

### INSIDE

This week in Carlton County's only independent, locally owned newspaper.



Track stars make state  
**Page 9**



Father's Day fun  
**Page 18**



Students honored  
**Page 13**

### INDEX

- Weather ..... 2
- News ..... 3
- Opinion ..... 6
- Obituaries ..... 7
- Culture ..... 8
- Sports ..... 9
- Education ..... 13
- Community ..... 15
- Classified ..... 16
- Father's Day ..... 18



# STATE CHAMPS

## Cloquet boys win golf title

Steve Korby  
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In what will go down in state golf history as one of the most memorable, dramatic individual finishes in high school play, Sam Baker won the Class AA State Boys Golf Championship Wednesday. Add to all of that, the Cloquet boys team won it all as well.

Baker beat Beck Erholtz of Staples-Motley by one stroke. They traded the lead back and forth over the last few holes before Baker birdied two of the last three holes to emerge on top at the Ridges at Sand Creek golf course in Jordan.

Baker's group was the last to come in, so his teammates were waiting for him. They already knew they had the team championship locked up, so they were just waiting to see if he could pull out the individual win.

"I don't have a whole lot of words for it. Exciting, proud, all of the above," Baker said after it was all over. "Once I finished we celebrated as a team. There were lots of hugs and then after the awards ceremony we all jumped in a disgusting pond, with our white shirts on — it's a tradition for the state champs."

The team title was



**Top:** The Cloquet golf team is taking the state tournament championship trophy north this week after winning it all at the state meet in Jordan. Sam Baker won the individual title as well. **Above:** The team dove into what Baker called a "disgusting" pond on the 18th hole after the award ceremony. It's tradition for the state champs. *Contributed photos*

impressive. After posting a combined score of 300 on Tuesday, the Lumberjacks posted an even more spectacular total of 298 on Wednesday to win by 18

strokes. Eighth-grader Karson Young had two very solid rounds, including a one-over-par 73 on day two. His combined scores were good

enough for a fifth place overall finish. After eight holes on the second round, Young was one under par under pressure conditions. Sophomore Karson Patton

came back with a solid 74 on Day 2. Patton's round started with an eagle three on the par five first hole.

*Continued on Page 12*

## Court affirms Line 3 approvals based on oil demand

Dan Kraker  
MPR News

The Minnesota Court of Appeals handed a major victory to Enbridge Energy this week, affirming state utility regulators' approval of the Canadian company's Line 3 oil pipeline replacement project.

A three-judge panel ruled 2 to 1 that there is substan-

tial evidence to support the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's approval of the project. The PUC approved a certificate of need for the Line 3 project twice — in 2018, and again last year. The commission also granted the project a route permit, along a different route than the current Line 3.

But groups fighting the

project sued, arguing that Enbridge had failed to prove there's enough demand for the oil the pipeline will carry.

In Monday's ruling, the court acknowledged that "reasonable minds may differ on the central question of need for replacement Line 3," but that the PUC was correct in issuing the certificate of need — a key permit

required for the project to move forward.

The court also acknowledged that regulators needed to navigate a tight balance when considering the project, and "reasonably selected a route for the replacement pipeline based upon respect for tribal sovereignty, while minimizing environmental impacts," presiding judge Lucinda Jesson wrote in the

opinion.

The ruling comes one week after opponents staged the largest action yet against the controversial project. More than 200 activists were arrested for trespassing on the Two Inlets pumping station along the route, just a few miles south of Itasca State Park.

*Continued on Page 12*