prior tribal government

See...RESULTS pg. 9



TIMBER DAYS

photos by D. Colburn

COOK'S SUMMER BLAST



Top: Mike Hanson drives the team of Haflinger horses pulling the Cook Farmers Market float in Sunday's parade.

Left: Salene Davis speeds along in Sunday's lawnmower races. Davis placed second in the modified class but won the People's Choice award.

Right: A youngster stays perfectly still for the meticulous strokes of face painter.



ROAD REPAIR

The fix is in for troubled Trygg Road

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

EAGLES NEST TWP— With a little creativity, St. Louis County

Left: Workers have spent the past week replacing gravel on Trygg Road.

photo by M. Helmberger

public works officials were able to address the unusual issue that has plagued users of Trygg Road here for the past year— and did so sooner and for less money than expected.

Trygg Road had become infamous in the past year, ever since an

upgrade of the gravel road last year left behind sharp shards of rock that had become a frequent cause of flat tires for users of the road.

The road primarily serves residents and seasonal cabin owners in the township, and many had

reported several flat tires in the past year. Each time, a sharp shard of rock proved to be the cause.

County officials had tried various methods to address the problem before finally opting to remove and

See...TRYGG pg. 9



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Community notices

Ely to host new Portageland Music Festival

ELY - Music lovers, mark your calendars for a brand-new event set to become a staple in the North Country's cultural calendar. The inaugural Portageland Music Festival will take place on Sept. 6 and 7, offering a two-day celebration of musical excellence that promises to be an unforgettable experience for attendees of all ages. Hosted alongside the Harvest Moon Festival this event is sure to cap the summer season with something exciting.



The festival kicks off on Friday, Sept. 6, at Ely's Historic State Theater (EHST) with a lineup of electrifying performances starting at 6 p.m. Audiences can look forward to the vibrant sounds of Marshmallow Chaos, the Christopher David Hanson Band, and a nostalgic journey with Mallrats Presents: MTV Unplugged 90's Tribute. This historic venue, known for its charm and acoustics, will provide the perfect setting for an evening of exceptional music.

The festivities continue on Saturday, Sept. 7, beginning at 10 a.m. in Whiteside Park. The park's scenic beauty will be the backdrop for a day of diverse musical acts, including performances by The Roe Family Singers, The Chick-A-Dee-Dee-Dees, Morning Bird, Van and the Free Candies, and Salty-dog. The day culminates with a final concert at 8 p.m. back at EHST, featuring the dynamic sounds of the Duluth Transit Authority.

Adding to the festive atmosphere is the coinciding Harvest Moon Festival, creating a truly immersive experience for attendees. Beyond the music, the festival will host a variety of art vendors and food trucks, offering a delightful blend of artistic and culinary delights. Visitors can browse through unique crafts, enjoy delicious food, and soak in the lively ambiance of this community event.

Ticket options are designed to accommodate all fans. A Full Festival Pass, covering both days, is available for \$90. For those who prefer to attend a single day, Day 1 Passes are priced at \$35 and Day 2 Passes at \$65. Kids under 12 can enter the park venue for free when accompanied by a pass holder. Additionally, individual tickets for park walk-ups are available for \$12.

One of the unique features of this festival is the seating reservation system at EHST. When purchasing a pass, attendees will receive a code to reserve their seats, ensuring that tickets are only sold for the available number of seats. Walk-up tickets will also be available, but early arrival is recommended to secure a spot.

Due to the limited indoor seating, only 300 passes will be sold, so music enthusiasts are encouraged to secure their tickets early to avoid disappointment.

The Portageland Music Festival is brought to you by the Northern Lakes Arts Association (NLAA) and EHST, with the generous support of title sponsor Boundary Waters Connect. This festival is set to be a monumental event, celebrating the rich musical heritage of the region and fostering a sense of community and artistic expression.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit NorthernLakesArts.org or contact the Northern Lakes Arts Association at 218-235-9937. Don't miss out on this opportunity to be part of North Country's most exciting new musical tradition!

Filings for ISD 2142 seats open on July 30

REGIONAL- Filings for four school board seats on the ISD 2142 board will open on July 30 and close on Aug. 13 at 5 p.m. The general election will be held on Nov. 5.

Four members will be elected: Seat 1, North Woods, currently held by Pat Christenson of Orr; Seat 4, Northeast Range, currently held by Chris Koivisto of Babbitt; Seat 6, South Ridge, currently held by Chet Larson of Canyon; and Seat 7, South Ridge, currently held by Bob Larson of Alborn.

LOCAL THEATER

Full Range play coming to stage in June

VIRGINIA - Imagine bringing 21 Rangers, many who have never been in a play before, together with two professional actors from the Twin Cities on stage in a new play about the Iron Range. Oh...and there's also a tuba band!

Set in a house made up like a mine, "Full Range" is written by Alison Carey and directed by Mark Valdez

A Mixed Blood Collaboration on The Iron Range tells the story of a family reconciling their past as they try to imagine a beautiful future for themselves and their community.

This joyous, funny, and heart-felt play was created in collaboration with Rangers based on their stories. Over an 18-month period, playwright Alison Carey visited the Range, meeting with local residents and organizations to learn about Range history, its present dynamics, and to hear from Rangers about the futures they envision.

The production includes a wide range of local community members, from nurses and miners to students and seniors, from residents of Chisholm and Virginia to workers in Hibbing and Tower. This play is for and about the Iron Range.

Based in the Twin Cities, Mixed Blood's mission is to "disrupt injustices, advance equity, and build community." By bringing people together, to tell their own stories,



New talent meets with old pros to collaborate on upcoming production "Full Range." photo submitted

Mixed Blood invites communities to co-daydream their futures, working across differences, to strengthen the fabric of society.

"Full Range" is the first of an annual tradition to create news plays with and for communities across Minnesota.

"Full Range" runs June 20-23 and 27-30 at Rock Ridge Performing Arts Center, located at 1403 Progress Parkway.

Showtimes Thursdays-Saturdays are 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Tickets can be ordered at no cost and donations can also be made at <https://mixedblood.com/product/full-range/> or by calling the Box Office at (612) 338- 6131 option #1 or email boxoffice@mixedblood.com. More information about Mixed Blood can be found at <https://mixedblood.com>.

If you are interested in volunteering as part of this project please send an email to boxoffice@mixedblood.com.

GRANT FUNDING

Northland Foundation increases Maada'ookiing grants to \$5,000 per award and announces spring grantees



NORTHEAST--The Northland Foundation has increased the amount of funding available through its Native American-led Maada'ookiing (northlandfdn.org/special-initiatives/maada-ookiing) program to \$5,000 per grant, twice the previous cap of \$2,500.

The increase is effective immediately, so those applying for the fall 2024 grant round (Sept. 15 deadline) may request up to \$5,000. The Board also opted to allow recipients to apply for additional grants within the same year.

The changes were approved during a recent Maada'ookiing Advisory Board (northlandfdn.org/about-us/staff-board) retreat where board members and foundation staff reflected on what has been working well and possible program improvements.

"Grantees are facing higher expenses for supplies, renting space, transportation, and so on," stated Michelle Ufford, director of grant-making. "The increase will help offset rising hard costs but also better recognize the time, talent, and labor involved in bringing grant-funded projects to life."

Following an exploration and development process guided by Tribal and other Native American leaders, in collaboration with the Northland Foundation, the program launched in May 2021. The intent was to increase support for community-based activities led by Native American individuals or small

groups as opposed to nonprofits or government entities.

"Native American people in the region are doing incredible work that is often planned and carried out in a purely volunteer capacity and with a minimal budget. We intend Maada'ookiing grants to provide a boost to this good work," Ufford added.

Grants are offered three times per year to Tribal citizens, descendants, or those who have kinship ties or affiliation to Native American communities within the foundation's geographic region (northlandfdn.org/about-us/our-story-region.) To date, 81 Maada'ookiing grants totaling nearly \$200,000 have been given to a diverse range of projects that:

- Support Native American youth
- Strengthen use of or access to Native American language
- Share Native American culture/spiritual practices and activities
- Sustain Tribal civic engagement sovereignty, and self-determination,
- Shift the narrative and increase visibility of contemporary Native American communities
- Promote Native American leadership and experiences

➤ Engage in Native American grass-roots organizing to strengthen community well-being and/or respond to Native American community issues.

Spring/Summer 2024 Grants

The recent round of seven grants awarded in May showcase the wide variety of activities happening at the grassroots level throughout the region. Spring 2024 area Maada'ookiing grantees are:

Jessica Anderson, Ely: \$2,500 To support a series of events, workshops, and activities that highlight Anishnaabe culture at Minnesota North College - Vermilion.

Ruth Porter, Orr: \$2,500 To support a beading class for youth in the Bois Forte community.

David Wise, Sawyer: \$2,500 To support horse training for Fond du Lac community members seeking to learn about Ojibwe horse culture and traditions.

The next grant deadline is Sept. 15, but applications can be submitted using the foundation's web-based portal at any time. Discover more about Maada'ookiing at: <https://northlandfdn.org/grant-funding/maadaooking-grants>.

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DRY NEEDLING

NORTHERN LAKES ARTS

Award-winning musical "Bright Star" opens Thursday

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

REGIONAL- As the north-bound No. 4 St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway train crossed the bridge over the Big River on Aug. 14, 1902, someone threw a newborn baby in a suitcase into the river. A farmer heard the infant's cries and rescued him. Within the year, the tale was immortalized in the folk song, "The Ballad of the Iron Mountain Baby."

More than a century later, comedian Steve Martin and songwriter Edie Brickell created the award-winning musical "Bright Star," inspired by the true story of William Helms, the baby from the ballad.

"Bright Star" will open next Thursday at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater at Minnesota North College. Produced by the Northern Lakes Arts Association, the musical will have a total of eight performances, closing on Sunday, June 30. The show is the second in a summer filled with five NLAA musical productions.

The musical

The complex and soap opera-like plot revolves around the character of Alice Murphy,



The "Bright Star" ensemble going through the music and choreography of the first act, when Alice relives her flash backs from the time she lost her baby. From left-to-right: Ian Francis Lah, Debbie Prutsman (Alice's mother), Jacob Haen, Mallory Wintz (Alice), Noah Warner, and Brian Fischer (Alice's father). photo by C. Clark

a fiction editor who befriends a soldier recently returned from World War II. The soldier, Billy, is around the age her own son would have been.

Alice's interactions with Billy send her on a journey of self-discovery into her past, when her father forced her to give up her baby born out of wedlock. In a parallel with the

real-life Iron Mountain Baby, her father put the infant in a suitcase and threw it from a train into the local river.

The action of the musical takes place in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. In keeping with the southern setting, the score of the musical is ripe with blue grass, country, and southern folk melodies. Critical

reviews agree that the strength of "Bright Star" is its foot-tapping musical score.

The musical premiered in San Diego in 2014. It opened at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., in 2015, and on Broadway in 2016. The show was nominated for numerous awards, including five Tony Awards and a Grammy. It won a Drama Desk

Award in the Outstanding Music category, a Theatre World Award in the Outstanding Debut Performance category, and two Outer Critics Circle Awards in the Outstanding New Score and Outstanding New Broadway Musical categories.

Local production

The musical features a cast which is a mix of local and professional talent. Several of the faces in the show will be familiar to Ely's theater fans, like that of Noah Warner who is returning to Ely after his performances in last year's NLAA Broadway in the Boundary Waters summer season. Also on stage as part of the ensemble will be Ruby Wilton, who played Queen Elsa in the Ely Memorial High School production of "Disney's Frozen, The Broadway Musical."

"Bright Star" will open on Thursday, June 20, at 7 p.m. Other 7 p.m. shows will be on June 21, 22, 27, and 28. Matinees at 2 p.m. will be performed on June 23, 29, and 30.

Tickets are \$25 for the public, \$20 for NLAA members, \$18 for students, and \$10 for youths. The June 27 event is a "pay what you can" performance.

Ely Schools on homestretch to approving budget

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- In an uneventful meeting here on Monday, the Ely School Board approved holding a special meeting on June 24 to approve the school district's 2024-25 budget, which state law requires be approved by June 30.

The special meeting will be at 6 p.m. and will be held in the media center due to ongoing renovations in the board meeting room. According to Lori Westrick, the superintendent's assistant, the special meeting will also include approval of the principals' contracts.

In other action, the board:

➤ Approved the low bid of 96.963¢/gallon for tanker propane and \$1.2172/gallon for bobtail propane from Edwards Oil Inc. The propane bids were five cents cheaper than last year according to Superintendent Anne Oelke.

➤ Approved the low bid of \$182,432 for insurance premi-

ums from Vaalar Insurance.

➤ Approved quotes from Pan-O-Gold Baking Co. of St. Cloud for bread, Prairie Farms of Woodbury for milk products, and Phil Hegfors & Sons Construction for snow removal. These were the only quotes submitted for these products or services.

➤ Approved the financial report, receipts of \$1,245,263, disbursements of \$398,915 for the month of May.

➤ Approved membership for the upcoming school year in the Minnesota State High School League.

➤ Approved the contract between the Arrowhead Regional Computing Consortium and ISD 696 for 2024-25.

➤ Approved the professional services contract between ISD 696 and the Range Mental Health Center for 2024-25.

➤ Approved \$8,150 for the Minnesota School Board Association proposal for strategic planning services.

➤ Hired Logan McLouth for the full-time Science teaching position for the 2024-25 school year.

➤ Approved the following coaching positions for the fall and winter seasons as recommended by Tom Coombe, athletic director: Louie Gerzin, head football coach; Megan Wognum, head volleyball coach; Jayne Dusch, head boys and girls cross country coach; Tom McDonald, head boys basketball coach; Tomi McDonald, head girls basketball coach; Todd Hohenstein, head boys and girls Nordic skiing coach; Jake Myers, head hockey coach; Desirae Smith, head dance team coach; Jim Witttrup, assistant football coach; Randi Walker, assistant volleyball coach; Sarah Spate, assistant cross country coach.

➤ Accepted the following resignations effective at the end of the current school year: Monica Gross from her part-time custodian position; Mike Rouse

from his extra-curricular assignment as the director of the high school musical; Amy Kingsley from her extra-curricular assignments with the Gamers Guild and Youth in Action; and Elyssa Erickson from her extra-curricular assignments as junior class advisor and with the Junior Banquet.

➤ Approved the second reading of the revised Minnesota School Board Association policies on disability nondiscrimination, public and private personnel data; and harassment and violence.

➤ Approved the early childhood through grade 12 assistant principal job description.

➤ Approved superintendent's contracts with Anne Oelke, for June 1 through June 30, and for July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. The one-month contract fills in the contract gap created when John Klarich retired at the end of May last year.

➤ Approved the Amended

Joint Powers Agreement with the Northland Learning Center.

➤ Approved a permanent display of Ely Memorial High School Hall of Fame inductees as requested by the Ely Sports Hall of Fame committee.

➤ Approved entering into a cooperative agreement for 2024-25 with Northeast Range School for boys and girls track and boys and girls cross country with Ely as the host school.

➤ Approved entering into a cooperative agreement in wrestling with Northeast Range School for the coming school year, with Northeast Range serving as the host school. Ely will have no financial expenditures for this activity other than Minnesota State High School League dues.

"We have nothing to lose," said Athletic Director Tom Coombe. He also said that wrestling would add another winter sports option.

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OPINION

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Editorial

New regulations pending

Local fire departments should be paying attention to mandates proposed by OSHA

We've been reporting for the past few years about the on-going challenges faced by area ambulance services, challenges due in part to regulatory changes that have increased the costs of operating such services.

Unfortunately, possible regulatory changes could soon leave area fire departments in a similar situation. The federal Occupational, Safety, and Health Administration, or OSHA, is considering a new regulatory framework for the fire service that would take a voluminous set of standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association, or NFPA, and make many of them mandatory for fire services across the country.

For years, fire departments across the country, including those operating in our region, have utilized the NFPA standards as useful best-practice when feasible. Safety is clearly a major concern in the fire service and the NFPA standards are considered the gold standard, which is why departments take them seriously.

Yet officials in most rural services recognize that meeting all of the standards is simply impractical, particularly in small departments that rely on volunteers. A regulatory change that mandates many of the standards would potentially be devastating to small departments.

As we've reported in the past, retention and recruitment of new volunteers has been a challenge for most fire departments, particularly in small communities. There are several reasons for that, but the time commitment required simply to meet the basic training requirements, about 120 hours currently, is a major factor. Yet the new regulations being considered by OSHA could easily triple or quadruple the time involved in meeting the requirements, by mandating actual certification for a wide range of functions within the fire service that don't currently require that level of training. That's going to make the already difficult task of enticing new recruits all the more challenging.

In our area particularly, such a requirement would likely prompt widespread retirements from area departments, which could prompt some to simply fold. Attrition from the retirement of baby boomers is already threatening the future of many small departments. The new OSHA proposal, if adopted, would only accelerate that process and make it even more difficult to attract younger replacements.

And even if recruitment wasn't an issue, the cost of the proposed new regulation, for additional training, more frequent and invasive health screenings,

equipment upgrades, and administration of a vast array of new requirements, could prompt taxpayers to revolt, or opt to disband fire services altogether.

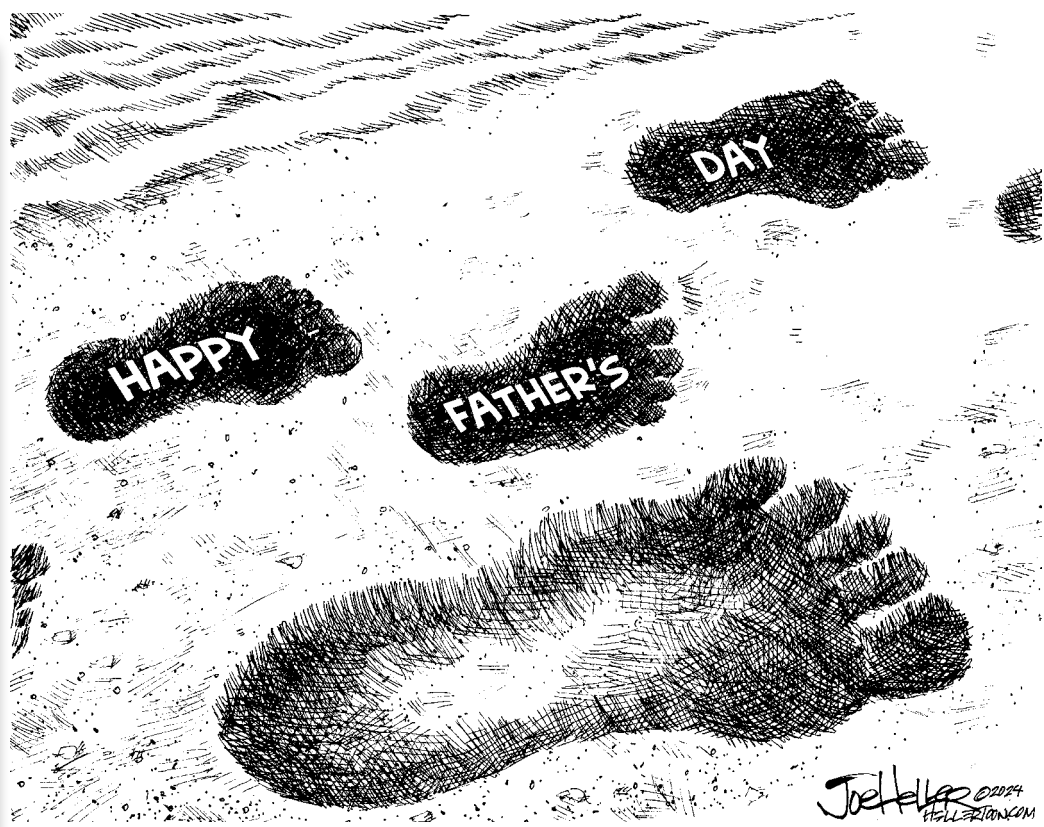
It should be noted that many large fire departments, which operate with full-time, paid staff, are already implementing many of these proposed requirements, and that's a good thing. The standards OSHA is looking to mandate could make a difference, even save lives.

But there are always tradeoffs and the loss of many smaller, volunteer fire departments could well be one of the most significant should OSHA move forward with its proposal without modifications that take the unique circumstances of small services into account.

Small departments are already dealing with regulatory requirements that simply don't make sense. For example, departments are currently required to replace turnout gear every ten years. In big city departments, gear is typically replaced much sooner than that because it is used enough that it wears out. But in small, rural departments, that might only see a handful of structure fires a year and may not even conduct interior operations, turnout gear may well see little use outside of training exercises. And in every department, there are members who show up for calls occasionally, at best. In those cases, turnout gear can still be like new after ten years. Yet, departments are expected to take these items out of service and replace them, even when it's entirely unjustified. Considering that the coats and pants, by themselves, now run about \$4,000 a set, that adds up quickly and, in far too many cases, it's an absolute waste of taxpayer funds. It's an example of how one-size-fits-all thinking does a real disservice to small departments that, in many cases, lack the need and the funding to replace their turnout gear on the timetable established by OSHA.

While many of these regulations are useful and well-intentioned, it is also true that some of the organizations pushing these initiatives have a vested interest, because they sell new turnout gear, new SCBA, or fire apparatus. It's that nexus of the private sector and government regulators that can sometimes advance policies or regulations that make marginal sense but feather someone's nest.

The bottom line is that local fire officials need to be paying attention to what is being proposed. A public comment period on OSHA's plan has been extended and local officials should be making sure their voices are heard. Complacency could bring an end to many of our region's small departments.



Letters from Readers

Trump denies climate change to our peril

Trump believes that global warming is a hoax. It is not. Miami recently reached 112 degrees Fahrenheit and New Delhi 126 degrees.

These temperatures are debilitating to human vibrancy. Many people experience heat illness with fatigue, cold sweats, chills, and disorientation depriving the heart and kidneys of oxygen and blood. The past 12 months have been the planet's hottest ever recorded. Hospitals are overtaxed with heat related patients. There is no public record of the number of deaths that are occurring as a result of the intense heat.

The ravages throughout the globe from high temperatures, polluted air, flooding, drought, wildfires, hurricanes, tornados, rising oceans, melting glaciers, increasing heat related deaths, devastation of wildlife, and vegetation are attributable to climate change.

Scientists have records of worldwide temperatures, and these latest temperatures are recording new highs. Documentation is generated from numerous weather stations, ocean buoys, satellites, and daily reports from a multitude of communities throughout the world. The results obviously are not a hoax.

Trump mocked climate science, withdrew the United States from the 2015 Paris Agreement when he was President. Fortunately, Mike Bloomberg immediately flew to Paris to personally pay the U.S. Conference's dues to reinstate America's participation in the non-binding resolutions for future goals to mitigate climate change.

The agreement was signed by all the world's na-

tions plus the Holy See.

Would it be possible to gather the *entire* world's 194 nations' representatives to a conference in Paris to address the issues of climate change if climate change were a hoax?

How does Trump say there is no evidence of climate change? There is abundant evidence that much of climate change is generated by emissions from fossil fuels, yet Trump continues to support and encourage the increase of petroleum usage, without consideration of alternatives.

The actions of Trump reminds one of Nero, the destructive Roman Emperor, who played the fiddle while Rome was burning. With Trump, the stage is bigger with the whole planet burning.

Gerry Snyder
Ely

Water, wilderness, and woods

Minnesota: Land of 10,000 Lakes, 17 million acres of woods, and 54 state forests. Its Arrowhead region includes a point north of Hibbing where water flows in three directions; north to Hudson Bay, east to the St. Lawrence River and south to the Gulf of Mexico. Also, the Superior National Forest (3.9 million acres), BWCAW (over a million acres), Voyageurs National Park, Lake Vermilion State Park and eight state parks along the North Shore are found in northeastern Minnesota.

Water, wilderness and woods — what a wonderful outdoor resource to experience awe. Awe is that feeling of respect and reverence of being in the presence of something bigger and beyond our grasp. An experience in oneness of being that dissolves the self, revealing what phi-

losophers, poets and spiritualists have intuitively known for centuries. Now science shows that the power of awe is essential for human health and well-being.

Nature's vastness and complexity is potent agency for awe in forest walks, wilderness canoeing, open water or shoreline cruising, lakeside camping, lakeshore relaxing or riding the trails. Awe of Aurora Borealis, star-gazing, beautiful sunsets, animal encounters, eating wild berries in the woods, the fragrance of wild flowers or a plunge into cool waters should trigger awe in anyone, including the most self-absorbed.

Since the 1980s, Japanese research reveals the power of "shinrin yoku" or forest bathing, to soak your senses by immersion in the woods. These guided outdoor experiences connect us directly with nature. Forest air contains chemicals called phytoncides that activate killer cells to protect your immune system. Evidence shows awe and forest bathing benefit mind, body and spirit by reducing cortisol levels (stress hormones) to improve heart rate, reduce blood pressure, increase life expectancy, sharpen our attention, and promote cooperation, compassion and altruism.

For health and well-being, find and hug a "mother tree."

Harold Honkola
Stillwater

We welcome your letters

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

COMMENTARY

Question me an answer...or the art of asking good questions

In a previous column I suggested that if people everywhere would improve their listening skills, salted with a bit of compassion, that one change could enhance peace and understanding around the world. (See *Timberjay* Archives, 5/4/17, "Listen Up. It's Good for All of Us.") Today I would contend that the ability to ask good questions is an excellent companion skill.



BETTY FIRTH

If you are one of those seemingly rare people who are good at asking questions, you have probably experienced the frustration of doing most of the work in a conversation. You may have wished people would polish up their questioning skills.

Most of us like to

talk about ourselves, so it shouldn't be too difficult to find a topic of interest. Young children ask questions all the time, quite naturally. They are discovering the world around them, curious to gather information to broaden their vistas and stash for future navigation. Somewhere along the way, as we accumulate years and information, we may decide we've got the answers and even become quite pig-headed about it. This is observable in two-year-olds, oldsters, and almost

all teenagers.

As adults, we might keep questioning as we continue to try to figure out our internal and external worlds unless we get stuck at the obstinate stage, thinking our learning is complete once we reach some age or level of education. I think the key preventative for that unfortunate condition of willful ignorance is curiosity. If we remain curious about the world around us and the diverse people we meet, how could we possibly keep from wonder-

ing and wanting more? Irrepressible children and adults can be annoying if you're quite private or just very busy at the moment, but generally, I think people appreciate the show of interest.

Depending on our ethnic and cultural surroundings, we might have been taught that it's rude to ask questions. In the days of Jane Austen novels, young ladies and gentlemen were brought up to discuss only "safe" topics such as the weather, but even then to avoid strong-

ly-expressed opinions. "It seems we may have a bit of rain today." "I believe you're right. Yes, quite so." Although we are freer with our strongly-voiced opinions these days, things haven't changed all that much. Even though we have sophisticated weather forecasts available at our fingertips, we still rely on weather talk to provide conversational glue, and living in Minnesota provides a bottom-

See **QUESTIONS...**
pg. 5

Week of June 17

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.

Breitung Town Board- 6 p.m. on June 20.

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 46 is Julie Mickle of Tower.

History Tidbit:
Continued from last week. Mother's Day Fire... Property along Cty. Rd. 26 sustained the worst damage from the fire. Three homes were destroyed, and 32 garages, outbuildings and vehicles were lost. Walls of flame, whipped by wind, easily jumped the east-west road and raced northwards, and left a two-mile-wide swath of destruction. A fourth home was destroyed a mile north of 26 along the Wiseman Road.

Vermilion Lake Township faced the brunt of both fires with nearly a fifth of the entire township blackened. Property damage in the entire area of the fire was estimated at \$250,000; estimated timber loss at \$500,000 and the cost to control at \$250,000.

Fortunately, most homes in the fire's path escaped destruction and many of the homes were saved despite being surrounded on all sides by flames. Thanks to the efforts and bravery of local fire departments, Forest Service and DNR crews, water bombers and volunteers, the firefighters stubbornly refused to abandon most homes, even in the face of blinding smoke, intense heat and life-threatening danger.

Thanks to The Timberjay, May 18, 1992, for information for this article.

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. 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.

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.

All aboard...train tales storytelling on June 19

SUMMER FUN

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Historical Society is again sponsoring a summer storytelling program inside the Coach Car at the Tower Train Depot.

This year the TSHS will give a book of their choice away to every child who attends each Train Tales gathering. The books vary in reading level from toddler to sixth grade. Refreshments will be provided after the stories.

Children who have not yet attended Kindergarten must be accompanied by an adult. This program is free of charge and open to all.

Details on the upcoming events are as follows:

Wednesday, June 19 from



3:15-3:45 p.m. Local author

Kathy Siskar will read an original story she wrote especially for Train Tales, titled "Where's Hannah? Lost in the Mine!" There is no bookmobile this day.

Wednesday, July 10, from 3:15 - 3:45 p.m. Long-time resident, Marge McPeak, will read

one or two of her favorite stories. Bookmobile is at 3:45 p.m.

Wednesday, July 31 from 3:15-3:45 p.m. Former elementary schoolteachers Becky Peterson and Laurie Leonard will read entertaining stories about "Insects and Bugs" and feature Eric Carle's books- "The Very Hun-

gry Caterpillar" and "The Very Quiet Cricket" and sing song the "Eensy Weensy Spider." Bookmobile at 3:45 p.m.

Wednesday, August 21 from 3:15-45 p.m. Karel Winkelaar, a tour guide from the Soudan Iron Mine, will gather the children in the "Man Car" of the train and entertain the children with stories about the miners, where they came from and how they lived and worked. Bookmobile at 3:45 p.m.

Train Tales is scheduled in conjunction with the arrival of the Arrowhead Library Services Bookmobile.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



Cook's Country Connection visited Tower-Soudan Elementary in May as part of the school's Wellness Day. Students learned about healthy eating habits, exercise, journaling, and got a chance to play with baby dwarf goats and a llama and alpaca.

At left: Lily Russell gives a big smile as she feeds some grain to the alpaca. Bottom left: Kaleelah Chosa decorates her new water bottle with stickers. Bottom center: Nitanis Strong pats the gaggle of four baby goats. Below: Nathaniel Graham reaches in the pen to pet the goats, while Karmina Chosa waits for her turn. photos by J. Summit



Northeast Range High School Honor Roll

A Honor roll

Grade 7
Logan Evridge
Gunner Skager
Magnus Swenson

Grade 8
Simon Bartnick
Kolton Gaebler
Yagmur Kilic
Destiny Koivisto-Boshey

Grade 9
Makenzie Little
Nathaniel Millington
Evangeline Morgan
Adam Sharpe
Emilia Swenson
Trevor Zaitz

Grade 10

Avery Buschman
Ezra Chamberlin
Nevaeh Evridge
Tuuli Koivisto
Brody Lindquist

Grade 11

Noah Backe
Joshua Burton
Noah Gonzalez-Van Den Bogaard
Margaret Groves
Adeline Klatt
Chelsey Nelmark
Danica Sundblad
Maizy Sundblad

Grade 12

Abby Koivisto
Hailey Lindquist
Ruby Milton

B Honor roll

Grade 7
Calvin Childs
Kasen Dostert
Kooper Dostert
Alexander Fisher
Emma Gaebler
Elijah Johnson
Jackson Kaufenberg
Wilhelmina Mattila
James Oelke
Lilly Pulkinen
Anna Sharpe
Bridgett Stern

Grade 8

Avary Brandau
Rylan Buschman
Arturo Cameron
Addison Monson
Peyson Roseth
Lucas Stalboerger

Grade 9

Kaydence Hancock
Kellin Pratt

Grade 10

Chloe Adkisson
Kali Chapin
Danny Daniel
Lillianna Fonseca
Brandon Hancock
Dani Kilic
Ryland Sandy

Grade 11

Else Bee
Alexus Childs
Caden Roseth

Grade 12

Natalie Backe
Matthew Bock
Rafael Marroquin
Wesley Sandy

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Lunch Bunch to meet June 21

COOK- The Lunch Bunch will be meeting for lunch at The Landing Restaurant and Bar in Cook on Friday, June 21 at 12:30 p.m. RSVP to Kathy at 218-753-2530. Everyone is welcomed to join us.

Area students named to UMD Dean's List for Spring Semester 2024

DULUTH- Maude Lenz, senior, of Embarrass, and Zach Schroeder, senior, from Soudan were named to the University of Minnesota- Duluth Dean's List for Spring Semester 2024. Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.50 or higher while earning a minimum of 12 letter-graded credits.

Lenz is enrolled in the UMD- Swenson College of Science & Engineering, Civil Engineering B S C E. Schroeder, is enrolled in the Education & Human Service Professions, Psychology B A Sc.

Volunteers needed to help with trail work

TOWER- The Howard Wagon Trails Club is hosting a volunteer event at the Pine Ridges Trail on Saturday, June 15 starting at 9 a.m. The group will mostly focus on trying to drain some puddles and divert flowing water. Bring bug nets or bug shirts, long sleeves, gloves, long pants, boots (think ticks) and a plenty of water. For tools we need some shovels, maybe a pick, and a rock bar or two would be a good idea. It is helpful to have a hand

saw and some loppers in case there is some brush or small trees to clear. The trailhead is located at the end of North Birch Street north of Tower.

St. Martin's June Mass schedule

TOWER- There will be no daily Mass services at St. Martin's Catholic Church from June 10-28.

TS Class of '74 Reunion July 4-5

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Class of 1974 will celebrate their 50th class reunion on July 4 and 5. Classmates are invited to support our float in the July 4 parade by either riding or walking along the parade route. On July 5 there will be a social hour from 5 - 6 p.m. at Tavern in the Bay, 2077 Cty. Rd. 77, with dinner at 6 p.m. and a social hour following. For

more information, please visit the Facebook group "Tower Soudan Class of '74." We welcome any TSHS alumni to join us for social hour before or after dinner.

Embarrass barrel racing set for June 15

EMBARRASS- There will be barrel racing held at the Embarrass horse arena at Timber Hall on June 15, starting at 1 p.m. after the SLC Summer Series. Peewee, 1st Open and Youth are PEWC sanctioned. For more information contact Lisa Gibson at 218-290-9360.

Immanuel VBS set for August

TOWER- CAMP FIRELIGHT VBS at Immanuel Lutheran Church will be held Aug. 5-9 from 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Children

four years old through completion of fifth grade are invited to join us for a fun filled week at a summer camp adventure with God. Our scripture theme verse is "Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you." Psalm 56:3. There are registration forms in the church narthex, or you can register online at www.myvbs.org/Immanueltower or call the church office at 218-753-2378.

If you have questions, call Peggy Fry (815) 721-0967. We are also in need of a few more volunteers as group leaders and to do a craft with children.

This will be a summer camp adventure with God. There will be exciting new music, amazing science, creative crafts, fun recreation, and memorable Bible stories that will show children they can trust God all the time.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ely Folk School gets \$30,000 birthday present



by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY— Organizers of the Ely Folk School received the birthday gift they were hoping for this year — \$30,000 to help fund operations of the nonprofit school, founded in 2015.

The funds came from a wide range of donations, which were spurred by “generous Ely Folk School supporters” who had offered \$10,000 in matching funds on May 28. Folk school Executive Director Lucy Soderstrom announced the successful fundraising effort, which reached its goal a day ahead of the school’s June 9 birthday celebration.

“These funds are critical to the Ely Folk School being able to fulfill its mission,” Soderstrom said in her announcement, “continuing to offer non-competitive, intergenerational, learning opportunities.”

Birthday weekend

The Ely Folk School packed its birthday weekend with four fun activities aimed to entice community involvement. School officials invited the public to Semer’s Beach in Ely last Friday to try their hand paddling in one of its two

Anishinaabe birch bark canoes, hand built at the folk school during the summers of 2017-2020. This year was the third free community paddling event. The Ely Outfitting Company donated the use of personal flotation devices and paddles for the event.

On Saturday afternoon, the folk school held an “old-time strings jam,” open to all string players of any level and anyone who wanted to listen. The jam session was followed by another of the folk school’s signature community dances at the Ely Senior Center, featuring contra and folk dances to live music.

On Sunday, the folk school packed its Sheridan St. home with a crowd for its ninth birthday potluck, featuring a homemade carrot cake as the dessert. The classic Ely Folk School offering of Slovenian walnut potica was prominent on the dessert table although the informal consensus was that the strawberry rhubarb hand pies were the standout dessert.

Impact

During the past year, the folk school has offered 162 classes, workshops, and events, many emphasizing northern Minnesota’s wilderness traditions as well as Scandinavian, Slovenian, and Indigenous heritage.

Over 2,000 individuals took advantage of the school’s classes and events, taught by 54 instructors, 37 of which were from the Ely area. The folk school also supports 25 artists by including their works in its mercantile program.

The Ely Folk School is available for rent for community meetings and events. It is currently the home of the Ely Writers’ Group, the Call of the Wild poetry readings, and Ely’s monthly ad hoc community forum on local issues.

Upper Left: Members of the public were able to paddle one of the Ely Folk School’s hand-built birch bark canoes last Friday at Semer’s Beach. This was the third year the Ely Folk School invited the community to experience paddling in a traditional Anishinaabe canoe.
Middle Left: The dessert table at the Ely Folk School birthday potluck dinner.
Lower Left: At Ely Folk School Community Dances, kids dance free.
photos by C. Clark

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Ely City Band

ELY- The band rehearses on Monday and Tuesday nights during June from 6-8 p.m. in the band room in the new addition at the Ely Public Schools Campus, 600 E. Harvey St. Enter through door No. 1 next to the Ely Public Schools sign and walk straight back through the commons space. The band room is the last door on the left. All are welcome to come play regardless of experience level or how many years it’s been since you last played in high school or college band. Some loaner instruments may be available; contact Karl Kubiak at karlkubiak1@gmail.com for more detail.

Ely Public Library

ELY- The library will be closed on Wednesday, June 19.

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

The library will hold a jigsaw puzzle and board game swap on Tuesday,

June 18, from 4-5:30 p.m. Swap your old puzzles and games for different ones. Only puzzles with all their pieces intact may be swapped. If you bring a puzzle or game, you must take another home with you.

Local author and former *Timberjay* editor Scott Stowell will be at the library on Thursday, June 20, from 2-3 p.m., to read from his recent Ely-centric book, “Back Road Grace,” which the *Timberjay* reviewed in the May 3 edition. He will also have copies on hand for sale.

The library will hold an online Kahoot trivia game for all ages on books nine through 16 of the Bad Kitty series of books by Nick Bruel. The Kahoot will start at 3 p.m. on Friday, June 21, and end at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, June 26. Participants must pre-register for the Kahoot so the library can email the link for the game.

The library will host Tuey the Juggler in a program for all ages on Monday, June 24, from 10-11 a.m.

The library will hold a preschool math fun event on Wednesday, June 26, from 11 a.m.-noon.

The Curiosity Cohort for teens and adults will hold a session on how to paint faces on Friday, June 28, from 2-3:30 p.m. Preregister for this event so the library can order enough supplies for participants.

Preschool Storytime is held every Friday from 10:30-11 a.m. All library events are at the Ely Public Library at 224 E. Chapman St., unless otherwise noted.

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.

Ely Library Book Sale

ELY- For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ely Friends of the Library is back on and in person. The sale will begin for Friends of the Library members on Thursday, June 20, at noon until 7 p.m. at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. First Ave. E. If you are not a member of the Friends of the Library, you can join at the door on Thursday. Memberships are \$5.

The book sale will be open to the general public on Friday, June 21, from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. and on Saturday, June 22, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- The Friends of the Library will hold a bingo game at the library on Saturday, June 15, from 1-3 p.m.

Comedy Magician Brodini will visit the li-

brary on Monday, June 24, at 2 p.m. for a no-cost program for ages.

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.

Dorothy Day

ELY- The Dorothy Molter Museum will hold its annual Dorothy Day Open House on Sunday, June 23, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The museum will be open for free to all comers.

Ely High School All Class Reunion

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

List your event

Do you have an upcoming Babbitt, Ely, or Winton event? Email event details, location, time, place and event cost to catie.timberjay@gmail.com by close-of business on the Tuesday the week before the event takes place for a free notice.

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.

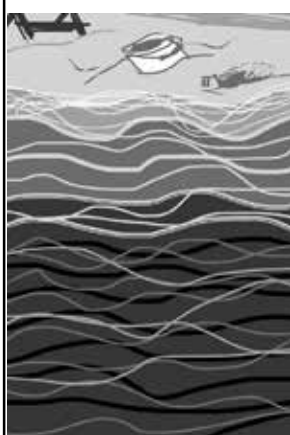
Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

► June 18: Thomas Gable of the Voyageur’s Wolf Project, speaking on “Wolves, Deer, and Deer Hunting: The Data Matters.”

► June 25: Lee Felich of the University of Minnesota Center for Forest Ecology.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2024



the lake waters move
with help of a gentle breeze

waves lap the shoreline

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

Monday	10 am-6 pm
Tuesday	10 am-6 pm
Wednesday	10 am-6 pm
Thursday	10 am-6 pm
Friday	closed

Phone: 218-827-3345

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
OPEN AA - 7:30
p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.
AA FRIDAYS - 7 p.m.
Fridays, First Presbyterian Church, 262 E. Harvey St., Ely.

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

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

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

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

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

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS:
Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living.
Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital. Conference Room B.

Timber Days delivers big time fun!



photos by D. Colburn

TIMBER DAYS CONTEST WINNERS

Car show
 Peoples Choice: Hank Buczynski, \$100 and trophy.
 Drivers Choice: Rick Clark, \$100 and trophy.

Lawnmower races
 Stock, first, Montana Johnson, \$100.
 Stock, second, Laven Davis, \$50.
 Modified, first, Vinny Wood, \$100.
 Modified, second, Salena Davis, \$50.
 People's Choice: Salena Davis, trophy.

Parade floats
 First, The Old Muni, \$200.
 Second, The Log Cabin, \$100.
 Third, The Festival of Skalds, \$50.
Raffle tickets
 First, \$1,000 donated

by Marty's Heating & Air Conditioning, LLC: Jimmy Brunner
 Second, \$1,100 value: 2 night cabin rental at Melgeorge's Lodge & Resort: Bruce Nelson
 Third, \$500 value: 27" smokeless fire pit - Cook Building Center: Brenna Simpson
 Fourth, \$460 value: 4-person round of golf - The Wilderness: Emily Koch
 Fifth, \$450 value: log bench - Ryan's Rustic Railings: Shawn Cox
 Sixth, \$450 value: Spring Bay 4-hour guided fishing trip for two: Taylor Bakk
 Seventh, \$300 gift card - Zup's, Cook: Sharon Ratai
 Eighth, \$300 value: hummingbird helix 5 depth finder - Timbuktu

Marine: Liz Shuster
 Ninth, \$275 value: premium room including \$75 certificate to Sunset Steak House - Fortune Bay: Bo Simpson
 Tenth, \$150 value: 1 night stay, up to \$150, Vermilion Hotel: Dede Doi
 11th, \$100 gift card - North Star Credit Union: Zach Norup

Baytree Field 4-H Pet Show
 A dog named Maple, brought by Oliver, was awarded "keeping local groomers in business."
 An English Cocker Spaniel named Carmen, brought by Robin Fisher, was awarded "most likely to carry a stick everywhere."
 A dog named Leelah,

brought by Lily, was awarded "the life of the party."
 An albino cornsnake named Dinosaur, brought by Ryker, was awarded "most unique pet."
 A Labrador/Aussie Shepherd named Winnie, brought by Isabelle and Silas, was awarded "fastest pet."
 A cornsnake named Darla, brought by Maverick, was inadvertently awarded "most likely to be mistaken for a horse" instead of "smoothest scales" (with apologies).
 A mix breed dog named Johnny, brought by Sandu, was awarded "cutest outfit."
 Dogs Mille and Ollie, brought by Addy, were awarded "never had a bad hair day" and "future AGT star."

A dog named Loki, brought by Tanner, was awarded "paw-fect pet."
 A dog named Scout, brought by Grant, was awarded "best jumper."
 A Collie named Jake, brought by Clementine, was awarded "longest tail."
 A Blue and Gold Macaw named Amadeus, brought by Lisha, was awarded "finest feather."
 A St. Bernard named Wally, brought by David, was awarded "most likely to steal your heart."
 A mini wiener dog named Tucker, brought by Memory, was awarded "cleanest pet."
 A husky named Tundra, brought by Nick, was awarded "most talkative pet."
 A French Bulldog named Oswald, brought

by Ile, was awarded "funniest fellow."
 A French Bulldog named Piper, brought by Janika and Miina, was awarded "most likely to steal your lunch."
 Gracie, Lucy and Dee Dee, brought by Brenda, were awarded "class clown," "most likely to succeed," and "most Jurassic" (due to a ferocious attitude!).
 A Pug named Franky, brought by Natalia and Brooklyn, was awarded "best voice."
 Thank you to all of the wonderful participants, Baytree Field 4-H families, Vermilion Veterinary Clinic and Cook's Annual Timber Days committee.

Cook-Orr Calendar

Palmer earns Bemidji honors
 ORR- Stacy Palmer, of Orr, has been named to the President's Honor Roll at Bemidji State University for the spring 2024 semester.
 Students must earn a grade-point average of 4.0 for the semester and be enrolled in at least 12 credits of coursework.

Lions club to hold trash pickup day
 COOK- The Cook Lions Club is hosting its annual city wide trash pickup on Saturday, June 15. Anyone is welcome

to volunteer. The crew will assemble at the Zup's parking lot at 9 a.m. and meet afterwards for a complementary lunch from the Brat Shack.

UMD honors two area students
 REGIONAL- Two area students have been named to the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) Dean's List for spring semester 2024.
 Alex Hartway, of Cook, a senior economics major in the Labovitz School of Business and Economics, and Michaela Luecken, of Gheen, a

junior majoring in criminology and sociology in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Criminology B A; Sociology, were honored by UMD.
 Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.50 or higher while earning a minimum of 12 letter-graded credits.

Daily Mass paused through June 28 at Catholic churches
 REGIONAL- St. Mary's Catholic Church in Cook, Holy Cross Catholic Church in Orr, and St.

Martin's Catholic Church in Tower will not be celebrating daily Masses from Monday, June 10 through Friday, June 28.

Cook's Music in the Park begins June 12
 COOK- Grab your lawn chairs and head to Cook City Park on Wednesday, June 12 at 6 p.m. for the kickoff of the Music in the Park weekly concerts with Eric Pederson and The Beefeater Brothers. St. Paul's (Along) Lutheran Church will have concessions available. In case rain, the concert will move to the Cook

VFW.
 Music In The Park is made possible by the Cook Lions Club, Cook VFW Post 1757, the Cook Chamber of Commerce, the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club, Northwoods Friends of the Arts, and free will community donations.

NWFA annual meeting is Tuesday
 COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, June 18 at 5 p.m. at the gallery at 210 S River St in Cook. "The Wind and The Drum" author

Katharine Johnson will be the featured speaker at 6 p.m.

Still time to sign up for beading class
 COOK- Spaces are still available for a two-day beading workshop to be taught by Malita Spears on Thursday and Friday, June 20-21, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook. Call Alberta at 218-666-2153 for more information or to register.

NORTH WOODS FOURTH QUARTER HONOR ROLL 2023-24

A Honor Roll

Seniors
 Evelyn Brodeen
 Jonah Burnett
 Annabelle Calavera
 Brandon Cook
 Madison Dantes
 Sean Drift
 Talise Goodsky
 Riley Las
 Cadense Nelson
 Victoria Olson
 Ella Smith
 Trinity Vidal
 Adriana Whiteman
 Luke Will

Juniors
 Addison Burckhardt
 John Carlson
 Aidan Hartway
 Vincent Kajala
 Sierra Schuster
 Amber Sopoci

Sophomores
 Lincoln Antikainen
 Lauren Burnett
 Rowan Christian
 John Danielson
 Isabelle Koch
 Brittin Lappi
 Victoria Mathys
 Isabel Pascuzzi

Freshmen
 Alethea Bangs
 Corralyn Brodeen
 Abigail Dargontina
 Bryleigh Drift-Geshick
 Emarie Gibson
 Andrew Hartway
 Carson Johnson
 Ella Kruse
 Barbara Littlewolf
 Sophia Mathys
 Victoria Phillips
 Elizabeth Udovich
 Kaycee Zupancich

Eighth Grade
 Gage Aune
 Sophia Bangs
 Zoey Burckhardt
 Carsyn Burnett
 Sawyer Glass
 Johnathon Hampson
 Cyrus Johnson
 Rebecca Koch
 Tysen Lenzen
 Joshua Long
 Aubrey Olson-Stoltenberg
 Vincent Pascuzzi
 Alice Sopoci
 Brock Van Tassell

Seventh Grade
 Anelise Brodeen
 Michaela Brunner
 Tessa Burnett
 William Flores-Leander
 Laurin Glass
 Lila Kajala
 Ashlyn Woitel

B Honor Roll

Seniors
 River Cheney
 LeMar Drift
 Emily Grahn
 Cynthia Kirkman
 Alex Niles
 Jessy Palmer
 Cole Rabas
 Covington Rintala
 Isaac Spears
 Jacob Whiteman
 Keenan Whitney
 Davis Villebrun

Juniors
 Nicholas Abramson
 Ryder Gibson
 Talen Jarshaw
 Cody Kirkman
 Rose'Lee Knott-Morgan
 Jaida Lambert
 Louie Panichi
 Lydia Trip

Sophomores
 Brynn Chosa
 Scott Morrison
 Rogelio Noyes
 Alexander Schelde
 Payton Scofield
 Sadie Spears

Freshmen
 Kessa Arms
 Kate Cheney
 Presley Chiabotti
 Kaelyn Ehrbright
 Jordanna Lambert
 Aiyeshia Mohamed
 Caleb Rutchasky
 Cash Rutchasky
 Hunter Schwarzenberger
 Aubrey Smith
 Elwood Spears
 Latise Strong
 Ariana Vines
 Aiden Woitel
 James Yernatich

Eighth Grade
 Max Campbell
 Colt Chosa
 Kayson Gaskell
 Sophia Hoffman
 Cedar Holman
 Brittan Koskela
 Evangelina Mathys
 Cassidy Pinski
 Evalyn Thiel
 Donelle Villebrun

Seventh Grade
 Savannah Abts
 Olivia Baumgartner
 River Deathergate
 Beau Fabish
 Josie Gibson
 Buckley LeForte
 Cooper Long
 Elias Sheffer

CRIME

Events held to raise awareness of human trafficking

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

VERMILION RESERVATION— About two dozen youth and adults walked here recently to raise awareness of the issues of human trafficking and missing and murdered Indigenous relatives. A companion event was held simultaneously at Nett Lake.

The walks were a prelude to an all-day conference focused on human trafficking, organized by Bois Forte Victim Services Coordinator Muriel Deegan. The conference, set for Thursday, June 13 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Fortune Bay, is free and open to the public, and lunch will be served. For more information, contact Muriel at Muriel.deegan@boisforte-nsn.gov, or call 218-410-3832.

“There is no one type of trafficking victim,” Deegan wrote, “traffickers prey on the vulnerable behind hidden doors.”

Violence is a health care issue, and current research shows that an average of 40-percent of women involved in sex trafficking are Native American or Alaskan Native. Homicide is the third leading cause of death for Native girls and women aged



Muriel Deegan (l) and Tawny Savage highlighted the need to bring more resources to Indian Country to address human trafficking. photo by J. Summit

15-24. Tawny Savage, the violence prevention coordinator for the newly formed Minnesota Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office (MMIR), said her outreach efforts consist of a lot of time spent with high school students. The problem of missing women is ongoing and often not in public view. There were 62 teens and women missing in Minnesota in January alone, she said.

Savage said one of the most important things when a loved one is missing is time. Families need to contact law enforcement immediately, and not wait. They need to provide detailed information.

“Law enforcement agencies are required to take the report,” she said. “There is no required waiting period to file a missing person’s report.”

Savage attended the event as part of her outreach efforts. She

is based in northern Minnesota, and works with tribes along with her work with youth.

A Vermilion resident who participated in the walk talked about a friend of hers, Sheila St. Clair, from Fond Du Lac, who went missing over eight years ago in Duluth.

“I was one of the last people who saw her,” said Isabelle Larson, who said her friend had just had surgery and was recently released from the hospital.

Larson said there were a few times when law enforcement thought they had found St. Clair’s body, but then it turned out not to be her. “That was so hard,” Larson said.

Savage said that when someone is missing, there needs to be a coordinated response from many different agencies, not just law enforcement, but also child protective services and social workers.

“Families are the best advocates,” she said. “Law enforcement needs to take their reports seriously.”

The historical distrust of law enforcement in Native communities is a hurdle that needs to be overcome, she said. “This is something our office is working on. We need to work together.”

The MMIR office also has a reward fund, “Gaagige-Mikwenda goziwag” means “they will be remembered forever.” The fund offers rewards for information on missing and murdered Indigenous women, children, and Two-Spirit relatives.

Support and resources are now available from the new statewide office at mmiroffice.dps@state.mn.us or online at dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/mmir/Pages/about.aspx.

Gov. Tim Walz signed into law the legislation to establish the first-in-the-nation MMIR Office in 2021. Staff are housed in the Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and will work to implement the recommendations of the MMIW Task Force.

Report suspected human trafficking

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger of being trafficked, call 911.

To report a suspected trafficking situation, call the BCA at 1-877-996-6222 or email bca.tips@state.mn.us.

TRYGG...Continued from page 1

replace the top 12 inches of the road surface with new aggregate from a different gravel pit. Earlier this month, Brian Boder, deputy public works director, had indicated the bidding on the project would likely be done by mid-summer with the work expected in the fall.

But Jim Foldesi, county public works director, said they opted to commission the work as a change order to the county’s existing gravel crushing contract with TNT Construction, which had set up operations at a county gravel pit on Hwy. 1, about three miles west of the Y Store.

“We had asked them for 40,000 tons of gravel and we planned to use roughly 10,000 tons out on Trygg Road,” said Foldesi. “We had them crush up more than we needed since we were already paying for mobilization.”

It turns out the company had a gap in their construc-

tion season, so when county officials suggested they take on the Trygg Road project, they came back with an attractive price—\$380,000, which was considerably less than Foldesi had anticipated. “So, we were able to get it done at a very reasonable cost and were able to get it done

much sooner,” he added.

In fact, the work began about ten days ago and was largely wrapped up this week.

That left residents of the road, who had been complaining for months about the situation, relieved. “I’m just happy to have it done,” said resident Barb

Soderberg. “Maybe some of our friends and relatives will come back down the road again to visit us.”

Foldesi agreed. “We’re very happy that we could accelerate the project and take care of the issue,” he said.

OSHA...Continued from page 1

who noted that his department, which operates with full-time professionals, already tries to incorporate many of the standards that would become mandatory should the OSHA proposal go forward.

The OSHA proposal would take a total of 21 standards adopted by the National Fire Protection Association, or NFPA, and convert them from recommendations for fire departments to mandates. This includes certifications for firefighters as well as design and certification requirements for things like protective equipment.

While the proposed change has been in the works for a few years, it’s only more recently that many smaller volunteer services have tuned into the discussion—and there’s increasing alarm at what’s being proposed. “Everything I’ve heard so far sounds problematic as far as recruitment, retention, and budget goes,” said Steve Lotz, fire chief with the Vermilion Lake volunteer fire department.

Concern is building nationwide. The National Volunteer Fire Council held a national “Day of Action” on Wednesday of this week to raise awareness of what OSHA is proposing, and the organization

is urging volunteer fire officials to weigh in on the subject. OSHA recently extended the public comment period to July 22 due to the growing concern. The council is “encouraging fire and EMS personnel to review the proposed standard, understand the potential impact on their community, and prepare their comments to OSHA,” states the council on its website at <https://www.nvfc.org>.

Jeff Mayer, who has long been involved in fire training in northeastern Minnesota, says he hears the widespread concern but said the ultimate impact will depend largely on how aggressively OSHA seeks to enforce compliance. “The question is whether they will hold to the letter of the standard, or allow an equivalent,” said Mayer. He said the NFPA standards has long allowed the use of “equivalent” training. “As long as they go by that, we’re already doing it,” he said, noting that most area fire departments conduct monthly training sessions designed by various college-affiliated organizations, to meet the NFPA standards. The state of Minnesota also provides funding to fire departments to pay the cost of most of that training.

Mayer did say that some of the new training requirements for department officers could be time-consuming and he said the changes related to health screening for firefighters may be the most onerous of all.

One factor that may be fueling concern is the relative lack of details available about the proposed change. Much of the regulatory language is dense and technical in nature, making it difficult to parse. None of local fire officials who spoke to the *Timberjay* indicated they felt fully informed on the subject. “There’s not a lot of detail out there,” said Jankila, who raised his concerns at a recent meeting of the Arrowhead Chiefs Association. “I said folks need to start looking at this,” Jankila added. “If they could get 10,000 departments raising these questions that would help.”

Burdensome regulation

While many in the fire service recognize the value of an increased focus on firefighter safety, there’s equal concern that the proposed new regulation could bring an end to many small departments that simply won’t be able to meet the new standards.

As proposed, the change could significantly increase the training requirements for firefighters, which have already increased substantially over the past couple decades. Basic training required of new firefighters can take about 120-150 hours. But that time commitment could easily double or triple under the new rules, as firefighters would be required to gain certification in various elements of their jobs. Each of those certification courses can be 40 hours long, noted Jankila.

Such training requirements are useful, notes Jankila, which is why larger services like Hibbing often require certification for many of their personnel, depending on their duty assignments. That makes the impact of the proposed regulatory change less onerous for many larger departments, which typically have more room in their budget and more specialized roles among personnel, that makes the extra training both practical and more affordable.

But Jankila sees trouble ahead for the many smaller departments in the region. “I think it would be very challenging for the Vermilion Lakes, the Greenwoods, the Breitungs, and places

like Tower,” he said.

Steve Lotz agrees and notes that the training requirements would likely fall hardest on small departments. “To me, the single biggest issue is that we don’t have assigned people for assigned tasks for assigned shifts,” Lotz said. “We don’t know who is going to show up to do what on any given scene. Which means we pretty much have to be able to do all of the tasks. So, it’s more of a burden for us than in a bigger department where we don’t have the specialized assignments.”

It’s a common concern, as officials with small departments fear a “one-size-fits-all” approach by OSHA could eventually force them to shut their doors or leaving small communities facing an additional significant tax

burden.

Lotz argues that there needs to be a roadmap in place for how to provide fire protection in rural areas should OSHA ultimately opt to implement the change in regulation. “If the plan is to put us out of business, we need an alternative plan to provide protection in these service areas,” he said.

Mayer acknowledges that fear of change is always present, but he said some fire officials may be reading too much into the changes, without reflecting on the potential to improve firefighter safety. “I think it will actually benefit us in the long-run in terms of health and safety,” he said.

RESULTS...Continued from page 1

experience.

Chavers’ slim victory suggests some discontent over the status quo. Chavers had outlined an ambitious agenda for her next term at a candidate’s forum in Orr on May 18. Chavers emphasized the Band’s as yet to be specified foray into the recreational marijuana business, more effectively promoting Fortune Bay as a tourist destination, developing the Johnson Lake property for corporate retreats, and seeking government contracts as

ways to boost revenue. Chavers said she would like to expand the Band’s urban offices and said diversifying the Band’s businesses could fund more services for off-reservation members. She also said that the Band needs to be more involved with off-reservation members and needs to facilitate their involvement with Band activities. Providing affordable housing options, good jobs with good wages for Band members, and enhancing workplace

culture were other items Chavers touched on during the forum.

Drift wins in District I

Perry Drift was the winner over Edward Villebrun for the District I tribal council seat, garnering 158 votes to Villebrun’s 153. Five ballots for the race were left blank. The candidates were tied after Tuesday’s votes were counted, and again it was absentee ballots that put Drift over the top. Villebrun narrowly won the Nett Lake, Vermilion, and

Minneapolis vote, while Drift carried Duluth.

The results are considered preliminary until certified by the Band’s election board at a meeting that was to take place on Wednesday after the *Timberjay*’s press time. Candidates may request a recount of the ballots within three days of the election, and the election board will determine if a request is granted.

NOTICE

Range Cooperatives, Inc. Annual Shareholders Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Shareholders Membership Meeting of Range Cooperatives, Inc.

The meeting will be called to order at:

**6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 19
at Range Funeral Home Fellowship Hall,
911 16th St North, Virginia**

• Registration and the meal will be served from 4:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. in the Range Funeral Home Fellowship Hall.
• The regular business meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in the Range Funeral Home Chapel.

Regular business will be transacted at this meeting, which will include presentation of reports, election of directors, and any other business that may come up.

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Michael Boyd, Secretary

CITY OF TOWER

Council hears both sides in short-term rental debate

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

Weighs adding part-time administrative help at city hall

TOWER— The city council here heard from very different perspectives as they continue to grapple with a new ordinance to regulate short-term rentals in the city.

After a number of incidents at one short-term rental last year, the city council handed over the issue to the city's planning and zoning commission, which has developed a draft ordinance designed to better regulate the situation. That ordinance, which proposed to prohibit the short-term rentals in residential districts in the city, came under fire last month from owners of the affected properties, who advocated for some kind of grandfathering provision.

This month, the council heard under public input from Nick Levens, a neighbor to a short-term rental, who said the unit has greatly impacted his neighborhood in Northstar Addition. "I used to live in a nice quiet neighborhood, but now have hundreds of strangers coming in next door," he said. "I believe in live and let live but at a certain point the neighborhood is affected. No one really thinks about it until the 'for sale' sign goes up at your neighbors' and you have to hope that it doesn't get sold for a short-term rental."

Rachel Lockett, who owns the rental next to Levens, responded, saying she'd taken a number of steps to screen her renters and

monitor their activities more closely since neighbors complained last year. "We're doing everything we can to make it not a burden on the neighborhood," she said. "We have gone to great lengths to vet every guest."

The sharply divergent views have thus far stymied the council's decision-making. "We've gone back and forth, which is why we're here again," said council member Joe Morin, who also serves on planning and zoning.

Council member Josh Zika wondered how the city would ensure compliance with the ordinance if some properties were grandfathered in. Morin said the ordinance would still apply to those grandfathered properties. "They would still be subject to the same rules as everyone else," he said. They would also need to apply for a permit, as the ordinance would require of others.

While the council made no final determination, they seemed to come closer to a compromise that would allow for a handful of short-term rentals in residential districts. Council member Kevin Norby, who also serves on planning and zoning, said some kind of resolution is needed. "I think short-term rentals are kind of a fact of life these days. We need the ordinance to keep things from getting out of control."

The council asked for planning and zoning to come back

at the July meeting with revised language that the council could potentially approve as a first reading of a new ordinance.

In other business, the council formed another ad hoc committee to determine job duties for a possible part-time administrative assistant to help manage affairs at city hall. Mayor Dave Setterberg noted the laundry list of significant projects now underway in the city, all of which consume considerable time in administration. "I don't think there's enough bandwidth for Michael to handle all these things," said Setterberg, who noted that an assistant would also provide some redundancy in case either the clerk-treasurer or his deputy was suddenly unavailable.

Setterberg said he discussed the position with an area temp worker firm, which recommended a wage in the \$20-\$25/hour range, possibly working one day a week. Setterberg pegged the cost to the city at about \$8,300-\$10,000 depending on the wage and hours.

Council member Bob Anderson questioned whether a new assistant would replace the financial assistance being done by Ann Lamppa. Setterberg said no, at least not immediately.

"I think we should have a very clear outline of what this person would do," said Norby.

The council seemed amena-

ble to Setterberg's suggestion and Norby and the mayor will serve on the ad hoc committee to fine tune the proposal in time for consideration at the council's July meeting.

In other business, the council:
► Faced questioning from Norby about some provisions of the proposed ordinance to create a local housing trust fund. Norby said he was concerned that the creation of the ordinance and associated trust fund would create unrealistic expectations that could create some liability for the city. "I like the concept of it, but there are things that are a little above and beyond a small town like Tower," said Norby. "I don't know that we should say we're going to end homelessness. It leaves an expectation that I don't think we can meet."

Norby also took issue with the language in the ordinance that suggested that Tower would be providing rental assistance grants for some individuals. "I don't know that we're the right community to be providing grants for rental assistance," he said.

Zika said Norby seemed mostly concerned about "optics" and suggested that any program established to utilize trust fund dollars would have its own framework and guidelines and would ultimately need to be approved by the council.
Morin, who has been the

primary advocate for the trust fund, said there is no plan in place currently for how the funds might be used. And he acknowledged that Tower's trust fund would be so small that it would likely not be issuing grants, since it would quickly exhaust available dollars.

The council opted to strike mention of rental assistance in the ordinance and approved the second reading.

► Heard from clerk-treasurer Michael Schultz about the city's presentation on its plans for a senior housing development at a recent regional housing showcase sponsored by the Minnesota Housing Partnership. "Not sure if it was a waste of time or not," he said. "We haven't heard anything back. But there were some good eyes on our city."

► Hired Olivia Haavisto to serve as city seasonal maintenance worker at \$15.50 an hour, with a maximum of 32 hours per week.

► Discussed the need for replacement of eight culverts on N. Second Street, which have heaved. The city has received an initial quote of \$32,000 but Schultz said he planned to check with St. Louis County on possibly sharing the cost, since the street is actually a county road.

► Authorized advertising for election judges for the upcoming primary and subsequent general election.

CITY OF COOK

Pickleball project needs additional funding

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- The Cook City Council heard a progress report on the pickleball court project being pursued by Friends of the Parks at its May 30 meeting, but a subsequent error in another newspaper report of the meeting has muddied the waters around where fundraising stands for the \$110,000 project.

Last September, based on community interest, Friends of the Parks was authorized by the council to proceed with a project of transforming the ice rink at the community center into a dual purpose facility serving both pickleball players and skaters. The cracked asphalt surface of the rink would need to be replaced and striped for pickleball courts. A

courtesy eyeball estimate by an area contractor at the time estimated the possible cost of replacing the asphalt with a concrete slab and other associated costs could run as much as \$120,000. At the October council meeting, Friends of the Parks talked about cheaper asphalt resurfacing options, the least expensive of which could possibly be done for around \$30,000, but would likely re-crack sooner than a more extensive and expensive overlay. Asphalt was discussed as being softer and easier on a player's joints than an concrete slab.

In the May 30 update, FOTPrepresentative Jeanie Taylor told the council they were anticipating a cost closer to the original September estimate.

"We've been busy fundraising and working

on the ice rink pickleball project, and we've received some suggestions on the best way to proceed," she said. "With any project, it kind of snowballs and gets a little bit more complicated, and with that gets more expensive. We're probably at an estimate of about \$110,000 if we do it the right way, so it might need to be done in phases."

"It depends on how successful we are in fundraising and sources of funds," she continued. "Any help that we can get we appreciate it. So far we've applied for and received a \$20,000 IRRR grant, we've implemented three raffles and will have a number of more raffles (including the raffle connected with the Wings and Things event on July 27 at the Cook VFW). We mailed out a bunch of letters asking for financial support to businesses and organizations in December,

and just last month we sent out about a thousand letters to different residents and we've gotten quite a few back on that. We've also applied for a couple of other grants."

Taylor did not comment on the amount of money FOTP has raised to date.

Fundraising confusion
On Thursday, June 6, FOTP posted the following note to their Facebook page:

"Clarification to a recent news article - Friends of the Parks received a \$20,000 IRRR grant. Projected cost of skating rink and pickleball courts is \$110,000. We have received donations and are raising fund but are still a ways from our goal."

In a conversation with the *Timberjay* on Saturday, Taylor confirmed that the *Cook News Herald* inadvertently reported that FOTP had received a \$110,000 grant from the IRRR instead

of the \$20,000 they were awarded. Taylor expressed concern that the error could compromise their fundraising efforts, as people might believe they had all the funds they needed, which is not the case.

During the May 30 meeting, Taylor told the council that some grants FOTP might apply for were only available to local governments and not non-profits, and asked the city to consider partnering with them on any such future grant possibilities.

She also noted that the \$20,000 grant from the IRRR has to be used within nine months, a reason for indicating that the project may have to be done in stages rather than all at once.

"We can't just put it all off until next year, we have to start with it," she said. "But we're just going to keep progressing with it and see what happens in

the fall."

In other business, the council:

► Gave its approval for use of the Cook Community Center for the Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners 5K Walk/Run on June 7.

► Approved invoices from JPJ Engineering for \$3,681 for the North River Street Drainage Improvement project and from SEH for \$32,850 for activities related to replacement of the AWOS weather system at the airport.

► Heard reports on the success of the citywide cleanup day and the lack of success in gaining voluntary compliance with blight notifications.

► Received \$5,258 in donations, including \$1,938 from the Arrowhead Library System, \$500 from Owens Township for the community center, and \$800 from Field Township for the library book fund.

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GAS STRIKE

Pulsar's flow rate test shows major helium discovery

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

BABBITT- Pulsar Helium reported the preliminary results of their May flow tests from their helium gas well this week, documenting remarkable concentrations of the gas. On June 6, Pulsar reported that their testing showed that helium and other gases "flowed to surface naturally in a free gas phase." The maximum measured flow rate was 821 thousand cubic feet per day. Helium concentrations were between 8.7 and 14.5 percent, while carbon dioxide concentrations exceeded 70 percent. In the two weeks prior to the flow tests, Pulsar also collected a vertical seismic profile and an optical television survey of the borehole.

"The results of the Jetstream No. 1 flow test and laboratory analysis confirm a major new helium discovery," said Pulsar CEO Thomas Abraham-James. "This is the first dedicated helium well drilled in Minnesota, and all data gathered indicates that this is not an isolated occurrence with the helium-bearing

zone likely to extend laterally and at depth."

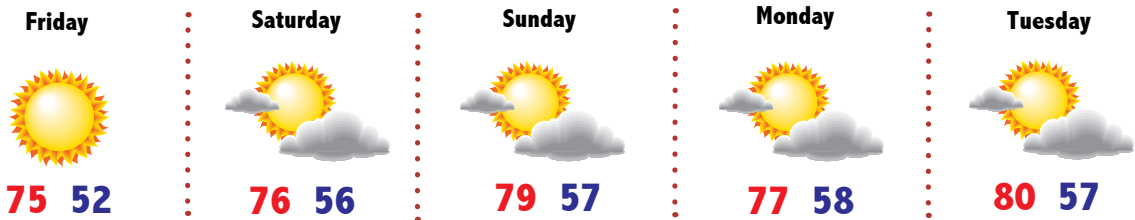
For comparison with helium wells elsewhere, a recent helium production well owned by American Noble Gas in the Hugoton gas field of Kansas, entered production in 2022. American Noble Gas reported a flow rate of 100 thousand cubic feet per day and a helium concentration in natural gas of 0.5 percent. The Pulsar helium is more concentrated and not associated with fossil fuel production.

Pulsar issued an update on their flow tests, adding that the pressure at the bottom of the hole was 162 psi (1,117 kPascals). After the gas was allowed to flow freely, the pressure in the well rebounded 70 percent after a "post-flow shut-in" of an hour. The quick rebound in pressure was interpreted by Pulsar "as highly positive, suggestion that there is a significant volume of gas present."

Pulsar's well, known as Jetstream No. 1, is located approximately 15 miles southwest of Babbitt off the Dunka River Road.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



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.
06/03	74	53	0.24		06/03	76	53	0.03		06/03	75	44	0.05		06/03	75	55	0.01		06/03	76	43	0.04	
06/04	72	54	0.02		06/04	76	54	0.00		06/04	73	55	0.01		06/04	81	57	0.00		06/04	74	55	0.03	
06/05	79	53	1.43		06/05	81	54	1.45		06/05	82	53	1.49		06/05	70	54	0.76		06/05	81	54	1.03	
06/06	72	52	0.06		06/06	72	51	0.20		06/06	72	53	0.15		06/06	57	50	0.20		06/06	71	51	0.22	
06/07	55	45	0.05		06/07	56	44	0.06		06/07	60	53	0.02		06/07	72	45	0.03		06/07	57	44	0.04	
06/08	67	40	0.00		06/08	71	47	0.00		06/08	72	46	0.00		06/08	72	48	0.00		06/08	70	46	0.00	
06/09	69	51	0.00		06/09	70	48	0.02		06/09	72	46	0.06		06/09	63	45	0.00		06/09	71	50	0.00	
YTD Total			12.01		YTD Total			12.26		YTD Total			11.75		YTD Total			NA		YTD Total				13.11

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GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Greenwood meetings now livestreamed on Facebook

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- Greenwood Town Board meetings have long drawn a crowd, but now that includes spectators who can watch the blow-by-blow from the comfort of their own home. Township officials have hired a videographer and meetings are now being streamed live on Facebook, and made available for viewing at a later time as well.

But that didn't stop the usual audience of about 40 people from attending in person on Tuesday.

Township Road 4136, Birch Point Extension, again took up a major part of the agenda, and that included agreeing to seek a legal opinion on whether the gravel extension actually qualifies as a township road, rather than a private road.

The town board, at the same time, rejected for now a motion by supervisor Rick Stoehr to utilize the township attorney to guide the township through the legal steps necessary to assess residents of the extension for any improvements. Chairman Lois Roskoski said having the attorney look at assessment options was premature.

"They outline the steps in MAT [Minnesota Association of Townships] materials," she said. "We are years out from doing that project." The township has hired a contractor to repair potholes on the road this summer, but it appears a more extensive upgrade isn't in the immediate future.

Township resident Steve Lenertz again asked the board to form a citizen committee to investigate options, township obligations, and the legal foundation of the road.

Resident Lee Peterson, a frequent critic, noted the township had no involvement in the paving on the road, and that the property owners on that road should be "fiscally responsible" for the costs of any upgrades.

"There is an alternative," Peterson said. "They can form their own road association and take care of the road at their own expense."

The township began paying for plowing and maintenance on the road many years ago, possibly without any formal township approval at the start. At a certain point, state law says such private roads do become township roads, at least according to information provided to the township.

Most of the other private roads in the township have road



Supervisor Rick Stoehr sparred with other town board members several times during the meeting. From left: Stoehr, Craig Gilbert, and Lois Roskoski. photo by J. Summit

associations which fund costs related to plowing and road maintenance.

Roskoski said that St. Louis County has determined the road is a township road, and the township has been receiving road aid from the county for maintenance of the road.

Roskoski asked that any residents who have factual information about the road issue to send it to the town clerk by June 18, so they can forward the information to attorney Mike Couri.

Arsenic in the water

The potable water source that the township provides at the town hall for area residents is again testing at high levels for arsenic, a naturally-occurring mineral in the area's bedrock. The town clerk posted a sign by the spigot warning residents about the test results.

But this sign raised the ire of other members of the board as well as some former township officials in the audience.

Stoehr had told the clerk to remove the sign.

"This board runs the building, not the clerk," he said. "This should have been taken up by the board."

Roskoski said it was an emergency, and the clerk was following instructions she received after calling the Minnesota Department of Health.

"I thought she did a great job by calling MDH," Roskoski said.

"It's a board decision, not the clerk's decision," said former supervisor and clerk Sue Drobac from the audience.

Spicer said the public had the right to know.

"This was an emergency,"

Roskoski said.

"I beg to differ," Stoehr said. "Find me someone who has expired in the township from arsenic poisoning." Stoehr said the township should have followed the guidelines in the MAT handbook.

Back in the fall of 2021, water testing showed unacceptably high levels of arsenic, at 102 parts per billion. The acceptable level is 0.5 ppb, and the action level set by the state health department is 10 ppb.

Testing done in May showed levels rising to around 30 ppb, from last summer's readings of 9.5 ppb.

The Minnesota Department of Health warns that consuming water even with low levels of arsenic over a long period of time is associated with diabetes and the increased risk of several types of cancer, including bladder, lung, liver, and other organs. Ingesting arsenic can also contribute to cardiovascular and respiratory disease, reduced intelligence in children, and skin problems such as lesions, discoloration, and the development of corns. The health impacts of arsenic may take many years to develop.

The town board is not sure why the water treatment system installed is not removing the arsenic, as it had been doing, after some initial hiccups. They had received some recommendations from well driller Froe Brothers, which would cost over \$9,000 but aren't guaranteed to fix the problem.

The board voted to post water testing results, which will be updated monthly. They will also make sure to be installing new filters every three weeks, to see if this can bring the levels down,

and to be sure the water softener filters are also changed regularly.

Helicopter landing zone

Fire chief Jeff Maus asked if the pickleball court fencing could be moved in about 15 ft. to accommodate a wider area for the helicopter landing zone. The Greenwood parking lot is used to land emergency medical flights.

"The township was formed for fire protection and emergency services," Maus noted. "But we do want to respect the pickleball

plan."

Maus said they were doing training recently, and felt the stakes put in for the new pickleball fence perimeter looked too close to the landing zone area. The department is doing a helicopter training this week and will talk to the pilot.

"We want what is safest for the people on the helicopter," Maus said.

There were two people in the audience with real life experience as helicopter pilots, but they disagreed on the space needed. They did agree that the parking lot area has plenty of other hazards, including power lines, trees, and the windsock flagpole.

The pickleball court fence will be 10-ft. tall, some wondered if it would make a difference to have the fence a few feet shorter on the edge facing the parking lot. Changing the size of the courts at this point in time would be problematic, since the recreation committee has already signed contracts for the work.

A motion by Stoehr to reduce the size of the court by 15 feet lost on a 2-3 vote, with Roskoski, Craig Gilbert, and Paul Skubic voting against.

Officials did note that cars could sustain damage during a helicopter landing from the dust and rocks that get kicked up. They recommended that cars not be left unattended. In case of a helicopter landing, there would be ample time for any at the town hall or recreation area to move their cars from the landing zone area.

Other business

In other business, the board:

➤ Formally hired Brian Trancheff as fire captain and David DeJoode as EMS captain. The board also heard that Trancheff had completed his EMR training.

➤ Approved new guidelines for separation of duties, which spells out specific duties for both the clerk and treasurer in an attempt to clarify responsibilities. Both the clerk and treasurer said they agreed with these guidelines. Supervisor John Bassing has written up guidelines for internal controls, which will be reviewed at the next meeting. The board also authorized the clerk to make corrections to the CTAS program, dating back to 2015. Bassing and Stoehr voting no on this motion.

➤ Disagreed on whether or not the deputy clerk and treasurer should be given a set of permanent keys to the clerk's office, or only when needed. Bassing said the township policies clearly state that deputies do get their own set of keys, but Roskoski said she didn't think that meant a permanent set of keys. Deputies are appointed by the clerk and treasurer, with no input from the board. Treasurer Jeff Maus appointed former clerk JoAnn Bassing as his deputy. The motion to clarify that deputies get keys passed 4-1 with Roskoski voting against.

➤ Supervisor Craig Gilbert gave an update on the broadband project. Bois Forte's Randy Long told Gilbert that while the project in Greenwood should be getting final approval next week, there are issues with Lake Country Power allowing the fiber optic cables to be strung on existing poles in spots where it is not possible to bury the lines. It looks like the project will need to install new poles in some areas, which will add to final project cost. Gilbert said Long is seeking more funding for the project. They don't expect the project to be completed until next summer at the earliest.

➤ Passed a motion to clarify that the township's firearm policy applies to both employees and elected officials. It does not allow firearms in the town hall or in township vehicles. Law enforcement officials are not included.

➤ Announced that they are looking for a volunteer to lower the town hall flag to half-staff when required.

➤ Donated \$100 to the Tower-Soudan Fourth of July.

➤ Heard the 2023 population estimate for the township is 1,019.

This event was made possible with grant funding from: BI - Partisan Infrastructure Law Community Wildfire Defense Grant, MN DNR Firewise Community Grant Program, US Forest Service, and the SFI Community Grant. This Institution is an equal opportunity provider.



STATE TRACK MEET

Area runners improve on qualifying times

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- It was a short trip for the Ely and North Woods athletes who

Left: Grace LaTourell grimaces in relief after handing off the baton to Violet Udovich during state competition in the 4x400 relay.

photo courtesy MSHSL

qualified for the Class A state championship meet at St. Michael-Albertville High School last week, with all completing their action on Thursday of the two-day event.

Nineteen of the state's small-school best lined up for the girls 400 meters, with Ely's Violet Udovich rated at 18th in the field. When the preliminaries were over,

Udovich had improved her place in the field to 14th with a 1:01.82 but fell short of qualifying for Friday's finals.

In the 4x400 meter relay, the Ely foursome of Lydia Schultz, Sarah Visser, Grace LaTourell and Udovich came in with the slowest time among the 17 teams competing, but they edged their way up to 15th

with a time of 4:17.56. On the top nine moved on to the finals.

North Woods distance specialist Alex Burckhardt qualified for the 3200 meter running for the South Ridge Panthers and was rated 17th among the 17 entrants. Burckhardt managed to step up one rung on the ladder with a 16th place finish with a 10:34.40.



NETT LAKE

DRAMATIC DANCERS

Annual SahGiiBahGah powwow draws a crowd

Top and left: Shawl dancers of many ages performed with their colorful shawls during last weekend's powwow held at Nett Lake.

Below: Male dancers strut their stuff in their impressive regalia during the event.

photos by D. Colburn



STATE GOLF TOURNE

Olson leads local golfers after first round

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The two-day Class A girls state golf tournament kicked off Tuesday at the Pebble Creek Golf Club in Becker, and after the first round of play North Woods ace Tori Olson found herself 10 strokes off the pace in 13th position.

Olson shot a 14-over-par 86, with identical nines of 43. Her round was five strokes better than last year's opener at state, where she finished 22nd.

District 7A champion NER-E was fifth in the eight-school team competition after Tuesday's play, with their 395 total putting them in striking distance of fourth-place Heritage Christian Academy at 375.

Abby Koivisto opened play on the back nine, shooting a 48, then found her rhythm on the second nine, shooting one over par through s

See GOLF..pg. 2B

COVID UPDATE

FLiRT-ing with a COVID surge

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- As the number of COVID infections and our ability to measure them has declined, COVID-19 has largely disappeared from the public eye in recent months.

But the disease has recently made a minor comeback of sorts, at least in news circles, thanks to the concern health officials have expressed about the most recent variants, collectively known by an acronym comprised from their technical names, the FLiRT variants.

This family of variants are a group of mutations of the Omicron variant that caused the pandemic's biggest single spike in early 2022. Collectively, two FLiRT variants, dubbed JN and KP, now account for around 85 percent of the virus circulating in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control's latest estimates. They're a concern for two reasons.

First, like their parent variant Omicron, the FLiRT strains are more highly transmissible than any that have come before, thanks to a new mutation on their spike proteins that help them evade immune responses. The second

See COVID..pg. 2B

TREAT DAD
TO THE BEST GIFTS FOR FATHER'S DAY

p
pohaki

REGULATION

Federal changes could have big impact on state cannabis industry

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- To borrow an old saying, the feds may giveth, and the feds may taketh away with regards to the nascent cannabis and hemp industry in Minnesota. A change in the classification of marijuana could be a boon for business while a proposed change in the farm bill could be a huge bust for sellers of hemp-based edibles.

Marijuana reclassification

The Federal Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 established five categories, called schedules, for classifying controlled substances and medications based on their proper medical use and potential for misuse or abuse.

For decades, marijuana has been classified as a Schedule I substance, having “high abuse potential with no accepted medical use,” and as such “may not be prescribed, dispensed, or administered.” This put marijuana in the same class as heroin, LSD, mescaline, Ecstasy, and psilocybin.

But with the growth of state-sponsored medical cannabis programs now in 38 U.S. states and with nearly half of the states in the country having some form of legalized recreational marijuana, the Biden administration has proposed changing with the times.

In April, the U.S. Department of Justice and Drug Enforcement Administration proposed moving marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule III, a shift that would not legalize recreational marijuana at the federal level but would still represent a paradigm shift in the way marijuana is treated.

Reclassifying marijuana as a Schedule III substance has implications for both research and business practices.

Researchers will have fewer restrictive regulations to contend with as they seek to study the benefits and risks of cannabis. Schedule III substances don’t require a federal license to study as do Schedule I drugs, opening the field to a wider array of potential researchers and possibly enhancing the quality of the research.

For state-regulated cannabis businesses, rescheduling will remove the prohibition against writing off standard business expenses on their federal tax returns, saving millions of dollars that businesses can use to reinvest in their businesses or use to boost employee pay.

The shift may eventually make it easier for cannabis-related businesses to obtain financing from banks, which have been leery of them because marijuana has remained illegal at the federal level. Reclassifying marijuana doesn’t change that, but the change signals a process of reform that will likely lead to less legal

risk from handling financial transactions of state-regulated marijuana companies. The tax breaks will also make companies more profitable, making them more attractive as borrowers. However, for the time being, numerous major banks have indicated they have no plans to change their policies regarding cannabis businesses.

That includes being able to use major credit cards for transactions in an industry that has had to rely almost solely on cash transactions, something that has made cannabis businesses heightened targets for crime. Some stores have gotten around that by installing systems that create a “virtual wallet” for customer credit card transactions that carry extra fees that are not visible to the banks that deal with the credit card companies, but such arrangements are surely the exception rather than the rule.

Edibles fight

Meanwhile, Minnesota’s 2,600+ registered sellers of edible hemp products infused with THC could theoretically be put out of business by language in the federal farm bill that would criminalize the manufacture of artificially-produced cannabinoid products.

Consumers might look at recreational marijuana and hemp-based edibles and related products as being two peas of the same pod, but that’s not the view of

industry insiders looking to grab the biggest share of the profit pie.

The U.S. Cannabis Council (USCC), representing major marijuana companies, is backing the provision that would redefine legal hemp to include only “naturally occurring, naturally derived and non-intoxicating cannabinoids.” That would criminalize the production of hemp-based gummies, beverages, oils, soaps, and other products.

The USCC contends that the move is a consumer safety issue, arguing that hemp-related products are not tested or regulated sufficiently and that they lack proper labeling and are available without age restrictions in some locales (Minnesota has specific product labeling requirements and restricts the sale of cannabinoid edibles to those 21 and older).

Advocating on the other side of the issue is the Midwest Hemp Council, which has argued that criminalizing hemp-based products would push consumers into illicit, underground markets where age and safety is of no concern and disenfranchise the increasing number of hemp farmers who have risen up to meet the increasing demand.

Given that the recreational marijuana industry has flourished in a landscape where their product is illegal at the federal level, the real impact of criminalizing hemp-based products is certainly up for debate. It could be that

business would continue as it has since THC-infused edibles were approved for sale in 2023, or products and sales could be significantly curtailed. As with marijuana, the federal government’s approach to enforcing such a change could have a significant impact on state-registered hemp-based product sellers.

Consultant Leili Fatehi of Blunt Strategies believes the amendment would have minimal impact on Minnesota due to state protections, though interstate exports might be affected. Midwest Hemp Council’s Justin Swanson counters that the farm bill provision aims to dismantle the hemp industry and could prevent businesses from writing off expenses due to federal illegality.

The provision in question is found in the U.S. House version of the farm bill and given the highly partisan atmosphere in Washington D.C. and huge differences in the Senate version, it’s virtually impossible to tell at this point if or when a farm bill approved by both houses of Congress might pass, and if the final form will include the hemp-based products provision. As has been the case since Minnesota ventured into the realm of THC-infused edibles and recreational marijuana, uncertainty seems to be the prevailing catchword.

COVID...Continued from page 1B

concern relates to immunity, or our collective lack thereof. Boosts to immunity from COVID vaccines and actual infections wane over time – one study showed that at six months post-vaccination, vaccine/booster effectiveness against COVID was only 14 percent. Given that just 14 percent of Americans have opted to receive the most recent vaccine booster, which came out last November, health officials are concerned that waning immunity has sapped the country’s ability to fend off a possible new

surge. But while conditions are favorable for a potential surge going into the fall, detecting that surge may be more difficult than ever on a nationwide basis.

COVID monitoring in the early part of the pandemic was relatively straightforward, because testing was done in labs and the results were reported to state health departments and the CDC. But when home testing kits became widely available, lab-based testing dropped off significantly and became somewhat unreliable as a gauge

of COVID activity. The data that replaced it was hospitalizations and deaths from COVID, data that was required to be reported to the CDC. And a second generalized measure of community COVID levels, the amount of COVID residue in measures of processed wastewater, added to the overall picture.

But as of May 1, hospitals were no longer required to submit their data to the CDC, although they may continue to do so voluntarily. But with the anticipated drop in reporting, only states like Minnesota that

still collect hospital data will provide that window into COVID’s possible resurgence.

So far, data in Minnesota doesn’t suggest a resurgence is imminent in the state. Michael Osterholm, director of the University of Minnesota’s Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, reviewed the data in a May 30 podcast, while noting that the national wastewater data from the CDC indicated a slight rise in COVID viral load.

“Here in Minnesota, throughout the month of

April, we averaged about 70 hospitalized cases per week,” Osterholm said. “I think it’s important to keep in mind that even in a place like Minnesota, if we were to see an upward drift, that would still represent a very small increase relative to what we’ve seen in the past. So, I can say that for the summer months coming ahead, we really are still at a very, very good point in this pandemic. Any new increase in cases is coming off of a very, very low point and that is so different than during much of the pandemic.”

Osterholm noted that increased activity has been seen overseas in a number of places such as Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and Singapore, which has roughly the same size population as Minnesota.

“We’ll learn much more about the variants over the next several weeks here in this country,” Osterholm said. “At that point we’ll have a better sense of what has happened in Asia and what that portends for what might happen here in the United States. In the meantime, I just want to say enjoy your summer.”

Osterholm said that we’re at least a few weeks away from any information about a new round of booster shots and when they will be available.

“I hope that we see the next booster dose recommendation apply to everyone who wishes to receive an additional dose, and not only those at increased risk of severe disease,” Osterholm said. “We know that most individuals, regardless of their risk for severe disease, will likely choose not to get an additional dose, so we certainly won’t be experiencing a shortage of these vaccines.”

GOLF...

Continued from page 1B

holes before closing out with three double bogeys for a 43 and an 18-hole total of 91, placing her 24th in the field. The rest of the squad was well down the leaderboard, with Maizy Sunblad at 41st with a 98, Carena DeBeltz at 47th with a 100, Cylvia DeBeltz at 59th with a 106, Danica Sunblad at 65th with a 110, and Ezra Chamberlin carding a 123 for 79th.

Wednesday’s afternoon tee times were too late for the *Timberjay’s* press deadline. Final results will be posted to www.timberjay.com and the *Timberjay’s* Facebook page.

CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

CLEAN

- ✔ Boats, trailers, and gear
- ✔ Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, nets, and gear before leaving boat landing

DRAIN

- ✔ Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well
- ✔ Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
- ✔ Trash unused bait

DRY

- ✔ Everything at least five days before going to other waters
- ✔ (Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

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Obituaries and Death Notices



Theresa M. Berg
Theresa Marie Berg, 94, of Rockford, Ill., passed away on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at home surrounded by family. The family would like to give a special thank you to OSF Hospice staff, especially Dr. Whelan and Amy, and her caregivers, Lisa, Mikaya, Andrea, Teresa, Mary and Kim. A Memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, July 5 at St. Martin's



Catholic Church in Tower, hosted by Dan Berg and Nancy Berg. Burial of cremated remains will follow in Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. A second Me-



morial Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 21 at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower, hosted by Michele "Mica" Berg. Please direct memorial donations to the Tower 4th of July or Lakeview Cemetery funds. Arrangements are with Fitzgerald Funeral Home and Crematorium of Rockford, Ill. Theresa was born in Soudan on May 9, 1930,

the daughter of Jacob and Angela Zobitz Pavlich. She married Russell Berg on July 10, 1951, and they spent 72 wonderful years together. Theresa was the first in her family to earn a college degree, and obtained her master's degree in education from Rockford College. She worked as a third-grade teacher at Marquette Elementary and in the Harlem School District. She had a deep faith for God and was a member of St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower and Holy Family Catholic Church in Rockford, Ill. She also taught catechism classes and Bible school. Theresa enjoyed playing cards and crosswords, making ceramics, and tending to her gardens. She was a fantastic cook and seamstress. She was famous for her elaborate Mongolian barbeques,

which she learned in Okinawa when her husband was stationed there with the U.S. Air Force. In the 50's, when she and Russell were in Texas, Theresa learned how to make pinatas from scratch and decorated them with tissue origami roses she had learned to make in Okinawa. She made the pinatas for family birthdays and weddings. Among her travels, Theresa's dream of visiting Europe was fulfilled in 1996. She did a tour of Italy and visited family in Slovenia, where she was able to see where her father was born and raised. Theresa was the center of connection for her family of ten sisters and one brother, including many nieces and nephews and their children, as well as her husband's large family and many friends, writing

letters and sending cards for special occasions. Theresa was a generous, compassionate, positive and graceful mom, grandma, great-grandma, sister, friend and teacher. Theresa is survived by her children, Michele Berg Cascarano and Daniel (Catherine) Berg; daughter-in-law, Nancy Berg; grandchildren, Ben (Rachel) Berg, Samantha (Bryan) Bew, Danny Berg and Abby Berg; great-grandchildren, Anna, Cameron and Leia; sister, Aggie (Tony) Yapel; sister-in-law, Darlene Mesojedec; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. She was predeceased by her husband, Russell Berg; and son, Mitch Berg.

Adrienne F. Dubbin
Adrienne Frances Huneke Dubbin, 87, of Fall Lake, passed away at her home surrounded by family on Friday, June 7, 2024. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, June 14 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely with visitation one hour prior. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely. She is survived by her daughter, Debbie (Bill) Erzar; sons, Jeff and Ron

(Lori) Dubbin; grandson, Chris Erzar; great-grandchild, Moss Erzar-Tyndall; sister, Sandy Lewandowski; sister-in-law, Josie Huneke; brother-in-law, Percy Dubbin; many nieces and nephews; and special friends, Joe, Mary, James and Julia Schwinghamer, all of whom she loved. **Diablo V. Strong**
Diablo Victor Strong, 49, of Duluth, passed away on Wednesday, June

5, 2024. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, June 14 at the Bois Forte Government and Services Center. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the Center. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook. **Gertrude M. Mosnik**
Gertrude M. Vertnik Mosnik, 90, of Ely, passed away on Nov. 27, 2023. A Funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday,

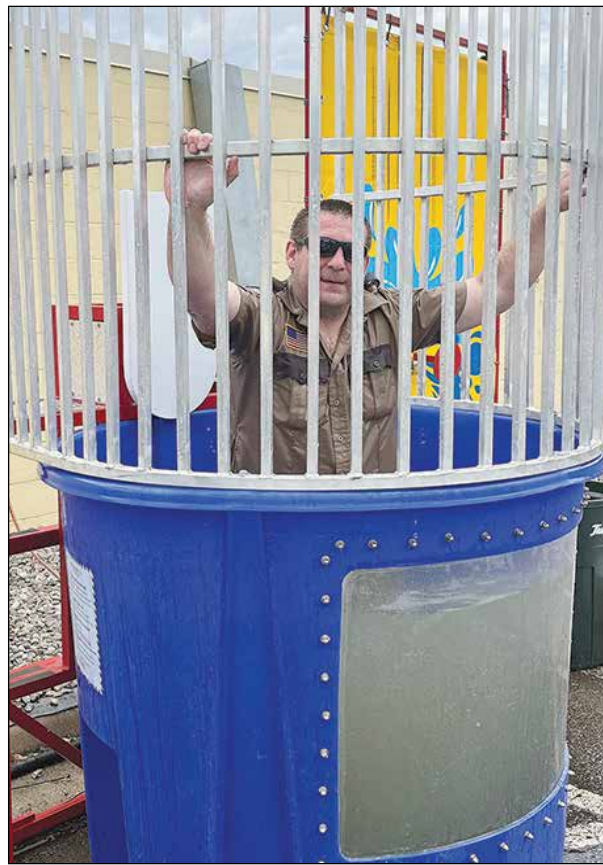
June 21, 2024, at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely with visitation one hour prior. Burial will be at the Ely Cemetery following Mass, followed by lunch at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. Please come to help celebrate Gert's life and share in the memories. **Frank S. Lekatz**
Frank S. Lekatz, 77, formerly of Ely, a proud U.S. Army veteran, passed away at Carefree Living

in Babbitt on Saturday, June 8, 2024. At Franks's request, there will be no funeral service. His wish was that he and his wife, Jan, would be buried at Fort Snelling. His family thanks the staff at Carefree Living for the wonderful care and support given to Frank and thanks the staff at Essentia Health, especially Dr. Joseph Schwinghamer, for the compassionate care given to Frank over the years. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted

to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely. He is survived by his brother, John (Mary Ann) Lekatz of Ely and their children; sister, Louise (Andy) Kainz of Ely; sisters-in-law, Wendy (Russ) Meyer of Bagley and their children and Diane Terrio of Pengilly and her children; and many cousins and friends.

Planning underway for Tower's Fourth

TOWER-SOUDAN
The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board has started planning for this year's Fourth of July events. Fourth of July falls on a Thursday this year. Events set for July 4 include the pancake breakfast, 10K/5K run/walk, kiddie parade, parade, sawdust scramble, and kids races. Fireworks will once again be out on Lake Vermilion, on Wednesday, July 3 in Big Bay, and Saturday, July 6 in Niles Bay. The Breitung Community Picnic will be on Saturday, July 6 from 12 noon - 3 p.m. There is free food, ice cream floats, and plenty of fun for children (including water slip and slides and pools, so kids can expect to get wet). New this year is a dunk tank featuring Police Chief Dan Reing, Tower Ambulance Supervisor Dena Suihkonen, and possibly some other local officials. Vendors and float participants are needed. Please email the tsevents-board@gmail.com for information or to sign up.



Police Chief Dan Reing will be volunteering in the dunk tank at the Breitung Community Picnic on Saturday, July 6. submitted

Donations
Donations are needed to help pay for the costs associated with the events, prizes, and children's races. Please mail to: Tower-Soudan 4th of July, PO Box 461, Tower, MN 55790. Donations can also be dropped in the cans at area businesses in Tower and Soudan.

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JUNE 14 - 29
Adults: \$45
Students: \$40
Registration covers the cost of the trail run, shirt, chip timing, and one (1) free beer (for runners 21+) or one (1) root beer and supports UWNEMN's United for Veterans program.

SCHEDULE
FRIDAY 6/28
3:00 - 6:00 pm - Packet Pickup
SATURDAY 6/29
7:45 am - Registration Opens
8:30 am - Presentation of Colors
8:45 am - Competitive 5K Start
9:00 am - Distance Looping Race Start
9:15 am - Ruck Weighted Division Start
9:30 am - Non-competitive 5K Start
10:00 am - Walking Only 5K Start
12:00 pm - Awards Presentation
All events will take place at the Redhead Trailhead in Chisholm.

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.UNITEDWAYNEMN.ORG/RENEGADE
FOR MORE INFO: Call 218-254-3329 or email elizabeth@unitedwaynemn.org

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Proceeds benefit UWNEMN's United for Veterans program.
Learn more about how this program helps local veterans at: www.unitedwaynemn.org/united-veterans

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PUBLIC NOTICE

KABETOAGAMA TOWNSHIP NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE ADDITION OF PROPERTIES TO THE SOUTH SHORE SUBORDINATE SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT IN A PORTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF KABETOAGAMA

NOTICE IS HEARBY GIVEN, That the Board of Supervisors of Kabetogama Township, St. Louis County, Minnesota, will conduct a Public Hearing on the 27th day of June 2024 at the Kabetogama Township Town Hall at 7:00 P.M. to consider the addition of petitioned properties to the South Shore Subordinate Service District pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 365A, Towns; Subordinate Service Districts.

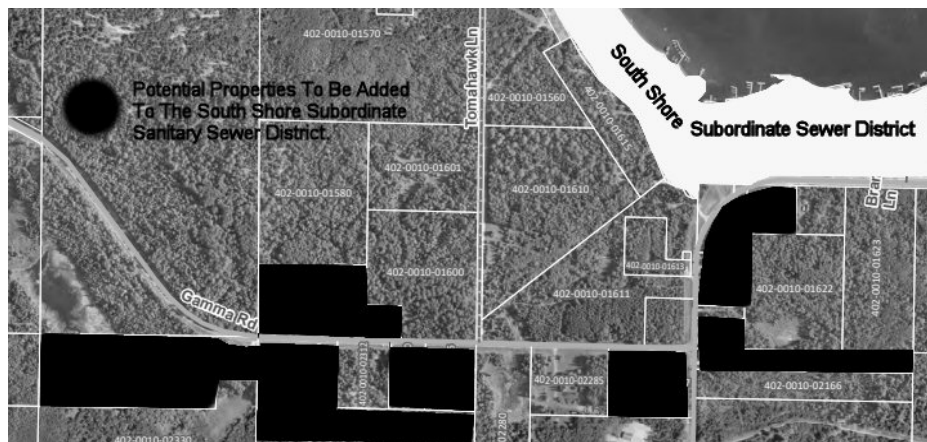
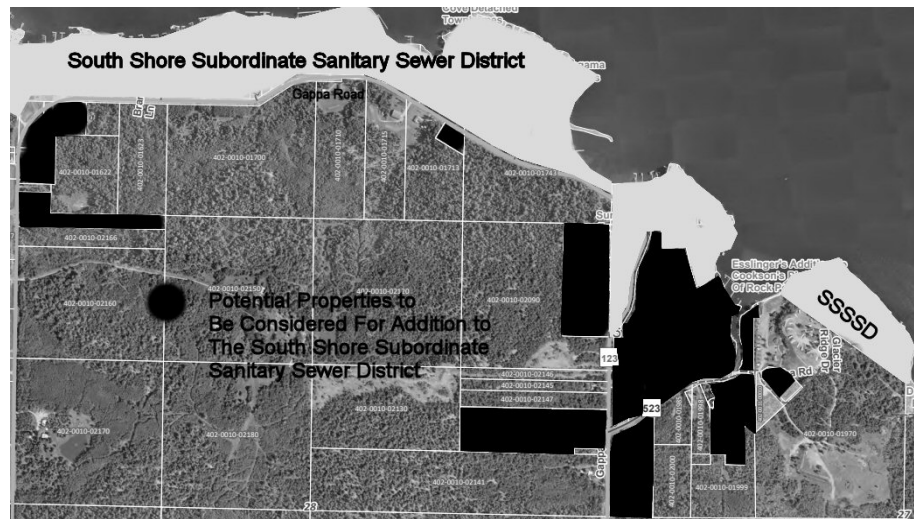
THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY PARCELS IN KABETOAGAMA TOWNSHIP being considered for addition to the service district are herein described below: map attached

Table with 4 columns of parcel numbers: 402-0010-00040, 402-0075-00210, 402-0010-02095, 402-0010-01590, etc.

THE SERVICE being considered in the Subordinate Service District is herein described: Identify wastewater infrastructure needs, provide for the planning, construction, financing, and maintenance of wastewater collection and treatment systems.

Notice has been sent to all property owners who petitioned to be added to the South Shore Subordinate Service District. Such persons as desire to be heard with reference to the proposed additions to the Subordinate Service District will be heard at this hearing.

DATE: June 4, 2024: By order of the Kabetogama Township Board of Supervisors Mary Manninen, Clerk



Published in the Timberjay, June 7 & 14, 2024

EMPLOYMENT

CHOIR DIRECTOR

The Grace Lutheran Worship and Music Committee is searching for a new choir director. If you are interested, or know of someone who is interested, in leading the choir, please send or drop off at the church a brief synopsis of your musical experience and background.

- CHOIR DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES
• Lead the choir in their representation of anthems, as well as being active participants/leaders during worship
• Be responsible for anthem selection and purchasing of same for the choir library
• Lead weekly rehearsals
• Participate on the Worship and Music Committee
• Coordinate the choir's singing for worship, historically two times per month, and assist in arranging occasional special music for other Sundays
• Remuneration for said responsibilities will be agreed upon between the director and the Church Council.

Position: Comptroller
Closes: 07/05/2024

Position Purpose: Under the direction of the Chief Financial Officer, the Comptroller supervises assigned staff, performs professional accounting and fiscal analysis in the review and preparation, maintenance, and verification of the Tribe's fiscal and accounting records.

- Excellent Benefits:
Single Medical & Dental - Free
• Annual Leave
• Sick Leave
• 401k match
• 15 paid holidays
• Flex Plan
• Life Insurance
• LTD
• Voluntary Benefits available by payroll deduction

Website Address: https://boisforte.com/jobs/

Published in the Timberjay, June 14, 21 & 28, 2024

Get Informed!
Get the Timberjay!



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! Now interviewing for positions for the 2024/25 school year for other licensed teaching positions.

Positions and job descriptions for licensed teachers, school social workers (2 openings) and support staff listed online. Most positions are benefits-eligible.

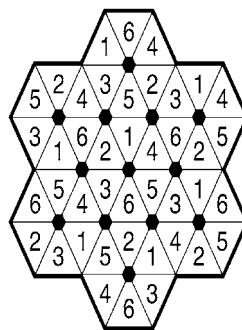
https://vermilioncountry.org/employment

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



SNOWFLAKES

solution



CryptQuip

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: H equals L

- JGOE LGO XHOQ RQUBOL
CXXOUOW XUOO HCJ-ZTQHSLI
QZTQWSTRK, Q GTDO KSDE
KQSW "LQEBK XCU ECLGSED!"

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in: 8, 7, 1, 4, 1, 5, 6, 2, 6, 1, 7, 7, 3, 9, 3, 4, 3, 1, 7, 4, 6, 6, 2, 8.

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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2024-2025 Cook Hospital Bids For Propane Maintenance Building

Sealed propane bids will be accepted until 4:30 pm, June 24th.

Propane Bid for Maintenance Building: 3,000 gallons for 2024-2025 with contract to begin September 2024.

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

Bids will be opened at the Board Executive Committee Meeting of the Cook-Orr Healthcare District on June 25th at 4:30 PM.



Published in the Timberjay June 14th & 21st, 2024

2024-2025 and 2024-2026 Cook Hospital Bids For Propane

Two separate sealed propane bids will be accepted until 4:30 pm, June 24th with contracts to begin October 2024.

Propane Bid #1: 180,000 gallons for 2024-2025
Propane Bid #2: 360,000 gallons for 2024-2026

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

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

Bids will be opened at the Board Executive Committee Meeting of the Cook-Orr Healthcare District on June 25th at 4:30 PM.



Published in the Timberjay June 14th & 21st, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE
City of Tower

Publishing of Ordinance 91
1st Reading June 3, 2024
2nd Reading June 10, 2024
Given length of Ordinances, please review at:

https://cityoftower.com/city-ordinances

Published in the Timberjay, June 14, 2024

Get Results!



Advertise in the Timberjay!

Super Crossword

Answers

Crossword grid with words filled in: ARAB, NBA, DAZED, ACADIA, DEVALUES, FEAR, PARENS, ADELAIDE, SANDYSPRINGS, ROCKYSTARTS, SOO, UMA, BAR, EATA, USATODAY, RUSTY, NAILS, PATANSWERS, ESTA, CYD, TARP, EKE, LAOTSE, VEET, AOL, WEE, ELCAP, HES, TERRY, TOWELS, ELK, ABA, ALEC, ERASABLE, CHRISTIAN, HOLIDAYS, STOUTEST, IDOL, SAG, PSA, REDBALL, LOONS, DAT, EPICS, ILE, EPI, TIER, USEDAS, SOS, NEON, IBN, RENE, FRANKTALKS, CLAYCOURTS, AERODYNE, PARE, HON, RAG, ISM, GINGER, SNAAPS, CRYSTAL, BOWLS, LAKE, EERIE, EULOGY, OTTO, IURETHANE, SPECIE, SHOWS, ETD, ITEM.

City of Tower Consumer Confidence Report

The 2023 Consumer Confidence Report (Drinking Water Report) for the City of Tower water supply is available for the public to review at Tower City Hall. This report includes information on the city's water quality testing for 2023. For more information, you can call Tower City Hall at 218-753-4070.

Published in the Timberjay, June 14, 2024



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
Full Service
Auto Repair & Garage
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

PET CREMATION

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

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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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 Embarrass 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, 218-235-38191

WANTED

SELIGA CANOES WANTED: We'll buy old Seligas in Good Shape. Turn your classic canoe into cash. Call Steve at 365-6745. tfn

LOST

BROWN CAMO BAG W/ CLOTHES lost between Soudan and south on Hwy. 169. Reward. Call 218-741-0972. 6/21b

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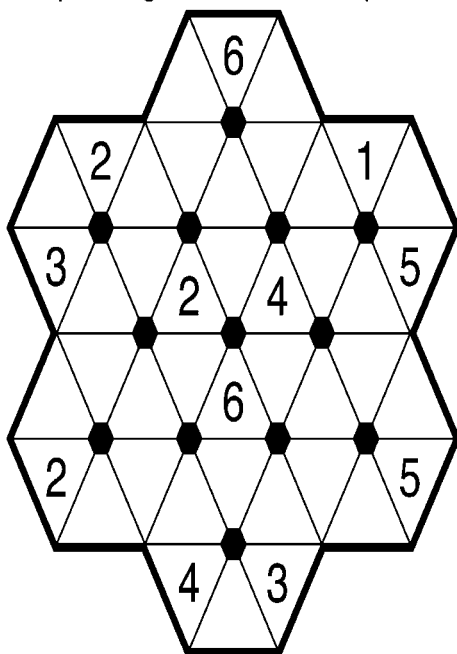
moccasinpointmarine.com



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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Super Crossword

SUITABLE ACTIVITIES

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | 46 Waterproof canvas cover | 90 Lead-in to glottis or Pen | 135 Agenda unit | 38 "Heaven help —!" | 81 Deficient |
| 1 Saudi, say | 48 — out an existence | 91 Stadium level | DOWN | 39 Security ticker symbol | 82 Donkeys |
| 5 Raptors' gp. | 49 Founder of Taoism | 93 Employed for the purpose of | 1 Jewish month | 40 "Ciao!" | 84 Sow's sound |
| 8 In a stupor | 51 Hair removal brand | 94 "Help us!" | 2 Totally fix up | 41 "... — baked a cake" | 86 Opera song |
| 13 GMC cross-over SUV model | 53 Gmail competitor | 97 Light in signs | 3 With, in Paris | 43 On — with | 88 Lima's land |
| 19 Reduces the worth of | 56 Teensy | 99 "Son of," in 1-Across names | 4 Pitcher's goof | 47 Takes care of | 92 Very troubled |
| 21 Lead-in to a bit of bad news | 59 Yosemite peak, in brief | 101 Russo of "Big Trouble" | 5 Pain in the neck | 50 Ancient Greek city | 93 Opened, as a wine bottle |
| 22 What ("and") are, for short | 60 "... — my brother" | 102 Architect Gehry speaks? | 6 Accessory for a meal fit for a queen? | 52 Morales of "Rapa Nui" | 94 — -cone |
| 23 Capital of South Australia | 61 Quarterback Bradshaw dries himself off? | 107 Singer Aiken woos someone? | 7 Far offshore | 54 Baseball's Hershiser | 95 Approved |
| 24 Actress Dennis leaps? | 66 Reindeer org. | 110 Helicopter or glider | 8 Mild aversion | 55 Greek harp player of yore | 96 Sow's home |
| 26 Boxer Marciano begins? | 67 Jurists' org. | 111 Whittle down | 9 Make — buck | 56 "Crawling" internet bot | 98 Psychic skill |
| 28 — Canals | 69 Emmy winner Baldwin | 113 Lovey | 10 Buddhist branch | 57 Kay-em link | 100 From memory |
| 29 Thurman of film | 71 Like whiteboards | 114 Tatty cloth | 11 Actor George of "CSI" | 58 Ending for Peking | 102 Outrageous comedies |
| 30 Saloon | 72 Actor Slater goes on vacation? | 115 "-ology" kin | 12 Dehydrate | 60 Pain in the neck | 103 Rise on the hind legs |
| 31 "I could — horse!" | 76 Most thickset | 117 Dancer Rogers loses control? | 13 iPhone extra | 62 Cave effect | 104 Sock pattern |
| 33 Newspaper based in McLean, Va. | 78 Huge hero | 123 Singer Gayle plays tenpins? | 14 Freeway sight | 63 "Look what I just did!" | 105 Indigo dye |
| 37 Racing driver Wallace does some hammering? | 79 Sink down | 128 Niagara River source | 15 Actress Meyers | 64 Missouri tribespeople | 106 Sappho's Greek island |
| 42 Singer Benatar replies? | 80 Free TV spot, for short | 129 Oration of adulation | 16 Make bare | 65 System | 108 Writer Deighton |
| 44 This, in Lima | 83 Comedian Buttons gains a lot of weight? | 130 10th-century German king | 17 Filmmaker Bergman | 68 Jessica of "7th Heaven" | 109 Opening |
| 45 Dancer Charisse | 85 "True —!" ("Yep!") | 131 Ester in plastics | 18 Analyzes | 70 Reclined | 112 Shining |
| | 87 Heroic tales | 132 Money in the form of coins | 20 Put away for the future | 73 Wheel center | 116 Closet pest |
| | 89 Ending for duct or infant | 133 Reveals | 25 Slugger Sammy | 74 Sporty auto roof | 118 Pasty stuff |
| | | 134 JFK guess | 27 Islam, e.g.: Abbr. | 75 Ye — Shoppe | 119 Classic soda brand |
| | | | 32 Fourth mo. | 76 — Lankan | 120 "I smell —!" |
| | | | 34 Meth- ending | 77 Phone no. | 121 Fir relative |
| | | | 35 "Bad boy!" | | 122 Appear |
| | | | 36 Have debts | | 124 Part of SSN: Abbr. |
| | | | 37 Gen. at Gettysburg | | 125 — Fridays |
| | | | | | 126 Vote in favor |
| | | | | | 127 Global commerce gp. |

FUNERAL SERVICES

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

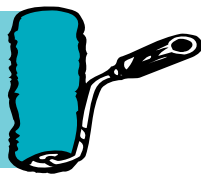
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Mandatory pick-up will be in mid-July. You will be notified ahead of time when & where local pick-up can occur. No holds!

Ely Nordic Ski Team Fundraisers Thank you for your support!

ELY TRACK CLUB'S 4 on the 4TH
 Thursday, July 4, 2024
 Miners Lake / Trezona Trailhead
4-Mile Run or Walk

- Online registration is available at RunSignUp.com
- Registration forms are available at the Ely Public Library
- Cost is \$30 through 6/30 and \$40 on race day

Questions, please email: jkdunn355@gmail.com
 Parking & registration in the corner parking lot at Central Ave. & Miners Dr.

RACE INFORMATION
 Race day registration: \$40
 \$40-cash or check only • 6:40-7:40 AM
 Kids 12 and under FREE
 Run starts at 8 AM
 Walk starts at 8:05 AM
 Kid's 1-Mile Race (12 and under) 8 AM

Register by June 17 to get a T-shirt