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VOL. 29, ISSUE 12 March 30, 2018

SULFIDE MINING

PolyMet financial prospects dim

Company's new feasibility study shows increased costs, diminished profits

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—The economic prospects of PolyMet Mining's proposed NorthMet copper-nickel mine have diminished significantly from earlier projections, according to a new definitive feasibility study that the company issued this week.

The cost to build the mine has also escalated sharply from a 2012 estimate of about \$650 million, to \$945 million today according to the report. And that figure would

not include the cost of building a hydrometallurgical processing facility, which would add another \$259 million to the cost of construction, pushing the final price tag to just over \$1.2 billion.

Meanwhile, lower metal prices, particularly for nickel, have cut anticipated financial returns from the mine almost in half. And those estimates are based on copper and nickel price assumptions that are higher than current prices. In the past, the company has taken a more conservative approach to metal price

The former LTV processing plant, now owned by PolyMet, will be renovated as part of the NorthMet Mine project.

file photo

assumptions.

The latest report pegs copper prices at \$3.22 per pound, up from the current price of \$2.95. Copper prices have averaged just under \$3 per pound over the past year. The report also assumes an average nickel

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ELY

Two students suspended over threats at school

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

ELY - Charges could be coming against an Ely high school girl who left graffiti threats in an Ely Memorial High School restroom last week, and a boy who made social media threats over the weekend.

On Wednesday, March 21, the Ely Police Department responded to the Ely Memorial High School for written threats found in a restroom. According to a press release issued by the Ely PD, "Upon investigation, we have determined there was no credible threat of violence against the school."

A message was sent to parents both via email and computerized phone call alerting them of the threat. "Threatening graffiti was discovered in a bathroom in the Memorial Building on Wednesday afternoon, March 21. The Ely Police Department was immediately notified by administration. The Ely Police Department is investigating and has

See...ELY pg. 8

MARCH FOR OUR LIVES



Ely marchers join national rally for stricter gun laws

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

ELY - As many as 70 Ely residents braved a brisk early-spring wind Saturday morning to join the worldwide "March For Our Lives" event in calling for stricter gun laws in the United States. The rally was born out of the most recent student shooting at a Florida school last month

Dayna Mase, organizer of the local event, credited the students of Parkland

Dozens of Ely-area residents participated in a "March for Our Lives" rally Saturday morning in Whiteside Park. photo by K. Vandervort

High School for starting the movement that has resulted in protests as well as pressure on elected officials to enact further gun restrictions. "Those survivors are the ones who started this movement," she said.

See...MARCH pg. 10

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

PUC pushes Frontier to hold hearings

Cites overwhelming public comments on company's service

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Customers of Frontier Communications have responded in overwhelming numbers to the recent call for comments by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Commerce on the company's service quality and billing practices — and that has PUC staff recommending public hearings throughout Frontier's service territory.

That recommendation is contained within a staff report issued last week in advance of the PUC's next meeting, set for March 29.

"The total number of comments and complaints, often with detailed documentation, indicate that widespread problems with service quality, customer service and billing exist," concluded the commission staffers in their report.

While calls for public comment by the PUC typically yield fewer than a dozen responses, the commission had received a total of 429 comments and complaints through the first five weeks of the comment period. "This compares to the 529 comments received over 7 months in the recent Minnesota Power rate

See... FRONTIER pg. 8

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

New Embarrass Post Office set to open Monday

by **JODI SUMMIT**
Tower-Soudan Editor

EMBARRASS - The long wait for a new post office in Embarrass is almost over.

The new Embarrass Post Office is set to open Monday, April 2, after the old post office building

was closed in January 2015. The post office window will be open 7 – 11 a.m., and the building itself will be open 24/7 for the convenience of box holders.

Jennifer Boese, the current Embarrass Township clerk, has been hired as the new Postal

After more than three years, Embarrass will have a new post office starting Monday. submitted photo

Clerk, and is currently completing training for the job, which is part-time.

Equipping the new post office has been a lot of work, said Janice Johnson-Jacka, the Tower Postmaster, who oversees

the Soudan and Embarrass post offices. The post new office has new computers, meters, scales, and other equipment, which is now all installed. Wanda

See... MAIL pg. 10



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FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Expert says U.S. risks falling behind rest of the world

Longtime diplomat discusses rise of China, artificial intelligence, and increased economic integration now happening without the United States

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

S O U D A N — Longtime U.S. diplomat Tom Hanson portrayed a world in rapid change, with the U.S. no longer at the center of the action during a recent foreign affairs presentation held at the Vermilion Park Inn. “This is probably the most turbulent period I can remember,” Hanson said. “There are tremendous changes. And there are huge geopolitical shifts going on without us.”



Tom Hanson

While much of the U.S. media focuses on the daily distractions in our nation’s capital, Hanson said seismic change is taking place, particularly in Asia and Africa, that most Americans never hear about. “Our media does not do justice to this,” he said.

Hanson used two different maps to highlight the

degree to which power has shifted on the world stage. He showed a map with which many Americans would likely be familiar, with the U.S. in the center with Asia to the west and Europe to the east. But that map was based on the U.S. as the central global power in the 20th century. Today, said Hanson, Asia is at the center, and the U.S. is increasingly on the periphery of world events.

Some of this was inevitable with the growth of the Asian economy generally and China in particular, but Hanson said the Trump administration’s decision to pull back from international alliances and treaties, has provided an opening for other countries to fill the international power vacuum.

At the Davos Economic Summit in 2017, Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a very clear message, said Hanson, that

China would uphold the global free trading system.

“He said that protectionism was like locking yourself in a dark room with no air,” Hanson said. “He said that China, if it is necessary, will play the role of world leader.”

“This was a watershed moment in world affairs,” Hanson said.

While international leaders have typically been deferential to the U.S. at such events, Hanson said there was a new willingness by both business and political leaders to challenge U.S. leadership, particularly against complaints by the Trump administration that the world is taking America for granted.

Asian political and business leaders, in particular, accused the United States of “wasting” its wealth on its endless military interventions around the world, while other countries have invested their infrastructure and educating the next generation.

In 2017, the new-



An artist’s conception of the vast new city of Neom, currently slated for construction in Saudi Arabia beginning in 2025. The city is being planned as a new global technological center that would be operated primarily by artificial intelligence. submitted photo

ly-formed Trump Administration sent no high-level officials to Davos, noted Hanson, sending only Anthony Scaramucci, who at the time had no formal title or job in the administration. This year, President Donald Trump attended Davos with a message that the United States wanted to reform the trade system to reward those who played by the rules and noted that the United States will no longer tolerate state-led economic planning.

Hanson noted that Trump has expressed his

unhappiness with the idea of multi-lateral trade treaties, preferring bilateral agreements only.

Hanson said the risks of isolating the United States from multi-lateral trade deals are real, and that other countries are now actively striking trade deals among themselves, leaving the U.S. out of the picture.

“It is like a stone and water flows around it,” he said. “I am amazed at how rapidly it is happening.”

Perhaps one of the most dramatic examples is China’s One Belt One

Road Initiative, otherwise known the New Silk Road. China is investing close to a trillion dollars on the project which eventually will 60 countries across Eurasia and Africa through high-speed magnetic levitation trains and high speed shipping and massive new seaports, some of which are already under construction.

“Chinese leaders are mostly engineers by training,” Hanson said, and the country is investing heavily in their education

See **EXPERT...pg. 5**

POLYMET MINING

New contested case petition filed

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — PolyMet Mining’s proposed copper-nickel mine near Hoyt Lakes could face yet another hurdle, this time over the draft water discharge permits proposed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Duluth-based Water Legacy has filed a petition for a contested case hearing over the proposed permit, citing numerous alleged violations of both federal and state law. The petition, accompanied by a 90-page brief outlining the group’s concerns, comes on the heels of similar petitions filed by Water Legacy and the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy seeking a contested case hearing over the Department of Natural Resources’ proposed Permit to Mine.

The DNR has not announced whether it will accede to a contested case, which is similar to a trial, typically involving expert testimony from both sides before an administrative law judge at the Office of Administrative Hearings in St. Paul.

The process would likely play out over months, and possibly years, should decisions by the ALJ end up being appealed. Should the DNR or the MPCA decline a contested case proceeding, groups like Water Legacy and MCEA would still have the opportunity to file suit in district court. While the DNR’s permit to mine could be subject to a state court challenge, the MPCA’s proposed permit would likely face a federal court action, since the MPCA is subject to the provisions of the federal Clean Water Act.

In her brief, Water Legacy attorney Paula Maccabee alleges that

the MPCA permit fails to establish enforceable pollution standards for discharge of contaminants to both surface and groundwater and is likely to increase the threat of mercury contamination in downstream waters.

Maccabee raises concerns over several components of PolyMet’s proposal, including the protection of ground and surface water from a planned 526-acre, permanent waste-rock pile planned at the mine site as well as risks associated with the discharge from PolyMet’s hydrometallurgical autoclave, which would have very high levels of contaminants. Those would be issues that experts could potentially explore through a contested case proceeding.

The MPCA could agree to hold a wide-ranging contested case proceeding, could limit it to certain issues, or deny such a proceeding altogether.

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CITY OF ELY

Forum looks to boost Ely's tourism appeal

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The city council here hosted a tourism forum Tuesday night at their monthly study session. At least two-dozen interested citizens attended what Mayor Chuck Novak referred to as a brainstorming session to discuss ideas on how to market Ely as a vacation destination.

Novak highlighted the city's contribution to the area's tourism economy. In-kind services, valued at tens of thousands of dollars, are contributed annually by the city for various festivals and celebrations, he said.

The city is moving ahead with securing funding for a trailhead project, to be located at the west entrance to town. "Our hope is to have one trailhead for three trails, and that will draw many, many people to town,"

Novak said.

A new bike trail at the Hidden Valley Recreation Area has been in the works for many years and may soon become a reality.

A joint marketing effort with Giants Ridge and Fortune Bay Resort Casino is a top priority of the Ely Economic Development Authority. "We are looking at shuttling people back and forth. People who are staying there may want to come up for a day and hit the Bear Center and the Wolf Center, take a historic walk, and dine in our restaurants," he said.

As the city of Ely is not necessarily in the tourism business, Novak lamented that there is no coordinating mechanism to put all the tourism efforts together. Former Mayor Ross Petersen established an events coordinator bureau with three-



Creating more events, like the Ely Marathon, was among the ideas proposed at the Ely City Council study session this week, in order to boost tourism in the community. file photo

year financial contributions from various entities including the city of Ely, Chamber of Commerce Tourism Bureau and Merchant's Board, along with Incredible Ely. The Ely Marathon grew out

of the events coordinator bureau and has proven extremely successful. On the other hand, the Canoe Festival sank as a dismal failure.

Novak said he was hopeful

that the latest efforts to push tourism in Ely can continue and flourish. "We need more ideas on the board. Let's look at

See TOURISM...pg. 5

CITY OF TOWER

Council OKs bid for marina demo, contingent on IRRRB funds

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER – Renovations could begin shortly on the former Standing Bear Marina after the city council here approved the low bid of \$89,944, from Low Impact Excavating, of Ely, contingent upon funding approval from the IRRRB. Four other bids ranged from \$108,121 to \$186,500.

The work includes demolition of the existing docks and dock canopies, much of which is expected to be completed on the ice.

Your Boat Club, the marina operator that pur-

chased the facility last fall, is planning to install new docks and related accessories as part of its plan to convert the formerly run-down operation to a high-end boat club and public marina.

The company, which claims to be the largest privately-owned boat club in the world, is now accepting memberships for the facility, which will open later this spring even as renovations continue for the next few years.

Funding for the renovations are expected to come from the IRRRB's commercial demolition program.

In other business at the meeting on Monday, the council:

► Approved a preliminary quote from Perpich TV and Appliances in Mt. Iron for the installation of a security system at the Vermilion Country School, to allow the school to keep the school doors locked during the day while still letting visitors enter once identified.

School officials have been pushing for the system for a year, but had met resistance from councilors due to the cost. The system quoted by Perpich TV would likely cost about \$3,700, including installa-

tion. Mayor Josh Carlson asked if the school could cover some of that cost. Councilor Kevin Fitton, who is the school's administrator, said he would have to take that up with the school board at their April meeting. The council will likely take the matter up again once the school board makes a decision on its level of commitment.

City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith said funds to pay for the system would likely come from the

excess lease payments that the school makes to the city. The school pays \$78,000 to the city annually, which more than covers the \$55,000 debt service that the city owes on renovations it completed to make way for the school.

The school has now been in existence for five years, and is being reauthorized for another five years.

► Approved a new job description for the city maintenance worker position currently being

advertised. The position will open in May following the retirement of long-time maintenance foreman Randy Johnson. Current maintenance worker Dave Bjorgo will move up to foreman, leaving the vacancy for the maintenance worker position. Keith said the city has received three applications for the position so far.

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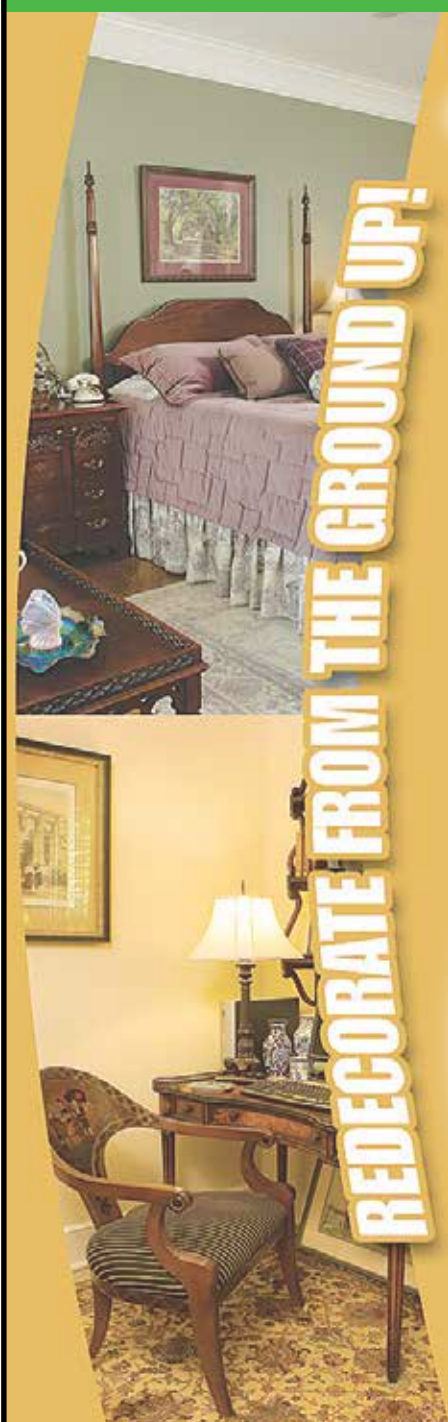
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OPINION

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e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Let the sun shine in

Public access laws should apply to all public officials, even legislators

For years, the Minnesota Legislature has done a good job of allowing the sun to shine on the workings of our government.

Statutes such as the Open Meeting Law allow residents and the media to find out when government meetings will be held, what will be discussed and, most importantly, grants the right to sit in on those discussions. The Minnesota Government Data Practices Act mandates that the vast majority of government records are open to the public.

The Legislature, to its credit, has also established processes through which the public can get relatively prompt action in situations where public officials don't abide by these laws.

This legal framework reflects the sound judgment of Minnesotans across the political spectrum, namely that open government at all levels is essential to democracy.

Unfortunately, Minnesota still harbors one enormous black hole in state government where public access remains far too limited—and that's at the Legislature itself.

While the above-noted laws apply to all state agencies, cities, school districts, and many other governmental and quasi-governmental entities, they don't apply to the work of the Legislature.

They should, and that's why a small, bipartisan group of legislators have introduced a bill that would do just that.

These bills are known as House File 1065 and Senate File 1393, and they would go a long way toward increasing the transparency of a critical branch of state government that has exempted itself from the rules for far too long. We urge readers to consider contacting their members of the Legislature to urge their support for this legislation.

We know that many members of the Legislature would just as soon see this

bill languish in committee. Sen. Tom Bakk, DFL-Cook, recently informed one of his constituents that he opposes the bill because it could make his email communications with constituents subject to disclosure.

But here's the reality—such communications are already subject to disclosure for elected members of the executive branch, for state agency officials, school board members, or city councilors. Why should the communications of legislators be considered somehow above the law? If sunshine is good for the goose, why not the gander?

In truth, few Minnesotans would be interested in the emails between legislators and their average constituent. Actual data requests for government emails are not common and bringing the Legislature under the same laws as everyone else likely wouldn't change that. But the public might be interested in emails between legislators and lobbyists, or large campaign contributors, and rightly so. If legislators are being subject to undue influence, shouldn't the public have a means to ferret that out?

The broader issue is that far too much of what happens at the Legislature is done behind closed doors, and it undermines the public's trust. The penchant of both the Legislature in St. Paul and the Congress in Washington to exempt themselves from a whole host of laws that apply everywhere else in government and society rankles the public at large. For legislators to exempt themselves from the same transparency laws that apply elsewhere in government is simply hypocritical.

Legislators should end the hypocrisy. Sunshine is a remarkable disinfectant, and it's time it starts to shine on the workings of the Legislature.



Letters from Readers

Plenty of concerns over the proposed school collaboration

Thank you to the *Timberjay* for the thorough March 21 article "Concerns raised over MI-B collaboration proposal". The property taxpayers in Greenwood Township need to keep an eye on this one. We don't need to get involved in this mess. Gilbert, Eveleth, Virginia and Mt. Iron-Buhl need to get together.

The article, including the concerns of two St. Louis County School Board members, pretty much dispels any significant financial benefits to our St. Louis County School District, or ISD 2142.

And the article correctly raises the question of how this combination of serious administrative duties of two completely different school districts, separate school boards, and separate labor contracts would even work. The duties of the Superintendent, the Director of Teaching and Learning, and the Transportation Director would be assumed by 2142. I wasn't aware that our administrators had so much spare time on their hands. Well, actually, the Transportation Director already told the board that it would need to hire an assistant director if 2142 and MI-B "share services". 2142 Board members Dan Manick and Chris Koivisto, along with the research done by the *Timberjay* for the article, make a good case why this "collaboration" should not go forward, in my opinion. The board members' concern is obviously education, of all things.

A concern that I think is valid is this: If the "collaboration" takes place, how long will it be before we're told that the administration of two completely different school districts is unwieldy and we need to totally absorb the MI-B district to make it work? I can feel it coming. If

I were a taxpayer in MI-B, that might look pretty inviting to me.

I believe that the best path forward for the students and the taxpayers is to not get involved in this "collaboration". The best thing for the students is for Gilbert, Eveleth, Virginia and Mt. Iron-Buhl to sort this out.

Lee Peterson
Greenwood Township
Lake Vermilion

Responsible steps available to curb gun violence

This weekend, marches took place across the country regarding gun violence in the United States and protesting a lack of action to address it. In many cases, these marches were driven by youth involvement. To see so many of our nation's young people come together to demonstrate peacefully is special and, at its core, exactly what makes our Republic great.

We have some problem-solving to do. The violence gripping our schools is unacceptable. There are common sense measures available that can help do two things: make our schools and communities safer and protect the rights of responsible gun owners. We can do both those things and we must.

I support universal background checks, like more than 90 percent of Americans. I support closing the gun show loopholes because not only are they dangerous, they allow gun shows to play by a different set of rules than our Minnesota gun shops.

Extreme risk protection orders, which could keep firearms out of the hands of dangerous people while still affording every citizen their right to due process, should be a high priority. State law should also clarify that bump stocks are illegal in Minnesota. If automatic weapons are banned in this country, any device that makes a legal semi-

automatic weapon behave like one should be banned too.

These are responsible steps to keep firearms out of the hands of dangerous people, but they're not perfect.

That's why I support putting money toward making our schools safer and allowing school districts to determine what safety improvements can be made to keep their students from harm.

Finally, giving our schools the resources they need to look after their students' mental health is a smart investment. Minnesota's counselor-to-student ratio is one of the worst in the nation. Access to social workers, counselors, and psychologists would save lives and keep the tragedy and turmoil of gun violence from impacting our communities.

Gun violence is a difficult problem but we have the tools to address it. Let's use them.

Rep. Rob Ecklund
MN House District 3A
Rep. Ecklund can be reached at the Capitol by email at rep.rob.ecklund@house.mn or by phone at 651-296-2190.

We want your letters!

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

Letters are a great way to offer your input to the *Timberjay's* editorial page. We want to know what you think!



EASTER BLESSINGS

Remembering old dogs while embracing the new

We're rediscovering the boundless energy and enthusiasm of a young dog, and the ways in which dog ownership can reorder our lives.

It's been several months now since we said our final goodbyes to our Rhodesian Ridgeback, Penny, who terrified our home and office as a puppy



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

before transitioning into a steadfast and loyal companion as an adult. She was a fixture at the office, demanding daily tribute from the UPS drivers, and at least half of Tom Klein's lunch every Wednesday, back when our late Cook-Orr editor would arrive at our Tower office for the weekly layout. Governors, senators, and

congressmen had all bent down to pet her belly over the years as they'd pass through town for the occasional interview and photo op. It was enough to give any dog the big head, not that Penny needed any encouragement.

It wasn't just attitude. She had an unmistakably regal countenance and my favorite memory is watching her perched on our office's front porch, lording over her Main Street domain. She was a powerful dog, that fit well with her dominant personality. Ridgebacks were bred to hunt

lions, after all, so there was little out there that could intimidate her. More than once she took off after an entire pack of wolves. She probably could have taken them if I hadn't called her off.

Perhaps because she was such a physical specimen, her inevitable decline was hard to watch. By about nine years of age, she had developed such terrible arthritis that the vet was surprised she could even walk. But walk she did, miles every day, thanks to the combination of pain meds and her tough-it-out

attitude. But soon other ailments and age took their toll. By age 13, she was deaf, and we had to lift her 85-pound bulk into the car each morning, to head to work.

As her physical condition declined, the fire in the belly that had animated her over the years slowly faded as well. By the end, last November, we could see the look in her weepy, old dog eyes. We knew the time had come.

While putting an old dog down is always a hard decision,

See **DOGS...**pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Would be nice to have a responsible person in charge

I know it's too much to ask, now that we have both Trump and Bolton in the White House - but could someone please remember that whatever happens in Korea is going to happen upwind?

And that nuclear devices - even "tactical" ones - produce very nasty results?

And then there's the distinct possibility that Mexico could get really tired of being pushed around and insulted, and turn to China as a partner. Can you imagine having Chinese Army, Navy, and Air Force bases on either or both Mexican coasts, within a couple

hundred miles of our border? I'll bet the Chinese can. They've been living with something very similar with our forces in Korea and Japan for more than seventy years now.

We've had the idea that the American empire is perpetual. Ain't necessarily so. Diplomacy is the art of making what you want look good to the other side. We've

gotten a bit short of that skill lately. Hillary Clinton didn't seem to realize the risks she took supporting the anti-Russian side in Ukraine.

Russia has always viewed Ukraine, with its open flat terrain and wide open spaces, as the enemy's pathway into the heart of Russia. With good reason - it's happened more times than we remember, but

they sure do. So Putin pushed back in a way we never imagined, hacking our election. China has even bigger ambitions.

It sure would be nice to have responsible, intelligent, and moral people in charge here. Things are going to get really dicey.

**Dave Porter
Minneapolis**

DOGS...Continued from page 4

it was made easier by the fact that the Ely Vet Clinic was willing to do a house call. So we put Penny in her favorite spot, on her bed in front of the wood stove, and told her what she had meant to us as the vet delivered the drugs that sent our loyal friend to her long and painless sleep.

Even though we knew it was the right decision, it's a hard thing to put out of your mind. For weeks, the littlest thing would bring back a memory. The places in the house

and office where Penny had been such a dominant presence now seemed incredibly empty.

We knew instinctively that we would get another dog, someday, but neither Jodi nor I was ready those first few months. But slowly, the pall lifts, and thoughts of a new dog can take form.

Jodi was the first to break. About a month ago, she started secretly checking websites of dog rescue centers and the local shelters, looking for the right

dog. About a week later, she showed me a picture of a young dog with that look that says "Love Me!", and I was, instantly, all in.

We didn't end up with that dog. But last week a call for a good home went out on Facebook from a family on the Vermilion Reservation. A young, medium-sized mutt with a handsome face and a sparkle in his eyes. We stopped by their house the next day, visited for about half an hour, and went home the happy owners

of a new dog, who we've since named Loki, after the Norse trickster.

He instantly made himself at home. Within an hour, he was sprawled out on the floor in front of the wood stove, exactly where Penny used to lay. Dog food and chew sticks were suddenly back on the shopping list and the house was suddenly full of the insistent spirit of a young and inquisitive dog. It felt good. It felt right.

After years of living with an old dog, the enthu-

siasm and energy of a one-year-old is almost astonishing. Loki doesn't walk... he bounds, seemingly in three directions at once. The red squirrels under the bird feeders, who have had the run of the place for the past several years, had no idea what hit them when we first let Loki out of the car door as we brought him home.

So, now we're settling in, getting used to each other. We're working to break him of a few bad habits, and he's working

to convince us he's really a lap dog, all 50 pounds of him.

It's that same test of wills that remind us that our dogs have minds of their own, and that try as we might, they'll always have something to say about the relationship we create with our animals. Life is different with a dog - and that's a good thing.

EXPERT...Continued from page 2

system. By 2025, noted Hanson, China will have more STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) graduates than all of the 34 countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which includes the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom, and all major European nations, combined.

This investment is helping to put China increasingly at the forefront of new technologies, such as artificial intelligence, or AI.

In Davos this year, Hanson said the advances in AI and their potential implications for society and political systems dominated the discussion.

"We are not sure what the political implications are," he said. "But this goes way beyond Russian hacking." Once again, the Chinese are poised to dominate the advances in this technology. "The Chinese are investing \$20 for each

dollar the United States invests in AI," Hanson noted.

In part, the Chinese appear to be investing in AI as a means of social engineering. "And the technological leaders in China are fully on board with this effort," he said. Already, China has millions of facial recognition cameras throughout the country, even in rural areas, tracking the activities and movements of its 1.3 billion residents.

The goal, said Hanson, is to establish a social credit system, governed by AI, that will grade each citizen on a quarterly basis, taking into account their driving record, social media comments, circle of friends, unlawful behaviors, and workplace compliance, among other things.

"If you score poorly, it would influence your life across the board," he said.

To make it all possible, China has developed the world's largest and

fastest supercomputer, which can now make one quintillion calculations per second, allowing it to verify facial recognition within just three seconds. "The computer is 1,000 times faster than today's faster supercomputers," said Hanson.

He noted that Chinese scientists are also working with the gene-editing "crispr" procedure, and basically have few limits on their scientific experiments surrounding gene manipulation, even on humans.

"It is very easy for them to get experiments approved on the local level," he said, unlike in the United States.

"Their attitude is whatever strengthens the Chinese nation strengthens them as individuals," he said.

Hanson's eye-opening presentation noted that China isn't alone in its push to advance AI. He noted that Saudi Arabia

is advancing a project to build a vast autonomous economic zone and technological center, known as Neom, with an entirely new high-tech city run almost exclusively through artificial intelligence. Drawings of the prospective city, now in the design phase, appear like something from science fiction. Neom is slated to be built near the Gulf of Aqaba on the Red Sea, and Saudis hope it will become a center of advanced new technological research, attracting some of the best minds in the field. China is providing some of the funding for the project, Hanson noted.

With such developments happening around the world, Hanson said the western world, including the U.S., will face a major challenge on questions of technology and societal governance at a time when western countries are increasingly fragmented politically. He said factors

such as social media and the increasing concentration of income and wealth are contributing to the political fragmentation both here and in western Europe. He said technological change is contributing to the situation. "These new technologies [like Facebook] are not what we thought and not that conducive to democracy," he said.

Hanson also expressed concern that the U.S. is losing a significant portion of its foreign policy expertise with the shakeup in the State Department under President Trump, where nearly 60 percent of the senior staff has left since Trump's election.

Hanson is currently serving his third semester as Diplomat in Residence with the Royal D. Alworth Institute for International Studies at the University of Minnesota - Duluth. He served as a Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State

for nearly 25 years. His postings included East Germany, France, Norway, the Soviet Union, Sweden, and Georgia. He also assisted in opening new embassies in Mongolia and Estonia. He now serves as Program Secretary of the St. Paul-Minneapolis Committee on Foreign Relations and as a lecturer/consultant for the Great Decisions program at the Minnesota International Center. Hanson is also a Board Member for the Oslo Center of Peace and Human Rights, which is based in Norway. He hopes to establish a center in Minneapolis.



TOURISM...Continued from page 3

what draws people to Ely," he said.

He noted that one of the major drivers of the Ely economy is government. "We forget about the city of Ely and St. Louis County as big employers here. We also have the Department of Revenue here and the Veterans Clinic," he said. "We have our hospital, school and college that all provide good-paying jobs and pay a lot of property taxes for the homes those people have."

The second major economic driver in Ely, according to Novak, is tourism "at this point." Without mentioning the word, mining, he said, "When we talk about any future ventures coming to town, they are pretty far out and are not going to happen with anything we have to deal with, so if we can increase our tourism, I think we will shore up our economy a little bit better."

Major events, like the Blueberry Art Festival, Harvest Moon Festival, Winter Festival, and the Ely Marathon draw thousands of people into Ely and put "heads in beds," he said.

"Our summer baseball tournaments are huge for this town, along with the softball tournament," he

added. "They get little recognition." He asked what else Ely can do to grow tourism, and how those efforts can be coordinated to present a bigger package to the world.

Audience members weighed in with their input:

Claire Taylor - "The Ely Watercolor Club is one of the smaller arts groups here but last year at our show, doing minimal advertising, we brought in 850 people for one show over four days. This year, with advertising in the Twin Cities, we hope to increase that by several hundred people and even get up to 2,000 people at some point."

Nan Snyder - "Recently we saw these big kites, almost like inflatable animals, flying over Burntside Lake. The young man was from Indiana. I have his card and we could follow up on that. It was a wonderful sight to see."

Steve Lampman - "The Nordic Ski Club is putting on a new race next year that features a day of skiing, and at night we're going to have a Fat Bike race. Fat Biking is really gaining in popularity. We're going to start promoting this event very soon, and I think it could

grow into something big."

Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski noted that usage at Hidden Valley is growing. "We are looking to develop some seven miles of bike trails, and waiting to hear back from the Department of Natural Resources to expand our lease. I stressed to them the importance of getting this moving."

Lampman noted that a group from Vermilion Community College is interested in developing a disc golf course at Hidden Valley. "We want to make it a destination in the summer," he said.

Steve Piragis - "We all love Ely and want to see it prosper. We need to congratulate ourselves because we have been pretty prosperous so far. This is a town of 3,500 people and you won't find anything like it in the whole country. There are many ways to measure tourism. How many of us have moved here because of tourism? Tourism is the key to what goes on in and around this town and it has been for a really long time."

Becky Rom - "Tourism is the welcoming mat to our community. The Boundary Waters and Ely are known internationally

in a really positive way and help with our brand identification to draw people to our community."

City Council member Albert Forsman, who founded the Jake Forsman Memorial Burnout event, suggested making that third weekend in October, which falls on the annual Minnesota Education Association convention, a destination for folks to visit Ely. "A car show isn't for everyone," he said. "I would love it if we could add more events. Let's bring people to Ely." He suggested other things for the whole family to participate in.

John Schiefelbein - "As far as bringing people to this town, it is woods, water and snow."

Kelly Klun, a founding member of Incredible Ely, suggested developing a strategic approach to expanding on Ely's tourism base. "If we all just have our own direction, we are not moving forward in concert. We have had a lot of these community meetings, and quite frankly, they have gone nowhere. I think the next step is to be more strategic and develop specific goals and objectives to attain those directives."



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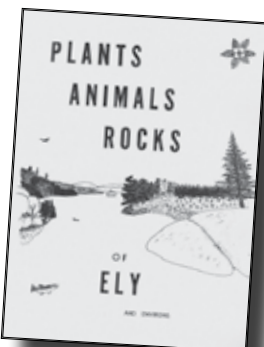
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Vermilion Community College

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Greenwood Township holding 40th Anniversary on Saturday, Aug. 25

GREENWOOD TWP- Planners for this summer's anniversary celebration for Greenwood Township are working on compiling a pamphlet with township history. They are asking if people on each particular road could compose a short history about their road, for example, who named the road, who were the first people to live on the road, were there any interesting businesses or other events that happened on that road, and how many live on the road today. Also, they are looking for any funny or particularly interesting stories that people might remember about the residents of the road. Keep it short. Photographs that go along with the stories are also encouraged.

The township celebration is set for Saturday, Aug. 25 in the afternoon and will include free food and entertainment.

For more information, please contact Pam Lundstrom, co-chair, Greenwood 40th Anniversary, 218-753-3006.

Grief support group in Tower meets on Thursday, April 5

TOWER- Experiencing the death of a loved one can be a very difficult experience. Learning about the grief process and having support from others can help a great deal. Please consider reserving your spot to participate in this new monthly grief support group in Tower. The group is open to anyone in our area who has experienced the death of a loved one.

The Monthly Grief Education and Support Group meets from 2 – 4 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 304 Spruce St. There is no cost for this group.

The group is led by Catherine Burt, East Range Hospice Family Grief Support staff. Please call to register, 1-877-851-2213 or 218-749-7975. The group is being sponsored by Essentia Health St. Mary's East Range Hospice.

Bingo set for Monday, April 2 at the Tower Civic Center

TOWER- Senior Bingo will be held in Tower on Monday, April 2 at the Tower Civic Center from 11:45 a.m. – 3 p.m. There is a \$10 charge for the bingo party, which includes lunch. All ages are welcome to attend this community event. Lunch is served starting at 11:45 a.m., and bingo begins at 12:45 p.m.

Bingo is cancelled in case of inclement weather. Call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950 with any questions.

Ellie Larmouth to speak at Unitarian Universalist Church on Sunday

VIRGINIA- All are invited to the Unitarian Universalist Church in Virginia for this special service on Sunday, April 1 at 10:30 a.m. The speaker will be Ellie Larmouth, Ph.D., on "Poetry and Spirituality."

"Where the most beautiful wildflowers grow, there man's spirit is fed and poets grow." - Henry David Thoreau. This service will examine the power of words and poetry in connecting one to the spiritual nature of the universe. Examples of poems that help one access, discover, describe and understand the mystery of one's spiritual path will be explored.

Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 230 7th Street South in Virginia. Weekly services are Sundays at 10:30 a.m. For more information, visit www.mesabiuu.org. A parent/infant area is provided, as is toddler care, and religious education is provided for the over fives.

Writers workshops meets on Saturday, April 14

COOK- The monthly writer's workshop at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook meets on Saturday, April 14. Local writers are welcome to attend the Writers Group from 1 – 3 p.m. at 210 S River St. next to Dream Weaver Spa and Salon in Cook. The group coordinator is Ellie Larmouth, 218-753-5327.

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GREENWOOD

Greenwood tables most business at reorg meeting

by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- With the date for a requested recount still up in the air, there were no newly-elected supervisor or supervisors to seat at Greenwood's annual reorganization meeting, Thursday.

Candidates John Bassing and Rick Stoehr both have requested recounts in the race, where Larry Tahija and Byron Beihoffer both won by slim margins.

There was no mention of the recount during the meeting, but afterwards clerk Sue Drobac, whose reelection is not being challenged, said it most likely would be scheduled the first week in April.

Bassing, the current town chair, opened the meeting by calling for nominations for chair.

Mike Ralston was nominated for chair and affirmed on a unanimous vote. Carmen DeLuca, the current vice-chair, was nominated for that post again, and was seated with Bassing voting against.

The board voted to keep its regular meeting date and time of the second Tuesday of the month

at 6:30 p.m., except in March (when it is after the annual meeting), and in August, when it will be held on the following Wednesday due to the primary election set for the second Tuesday.

The board did vote to change the official publication from the *Timberjay* to the *Tower News*, on a 4-1 vote with Bassing voting against. The motion, by Carmen DeLuca, was made for the change without any discussion on the issue or the cost. The *Tower News* bid was slightly lower than the *Timberjay's* bid, with a rate of \$2.50 per column inch vs. \$2.59 for the *Timberjay*, but the *Timberjay's* bid included coverage in the Cook-Orr *Timberjay* as well as Tower-Soudan. Bassing noted that the *Timberjay* provided free online access for all its legal notices, and that these notices were archived, week by week. The *Tower News* does not provide this. Ralston asked why the bid submitted by the *Timberjay* was in a different format than the other bid. The township did not formally call for bids, and the two newspapers just submitted bids as had been done in previous years.

committee assignments, apparently waiting for the new board to be seated.

The board kept Courri and Rupp as township attorneys, and reappointed treasurer Pam Rodgers as the township's representative to the Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board, which funds youth activities in Tower-Soudan.

Clerk Sue Drobac asked the board if any members would be willing to volunteer to help set up chairs prior to meetings and to bring garbage to the dump, duties that Bassing had been providing on a volunteer basis. The township no longer employs a maintenance worker. Supervisor Carmen DeLuca has been acting as the grounds and maintenance supervisor.

The township's Local Board of Appeal and Equalization will be held on Thursday, May 17 from 10 – 11 a.m. at the Town Hall.

The meeting, which lasted a slim 15 minutes, was then adjourned. It is expected that the new board members will be seated at the April 10 regular meeting.

The board deferred voting on

Letters from Readers

Happy Easter! Why does the Resurrection actually matter?

It proves that God does care about the brokenness of our world, and He makes it right! It shows that in the end, good triumphs over evil. That justice defeats injustice. That God does act in the world. Listen to Pope Benedict reflecting on this reality. He says...

If there were no resurrection, the story of Jesus would have ended with Good Friday. His body would have decayed, and he would have become a has-been. But that would mean that God does not take initia-

tives in history, that he is either unable or unwilling to touch this world of ours, our human living and dying. And that in turn would mean that love is futile, trivial, an empty and vain promise. It would mean that there is no judgment and no justice. It would mean that this moment is all that counts and that right belongs to the cunning, the crafty and those without consciences. There would be no judgment. (Seek That Which is Above, p. 54-56)

We see so much evil in the world, so much brokenness. We see that being selfish, greedy, dishonest seems to be advantageous. We see that life is not fair. So, we could say, that without

the Resurrection, evil, injustice would have the upper hand. Abusive power, deceit, sin would have won. But is that kind of existence even tolerable? Where love and goodness are defeated?

The Resurrection changes everything! With the Resurrection, God takes the greatest evil ever committed, Decide, the murder of God in the flesh, and turns it into the cause of our redemption. It says God has made things right and will make them right. It gives us a reason for living. We now know that in the end love defeats selfishness. Goodness is stronger than evil. Justice triumphs over injustice. Now, that's an existence that I can live with!

So what does this

mean to us? Let's draw the conclusion of this.

It means we can move forward pursuing Christ in our lives. We can devote ourselves to virtue, justice, and goodness, because goodness will win out in the end. It's worth striving to become a saint, because as saints we will be vindicated in the end. It means we can trust God because he is a God who keeps his promises. It's worthwhile following Christ, He is alive! So, live as if the Resurrection matters to you! A most blessed Easter to you and your loved ones!

Father Nick Nelson, Pastor of St. Martin's in Tower, St. Mary's in Cook, and Holy Cross in Orr.

NORTHEAST RANGE HIGH SCHOOL

Robotics Team has great results at tournament

BABBITT- The Iron Mosquitos, team 5653, enjoyed a very successful robotics season. Teams from across the region, from as far away as Sweden, travel to Duluth to attend an intense regional competition. Picking as the eighth-seed Captain for the elimination rounds, the Iron Mosquitos chose the perennial powerhouse Duluth East Daredevils and Owatonna Rebel Alliance. The group forced the winners of the event to a tiebreaker, almost pulling off a major upset. A team member's robot malfunction in the second game proved too much to overcome. The winning alliance was undefeated through the rest of the elimination rounds. There is an argument that the Iron Mosquito-led group was the second strongest alliance at the competition.

Started at Northeast Range in Babbitt four years ago, team 5653 has grown to also include students from North Woods and Ely Schools. The 28 students competed as a team in the international FIRST Robotics Competition. Had they been able to pull off the upset, the students would have been well on their way



Front row (from left) Robert Daugherty, Mylea Laulunen, Phoebe Morgan, Marshall Backe, Kaleb Kappes-Bliss. Middle: Chris Ferguson, Chloe Aase, Tasha Bissonette, Hannah Peitso, Jacob Bjork, Austin Chaulklin. Back: Alex Herring, Shane Spangler, Oskar Koivisto. submitted photo

to attending the World Championships.

The FIRST organization describes the season well. "Combining the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology, we call FIRST Robotics Competition the ultimate Sport for the Mind. High-school student participants call it "the hardest fun you'll ever have." Under strict rules, limited resources, and an intense six-week time limit, teams of students are challenged to raise funds, design a team "brand,"

hone teamwork skills, and build and program industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game against like-minded competitors. It's as close to real-world engineering as a student can get. Volunteer professional mentors lend their time and talents to guide each team. Each season ends with an exciting FIRST Championship."

The Iron Mosquitos would like to thank their major sponsor, Medtronic. They also enjoy local support from Lake Country Power, Stone

Soup Events, Bullseye Cleaning, Kell's Kitchen, Taconite Tire, Babbitt Short Stop, Champion Auto, Timber Bay Lodge & Houseboats, Charles Tiff and Ziegler Cat. They would love to recruit more local sponsors to support the growth of the next generation of professionals. Contact rlindsay@isd2142.k12.mn.us or any of the student team members for more information on sponsorship or to inquire about mentoring opportunities.

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
7 p.m. Mondays,
First Lutheran Church,
915 E. Camp St.
WOMEN'S AA - Noon
Mondays, Ledgerock
Community Church, Ely -
use 15th Street entrance
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
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BABBITT AL-ANON -
Thursdays, 7 p.m., at
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SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING MATH

SCIENCE SATURDAY

Ely-area girls explore careers in science

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

ELY - Just about 40 girls in grades 5-8 from the Tower, Ely, and Babbitt areas participated in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) workshop last Saturday at the Vermilion Community College.

The annual workshop, sponsored by the Ely Branch of the American Association of University Women, provides an opportunity for middle school girls to explore these subjects in a fun, interactive environment.

Students learned about the laws of physics through various science experiments, made marshmallow cat-

apults, and explored veterinary technology opportunities and computer programming at the daylong event.

According to recent statistics, women make up 47 percent of the workforce but only 24 percent of all STEM jobs. STEM fields pay better wages than many other fields. "The workshop is an opportunity for girls to have fun with activities in these areas so they start to think seriously about careers in these fields," said Ely AAUW member Jeanne Tomlinson.

The annual STEM workshop is made possible in a collaboration between Vermilion Community College and AAUW with a grant from Lake Country Power Operation Round-Up.



Carmen Nelson holds a jar of water over her head as she takes part in a physics experiment at the STEM workshop last Saturday at Vermilion Community College. photos by K. Vandervort



Dr. Peter Hughes, veterinarian at the Ely Vet Clinic, demonstrates the correct procedure for a applying a leg cast to a dog.

the TIMBERJAY

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Tuesday Group
ELY - The upcoming Tuesday Group schedule (subject to change) is listed below. All talks are at 12 noon on Tuesday at Grand Ely Lodge.
April 3 - Linda Sutton, Kay Vandervort and Joe Owens - Ely 100% Equal Pay Community
April 10 - Michael North - Woodpecker research on habitat and data needs in the Northwoods.
April 17 - Kara Polyner - Update on the Underground Optimists

Co-dependents meets Friday
ELY - The Ely co-dependents support group meets Fridays at noon at St. Anthony's Church in Classroom 3. Use west side entrance.
For more information, go to www.coda.org.

Breathing Out
by Cecilia Rolando © 2018

an ample basket over filled with easter treats



Ely's Sova Meyer, 8, a member of Northern Twistars Gymnastics, of Virginia, competed at the Minnesota state Xcel gymnastics meet last Friday, and won co-champion for uneven bars (score 9.6) and tied for 12th in vault (score 9.3) in her group. submitted photo

Calling all area artists
ELY - Artists are needed for the annual Summer Children's Art Camp, held June 11-13.
For nearly 15 years, Ely Greenstone has conducted the art camp, and plans are underway for the 2018 Camp to be held at the Ely Miners Dry at 105 Miners Lake Landing Road, across from the Grand Ely Lodge.
Camp is Monday thru Wednesday, June 11-13, from 9 a.m. until noon with an art show for family and friends on Wednesday at the close of camp. Approximately 50 students ages 7-12, divided into four groups, enjoy four 50-minute class sessions and a time for snacks each day.
Greenstone pays for teachers and materials and arranges for volunteer assistants. All proposals are welcome by April 13 in any media suitable for the age group and time allotted.
Please email Co-Chair Muffin Nelson at muffinely@gmail.com or call 218-365-6101 with any questions.

SUBSCRIBE (218) 753-2950

HISTORICAL TOUR

High school seniors visit Washington, D.C.



ELY—Just over 40 students, along with several adult chaperones from Ely, Babbitt and Tower, headed to Washington, D.C., last Thursday for Ely Memorial High School's 23rd trip to the nation's capital.

The annual trip this year coincided with the "March for Our Lives" rally and the local group took part in the historic march along with as many as 800,000 other people.

The five-day whirlwind tour included many stops to historic places in and around the capital city, along with visits with Rep.

Rick Nolan and both of Minnesota's Senators.

The group, including 31 seniors from Ely Memorial High School, and 10 seniors from Northeast Range School, toured the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Holocaust Museum, and other memorials and museums. The Gettysburg Civil War Memorial, World War II Memorial, National Cathedral and the Newseum were also on their agenda.

High school seniors from Ely, Babbitt and Tower visited Washington, D.C., and other points of interest last week. Minnesota's U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar gave the group a tour of the U.S. Capitol. submitted photos



AROUND TOWN

Ely marks Equal Pay Day with 'Unhappy Hour'

ELY - Individuals across the country will join together on Tuesday, April 10 to mark Equal Pay Day. The day will be marked in Ely with an "Unhappy Hour" from 4:30- 6:30 p.m. at Northern Grounds.

According to Bureau of Labor statistics, it takes until that date in April for women to earn a salary comparable to their male counterpart's previous year's salary.

The Ely event, which is open to the public, is sponsored by the Ely branch of American Association of University Women and the Ely Rotary Club in cooperation with Northern Grounds.

Mary Setterholm, AAUW public policy chair, said, "It's an opportunity for community members to talk about the issues surrounding

equal pay. Any inequity in pay is unacceptable, but the issue is critical on the Iron Range where women are paid less than both the state and national averages for equal work."

Despite civil rights laws and advancements in women's economic status, workplace discrimination still persists. Typically, women who work full time take home about 80 cents for every dollar a full-time male worker earns.

Over a 47-year career, a woman's total estimated earnings loss compared with a man is \$700,000 for a high school graduate, \$1.2 million for a college graduate, and \$2 million for a professional school graduate. On the Iron Range, according to Department of Labor statistics, women make

24-percent less than men, or seventy-six cents on the dollar, making the disparity even greater, and further reducing pension and social security benefits.

Individuals who attend Unhappy Hour will receive a 24-percent discount on a selected menu. Snacks will be provided. Information will be available for both employees and employers, including definitions of equal pay, information on current law, and actions and protections for employees who do not receive comparable pay for the work they do.

"There are pay differences because of the type of jobs women have traditionally chosen and because women often take time off from work for child-rearing," Setterholm said. "Those differences do

not, however, account for the disparity in pay when you compare the pay differential between men and women in substantially the same job with education and experience." She said it is those differences the event will focus on as a way to promote equal pay for equal work.

The Equal Pay Act was signed into law by John F. Kennedy on June 10, 1963. The law mandates that men and women receive equal pay for "substantially equal" work at the same establishment. A year later, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that added protections against discrimination based on an individual's national origin, religion, race or sex.

First aid courses offered through Ely Community Education

ELY—The Community Education program is offering first aid classes next month.

The HeartSaver First Aid Course helps participants recognize emergencies and make appropriate decisions for first aid care.

This instructor-led course teaches students critical skills to respond to and manage an emergency in the first few minutes until emergency medical

services arrive. It is for anyone with limited or no medical training who needs a course completion card for a job, regulatory or other requirements.

This course meets American Heart Association (AHA) certification. The instructor is Sue Pasmick.

HeartSaver CPR courses are designed for anyone with little or no medical training who

needs a course completion card for a job, regulatory (for example, OSHA), or other requirements. These courses can also be taken by anyone who wants to be prepared for an emergency in any setting. For many HeartSaver courses, students receive a course completion card that is valid for two years.

The courses are offered Tuesday, April 10 or April 17, from 6-10 p.m.

at Vermilion Community College, room CL 109.

The fee: \$61 for one class (includes certificate and material fee). Get a discount by taking both the CPR and First Aid Course. Course fee for both CPR and First Aid is \$100 (includes certificate and material fee). Register for each class separately.

For more information and to register, go to www.elyclasses.com.



I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me will live, even though he dies. John 11:25

Easter Service • 9 AM

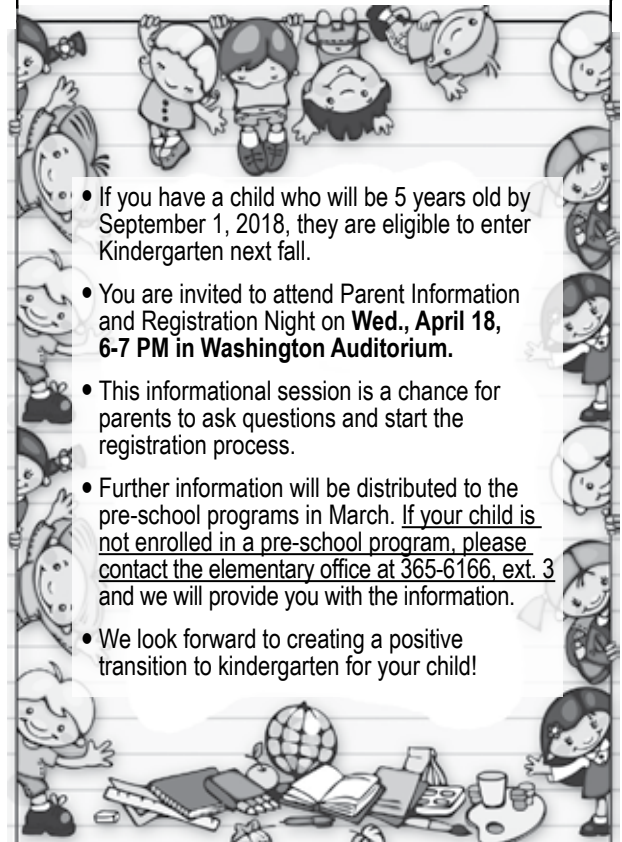
Berean Baptist Church

2281 Old Highway 169, Ely

Brunch to follow

Come Worship the Risen Christ with Us!

ELY KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

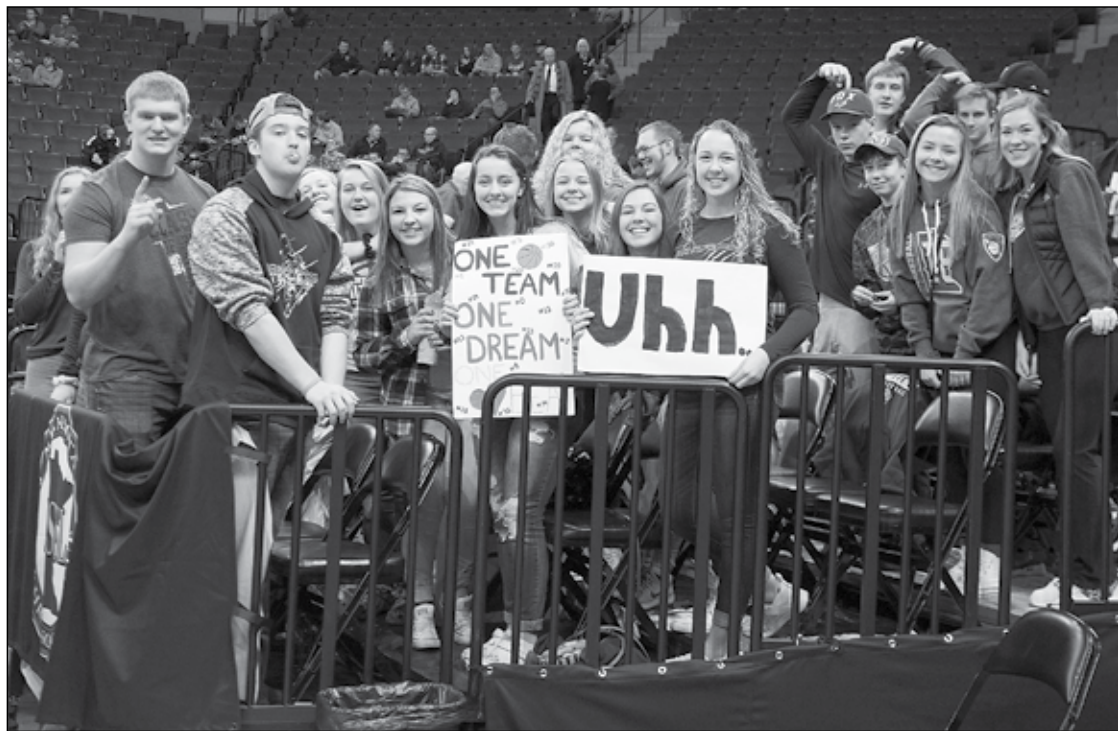
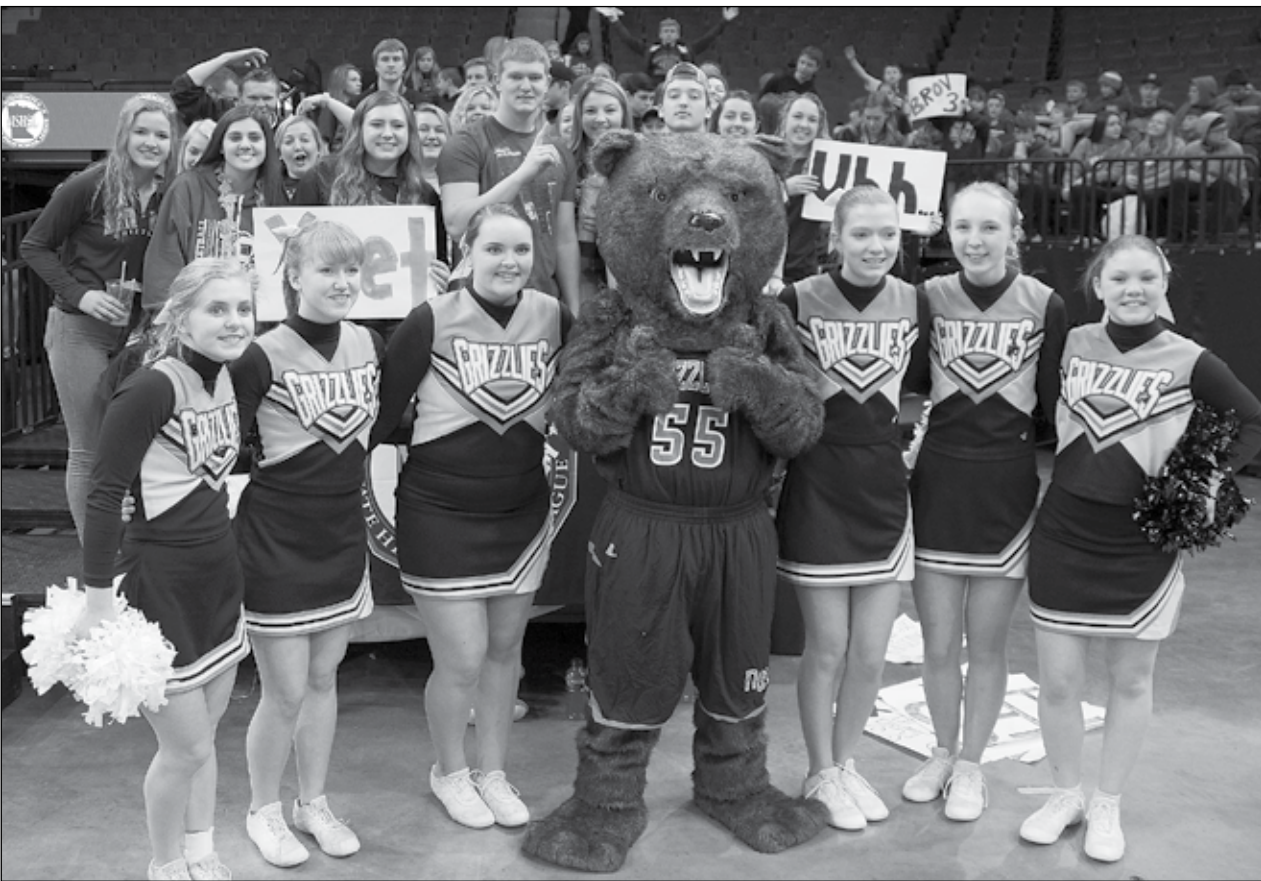


- If you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2018, they are eligible to enter Kindergarten next fall.
- You are invited to attend Parent Information and Registration Night on **Wed., April 18, 6-7 PM in Washington Auditorium.**
- This informational session is a chance for parents to ask questions and start the registration process.
- Further information will be distributed to the pre-school programs in March. If your child is not enrolled in a pre-school program, please contact the elementary office at 365-6166, ext. 3 and we will provide you with the information.
- We look forward to creating a positive transition to kindergarten for your child!

www.timberjay.com

NORTH WOODS GRIZZLIES

Grizz fans go wild!



Top left: Fans pose with Grizzly Cheerleaders.

Top Right: Chase Kleppe signs the shirt of one of his biggest fan, Jacob Towners, who wore Kleppe's number 23 to the welcome home event on Monday.

Above: Grizzly players Darius Goggleye and Blake Scofield sign autographs on Monday.

Center: Players cheer on their teammates during the semi-finals.

Right: Fans show their school spirit.

photos by C. Stone

2018 Wings and Things date set for Saturday, April 28

COOK- Mark your calendars and get ready to indulge yourself in delectable wings and the opportunity to win fabulous prizes in drawings and raffles! Cook's Friends of the Parks has scheduled Wings and Things 2018 for Saturday, April 28 from noon to 8 p.m. at the Cook VFW. All proceeds for this event will benefit the future endeavors of the Friends of the Parks.

Tickets for the main raffle are already on sale at Zup's, the Country Store, the Credit Union, the VFW, and from Friends of the Parks members. Prizes for the Main Raffle are \$500 cash for 1st place, a \$200 Zup's gift

card for 2nd place, and a \$100 gift card from the Country Store/Vermilion Motel for 3rd place.

Donations for the event of any amount from businesses, organizations or community members would be greatly appreciated. Also needed are prizes and baskets for the raffles. Perhaps an individual or a group would be able to put a basket together with items or donate a prize. Contact Val Annen, Carrolle Wood, Tammy Palmer, Diane Brunner, Jeannie Taylor, or Sue Thomas if you have something that needs to be picked up, or you may leave donations at the courtesy counter at Zup's.

Get ready to eat wings, play Bingo, win prizes, and be prepared

to have a great time at Wings and Things 2018!

Businesses in Cook region to display art during Spring Art Expo

COOK- The Spring Art Expo 2018 is registering local businesses and artists for the 8th annual event sponsored by Northwoods Friends of the Arts. Artists will be exhibiting artwork in local businesses in and around Cook beginning June 8 until June 29.

All publicity for this event is provided by NWFA including posters, news articles and a pamphlet listing all of the participating businesses. The Spring Art Expo coincides with Cook's Timber Days celebration as well as many other activities such as classes, a concert, receptions and a 50/50 cash drawing.

If your business has space to display artwork or if you, as an artist, want to display your work, please register your busi-

ness by e-mailing nw-famn.org@gmail.com or contacting the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River Street in Cook. Next to Dream Weaver Salon, the gallery is open Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To have your business listed in the Spring Art Expo pamphlet you must register by Friday, April 13.

NWFA was created in 2010 as a non-profit organization by local folks in Cook with a mission to support the arts in all forms in the region of Cook. Membership is only \$15 annually.

Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, Inc. invites scholarship applicants

REGIONAL- VHHP announces 2018 scholarship opportunities! Applicants must be pursuing a career in the medical field (nursing, dental, EMT, physical therapy, etc.). High school students living in the Cook,

Nett Lake, Orr, or Tower-Soudan school attendance areas may apply. Any previous scholarship recipients now in college are encouraged to apply for the college scholarship as well as any other college student living in the same attendance areas.

This year, we will be giving away three high school scholarships and one college scholarship.

Applications to VHHP must be post-marked by April 13. Applications can be obtained from the North Woods High School counselor's office, the VHHP website (www.vhhp.org), or by contacting program director Becca Bundy at 218-780-5423 or vhhpdirector@gmail.com.

High school and college recipients will be notified by mail in May. The college scholarship is mailed to the recipient in mid-June and high school recipients will receive their scholarship after successfully completing one semester of college.

Please call or e-mail Becca with any questions.

Cook Area Health Care Auxiliary offering two scholarships

COOK- Cook Area Health Care Auxiliary is offering two \$1,000 scholarships to any graduating senior who is planning to pursue a career in the medical field. Applications are available from the North Woods School counselor or by calling Shawna Kishel at 218-280-6510. Applications are due by April 4.

The Health Care Auxiliary runs the thrift shop and has been offering scholarships since 1960. Recipients will be selected by a committee and announced at the Spring Awards Ceremony. Money will be sent to the school's financial office after receipt of the student's first-semester grades.

Bookmobile schedule

Visit your library on wheels, the Arrowhead Library System Bookmobile.

Thursday, April 12, May 3, 24

Nett Lake - Community Center 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Crane Lake - Ranger Station 11:15 a.m. - 12 noon

Orr - Lake Country ReMax building 1:45 - 2:30 p.m.

Kabetogama - Town Hall 3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
For further information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, write or call the Arrowhead Library System, 5528 Emerald Ave., Mt. Iron, MN 55768 218-741-3840, or check our website at www.alslib.info.



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Mon-Sat: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Effective October 1

Read the news from all three Timberjay editions each week

www.timberjay.com

Timberjay subscribers get free access to the online e-edition

HOLIDAY TRADITION

Easter egg fun in Cook and Orr starts at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 31



Cook event at the Cook Community Center from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

COOK- The annual Kids Easter Party will be held on Saturday, March 31 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Cook Community Center. This free event is for children 10 and under. There will be food, games, and Easter baskets. Four boys and four girls bikes will be given away. The event is sponsored by the Cook Lions Club, Cook VFW, Zup's Grocery, and the Cook News Herald.

Orr event at the Orr Legion Building from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

ORR- The annual Kids Easter Party will be held on Saturday, March 31 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Orr Legion Hall. There will be an Easter egg hunt, balloon animals, face-painting, and a visit from the Easter Bunny. Prizes include Easter baskets and bikes! The event is sponsored by the Orr Chamber of Commerce, and donations from area businesses and individuals.

"The Aprons of April Exhibition" in Cook

COOK- Explore the historical context of aprons in women's roles, apron traditions in different cultures, the aprons of men and women at work, and aprons as fashion and art. These ideas and objects created and curated by artists Lyn Reed and Kris Musto will be exhibited in Cook at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery from April 4 to

29. People from the community have submitted their own personal aprons including the story of the apron's historic and personal significance.

The NWFA Gallery at 210 S River Street is open for summer hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

A reception will be held on Friday, April 13, in honor of the "Aprons in April Exhibition" beginning at 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. at NWFA Gallery located between Dream Weaver Spa and Salon and Gustafson Motors.

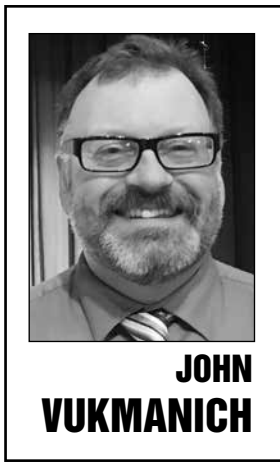
GRIZZLY UPDATES



The power of sports

As a kid growing up in the 1980's, I remember the TV opening to "ABC's Wide World of Sports." The opening video contained the famous film footage of a ski-jumper crashing on the descent of the jump. The now famous (at least to our generation) line by announcer Jim McKay states, "The thrill of victory, and the agony of defeat." Check it out on "YouTube" if you have not seen it.

No doubt, the North Woods Grizzlies Boys Basketball Team had hoped to win the State Championship. They worked as hard as a team could. They played as hard as they could. They left it all on the court in their four-point loss to Russell-Tyler-Ruthton.



JOHN VUKMANICH

The loss hurt for sure. Our school and surrounding communities couldn't be prouder of our team's accomplishments. Understandably, winning the State Championship is a better feeling than taking second place. The flipside is that losing a state championship is still much better than not playing at State at all.

There is a silver lining in this that exists in all great athletic competitions. It is the reason that sports exist in the first place. It is why many humans relish athletic competition and live vicariously through our teams. It is why we are so passionate about our teams having success and why we also focus on many factors of athletic competition besides wins and losses. Sports teach us much about ourselves.

Hard work, dedication, commitment, teamwork, humility, character, class, intensity, goals, resilience, confidence, focus, positive attitude, adaptability, skill, reflection, passion.

All words that have relevance in sports. All words that describe the North Woods Grizzlies

basketball team.

In the end, the skills that these young men have built upon as athletes will carry them far in the playing field of life, long after the pain of a four-point loss in a State Championship has faded.

We are very proud of our team and coaches, and we are proud to be Grizzlies!

Thank you to all of our players, coaches at all levels, the North Woods Band and Cheerleaders, parents/families, fans, community members, businesses, KBFT Radio, and Bois Forte for your support of our team! It is appreciated!

**Your Principal,
John Vukmanich**

Ellie Larmouth to speak on Sunday

VIRGINIA- All are invited to the Unitarian Universalist Church in Virginia for this special service on Sunday, April 1 at 10:30 a.m. The speaker will be Ellie Larmouth, Ph.D., "Poetry and Spirituality."

"Where the most beautiful wildflowers grow, there man's spirit is fed and poets grow," - Henry David Thoreau. This service will examine the power of words and poetry in connecting one to the spiritual nature of the universe. Examples of poems that help one access, discover, describe and understand the mystery of one's spiritual path will be explored.

Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 230 7th Street South in Virginia. Weekly services are Sundays at 10:30 a.m. For more information, visit www.mesabiuu.org. A parent/infant area is provided, as is toddler care, and religious education is provided for the over fives. All are welcome, and the church is handicap-accessible.

Cook Seniors to meet Wednesday, April 4 at Homestead Apartments

COOK- The Cook Senior Citizens will meet on Wednesday, April 4 at 1 p.m. in the Homestead Apartments community room. The group is excited to have Warren Mlaker and his accordion providing the music. Nancy Erickson will serve refreshments following the music. All are welcome. You don't have to be a senior, and bring a friend.

Writers workshop meets on Saturday, April 14 at NWFA

COOK- The monthly writers workshop at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook meets on Saturday, April 14. Local writers are welcome to attend the Writers Group from 1 - 3 p.m. at 210 S River St. next to Dream Weaver Spa and Salon in Cook. The group coordinator is Ellie Larmouth, 218-753-5327.

NWFA has organized artists and their works of art since 2010 at the NWFA Gallery as a non-profit membership organization. Summer gallery hours will be in effect in April from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. The website is nwfamn.org. Email is nwfamn.org@gmail.com.

Virginia mental health support group for families meets second Tuesdays

VIRGINIA- NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) sponsors free support groups for families and friends of individuals living with a mental illness. Led by trained facilitators who also have a family member with mental illness, the support groups help families develop better coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. A family support group meets in Virginia on the second Tuesday of each month, from 6 - 7 p.m., at Essentia-Health Medical Arts Clinic, 901 9th St. N., in McMillan Room B. For information, call Dan at 218-290-5461. NAMI Minnesota is a non-profit organization that works to improve the lives of children and adults with mental illnesses and their families through its programs of education, support and advocacy.



the **TIMBERJAY**

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POLYMET...Continued from page 1

price of \$7.95 per pound, more than two dollars per pound higher than the current nickel price of \$5.85 per pound. Copper and nickel would provide more than three-quarters of the revenue from the proposed mine.

Company officials contend that metal prices are likely to rise during the lifespan of the mine, fueled by the anticipated boom in electric vehicles. Those vehicles require large amounts of copper, nickel and cobalt, according to company officials.

The new financial estimates project total annual revenues for the mine at \$362 million over the first five years, or \$292 million over the 20-year life of the mine. The report estimates actual earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, (or EBITDA) at \$170 million for the first five years, and \$118 million over the life of the mine. That's down from the EBITDA of \$217 million for the first five years projected in a 2008 financial update to the company's original definitive feasibility study, produced in 2006.

The lower revenues and higher costs put the mine's internal rate of return at 9.6 percent, well below the 30.6 percent return projected in its 2008 financial report.

PolyMet officials

tried to put the numbers in a positive light, noting that the project is continuing to advance and remains viable at its current proposed mining rate of 32,000 tons per day.

"This report reaffirms the technical and financial viability of the 32,000 tons per day case for which the final EIS and draft permits have been issued," said PolyMet president and CEO Jon Cherry. "Our focus remains on obtaining final permits [for the current plan], meeting our environmental and financial assurance obligations under the terms of those permits, and obtaining the necessary financing to build the project," added Cherry. "We are making significant progress on all of those fronts."

Indeed, PolyMet announced on Monday that Glencore AG agreed to extend repayment provisions on \$152 million of PolyMet debt for one year, and to reduce its interest rate by five percent (to LIBOR plus ten percent). Glencore also agreed to commit an additional \$80 million in debentures over the next 12 months to help PolyMet continue to fund pre- and post-permitting work.

"As we continue to progress through the permitting process, we appreciate Glencore's continued financial and technical support for this

great project, which will produce essential metals including those needed for renewable energy and electric vehicles," said Cherry.

Nonetheless, the latest financial report did not appear to cheer investors. The company's stock had dropped more than ten percent from Tuesday through early Wednesday, apparently as news of the report began to spread. PolyMet stock has been trending downward since January, when the stock reached \$1.32 per share on news of the issuance of the DNR's draft permit to mine. The stock dipped as low as 88 cents per share in trading on Wednesday.

The numbers do appear to raise questions about the economic viability of the project. In 2014, a pre-feasibility study produced by Duluth Metals for the Twin Metals project suggested a rate of return of 13.6 percent on an investment of \$2.9 billion, which most investors saw as lacking viability. Within weeks, the stock price of Duluth Metals had collapsed, and the venture was assumed for pennies on the dollar by Antofagasta.

Investors had generally viewed the economics of the PolyMet project far more favorably, but the latest numbers are certain to raise questions.

Indeed, environmen-

tal groups were already suggesting the project likely won't be built based on the current numbers.

"Minnesotans have been sold a bill of goods by PolyMet," said Kathryn Hoffman, executive director of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. "The rate of return is just one-third of earlier projections and is well below the level of a viable mining proposal. This study shows a proposal that, if built, would be financially tenuous and put Minnesota taxpayers at risk of holding the bag when the mine goes belly up."

Ron Sternal, a retired managing director of a financial management company, and an MCEA board member, went further. "Their own definitive feasibility study now proves that even without adequate financial assurance, this thing doesn't pan out as permitted."

Attorney Paula Maccabee, of Water Legacy agreed. "It looks like PolyMet is in trouble. To make the kind of profit they claimed six years ago, they now say they would need a massive increase to more than triple the size – and the impacts – of the NorthMet copper-nickel sulfide mine," she said.

Indeed, PolyMet officials are suggesting that

profits from the proposed mine could be enhanced by exploiting more of the known deposits at the site, and by increasing the rate of mining. The company looked at two different scenarios, including increasing the rate of mining to 59,000 and 118,000 tons per day. Those options, however, would require significant additional new engineering as well as new environmental review. A higher rate of mining could enhance profitability of the operation, boosting the internal rate of return to 18 percent in the case of the 59,000 tpd scenario to 24 percent for the 118,000 tpd option. But PolyMet's own report notes that these estimates are speculative and include the use of inferred mineral resources, which are considered too speculative to be considered economically without further exploration.

While an increase in the rate of mining could boost profitability, it would also likely reduce the life of the mining operation, depending on the rate of increase. The company is currently proposing to mine 225 million tons of known reserves, which would take just under 20 years at the proposed mining rate of 32,000 tpd. At 118,000 tpd, the mining operation would last just over five years.

The company does

have additional known or indicated mineral resources totaling 649 million tons, according to the report. That includes some inferred resources which would need to be better documented before the company could proceed. If all of that resource were mined at the current proposed rate, it could entail 55 years of operation. At 118,000 tpd, however, the known reserves would be depleted within 15 years. Mining the additional reserves would almost certainly require completion of an entirely new environmental impact statement, require re-engineering the project, and substantially raise the financial assurance liability.

The company could also boost the rate of return marginally by investing in development of a hydrometallurgical processing facility, which would allow the company to produce nickel-cobalt hydroxide and increase the rate of recovery for platinum group metals. That would boost the project's rate of return at the planned mining rate from 9.6 percent to 10.3 percent but require the company to invest an additional \$259 million in start-up costs.

ELY...Continued from page 1

determined the incident to not be a credible threat," was the message sent to parents.

The incident occurred in a stall in a girl's bathroom. It was reported at approximately 1:45 p.m., according to police. School remained open on Thursday although there were reports of numerous parents keeping children home from school.

A person of interest was interviewed, and they admitted to making the threats, according to police. "This person admitted to making the threats and evidence was collected," officials said.

An Ely student parent, who wished not to be identified, told the *Timberjay* on Friday that a middle-school-aged girl who attends school at Ely was at first believed to be involved in the incident.

In an email to parents on Monday, Abrahamson said, "Through careful and thorough investigation of last week's graffiti threat, the original person of interest, a middle school female, was determined to have no involvement and was exonerated. Careful and deliberate review of video footage enabled

investigators, to 'connect the dots' and ultimately determine that the perpetrator was a high school female, who has admitted to committing the act."

One parent also reported that there was an increased police presence at the school on Thursday, and school staff and the police department's School Resource Officer addressed individual classes about the incident.

Abrahamson confirmed that information in an email to parents, "During the early part of the day, both principals, along with police officers, visited every classroom in the buildings to meet with students to discuss any questions they had and to reassure them of their safety."

Facebook posts about the incident included this from an Ely teacher, "I am teaching tomorrow. My kid is going to school tomorrow. That is not advice, just information that may help some with perspective."

According to ISD Superintendent Kevin Abrahamson, the number of students not in school on Thursday was around 20-30 in the Memorial building.

A parent of two daughters in the high school as well as an employee at ISD 696 posted on the Ely Police Department Facebook page: "They say they have the suspect that wrote about a shooting tomorrow in the school. I hope this person talks. I hope you find out if he/she was acting alone or with others. Then again my parent intuition kicks in and thinks what if he/she just did it for attention? What if he/she is serious and is involved with others but doesn't want to 'nark' them out and they follow through with the shooting? As a parent I'd like some answers. Ease our minds. This is something not to take lightly no matter who it is. As for now, I have one daughter scared as heck and the other said she's going but do I want her to go? I'll be going to work. I'd take a bullet for any kid. Some answers would be greatly appreciated. The seniors will be gone, it's end of the semester, the weather is changing how about using a snow day to figure this horrible threat out."

Another post to the EPD Facebook page said, "Ely Police: I believe you owe the community

a better explanation of (1) what exactly was the threat and (2) how did you determine that this threat is not credible. Parents and our community deserve to know."

The Ely Police Department forwarded all evidence and reports to the St. Louis County Attorney's Office for consideration of filing any charges.

This was a joint investigation between the Police Department and Ely Memorial High School staff. "We take all precautions when anything like this surfaces as school safety is a priority for the District and the Ely Police Department. The investigation into who left the threat is ongoing and we will remain vigilant," police said. "We would like to reiterate that we never felt there was a safety risk, and the children's safety is our top priority."

The Ely Police Department posted on its Facebook page: "We will also have officers in the school until the investigation is complete."

Meanwhile, Abrahamson said Monday night that a second threat involving Ely schools was

posted on Snapchat social media on Saturday and "immediately dealt with" by Ely PD. "We were informed of a threat that appeared on social media last Saturday and Ely P.D. responded upon notification and a juvenile male was taken into custody," he said.

According to the Ely PD, "On March 24 (we) received a report of a photo distributed over Snapchat depicting a threat against the school. A juvenile was arrested and was lodged at Arrowhead Juvenile Center in Duluth. School staff were informed of the threat and made aware that the arrest was made. We thank those who reported this incident."

Abrahamson added, "We are working with district legal counsel on these issues and both students have been suspended pending the possible imposition of further consequences, which may include expulsion. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to work on these matters and to keep your children and our students safe."

FRONTIER...Continued from page 1

case," noted the commission staff.

"Comments received so far note extremely poor internet performance and generally underperforming service," noted the report. "Those writing in universally desire an alternative provider."

The staff noted that many Frontier customers were close to desperation. "Customers express the very highest levels of frustration over service quality and over their interactions with Frontier representatives. Customers express despair over their billing and lack of alternatives. Finally, they express outright gratitude for the hope that someone might come to their aid."

The PUC staff report notes that many of the

complaints and comments "invite further engagement with the Commission," which could best be facilitated through public hearings in Frontier's service territory, which would be overseen by the Office of Administrative Hearings.

The staff is also recommending a number of steps to ensure that Frontier customers are made aware of the hearings, in part by requiring Frontier to notify all of its customers, most likely through an insert in the company's monthly billing, of the times of locations of hearings. The company would also need to mail notice to all local units of government and publish advertisements in legal newspapers of affected counties and other newspapers of general cir-

ulation within the company's service territory. All of the notices would need to be issued at least ten days prior to the hearing.

Wide-ranging complaints

The staff report helps to categorize the nature of the complaints against Frontier, which range from service quality to overbilling. "Some parties allege being without telephone service for about a week's time on multiple occasions," notes the report. "Such instances resulted in customers being unable to access 911 or connect medical devices dependent on land telephone lines."

The report continues: "Nearly all comments mention that they are being

charged for service product(s) not being provided as promised, often with related billing and cancellation disputes as a consequence. Nearly all parties complain that Frontier's customer service representatives provide inconsistent information on available service in the customer's area and its price. Many report routinely being sold higher level (more costly) service or hardware as a remedy for service problems that remain or return after the recommended solution is in place. Customers often note being told later that the upgraded service they were sold is not available at their location."

Many other complaints to the PUC concerned home service visits,

which often required customers to take time off of work, but provided no actual remedy to the reported problems.

Billing and purported contracts remain among the most frequent complaints from customers, according to the report. "Customers frequently report discovering they are allegedly on a contract with penalties for ending service early even if they had explicitly refused to accept long term contracts. Apparently, such contracts automatically renew without customer notice upon payment of the first month of the new period. Customers indicate being warned of damaging credit reports in addition to accumulating penalties if they do not pay disputed

bills. Billing disputes also include promised discounts not being provided, penalties accumulating on disputed amounts, and checks being sent but not being credited to accounts."

Similar complaints were aired in a Timberjay investigation last November, which revealed the widespread nature of service and billing problems with Frontier. That story prompted state officials to examine their own Frontier files, which also revealed an unusually high number of complaints. The PUC and the Department of Commerce opened their investigation shortly thereafter.

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ELY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Education going 'gangbusters' in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The word is spreading about the Ely Community Education program. The number and variety of classes offered for local residents have more than doubled from 2015-2016 to this year, and the number of participants in those classes has jumped from 183 to more than 400.

To say that the Ely Community Education coordinator is excited for the growth in her program is an understatement. Chris Hartman has been coordinating the program since 2015. She provided an update to the Ely School Board Monday night during a study session.

Increased marketing, word-of-mouth advertising and the reputation

of the quality of classes has helped to increase the footprint of the program throughout the area, Hartman said.

"The current softball and baseball skills camp for student athletes is going gangbusters," Hartman enthusiastically proclaimed. "The program really grew from last year because of the reputation and because of the fact that we planned the class early because we already knew what we were doing."

She had many success stories concerning the growth of the program in the last couple of years. "Ely is the kind of town where you have to diversify how you get the word out," she said. "One thing just doesn't work. We have posters and advertising that are used together and

that seems to work." The Ely Community Education also has a growing presence on social media and they are improving their website to make class registration easier.

Hartman admitted that she used to ignore her best advertising medium. "I had a captive audience with the students taking the classes, so I had the teachers distribute (program) brochures. That has also helped."

School Board member Tom Omerza offered to post posters in the lobby of his business, Frandsen Bank and Trust, and suggested involving the Ely Chamber of Commerce to prompt other local businesses to help advertise the program.

Hartman said her work to diversify the marketing

of the various program offerings has pushed participation numbers. Offering a variety of classes has also pushed the growth of the program.

Some of the more popular classes, led by Indoor and Outdoor Pickleball, include Beginning and Advanced Dog Obedience, Defensive Driving for ages 55 and older, Softball and Baseball Skills Development, Yoga and Meditation, First Aid and CPR, Woodworking, and Ice Skating.

"So far this year, and we still have classes this spring, we are at 401 participants," Hartman said, spread over 45 classes. "Community Ed has really caught on."

Cooking classes are the next growth area in the program. "Passionate

About Pierogies" starts April 26. "We are also going to go with "Making Squeaky Cheese" this spring," she said.

Cooking classes are held in the Memorial School building. Other rooms and facilities on the school campus are also utilized, but Hartman noted that she does have challenges in finding appropriate space for all the classes.

"We held our defensive driving course at the Senior Center," Hartman said. "Indoor Pickleball in the winter is held at the Vermilion Community College gymnasium. Classes are also held at the Hidden Valley chalet, Presbyterian Church, the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. We would like to use the Ely Recreation Center, but

they charge us too much to use it," she said.

"We haven't solved the space problem yet, but we have to be creative to find places to hold our classes," she said.

Some subjects just haven't caught on with the Ely community, or are just not feasible. "I would like to have computer classes, but we can't afford to pay the teacher we would need."

Hartman is always looking for new ideas for future classes. She mentioned auto mechanics and welding as just two subjects she would like to cover. "I think welding would be very popular," she said.

CITY OF ELY

Legacy grant will be used to assess Ely's Pioneer Mine

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The latest round of Legacy Small Grants, that total \$319,701 for just 36 recipients across the state of Minnesota, includes \$10,000 for the city of Ely.

Historical and Cultural Heritage Small Grants (\$10,000 and less) are awarded quarterly to help nonprofit and educational organizations, government units and tribal organizations preserve and share Minnesota history. This cycle of awards was approved last month by the MNHS Executive Council.

City officials applied for funds to hire a qualified architect to conduct a condition assessment of the historic Pioneer Mine, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants are made possible by the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans in 2008. The Legacy Amendment



The city of Ely was granted a \$10,000 Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage grant to assess the condition of the Pioneer Mine site. photo by K. Vandervort

supports efforts to preserve Minnesota land, water and legacy, including Minnesota history and cultural heritage.

Each project is required to help preserve

and enhance Minnesota's cultural and historical resources. All grants are competitive and are awarded according to program guidelines and criteria and professional

standards.

The Minnesota Historical Society received a legislative appropriation of \$11 million for the 2018-2019 biennium for the Minnesota

Historical and Cultural Heritage ("Legacy") Grants: \$4,500,000 for FY2018 and \$6,500,000 for FY2019.

Grants are available for history and historic

preservation projects in two tiers. Small grants of \$10,000 or less are awarded quarterly. The next small grant application deadlines are April 13 and July 13, 2018, and the large grant pre-application deadline is May 25, 2018.

For more information on the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants program, including application deadlines, visit legacy.mnhs.org/grants. Applications are accepted only through the MNHS grants portal.

The Minnesota Historical Society is a nonprofit educational and cultural institution established in 1849. MNHS collects, preserves and tells the story of Minnesota's past through museum exhibits, libraries and collections, historic sites, educational programs and book publishing. Using the power of history to transform lives, MNHS preserves our past, shares our state's stories and connects people with history.

MAIL...Continued from page 1

Eckman, the Postal Clerk in Tower, will be working in Embarrass until Boese is fully trained.

Johnson-Jacka said Embarrass rural route residents will see delivery times change, similar to when the old post office was in operation.

The old building was closed due to structural and safety issues. The building was being leased from a private individual. The decision to close the post office took the community by surprise,

though the condition of the old building was no secret. Embarrass Post Office staff moved to the Tower Post Office, and box holders in Embarrass were assigned new boxes in Tower. The Embarrass Post Office had about 40 box holders but about 600 Embarrass residences receive their mail on the two rural delivery routes.

Embarrass residents approved the township's purchase of a building for the post office at a special meeting in January 2017.

Residents approved purchasing an existing building at a cost of \$33,000 plus closing costs, which would then be moved to the new site, the old Union 76 lot (purchased for \$18,800), next to the Embarrass-Vermillion Credit Union office on Hwy. 21 in downtown Embarrass. The township board estimated the total cost for the project would be \$100,000, noted the post office would be making a monthly lease payment, and that the

township was applying for some grants to help with the project.

The project has run over budget. Current spending on the project, as reported at the annual meeting earlier this month was at \$175,035, with another \$9,750 in estimated costs for landscaping and paving. These costs do not include the interior renovations, which are being paid in full by the post office.

The township did receive a \$47,800 grant

from the IRRRB for the project. Monthly lease payments from the post office, which began in August 2017, are \$1,100. The township received \$7,700 in lease payments in 2017, and will receive \$13,200 per year through the length of the lease.

The township has financed these costs through spending down township reserves, which sat at \$91,500 in 2017 when the decision was made to go ahead with the project. It was report-

ed at the annual meeting that \$55,669 has been withdrawn from township reserves to pay for the project so far, leaving township reserves at \$36,306, a number that concerned some residents. The township's levy for 2018 is \$150,000 but did not include any dedicated funding for the post office project. Residents raised the levy to \$154,000 for 2019.

MARCH...Continued from page 1

"This event was an effort to draw attention to the need for stricter gun laws in our country," she said. "We are trying to make people aware that more changes need to be made to gun laws. This is not about taking away our Second Amendment rights. This is about getting guns out of the hands of people who should not have them."

Ely was one of nearly 800-plus communities

across the nation to hold a march on Saturday.

"We march in solidarity. We gather peacefully and march requesting sensible gun laws be enacted so we as a country can come together to protect children and all citizens," she said.

"Saturday's event marked the next step in continuing this conversation," Mase said. "I don't know what the solution is, but I know we need to

continue to talk about it."

Lawmakers spurred to action

Minnesota DFL state senators are hoping the weekend rallies against gun violence can get gun bills moving again at the State Capitol. They want the Senate to hold hearings on more than a dozen bills already introduced this year, including school safety measures, enhanced

background checks, a bumpstock ban, and an age limit on assault weapons.

Sen. Ron Latz, DFL-St. Louis Park, noted that Republicans have talked to him about an informational hearing, which would not include a vote. He said it is not too late to address the issue, even though a deadline passed last week for bills to clear at least one committee.

"I think we need more

than an informational hearing. We need action this year, and there is time. The medical cannabis bill a couple of years ago was passed after all the deadlines had passed. When there is consensus and will to make something happen, there is a procedural basis to make something happen, as well," he said.

A variety of gun measures have been introduced at the Capitol in the wake

of the shootings at a school in Parkland, Florida, but two measures were tabled in House committee earlier this month; and key committee chairs have said gun bills are not likely to pass this year.

MPR contributed to this report. Listen to MPR in Ely at 89.3FM or on the Iron Range at 92.5 FM.



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BOYS BASKETBALL CLASS A CHAMPIONSHIP

BATTLE ROYALE!

Grizzlies fall just short in high-intensity showdown for state Class A title

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TARGET CENTER— For the second year in a row, the North Woods Grizzlies came away as runners-up at the state Class A boys basketball tournament. They were defeated 59-55 by Russell-Tyler-Ruthton in a heart-breaking, high-intensity contest that the Grizzlies led most of the way.

Last year, when the Grizzlies lost to Minneapolis North Community, a team that had no business playing in the single A bracket, the Grizzlies went into the title contest with no expectation of winning.

This time, it hurt. This year, victory was so close the Grizzlies could taste it. With just eight minutes left in the second half, North Woods held an 11-point lead over the Knights and looked poised to make history as the first team in the region to claim a state boys basketball title since Chisholm did it way back in 1991.

But in basketball, momentum can turn on a dime and it turned more than once in a game in which both sides left everything on the court.

It had turned for the Grizzlies midway through the first half, after R-T-R had picked apart the normally impenetrable North Woods defense in the early going. After initially falling behind 8-3 in the opening minutes, the Knights made a 17-2 run that put them up by 12 points midway through the half.

The Grizzlies adjusted, and turned the tables, completing their own 21-3 run to take the lead, 33-30, by the break. A couple big three-point shots by senior Tate Olson and outstanding all-around play by junior point guard Cade Goggleye, seemed to spark the Grizzlies' rally.

The Grizzlies continued their momentum through the first ten minutes of the second half as they slowly expanded their lead. Using a constantly shifting defensive strategy, North Woods Head Coach Will Kleppe and his team had kept the Knights' offense under wraps, at least for a time.

At first the shift in momentum was imperceptible. R-T-R turned to a full court press, but it seemed to have little effect on Goggleye, the Grizzlies' ball-handling wizard, who directed the offense from his point guard position.

But with the minutes ticking down, the Knights picked up a couple field goals back-to-back to trim the Grizzlies' lead to single digits. The Grizzlies managed to pace the Knights for a time, trading buckets and holding on to their edge. But then, with just under four minutes to go, the Knights connected from beyond the arc, to trim the Grizzlies lead to three, 52-49.

Goggleye, seemingly intent on seeing the Grizzlies to victory, took the in-bound pass and drove the ball straight up the middle for a picture-perfect layup, which should have put the Grizzlies back

See STATE TITLE...pg. 2B



Above: North Woods senior Brendan Parson and R-T-R senior Jonah Johnson react as they wrestle over a loose ball.



Above right: North Woods senior Tate Olson goes up for a shot under intense pressure from an R-T-R defender.



All photos by
Connie Stone

Left: Grizzlies point guard Cade Goggleye takes to the air for a layup.



Right: Fans express their support for the Grizzlies at the Target Center.



Above left: Grizzlies sophomore forward Trevor Morrison shoots from the paint.



Above right: Grizzlies fans were tense throughout the close and hard-fought contest.



Left: Fans Bergetta Indihar and Gary Skogman express disappointment as the tide turns in the final couple minutes.



Right: Teammates Chase Kleppe and Tanner Lokken console each other after the painful loss.

STATE TITLE...Continued from page 1B



up by five. But in a close call that very likely decided the game, the referee blew a foul on Goggleye for charging, erasing the two points from the board and leaving the Grizzlies standout seemingly rattled for the first time in the state tournament.

Grizzlies Head Coach Will Kleppe said the distinction between a defensive block and an offensive charge can be a fine line, one that seemed to take center stage in more than one game during this year's tournament.

In either case, the Knights took advantage, connecting for another three-pointer moments later to tie the game at 52.

Goggleye hustled back down court in the next possession, but with his confidence shaken, he missed wide on a jump shot from just outside the paint.

The Knights took the lead moments later and added two more as time slipped from the clock.

The Grizzlies put two more on the board with 1:02 remaining and Chase Kleppe would add another on a free throw with 40 seconds left, leaving North Woods down by a point, 56-55.

But with time running out and the Knights up, North Woods had no choice but to foul, leaving their hopes on the line at the charity stripe.



Top: The Grizzlies with their state championship runner-up trophy after the game.

Above: Cade Goggleye (lower left), Tate Olson, and Trevor Morrison (upper right), pose with their All-Tournament trophies.

Above right: The Grizzlies' mascot made an appearance at the Target Center.

photos by C. Stone

The Knights offered no favors, connecting on two free throws to put them up by three, with ten seconds remaining. The Grizzlies in-bounded to Parson and sent Goggleye racing to the outside corner, where North Woods' final hopes rested on a three-point shot. But the pass to Goggleye went awry. He managed to catch it, but in doing so his momentum was carrying him out of bounds. He made a Hail Mary toss over the back of his head as he fell out of bounds, but it bounced harmlessly off

the glass into the arms of a waiting Knight, marking the end of the Grizzlies remarkable season.

For the Grizzlies, unaccustomed to losing, the final buzzer left them momentarily shocked. But they showed maturity and composure despite the disappointment in the last-minute loss.

"It was a great experience," said Kleppe, noting that few high school teams experience the thrill of playing in the Target Center. "We're going to come away from it



very satisfied, just the way it went," he said about the final game. "It was intense, start to finish, never a one-second let-down for either team."

Several Grizzlies players were standouts in the game, including Tate Olson, who led North Woods with 15 points, including three treys. Goggleye tallied 13 points, while Brendan Parson added ten. Chase Kleppe scored seven and Trevor Morrison added six points and nine rebounds. Tanner Lokken completed the scoring, with four points.

Olson, Goggleye, and Morrison were named to the All-Tournament team for their outstanding play in all three games as they made their way to the championship round.

STATE TOURNAMENT

Grizzlies top Panthers in semi-finals

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TARGET CENTER — For the second year in a row, the North Woods Grizzlies earned a spot in the state Class A title match, after dismantling Cass Lake-Bena 67-47 in the semi-final round on Friday. It was a game marred in the final minutes by unsportsman-like conduct by a couple of Cass Lake players. Their actions, described as "vicious" by some commentators, led to two technical fouls and left Grizzlies sophomore forward Trevor Morrison out of the game for a time while trainers checked him for injuries after he was grabbed by the neck and thrown to the floor by a Cass Lake player. Cass Lake also roughed up North Woods junior point guard Cade Goggleye, who came up big for the Grizzlies, pouring in a game-high 23 points.

Sophomore forward Trevor Morrison added 14 points and seven rebounds, while senior Tate Olson had 11 points and seven rebounds. Senior Brendan Parson added ten points, while Darius Goggleye scored four and Chase Kleppe scored two.

Grizzlies crush Heritage Christian

WILLIAMS ARENA — North Woods wasted little time in taking control of their opening round contest in the state Class A boys basketball tournament. The Grizzlies dominated unranked Heritage Christian Academy, a senior-heavy squad that lit a fire in the playoffs after a 13-17 regular season.

The Eagles' Cinderella story quickly came face-to-face with the Grizzlies' juggernaut, as North Woods dominated the game en route to a 74-36 victory. Three straight three-pointers by Cade Goggleye put the Grizzlies up 9-2 within the opening minutes. By the break, the Grizzlies led 33-15, and they were just getting started. They went on to add 41 points in the second half and held the Eagles to just 21.

Junior point guard Cade Goggleye notched a double-double, with a game-high 23 points and ten assists. Junior Chase Kleppe was not far behind, with 18 points and seven rebounds, while sophomore Trevor Morrison tallied 15. Senior forward Tate Olson added six points, while senior Tanner Lokken added five.

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by Linda Thistle

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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
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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Call for Veterans of Foreign Wars members in Babbitt area

BABBITT- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1539 of Babbitt is in need of active members to attend monthly meetings and assume the role of officers. Without your participation, we will be forced to shut down the post. In doing so, this will affect our involvement in the community and surrounding areas. We will lose our voice and lessen our impact in rural Minnesota. Please get involved so we can be heard locally and on the state and national levels. Do this for us, our families, and our community. A special meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 9 at the Senior Center in Babbitt.

Finnish-American history program Tuesday, April 3

HIBBING- David Kess of the Ely-Winton Historical Society will present a program on the support that local Finnish Americans offered to their homeland as it bravely fought wars with Russia, at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 3, at Grace Lutheran Church, 4010 9th Ave. W, across from the cinema in Hibbing. Everyone is invited; snacks to share are provided by attendees and enjoyed with coffee.

Movie titled "Our Town: Virginia, MN" showing Friday, April 6

VIRGINIA- The movie "Our Town: Virginia, MN" will be shown on Friday, April 6, at 2 p.m. in the Columbia Apartments meeting room, 600 N 3rd Ave. in Virginia. This interesting and nostalgic look at our Queen City was filmed perhaps sixty years ago as an informational promotion of the city. Everyone is welcome! Coffee and dessert are provided.

Vermilion Dream Quilters meet on Thursday, April 12

TOWER- Vermilion Dream Quilters will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 12, in the social hall of St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower. Our program this month will focus on four types of quilt borders, each presented by a guild member. This month's show and tell will be special since 44 of our members are joining together the prior weekend for our annual retreat in the Grand Ely Lodge ballroom, and lots of great things usually happen there! Join us and tickle your creative side. Guests and visitors are welcome, and you might choose to join us in the year(s) to come! Our hostesses this month are Bonnie Harma, Corrine Hill, and Donna Filson.

Vermilion Dream Quilters is a guild with members from throughout the Iron Range and Arrowhead Region and is open to anyone interested in quilting and creative sewing. Members encourage and instruct each other and share tips. For more information please contact Corrine Hill in Tower at 218-753-4600.

Sons of Norway meet April 5

VIRGINIA- Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge #40 will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 5, in the Virginia City Hall Club Room. Ray Reinholdtzen will present a program on Ole Rolvaag, a well-known Norwegian-American author. The serving committee consists of Bob & Kristen Simensen and Arlene Jershe. Anyone interested in Norwegian culture and heritage is welcome to attend.

Range Fiberart Guild meets April 5

VIRGINIA- The Range Fiberart Guild will meet Thursday, April 5, at 6:30 p.m. at the Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 901 4th St. S in Virginia. Marcia Anderson, Library Director at the Grand Rapids Area Library, will present on locating fiber-related resources at libraries. The resources available through your local library extend way beyond what is inside the building. You have access to print materials and DVDs throughout Minnesota, and electronic materials from around the world. Marcia will discuss print materials, electronic books, electronic magazines, historical textile information, and internet sources.

TOWER BINGO Monday, April 2

TOWER- Senior Bingo will be held in Tower on Monday, April 2 at the Tower Civic Center from 11:45 a.m. - 3 p.m. There is a \$10 charge for the bingo party, which includes lunch. All ages are welcome to attend this community event. Lunch is served starting at 11:45 a.m., and bingo begins at 12:45 p.m. Senior Bingo is organized by the Friends of the Vermilion Country Charter School. In case of inclement weather, bingo may be cancelled. Questions, call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950.

Upcoming dates for 2018:

- Monday, April 2
- Monday, May 7
- Monday, June 4
- Monday, July 9 (second Monday)
- Monday, August 6

TOURISM

Nominations sought for Iron Range Tourism Bureau awards

REGIONAL- The Iron Range Tourism Bureau (IRTB) is seeking nominations for the 2018 Spirit of Hospitality Awards. Nominations are being sought in the following categories: Bartender, Behind the Scenes, Food Production, Guest Relations, Hotel Guest Services, Retail, Server, and Volunteer of the Year.

"We're very excited to be able to recognize the great work people of the region do to welcome guests to their places of business, and the outstanding contributions of the region's volunteers," said Jane Serrano, General Manager of the Mountain Iron Holiday Inn Express and Suites, SOHA committee chair and event founder. "We've recognized hundreds of people over the years and we look forward to meeting this year's nominees."

The event is entering its seventh year and aims to honor those who support the area's visitor economy by providing excellent service and working to make the region a better place to live, work and play.

"We are thrilled by the continued



growth, enthusiasm, and groundswell of support we have historically received, and encourage everyone to participate in the nomination of these fine individuals," said Tony Jeffries, chairman of the IRTB board of directors. "It is a wonderful testament to how deeply our local communities and businesses are invested in this important program, and most assuredly augments our committed efforts in enriching the guest and visitor experience throughout our service area."

Nominations are being accepted now through Sept. 1 at www.ironrange.org. Simply click on the SOHA logo and fill out an online nomination form to recognize someone

for going the extra mile as a server, bartender, retail employee, food production staff, front desk worker, cashier, behind-the-scenes worker, or volunteer.

"The SOHAs are an important way of showing appreciation to those in the service industry and everyone else who works so hard to assist visitors every day," Serrano added.

All nominees are invited to be interviewed by a panel of judges, and all who complete the interview process are recognized at an annual banquet where a winner is named in each category. This year's event will be at the Eveleth Auditorium on Sunday, Oct. 28.

Learn more by visiting ironrange.org, calling 218-749-8161, or emailing beth@ironrange.org.

The Iron Range Tourism Bureau is a destination marketing organization serving the communities of Aurora, Biwabik, Buhl, Chisholm, Embarrass, Eveleth, Fayal, Gilbert, Hibbing, Hoyt Lakes, Mountain Iron, and Virginia.

LAKE COUNTRY POWER

Operation Round Up® gives more than \$49,000 to community programs

REGIONAL- Through the assistance of Lake Country Power's participating members, the Operation Round Up® Trust Board recently approved \$49,010 in contributions to local community programs during its quarterly meeting.

The cooperative's Trust Board reviewed and considered 61 grant applications and distributed funds to 56 projects and programs this past quarter. Since the program's inception in October 2004, more than \$2 million has been distributed to community-based projects and programs.

Most recent recipients in our area included: Tower-Soudan Historical Society, North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity, Life House, Inc., Veterans on the Lake Resort, The Salvation Army HeatShare, Iron Range Partnership

for Sustainability, B.E.S.T. Baseball Juniors/VFW, Story Portage, Range Regional Animal Rescue, Embarrass Township, Minnesota State Old Time Fiddle Championship, Mesabi Family YMCA, Voyageur Country ATV Club Inc., Lake Vermilion Traditional Pow Wow, and Vermilion Community College TRIO.

Operation Round Up® is a charitable program unique to electric co-ops, which is designed to provide financial assistance to worthwhile activities and community projects by "rounding up" members' electric bills to the nearest dollar. The average donation of each participating Lake Country Power member is less than \$6 annually.

More than 71 percent of Lake Country Power members participate in the program through voluntary

contributions. Interested members can opt into the Operation Round Up® program by calling Lake Country Power at 800-421-9959 or using an online form at lakecountrypower.coop.

Applications are available online at www.lakecountrypower.coop. The next application deadline is May 15.

Lake Country Power, www.lakecountrypower.coop, is a Touchstone Energy® cooperative serving parts of eight counties in northeastern Minnesota. The rural electric cooperative provides services to nearly 43,000 members and has offices located in Grand Rapids, Kettle River and Mountain Iron.

Babbitt Easter Egg Hunt on March 31

BABBITT- The Babbitt Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 31 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Babbitt Beach. If the weather is bad, it will be held at the Babbitt Municipal Gym. The hunt is sponsored by Just Bite Me Miller's Bait. Call Theresa at 218-235-7170 with any questions.

Local organizations receive Arrowhead Regional Arts Council grants

REGIONAL- Local Iron Range Area organizations were awarded grants from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council on March 15. Northern Lights Music Festival of Aurora was

awarded a \$5,000 Art Project grant to help support the production of Rossini's The Barber of Seville in July. The production, which will be Northern Lights Music Festival's tenth fully-staged opera, will be performed in Aurora, Chisholm, and Ely. Range Center Inc. Soho Arts of Hibbing was awarded a \$5,000 Community Arts Learning grant to help the Clay and Fire project, a program proposed to increase the knowledge, skills, and confidence of artists in the use of clay and fire. Two pieces of art will be created and displayed. In addition, artists will participate in gallery walks and other events to demonstrate and teach community members to express themselves using clay and fire.

The Arrowhead Regional Arts Council is a regional non-profit that has been encouraging local arts development in north-

eastern Minnesota through arts funding and services for over 35 years. For the complete list of those awarded in the Arrowhead Region, visit our website at www.aracouncil.org.

Cook Library hosts "Coding Time for Kids" on Thursdays at 5 p.m.

COOK- The Cook Public Library is hosting "Coding Time for Kids" every Thursday until April 26 at 5 p.m. All students interested in learning about computer coding are invited to stop by. Students will get help from our volunteer coder, Theresa Drift, or can use the space to work on projects of their own. Laptops and public computers are available for student use.

Obituaries And Death Notices

Rosemary Gebauer

Rosemary Johansen Hokkanen Gebauer, 95, of Orlando, Fla., formerly of Cook, passed away on Thursday, March 15, 2018.

A memorial service was held on Monday, March 25 at Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church in Orlando. The family invites you to please consider a donation to Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church in Orlando or

The Gardens at Depugh Nursing Center in Winter Park, in her name.

She is survived by her son, Gary (Patricia) Hokkanen; daughter, Nadine Lutz; sister, Beryl (Bill) Sersha; brother, Roger Bruce (Jean) Johansen; granddaughter, Jessica (Matt) Williams; grandsons, Matthew and James; step-grandson, Sean (Carmon) Schaefer; great-grandchildren, Gabriella and Pierce; step-son, Tom (Debbie) Gebauer; step-daughter, Barbara Gebauer; step-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Bonnie M. Barich

Bonnie M. Erkkila Barich, 83, of Ely, passed away on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, surrounded by her loving family. A memorial service was held on Thursday, March 29 at First Lutheran Church in Ely. Arrangements were by Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia.

She is survived by her loving husband, Johnny; daughter, Patty (Bryan) Rusco; son, John (Geri) Barich; and grandchildren, April, BJ and Casey Rusco and Lauren Barich.



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Outdoors

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THE LEGISLATURE

Bill would sharply limit new muskie stocking

Legislation would prohibit stocking new muskie waters, would give county boards more authority over stocking in general

by **TIM SPIELMAN**
Editor—*Outdoor News*

REGIONAL—A bill aimed at curbing the stocking of muskies in Minnesota was expected in the Legislature this session, and recently it arrived.

But what did surprise some observers was what one legislator called the “expansive” nature of the proposed legislation. Not only does the legislation call for the prohibition of muskie stocking in lakes where it’s not currently taking place, it also addresses the stocking of other

fish species, and who decides what and how many are stocked where. And, there’s plenty more.

As in 2017, the muskie legislation is authored by Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen, R-Alexandria. Its House sponsor is Bud Nornes, a Fergus Falls Republican.

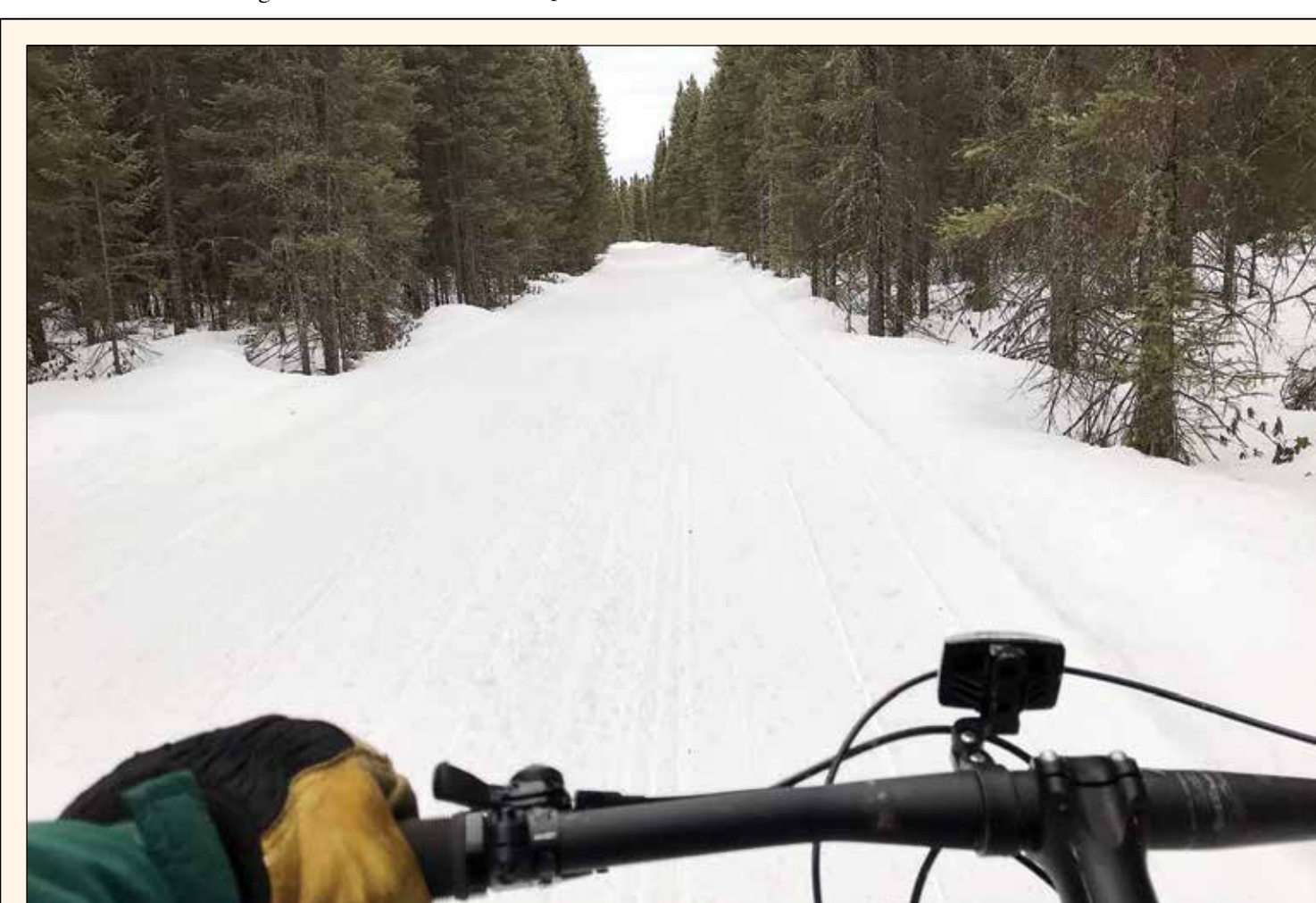
The centerpiece of the muskie bills – SF 3319 and HF 3930 – is the prohibition on stocking new muskie waters. An add-on to that provision: “Any savings realized as a result must be used for walleye stocking,” the bills state.

The second provision of the

Right: Muskies remain a popular game species for many anglers, but lake residents often bristle at the presence of such large and aggressive fish in their waters, believing that they negatively impact populations of ducks, loons, and other game fish. file photo

bills addresses resolutions from county commissioners. It takes its cue from a resolution passed last year by the Otter Tail County Board

See **MUSKIES...**pg. 5B



RECREATION

Making the most of winter

Late winter’s crust and ice means the traveling is fast and easy

For those who have failed to recognize the potential of late winter’s crust, we’re undoubtedly in the midst of the cruel season. What could be worse than the hope for spring while Mother Nature continues to dish out week after week of chilly temperatures?

Sure, it’s not January, but it’s a far cry from visions of daffodils.

I hear the moping all the time. “I wish it would just melt, already,” is the most common sentiment in the North Country this time of year.

I just nod. I figure they don’t need to know I’m hoping the snow sticks around until May.

It’s all a question of attitude and the right gear to let you take advantage of whatever late winter conditions the North Country throws at us.

I know lots of folks who’ve already put their cross-country skis away for the winter. For all but a few, the snow machines are parked back in the garage for the season, as the late March sun has eaten away much of the snow cover on the trails.

Most seasons, I don’t even bother to take my cross-country skis out until March. For me, it’s all about the crust. Classical skiing is just too slow, so I gave it up years ago. I skate ski, and there are no better conditions than a hard, early April crust. Whether on lakes, rivers, or across open expanses of swamp, it doesn’t really matter, so long as it’s hard and fast.



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

Above: The view from the seat of the author’s fat tire bike while riding along the Arrowhead Trail near Cook recently.

Right: Mary Shedd, of Tower, uses Nordic skates on late season ice last April. Her dog, Ruckus, managed without skates.

Lower right: Nordic skates attach like miniature skis to a regular skate-skiing boot.

photos by M. Helmberger

Of course, I’ve learned that such conditions can be ephemeral. It takes the right conditions to make a good hard crust, the kind you can walk or ski over. And by late afternoon, with the strengthening sun beating down, the crust can quickly thaw, turning a heavenly ski into a hellish slog.

Thankfully, there’s a toy for every condition. A couple years ago, I bought a fat tire bike, which is just the thing to explore the snowmobile trails after all the sleds have been put away. They’re hard and fast, and I have them all to myself. On a 16-mile long bike on the Arrowhead Trail last weekend, I didn’t see a soul.

I haven’t sprung the big bucks for studded tires for this bad boy yet, so I know the conditions on the trails will soon be too icy for me. But that’s okay, because the skate-skiing is very close to peak out on the lakes.

See **LATE WINTER...**pg. 5B



Outdoors briefly

Survey finds slight population rise for northern Minnesota elk

REGIONAL — Minnesota’s elk range in northwestern Minnesota has three herds with a total of 97 elk, according to the annual aerial elk population survey completed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in Kittson, Marshall and Roseau counties.

Past surveys recorded 79 elk in 2017 and 83 elk in 2016.

“People often are surprised to learn we have wild elk in Minnesota,” said Doug Franke, Thief River Falls area wildlife supervisor. “As biologists, our annual elk surveys are one way we collect information we can use to manage these large and often elusive animals.”

Year-to-year, the survey results vary depending on the movement of the Caribou-Vita herd that travels back and forth across the Minnesota-Manitoba border. Meanwhile, the smaller Grygla herd in Marshall County remains at low numbers.

“We continue to be concerned about low numbers of elk in the Grygla herd, which has not been hunted since 2012 and remains below our population goal,” Franke said.

In Marshall County, observers counted 15 elk in the Grygla herd, down from the 17 elk counted last year and 21 elk in 2016. The current population goal range for the Grygla elk herd is 30 to 38 animals.

Another elk herd, the Kittson-Central herd, is located near Lancaster in Kittson County. Observers counted 75 elk this year compared to 61 elk in 2017 and 52 elk in 2016. The current population goal range for this herd is 50 to 60 animals.

Aerial surveys are a snapshot in time, meaning they are only an estimate of the population, not an exact number. The DNR counts elk only on the Minnesota side during its aerial surveys.

Border herd results

This year, the DNR was again able to conduct a joint aerial elk survey with Manitoba Conservation for the Caribou-Vita elk herd, also known as the border herd. The survey was completed on March 11 and March 12 for the areas close to the border. Manitoba Conservation wildlife staff counted 80 elk near the border, down from the 108 elk counted last year. There were 46 elk counted slightly north of Vita, Manitoba, which is down from the 55 elk counted there last year.

MUSKIES...Continued from page 4B—

that requests the DNR cease stocking muskies in the county for a five-year period “or until such time that sufficient scientific evidence is presented that muskellunge stocking does not adversely affect the ecosystem.”

Resolutions may be adopted by counties regarding the stocking of fish in lakes entirely within the county. The DNR would need to comply with county resolutions requesting any of the following:

- ▶ Stock waters with only particular species of fish;
- ▶ Limit stocking of particular fish species to a given amount or percentage of total stocking;
- ▶ Refrain from stocking waters with any fish.

Other provisions would allow for the spearing of muskies from dark houses, and a 20-inch minimum size limit for muskies in yet-to-be-defined “nonmuskellunge waters where muskies are not indigenous or stocked by the (DNR).”

John Underhill, co-chair of the Minnesota Muskies and Pike Alliance, said this year’s version of anti-muskie legislation was similar to last year’s, except for the fact that it’s “so far overreaching.”

Regarding county resolutions that could determine what type and how many fish are stocked in what waters, he said the legislation quickly approaches a slippery slope.

“If you let counties dictate fish management, what’s next?” he asks. “This infringes on all of our rights to hunt and fish.”

The DNR, which opposes all aspects of the legislation, has another take on the issue.

“It’s riparian land-owners who are trying to assert that they have lake-management authority,” said Bob Meier, DNR assistant commissioner.

Local control and interest was worthy of mention as Otter Tail County commissioners adopted their muskie resolution last fall, suggesting that muskies could be harming the walleye population on Pelican Lake, north of Pelican Rapids. While supporters of the legislative bill claim that fish populations are being negatively impacted by muskies, DNR data indicate a robust walleye population in Pelican Lake — “no significant change” in recent years, according to commentary regarding the lake.

The DNR has reiterated that it stocks low levels of muskies and that the fish are placed in lakes to provide anglers with an opportunity to catch a trophy fish — which is dissimilar to stocking that occurs in other states, such as Wisconsin, where heavy stocking is meant, in some places, to give fishermen and women a better chance to catch a muskie.

In other legislative action:

The bill that contains funding recommendations from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council passed out of the House Legacy Funding Finance Committee “fairly unscathed” earlier this week, according to Meier.

The bill, which contains about \$113 million in spending for the outdoors, has cleared all House committee hurdles, he said.

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LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
25 5				24 2				28 8				33 10				32 9			
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.
03/19	39	16	0.00	03/19	34	7	0.00	03/19	35	13	0.00	03/19	36	25	0.00	03/19	35	8	0.00
03/20	37	15	0.00	03/20	35	22	0.00	03/20	35	14	0.00	03/20	30	18	0.00	03/20	36	14	0.00
03/21	28	8	0.00	03/21	27	10	0.00	03/21	30	11	0.00	03/21	36	16	0.00	03/21	29	10	0.00
03/22	38	10	0.00	03/22	35	5	0.00	03/22	34	8	0.00	03/22	41	18	0.00	03/22	37	4	0.00
03/23	42	8	0.00	03/23	31	1	0.00	03/23	39	7	0.00	03/23	41	16	0.00	03/23	40	7	0.00
03/24	39	15	0.00	03/24	34	5	0.00	03/24	39	14	0.00	03/24	37	18	0.00	03/24	40	10	0.00
03/25	34	19	0.00	03/25	32	14	0.00	03/25	37	16	0.00	03/25	37	19	0.00	03/25	39	16	0.00
Totals			1.55 63.8"	Totals			1.85 63.4"	Totals			1.95 68.4"	Totals	NA NA			Totals			2.04 60.8"

Outdoors briefly

County board lauds funding for school trust lands in BWCAW

REGIONAL— St. Louis County Commissioners are applauding the recent set aside of \$4 million in federal funding to purchase 51,000 acres of state school trust lands located in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The funding is included in the federal omnibus spending bill that President Donald Trump signed last week.

This funding comes after decades of seeking a solution to address the issue of school trust lands located in the Boundary Waters, and sets in motion the hybrid two-thirds purchase and one-third land exchange plan that

the Minnesota Legislature approved seven years ago. Minnesota’s Congressional Delegation has helped champion this hybrid plan.

“This long-awaited development is good news for the state and for school kids who are the ultimate beneficiaries,” said St. Louis County Commissioner Frank Jewell, who has made several trips to Washington, D.C., to lobby in support of this provision. “And now, with federal ownership, these same lands will receive a nearly four-fold increase in payments per acre compared to previous payments by the state.”

Meanwhile, Commissioner Tom Rukavina commented, “There are still many steps to be worked through in this long process, but at least it’s a first step. So this is good news for St. Louis County, as well

as Lake and Cook counties.”

County leaders extended special thanks to Congressman Rick Nolan and U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith for their tremendous help in getting and then keeping this provision in the final federal 2018 budget bill.

Currently, there are 83,000 total acres of state school trust land in the BWCA. The Minnesota Constitution requires that these lands earn income for the school districts of the state. However, since the passage of the 1978 BWCA Act, these lands have been unavailable for typical revenue-generating purposes, like logging and mining.

Last year, the school trust contributed about \$55 million for the state’s schools.

LATE WINTER...Continued from page 4B—

Eventually, as the snow starts to disappear even from lake surfaces, it will be too icy for skate-skiing as well.

But that’s when the Nordic skates come out. These skates are essentially a pair of 18-inch blades with a binding on top that connects to the bottom of your skate-skiing boot. Put these on and be prepared for some excitement. Most Nordic skaters, myself included, use their regular cross-country ski poles

while skating and the motion is identical to skate-skiing. There’s just one difference... you go three times as fast.

I like speed, but with a wind on your back, on decent ice, it can get downright scary fast, and I recommend a helmet just to be sure you don’t splatter brain matter across the ice if you happen to go down hard.

I know this kind of recreation might not be for everyone. But how do you know it’s not for you until

you’ve tried it? Besides, you’ve put the snow machine to bed, the fish house is back on land, and March Madness is done for another year. You’ve got nothing but April to look forward to. While most folks figure April is our cruelest month, with the right gear and the willingness to try something new, it could be peak play time for you, too.

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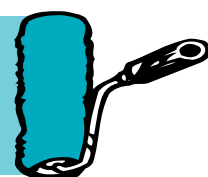
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Super Crossword

Answers

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

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Wishing You A Blessed Easter!

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Orr-\$125,000 Cabin on 28 acres and 2,100 ft on the Vermilion River. **MLS#133902**

Elbow Lake-\$39,900 228 ft of shoreline on 2.3 wooded acres. **MLS#133667**

CONGRATULATIONS
Jason & Robyn Cooper, the new owners of "Gateway General Store" in Kabetogama, from Steve Bragg, Business Broker

Jason & Robyn have been operating Park Point Resort on Lake Kabetogama since 2014 and recently bought Gateway General from Phil & Ellen Hart. They have already expanded the product line to include St Croix Fishing rods, Yeti coolers and more food service items such as more ice cream, coffee bar and grocery items. They also have a wide variety of adult and children's gifts and clothing. Look for more diverse inventory as time continues.

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