

the TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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COOK TIMBER DAYS

Parade marshal represents all volunteers

Timber Days set for this weekend

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK- When Jody Refsdal rides down the Cook's Annual Timber Days parade route as this year's Grand Marshal, she doesn't want people to see only her, but all of the people she represents – the

community volunteers who make Cook such a good place to live.

"It's not about me being Grand Marshal," Refsdal said. "It's about this town celebrating the people that volunteer, and that's all of them. While I might be in the parade, we should be celebrating every single

one of them because it takes every single one of them to make us what we are."

Refsdal was born in St. Paul and raised there until she was 13, when her family moved to the Linden Grove area west of Cook.

"In late 1969, Mom was seeing the changes in the cities and she said I'm

Cook's Annual Timber Days parade Grand Marshal Jody Refsdal posed with the "lights of her life," grandsons Buckley, left, and Carson. submitted photo

taking my kids, and we're going up north and doing logging and having animals and getting out, and so we

See...COOK pg. 11



GRADUATION DAY

Commencement ceremonies were held last week for Class of 2021 graduates around the region. Alliyah Zapata, right, who graduated from Vermilion Country School, hugs a family member last Wednesday. North Woods graduate Andrew Zika, below left, gives a thumbs up on Friday. Madelyne Roderick and other Ely High School graduates, below right, make their way from the dugout to home plate Saturday night at Veterans Memorial Field. Timberjay staff photos

More photos inside



PUBLIC SAFETY

New leadership provides fresh transparency at Ely Fire Dept.

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The Ely Fire Department is in the midst of a renovation, of sorts, as new fire chief David Marshall has implemented many new procedures and policies in his first several weeks on the job.

Marshall, a longtime member of the all-volunteer fire department, took over the position earlier this spring upon the resignation of Tom Erchull, who held the post for about a decade.

Right off the bat, Marshall began a new process of reporting on departmental updates and new procedures to the city council through extensive minutes of the EFD's regular meetings, and provides a verbal report at each council meeting in a move to provide more transparency.

Last month, Marshall provided a proposed slate of officers for the EFD and requested a pay raise for personnel.

"This proposal is the first pay increase for these officer positions since they were created in November 2010," Marshall wrote in a memo to council members. The approved pay rates increase annual EFD payroll expenses by \$2,475.

"These officers represent the leadership of the Ely Fire Department," Marshall said. "All are seasoned veterans of the department and well respected by department members. While none

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New life for the iconic Iron Ore Bar?

St. Paul couple hopes to add another chapter to former ice house, brewery

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— It's one of Tower's most iconic buildings, the former icehouse of a long defunct brewery, and the longtime home of the storied Iron Ore Bar. Yet, since the death of the bar's owner, Margie Lakoskey, a decade ago, it has sat empty and forlorn, waiting for someone to take the leap

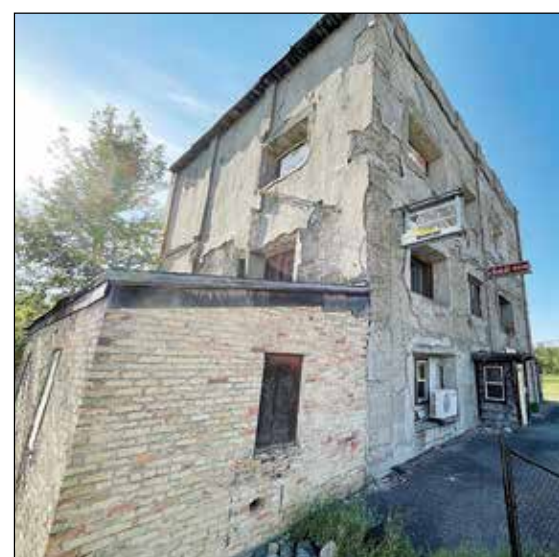
The former Iron Ore Bar building has stood vacant for nearly a decade following the death of longtime owner Margie Lakoskey. photo by M. HelMBERGER

and bring a new chapter into the life of this unusual structure.

Dave and Kathleen Trumble, of North St. Paul, recently took that leap, after keeping their eye on the price tag as it slowly dropped over the nearly ten years the building spent on the market.

Dave Trumble said he used to visit the Iron Ore Bar while snowmobiling in the area with friends, and he recalls that the building and the atmosphere of the bar always made an impression.

See...TOWER pg. 9



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Community notices

ARENA DANCES at Tofte date change

ELY- The ARENA DANCES performance at Tofte Lake Center will be Friday, June 11 at 7 p.m. Tofte Lake Center is located at 2209 Fernberg Road in Ely; tickets are \$10 at the door. Go to toftelake.org for more information on the show.

Embarrass Sauna Day, June 12

EMBARRASS- Head to the historic Nelimark Homestead this Saturday, June 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for National Sauna Day. Several saunas and Lamppa sauna stoves will be on display, as well as the historic Nelimark sauna. Beef mojakka will be available for lunch. Shannon Gunderson will provide musical entertainment from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The museum and gift shop will be open, featuring hand-made items and baked goods for sale. This free, family-friendly event is presented by Sisu Heritage, Inc.

Minnesota State schools to waive application fees, June 21 to 25

REGIONAL- The 30 colleges and seven universities of Minnesota State will waive application fees during "Minnesota State Week," set for June 21 to 25. During the week, special information events and introductory campus tours will be held at all of the colleges and universities of Minnesota State and online, and all of the Minnesota State colleges and universities are waiving their application fee.

More information about participation and campus-specific events being offered by individual colleges and universities of Minnesota State is available at <https://www.minnstate.edu/MinnStateWk>.

History Night with David Kess, June 16

ELY- Local historian David Kess will give a History Night talk about the formation and history of the Ely-Winton Historical Society on Wednesday, June 16 at Vermilion Community College in lecture hall CL 104 at 7 p.m.

Kess, an Ely native, has long been a chronicler of local history and is a tremendous resource for information about the Ely area. As an alumnus board member of the Ely-Winton Historical Society, he is an expert on the society's history. He will cover the history of the Ely-Winton Historical Society, from its beginnings in a 4th of July pageant in 1958 to the museum and extensive collection of documents, photos, and artifacts the society has today. David will also introduce the new manager of the society, Paul Colwel. Colwell recently took the position upon the retirement of long-standing manager Margaret Sweet.

Admission to all History Nights is free; a free-will donation is greatly appreciated.

MINNESOTA DISCOVERY CENTER

Redhead Mountain Bike Park celebrates grand opening, June 26

CHISHOLM- The public is invited to celebrate the official grand opening of Minnesota's newest world class public recreation area, Redhead MTB Park. The main event will take place on Saturday, June 26 at the Minnesota Discovery Center in Chisholm, the official trailhead for the park. MDC will celebrate the official grand opening with a ribbon cutting, press conference, and day of happenings at the trailhead starting at 10 a.m.

To mark the milestone, the Minnesota Discovery Center, City of Chisholm, Chisholm Chamber of Commerce, and Iron Range Off-Road Cyclists are hosting a day-long event at the trailhead from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. with a concert in the MDC outdoor amphitheater at 7 p.m. featuring The Suburbs. Tickets are available online at etix.com or sueclean.com, by phone at 800-514-3849, or are available for purchase at the MDC.

Celebratory events will also take place on Friday, June 25 and Saturday, June 26 in downtown



Mountain bikers enjoy a scenic view from Redhead's Pit Plunge Trail. submitted photo

Chisholm. On Sunday, June 27, Redhead fans are invited to Ride the Range at Giants Ridge for a day of music, food, and happenings. Show up at Giants Ridge wearing Redhead merch or gear and receive \$10 off your MTB park lift ticket.

A full schedule of events can be found online at mndiscoverycenter.com. Visitors will have access

to 40 plus local and state-wide vendors, Voyageurs Saunas, food trucks, a beer garden, music, giveaways, a short Redhead documentary release - RECLAIMED, the new 30West Bike Shop, free MDC museum access, and much more.

Allowable uses at Redhead include biking, hiking (on designated trails), and Ebikes. Dogs

are allowed but must be on a 6 ft. or shorter leash at all times and cleaned up after.

The Redhead MTB Park grand opening event was made possible by a sponsorship grant from the IRRRB. Redhead MTB Park project was made possible through taxes paid by Minnesota's mining industry.

30West opens bike shop at Redhead

CHISHOLM-COVID-19 made tough times for many small businesses in the past year, including 30West Fitness and Recreation in downtown Chisholm, which had to close its doors twice in 2020 due to government mandates.

The closures, however, challenged 30West's

owners, Nick and Jen Gigliotti and Joel and Candice Sjogren, to brainstorm other ways to serve the community and maintain their business. While the gym remained closed during the state shutdown last summer, 30West opened up a bike shop from its gym location to service and repair bicycles.

Plans to move the bike shop to the Minnesota Discovery Center, which serves as the trailhead to Redhead, were already in the works, but the process was slowed due to the impact of COVID-19 on the bike industry.

30West offers bike tune-ups/repair, mountain bike rentals, and retail shop-

ping in their custom built shop that opened June 5.

"We desire to serve our community by providing a way for locals to enjoy this new amenity, while at the same time being a resource for experienced riders to come and ride Redhead," says co-owner and bike mechanic, Joel Sjogren.

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JUN 12

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SUN
JUN 13

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- ◆ Cook Hospital
 - ◆ Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club
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 - ◆ First National Bank
 - ◆ Hill Wood Products
 - ◆ KGM
 - ◆ Pelican Bay Foods
 - ◆ Ryan's Rustic Railings
 - ◆ St. Mary's Catholic Church
 - ◆ The Old Muni
 - ◆ Tim Johnson - State Farm Insurance
 - ◆ The Timberjay Newspaper
 - ◆ Timbaktu Marina
 - ◆ Tire Shop
 - ◆ Vermilion Club
 - ◆ Zup's

BUSINESS

I'Falls newspaper closing at the end of the month

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Owners tight lipped beyond basics of closure announcement

INTERNATIONAL FALLS- Residents of this remote border city are trying to come to grips with the harsh news announced last week that the 110-year-old *International Falls Journal* newspaper is shutting down at the end of the month.

The newspaper's fate was announced in a brief

item in its June 1 edition, and the blame was placed in large part on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Like many businesses this past year, the impact of the pandemic on *The Journal* and North Star Publishing has been dramatic," the notice read. "These challenges, when combined with other difficult economic trends,

have forced us to make this difficult decision."

The first edition of the *Daily Journal* was published on July 1, 1911. In 2010, "Daily" disappeared from the name when publishers cut back to two editions per week, and last year they transitioned to weekly publication. The June 24 edition of *The Journal* will be its last.

"Our newspaper was such a staple, it's something you take for granted," International Falls Area Chamber of Commerce President Tricia Heibel said. "You don't think about the possibility it could close."

"Unfortunately, we're confronted with the reality that it can. It's a scramble, and community leaders and



residents are discovering the many impacts of that."

Local *Journal* publisher Rob Davenport declined to be interviewed for this

article, referring back to the published statement. The *Timberjay* reached out

See PAPER...pg. 5

ELY CRIME

Ely man charged in 3rd-degree felony assault case

ELY – A 25-year-old Ely man faces a third-degree felony assault charge and a misdemeanor charge in connection with a reported assault last month.

Nicholas Stewart Walter, 645 East James Street, was arrested on May 29, according to the

Ely Police Department, following a dispatch to the residence and the report of a female needing medical attention after being assaulted.

The alleged victim had multiple facial injuries, raised bumps on her forehead, a raised bump on the

left side of her face near the jaw, and a laceration on her chin, according to the EPD report. The victim was transported to the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital where she received multiple sutures for the chin laceration.

According to author-

ities, Walter came home from a local drinking establishment and fell asleep in a recliner. When the victim attempted to wake him up, he allegedly kicked at her, pushed her to the floor, started to punch her in the head and threw objects at her. The victim later left

the residence and went to a neighbor's house and called authorities.

Walter was arrested and submitted to a preliminary breath test that indicated a 0.241 breath alcohol content. Walter was later released and is waiting on court action on the charges.

The felony charge of assault in the third degree carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and/or \$10,000 fine. The misdemeanor domestic assault charge carries a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

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Online Registration OPENS - July 19, 2021

Tour #3 - September 18, 2021
Start/Finish - Virginia, Olcott Park
Turn-Around #1 - 14 miles to Buhl (a total of 28 miles out & back on the Mesabi Trail)
Turn-Around #2 - 26 miles to Hibbing (a total of 52 miles out & back)
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June 2021

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<p>Virginia HHW Facility at the Regional Landfill 5345 Regional Landfill Road Virginia, MN 55792 (218) 741-8831 Year round hours of Operation: Tuesdays & Saturdays 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Hibbing HHW Facility at the Hibbing Transfer Station 3994 Landfill Road Hibbing, MN 55746 (218) 362-5922 Year round hours of Operation: Saturdays 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</p>	

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- 10K Run - 8 a.m. • 5K Run/Walk - 8 a.m.
- 1-Mile Kids Fun Run - 8:15 a.m.

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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

The death of local news

Congress must take action to stem the disappearance of small town papers

The news that The International Falls Journal in is ceasing publication is both shocking, and not all that surprising. Most Timberjay readers have undoubtedly heard of the financial challenges that newspapers are facing across the country, with the loss of print advertising to the web and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those pressures are affecting every newspaper, from major dailies to small town weeklies.

But the Journal fell victim to an even larger problem—the unrelenting focus on the short-term bottom line by its hedge fund owner, Alden Global Capital, based in Manhattan.

Alden is a hedge fund, one that has become notorious in the newspaper industry for its business model of buying up newspapers and gutting newsrooms in an attempt to boost profits in the short-term even as they foster what has become a death spiral for far too many once-proud publications.

Newspapers are a business that provide a critical function in every democracy. In small towns, a newspaper that does its job sends experienced journalists to local government meetings, from city councils and committees to the school board, so local residents can keep tabs on the folks who are running their town or educating their kids. They cover local events, school happenings, and high school sports. Newspapers that are doing their job are also investigating issues, serving as public watchdogs.

All of these functions require ambitious journalists who care about their craft, which means when hedge funds take over and fire all but a skeleton crew of reporters and editors, most of the important news for such a community never gets written. Over time, readers notice and don't renew subscriptions. Advertisers recognize that the paper doesn't command the readership it once did and redirect their advertising elsewhere. It's a downward spiral, which for the Journal, proved fatal barely a year after Alden's acquisition of Red Wing Media, a regional chain that included the Journal. While the COVID-19 pandemic likely hastened the Journal's demise, its death was baked in the cake for a predatory company like Alden. One might wonder how it makes sense to buy newspapers only to shut them down. But hedge funds, like Alden, are ruthlessly efficient at extracting profits from a newspaper even as they dismantle it. It can take a few

years for the effects of massive staff layoffs to really be felt in the bottom line, since many subscribers will continue to buy the paper if only because there is no alternative source of reliable local news. The cutbacks boost operating profits, although it's only a short-term sugar high that leads to the inevitable crash. In the meantime, the company has extracted its money in other ways as well, stripping assets like printing presses, real estate, and cash reserves.

Hedge funds like Alden don't care about news or the sense of community mission that is so intricately tied to small town newspapers. Many, if not most, of their clients don't even reside in the U.S. In many cases they couldn't find the communities whose newspapers they own on a map. They care only about money today and couldn't care less what they leave behind for tomorrow.

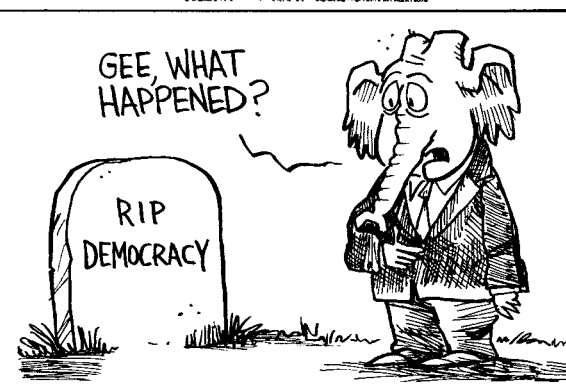
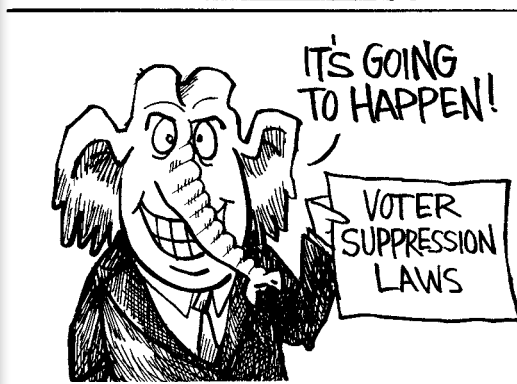
This can't be allowed to continue. When it comes to local news, there is no alternative to the newspaper. While Facebook and Google are happy to direct readers to local news, that original source is almost always from a newspaper. And relying on anything else that appears online is a fool's errand.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar has proposed a congressional commission to examine the current state of local news and develop new government policies that could help local papers survive. Hopefully, Congress will take action, such as enacting laws that make it easier for a newspaper's own employees to assume ownership, either through a workers' cooperative, a non-profit corporation, or the creation of a public benefit corporation. Newspapers have a public mission, which makes them a good fit with non-profit or public benefit governance.

New rules that require more transparency from hedge funds, and which bar hedge funds with majority foreign ownership from buying newspapers in the U.S., would also help.

In truth, most newspapers still make money, just not enough in many cases to satisfy predatory corporate owners. But that shouldn't be used as justification to silence local journalism and put our democracy at risk. With the right incentives and corporate legislation, newspapers like the Journal could continue to fulfill their mission for years to come. Congress should act, and the sooner the better.

Joe Heller © 2021 Hellerston.com



Letters from Readers

Divine right corrupts our national character

“Pagans in the Promised Land,” by Steven Newcomb, describes a mindset transplanted into the New World to be fused into American Destiny. Christian discovery of lands occupied by heathens and infidels were forcefully subdued, subjugated and colonized. White Christian supremacy, claiming divine right of imperial domination, dehumanized indigenous occupants.

The Doctrine of Christian Discovery granted Portugal dominion over West Africa, and to Spain, the New World. National dominion spanned from Canada to Spanish Florida and the Atlantic to the Mississippi River (1783). The Louisiana Purchase (1803) doubled the nation's size. Inspired by the Doctrine, Manifest Destiny would expand the nation by “divine design” from “sea to shining sea” and beyond.

In Johnson v McIntosh (1823), the Supreme Court ruled that the United States inherited the Right of Discovery of “empty” land from the British to set racism into law early in our history. The Monroe Doctrine (1823) expanded U.S. dominance over the Western Hemisphere. War with Mexico, Texas Annexation, Mexican Cession and U.S. Indian law were justified by the Discovery Doctrine.

More than 100,000 people were forcefully removed from Indigenous lands (1830-1850), known as the Trail of Tears. White men of wealth, the Chosen Few in the Promised Land ruled the New Republic. Excluded were Indigenous people, slaves, women and propertyless males. Racism, patriarchy and classism receded into whitewashed history.

As feudalism and mercantilism retreated, industrial capitalism became a force for exploitation and extraction. A voracious appetite placed the almighty dollar, with the flag and cross to ride the “horse of war,” devastating the native population in genocidal Westward Conquest.

Christendom's “leap of faith” landed far afield from respect for truth and principles of equality, liberty and justice. “Subdue the Earth and dominate all living things” continues to corrupt our national character.

Harold Honkola
Roseville

Sabotage or a comedy of errors?

Here is how I see it: Greenwood Chair Mike Ralston invited Joe from CTC to attend the next board meeting to talk about acquiring broadband through his company. This information was not passed on to the township's broadband committee.

The broadband committee then called Joe at CTC to schedule him to visit with the committee, only then finding out he was already scheduled to attend the June board meeting. The broadband committee then asked Joe if he could come earlier to talk to the committee. He agreed. Notices were posted and the committee was notified. All set.

Next, packets for the June 8 meeting are readied. The notification states that the meeting will be by telephone conference. Thus Joe would appear via telephone and would not be coming to Greenwood.

The committee puts in a call to Joe and finds out he was scheduled by Ralston to talk at a meeting on June 15, a week after the board meeting!

Notifications of the change are sent to the broadband committee, saying no meeting with Joe from CTC.

CTC is not shown on the agenda to speak at the June 8 meeting. Will there be a special meeting called on June 15? Time will tell.

As for the June 8 meeting, who decided to change it to telephone only? After calls and emails to Ralston, we find the meeting will be a hybrid meeting (in person by supervisors, with the ability to call in), which is the same as last month.

With all these ups and downs, what are residents to think?

So, is this sabotage for broadband, all in all? Or just a comedy of errors?

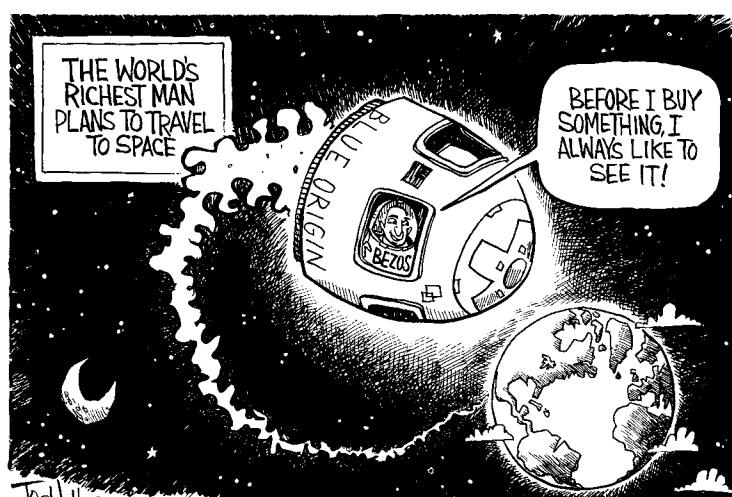
Please form your own opinions. I have mine.

Sue Drobac
Greenwood Twp.

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.

Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.



Make dinner, make friends, make peace

I've spent quite a bit of time writing grants in the past few years, and it occurred to me that maybe grant writing is the answer to a lifelong dream of mine: world peace. Do you remember the quote from Robert Fulghum who wrote “Everything I Needed to Know I learned in kindergarten?”



BETTY FIRTH

Kindergarten”? He also attained some fame for his words quoted on many posters and bumper stickers: “It will be a great day when our schools have all the money they need, and our air force has to have a bake sale to buy a bomber.”

And I thought, “Well, the bake sale idea is never going to work. Those guys out buying bombers aren't likely to know the difference between a brownie and a genoise, so trying to force them would just result in really bad bake sales.” But what if they were required to fill out grant applications to get the money they would need? This endeavor requires a pretty good command of the English language, which is not always one of the top skills of those politicians

grabbing for the mic and lobbying for their home district. Quantity and volume, yes, but not necessarily quality. Every question in a grant application allows only a limited number of words to address specific aspects of the funded activities, requiring the writer to be succinct and to the point. (See previous comment as to why this might be a challenge.)

Some pertinent questions could be: Will the profits from the sales of

these weapons of destruction be distributed in a manner that will proportionately mirror the state's geography and demographics?

Since the grants are funded with tax dollars, it is imperative that the employees of the applicant's company also reflect the state's demographics. Please document the jobs and levels of pay for all employees, including women, people of color, and older people.

Does the project have community support? Has the community been informed about the future use of these weapons, which might be against friends and relatives in their countries or relatives in their countries of origin? Please attach the press releases published with this information.

Funding decisions for grants are typically made by a panel comprised of people from various walks

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PAPER...Continued from page 3

to MediaNews Group, the *Journal's* owner, for comments about the closure. Regional Publisher Greg Mazanec in the St. Paul office was no more forthcoming than Davenport in his email response.

"We are not commenting any further," Mazanec wrote.

Corporate hatchet?

MediaNews Group is part of Manhattan-based hedge fund Alden Global Capital (AGC), which just last month became the country's second-largest newspaper publisher with its purchase of Tribune Publishing. When the *Journal* came into its fold in 2020 with AGC's purchase of former owner Red Wing Publishing, AGC became the largest and most locally disconnected owner of any in the *Journal's* 110-year history.

AGC has come under intense fire from many corners of the print journalism community for its aggressive cost-cutting measures in the newspapers it has purchased. Among the more scathing assessments of AGC is one by *Washington Post* media columnist Margaret Sullivan this past February:

"When Alden comes in, it's slash-and-burn time," Sullivan wrote. "Newsroom jobs — reporters, editors, photographers — are cut to the bone.

Decisions are made not for long-term sustainability, not for service to the community, not for humane treatment of skilled and dedicated staff, but for next quarter's profit-and-loss statement."

Given that Davenport and Mazanec both declined to be interviewed, it is unknown how much, if any, local input went into the decision to close down the *Journal*. However, Tricia Heibel offered some insight.

"I have connected with our local publisher," the Chamber president said. "My understanding is that this is a decision not made locally. And my interpretation from him is that this is a final decision."

Local impact

As the only comprehensive news source in the International Falls region, the loss of the *Journal* will in some way impact all of the area's business, governmental, and community affairs.

"The paper's importance to businesses has many angles to it," Heibel said. "It's a great way for businesses to communicate their sales, advertisements, job openings, and so much of what they're doing. It's been a communication tool with our elected officials. (Business owners) are not always able to attend board and council meetings, so

they can still be informed about impacts to their businesses by articles in the paper."

Heibel said the Chamber's efforts to advocate on behalf of the greater business community will also be hampered without a local newspaper. Koochiching County Administration Director Jenny Herman said the sudden announcement of the closure of the *Journal*, the county's official legal newspaper, has them scrambling to investigate what alternatives they can find.

"If we don't have a newspaper that meets the guidelines, I don't know what our options would be," Herman said. "It's new to us, and it's under review right now by the county attorney. We use the newspaper quite a bit to inform the public about things like sanitation hours, timber auctions, and such. It's also going to affect the courts with their public notices, and the city of International Falls."

Herman said she believed the International Falls City Council was scheduled to meet Tuesday night to discuss the impact of the *Journal's* closure on its operations.

Heibel also talked about the loss of the *Journal's* function in serving and communicating the social

aspects of life in a small town.

"I grew up in the Twin Cities," she said. "It was new to me to see open postings like baby showers. From births, deaths, marriages, school events and sporting highlights, from lost pets to everything else, it was just a really central communication tool."

Like other small-town and rural newspapers, the *Journal* helped to define the town's identity.

Nick Mathews spent 15 years as senior editor of the *Houston Chronicle* and regional editor-in-chief for three Virginia daily newspapers before entering journalism graduate studies at the Hubbard School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Minnesota. His research interests have focused on newspaper closures and the plight of small towns and rural areas that have lost them.

"In one research project, I studied the impact of a 99-year-old weekly newspaper on its abandoned readers," Mathews said. "(There was) a clear negative impact on the abandoned former readers' sense of community. The residents missed celebrated gatherings, they felt more isolated, and they noticed diminished pride in their community."

"Some former readers

compared the death of the newspaper to the death of a loved one," Mathews continued. "The newspaper meant that much to them and to the community. The *International Falls Journal* has been a part of its readers' lives for more than a century. It is almost impossible to overstate the significance of the loss for community members."

The demise of the *Journal* also will likely have a huge impact on the operations of the Koochiching County Historical Society, said Executive Director Ashley LaVigne.

"It creates a problem for the museum where we now have to create a new system to archive all the news that would have been in one place (in the *Journal*)," she said.

For example, instead of having the newspaper as the source for reports of city council and school board meetings, the historical society may have to start obtaining meeting minutes from each governmental and community entity it tracks, LaVigne explained.

People inside and outside of the community depend on the historical society for genealogical research, LaVigne said, and "obituaries are the most important for us." Looking at a future without the *Journal's* compiled reporting of regional obituaries

is definitely a challenge, she said.

"The loss of the paper is hard," LaVigne said. "It's a glimpse into a community and it tells a story over time. Now we have to figure out a way to record history as it's happening without the newspaper there to record that. Whether there's a fire or a new business, all that gets chronicled in our holdings. That information isn't going to be available unless we go out and do it which we don't have the ability to do. Our historical society only operates on a staff of two."

Other options

While the loss of the *Journal* is a terrific blow to the community, Heibel said she's already been talking with others about alternatives. One approach might be trying to recruit a new newspaper to town, while another might be to develop a web-based community news site. It's too soon for anything other than brainstorming possibilities, but Heibel is ready to do it.

"I think it's worth exploring," she said. "There are communities smaller than ours that have publications. I think we could get broader community support to bring in something like that again. Everything seems hypothetical right now as we're exploring options, but I think there are options."

GRANTS...Continued from page 4

of life, interests, and skills. In the case of these Billions for Bombers grants, panel members should be comprised of artists, union members, teachers, people living on Social Security, and others who actually pay attention to where their tax dollars go.

I'm guessing that those politicians and military higher-ups would get so frustrated with the application process that they just might give up. Those who did persevere would face additional conditions before qualifying for any funds. They would need to meet at least five people from each country that bombs were to be used against. They would be required to engage in several activities with them, including 1) make a meal together with favorite foods from everyone, then sit down and share the meal; 2) read a bedtime story to at least three children in each country; 3) help build benches or Adirondack chairs together to put in public places; 4) sit together in public, greet passers-by, and absorb the daily life of the community.

My other brilliant plan for using tax dollars for world peace may be a bit more doable than the grant

idea. In high school I was on the American Field Service (AFS) student committee, and my mom served on the adult committee to bring foreign exchange students into our school and community and to provide opportunities for local students to live and study abroad.

AFS began as the American Ambulance Field Service, a volunteer ambulance corps created in 1915. As described on their website: "After WWII, the AFS was transformed into an international secondary school exchange, volunteer, and intercultural learning organization with a vision: to help build a more peaceful world by promoting understanding among cultures."

AFS-USA provided opportunities for people to live in other cultures to help them acquire the knowledge and skills needed to help create a more just and peaceful world.

That all made total sense to me. I applied and was not selected to go abroad, but I did get to know some foreign students who brought awareness of their cultures to our very small town. Years later, I was able to travel to some other countries. I always liked

going to the local spots that the people who lived there frequented, like the library, the hardware store, and the markets that weren't aimed at the tourists. Whenever possible, I would strike up conversations with the locals, and everywhere I went, I discovered that people everywhere have more in common than they have differences, that most people recognize that, as well as realizing that differences between governments do not reflect who the citizenry are or

what they feel.

As wonderful as this travel is, the hitch is that a lot of people don't get chosen as foreign exchange students and can't afford to travel on their own. Or if they do, they're too afraid to do anything but stay at the Marriott and eat American food.

So, I had the brilliant idea, which I really think we ought to implement if I can just convince Congress, that every citizen ought to have an expense-paid trip to another country, but they

can't stay at an American hotel or hang out with Americans. They would stay with a local family, cook and eat together, learn as much as they can about that family's work, school, and local community. They would make an effort to find out what brings joy to the family and where life gets hard for them.

Then, when they return to the United States, they will give a presentation to at least three classes in the local schools about their

experience, share some photos, local crafts, and favorite stories. Spreading the AFS philosophy throughout our citizenry, we would learn to live together to build bridges among cultures.

This program would cost a fraction of our military budget, and everyone would be the better for it. I think it could work. Ready to call Congress?

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If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-800-201-4099 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.





the
TIMBERJAY

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Ely-Winton Historical Society

Summer History Nights Programs

History Nights are held in Vermilion Community College Classroom 104. All programs are on Wednesdays and begin at 7 p.m. While FREE of charge, donations are always gratefully accepted.

June 16: The History of Our History - David Kess, local historian, will give a presentation on how the Ely-Winton Historical Society was formed and how it has progressed through the years.

June 30: Eastern Orthodox Christianity on the Iron Range - Dr. Steven Matthews, professor of History at University of Minnesota-Duluth, will provide a look at the history of the Orthodox faith in the area through Serbian, Russian, and Greek immigration.

July 14: Karelian Fever and Peacemaking - Dr. Thomas Morgan, professor of Russian at College of St. Scholastica will explain the "Karelian Fever," a period when Finnish Americans immigrated to the Soviet Union in the 1930s with the promise of a "workers' paradise," only to face persecution and seek passage back to America.

July 28: Northern Bedrock - Jill Baum, from Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps, will discuss the Corps and the projects they have worked on in the area.

Week of June 14

Monday
TOPS - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower, at 9 a.m. Canceled until further notice.

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

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center on June 14

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:00 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is June 15.

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

Wednesday
Tower AA- Open Basics- 7 p.m. at St. James Presbyterian Church. Questions, call 753-2332.

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

Red Hat Belles to meet on June 17
GREENWOOD TWP- It's time to get together again. The Northern Red Hat Belles will meet on Thursday, June 17 at the Bayview Bar and Grill. We will order off the menu. Please call Kathy at 753-2530 to make reservations by June 15. New members and guests are always welcomed.

Men's Coffee every Thursday at the Little Church
VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church will be starting Men's Coffee and Conversation every Thursday from 9 - 10 a.m. The Little Church is located in Vermilion Lake Township on Cty. Rd. 26/ Wahlsten Rd. Any questions, contact Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

Bocce ball league to start
GREENWOOD TWP- Throws, punto, raffa, volo, What? These are bocce ball terms neighbors hope to be using at a summer bocce league at the Greenwood Township courts. Plans for a Wednesday evening couples league are in the works. If there is interest, women's, men's, and family leagues will be considered. Fun times, great people, nice courts, now all we need are players. To express interest or to ask questions, contact bbvermilion2021@gmail.com, checkout nextdoor.com, or text 218-750-7236 for information.

VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL

Graduation highlights students' individuality



Pictured (from left) Thomas (Todd) Zibrowski, Alliyah Zapata, Michael Stellmach, Mariah Mitchell, Jaicee Krings, Connor Hanson, Alexander Dorman, and Danny Anderson. Not pictured: Hunter Jackson. photo by J. Summit

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- It was the most conventional ending to a rather unconventional school year. It was graduation, in person, at school, with family and friends. With the student school year officially over, the state had lifted the previously set limits on graduation attendance, so students were free to invite all their family and friends. Most took full advantage, with the families of the nine VCS graduates filling up the room.

This is the largest graduating class since the school opened in 2013, and included students from Tower-Soudan, Ely, Embarrass, Babbitt, and the Quad Cities. The ceremony was as individualized as the school itself; teachers Karin Schmidt, Al White, and Paula Herbranson, along with school administrator Frank Zobitz, all took time to compliment each student on their successes and special talents. Students were recognized for their writing talents, reading skills, math improvement, shop skills, environmental awareness, artistic endeavors, sense of humor, and more.

Teachers reminded students of the challenges during the year – classes and trips that were

canceled due to the pandemic, online learning challenges, and the hybrid learning schedule. But a slideshow during the ceremony also showed all the good times during the year, with rowdy group projects, outdoor learning experiences on the school grounds, and in-school celebrations.

It was clear to all that this was a group of teenagers who were going to be missed when school starts up again next fall. Several are headed to area community colleges, with plans to complete four-year degrees, while others have jobs lined up. Two students completed the year in the PSEO program, attending community college and earning both high school and college credits.

“You’ve never lived in a world without SpongeBob Squarepants, Harry Potter, Family Guy, or Who Wants to be a Millionaire,” Zobitz told the graduates. “Be kind and rewind means nothing to you...you are the first generation for whom a phone has been primarily a video game, direction finder, texting tool, and information provider.”

Zobitz took the students back in time and talked about Pres. John F. Kennedy’s ambitious goal of sending men to the moon before the end of the 1960s.

“Spoiler alert,” he said, “the goal was achieved eight years later when Apollo 11 commander Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon’s surface.”

Zobitz talked about the teamwork and expertise required for such a mission. But said since they were working toward a common goal, they were able to work through any differences. “When you wake up tomorrow and no longer need to come to school,” he asked the students, “what is your Apollo 11?”

He challenged students to set goals, ranging from small to large, and write them down.

“Keep them close to you so you can constantly refer to them.”

Zobitz urged students to collaborate with others to reach their goals and to help others reach theirs, to discover everything the world has to offer, learn new skills, get their hands dirty, and finally to take time to reflect on how close they are to achieving their goals.

“When we go through life without pausing to think and reflect,” he said, “we don’t learn or gain a deeper understanding. We simply move from one thing to the next, never pausing to consider what valuable lessons we might learn.”

As diplomas were handed out, each graduate was singled

out for significant achievements, both small and large:

- Receiving straight A’s all year.
- A PSEO student passing a challenging college algebra class and planning to study computer science.
- Having too many favorite books to count.
- Loving time spent out in the woods during environmental education class.
- A student with a happy outlook improving academically all year long.
- Another PSEO student working hard and succeeding to keep up with the organizational challenges of attending community college.
- Making huge improvements in math skills.
- Gaining confidence in art and reading skills and aiming for a challenging career.

VCS is currently enrolling students for the 2021-22 school year. VCS is a public charter school with a focus on individualized education, environmental learning, and a small-school environment. There are currently seven openings for 7th/8th graders, six openings for 9th/10th graders, and two openings for 11th/12th graders. Learn more at www.vermilioncountry.org or find Vermilion Country School on Facebook.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



Members of the sixth-grade class were honored in a school-wide graduation assembly on June 2. (From left) Thomas Aldrich, Lae’la James, Nico Lenci, Kellin Pratt, Brayden Warren, David Weisinger, and Trevor Zaitz. Kindergarten students were also recognized (photos coming next week!). photo by S. Ukkola

COMMUNITY NEWS

St. James Men's Breakfast on Thursdays at Good Ol' Days

TOWER- The Men's Breakfast sponsored by St. James Presbyterian Church of Tower will begin meeting at Good Ol' Days each Thursday at 8 a.m. All men are invited to join us.

Movie Night at St. James on Sunday, June 20

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower will host a movie night on Sunday, June 20 at 6 p.m. This month's movie is “The Secret - Dare To Dream.” All are welcome, and there will be free pop, popcorn, and candy.

Based on the groundbreaking best-selling book by Rhonda Byrne, The Secret: Dare to Dream follows Miranda (Katie Holmes), a young widow trying to make ends meet while raising her three children and dating her boyfriend (Jerry O'Connell). A devastating

storm brings an enormous challenge and a mysterious man, Bray (Josh Lucas), into Miranda's life. Bray reignites the family's spirit but, unbeknownst to Miranda, also holds an important secret – one that will change everything. With its timeless messages of hope, compassion, and gratitude, The Secret: Dare to Dream is an inspiring and heartwarming film.

Tower-Soudan Recreation Board rescheduled to June 22

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board will be held on Tuesday, June 22 at 8:30 a.m. at Good Ol'

Days. Request must be received prior to the meeting in writing to Terri Joki-Martin, Tower City Hall, PO Box 576, Tower, MN 55790.

Fourth of July Donations

The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board would like to thank the following individuals and families for their donations this year.

Donations are still needed and can be mailed to: PO Box 461, Tower, MN 55790.

- Thank you to:
- Allen & Patty Dahl in memory of Jim & Edith Trembath
 - Deb Eidelbes Cathcart in memory of Elsie Dahl
 - Ruth Saranen

- Frank & Linda Brula
- Paul & Judy Pishler
- Ricky & Deann Dahl
- Linda Myklebust
- The Timberjay
- Sara & Benie Pelstring
- Dolly & Robert Ladner
- James Marttila
- Ronald & Susan Norha
- Susan & Roger Harry
- Linda & Gary Haugen
- Mary Batanich
- The Zobitz Family: Joan Zobitz, Marge Zobitz, Jen & Brian Palo, Frank & Suzanne Zobitz, Barb Zobitz & Greg Taft, Mark & Trista Zobitz, Suzanne & Jason Kelly, Paul & Monica Zobitz, John & Shannon Zobitz, and grandkids.

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SEASON OPENING
Friday, June 18
4-6 PM
at the Train Depot

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Kids get creative at Ely Arts & Heritage Center

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The Ely Arts & Heritage Center’s annual three-day Summer Children’s Art Camp was attended by 52 students this week.

Camp was Monday thru Wednesday, and included an art show for families and visitors on the last day.

Founded by volunteers in 1998, the summer activity was first held at Whiteside Park, moved to Semer’s Park for several years, and found a permanent home at the Miners Dry in 2008.

Several class sessions were held each day and a healthy snack was included. This year’s art camp featured drawing, stenciling

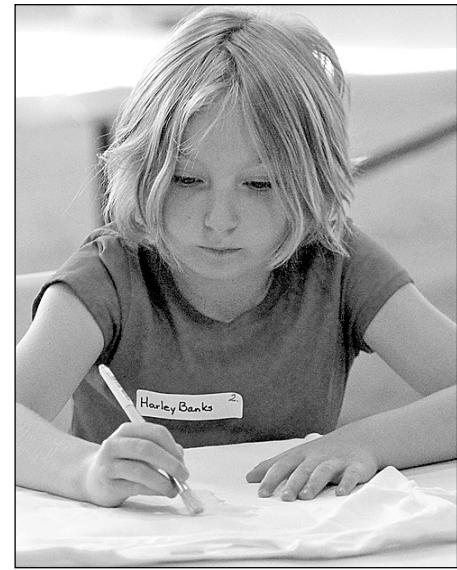
a camp T-shirt, drawing, personalizing a walking stick, creating and painting a clay fish and stegosaurus, making musical instruments and learning rhythm, and crafting spool racers. Students also had a guided tour of the Pioneer Mine Shaft House.

Art teachers this year included Paya and Gail deMarcken, Judy Fredrickson, Bret and Kate Dale, Lee Nelson, Nancy Hernesma and Lowell Syverson.

Parents and friends were invited to the Miners Dry on Wednesday for an art show featuring the works of the students and a short musical instrument performance.



Above: Naomi Fedders personalizes a walking stick. Right: Bret Dale checks on art camp kids and their musical instruments.
photos by K. Vandervort



Above: Harley Banks designs a T-shirt. Right: Kids work with clay.



Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



insufferable
sucking moisture the sun burns
premature heat blast

OUR COMMUNITY

Shall We Dance

Studio North presents their 2021 Dance Recital



Studio North presented their 2021 Dance Recital last Saturday in an outdoor venue at the Whiteside Park bandstand, featuring 24 acts over two shows. Shown clockwise from upper left: I Hope You Dance, Kindergarten; You Say, Charlie Carlson and Senja Kess; You’ve Got a Friend in Me, Friday Preschool; and When Veruca Says, Presly Marzella. photos by K. Vandervort

Libraries

Ely library

Hours: Monday – Friday,
10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturdays – 8 a.m. to noon
Closed on Sundays
Phone: 365-5140

Babbitt library

Monday	Noon-6 pm
Tuesday	Noon-6 pm
Wednesday	Noon-6 pm
Thursday	Noon-6 pm
Friday	Noon-5 pm

Phone: 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.
ELY WOMEN’S OPEN AA - Every Monday at noon at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, 231 E. Camp St., Ely.
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church
AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.
BABBITT AL-ANON Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.
CO-DEPENDENTS’ 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, Ely.
ELY FOOD SHELF - Third Wednesday each month, 15 W. Conan St.
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED - Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, 218-827-3232, 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

HIGHER EDUCATION

Local students honored at St. Scholastica

DULUTH-The College of St. Scholastica’s Spring 2021 Dean’s List recipients include Apolonia Homer, of Ely, and Lori Huseby, of Babbitt.

Dean’s List members have achieved a 3.75 grade point average or above on a 4.0 scale.

Merhar honored at Iowa State

AMES, Iowa – More than 10,500 Iowa State University students, including Ely’s Jenna Judith Merhar, were recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the spring semester 2021 Dean’s List. Merhar is in her second year at Iowa State and is majoring in Accounting.

Montana honored at UW-Madison

MADISON, Wis. - The University of Wisconsin-Madison recognized Thomas Montana, of Ely, who was named to the Dean’s List for the spring semester of the 2020-2021 academic year.

Montana is enrolled in the College of Agricultural and Life Science at UW-Madison.

Happy Days Preschool

REGISTRATION

for 2021-22 School Year IS NOW OPEN!
3/4 year old class- Tuesday & Thursday AM
4/5 year old class- Monday, Wednesday & Friday AM or PM

Deadline is Monday, August 10th

Forms are available online at happydaysely.com, Zup’s, and Ely Northland Market

Scholarships are available.
Child needs to be 3 years old by September 1st.

Questions? Contact Mandy at mandyjpetersen@gmail.com

NORTH WOODS COMMENCEMENT 2021

The senior class that persevered graduates

After more than a year of COVID-19 trials and tribulations, ceremonies are thankfully "normal"



FIELD TWP- For the first time in over a year, the gymnasium at North Woods School was full and lively as friends and family gathered to celebrate the 42 graduates of the Class of 2021 on Friday, June 4.

"Normal" arrived before the spectators, as graduates arrived wearing caps and gowns but no masks, and social distancing was a thing of the past as they exchanged hugs aplenty in the library and commons area before the processional.

Brynn Simpson delivered the student address, and Zoe Kisch and Samuel Frazee shared the closing address. In between, many were moved to tears as students delivered flowers to their parents while the class song "If This Is the Last Time" played in the background.

Above left: Time for one last group shot for, front row, from left, Aubrey Koskovich, Brynn Simpson, Emily Fosso, and Joey Lakoskey; and back row, Shandra Hanninen, Olivia Fultz, Zoe Trip, Zoe Kisch.

Above right: It was truly a family affair for graduate Jocelyn Carver as she says hello to her little sister Lilly.

Right: Megan Cote gets a hug from her father, Dennis, as her cap says it all. D. Colburn photos



Principal shares reflections on Class of 2021

by JOHN VUKMANICH
North Woods Principal

FIELD TWP- In my last column, I mentioned that there would be a "more to come" regarding our seniors, the North Woods Class of 2021. So, here we go.

I remember being a senior in high school, sitting in Mr. Munig's seventh-period class on the fourth floor of the tech building at Virginia High School on a beautiful spring day. The class was Senior Social Studies, and I couldn't wait to be outside at 3:06 p.m. when the bell rang. It wasn't that the class was horrible, it was more that I was 18 years old and was ready to move on. I think most of us were. Mr. Munig was an interesting guy who would often say, "There are two types of people in this world, Northsiders and those who wish they were," referring to the age-old clash between the different neighborhoods in the Iron Range town of Virginia. In his classroom was an inflatable bust of former President Ronald Reagan, and Mr. Munig would occasionally chas-

tise the actor-turned-president regarding "voodoo economics" and the Iran-Contra Affair.

Some things never change, and while twelfth graders are sometimes emotional about completing their high school years, most of them make it very apparent to us at school that they are ready to move on!

It is bittersweet for school staff, too. I once heard a statement, "True love means letting go." Yes, we care very much about our kids, but know that when the end of the year gets close, it is time to let them go. We set them free hoping that we have given them the tools needed to survive out there in an ever-changing world.

The end of high school means different things to different folks. We hope that their hard work translates into success. For others, we hope they "figure it out" and find their passion. For all, we wish them the best and hope that they know that success in life is determined by more than a grade in a class. Success can be a combination of

so many things including attitude, work ethic, luck, communication, and even the definition of "success" itself. Success is judged by society usually as a combination of financial gain, happiness, and job satisfaction. We hope students have learned, or will, that mostly, success is self-actualization, an awareness of your potential, who you are, desire, and how you "fit." Money helps but is no guarantee of happiness.

This year's seniors had to endure a wild ride. As eleventh graders, their year was cut short. Starting out this past fall, everything was uncertain. School started up, on time, in person. Masks were mandatory. Schools were required by the state to offer distance learning and as a result, high school kids had class in school four days a week. Teachers streamlined their content and cut some of the fat out to make things run more smoothly, and kids were offered a bit more leeway than previously allowed. We all had to make this work. COVID cases led to contact tracing, which occasionally meant that kids and staff had

to be sent home for two weeks. Sometimes quite a few times. School staff, families, and students had to be more flexible to get through. At times, it felt like all we were doing was "getting through." We did. You did.

The kids stuck with it. They persevered. They were flexible. They "rolled with it." I didn't hear much in terms of complaining, because after all, what are we supposed to do about it, right?

And now, just like that, they are gone. The excitement, the buildup and stress, and then in the blink of an eye it is over, and we may never see them again.

Several are going into the military, several to college. A few have enough scholarships to pay for all their schooling. We have travelers, even one who is going halfway around the world. Several are working locally. I spoke with many of them on the last day of school and reassured a couple that "I don't know what to do" is still ok, too. I didn't know, either, and I turned out just fine. Just do something. So many employers

are looking for help, so many trades are looking for skilled workers. There is so much out there that is ever changing. The flexibility that they learned through the last 15 months will be beneficial.

No matter what you do, be a good teammate. Be kind and show a good work ethic. You don't get something for nothing.

You will go through tough times, that is a guarantee. Be ready for it. Your ability to rebound is what matters most. Lastly, try to leave every place you have been better than you found it. I am sincerely proud that I was able to shake your hands on graduation night, and even more proud that you insisted I did.



North Woods Class of 2021 graduate Shandra Hanninen receives her diploma and a handshake from Principal John Vukmaniuch at commencement ceremonies on June 4. photo by D. Colburn

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Music in the Park to open with the Beefeater Bros.

COOK- "The Beefeater Brothers" will kick off the new season of Music in the Park concerts in Cook City Park on Wednesday, June 16 at 6 p.m., according to music coordinator Eric Pederson.

The band includes Pederson and Mike Randolph and will feature Jimmy Laine on drums and Anna Pederson on vocals. The band also has a large selection of musical friends that "sit in" on occasion.

"We are lucky to live in an area that supports live music," says

Pederson. "We also have an abundance of talent on the Iron Range."

Bring a lawn chair or sit in your car to hear the sound of music. St. Paul's (Alango) Lutheran Church will again host their burger and brat stand. In case of rain, concerts will move to the Cook VFW.

Music in the Park is made possible by the Cook Lions Club, Cook VFW Post 1157, the Cook Chamber of Commerce, the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club, Northwoods Friends of the Arts, and community donations.

- JUNE
- 16 - Beefeater Brothers
- 23 - Sugar On the Roof
- 30 - The Three Amigos
- JULY
- 7 - Rowbottom &

- Boyer
- 14 - The Dionysian Dithyrambs
- 21 - The Divas
- 28 - The Hutter Bunch
- AUGUST
- 4 - The Three Amigos
- 11 - Beefeater Brothers
- 18 - The Divas
- 25 - The Blenders
- SEPTEMBER
- 1 - Jaggedease Band
- 8 - Beefeater Brothers

Wilenius is guest speaker for NWFA meeting June 15

COOK- The annual business meeting of Northwoods Friends of the Arts on Tuesday promises to be as much fun as business when "She Won't Mow the Daisies" author Leo Wilenius steps

up to present the program.

Wilenius and his wife, Lindy, raised their family in rural Cook, and his lifelong passion to write is fueled by his love of the outdoors, travel, friends and family, said NWFA public relations director Judith Ulseth.

"If you want to read a book that feels like a warm handshake, read 'She Won't Mow the Daisies,'" Ulseth said. "Leo would be embarrassed if I said he writes with wisdom but that is exactly what he does, mirthfully!"

The June 15 meeting at the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook will begin at 5 p.m., and Wilenius will speak at 5:30 p.m. The meeting is

open to the public.

Current members of the NWFA Board of Directors include Shawna Kishel, President, Lauren Nelson, Vice President, Lisa Hyppa, treasurer, Lisa Simensen, secretary, Alberta Whitenack, artist and gallery manager, Lois Garbisch, Facebook and website, and Judith Ulseth, public relations and website.

Lions Club garage sale is on Saturday

COOK- The Cook Lions Club will host a one-day garage sale on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the yellow and blue Li-

ons Club building at 6 1st Street SE in Cook.

Be prepared to snap up some great deals on furniture, appliances, an inflatable boat, a gun cabinet, and lawn furniture, just to mention a few.

The event is cash and carry, and prepaid items will be held until 5 p.m. for late pickup so that patrons may enjoy Timber Days festivities. Due to COVID or weather, some spacing may be in effect.

Prepaid items will be held until 5pm for your late pickup...see you there!

Proceeds from the sale go to support the philanthropic activities of the Cook Lions Club.

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Town Board meets in person despite public notice snafu

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOODTWP- The Greenwood Town Board met in person on Tuesday, after quite a bit of confusion created when the clerk published the agenda and placed a notice in their official newspaper, *The Tower News*, that the meeting was being conducted via teleconference.

The board held its first in-person meeting in May without incident and required that masks be worn. A teleconference option was still made available for any visitors who didn't wish to attend the meeting in person. Since then, the state has removed requirements for indoor mask wearing. The board took no action at the May meeting to change back to teleconference-only. So, several supervisors, as well as members of the public, were confused.

Two supervisors, Barb Lofquist and Sue Drobac, had both contacted Chair Mike Ralston, who confirmed the meeting was to be held in-person, with the teleconference available for the public if desired.

But on Tuesday morning, Clerk Debby Spicer sent out an email stating that she had received several calls with some "stating that the meeting ad was wrong."

She went on to affirm that "the meeting tonight is virtual telephone conference." She said an agenda item at the meeting did include discussion of in-person/virtual board meetings.

"Last month's meeting was announced as a trial hybrid meeting by Mike Ralston," she wrote, "with the intention to discuss it for possible further implementation."

She went on to confirm that "the notice in the paper was not a mistake" and that "as clerk, I do not have the authority to make decisions."

But less than 20 minutes later, Spicer sent out another email.

"I apologize for the confusion," she wrote. "I have just been informed by Supervisor Ralston that there was a miscommuni-

cation, and that the meeting will be both virtual and in-person, the same as last month."

At the meeting Tuesday evening, Ralston also apologized for the confusion. He noted the agenda item was to see if the board wanted to continue with the hybrid model, which does come with a cost of \$100 per meeting.

Lofquist noted that some of the public are still reluctant to attend in-person meetings, so the conference call option was still a good idea. There were 14 in the audience at Tuesday's meeting, a little smaller than the usual crowd.

Drobac noted that the board isn't conducting virtual meetings because all the board members are attending in person, and the phone-in option is available as a service to the public. At the start of the meeting, it was noted that six people had taken advantage of the phone-in option.

The board will continue the hybrid model at least through the end of July, which will include the township's continued annual meeting set for Thursday, July 22 at 6:30 p.m., and then revisit the issue for August.

More confusion

Tuesday's meeting included many other topics that revolved around confusions and miscommunications.

Drobac asked why the treasurer's report did not include the updated disbursements list.

"The problem is the disbursements register is the same as from last month's meeting," she said. "We don't have this month's [May's] list."

Spicer said she had only received that paperwork from Treasurer Belinda Fazio on Tuesday morning and hadn't had time to enter the information into her system.

Drobac noted that the board need to approve both the claims (the bills) and the disbursements (the actual checks), and since these did not match, the board couldn't approve paying the claims at this time.

Fazio told the board since she had been training

on the new payroll system this past week, she was late with the regular paperwork.

While Drobac is often seen as clashing with the clerk and treasurer, she once again pointed out that the board, which cut the salaries for those two positions this year, was not giving them enough hours to get their jobs completed.

"What I am trying to say is there is not enough time to get the job done in 12 hours a week," Drobac said.

Ralston noted that both positions are paid a salary, and that the board just ordered that the office be open 12 hours a week.

"But if there is work that needs to be done, they can take more time," he said.

"So do I get paid extra?" asked Spicer.

"No," replied Ralston. "It is a salary." The clerk's salary is currently set at \$16,700 a year, and the treasurer's at \$11,000 a year.

Ralston noted that if the clerk or treasurer is in the office during times not part of regular office hours, they can ignore emails or phone calls if they want.

Drobac noted that the board did need to have an up-to-date disbursements list for the meeting.

The board called a special meeting for Monday, June 14 at 9 a.m. to approve the disbursements. The township's bills need to be paid by the 15th of the month.

Drobac asked the clerk to log her hours, so the board could reconsider the time the job requires. Spicer said she was told the position is based on the statutory duties.

"Answering emails is not," Spicer said.

"You need to be a friendly, open face for our township," Drobac, who was formerly the township clerk, said.

Spicer noted the township website also has some rather out-of-date information.

"It is very time-consuming," she said.

Broadband

The board will be holding a special meeting on Tuesday, June 15 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss broadband

issues, grants, and to meet with at least one possible provider, CTC. Whitney Ridlon from the IRRRB will also be at the meeting to discuss the grant application and other possible grant opportunities.

At last month's meeting, the board discussed applying for a new grant opportunity. The board scrambled, with help from CTC and the IRRRB, and did get an application into Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar's offices. This was done without any input from the township's broadband committee, which has also been working on the issue.

John Bassing, from the broadband committee, noted that the township is not likely to receive significant funding from the grant program set up by Sen. Smith's office.

"I've been contacted by Sen. Tina Smith's office and was told they are looking at funding smaller amounts, like \$200,000 - \$300,000," said Bassing, "not millions."

"We need to work together as a team," said Joanne Bassing, also on the broadband committee.

"I totally agree," said Ralston. "You don't get anything if you don't ask."

Lofquist, who chairs the township's broadband committee, wondered why the CTC visit, initially discussed for the June 8 meeting, had been switched. After hearing of the visit, the broadband committee scheduled their own meeting prior to the township meeting and invited the CTC representative to come an hour early to meet with them. They then were told by CTC that the meeting had been set for June 15.

Ralston told the board he decided he didn't want to "stack" the CTC visit onto a regular meeting, so set it for the following week.

Lofquist said they wished he had communicated this to the broadband committee.

"I am not going to apologize," Ralston said. "I completed this and got it done. I don't need to have letters to the editor saying I don't support broadband."

Other business

In other business, the board:

➤ Will bring the request by the board to raise EMR/First Responder pensions from \$1,500 to \$2,000 per year of service. These pensions are separate from the fire department pension which is overseen by PERA and funded by the township.

➤ Again refused a request for a \$100 donation to the Lakeview Cemetery, but will revisit the issue next month when they will review additional information. Pam Lundstrom brought information to the board noting that 191 Greenwood residents are buried at the cemetery. "This is not Tower's cemetery," she said. "It's a joint cemetery." She told the board that both Tower and Breitung contribute \$3,000 annually to the cemetery. The township has made donations to the cemetery as late as 2019.

➤ A fundraiser rummage sale is being organized by Lundstrom on Saturday, June 26 at the Greenwood Town Hall. Contact Pam Lundstrom at 753-3006 to reserve a table for \$10. Fees collected will go to the cemetery, along with other donations.

➤ Rejected a motion by Drobac, on a 2-3 vote, to reduce supervisors' and fire department officers' salaries by 40 percent to match the cuts made earlier to the clerk and treasurer salaries. "I think this is going against the fire department again," said Carmen DeLuca. Ralston said he would support cutting supervisors' pay, but not fire department officers'. But DeLuca also objected to that, noting the amount of time he put in as the maintenance supervisor.

A motion to cut only supervisors' salaries was never brought to the floor.

➤ Passed a resolution to accept federal ARPA funds (pandemic relief funding).

➤ Referred the issue of setting time limits for use of the tennis courts to the recreation committee. Pickleball players are hosting open games Tuesday through Friday starting at 9 a.m., which ties up the court for

possible tennis use. Tennis players have been playing on Monday mornings.

➤ Had a request from fire department safety officer Rick Worringer to inform residents of the importance of keeping their driveways safe for emergency vehicles by removing brush and widening tight corners. He also said that many docks do not have fire numbers posted on them which is important when the fire department boats are responding to either a fire or medical emergency.

"This is a serious issue," he said. "There are driveways we cannot get down."

➤ Passed a motion, 3-2, to have only a single board member, the maintenance supervisor, attend fire department business meetings, and not have them open to the public. Lofquist had asked to have a rotating board member attend so others could participate. Chief Dave Fazio noted that other board members could be invited to the meeting if they had something that they needed to discuss. At the last fire department business meeting, three board members had attended, and the meeting was posted as a public/open meeting. The fire department members then decided to leave the building and meet at the chief's home instead.

"At their meetings they discuss information that is not made to be public," Ralston said. "It is not an open public meeting."

➤ Reiterated township policy that no alcohol is permitted at the pavilion and recreation area. A supervisor said that an organizer of bocce ball had suggested people bring alcohol in "decoy containers" to skirt the rule. The township will post the policy down at the pavilion area.

➤ Heard that the township did not receive a grant to repave Birch Point Extension. Lofquist said the township should look into simply repairing the worst spots, and said she felt the entire road did not need to be repaired due to the cost to the limited number of property owners.

TOWER...Continued from page 1

So, last October, the couple asked to tour the building and saw the potential.

They weren't the first. Over the years, dozens of potential buyers had kicked the tires. Many left excited at the possibilities but sobered at the work and money involved in restoring the three-story concrete monolith. The former bar sat on the ground floor, while Margie lived in an apartment on the second floor. The third floor was a vast, open cavern, where Margie's kids used to play basketball. Trumble also asked to see the roof, which he envisions, someday, as a possible rooftop café, complete with breathtaking views down the East Two River.

Trumble acknowledges that others had looked at it all and run away. "We

were very close to running away, too," he said. Yet Trumble, unlike many of the others who explored the possibilities, has a pretty good understanding of what he's getting into. He has owned and operated Midwest Specialty Maintenance since 2004, which takes on commercial renovations and cleaning services, including windows, for some of the largest and tallest buildings in the Twin Cities. He knows how to transform a commercial building and he's already exploring the possibilities for his latest venture.

Dave said he isn't planning to do the work all at once. In fact, the couple is taking their time to explore a number of possible uses for the building. Kathleen said they've already had many

suggestions from locals, from apartments to a brew pub, to a "girlie bar."

Dave said he plans to invite a couple of his friends who are general contractors to tour the place to get some ideas. "Our intention is to do something with it, just not immediately," said Dave, who sees restoring the place as a project for his "retirement," which he is currently planning for two or three years down

the line.

While the couple hasn't settled on a use for the place, they think the location is ideal for any number of ventures. Dave said he's been intrigued for years by the city's efforts to develop the adjacent harbor area. The building is also located just off the Mesabi Trail, which he suspects will see even more use once the connection to Ely is completed. He was interested, as well, in

the recent completion of the Ancient Cedars Trail, located less than a half mile walk from the former bar. Located next to so many recreational attractions, Dave said he's considering converting at least a portion of the upstairs to short-term lodging as part

of a rental pool.

"It may be a mix of residential and a first-floor restaurant," he said. In either case, folks in Tower will have to wait a bit longer to find out for sure. "There is a ton of work to do," said Dave.

Hope for Hospice

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Saturday, June 26 • 9AM
9447 Ashawa Road, Cook
(Old County Garage)

- Register by June 3 to guarantee a t-shirt
- Adults \$40 in advance \$45 day of race
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- Kids 5 years and under FREE

Register at: www.vhhp.org

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SULFIDE MINING

EPA: Proposed PolyMet mine 'may affect' downstream water quality

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The federal Environmental Protection Agency has notified the Fond du Lac Band and the state of Wisconsin that the proposed PolyMet copper-nickel mine near Babbitt “may affect” downstream water quality.

The notice, issued late last week, is the first step in a process that could eventually invalidate PolyMet’s federal wetlands permit, without which the mine could not go forward. That permit is currently suspended pending the results of upcoming public proceedings and an even-

tual determination by the Army Corps, which issued the permit in 2018.

At issue is whether the provisions of the wetlands permit sufficiently protect the quality of downstream waters.

Under federal law, downstream “states,” which include Indian reservations, are supposed to be notified if a federally permitted project has the potential to impact water quality within their jurisdiction. The Fond du Lac Reservation, near Cloquet, encompasses a portion of the St. Louis River, which would receive discharge from the proposed mine.

The EPA, under the

Trump administration, never provided the required notice and the Fond du Lac Band filed suit over that failure in 2019. A federal court agreed with the Band this past February and later remanded the issue to the EPA for further proceedings, which will include a public hearing.

Both the Fond du Lac Band and the state of Wisconsin now have 60 days to object to the wetlands permit and request the public hearing. While it’s unknown whether Wisconsin will do so, the Fond du Lac band is already preparing to go through the process. “We’ve made it pretty clear that the

project, from our perspective, would not meet our water quality standards,” said Nancy Schuldt, water projects coordinator for the Fond du Lac Band.

During the hearing, any objectors would have the opportunity to present information regarding their position. Fond du Lac officials have done that already, for years, preparing detailed critiques of some of the decisions made by regulators as the PolyMet project moved toward permitting. “It’s not that we didn’t bring all these issues to the agencies in a timely manner, they just ignored them,” said Schuldt. She’s hopeful

that the new administration, which has elevated the importance of tribal consultation, will be more open to their arguments this time. Schuldt noted that the EPA career staff had raised concerns of their own about lax enforcement provisions in the NPDES [water discharge] permit that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency issued to PolyMet back in 2018.

Following the planned hearing, the EPA is expected to evaluate the information it receives from the various parties and will make recommendations to the Army Corps about possible changes to the wetlands permit, or

whether the permit should be withdrawn altogether if it finds that new conditions are insufficient to guarantee protection of water quality.

How that process might play out is largely unknown, notes Schuldt. “There are so very few circumstances where a tribe has been successful in getting this finding,” she said. “There’s very little case law in this area. It’s precedent-setting.”

The *Timberjay* sought comment from PolyMet for this story. The company had not responded as of presstime.

ELY...Continued from page 1

of them do this for the money, it is my intent to ask more of these folks as officers, including attendance at regular officer

meetings and assistance in maintaining span of control at incidents. All are fully capable of assuming command when needed

and they are willing to accept additional departmental responsibilities.”

John Zobitz retains his position as First Assistant Chief. He resigned earlier in the year, citing “a difference of opinion” with the fire chief at the time. With the change in leadership, Zobitz requested he return to the second chair. Other EFD officers include Second Fire Chief Kevin Gilbert, Safety Officers Greg Jonas and Mike Zgonc, EMS Officer Kristen Zobitz, and Captains Ryan Callen, Chris Vesel and Mark Weber.

Chief Marshall reported to the council last week that the department responded to what may be a modern-day record of 24 calls, fire and medical, between May 10 and 24.

He highlighted a couple of minor dispatch calls, including a request for mutual aid from the Morse/Fall Lake Fire Department for a cabin and sheds on fire on an



The Ely Fire Department is housed in City Hall. photo by K. Vandervort

island on Burntside Lake. A firefighter was injured in the that fire response, he said.

“He may need surgery,” he said.

Early in the morning on May 24, at both the Ely school district and the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, the automatic alarms were activated.

“This is probably a fire chief’s worst nightmare,” he said. “For a brief moment I thought we were the victim of Russian hacking of these systems.” Marshall explained

the alarms were kicked due to the switch from water tower pressure to pump pressure while the water tower underwent a repainting project.

“That increase in pressure was enough to trip the alarms,” he said.

Chief Marshall presented his list of expectations for those who serve on the Ely Fire Department:

►Members are here for the right reasons, not money or pensions. We are here to help people in their time of need. That’s what we do and we can’t lose sight of this. This is why we exist, and this should be why each of us chose to make a commitment to the EFD.

►We will disagree on how best to achieve our mission, and that’s all right as long as we don’t lose sight of why we exist, are respectful when we disagree, and keep the disagreement within the department. When we do our job, we do it as a unified department.

►Members can disagree with the Chief and that is all right as long as doing so doesn’t put anyone’s safety at risk. Put

concerns on the table and let’s sort through them. We may not agree, but you will always be listened to and treated with respect.

►Membership in good standing matters. Efforts matter. If you can’t make all of a training, make some of it. We are all busy. We choose to make time for things that matter most to us. Officers are here to work with members. We want everyone to be active in this department. If you can’t carve out time to be a member in good standing, consider stepping down or taking a leave of absence. For 2021, members are expected to make at least 12 of the 24 trainings, meetings, maintenance nights.

►We need members at 100 percent. If you are not feeling well, don’t come to calls, trainings or meetings. If you have been consuming alcohol, don’t come to calls, trainings or meetings. The public trusts us. We owe them 100 percent.

Council action

At their June 1 meeting the city council:

►Agreed to convene an ATV task force to update city rules and ordinances concerning operation on city streets and state and county right-of-ways. An influx of new ATV/UTV owners and visitors to the area has caused increased confusion on where and how the off-road vehicles can be operated.

►Hired Dustin Anderson for the city infrastructure maintenance position.

►Hired Cory Easton for a city custodial position.

►Approved residential rehab loans for Bryan Edlund, 925 E. Harvey St., and Jennifer Laverdure, 336 E. Chapman St.

►Accepted the resignation of Mary Greninger from the Ely Tree Board and agreed to advertise the open position.

►Approved the official Fourth of July parade for this year and authorized the city council, police and fire departments to participate.

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Vaccine Scheduling

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Class of 2021



Class of 2021 graduation scenes from around the region include, clockwise from upper left, Connor Hanson, Vermilion Country School, shows off his diploma, Ely graduates celebrate their accomplishments, North Woods graduates Joey Lakoskey, Zach Cheney and Brynn Simpson celebrate. Ely 6-12 principal Megan Anderson enjoys a laugh with graduate Will Davies. staff photos



COOK...Continued from page 1

did that," Refsdal said.

Refsdal had plenty of company at home in her youth.

"I was the runt of the litter," she said. "I had six brothers and I am the runt."

Refsdal entered Cook schools in the eighth grade and graduated from Cook High School, and during those years she, like the rest of the townfolk, was an enthusiastic Timber Days participant.

"There was the carnival set up over where we're putting Veterans Park now," she recalled. "I brought the horses in one time for the parade. And then there was all the stuff downtown. It was a big deal for teens - it was the time to go hang out."

But after graduation came marriage and the start of a 33-year career working for the U.S. Forest Service that took her far away from Cook and all the way to the national offices in Washington, D.C. in 1988.

But with all of the years Refsdal spent in bigger cities, the peace and tranquility of small town life in Cook still tugged at her heart, and it was a catastrophic national event that eventually brought her back home.

"I was able to retire at 50, and my husband at the time and I came back, actually to Wisconsin," Refsdal said. "And then in December of 2012, the (elementary school shooting in) Sandy Hook happened, when those 26 Kindergarteners were killed. My one and only grandson at the time was in Kindergarten. At that point I said we're selling the place on the lake in Rhinelander, we're selling the place in Arizona, and we're going back to Cook. I may not be able to stop anything, but I'm going to be another set of ears and eyes and hands

in that school with my grandson and help watch over those children. And that's what I did."

And although she had spent only a few years living in the area and attending Cook schools, the community welcomed her back as one of its own.

"When I came back to Cook, it was amazing, because people were saying, 'Oh, we're so happy that you're back,'" Refsdal said. "It was funny because when I left I was kind of young and I didn't think they really even knew who I was. But the community was so warm and so welcoming."

Refsdal did indeed start volunteering at the school, something she continues to this day at North Woods.

"I work with the elementary grades, and sometimes with the high school kids, but with the elementary teachers a couple of days a week to let them be in the classroom. I can do their copying and their assembly and all that stuff so that they can be in there and those kids get the very best out of their education," she said.

But the school isn't the only place where Refshal volunteers. She's helped in the past with Ruby's Pantry and food distribution through St. Mary's Catholic Church, and "the big one," as she calls it, is delivering senior meals. She also volunteers at the Cook Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop, is a past member of the board for Virgie Hegg Hospice, and is involved with the philanthropic activities of the Cook Lions Club, where she currently serves as treasurer. She's also on the supervisory committee at North Star Credit Union.

And while she likes to travel, when she's home she also works to instill

a love of volunteerism in "the lights of my life," her grandsons Carson, 14, and Buckley, who just completed fourth grade.

"I had more time off when I worked, had more free time when I worked than I do now," Refsdal laughed. "I probably wouldn't be doing this if I hadn't left to realize how really special Cook is in its heart, its soul of the people here. We may not have very many people, but the cohesiveness and connectedness and volunteerism and outreach here is phenomenal. It does not happen everywhere."

Refsdal will be riding in the Timber Days parade on Sunday at 3 p.m., and in addition to honoring volunteers, essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic will also receive special recognition.

What's going on

With planning for Timber Days commencing months ago, uncertainties then regarding the coronavirus pandemic forced the committee to scale back some of the activities from Timber Days past, such as the softball tournament, that wouldn't work within the state's COVID-19 guidelines.

But festival goers can expect Friday, June 11, Saturday, June 12, and Sunday, June 13 to have a full slate of activities and arts and crafts and food vendors to celebrate summer's return.

River Street and the city park will be where most of the action takes place, including a bean bag tournament and the firefighters' challenge on Friday, a car show, pet show, magic show, and Elvis show on Saturday, and a church service, lawnmower races, the parade and raffle drawing on Sunday. A fireworks

display will be at 10:15 p.m. on Saturday at the Doug Johnson Memorial Park at Cook Community Center.

An expanded list of activities can be found in an ad in this edition of the *Timberjay*. For a complete schedule with event times and locations, as well as additional information about all Timber Days has to offer, go to the Cook's

Annual Timber Days page on Facebook.

Correction

The story in last week's paper about the owner of Red Cabin Custard spelled the owner's name incorrectly. The correct spelling is William Chalmers.

CONGRATULATIONS

To the following Vermilion Community College students receiving awards totaling over \$105,000

<p>Academic Persistence Award: <i>Myah-Rain Hottenroth</i></p> <p>American Association of University Women, Ely Branch: <i>Sarah Iman</i></p> <p>American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps Scholarship: <i>Sophia Kurnava</i></p> <p>Bob and Lil Cary Memorial Scholarship: <i>Kayla Plucinski</i></p> <p>Compeer NRT Scholarship: <i>Zach Bauman</i></p> <p>Compeer NRT Scholarship: <i>Mark Friedges</i></p> <p>George Covich Memorial Scholarship: <i>Ronald Ducros</i></p> <p>Blaine Diesslin and Lucille Barnes Diesslin Scholarship: <i>Gage Kriese</i></p> <p>Ely EMPOWER Club Scholarship: <i>Haley Moog</i></p> <p>Ely Pickleball Club Scholarship: <i>Robert Jacks</i></p> <p>Ely Rotary Club William Mills Memorial Scholarship: <i>Kesley Ebbs</i></p> <p>Friends of Boundary Waters Wilderness Scholarship: <i>Spencer Hoefling</i></p> <p>Jason Henry Memorial Scholarship: <i>Kesley Ebbs</i></p> <p>Bert Hoyer Memorial NRT Internship Scholarship: <i>Andrew Miller</i></p> <p>Bert Hoyer Memorial NRT Internship Scholarship: <i>Hailey Hurlbut</i></p> <p>Bert Hoyer Memorial NRT Transfer Scholarship: <i>Dawson Stone</i></p> <p>Kiwanis Club of Ely Scholarship: <i>Shawna Butler</i></p> <p>Everett Laitala Memorial Scholarship: <i>Sarah Merkling</i></p> <p>Lake Country Power Les Beach Memorial Scholarship: <i>Kevin Heikkila</i></p> <p>Listening Point Foundation Scholarship: <i>Courtney Schurhammer</i></p> <p>Living the Dream Scholarship: <i>Alyssa Nash</i></p> <p>Lobe Helping Hands Scholarship: <i>Jorden Herry</i></p> <p>Joseph and Patrick Markovich Scholarship: <i>Caitlyn Riley</i></p>	<p>Joseph and Patrick Markovich Scholarship: <i>Steven Peterson</i></p> <p>Darlene McDonald Memorial Scholarship: <i>Mindy Bolar</i></p> <p>Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association: <i>Kayla Plucinski</i></p> <p>Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association: <i>Cassidy Zimmer</i></p> <p>MN Workforce Development Scholarship-Vet Tech: <i>Misty Bozich</i></p> <p>MN Workforce Development Scholarship-Vet Tech: <i>Nicole Draheim</i></p> <p>MN Workforce Development Scholarship-Vet Tech: <i>Kaylee Eidsmore</i></p> <p>MN Workforce Development Scholarship-Vet Tech: <i>Ciera Holmes-Selk</i></p> <p>MN Workforce Development Scholarship-Vet Tech: <i>Isabella Johnson</i></p> <p>MN Workforce Development Scholarship-Vet Tech: <i>Mackenzie Larson</i></p> <p>MN Workforce Development Scholarship-Vet Tech: <i>Leigh Neitzel</i></p> <p>MN Workforce Development Scholarship-Vet Tech: <i>Xavier Pauly</i></p> <p>MN Workforce Development Scholarship-Vet Tech: <i>LilyAnne Thomas</i></p> <p>Herb Moline Memorial Scholarship-Biology: <i>Andrew Miller</i></p> <p>Herb Moline Memorial Scholarship-Fine Arts: <i>Robert Jacks</i></p> <p>Edward and Esther Nelson Transfer Scholarship: <i>Jennifer Sandberg</i></p> <p>Edward and Esther Nelson Transfer Scholarship: <i>Dawson Stone</i></p> <p>Erik Ness Memorial Scholarship: <i>Sarah Iman</i></p> <p>Northeast Law Enforcement Administrator's Council: <i>Alyssa Nash</i></p> <p>Northshore Mining/Cliffs Natural Resources Scholarship: <i>Elijah Anderson</i></p> <p>Charles D. Novak Scholarship: <i>Dylan Fenske</i></p>	<p>Joseph and Theresa Popesh Transfer Scholarship: <i>Shawna Butler</i></p> <p>Barbara and Bill Rom Scholarship: <i>Chris Lachinski</i></p> <p>Anne Rozman Scholarship: <i>Dylan Fenske</i></p> <p>Rudy Semeja Memorial Scholarship: <i>Weston Stroschein</i></p> <p>Silvers MTU Memorial Scholarship: <i>Jasper Johnston</i></p> <p>Christy Scraab Scholarship: <i>Jovann Hamlin-Arana</i></p> <p>Michael S and Janice Smith Scholarship: <i>Siera Brazel</i></p> <p>St. Louis Cty. Mineral Royalties Scholarship: <i>Dylan Deutsch</i></p> <p>St. Louis Cty. Mineral Royalties Scholarship: <i>Nathan Johnson</i></p> <p>St. Louis Cty. Mineral Royalties Scholarship: <i>Sophia Kurnava</i></p> <p>St. Louis Cty. Mineral Royalties Scholarship: <i>Mackenzie Larson</i></p> <p>St. Louis Cty. Mineral Royalties Scholarship: <i>LilyAnne Thomas</i></p> <p>Steger Environmental Science Award: <i>Kesley Ebbs</i></p> <p>Supporters of the Vermilion Water Program Scholarship: <i>Cole Hoffman</i></p> <p>Twin Metals Scholarship: <i>John Butala</i></p> <p>Twin Metals Scholarship: <i>Jonathan Blake</i></p> <p>VCC Advisory Board Scholarship: <i>Gavin Commers</i></p> <p>VCC Faculty Association Scholarship: <i>Kassandra Hall</i></p> <p>VCC Faculty Association Scholarship: <i>Eric Kramer</i></p> <p>VCC Faculty Association Scholarship: <i>Kevin Heikkila</i></p> <p>VCC Faculty Association Scholarship: <i>Brett Wawers</i></p> <p>VCC Foundation Scholarship: <i>Nathan Postle</i></p> <p>VCC Foundation Scholarship: <i>Isaac Caron</i></p> <p>VCC New Student Achievement Scholarship: <i>Max Marcotte</i></p> <p>VCC New Student Achievement Scholarship: <i>Jaicee Krings</i></p> <p>Vermilion Range Trap Club Scholarship: <i>Rubin Lyngaas</i></p> <p>Vermilion Veterans Scholarship: <i>Sarah Iman</i></p>
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TOURISM

Ely makes the cut: Part of top towns to visit list this year

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY—This community at the end of the road is once again honored as one of the best places in the country to visit. In a recent issue, Smithsonian Magazine compiled a list of the 15 best small towns to visit in 2021.

“We love it when we are recognized across the country as a favorite place to visit,” said Eva Sebesta, Ely Chamber of Commerce executive director. “Last year, with the pandemic and low visitor numbers, I feel we really pulled it together. It was a tough year. I think the business community here put forth a very positive attitude and effort toward COVID and I think that left a lasting impression, especially for folks that haven’t been up here before.”

Laura Kiniry, a freelance writer specializing in food, drink, and travel, and a regular Smithsonian Magazine contributor, opened the review by extolling the virtues small towns have to offer as people get back to traveling and exploring America in the wake of the pandemic.

“Perhaps more than ever, now is a time to appreciate America’s small towns. As we begin to see the other side of a pandemic that kept so many of us isolated, it is easier to understand the value in those things we’ve missed,” Kiniry said.

“Whether it’s by enjoying an outdoor summer concert with neighbors or by catching up with friends at the local brewpub, a sense of community has been hard to find for many; Zoom and FaceTime made for adequate, virtual stand-



The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is one of the popular reasons to visit Ely. submitted photo

ins, but they don’t compare to the real thing. It’s those in-person interactions with familiar faces that make small towns so alluring,” she added.

“That is, along with the independent shops, hidden gem parklands, historic sites and architecture, unique restaurant finds, and, of course, a slower pace of life and relative affordability that numerous city dwellers are finding more and more appealing. Fortunately, many of America’s small towns are emerging from the effects of COVID-19 resilient and ready to welcome visitors,” Kiniry said.

All about Ely

This is what Kiniry wrote about Ely.

“Ely sits on the edge of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), over one million acres of interconnected lakes and streams, uncut forest and remote wetlands that just last year became the world’s largest internationally-certified Dark Sky Sanctuary. Tucked within the boundaries of northeast Minnesota’s Superior National Forest, the

BWCAW features more than 1,200 miles of canoe and kayak-only water routes. During the 18th and 19th centuries, Canadian voyageurs used these channels to transport fur. Today, they’re a paddler’s dream.

“Winter is Ely’s longest season. While dogsled adventures are a popular pastime (the town’s moniker is actually “Sled Dog Capital of the World”), cross-country skiing, ice fishing, and even family-friendly kicksledding, a mix of both skiing and dog sledding that involves propelling a chair through snow by kicking, all take center stage over approximately seven months of the year.

“The colorfully painted one- and two-sto-

ry structures along downtown Ely’s Sheridan Street (its main thoroughfare) exude endless charm, especially when blanketed in snow. Ely’s storefronts are also home to a wealth of locally-made goods, like the warm winter boots and moccasins of Steger Mukluk, Wintergreen Northern Wear’s outdoor apparel (all designed, cut, and sewn onsite), and even Crapola!, Ely’s own uniquely named granola company that’s known for its signature cranberry and apple mix. Piragis Northwoods Company offers all the supplies you’ll need for a fully outfitted paddling trip, while the Brandenburg Gallery is the perfect spot for perusing the works of

National Geographic photographer and local native, Jim Brandenburg.

“Moose, black bear, beaver and timber wolf can be seen in the greater Ely region. Pay a visit to the town’s International Wolf Center, a 17,000-square-foot facility where you can watch gray wolves frolic and hunt. Or get a close-up look at the North American Bear Center’s resident black bears Ted, Holly, Lucky and Tasha during daily behind-the-scenes tours.

“Hungry? Don’t miss the massive burgers at Stony Ridge Resort & Cafe (which doubles as an RV and tent campground), or pair a Blueberry Blonde ale with a beef brisket sandwich at Ely’s Boathouse

Brewpub & Restaurant. Join local residents for coffee roasted onsite and vino by the glass at Northern Ground Coffee + Wine Bar. Evergreen Restaurant is known for its all-day selection of fine casual cuisine, including corned beef hash for breakfast and broiled walleye at dinner.”

Other small towns that made the list include Council Grove, Kan., Fayetteville, W.Va., Muscle Shoals, Ala., Manitou Springs, Colo., Hatch, N.M., Goshen, N.Y., Nevada City, Calif., Bath, Maine, Brevard, N.C., Dyersville, Iowa, Wallace, Idaho, Charlevoix, Mich., Natchez, Miss., and Litchfield, Conn.

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SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS

Ely bows out in second round

Top seeds Barnum and MI-B combine to end Wolves' season

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

CLOQUET - The Timberwolves better-than-expected softball season came to an end last Thursday as they fell in back-to-back games to slip from the double-elimination Section 7A tournament. After advancing in the opening round just days before,

Left: Sydni Richards, Ely's lone senior this season, eyes the ball from the plate. photo by K. Vandervort

the Wolves fell 8-0 to top-seeded Barnum. Hours later, they fell 19-5 to Mt. Iron-Buhl, to end their playoff hopes, and end their season at 9-9.

Head Coach Cory Lassi wasn't too disappointed in his team's performance against the powerhouse Bombers. "We played pretty well and ended up giving up five runs in the second inning," he said. "It seemed like all season... we would have that one inning that we had a hard time getting out of. Their pitcher was dominant. She struck out eight and

had just one walk." Sydni Richards and Madeline Kallberg were the only players to get hits and the Wolves managed just four baserunners for the game.

It didn't get much easier against the second-seeded Rangers. "Katrina threw both games and did well," Lassi said. "It was a tough for her, and really, all the girls. It was pretty hot out there. Mt. Iron just came

See **SOFTBALL**, pg. 2B



BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

Grizzlies head to finals

Were set to face South Ridge on Thursday after back-to-back wins

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

AURORA - When the North Woods baseball team took the field for a June 3 Section 7A tournament game against Carlton at Mesabi East, the Grizzlies knew that any loss from that point on would end their season and their state tournament hopes.

The Grizzlies have used every tool in the toolbox - power hitting, aggressive base-running, precision pitching, stellar defensive play, and capitalizing on opponent mistakes, to name a few - to take down Carlton, Nashauk-Keewatin, Cherry and Silver Bay and position themselves for a sectional championship.

North Woods cashed its ticket to the championship on Tuesday night with a 6-3 win over the Mariners, a 7-3 loser earlier in the day to South Ridge.

In a game where all of the runs were scored in just the first three innings, Head Coach Jeff Smerud said the Grizzlies' good start was critical.

"The thing that helped us is that we got guys on base right away, and then Zach Cheney stepped up and hit a big two-run double," Smerud said.

Cheney was also pitching for North Woods, and he served up a mistake that Silver Bay's cleanup hitter pumped out of the park for a two-run homer to tie the game. But outside of that, Cheney was solid, as was the defense behind him.

"He gave up four hits total to a team that had two losses all year going into that game," Smerud said.

By drawing walks, connecting on timely hits, and cashing in on errors, the Grizzlies tallied four runs in the third inning for more than enough runs to usher them into the championship.

NW downs Cherry

The Grizzlies opened play on Tuesday against Cherry, a team Smerud used to coach before coming to North Woods, and the question going into the fourth inning was which pitcher would blink first. Andrew Zika was mostly zeroed in for the Grizzlies, but Tigers ace Beau Barry had a 1-0 lead as the Grizzlies came to bat in the bottom of the inning.

Barry looked sharp striking out two of the first three Grizzlies he faced, with Zika slipping in a single to right.

And then, inexplicably

See **GRIZZLIES**, pg. 2B

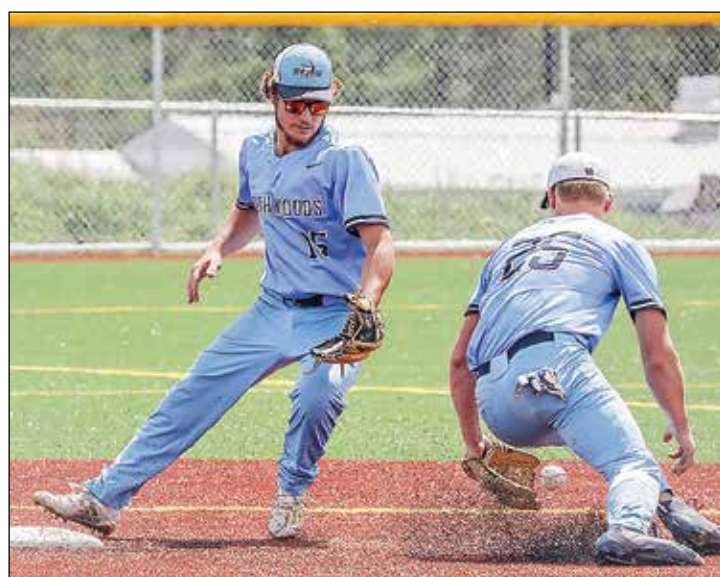


Above: The Grizzlies' Ben Kruse puts the wood to the ball during their recent playoff game with Carlton.

Left: North Woods hurler Andrew Zika winds for a pitch against Cherry.

Below: North Woods infielder Chris Chaulklin scrambles for a bobbled ball as Zach Cheney covers at second. The two combined for the out.

photos by D. Colburn



SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS

North Woods eliminated

Losses to South Ridge and Carlton end season

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

CLOQUET - An upset victory over Chisholm in the opening round of Section 7A softball tournament action set the North Woods team up for a long drive to Cloquet on June 3. An 11-2 loss to South Ridge and a 5-1 loss to Carlton made the final road trip home even longer.

The Grizzlies were riding a four-game win streak and flying high after hammering 25 hits in their 15-7 rout of Chisholm, but salty South Ridge pitching kept the Grizzlies locked down until the Panthers already had a 9-0 lead.

Helen Koch came home on an RBI double by Avery Thiel in the fourth, and Evelyn Brodeen scored on a ground out by Addy Hartway in the fifth to account for the Grizzlies' scoring. Ivy Chaulklin started for North Woods and took the loss.

The Carlton game was another instance in which the Grizzlies fell behind early and had to play catch up. Trailing 5-0 going into the top of the fifth, North Woods scored its only run of the game when Hannah Cheney walked, stole two bases, and then crossed the plate on another grounder by Addy Hartway. North Woods managed just four hits in the game, while Carlton rang up 10 against Evelyn Brodeen, who pitched all six innings in the loss.

The Grizzlies finished the season with a record of 9-13.

TRACK

North Woods distance runner advances to sectional meet

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

AURORA - North Woods distance runner Alex Burckhardt proved that youth is no obstacle to success last week, as the Grizzlies' eighth-grader, running with the South Ridge Panthers, nailed down a spot in the 3200-meters race at the Section 7A track and field meet on Thursday.



Burckhardt's sixth-place time of 11:17.3 in the June 2 North Sub-Section meet at Mesabi East was

North Woods eighth-grader Alex Burckhardt competes in an early-season varsity track meet at Mesabi East.

See **TRACK**, pg. 2B

HIGHER EDUCATION

VCC Foundation awarded \$75,000 grant for new lab

ELY – The Vermilion Community College Foundation, on behalf of VCC, is the recipient of a \$75,000 grant to help fund the construction of an outdoor learning lab.

The financial award is part of a \$825,000 award to community colleges across the 144-county territory of the Agriculture and Rural Initiative of Compeer Financial. VCC is among four community and technical colleges in the state to receive the educational grant.

Vermilion will use the grant to build an outdoor learning lab which includes a classroom and equipment storage for the Natural Resources Technology program. The grants are intended to help enhance the hands-on learning and real-world experiences



Left: The new Natural Resources Technology facility will be built on the existing cement pad located just east of the Natural Resource building. Standing in front of the site are Ray Podominick, Financial Aid Assistant and Bookstore Manager, with Rita Koch, Natural Resource Program Coordinator.

submitted photo

offered to agriculture students at institutions like VCC. Vermilion was selected as a partner based on their agricultural education offerings, agriculture workforce development and

geographic impact.

Rita Koch, Program Coordinator for the VCC Natural Resource Technology program, noted how the new learning facility will serve students

studying natural resources. “Our program is always thinking about ways to make sure our graduates are field-ready for work in natural resources,” she said. “This will be such a great space to continue to provide hands-on experience in equipment maintenance, wildlife nec-

ropsies, and also provide a marshalling space for our many field labs.”

Compeer Financial committed \$1.9 million in grants and scholarships over the next five years with the goal of further developing agriculture’s workforce. This is the first of three rounds of grants being presented.

“Because Compeer clients often list workforce development among their highest concerns, our board agreed that vocational agriculture education should be a high priority for the fund,” said Rodney Bosma, a Compeer financial director. “Our partners in higher education provide opportunities for young adults in rural communities every day, and we hope this support will enhance those training programs to

prepare them for a successful future in agriculture.”

The Agriculture and Rural Initiative was created by the Compeer Financial Board of Directors in 2019 to make signature investments in programs and projects that directly address the needs of farmers and others who work in agriculture.

“Community and technical colleges provide one-of-a-kind educational opportunities, which are focused on the needs and careers in those communities,” Bosma said. “These grants are part of Compeer’s commitment to champion rural development, by supporting our clients and communities, creating sustainable and long-term success in the industry.”

ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Marinucci named new county land commissioner

REGIONAL – Julie Marinucci has been chosen as the new Land Commissioner and Director of the St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department. Marinucci, who first joined the county in 2018 as the Mineral Development Specialist, was promoted the following year to Deputy Director of Land and Minerals. Her appointment to lead the department follows



Julie Marinucci

the retirement of previous director Mark Weber earlier this spring.

As director, Marinucci will lead a staff of 52 in the Land and Minerals Department who are responsible for managing approximately 900,000 acres of tax-forfeited trust lands, most of it maintained with an emphasis on forest sustainability. Additional work is done to determine mineral wealth below the

surface, and to preserve or create recreation opportunities.

Marinucci holds a degree in Mine Engineering from Michigan Tech. Prior to joining the county, she held multiple jobs in the mining industry on the Iron Range, including mine operations and engineering.

“Julie brings strong leadership and extensive knowledge and experience to this role, not to mention

tremendous vision and insights,” said County Administrator Kevin Gray. “Her work in mining and natural resource management, and the strong working relationships she has developed with public agencies and the private sector will serve us all well.”

“St. Louis County is home to dynamic forestry and mining industries as well as recreation and busi-

ness development opportunities,” said Marinucci. “The ability to leverage the land base with a focus on sustainable development and partnership provides for exciting growth potential. I am proud of the work of the Lands and Minerals team and look forward to serving the people of St. Louis County.”

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

bly, Barry blinked, lost control, and walked three consecutive batters to score North Woods’ first run. A throwing error on an infield grounder by Cole Thiel allowed Ty Leinonen and Talen Jarshaw to cross the plate, and Louie Panichi stole home when the Cherry catcher couldn’t handle an errant pitch. With only one hit, the Grizzlies had a 4-1 lead.

The final innings weren’t without some anxious moments for Zika and the Grizzlies, but everyone came up with plays when the Grizzlies needed them, particularly center fielder Jake Panichi, who made two spectacular grabs in the seventh inning to send the Tigers home for

the season.

“That’s what it came down to – who made the mistakes and how bad would it cost you,” Smerud said. “That’s what it takes sometimes, is to get lucky.”

Panichi’s acrobatic catches were “game-saving,” Smerud said.

“If they get through, they change the tide of the game,” he said. “If you give up big hits, the other team gets a little life. He took the life right out of them.

N-K tops North Woods

The Spartans sent the Grizzlies to the elimination bracket with a 5-2 win on June 1. Two days later, North Woods sent them home for good with a dominant 15-0 win.

The big inning was the

third, when North Woods scored seven runs to double their lead to 14-0. Cole Thiel and Zach Cheney each went 2-of-3 at the plate as the Grizzlies smacked 10 hits for 13 RBIs in the game while drawing nine walks. Andrew Zika got the complete game five-inning shutout.

Grizz edge Carlton

The Grizzlies’ winning streak started with a tough 4-2 squeaker over Carlton on June 3. In the decisive fifth inning, Zach Cheney and Jake Panichi reached on singles and scored on grounders by Andrew Zika and Ty Leinonen for a 4-1 lead. Panichi started the game on the mound and held Carlton in check with only four hits until Zika

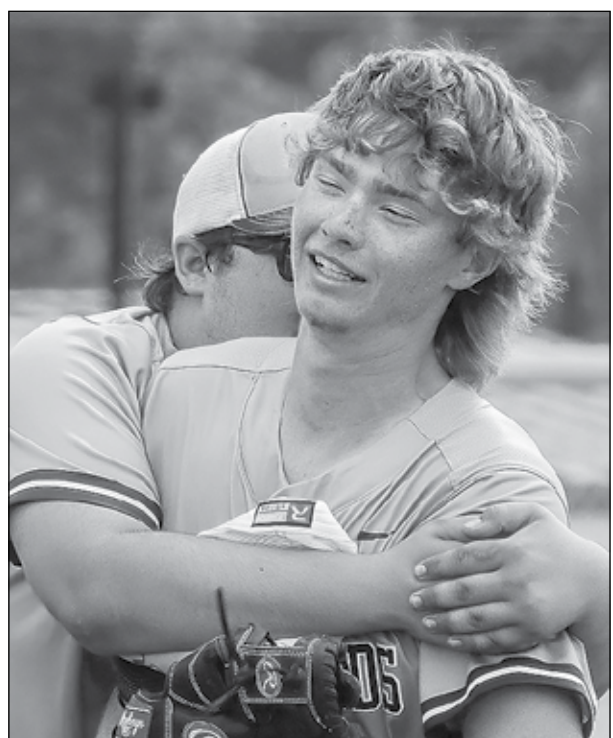
came on with two outs in the seventh to secure the win.

Championship tilt

North Woods drew state-ranked South Ridge for their opponent in Thursday’s scheduled championship matchup. South Ridge won two earlier meetings of the teams. The Grizzlies needed to beat the Panthers twice to advance to state. The results of Thursday’s action will be posted on the *Timberjay* website and Facebook page, as well as in next week’s print edition.

Right: The Grizzlies’ Jake Panichi is embraced by a teammate following their playoff victories.

photo by D. Colburn



SOFTBALL...Continued from page 1B

out and really hit the ball against us.”

Ely scored two runs in the top of the first, and the Rangers answered with four runs in the bottom of the frame. Mt. Iron added eight runs in the second to put the game out of reach. “It felt like we were running out of steam,” Lassi said.

While the team’s youth

and inexperience posed challenges this year, it could well be an advantage as the team looks to next year. “I told the girls after we were done that our future looks bright,” he said.

The team will lose just one senior, Sydni Richards, to graduation, although she’ll leave a noticeable

hole on the team. “We have lots of young players, but Sydni showed her leadership and hard work and led the way this season. She had a good attitude, always worked hard. She was so encouraging and also led by example behind the plate as a first-year catcher.”

Richards led the team with 84 plate appearances,

including 30 hits and 27 RBIs for the season. Junior Charly Flom scored 36 runs and drew 19 walks, while Kate Coughlin showed power, rapping 10 doubles over the season. Rachel Coughlin hit two triples and the team’s lone homerun.

Pitcher Katrina Seliskar had 67 at bats and had 22 hits. The junior

hurler pitched 103 and one-third innings, with 80 strikeouts.

While some of the younger players may not have regularly made the stats list, Lassi said he had the rare opportunity of giving some of the seventh- and eighth-grad-

ers on the team significant playing time, and that bodes well for the future. “Getting 30 or 40 at bats as a seventh-grader at the varsity level is significant in helping them develop their skills,” he said.

TRACK...Continued from page 1B

well back of Greenway/Nashauk/Keewatins senior Geno Uhrbom’s winning mark of 10:08.2 but was good enough to advance to sectionals on June 10. Two seniors, two juniors, and a sophomore finished ahead of Burckhardt.

“He did a fabulous

job for an eighth grader,” Panthers Head Coach Jeremy Polson said. “It is great for him getting this experience at such a young age. I expect big things out of him this coming fall in cross country and years to come. Look for Alex to be one of the top runners in

the section.”

The sub-sectional meet was the last high school track and field hurrah for North Woods seniors Joey Lakoskey and Zuly Roach. The pair ran together on the 4x200 relay team that finished eighth in a time of 2:08.32. Lakoskey also

competed in the 100-meter dash, which she ran in 14.64 seconds, placing 13th.

North Woods sophomore Cooper Antikainen also competed for the Panthers girls squad, placing 26th in the 200 with a time of 36.48.

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Obituaries and Death Notices

**Jean McClelland**

Jean McClelland, 96, of Duluth, died on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at Essentia Miller Dwan after a long illness. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, June 9 at Peace United Church of Christ in Duluth. Memorials are preferred and can be directed to the Central Hillside United Ministry (CHUM), 102 W 2nd Street, Duluth, MN 55802 or www.chumduluth.org. Arrangements were by the Cremation Society of Minnesota in Duluth.

Jean was born on June 23, 1924, to Grace and Albert Nau in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. She graduated from Cleveland Heights High School and went on to get a degree in Chemistry from Wooster College in Wooster, Ohio, and an MD degree from Western Reserve Medical School in Cleveland, Ohio. She met her husband, John Gibson "Gib" McClelland in medical school, and they were married on Dec. 17, 1949. When Gib came down with tuberculosis, Jean moved in with her mother and helped her father-in-law with his pediatric practice. She had her first child while Gib was still in the hospital convalescing from tuberculosis. When Gib recovered, they went on to have five more children. Jean stopped her work as a pediatrician and stayed home to raise her children. When the youngest children were in junior high

school, Jean and Gib volunteered their time in health clinics of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa at Nett Lake and Lake Vermillion. At that time, Jean also began seeing pediatric patients at the East Range Clinic in Virginia. She and Gib retired in 1987 and moved to their cabin on the Pike River Flowage, where they enjoyed canoeing the river and hiking and snowshoeing in the woods. Jean continued to enjoy living on the Pike River Flowage after Gib died on March 6, 2001, but moved to the Primrose Retirement Community in Duluth in 2009 in order to live closer to her children. She made dear friends at Primrose and enjoyed the activities for residents, especially the Book Club and the Pontoon Boat Rides on the St. Louis River. She enjoyed trips up the shore with her children and grandchildren, hikes around Duluth, and visits to her children in California, Idaho, New Mexico and New York. In 2016, Jean donated her cabin and the land on the Pike River Flowage to Big City Mountaineers, a non-profit that takes inner-city youth from Minneapolis into the Boundary Waters.

Jean will be remembered as an active, loving mother and grandmother who loved to use her sewing and needlecraft skills to make gifts for her children and grandchildren. She sewed wedding dresses for her daughters, suit coats for her sons, and mother-of-the-bride dresses for her friends. She knit countless sweaters, mittens, and wool socks for her children and made beautiful cross-stitch samplers that marked the birth of her grandchildren. Most recently her family enjoyed hearing about the latest biography she was reading and talking about the birds that were coming to her feeders and our feeders. She cared deeply

about our country and dutifully kept herself abreast of civic problems and the policies being considered to address them. Her last weeks were a struggle through which she remained strong. We are grateful she has been delivered from her suffering.

Jean is survived by her six children, Joan McClelland (Stephen Glick) of White Rock, N.M.; Tom McClelland (Carin) of Northport, N.Y.; Dan McClelland (Irene) of El Cerrito, Calif.; Kevin McClelland (Mary Jo Tomlinson) of Ashland, Wis.; Carol McClelland-Thomas (Greg Thomas) of Eagle, Idaho, and Mary Adams (Jeff) of Duluth; grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Jesse McClelland (Carol Treska) and daughters Charlotte and Ivy of Cleveland, Ohio; Annie McClelland of Louisville, Ky.; Gina Glick of Las Vegas, Nev.; Katie Rowen (Dan) of Chicago, Ill.; Keighry McClelland of Astoria, N.Y.; Sarah Adams of Minneapolis; Matthew Thomas (Ellie) of Boise, Idaho; Laura Joella (Dane) and daughters Charlotte and Violet of Port Washington, N.Y.; Clara Thomas of Boise, Idaho; Parker Adams (Sarah) of Madison Heights, Mich.; and Joe McClelland of Northport, N.Y.

Michelle K. Voll

Michelle "Shelley" Karen Voll, 53, of Soudan, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, June 3, 2021, at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth. A celebration of life will be held at a later date, and more information will follow. She will be laid to rest next to her father and brother in Owatonna. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her husband, Frank Joseph Akins; son, Justin (Dina) of Babbitt; daughters, Allison (Ernest) of Ely and Erica of Soudan; moth-

er, Karen of Ely; brother, Keith of Ely; sister, Nicole of Virginia; grandchildren, Brayden, Ashton, Jazmyne, Hugo, Otto and Lincoln; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

**Patricia J. Christensen**

Patricia J. "Patty" Christensen, 87, of Hermantown, passed away on Thursday, June 3, 2021, at St. Luke's Hospital Hospice Unit in Duluth. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, June 29 at Park Hill Cemetery in Duluth. Memorials are appreciated to Trinity Lutheran Church or St. Luke's Foundation-Hospice.

Pat was born on Dec. 17, 1933, in Ely, to Toivo and Lila (Maki) Waisanen and grew up in Embarrass and Vermilion Lake townships. She graduated from Embarrass High School in 1951, and went to St. Luke's School of Nursing in Duluth, receiving her RN degree in 1954. Pat married Richard "Dick" Christensen in 1956. She worked her entire career at St. Luke's Hospital and was one of the founding RNs on the St. Luke's Hospice Unit. Pat was active at Trinity Lutheran Church in Duluth. For 23 years, she volunteered as the secretary of the St. Luke's School of Nursing Alumni Association. She had many feline companions over the years and loved bird watching.

Pat is survived by her son, Jeff Christensen of

Wascott, Wis.; daughter, Sally Smith of Duluth; sister, Betty Pierce; sister-in-law, JoAnn Christensen; nieces, nephews and cousins; and her cat, Griffin.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and husband, Dick.

Clifford N. Orcutt

Clifford Norman Orcutt, 83, of Crosby, died on Friday, June 4, 2021, after a short battle with cancer. He passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by his family. Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Saturday, June 12 at Koop Funeral Home in Crosby. A celebration of life service will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 13 at Koop Funeral Home with visitation from 1 p.m. until the service. Burial will be at Lakewood Cemetery in Deerwood and will be followed by a reception at the Ironton Legion.

He is survived by his children, Kevin (Sally) Orcutt of Babbitt, Kathy (Karl) Littler of Babbitt, Norma (John Luke) Orcutt of St. Cloud, Brian (Ra-becca) Orcutt of Babbitt and Pat (Nancy) Orcutt of Babbitt; 14 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; brothers, Willy Banister of Emily, Tim (Diane) Hummel of Ironton, Gene (Ginny) Hummel of Embarrass, Jim (Eva) Orcutt of The Villages, Fla., Philip Orcutt of Benton, Ill., and James (Linda) Wakefield of Aitken; sister, Helen (Dan) Bean of Mulkeytown, Ill.; fiancée, Marge Horner of Deerwood; and extended family and friends.

Frank M. Jaeger

Frank Mathew Jaeger, 86, of Babbitt, passed away on Thursday, June 3, 2021, at his home. Services were held on Tuesday, June 8 at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Babbitt. Burial was at Argo Cemetery, followed by a celebration of life at the

Junction Inn and Suites in Babbitt. Family arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his children, Connie (Curt) Koivisto, Carleen (John) Flint, Mike (Sandy) Jaeger, Jim (Kevin) Jaeger and Mary (Mark) Bodine; daughter-in-law, Theresa Jaeger; 10 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Dirk G. Jochems

Dirk Gijsbert Jochems, 88, passed peacefully away, on his own terms, on Sunday, March 28, 2021. On Saturday, June 5, he took his final pontoon ride on Crane Lake with some of the great, old-time jazz musicians, Jelly Roll Morton, Fats Waller and Jimmy Nune.

He is survived by his children, Peter Jochems (Deborah), Ellen Falcone (Patrick) and Ingrid Holzman (Eric); grandchildren, Kerri Voelker (Philip), Ian Jochems (Erin), Sara Jochems (Kevin Marx), Dirk and Rya Holzman; and great-grandchildren, Samantha and Anderson Voelker, Emery and Tessa Marx.

Steven Nevala and Robert Nevala

Visitation for Steven Nevala and Robert Nevala will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, June 11 at the Embarrass Town Hall, 7503 Levander Road. A memorial service will follow at noon at the Town Hall. Inurnment in the Embarrass Cemetery will follow the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to Sisu Heritage, Inc., PO Box 71, Embarrass, MN 55732. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

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2021 SEASON

SUMMER WELLNESS SCHEDULE

Weekly Medical Clinics and Fluoride Clinics
Ely Community Health Center • 111 S 4th Ave. E
Every Thursday Evening • 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
A 2-minute fluoride varnish treatment can help protect your teeth between dental visits. No appointment required. No one is turned away and services are FREE.

2nd and 4th Thursday
COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics • 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Come after work and before dinner for your COVID-19 Vaccination. Anyone 18 or older who has not completed their vaccinations is invited. No reservation required.

If you get vaccinated you will receive a \$10 Ely Chamber Bucks redeemable at numerous locations throughout Ely per poke.

Wednesday Wellness
Ely Senior Center • 27 S 1st Ave E
1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month • 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Free blood pressure clinics, No appointment required, Services at no cost.

1st and 3rd Wednesday • COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics • 9 a.m. to 12 noon
Come after work and before dinner for your COVID-19 Vaccination. Anyone 18 or older who has not completed their vaccinations is invited. No reservation required.

If you get vaccinated you will receive a \$10 Ely Chamber Bucks redeemable at numerous locations throughout Ely per poke.

Tasty Tuesdays
Ely Senior Center • 27 S 1st Ave E
3rd Tuesday of each month • 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Come to our new class offering nutritious cooking tips for you and your family. We've partnered with the University of Minnesota and a local cook to show you how to prepare tasty meals on a budget. Participants get free tastings in class and a grocery bag of ingredients to take. The class is free however registration is required. Call our office @ 218-365-5678 to register or for more information.

Ely Community Health Center • 111 S 4th Ave E • 218-365-5678



Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

GETTING KIDS OUTDOORS

Take a Kid Fishing, June 11-13

Start a new family tradition on a dock or fishing pier near you

REGIONAL—During Take a Kid Fishing weekend Friday, June 11, through Sunday, June 13, Minnesota residents can fish without licenses if they take children 15 or younger fishing with them.

“Time spent fishing with kids tends to be full of smiles, fun and connection,”

said Benji Kohn, volunteer mentor program coordinator with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. “Fishing can teach kids patience, build their confidence, and turn into a great family bonding experience.”

Youth 15 and younger do not require fishing licens-

es at any time of the year, though they must observe all fishing seasons and other regulations. Take a Kid Fishing weekend allows adults to fish without a license, as long as they take a child fishing with them. Minnesota residents also may generally fish in state parks without a fishing

license if the body of water does not require a trout stamp.

Learn to fish opportunities

Adults who want to learn about fishing ahead of Take a Kid Fishing Weekend

See FISHING...pg. 5B



You can take your kids fishing for free June 11-13. It's a great way to get your kids in the outdoors.



CLIMATE WOBBLE

A little bit of everything

Late May and early June have offered up a wild range of temperatures, precipitation

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Blistering heat. Freezing cold. Drought. Torrential rain. Hail.

And that's just some of the weather that the North Country has experienced in the past two weeks and it's been having repercussions across the region during what is normally a wet, cool, and largely sedate part of the summer.

Intense heat, dry air, and high winds have kept firefighters busy in recent days, mostly chasing lightning strike fires in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness during some of the most dangerous fire weather in years. At least three small fires were reported over this past weekend, ranging from one-to-five acres. Fire crews from the U.S. Forest Service and Department of Natural Resources jumped quickly on reports of smoke, hitting the blazes hard with aerial water drops to head off fire growth.

While the Forest Service does occasionally allow natural fires to provide their benefits to the forest, fire spokesperson Tim Engrav said a couple factors have convinced fire officials on the Superior National Forest to act quickly to suppress any reported fires, at least for now. “A big part of the reason is the conditions we're experiencing,” said Engrav. “Our typical fire season usually doesn't come until July or August,” he said, noting that the resource demand for a

potentially summer-long fire season would be substantial. And with much of the western United States in the grip of exceptional drought, the western fire season is predicted to be potentially catastrophic, further tapping the limited federal firefighting capacity. Engrav said planners don't want to tie up staff for weeks at a time to monitor and slow natural fires.

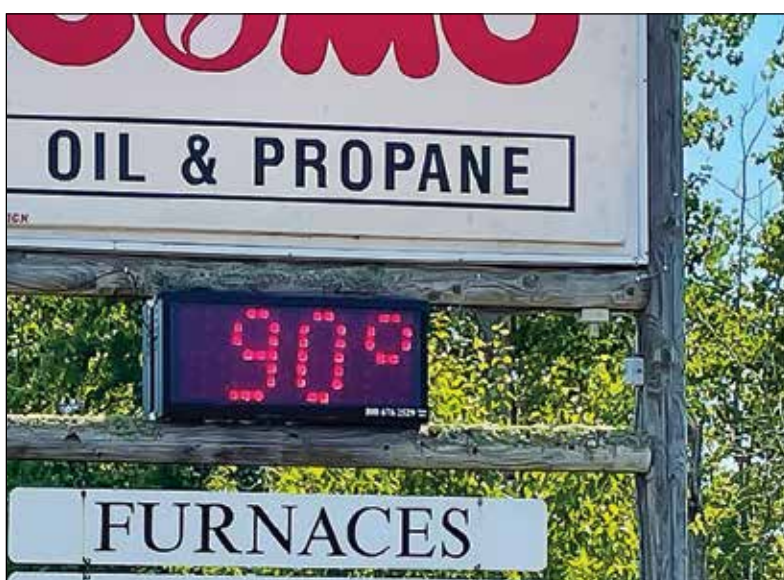
One of the fires, dubbed the Hassel Lake Fire, was detected by Forest Service aerial reconnaissance this past weekend and had grown to about 12 acres by Monday, despite an aggressive response from the air. It's located just north and west of Burntside Lake, near Ely, putting substantial private property value at potential risk were the fire to grow. An updated report on Tuesday noted that about half an inch of rain had fallen on the fire scene during Monday night's thunderstorm, which fire officials hoped would allow them to begin to contain the fire. The fire is located in a remote portion of the wilderness, far from any travel routes.

The current conditions are highly unusual for June, which is normally the North Country's wettest month, and often features cool weather. “I can't say this hasn't happened in June, but this does feel like more activity than normal this early in the season,” said Engrav. While the region does experience a spring fire season, it usually quiets down

See WEATHER...pg. 5B

Above: Smokey the Bear puts the word out about the fire danger that has been in place throughout most of the snow-free season so far this year. On and off rains have helped at times, but the overall trend has kept danger high, even during what is usually the coolest and wettest part of the summer.

Below: The Como Oil sign along Hwy. 169 flashes the temperature this past Saturday. Bottom: Damaged tomatoes inside a Tower area greenhouse following an exceptionally hard freeze over the last few days of May. photos by M. HelMBERGER



Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower
CANADAMAYFLOWER



The Canada Mayflower, *Maiathemum canadense*, is one of our more common early June wildflowers.

It grows in shady places, seeming to prefer mixed woods or conifers. It's recognized most easily by its lily-like leaves, which are attached singly in a zig-zag fashion up the 4-5 inch stem.

The tiny white flowers grow in a short, loose spike at the top of the stem. Later in the season, those flowers will transform into small speckled, tan-colored berries. The only similar species, the three-leaved false Solomon's seal, *Maiathemum trifolium*, is confined almost exclusively to bogs in our area.

WILDLIFE

Tower residents asked to stop feeding bears

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— City officials here are asking residents to stop feeding bears, even inadvertently, after a rash of incidents with hungry bears that have moved into town the past few weeks.

Mayor Orlyn Kringstad reports he's received several phone calls from residents complaining about others in the community who they believe are actively feeding bears. In other cases, bears are taking advantage of unsecured garbage and creating a nuisance. DNR Tower Area Wildlife Manager Tom Rusch said residents and businesses can reduce or eliminate bear problems by ensuring that garbage is contained and secured. “If we can fix that issue, the bears go elsewhere,” he said. Rusch said he received a call from one Tower business that sought permission to shoot a bear that was raiding their dumpster, but Rusch said the agency doesn't issue such permits unless the bear presents a clear public safety threat.

Rusch said the recent hard freeze that hit the area may have affected natural bear foods

See BEARS...pg. 5B

A NOTABLE CATCH



Jennie Nelson, of Embarrass, caught and released this 34-inch northern while fishing on opener with her family. submitted photo

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LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday								
74 54				80 53				80 53				79 52				82 54								
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
05/31	68	41	0.28		05/31	68	39	0.94		05/31	67	45	0.58		05/31	70	41	0.18		05/31	68	38	0.64	
06/01	72	39	0.00		06/01	70	36	0.00		06/01	71	45	0.00		06/01	75	39	0.00		06/01	70	38	0.00	
06/02	76	43	0.00		06/02	75	36	0.00		06/02	76	47	0.00		06/02	81	50	0.00		06/02	75	42	0.00	
06/03	78	49	0.00		06/03	79	44	0.00		06/03	80	49	0.01		06/03	82	57	0.02		06/03	79	52	0.00	
06/04	82	50	0.04		06/04	81	47	0.05		06/04	80	57	0.08		06/04	95	50	0.03		06/04	81	47	0.10	
06/05	95	55	0.00		06/05	94	47	0.00		06/05	95	57	0.06		06/05	91	61	0.00		06/05	94	52	0.00	
06/06	95	64	0.00		06/06	94	64	0.00		06/06	91	57	0.00		06/06	90	64	0.04		06/06	92	64	0.00	
Total			6.01		YTD Total			6.29		YTD Total			6.32		YTD Total			6.32		YTD Total			7.28	

Fishing report

Ely area

Walleye fishing slowed way down as the record heat wave moved in. Anglers fishing during the day really struggled to find active walleyes. Early risers and night owls often reported a very different story. Both of these anglers reported similar locations, techniques and times to be out for success. Early risers often caught walleyes, often before 8 a.m., in six feet of water or less, often right off their docks. Night owls, fishing after 8 p.m., also reported catching walleye shallow with a slip bobber and a leech or search baits (paddle tails or minnow baits).

Smallmouth bass are either building spawning beds, spawning or have wrapped spawning, depending on what lake you're on. Regardless of where they are with the spawn, they are shallow and very easy to catch right now. Ned rigs, tubes and even top water lures have all been very effective on bass right now.

Stream trout fishing has cooled off for the shore angler on many of the area lakes. Warm water temps are largely to blame. Boat/canoe anglers have been catching some very respectable trout in some of the smaller, less-fished trout lakes. Jigs and twisters jigged over deeper water, small crankbaits trolled over deep water, and night crawlers floated off the bottom have all been very effective ways to catch trout.

Lake trout fishing has remained steady this last week, but there are more and more reports of the trout being caught out in deeper water. Trolling spoons fished behind down riggers, or three colors of leadcore and stick bait have both been the predominant way anglers are catching lakereels. Anglers fishing from a canoe have been reporting good success jigging heavy 1-1/2 to 2 oz bucktails over deep water.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors, Ely.

WEATHER...Continued from page 4B

once things green up. "Things have greened up now," said Engrav.

While the area has received spotty rains, it hasn't been enough to keep fire danger in check for more than a day or two. Engrav said a number of fire danger criteria, such as the dryness of forest duff, have been reaching very high to extreme levels in recent days. Currently, fire danger, in general, ranges from very high to extreme around the area. The National Weather Service has issued three or four fire warnings in recent days for critical or near-critical fire danger, due to low humidity, high winds, and record warm temperatures.

A strong thunderstorm that ripped through the region early Tuesday morning helped bring temporary relief, along with hail for the second time in a week. Meanwhile, high temperatures and dry conditions are expected to return next week.

The recent hot weather is not just unusual, it's unprecedented for the first week of June here in the North Country. "Never has it been so warm so early in June," said state climatologist Pete Boulay this week. When it hit 98 degrees in

International Falls late last week, it was the earliest in the year it ever reached such a temperature in the border city. Climatologists use I-Falls as a benchmark because it has one of the longest periods of record of any station in far northern Minnesota. "Early June is not typically a hot weather time," said Boulay, who said the only Junes in recent memory that saw a similar string of 90-degree weather were in 1988 and 1995, both more than a quarter century ago. Boulay noted that many reporting stations in western Minnesota, including far northwestern Minnesota, have already reported temperatures of over 100 degrees. "It shouldn't be this hot this early," said Boulay. "We could be in for one heck of a summer."

The hot temperatures came just days after a string of some of the coldest weather in years in the final days of May, when official temperatures reached the low 20s in many areas around the North Country and some unofficial readings dipped as low as the upper teens. The cold snap damaged many gardens, even though residents took steps to cover sensitive plants. Even

some trees, like black ash and big-toothed aspen, both of which are sensitive to frost, had new leaves killed by the cold. Wild blueberry crops were also likely affected by the hard freeze, at a time when the plants were flowering.

Boulay said the wild gyrations in the weather may well continue, at least in northern Minnesota. Boulay said a frontal boundary has remained more or less stationary over the region in recent days. "That's been separating the hot and dry from the hot and humid, like we've seen in the Cities. Boulay notes that such frontal boundaries tend to be active for storms. "They tend to move along the edge of the hot bubble. Right now, you're sitting on the edge of the ring of fire."

The current forecast calls for possible thunderstorms Thursday and Friday, with clear and dry conditions for the weekend. High temperatures are forecast to reach the upper 70s over the weekend, with heat building back in early next week. The average high for June 11 in the region is 72 degrees, with a normal low of 44.

FISHING...Continued from page 4B

should go to the DNR's Learn to Fish webpage, which covers fishing basics, where to fish, how to catch different types of fish, and

the importance of fishing ethics and being stewards of Minnesota's natural resources.

Anyone 16 or older can buy

fishing licenses online at mndnr.gov/buyalicense.

BEARS...

Continued from page 4B

since a lot of early succulent growth, which bears feed on, was killed. He said he expects the freeze also caused widespread damage to the blueberry crop, since it came just as the plants were in bloom. He said bears look for alternatives when their natural foods are in short supply, and that can prompt them to come into town, where bird feeders, outdoor grills, and garbage can make tempting targets.

While residents who actively feed bears may believe their offerings are helpful to the hungry animals, such feeding can actually create more problems for bears, particularly in town, given the danger that humans pose to bears. Bear-human conflicts, after all, frequently result in the death of bears.

Black bears rarely attack humans, but they are powerful animals and could hurt a person in a close encounter, particularly if afraid or when protecting cubs.

CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

DRY.

CLEAN

- ✓ Boats, trailers, and gear
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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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PUBLIC NOTICE

**2021-2022 and 2021-2023
Cook Hospital Bids
For Propane**

Two separate sealed propane bids will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., June 21 with contracts to begin October 2021.

Propane Bid #1: 180,000 gallons for 2021-2022
Propane Bid #2: 360,000 gallons for 2021-2023

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 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 22 at 4:00 p.m.

Teresa Debevec, CEO

Published in the Timberjay: June 4, 11 & 18, 2021

**KUGLER TOWNSHIP
Regular Meeting Notice**

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall.

Christopher Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, June 11, 2021

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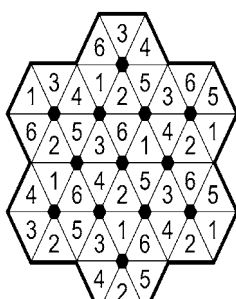


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EMPLOYMENT



Exciting Job Opportunities at the Ely Community Health Center

We are offering two opportunities to join our team at the Ely Community Health Center. This is a very exciting time of transition as we are expanding into dental care and with additional populations. The Executive Director is a perfect venture for someone with leadership abilities and both positions are tremendously rewarding. **There is the possibility of combining the two into one position.**

ECHC is a non-profit free health clinic serving Ely and the surrounding communities. The Center provides basic health care at no cost to those who are uninsured or underinsured. The clinic is located at 111 South 4th Avenue East in Ely and is open every Thursday evening from 5:30-7:00, plus offers additional programs and services.

Executive Director

The Executive Director is responsible for all operations, staffing, and administration of the Center. The Director will work closely with the Medical Directors, Board Chair, various service providers, funding resources, and will collaborate with other organizations to expand programs. The position is part time at 20-25 hours/week with pay at \$20-25/hour depending on experience. **A background in healthcare is not necessary.**

We are seeking an individual with the following qualifications:

- Administrative, managerial and organizational skills
- Strong communication skills, both written and verbal
- Ability to be self-directed and demonstrate sound leadership and judgment
- Computer literacy
- Commitment to the mission of ECHC
- Grant writing experience is desirable
- Bachelor's degree preferred

Insurance Navigator

The Insurance Navigator will provide health insurance navigation to Ely area citizens at the Center. Hours will increase during the period of open enrollment (October-November). This individual will receive training and become a certified insurance navigator. Online training requires 10-20 hours initially and annual recertification. The individual must commit to this position for at least one year. A background check is required. The position is part time at 5-10 hours/week with pay at \$15/hour.

We are seeking an individual with the following qualifications:

- Strong interpersonal skills
- Basic technical and computer skills
- Desire to assist and empower others in gaining services
- Detail oriented

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to Dr. Mary Bianco at mbianco520@gmail.com. Please also contact Dr. Bianco for more information and full position descriptions. Application review will begin immediately until the positions are filled. For more information about ECHC, visit our website at <http://www.elycommunityhealth.org>.

FULL-TIME BARTENDER

The City of Orr is accepting applications for a full-time bartender for the Orr Municipal Liquor Store. This is a salaried position that includes vacation package, health insurance, life insurance, retirement and sick leave. Looking for individuals who can interact with customers in a professional, friendly manner. Must pass background check. The City of Orr is a drug-free work place and Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications may be picked up at the Orr City Hall, 4429 Highway 53, Orr. Call City Hall at 218-757-3288 with any questions. tfn



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Apply at 100 Miners Dr. in Ely or call 218-365-6553 tfn

**POSITION OPENING
Ely Public Schools
Head Football Coach**

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for a Head Football Coach for the 2021 fall season. Background check required.

Application and full job description is available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

A complete application must include the following:
 > District Application
 > Resume
 > Copy of credentials declaring appropriate License (per M.S. 122A.22)

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

Stipend: \$5,600

Deadline to apply: June 15, 2021; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, June 4 & 11, 2021

Super Crossword

Answers

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



OPEN POSITIONS 10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Accounting

FT Accounting/Benefits/Payroll Specialist

Care Center

PT Nursing Assistant (wage starting at \$16.36/hr - Sign-On Bonus)

PT RN or LPN (\$4,000 Sign-On Bonus)

Dietary

PT Dietary Aide/Cook

Activities

Casual Activities Assistant

Environmental Services

PT Housekeeper

Casual Laundry Aide

Casual Housekeeping & Laundry

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More Info? Contact Human Resources

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humanresources@cookhospital.org

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Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 6/11

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!



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.

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Becca Bundy at 218-780-5423
or vhhpdirector@gmail.com.
This ad is paid for by Virgie
Hegg Hospice Partners.

SUPPORT GROUPS

ELY AA OPEN GROUP
MEETINGS- in person meet-
ings, 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.

ELY CO-DEPENDENTS
MEETING- Fridays at noon-St.
Anthony's Church Classroom
3-Use west side entrance. For
more information go to coda.org
on the web.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS-
Meetings every Wednesday
at 4:30 p.m. at Our Savior's
Lutheran Church, Virginia.

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

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

VIRGINIA AA WOMEN'S
MEETING- Ladies by the Lake.
Tuesdays at 12 noon. Peace
United Methodist Church, 303
S 9th Ave, please use side door
and parking.

AA 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
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(Narcotics Anonymous is a
non-profit organization.)

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS-
East Range meetings and infor-
mation, 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.

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tion, a valid license, and hand
tools. Good starting pay, equal
opportunity employer. Call or
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Garden Bowling Lanes). 7:30
a.m. to ?, June 16, 17, 18.
Come and shop before work.
Plus-size clothes (like new), fur-
niture, lotza bric-a-brac. 6/18p

HUGE ESTATE SALE- June 18
& 19, 8-4 both days. Park on
road. 1233 Walsh Rd. on Eagles
Nest Lake 2. Wide variety of
items for sale. 218-365-2815.
6/18p

Super Crossword

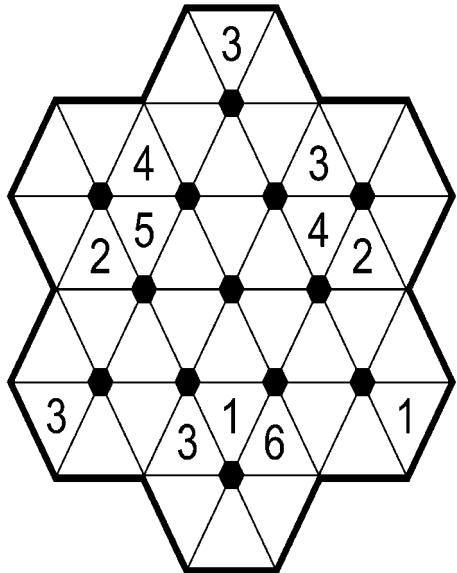
CITY HITS

ACROSS	1 Shoe statistic	6 ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron and such	12 "Lemme think about that ..."	15 "This looks bad"	19 New Olds in 1999	20 Get excited	21 Lead-in to classical	22 Cuban money	23 1964 Elvis Presley hit	25 Native of France's capital	27 Retired NBA star Ming	28 Ellipsis part	29 Article in many rap song titles	30 Printer insert	31 1974 Paper Lace hit	35 Copy and Paste setting	37 Demand (of)	38 '60s prez	39 Horn blast	40 Stocking-holding band	44 "It's my turn now"	45 Throw softly	48 Rear target in bowling	51 1985 Jan Hammer hit	55 Equine animal	56 — Moines	58 World Series org.	59 Cry of epiphany	60 Pie's place	61 Zest and Coast	63 Dangling bit of jewelry	65 Tip over	66 1959 Freddy Cannon hit	69 Battle reminders	71 Missionary "Mother"	72 "Sands of Iwo Jima" director Dwan	73 Raines of old films	74 Riverbed sand	75 Suffix with duct or project	77 Big klutz	78 Pig's place	81 1969 Glen Campbell hit	85 Rich Italian ice cream	87 Rescue request	88 Note after fa	89 Time pieces?	91 Noted times	92 Move to and —	93 Droop down	95 Carrier to Milan	98 1975 Elton John hit	105 Atlas feature showing altitude	106 Former big record gp.	107 Ultrasecret govt. org.	108 Big klutz	111 Quick web ordering option	112 1986 John Cougar Mellencamp hit that summarizes this puzzle?	115 Friendly bat of the eye	116 Mr. —! (Clue-like board game)	117 Cry of epiphany	118 Some upscale hotels	119 Some jeans	120 G.P.'s field	121 Looks hard	122 Occupy, as a desk	DOWN	1 Like tildes	2 Figure skater Kulik	3 Private prayers	4 "—la-la"	5 Poker variety	6 Moistening while cooking	7 Hip-hop mogul Gotti	8 "Pride — before destruction"	9 Need (to)	10 Son of Abraham	11 Guitar maker Paul	12 Empty a suitcase	13 Comic Anne offerer	15 Good aspect	16 Klum on many covers	17 Inedible type of orange	18 Fine-tuned	24 Top-caliber	26 Asimov classic	30 Lead-in to gender	32 URL lead-in	33 Apra Harbor locale	34 Mata —	35 Bluesy James	36 Performs	41 Cup part	42 Writer Gay or editor Nan	43 Diplomats' residences	44 Winter fight projectile	45 Flood barrier	46 Ill sign, say	47 Be flexible	49 Huge heroes	50 Sci-fi writer Stephenson	52 Sensed feeling	53 Land in the water, in Livorno	54 Cabbie's cry	57 Of positional relations	61 Wife of Abraham	62 Turtle topper	64 Purviews	65 Consumption	66 Shower powders	67 Intro drawing class, maybe	68 Wallop	69 Embroiders, e.g.	70 Ad biz award	74 Didn't waver	76 Water, to Henri	78 Of utmost importance	79 And the like: Abbr.	80 Prone to pry	82 Haifa's home	83 Close to	84 Close to	86 Jared of "Mr. Nobody"	90 "Burnt" hues	92 Movies, informally	93 Quenched, as thirst	94 Instagram, for one	96 Breather	97 Baking potatoes	98 Be on the hunt	99 Skating legend Sonja	100 Graff of "Ladybugs"	101 Pageant VIP	102 Folder's call	103 Ghana port	104 Phony sort	109 Thai's home	110 Swift	112 Where one lives: Abbr.	113 '50s prez	114 Former big record gp.
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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦ Difficult
♦♦♦ Medium ♦♦ Easy

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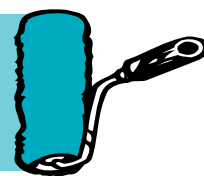
1	3	5	9	4	7	2	6	8
6	9	7	2	1	8	4	3	5
2	8	4	5	3	6	7	1	9
3	6	2	7	8	1	5	9	4
7	4	8	6	5	9	3	2	1
9	5	1	3	2	4	8	7	6
8	7	6	4	9	3	1	5	2
5	1	3	8	6	2	9	4	7
4	2	9	1	7	5	6	8	3

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LAKE VERMILION Large island on Frazer Bay. Approx. 5.75 acres and 1,500 ft lksh. Near public access and a private marina. Multiple potential building sites. **MLS #127863 \$199,000**

LAKE VERMILION 6.5 acre wooded lot w/ 221 ft of lksh. 3 BR, 1 BA usable mobile home. Beautiful views. **MLS #141558 NEW LISTING! \$300,000**

TOWER 10 undeveloped acres near Lake Vermilion. Large flat and level cleared building site with very nice elevated views. **MLS #140165 \$89,000**

LAKE VERMILION 1 BR, 3/4 BA cabin. 2.8 acres, 383 ft lksh. Peat filter septic system, drilled well. Bunkhouse w/kitchen and heated workshop. **MLS# 141225 SALE PENDING! Listed at \$349,000**

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Orr-\$439,000 2 BR log home with 2-sided fireplace and deck overlooking the Vermilion River. 30x40 garage with in-floor heat. **MLS#141552**

Crane Lake-\$569,000 Custom-built log home has 2 BR, 1.5 BA and attached garage all on one level. This home sits on 1.5 acres on a private dead end road and is within walking distance to Crane Lake! A must see home! **MLS#141464**

Orr-\$134,000 Well maintained, furnished 2 BR, 2 BA home with log siding on 2.04 acres. Property has a detached garage. Located near Myrtle Lake, ATV trails and many other area lakes. **MLS#141405**

Cook-\$90,000 Private 60-acre parcel is wooded with open fields. Near the Little Fork River. **MLS#141514**

Elbow Lake-\$69,000 2.3 acre boat-access lot on Elbow Lake, with 228 ft of lakeshore. **MLS#141517**

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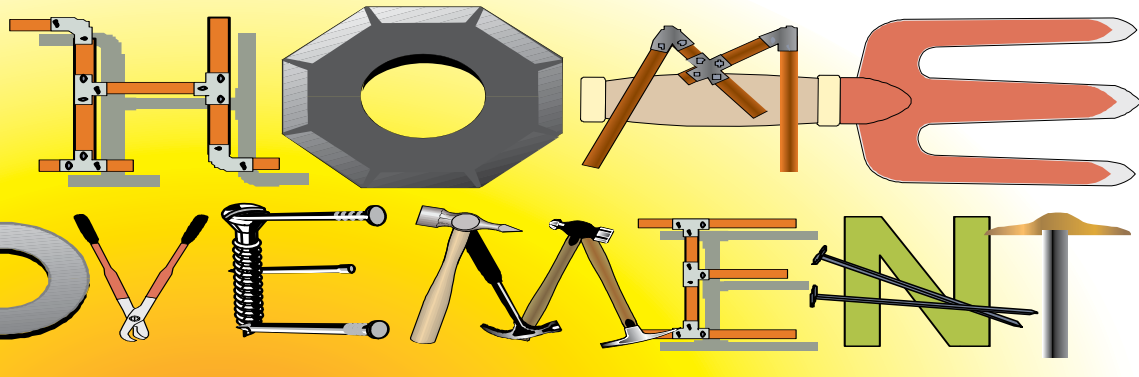
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Spring



What did I get myself into?

When the home improvement DIY gene steals your summer

What did I get myself into?

That's the question that keeps going through my mind whenever I think about the all-encompassing home improvement project that I agreed to take on with my two siblings last month in Tower. As if I didn't have enough to do.

As you might imagine, there's a bit of a backstory, and on that I'll try to be brief.

As with many families, ours spread out over the years. My brother lives outside of Taos, New Mexico, working as a handyman servicing everything from solar installations to plumbing in an off-grid community and my sister has lived as a gypsy,

wandering across the western U.S., employed mostly driving truck in the oil fields until she was laid off at the start of the COVID pandemic, when the bottom fell out in the oil patch. She's worked in oil fields in west Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, and North Dakota, but returned to Minnesota after her most recent layoff in hopes of caring for my 96-year-old father, who lived alone in his house in Plymouth up until last fall. It didn't go as planned.

My father has always been stubborn, a condition that advanced age and Alzheimer's has done little to improve. His doctor, his closest friends, and his Hennepin County social

See *DIY...pg. 2C*



MARSHALL HELMBERGER



Above: I point to the floor as I explain a next step in the demolition phase of the renovation of an old house in Tower that my siblings Zac and Clair have taken on. The project has become more involved than we originally imagined.



Left: Clair looks up as she pulls nails from a board. Given the price of lumber, we're reusing as much of the lumber from the demolition as we can.

photos by J. Summit

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DIY...Continued from page 1C

worker were all pushing us to get him into assisted living. He, of course, refused to go. We eventually forced the issue. Last September, we told him he was coming to Tower for a visit and to see the fall colors, but he never went back. My sister drove him up north and Jodi and I and a friend moved much of his stuff up in a U-Haul we brought in just as they left the driveway in Plymouth.

He was mad as a hornet several days later when the return trip home was all of seven miles, ultimate destination the senior living facility in Tower. We went around and around with him for weeks, visiting him daily, but he never settled in. COVID didn't make things easier.

Eventually, someone suggested we buy a house for him in Tower and have my sister move in with him. It sounded workable. The main reason we moved him in the first place was because he lived too far away for any of his kids to reasonably take care of him. And none of us wanted to live in the Twin Cities, which would have been required if he had stayed in his home.

We started looking and found a pretty good house for sale on N Third St., so we bought it last December with some of the proceeds from the sale of his house in Plymouth. Exactly six months later, my father has it made, although he'd never admit it. He's in a comfortable house, and he has nearly full-time help from family. He's eating better than ever and has stopped losing weight. We play cards and watch television together. With summer here, we bought patio furniture and eat dinners outside when the



Left: The house, located on N Third Street, will see better days ahead.

photo by M. Helmberger

execution has proven to be a bit tougher than it was with the purchase of my dad's house. His house was very comfortable and move-in ready. Not so with the house across the street. The price was right, but it's a long way from the dream house my mother is expecting.

At first, as my sister and I scoped the situation, we envisioned a tweak here and an adjustment there, some new kitchen cabinets, a bathroom touch-up, and a whitewash of the dark brown 1970s-vintage paneling that "graced" the dining and living rooms. Of course, my sister ripped the orange shag carpeting out within hours of closing on the property.

Yet everything is connected, so that tweak meant pulling down the drop ceiling, and that adjustment meant 14 other things that were all tied to it. And if we were going to do that, or this, we probably should do those two other things as well. Which is how my summer was, in a matter of hours, lost to a knock down-drag out gut and total renovation of a two-story house in Tower which is, fortunately, as I write this, nearing the end of the demolition phase.

This wasn't what I was planning for 2021, but sometimes things get away from us. Life happens, as they say.

Having two siblings to help is making the job easier, and more complicated, since it means sharing in the decision-making. My wife Jodi learned early on

weather's nice. And he can drive his kids crazy on a daily basis with an endless stream of questions that we've already answered a thousand times.

While there are always complications and chaos when you're dealing with someone like my father, it's actually gone about as well as we could have hoped. Which is why when the house across the street recently came on the market after the death of its lone occupant, we decided to buy it as well. My mother lives in Grand Rapids and while she's a good ten years younger than my father, she's having physical health issues and is no longer realistically able to take care of her house there. Having her right across the street from my father seemed incredibly convenient.

No more driving all around the state to check in on aging parents. This way, we can check on them daily and they're all of two blocks from our office.

This concept, having them across the street from each other, probably wouldn't have worked in years past. My parents divorced a long time ago mostly over the fact that my father was always off fishing. She asked her divorce lawyer if she could list the cause as "alienation of affection to the walleye," but her lawyer didn't think the judge would go for it.

Fortunately, they seem more tolerant of each other these days. Besides, my father forgets she's going to be living across the street as long as we don't mention it.

While the plan seems a good one in theory, the

to just stay out of my way when I'm unleashed on a home improvement project. That has its advantages, but it also meant working alone for the most part. And since I work a real job during the week, it meant progress was mostly made in weekend increments. Neither of my siblings have regular gigs, so they've been free to work almost every day, which means things are going faster.

It also helps that the demo is a big part of the job. The house, with a footprint of 28 x 28 feet, is pretty small, and it was made smaller by being broken up into lots of rooms. So, we're opening it up, which means we're removing walls that won't be replaced, or will be replaced with headers, which will be turned into faux beams. We're expanding a main level bathroom to include a shower and a stacking washer and dryer so my mother won't have to go into the basement to do her laundry or clean up. We're taking out walls upstairs as well, to create one large bedroom with an attached sitting room, connected through French doors. My mother said she's largely leaving the decisions to us, except that the house must include French doors and at least one arch, somewhere. Turns out, we found an arch after removing the old paneling on the main floor, so we're already making progress.

Fortunately, my brother is pretty handy with the electrical and plumbing and I have plenty of experience on the carpentry side. My sister is used to hard physical labor, so she's been relentless on the demo side. Just give her a sledge and she'll go to town.

Of course, because it's an old house, there

are unexpected surprises. Years of sweating pipes in the house left a section of floor rotted out on the first floor, so we cut everything out back to solid wood and are rebuilding the floor using treated material. We're also going to insulate the pipes so we don't have a repeat performance. As we've stripped walls, we've found some exterior walls with no insulation and nowhere, even in the attic, have we found more than three inches of fiberglass insulation. So, we've got a local insulation installer coming to help us button things up, probably with some strategic application of spray foam and lots of cellulose in the attic. The last thing we want for my mother is a big heating bill.

I'm also mindful of the fact that while we're creating a comfortable home for my mother, we're restoring housing stock that, hopefully, someday will be home to a new family in town. It's not enough to cover up the rot or ignore the wall with no insulation. For one thing, the house is sitting on the finest basement I've seen in Tower. While parts of the house date back to around 1900, with the square nails to prove it, the basement is concrete block, which looks like it was laid yesterday. There's not a hint of any water leakage, and no musty smell whatsoever.

The demo part of the job has been like peeling an onion. Successive layers go back in time, revealing different eras in the house's century-plus lifetime. Under at least two layers of vinyl flooring, we found an old cellulose-based linoleum with the exact same pattern I still recall from my grandparents' old farmhouse near Perham. Below that, are maple floors that we plan to restore throughout much of the first floor and upstairs.

Like other old houses I've explored in the area, this one was built, rebuilt, and added onto by different people over the years. Some knew what they were doing. Others didn't, so we're trying to address problems as we uncover them.

One thing's for sure... we have a long way to go to get the place livable. I had told my mother sometime this fall, but then she put her house in Grand Rapids on the market, and it took all of three days to sell, so now we have a deadline of mid-July. In other words, we have our work cut out for us.

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LIVING RIGHT

Evangelists of sustainability

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Two years ago, in these same pages, we wrote about high hopes.

Andy and Paula Hill of Ely were in the midst of building a demonstration home, of sorts, near the east end of Miner’s Lake, designed to showcase construction methods and materials that can dramatically lower the carbon footprint of a typical American household.

The typical single-family home in Minnesota is an energy hog, and we have plenty of them here in the North Country. But there are ways to turn that hog into a piglet or, better yet, to reach the ultimate goal of a net-zero home— and the

Hills were hoping to demonstrate that by incorporating such concepts into their new home and monitoring how well they actually work.

“The idea was to do this and monitor it for five years,” said Andy. “A lot of times, people do things with certain expectations but then don’t really dial in on how well it really worked.”

The five years of monitoring isn’t over, so Andy said the final story is yet to be written. But having lived in the house a bit over a year, including through an entire winter, the house is performing largely as expected, he said.

It’s done so without requiring any sacrifice in comfort, he said. “When we were out at our old place,

Above: Andy and Paula Hill sit on the steps outside their ultra energy-efficient home in Ely.

Right: Hill hosted students from Vermilion Community College to talk about their energy-efficient home.

photos by K. Vandervort

68 was our desired temperature, but my tolerance for cold got in a Greyhound bus and went south. It’s the “geezer factor,” said Andy, who notes that he and Paula kept their new 1,160 square-foot house

See **EVANGELISTS...**pg. 4C



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What to do when a project stalls

Upon embarking on a home improvement project, homeowners who have never before lived through such undertakings are often told to expect their projects to take more time than initial estimates suggested. Unforeseen complications can compromise project timelines, and some homeowners may find their projects stuck in neutral.

Stalled projects can make life at home difficult, and homeowners may feel helpless with regard to

getting a project back on course. But there are ways for homeowners to get stalled projects back on course.

► Start off on solid financial footing. It's important that homeowners who want to upgrade their homes enter the home improvement process with a realistic grasp of their finances. Many home improvement projects stall when homeowners run out of money. Homeowners can avoid such unfortunate situations by only beginning

a project they know they can afford. Whether funding a project with a loan or savings or a combination of both, homeowners should make an honest assessment of what they can afford to commit to a given project. If the amount of money available does not add up to the estimated cost of the project, delay the project now or you might be facing a stalled project down the road.

► Honestly assess whether or not you can finish the job. Do-it-yourselfers

Right: When a project stalls, it can be difficult to get it back on track.

may have the abilities to complete a project, but they should not let their pride get in the way of their ultimate goal, which is the completion of the project. In addition to money, time, or lack thereof, is often the culprit behind stalled projects. Homeowners with full-time

See **STALLED...6C**



EVANGELISTS...Continued from page 3C

between 70 and 72 degrees all winter. Andy also heated his 1,200 square-foot garage and workshop most of the winter as well.

All that heating required about a cord and a half of firewood and about 250 gallons of propane, according to Andy, a figure that also includes propane usage for cooking. That's around \$400 to heat their home, their water, and for cooking for the entire winter, a tiny fraction of what most other households in the region pay.

It generated just a fraction of the carbon output as well. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, burning 250 gallons of propane generates about 3,175 pounds of carbon dioxide, one of the primary greenhouse gases.

A cord and a half of hardwood firewood could generate about three tons of carbon dioxide when burned, but unlike fossil fuels, that's carbon that was recently removed from the atmosphere as the trees absorbed it through their growth. It's the release of carbon sequestered long ago from the atmosphere through the burning of fossil fuels that has altered the planet's natural carbon cycle and provided the bulk of the concerns about climate change. As long as firewood is harvested sustainably, burning of such biomass is generally considered carbon neutral, except for the fuel that's required to harvest and deliver the wood. Even if you count the carbon in the burned wood, the Hill's home generated less

than five tons of carbon for heating.

It's the home's exterior envelope that accounts for much of the savings on heat. With six inches of foam insulation on the exterior walls, giving an insulation value of R-92, and a rating of R-100 in the roof, the building loses remarkably little heat. The heat loss is further minimized by placing all of the wall insulation on the outside of the exterior stud framing, a construction method that minimizes the transfer of heat and cold through the wood framing itself. Andy acknowledges that he went a bit extreme on the wall insulation, but there was virtually no additional cost to do so in his case. Besides his other passions, Andy is an inveterate scrounger, who scored hundreds of

sheets of foam insulation that were otherwise headed to the landfill during a school roofing project in Babbitt. A fraction of that windfall was incorporated into his new house.

The Hills' home also has plenty of south-facing glass, which provides solar heat gain in the winter. And while windows are typically energy losers in homes, that's less so with the triple pane windows that the Hills installed. According to Andy, the performance of the windows was "pretty amazing," with no detectable drafts and no detectable frost, even on the coldest mornings.

Electricity from the sun

With a three-kilowatt solar array, the Hills' home is "off-grid," meaning it's not connected to the electrical lines that service

most homes in the area. That saves money, because utilities charge a monthly service fee on top of the cost of the electricity a household uses.

And Andy is full of superlatives when he talks about the utility of the photovoltaic panels. "They just absolutely work here in northern Minnesota," he said. The Hills lived off-grid for years, north of Babbitt, with a solar array half the size of the one they now have and Andy said it's challenging to figure out how to use all the power they now generate from their larger array.

They do maintain a backup generator for the more challenging six-week stretch around the winter solstice, when the days are short and cloud cover is common, but the generator consumed only 21 gallons

of gasoline over the past year. Total cost for fuel was about \$50.

The total carbon footprint from burning that much gasoline was about 412 pounds.

If the carbon savings don't provide enough encouragement to consider such an approach to housing, perhaps the cost savings will. While the typical household in the region often spends \$500 a month during the winter for heating and electricity, the Hills spent about \$600 for the entire year.

Spreading the word

The Hills recognize that one ultra-efficient home can't make a difference on its own, which is why the project is equal parts homebuilding and educational opportunity. Andy worked with the Ely Folk School to highlight some of the construction methods he used in his home. He's also offered an opportunity for young people to learn, bringing in student groups from as close as Vermilion Community College to as far away as the Twin Cities. He also arranged for the production of a series of newspaper columns on the building methods he used, which appeared in *the Timberjay* in 2019, when the house was being built.

When it comes to spreading the good word of green energy and sustainable living, Andy is a true evangelist. So, if you run into him one of these days, just ask him about his new place. He'll be happy to tell you all about it.



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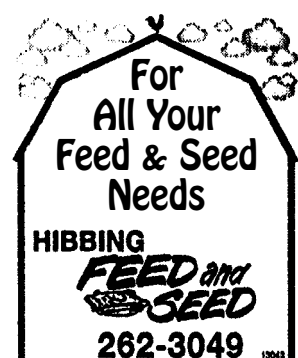
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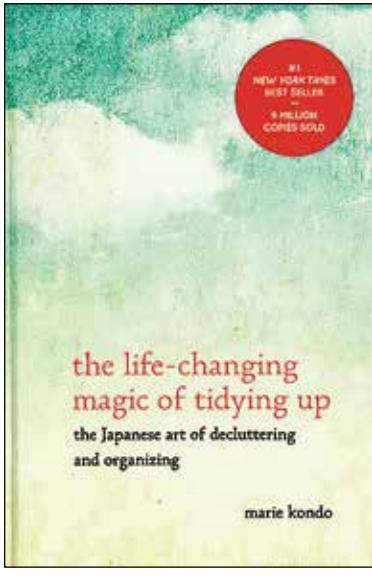
FIGHTING THE CLUTTER

Marie Kondo's tidying magic is life changing

This winter I received Marie Kondo's book, *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* as a gift. Kondo performs an awe-worthy balancing act of sweet wholesomeness paired with militant practicality. The moment I picked up her book, my life did change. That night I was so inspired I vigorously started throwing things away.

Oops! I guess I should have waited until I read a bit more of the book. Kondo is very serious when she tells us we must follow her steps exactly. She also recommends making this time of tidying a "festival." Try to get it all done in a week for the biggest wow-factor. Most of my festival was done in a three-week period in February. I've just recently begun my outdoor edition, where I'm tidying my tools, gardening supplies, outside toys and miscellaneous outdoor storage. I wasn't going to do that when it was 40 below!

Before getting started Kondo asks her readers to reflect on why they want to tidy their homes. For me, I wanted to spend less time managing and trying to organize all my things. I also wanted to be more comfortable in my home and have it feel more like a relaxing get-away than the old home with young children that it was. I've never been terribly messy and in the past I was great at tidying. I even wrote a column in the *Timberjay*, "Make more room for what matters," in April 2017 about it, suggesting some of the same ideas Kondo does. However, buying an already fully-furnished and stocked home with ample storage space and having two children led me to collect a lot of things that had started to become overwhelming. I was frustrated that my house lacked ample natural light; I was



frustrated with the ugly gold carpet my husband insisted on keeping; I was frustrated with my children who dominated my time and energy all while destroying my house day after day. Her questioning was able to help me identify exactly what I needed from her tidying method.

Kondo's first tidying category is clothes. People often collect clothing, either because they love buying them or hate to throw them away. I was guilty of keeping ill-fitting and stained clothes because I thought I might wear them again someday. I hated the idea of throwing away clothes that I paid for and whose production and shipping had a negative effect on the environment. But Kondo asks us to put all the things from one category in a big pile and to ask ourselves with each piece, "Does this item bring me joy?" If it doesn't make you feel joy in your heart, thank it for its service and

See **CLUTTER...**page 6C



STEPHANIE UKKOLA



Above: I worked to sort the tools we had in our home and garage. Kondo recommends putting all your things in a pile on the floor (or ground in this case) so you can see exactly what you have and identify your needs.

Left: The newly reorganized broom closet.

Below: Storage containers are sorted using shoe boxes to arrange bottoms and tops. photos by S. Ukkola



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GET YOUR REST

How to make your bedroom sleep-friendly

REGIONAL-Insufficient sleep causes more problems than many people may know. Fatigue after a poor night's sleep might seem like an inconvenience that can be easily rectified, but the long-term effects of insufficient sleep are significant.

➤ Set the right temperature. The NSF notes that research indicates a bedroom temperature of roughly 65°F makes for the best sleep. Human beings' body temperatures rise and fall throughout the day, reaching their lowest level around 5 a.m. each day before slowly climbing as morning begins. A room that is too warm overnight may interfere with this natural



dip, leading to restlessness.

➤ Address allergens. Some people

may trace their sleeping difficulties to allergies. Dust and pollen in the bedroom can make for a disruptive night's sleep. Wash bedding once per week in hot water if dust mites are proving problematic. If pillows cannot be washed, dry them using high heat to kill dust mites.

➤ Use a white noise machine. Noise is another potential contributor to poor sleep.

➤ Draw blinds, shades or curtains. Waking up to sunlight each day might be nice, but that morning sunlight may be interrupting your sleep. Early morning rays from the sun might be triggering your body to wake up before it's had adequate rest,

so make sure blinds, shades and curtains are drawn before going to bed at night so you are not woken up prematurely in the morning.

Making bedrooms more conducive to sleep is one way men and women can improve the quality of their nightly sleep. This can also help people suffering from insomnia or restlessness improve the quality of their sleep.

CLUTTER...Continued from page 4C

let it go. If it does bring joy, even if its use isn't immediately apparent, go ahead and hang onto it.

After going through clothes, she recommends next doing books, komono (aka miscellaneous: personal care, cooking, hobby items), next papers, and finally sentimental items.

I threw away approximately 27 bags of garbage,

gave away 38 donation boxes, and also got rid of about 10 pieces of furniture, four boxes of hazardous waste and two appliances. How did I ever accumulate so much stuff in three years? While not officially a part of her method, Kondo also inspired me to address the things that I had been putting off. I couldn't get rid of my gold carpet, so I

finally decorated my living room and went with a pink and gold theme; I love it! Now that all the stuff is gone, there's more room to breathe, I no longer waste time shuffling my things around, trying to find the best method of organizing them. I was able to re-arrange my storage areas for practicality. I eliminated most of my attic and base-

ment storage and found new homes for the items on the main floor, reducing trips between floors for my arthritic knees. I also replaced a few things that didn't spark joy, my shower curtain, dinnerware, wardrobe and bedding. As instructed, I kept only the things that brought me joy and thus, now I am wholly surrounded by joy. As I

walk between the rooms of my house I smile because I love how they look. The joy follows me in my interactions with my family, coworkers and neighbors; life is good.

"A dramatic reorganization of the home causes correspondingly dramatic changes in lifestyle and perspective. It is life transforming," Kondo said in

her book. It was a couple of intense weeks, but Marie Kondo was able to help me find the joy in my home and life.

Kondo's books are available through the Arrowhead Public Library System or online.

STALLED...Continued from page 4C

jobs, families or both may not be able to find the time to complete a job in a timely fashion. If the project has been stuck in neutral and no sudden windfall of free time is on the horizon, start contacting contractors to finish the job for you.

➤ Ask for help. There's

no shame in asking for help to complete a project. Some homeowners may underestimate the scope of a project until it's too late. Asking family, friends or neighbors for help might be the only way to get a stalled project back on track. Certain home improvement projects may

not require advanced skills, and even friends or family with little or no home improvement experience can pitch in to complete such projects. When more advanced projects stall, homeowners may want to hire contractors to complete the work. If budgets have

not left much room for hiring a contractor, homeowners can perform some of the labor on their own.

➤ Be mindful of

permits. Some home improvement projects require permits, and these permits often have expiration dates. Homeowners

must keep permits in mind when projects start to stall, recognizing that they may need to reapply for permits if projects go unfinished for especially long periods of time.

Stalled home improvement projects can be a nightmare. But homeowners can address such delays in various ways to get projects back on track.

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NEIGHBORLY ADVICE

Expand your outdoor living space

Improving backyard living can add value to your home



REGIONAL — Homeowners looking to add more space to their homes do not necessarily need to make major renovations. They simply have to see the possibilities in outdoor living spaces.

Outdoor living spaces are coveted niches in a home. The American Home Furnishings Alliance says more than 70 percent of American households have outdoor living spaces, and nearly 70 percent of people use these spaces at least once per week in-season. Furthermore, homeowners are increasingly interested in enhancing these spaces to make them more usable and comfortable.

A recent survey from the online home design and remodeling resource Houzz found that more than 4,500 users were planning a landscape update. In addition, 56 percent of homeowners surveyed were making updates to improve their yards for entertaining.

While the creation of outdoor living spaces can cost thousands of dollars depending on the renovation, homeowners have more budget-friendly options at their disposal as well. The following are some ways to create inviting spaces no matter how much square-footage is present.

Revamp a garage or shed

Rather than turning a storage area into a catch-all for items time forgot, clean out the space and put it to better use. For instance, kids may appreciate their own clubhouse away from the main living area. These spaces also can be handy bonus rooms for when Mother Nature doesn't cooperate and backyard guests need to seek shelter. Wall art, curtains, a pendant



light, and some comfortable outdoor-compatible furniture can quickly transform a space.

Create a relaxing nook

Whether there's a ledge, overhang, small terrace, or porch off the house, turn it into a relaxing area for reading a book or sipping a beverage. Use a few outdoor pillows, pull up a small folding table and dress the area with hanging lights and potted plants for a quiet retreat.

Add privacy to a porch

If it's privacy you covet, install curtain rods and hang lightweight mesh or another translucent material that obscures neighbors' views without blocking out natural light. Invest in outdoor sofas and chaises to create an outdoor living room right on the porch. If your budget allows, consider closing in the porch as a true three-season room so it can be used throughout fall, spring and summer.

Outdoor living spaces are booming and highly achievable, and many such spaces need not be expensive.

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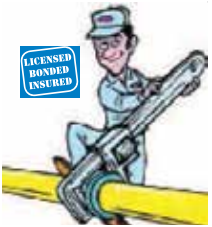
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BASIC HOME MAINTENANCE

Look now for signs of compromised gutters

REGIONAL — Compromised gutters can contribute to water issues in basements and adversely affect a home's foundation if not addressed immediately, so it behooves homeowners to learn the signs that gutters are in need of repair or replacement. Here are some warning signs that you may have a problem that needs to be addressed.

• **Gutters hanging off the home:** Gutters were once installed predominantly with spikes. However, many industry professionals now install gutters with hanger brackets. Why the change? Spikes loosen over time, leading to the gutters hanging off the home. That can contribute to serious issues if left untreated. Gutters hanging off the home need not necessarily be replaced, but rather secured to the home, ideally with hanger brackets instead of spikes. Brackets hook into the front of the gutter and are then screwed into the

fascia of a home. A professional who specializes in gutter repair can perform this task relatively quickly, and it's an inexpensive yet highly effective solution.

• **Gutter separation:** Gutters that are no longer fastened together can leak and contribute to issues that affect the home's foundation, siding and appearance. Clogs and the accumulation of debris can cause gutters to separate because they are not designed to hold too much weight. Replacement of separated gutters may or may not be necessary depending on how big the problem is and the condition of the existing gutters. If replacement is not necessary, separated gutters may be remedied by securing the joints, another relatively simple and inexpensive fix.

• **Peeling exterior paint:** Paint that appears to be peeling off of your home may indicate that water is seeping over

the edge of the gutter closest to your home. When that happens, water is coming down the side of the house, causing the paint to peel. In such instances, replacing the gutters is often necessary.

• **Basement flooding:** Not all signs of deteriorating gutters are outside a home. Many a homeowner has been flummoxed by flooding in their basements, and such flooding can be caused by aging, ineffective gutters. That's because deteriorating gutters sometimes allow water to leak near the foundation of a home, contributing to basement flooding.



OUTDOOR LIVING

The do's and don'ts of installing a fire pit

Many homeowners relish any opportunity to retreat to their back yards, where they can put up their feet and relax in the great outdoors. That retreat-like escape is made even more relaxing when sitting around a fire pit.

Fire pits can be found in millions of suburban backyards across the globe. Fire pits have become so popular that a 2016 survey of landscape architects conducted by the American Society of Landscape Architects revealed they were the most sought after outdoor design element. Fire pits remain wildly popular a half decade after that survey. Homeowners who are only now joining the fire pit revolution can keep these do's and don'ts in mind as they plan their summer s'mores sessions.

DO keep the fire pit a safe distance away from the home. Fire pits should be located a safe distance from the home at all times, but especially when they're in use. Home design experts recommend keeping fire pits a minimum of 10 to 20 feet away from a house or other structure, such as a shed or a detached garage. The further away the fire is from houses and other structures, the less likely

those structures are to catch on fire.

DON'T place the fire pit beneath trees or next to shrubs. Though fire pits should be kept safe distances away from a house and other structures, it's important that they're not placed beneath trees or next to shrubs. Shrubs and low hanging branches can easily catch embers and be lit ablaze, so make sure fire pits are not placed in locations that increase that risk.

DO clean out seasonal debris. It can be tempting to let seasonal debris resting inside the fire pit burn away during the season's first s'mores session. But burning debris poses a serious safety risk, as embers can easily be blown out of the fire pit and catch nearby trees or shrubs or even a home on fire. The National Fire Protection Association advises homeowners that embers blowing from a backyard fire pose the same threat to homes as if they are from a wildfire.

DON'T let fire pits



burn near flammable materials. Store firewood piles a safe distance away from the fire pit while it's in operation. It may be convenient to keep firewood right next to the fire pit while the fire is burning, but that increases the risk that embers will land on firewood and start a fire outside of the pit.

DO check the weather report prior to starting the fire. Windy weather increases the risk of embers blowing around and potentially landing on the house, other structures around the

property, or trees. If the weather report is calling for gusting winds, burn a fire on another night.

DON'T leave a fire pit fire burning. Unattended recreational fires are illegal and incredibly dangerous.

Homeowners should never leave fire pit fires burning unattended or allow fires to slowly die out overnight. Always extinguish the fire before going inside and stop adding wood to the fire roughly one hour before you plan to go inside. Water or sand can be poured on ashes to extinguish the fire. Once homeowners are confident a fire has been extinguished, ashes can be spread around to ensure there are no hot spots still burning. If there are, start the extinguishing process over again.

A night around the fire pit is a summertime tradition in many households. Safety must be as much a part of such traditions as s'mores.



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