

Week of May 1

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

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is May 16

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

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

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



Little League sign-up on May 6
SOUDAN- Tower-Soudan Little League sign-up will be held on Saturday, May 6 at 10 a.m. at the Soudan Ballfield. Registrations also taken online (scan the QR code above), or email towersoudanlittleleague@gmail.com.

Little league is open to all area children ages 4-8. Cost is \$25 per child. The first day of practice will be held on May 6, following registration.

St. James upcoming service schedule

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower will have services led by the following speakers for April. Services are Sunday at 10 a.m., with coffee an' following.
April 30- Pastor Ellen Taube.

Every Sunday, during the service, there is special music with Greg Kuchan on guitar and his wife, Denise Kuchan on electric drums.

Vermilion Lake Township cemetery cleanup day April 29

VERMILION LAKE TWP- Vermilion Lake Township will host their annual Cemetery Work Day on Saturday, April 29 starting at 1 p.m. Rain date will be May 6. Please bring shovels and rakes, if possible.

100th Birthday Open House for James Charles
Sunday, May 7 1-3 p.m.

Lake Minnetonka Shores Presbyterian Home 4559 Shoreline Drive Spring Park, MN 55384

Send well wishes to:

James Charles
Apartment 406
Lake Minnetonka Shores Presbyterian Home 4559 Shoreline Drive Spring Park, MN 55384

MAIN STREET

Tower teen about to become published illustrator

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

13-year-old Eva Larson gets her first professional art job

TOWER- Desirae Larson knows that her 13-year-old daughter Eva is a talented young artist. But when she posted some artwork that Eva had done for her online school's art competition, it started a chain of events that led to Eva being hired to illustrate a new book published by Bell Asteri Publishing.

"Brave, Courageous and Bold" tells the story of a young boy who was diagnosed with cancer when he was only 18 months old. His parents were told this type of cancer was always fatal in young children, but Luke not only survived, but thrived. At that time, he was the very first young patient with this type of cancer who not only went into remission, and now is a healthy 47-year-old.

The book is written by Luke's mother, Linda Park. Luke's sister, Dana-Susan Crews started Bell Asteri to publish books that put a spotlight on the childhood and young adult cancer community. All the proceeds from the books they publish are donated for cancer research and awareness campaigns. Their books are written by childhood cancer patients and their families. "Our mission is to improve the lives of children through the art of storytelling," Crews said.

It just so happened that these two families are connected. Eva's father, Andrew Larson, served in the Army with Luke, and the two became lifelong friends.

"He comes to visit us all the time," said Desirae. "We've gotten to meet their families. To be able to work with them has been an awesome experience."

When Linda Park saw Desirae's Facebook post, she wondered if Eva would agree to illustrate the book, which was about someone Eva knew as "Uncle Luke."

"I do a lot of art," said Eva. She has never had any formal art lessons, but loves to draw, paint, and explore other media.

"I lean towards realism," she said. Eva's first try at illustration for the book were more realistic, she said, noting she wasn't used to drawing in a more cartoony-style.

"They didn't like the style I used. They wanted stick-type figures."

Eva understood her job was to create the type of illustration the publisher and author wanted.

"They said I am so good at listening to directions," she said. "They loved my use of color, and only had a few changes for the final drawings I did."

Crews said they were impressed with Eva's work. Eva started working on the illustrations for the 34-page book this winter, and quickly finished the project.

"I actually thought it would take much longer and be more challenging for her since she is only 13," Crews said. "But this young lady worked so hard and listened to everything I requested and did the art exactly how I envisioned it. All of us were very impressed by her."

Eva said doing the illustrations was made even more special because of their family's connections. And while Eva did not receive an advance for her work, she will receive royalties based on the numbers of books that are sold. Right now, Eva is covering the cost of her art supplies with her babysitting earnings. Her favorite art supplies right now are Sharpies and Prismacolors, high-quality colored pencils, which come in a vast array of colors and shades.

Eva's parents are doing their best to support her talent. Eva, who has four sisters and two brothers, now has her own art studio space in a room that used to be shared by her two oldest sisters, who are grown and no longer live at home. Eva's other favorite pastime



Above: Eva Larson shows off some of her illustrations. photo by J. Summit

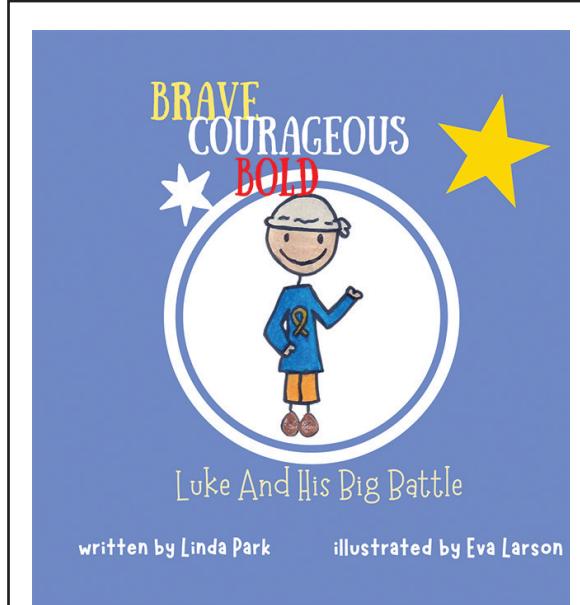
Right: The book cover.

Below: An illustration from the finished book.



is reading, something that runs in her family. Her grandmother Fran Larson was the Tower-Soudan School librarian, and her sister Sabrina also has worked as a librarian. Eva is also very attached to their family's one-year old Great Pyrenees named Remy, which she can often be seen walking with around town.

Right now, the book is available for presale. Once the book is printed, the family plans to do a book signing, or two, in Tower. The book signing will most likely feature lemonade and cookies. Watch for more information in an upcoming paper. Two things of significance for Luke's battle with cancer. Yellow is the ribbon color for childhood cancers, Desirae said. And shortly after Luke was diagnosed with his cancer, which affects the skull and spinal cord, the doctor asked his mother if Luke was able to talk, because most children with this rare type of cancer are not able to do so. Before she could answer, Luke, who had seen a package of cookies on the doctor's desk, piped up and asked, "Can I have some cookies?"



When Luke is diagnosed with a very rare type of childhood cancer, he and his whole family have to learn how to be brave, courageous and bold so they can all fight together. Luke shows us that you can be brave even when you're scared. He shows us that you can still be courageous even when you have to get poked and poisoned and hurt. He shows us that you can still be bold when you are very sick. Written by his mom, this story serves as a reminder to us all that childhood illness affects the entire family and even when it seems very scary, we can all be... BRAVE, COURAGEOUS and BOLD.

Proceeds from this book will be donated to Gold Together at the American Cancer Society and to the Histiocytosis Association. Information about purchasing the book is available at <https://www.bellasteri.com/>. The book is also available on Amazon, but when purchased from the publisher's website, the publisher is able to make a larger donation to the ACS. The book is available in hardcover, paperback, and on kindle. The kindle edition is already on the Amazon best seller's list. The book's publication date is May 26.

LAKE COUNTRY POWER

Co-op community connects for Lake Country Power Annual Meeting

COHASSET – A community of cooperative members gathered at the Cromwell-Wright School in Cromwell for the annual membership meeting on Thursday April 20. More than 145 members and guests gathered to hear how soaring material and labor costs are driving recent rate increases, and the challenges of supply and lead time issues for essential equipment needed to provide reliable and affordable electric service.

A presentation by Lake Country Power's wholesale energy provider, Great River Energy, highlighted the ever-changing landscape for the future of power generation and transmission in Minnesota as current legislation moves electric service providers

away from fossil fuels toward renewable power sources.

Members learned of the steady climb in cost increases for line materials since the 2020 pandemic, including supply chain issues. In 2022, the average increase was 30 percent more for materials but was surpassed at the beginning of 2023 with an average price increase of nearly 70 percent for those same materials. Lengthy lead times to receive necessary materials and equipment is also concerning.

As a result of multiple inflationary factors, Lake Country Power had no choice but to adjust load management rates on January 1 and general service rates starting March 1 including an increase in the service avail-

ability charge from \$42 to \$48 per month.

A special presentation during the annual meeting recognized 11 school districts within Lake Country Power's service area with funding through the cooperative's new Education Improvement Program. The program is funded through abandoned and unclaimed capital from previous members who can no longer be located. The State of Minnesota allows cooperatives to distribute these funds to tax-exempt organizations and cannot be used for internal operations at the co-op.

Annual meeting videos can be found on Lake Country Power's website, www.lakecountry-power.coop, or the co-op's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/lakecountrypower, starting the week of April 24.

Director election results were announced. Districts 4 and 8 held a special election to fill a two-year vacancy. The other three districts will fill three-year terms. Candidates ran unopposed in Districts 3 and 7.

Immediately following the adjournment of the annual meeting, the board of directors held a re-organizational meeting. Board officers are: Craig Olson from District 7, President; Daniel Kingsley from District 6, Vice President; Mike Forsman from District 2, Secretary; and Jason Long from District 1, Treasurer.