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ELECTION 2018

Phifer bows out of 8th District race

Said her candidacy faced pushback from Iron Range party bosses

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Former FBI analyst Leah Phifer announced Wednesday that she won't compete in the DFL primary for the Eighth District congressional seat. Phifer made that decision after falling just short in her bid to win the party's endorsement last Saturday in Duluth.

More coverage

No endorsement throws DFL race to August primary. **Page 2**

Phifer had a sizable and committed slate of delegates at the endorsing convention and proved the top vote-getter in each of the ten ballots cast by DFLers as they struggled

Leah Phifer, a DFL candidate for the 8th Congressional District seat, fell short in winning the party's endorsement last Saturday. She is shown here at the Ely regional caucus earlier this spring. photo by K. Vandervort

to reach consensus on a candidate. But she ran into opposition from the party's traditional Iron Range power base, which never warmed to her push for a greater focus on environmental protection,

economic fairness, and restorative justice. "Our campaign was always about bringing voices forward that hadn't had a seat at the table before," she

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TOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Shhhh...
Don't tell mom!**



Tower Elementary School first graders, including Ava Redetzke, top, and Luca Sunsdahl, above left, make "super secret" Mother's Day projects with clay on Wednesday. Retired art teacher Lyn Reed, above right, made a special trip to Jo Holen's class to work with these young students. photos by S. Ukkola

ELY AREA

Joint Powers Board backs request for job-growth funding

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

MORSE TWP – The Ely Community Economic Joint Powers Board gave its support last week to a grant request by the Ely Area Development Association to the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board for financial assistance.

The Joint Powers Board, with voting members from the city of Winton, city of Ely, Morse Township, Fall Lake Township and the Ely School District, held their quarterly meeting last Thursday and unanimously gave their support to the request from EADA Chairman Gerald Tyler.

Tyler also heads the Ely-based non-profit, pro-mining organization Up North Jobs Inc., chartered in 2013.

"While many Northeastern Minnesotans know about Up North Jobs Inc., few know that we manage the Ely Area Development Association, established in 1959 and re-chartered in 1995," Tyler wrote in a letter to IRRRB Commissioner Mark Phillips.

EADA's mission, according to Tyler, is to promote economic development and job growth in Northeastern Minnesota. Their office is located in the Frandsen Bank Building at 40 N 1st Avenue

See...GRANT pg. 10

RECREATION

Lake Vermilion Trail Board ready to apply for grant funding

by **JODI SUMMIT**
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- The Lake Vermilion Trail Joint Powers Board is set to approve their

Master Plan on Thursday, April 26 at a 10 a.m. public meeting at the LaCroix Ranger Station in Cook.

The group held public meetings in Tower, Greenwood,

and Cook this past week, and is also seeking public comments on the plan through April 23 on its website www.lakevermilion-trail.org. The draft of the plan can also be viewed at this site.

Once the master plan is approved, the board will be able to qualify for the "Regional Significance Designation" by the Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails Commission,

which then allows the group to qualify for grants through the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources'

See...TRAIL pg. 11



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EIGHTH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL CONTEST

No endorsement throws DFL race to August primary

Race narrows to four candidates as Leah Phifer bows out after failing to receive party endorsement

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The shape of the Eighth District congressional race took a dramatic turn this week, after apparent frontrunner Leah Phifer announced she was ending her campaign after falling short of her goal of winning the party's endorsement.

The former FBI analyst had a clear lead in delegates coming into last Saturday's Eighth District endorsing convention in Duluth and she was the top vote-getter in all ten ballots cast by delegates. She received as much as 52 percent of the vote in early balloting, but former state Rep. Joe Radinovich garnered just enough support to prevent Phifer from obtaining the 60 percent needed for endorsement. Phifer, whose campaign strategy hinged on the party endorsement, quickly made the decision to depart the race.



Michelle Lee Jason Metsa Joe Radinovich Kirsten Kennedy

Meanwhile, three of the remaining candidates, Rep. Jason Metsa, of Virginia, former KBJR news anchor Michelle Lee, of Moose Lake, and former state Rep. Joe Radinovich, announced they would push on to the August primary. North Branch Mayor Kirsten Hagen Kennedy, who had little support from delegates on Saturday, offered no immediate comment on her intentions.

"The best way to identify the strongest candidate to win in November is through a primary campaign," said Metsa. "I look forward to running a robust

grassroots campaign focused on our shared values of fairness and responsibility."

Lee, in a Monday news conference, appeared with former state Senator and Lt. Gov. Yvonne Pretzner Solon, who has endorsed Lee and announced that she will be joining the campaign as a senior policy advisor.

In a Monday news conference, Lee said she had signed the DFL Code of Fair Campaign Practices, and urged her fellow candidates to also sign the pledge. "For as long as this campaign continues, we will conduct ourselves with civility,

honesty and decency," said Lee. "Where we disagree with our fellow candidates, we will engage in constructive debate."

Lee laid out a progressive agenda, including free public college tuition, greatly expanding renewable energy, protecting Social Security and Medicare, and universal health care coverage. Lee said her campaign has three basic themes, including progress, reform, and necessary change. "We have people in our district that don't have any bootstraps with which to pull themselves up," Lee said. "They share a common experience of being overlooked and forgotten. These people, these families, that's who I'm fighting for."

Radinovich promised to carry on his campaign in the wake of his strong second-place showing at the convention. "The future of our workforce and ability to compete in a 21st century economy demands that

we invest in public education. I will. Our ability to make good on the most basic bargain in our democracy — that a person can retire with dignity — depends on the strength of Social Security and Medicare. I'll work across the aisle to protect those important programs."

Radinovich also alluded to the fall campaign and the forces that are likely to oppose whoever is the DFL nominee. "In the days ahead, our campaign will be tested. Corporations, special interests, and the GOP will pour dark money into this district to give Pete Stauber a shot at undoing the legacy that Representatives Rick Nolan and Jim Oberstar have left," he said.

Heading into the primary, money is sure to be an issue for the candidates. Metsa, who has the backing of labor, including the United Steelworkers,

See PRIMARY...pg. 5

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TEDA seeks plan to address Abrahamson property

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The Tower Economic Development Authority recommended, at their April 12 meeting, that the city seek to conduct environmental testing to detect possible below-ground contamination at the old Classy Cars site on Main Street, currently owned by Ron Abrahamson Sr. This would be the first step to remediating any possible problems at the now-vacant building.

While an old petroleum leak on the grounds of the

site was remediated when the underground gasoline tanks were removed in 1998, the building had an indoor hydraulic lift for working on automobiles, so there is the potential for non-petroleum contamination underneath the building.

A potential buyer for the building is estimating it may cost up to \$67,500 to have the site "shovel ready," which includes any needed remediation along with the removal of the old gas pumps and concrete structures, and underground gas lines. The buyer is planning retail and furniture production space on the

ground floor, and four apartments on the second floor.

A soil vapor test is required as the first step in a remediation plan. This test must be done once in the winter and once in the summer. The estimated cost for this testing is \$2,100. Once these

See TEDA...pg. 5



Right: This Main Street property in Tower is attracting interest from buyers, but potential contamination at the site is posing a hurdle to redevelopment.
photo by M. HelMBERGER

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CITY OF ELY

Council honors Sheddy for his service

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Longtime council member died April 14

ELY—The city council here recited the Pledge of Allegiance before their meeting Tuesday night in honor of Gordon Sheddy, a former council member and long-time volunteer member of numerous committees and advisory boards.

Sheddy, 77, died on Saturday, April 14.

Ely Mayor Chuck Novak praised Sheddy's commitment to the city of Ely. "There isn't a better example of volunteer than Gordon," he said.

Sheddy served on the Ely City Council for two terms, serving from 2007-2014. His contributions to the city included serving on many committees:

- ▶ Ely Utilities Commission, 2005-2013 and 2017, 10 years;
- ▶ Planning and Zoning Committee, 2005-2013, nine years;
- ▶ Telecommunications Advisory Board, 2006, 2009-2014, eight years;



Gordon Sheddy

- ▶ Fire Commission, 2010-201, eight years;
- ▶ Sanitation Committee, 2008-2014, seven years;
- ▶ Housing and Redevelopment Authority, 2009-2014, six years;
- ▶ Buildings Assessment Group, 2009-2012, four years;
- ▶ Chamber of Commerce Council representative, 2009-2012, four years;
- ▶ Police Commission, 2009-2012, four years;
- ▶ Employee Relations Committee, 2006 and 2014, two years;
- ▶ Lodging Tax Board, Council representative, 2007-2008, two years;
- ▶ Budget Committee, 2009, one year.

Sheddy passed away at

his home with his wife and friends at his side. A date for a celebration of life gathering will be announced at a later date. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kertz Funeral Home of Ely.

Council meeting

Ely Council members held a brief meeting and took the following action:

- ▶ Returned a recommendation to the Employee Relations Committee concerning a memorandum of understanding for prorated personal days for new hires to the Police Department;
- ▶ Agreed with the ER Committee that the police chief should review any and all payroll concerns with the Clerk-Treasurer prior to responding to the law enforcement union;
- ▶ Authorized the extension of utilities and relocation of the snowmobile trail behind Sibley Apartments to Low Impact Excavators for the low bid of \$171,433;

\$171,433;

▶ Authorized hazardous material inspections for possible demolition of five residential properties, 26 E. White St., 312 E. White St., 137 W. Sheridan St., 11 W. Vermilion, and 1705 E. Sheridan St.;

▶ Authorized the police chief to move officer Christian Deinhammer from one-year probationary to full-time status;

▶ Approved 10-year notes and mortgages for Rehabilitation Loans of \$10,000 at two-percent interest for Scott Mills and Wende Nelson, and William and Helen Cusack;

▶ Approved a development agreement between the city of Ely and Rural Living Environments Inc.;

▶ Passed a resolution authorizing the issuance of \$703,000 in General Obligation Equipment Bonds.

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on tapping of city maple trees at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24. A study session will be held at 5:30 p.m. that same day.

Briefly

Confusion over grant for Lake Vermilion Cultural Center

TOWER—City council action on April 9 created some confusion over a proposed grant for the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center. The council agenda included accepting an IRRRB grant for repairs to the facility's roof. During discussion, city officials stated that the grant was for \$225,000.

The council action surprised members of the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center, who were in the process of redrafting their grant application, which has not yet been approved by the IRRRB.

City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith clarified that the council agenda should have indicated that the council was approving submission of the LVCC's grant application. LVCC officials say they are seeking substantially more than \$225,000. Keith did not respond when asked where the city's grant figure had come from.

CITY OF ORR

Orr council making progress on ambulance department

by MELISSA ROACH
Staff Writer

ORR—The city council here, at their April 16 meeting, approved updated guidelines for city ambulance volunteers. Ambulance director Donna Hoffer reported the guidelines had been presented to members at their last meeting, and that all members are being required to review the new regulations and then sign

off on the new rules. Most members have already signed off, she said.

On a positive note, Hoffer said, Carefree Living of Orr has made a room available at no charge for overnight ambulance volunteers. This move broadens the department's ability to attract volunteers from outside of the city, shortening the call time, as well as the ability to provide medical care quickly if needed at the assisted living facility.

Hoffer also reported there are four new EMT/EMRs on the roster.

The council decided to not accept payment of \$250 from Brooke Cote for ambulance training she took part in. Cote had stepped into an open training spot when the original volunteer could not attend a training that the council had already paid for. Councilor Kennebec commended Cote for her involvement, and her parents for the support they have given her.

The council accepted the proposed rental fees and agreement for the American Legion building. The city purchased the building last month with

the plan of turning it into a community center. The proposed rates for wedding receptions, retirements, birthdays, and dances will be \$175. Bridal/baby showers, graduation parties, Snow Day Chamber rental, church rentals, family Christmas parties and class reunions will be \$75. Use of kitchen is \$25 extra. There is no charge for funerals.

Mayor Astleford informed the city council here that Representative Rob Ecklund has been in touch with CN Railroad and MnDot about the railroad's plans. This past winter there was some speculation of another line being put in through Orr.

Ecklund reported there are no plans to put either a siding or double tracks through the city. They are however, looking at a siding addition north of Cusson and north of Britt.

Ambulance Finance Director Jim Gray informed the council that the department radios were reaching the end of their life cycle, and with increased membership, he said the department needed to purchase additional radios. He said he had some money left for capital expenditures after the purchase of the lift chairs. He presented a quote for five radios and five pagers at \$16,054, and said he has some of

the money, but not all. He was also looking into new/additional department uniforms, which he said were likely to cost about \$400 per uniform. He didn't have the quotes available, but wanted to bring the information to the council. He requested the council table the request until all quotes and inventory needs are assessed.

Airport department head Rocky Hoffman told the council he was concerned over the amount of jet fuel in the tanks due to lack of fuel sales. He said the council may want to look at refreshing the fuel and selling off

See COUNCIL...pg. 5

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OPINION

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Editorial

Leadership on AIS

Vermilion Lake Association and North St. Louis SWCD are making a difference

Effectively addressing a major challenge takes leadership and organizational capacity. And the Vermilion Lake Association and the North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District are bringing those two components to the fight against aquatic invasive species.

There's a lot at stake for lakes throughout Minnesota. Fisheries have been harmed by zebra mussels, including some of the state's most significant walleye fisheries. Property values have plummeted on lakes hit by one of the newest problem invasive species, starry stonewort.

This aggressive plant literally chokes out everything where it becomes established, converting once pleasant lakeshore into an almost impenetrable green goo.

There are numerous other threats, some of which are already established in major lakes in our region, such as rusty crayfish and spiny waterfleas. But these invasive species, while significant, are more in the nuisance category in terms of their impacts. So far, lakes in our region have avoided the establishment of "game changers" like zebra mussels or starry stonewort.

The VLA and SWCD are aiming to keep it that way.

They're getting help from the Legislature and St. Louis County, which have been providing substantial funding in recent years to help organizations step up their efforts. That's helping groups like Wildlife Forever fund their ongoing education campaign, which includes a substantial presence in St. Louis County. It's also helping the VLA and SWCD finance local efforts to increase boat inspections, to directly educate lake users, and to operate decontamination units around the region.

The AIS fight has been around for several years, but there is still a substantial learning curve. The VLA and SWCD have been organized

and methodical as they've developed their strategies and are continuously adjusting as they learn more about what methods are effective and what efforts need improvement. As leaders in this fight, they recognize that their efforts will likely become a model for other parts of the state.

This is one fight where it pays to work together. Constant reinforcement of a consistent message is the best way to keep Minnesotans on their toes when it comes to the AIS threat. The fact is, Minnesotans love their lakes, and more than a few Minnesotans love more than one lake. And as they transport boats and equipment from one lake to another, the potential to spread aquatic invasives is ever present.

Preventing the spread isn't rocket science, but it takes awareness of the threat and an understanding of the basic steps all lake users can undertake to minimize the risks. That's where the VLA and SWCD have taken the lead. And they recognize they can't do it alone, which is why they've been holding informational meetings for area business people in recent weeks. They know that business owners, particularly those who regularly interact with boat owners, are key to reinforcing the message, particularly with out-of-town or out-of-state visitors who may not be familiar with the AIS issue.

As Jeff Lovgren, the VLA's AIS coordinator noted at one of the recent meetings with business owners, this fight really has to be a partnership. The VLA and the SWCD's Emily Nelson are doing an outstanding job of bringing that partnership together. They are effectively deploying the resources made available to them and providing critical leadership in the AIS fight.



Letters from Readers

To Ely's mayor, city council and citizens...

A huge proportion of residents in Fall Lake and Morris Townships consider themselves citizens of Ely - good citizens. The maple tree tapping Brekkes included.

Ely is the source of our mail, our schools, our groceries and fuel, our medical care, our library, our caucus groups and our social and cultural life. But we can't vote for (or against) you.

Shame on you Mr. Mayor, we DO live here, just not on your side of a movable line. I do hope you expand your perspective to consider Ely-area citizens.

Jo Kovach
Fall Lake Township

More storytelling on tap April 26 in Ely

It turns out that Ely is a great place to have a storytelling event. About 40 folks came to hear some amazing stories on the theme of "Living History" a few weeks ago, and at least one person came from as far as Virginia. The past lives on through stories of immigrant grandparents who arrived at Ellis Island with determination and courage, and of grandmothers from different social classes whose granddaughters are now friends and equals. Stories about family heirlooms came out when one family decided to downsize; and the end of WWII was experienced in a canoe as church bells rang out over the water.

One person realized later in life that her father was doing the original research on plate tectonics while she was a child. Another asked his grandmother if she voted for Teddy Roosevelt, and she said she would have, but women did not have the right to vote. There was the memory of a first car and a first speeding ticket (almost!) and a story about being a tour guide at the Biosphere and being fired by Steve Bannon, yes, that Steve Bannon. Even recent history affects us. A U.S. Forest

Service employee told about helping a town in Oregon make it through a terrible fire in 2017.

You can never guess what people have been through unless you hear their stories. The final True Stories from the Edge will be Thursday, April 26, at 6 p.m. at the Ely Senior Center. The theme is "Animal Encounters". All are welcome to tell a story or just come and listen. The cookies will be artisan, but the coffee is just instant.

Julie Nester
and **Terry Cooper**
Ely

Commissioner Nelson should just retire

The other morning I choked on my coffee reading the MDN article about St. Louis County Commissioner Keith Nelson seeking re-election. Nelson brags and pontificates of his political prowess. He has no shame.

Commissioner Nelson, why don't you tell the truth about how you raised taxes, big time, and spent the taxpayers' money like a drunken sailor on shore leave in the Port of Duluth.

On top of it all, you are a poor poker player. The billionaire Stewart Mills's Clan whines and the county gives them a tax break on their Hermantown store, costing every taxpayer in the county.....thanks Keith!

My good friend Tom Rukavina calls you a Duluth Commissioner. He is right.

The best thing Commissioner Nelson could do is retire, go collect that taxpayers' funded pension, and fade off into oblivion. It would be a blessing for the people of the Iron Range.

Matt Matasich
Virginia

Trump is not making America great again

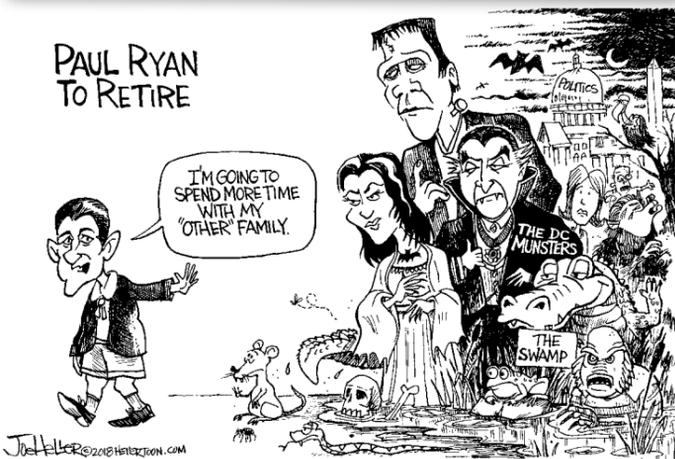
Don't let the tax cut fool you. Pay attention to all the other things going on with this chaotic administration and you'll see that this country is certainly

not becoming great again. One horrible thing is the attack on the environment, including our backyard, the Boundary Waters. For years, I have been wondering how this can even be considered. The BWCA is one of the treasures of our state and country. I know because I help people from all over the world enjoy this precious wilderness area. They come here to get away, enjoy Ely, hear the silence, catch a clean fish, and breathe the freshest of air. These are qualities of the area that are priceless and create positions that are not temporary. My career as an outfitter is an example of a job that can last because of the desire of so many who want an outdoor experience in our area.

In the latest polls, an overwhelming majority of Minnesotans do not want the sulfide-ore mine near the Boundary Waters. Even in the 8th District, you will find more than half of the people do not want this mine. The people of Minnesota are speaking loudly about this. Let us be leaders in preservation of what is truly sustainable. We cannot let Antofagasta/Twin Metals buy or cheat their way into our backyard.

Water is life. Every living thing needs it. If water is so undeniably important, why would anyone put this watershed in harm's way of an extremely dirty type of mining (called the most toxic industry in America by the EPA)? Besides the water issue, who wants to tear up hundreds and hundreds of acres of Superior National Forest? Who wants all the noise and traffic that a mine would bring? Highway 1 would never be the same. What about all the homes and businesses in the area and downstream? I personally use this area for walking, biking, snowshoeing, driving, enjoying the quiet, and don't want to have this scenery changed. There couldn't be a worse place for a sulfide-ore mine.

Drew Brockett
Morse Township



Keep in mind the essence of kindness

The Dalai Lama said: "My religion is very simple. My religion is kindness." I found that quote quite remarkable. Really? That's it? He also stated more fully, "This is my simple religion. No need for temples. No need for complicated philosophy. Your own mind, your own heart



BETTY FIRTH

is the temple. Your philosophy is simple kindness." So here is one of the most revered men on the planet, who speaks at length and in depth about the disciplined focus through many lifetimes required to stay on the path to enlightenment...but concurrently saying that the essence of kindness is at the heart of it.

He speaks often about kindness and generosity and how they are interwoven with gratitude and compassion.

Now, you may not be interested in Buddhism, but it's hard to argue that more kindness wouldn't improve our personal and global environments along with self-centered indulgence. It's hard to imagine the suffering he has endured, persecuted by the Chinese, leading his Tibetan followers out of China to India in 1959, and unable to return to

his homeland, yet he has inspired people around the world with his focus on compassion and loving kindness. He has a lovely face and the sweetest smile, radiating serenity, which might lead you to believe that he has figured out some pretty important things along the way.

Definitions of kindness are many: the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate; doing something and not expecting anything in return; respecting and helping others; a behavior marked by ethical

characteristics, a pleasant disposition, and a concern for others. Consider this slew of synonyms: warmheartedness, affection, warmth, concern, care, thoughtfulness, helpfulness, unselfishness, selflessness, altruism, compassion, sympathy, understanding, benevolence, benignity, hospitality, neighborliness, magnanimity, charitable. That one small word packs a wallop.

The Dalai Lama also points

See **KINDNESS...** pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Recount shows Greenwood can run a fair election

I am completely satisfied with the results of the final recount given the fact the tally was the same as the original count, exactly as I hoped it would be. My intention in asking for the recount was to do what should be done in all close races and a lesson I learned long ago— trust but verify. It shows the Greenwood Township is capable of holding an honest election in spite of the opinions of some, and it was never anticipated by me that in asking for the recount such a commotion would be created. I have no desire or interest in questioning the results of the final recount.

Rick Stoehr
Greenwood Township

Bassing did more than people know

I'd like to take a little space to publicly thank John Bassing for his years of exceptional service on the Greenwood Town

Board. John has been a game changer, leading the effort to expose and clean up a number of messes that had festered in the township for too many years. From reigning in the chronic property tax over-levying scheme to ending the expensive and divisive issue of Greenwood trying to maintain our own Planning and Zoning department, to keeping the parking lot plowed and the lawn cut at a fraction of the past cost, John led the way. Spending the time to make the Fire Dept. payroll compliant and transparent is another issue that John certainly took the lead on. It was very time-consuming. John has treated all entities, including the Fire Department, the "Recreation Board", the Lake Vermilion Trail, and the snowmobile club evenly and fairly, with an emphasis on accountability and staying within the law.

John's success at so many efforts in the nuts and bolts of the township is a good example of an elected officer actually doing "the people's work". Let's hope that the course remains steady.

Lee Peterson
Greenwood Township

Dayton should listen to northern Minnesota

Acting in an attempt to preemptively quash Twin Metals Minnesota's proposed copper-nickel mine development near Ely, Governor Dayton on March 6, 2016, issued a directive to the Minnesota DNR not to authorize or enter into any new state access or lease agreements for mining operations on state land in the Superior National Forest in close proximity to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

Gov. Dayton would have us believe that he and his administration is pro-business, pro-jobs and pro-development. Yet, regarding proposed development projects in Northern Minnesota, the Dayton administration has been anything but that. In addition to the opposition to the Twin Metals project, the Dayton administration should have supported construction of the Enbridge Oil pipeline that would have transported light crude oil from the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota to Wisconsin. It did not and the delays initiated by the Minnesota

Public Utilities Commission forced Enbridge to scrap the \$2.6 billion project and transport the oil to Midwest markets using an alternative route.

And that's not all. The same PUC has actively opposed the Enbridge Line 3 Replacement Project. The new 36-inch diameter replacement pipeline will follow Enbridge's existing Line 3 route from North Dakota to Clearbrook and then follow existing pipeline and transmission routes from Clearbrook to Superior, Wis. The Enbridge project is expected to generate 6,500 jobs in Minnesota over a two-year period, including 4,200 construction jobs, half of which are expected to be filled locally and provide a \$2 billion dollar boost to the Minnesota economy during design and construction. The Line 3 replacement project will increase the property tax revenue in each Minnesota county crossed by the project. Enbridge now pays more than \$30 million in Minnesota property taxes annually. This will increase by \$19.5 million dollars beginning in the first full year of service.

Last week the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* reported that the

U.S. Census Bureau's latest estimates for metro areas and counties for 2017 show the continuing growth in urban and suburban areas. It reported that Minnesota's population growth since the 2010 Census has been almost entirely fueled by the Twin Cities metro and that more of the state's counties lost people than gained.

Median family household incomes in the cities of Hibbing, Virginia, Ely and Babbitt average less than 59 percent of that of the state as a whole, the result of the scarcity of well-paying jobs. Gov. Dayton continues to listen to environmental organizations that pressure him to oppose the development of almost every project in Northern Minnesota. It is long past time for the Governor to consider the well-being of thousands of Minnesota citizens who are forced to leave their rural Minnesota homes to find jobs in the metro area that pay living wages and begin to listen to the citizens of Northern Minnesota, citizens who have so much at stake.

Gerald M. Tyler
Up North Jobs Inc.
Ely

KINDNESS...Continued from page 4

out the benefits to ourselves: "When we feel love and kindness toward others, it not only makes others feel loved and cared for, but it helps us also to develop inner happiness and peace." That's a pretty nice bonus! He goes on to promise, "The various features and aspects of human life, such as longevity, good health, success, happiness, and so forth, which we consider desirable, are all dependent on kindness and a good heart."

So, given all that, why would anyone ever be unkind? Unkindness can show up as rudeness, criticism, malicious gossip, and selfishness, and in more subtle ways by not taking opportunities to be thoughtful, helpful, considerate, and compassionate. If kindness is rooted in empathy and acceptance, it means paying attention to the people and circumstances around us. Of course, there are many levels of kindness possible in any given situation: meeting someone you know in a store, you can simply give them a nod or a warm hello; you could ask how they are and take the time

to listen; you could lend them money if they're in need; you could give them a ride or help them with their packages to their car; you could offer them a drink or a meal or even a place to stay. How far are you willing to extend your kindness? Are you as kind to people who are disagreeable or who look very different from you? Are you generous to those you may think have an easy life, that may trigger envy in you?

Karen Armstrong, British author and commentator, well-known for her History of God and other writings, feels that understanding the principle of reciprocity is key to peace and understanding on our planet. She won a \$100,000 TED prize and used it to work with others to create a Charter for Compassion, based on the Golden Rule, the principle of treating others as one would wish to be treated. It is a central tenet of Christianity but did not originate with Christian thought. Jesus spoke of it often, quoting text from the Judaic Torah, the basis for the old testament. Matthew 7:12: states, "Do to others what you want them to

do to you. This is the meaning of the law of Moses and the teaching of the prophets." The second commandment directs, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

It is a maxim that is found in almost every ethical tradition. The Golden Rule was not practiced in the Arabian peninsula prior to the advent of Islam, for the Arabs felt the survival of the tribe was essential, protected with bloody vengeance. But along came Muhammad who advocated, "Pay, Oh Children of Adam, as you would love to be paid, and be just as you would love to have justice!" (Qur'an 83:1-6.) The Hadith, a guide to correct belief and action considered second only to the Qur'an, has several versions of the law of reciprocity: "None of you truly believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself" and "That which you want for yourself, seek for mankind."

Sufism is the inner mystical dimension of Islam, and the basis of Sufism is consideration of the hearts and feelings of others.

Dr. Javad Nurbakhsh of the Nimatullahi Sufi order said, "If you haven't the will to gladden someone's heart, then at least beware lest you hurt someone's heart, for on our path, no sin exists but this."

Munetada Kurozumi of the Shinto faith said, "The heart of the person before you is a mirror. See there your own form." From the Nigerian Yoruba, an ethnic group and religion, "One who is going to take a pointed stick to pinch a baby bird should first try it on himself to feel how it hurts." And from Zoroastrianism: "That nature alone is good which refrains from doing to another whatsoever is not good for itself."

Philosophers through the centuries chimed in as well. In the 5th century BCE in Greece, Socrates said, "Do not do to others that which would anger you if others did it to you." Plato (Greece, 4th century BCE), Aristotle (Greece, 4th century BCE), Seneca (Rome, 1st century CE), Thomas Hobbs (England, 17th century), and Kant (Germany, 18th century),

all joined in the chorus with John Stuart Mill summing it up nicely: "To do as you would be done by, and to love your neighbor as yourself, constitute the ideal perfection of utilitarian morality." (Britain, 19th century).

Or, as Karen Armstrong contends, all religious practice should help you to become more compassionate by removing yourself from the center of your universe and putting another there. While loving our neighbor or our enemy might be a stretch, we can probably all reach for kindness.

I'll close with some more thoughts from the Dalai Lama which express the sadness I often feel about the human condition: "Something is lacking. As one of the seven billion human beings, I believe everyone has the responsibility to develop a happier world. We need, ultimately, to have a greater concern for others' well-being. In other words, kindness or compassion, which is lacking now. We must pay more attention to our inner values. We must look inside."

PRIMARY...Continued from page 2

the Iron Range Building Trades, and the United Food and Commercial Workers unions has raised the most money, announcing \$132,657 during the first quarter. He reported \$15,718 in expenditures and just under \$117,000 cash on hand in the latest quarterly campaign filing, which was released this week by the Federal Elections Commission.

Joe Radinovich had raised \$108,455 in the

quarter, with just \$13,934 in expenditures and \$94,520 in cash on hand. Michelle Lee reported raising \$29,042, with \$13,202 in disbursements and \$15,839 cash on hand. North Branch Mayor Kirsten Hagen Kennedy does not appear on the FEC website and shows no campaign filings to date.

Focus on November

Looming large over last weekend's conven-

tion was a candidate who wasn't even in the room—Republican Pete Stauber, who is facing no real competition for the GOP nomination for the seat. DFL leaders, including DFL Party Chair Ken Martin, made impassioned pleas to delegates at last weekend's convention, arguing that a long and divisive DFL primary would work to Stauber's advantage.

"If we come out of here divided, we're not

going to win," Martin told the delegates on Saturday.

National Republicans like Stauber, a St. Louis County commissioner who formerly served with the Duluth Police Department, and they view the Eighth District as one of their best pick-up opportunities in the entire country. Stauber currently holds a wide lead in fundraising, reporting a total of \$529,906 raised since last July. He's expended \$232,836, with

just under \$293,000 in cash on hand.

Stauber is a strong backer of President Donald Trump, who won the Eighth District by 15 points in 2016. Nolan narrowly survived the race, but the district remains high on the Republicans' list of possible pick-ups in an election year in which the party faces a strong headwind in most other parts of the country.

As has been the case

for the past few years, the party fault line continues to hinge on the question of copper-nickel mining. The race includes at least one candidate, Michelle Lee, who has come out publicly against the proposed mining projects on environmental grounds. Metsa and Radinovich have voiced support for the proposed mining projects.

Minnpost contributed reporting for this story.

COUNCIL...Continued from page 3

the old. Astleford said he would like to get 500 more gallons, if possible. Hoffman and Water and Sewer supervisor Paul Koch discussed the logistics of keeping track of gallons sold, and the expense of keeping the fuel and then having to sell it off for heating fuel because it isn't used.

Koch said that in the past pilots landing planes

bought fuel. Astleford said, "That's the thing, it's only private jets and King Air that are going to use it." Koch wondered if there was a way to impose a surcharge on landing. "I go out there early morning and there are jets out there dropping their people, they land and go. To me that just isn't fair to the taxpayers of Orr. These planes can come and land and

take off, with no charge, all at the expense of the taxpayers. We should be getting something for the wear and tear on the runway. Right now, we get nothing." Astleford acknowledged that the airport has contracts with entities to come and go, however "we have every right to charge a tie down or landing fee."

The council also heard

that St. Louis County has agreed to act as a local governing unit for the Voyageur Country ATV club for 2018 applications for federal recreational trail funding. The club had asked the city to step into that role, but the council was leery of assuming responsibility for the trail and asked the club to work with St. Louis County.

In other business the

council:

► Approved a resolution adopting the 2018 Orr Comprehensive Plan Update.

► Heard that Paul Koch received a 2017 WWTP Operator Award.

► Approved an ice freezer purchase for the liquor store at \$1,979.

► Authorized the city to make application to and receive funds from

the IRRRB's Community Infrastructure grant program.

► Approved training for city personnel.

► Approved application for Liquor Liability Insurance, an on-sale liquor license, and purchase of a buyer's card for the Orr Municipal Liquor Store doing business as Orr Community Center.

TEDA...Continued from page 2

tests are complete, further assessments and possible remediation, including installation of an underground monitoring system, may be required.

The winter phase of testing must be done while frost is still in the ground,

so if not completed soon, will have to wait until next winter.

TEDA members discussed the project, which is complicated by the fact that the building is not owned by the city, and the potential buyer needs the

pollution liability issues resolved before completing a purchase of the building. "It's kind of a catch-22," said TEDA Chair Steve Peterson Sr.

TEDA will look into options for grant funding through state programs for

any remediation needed, and what programs are available for privately-owned versus city-owned properties.

"We are all in agreement this is the type of development we'd like to see on Main Street,"

said TEDA member Joan Broten. "But how do we do it legally?"

If the current interested buyer decides not to purchase the building, the issues surrounding the remediation are still of concern, TEDA members

noted, since they will need to be corrected before the building can be reoccupied.

Indian Taco fundraiser for Geraldine Hanks on Friday, April 20

VERMILION RESERVATION- There will be an Indian Taco fundraiser for Geraldine Hanks on Friday, April 20 from 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Vermilion Government Center. Delivery available to Fortune Bay and Tower. Price is \$6. Call 218-753-4542 on April 20 to place your order for delivery.

Geraldine was diagnosed with stage four cancer in January. She will be doing radiation and chemotherapy for most of her treatment in Hibbing. She will need help with travel expenses back and forth for the length of her treatments.

Red Hat Belles to meet on Thursday, April 26

TOWER- The Northern Red Hat Belles will meet at the Black Bear Café at 12 noon on Thursday, April 26. Please RSVP by April 23 to Delores at 218-753-5051.

Joint Powers Rec Board to meet on Friday, April 27

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board will meet on Friday, April 27 at 8:30 a.m. at Sulu's. Funding requests must be made in writing prior to the meeting; please contact Linda Keith at Tower City Hall (218-753-4070) or Julie Suihkonen (218-753-3314).

Northeast Range band concert on April 26

BABBITT- Northeast Range music department presents its Spring Band Concert on Thursday, April 26 at 7 p.m. in the school's auditorium. Both the high school and elementary bands will be performing under the direction of Kevin Ryks. Please come and support the students and enjoy an evening of music.

Defensive Driving – 4-Hour Refresher Course rescheduled to April 25

SOUDAN- The defensive driving class initially scheduled for April 18 has been rescheduled to Wednesday, April 25 at the Soudan Fire Hall from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. There will also be classes on May 10 and June 12. The four-hour refresher course is offered for drivers 55 years of age and older who have previously completed an eight-hour beginner's course and who need to re-certify to continue receiving a discount on their car insurance. A certificate of completion will be given to participants to continue the 10-percent car insurance discount. Check your certificate or check with your car insurance agent to learn when you need to recertify. Dana Waldron is the instructor for the class offered under AARP. Class fee is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Payment is payable to the instructor on the day of class.

You must pre-register so we can plan accordingly for class space and materials. Please call or text Leone Graf to pre-register at 218-343-3744. If no answer, please leave a message.

Grief support group in Tower first Thursday of the month

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. The next meeting is on Thursday, May 3. 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.

LAKE VERMILION

New mechanics shop at Aronson's

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- A new three-bay service shop is ready just in time for this spring's boating season at Aronson Boat Works.

"The new building is all dedicated to boat and motor service," said Gretchen (Aronson) Niemiste, who has been running the business with her husband John for 24 years. "We can service up to six boats at a time."

The new building is located adjacent to the existing building, right off of Pike Bay Drive in Tower.

Building the stand-alone service shop has allowed Aronson's to expand their indoor showroom space, making room for more boating accessories, clothing, and retail items. It will also allow them



to have some boats and motors on display indoors.

Aronson's has also added in an outdoor showroom, to showcase their newest boat line, Thunderjet boats, as well as the popular Lund boat and Crest pontoon lines. They also sell Honda and Mercury outboards.

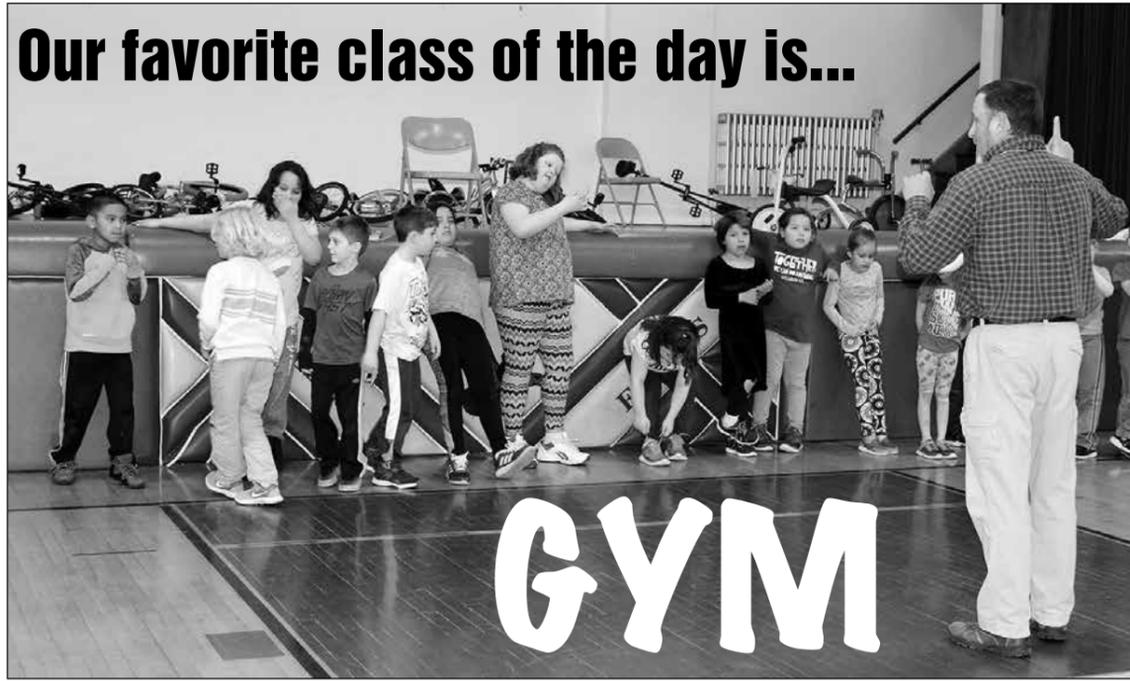
"We are currently looking for

more employees," said Gretchen, "mechanics, handyperson, and dock attendants."

Aronson's is open year-round and provides storage, docking, sales and service. They are hosting their annual open house on Saturday, April 28.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY

Our favorite class of the day is...



GYM

Elementary students raced off excess energy during gym on a snowy Monday with teacher Scott Chiabotti.

photos by J. Summit



Cook VFW
Open Daily at Noon
CLOSED on TUESDAYS

Happy Hour
Daily 4-6 p.m.
All Beer & Drinks
Bar Menu & Pizza Available

Event Rentals
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Progressive Prizes

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Good Eats!

- Homemade Meats
- Sausages & More!
- Try our new varieties of Brats!

Mon.-Thurs. 8-6, Fri. & Sat. 8-7, Sunday 8-3

Embarrass Town Hall has new hours

EMBARRASS- The Embarrass Clerk's Office has new hours. Effective immediately, the office will be open Mondays and Tuesdays from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12 noon – 4 p.m. Starting May 14, the hours will be Monday through Thursday from 12 noon – 4 p.m.

St. James offers adult classes on Sunday

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower offers an adult class each Sunday at 9 a.m. The series is called "That the World May Know" by renowned teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan, and guides us through the land of the Bible. In each lesson, Vander Laan illuminates the historical, geographical, and cultural context of the sacred Scriptures.

CHURCHES

St. Martin's and St. Mary's Confirmation



Several of the religious education students from St. Martin's in Tower and St. Mary's in Cook received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Paul Sirba on Saturday, April 7. The ceremony was held at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Pictured above are (from left): Father Nick Nelson, Carley Tausk (St. Mary's), Gavin Olson (St. Martin's), Bishop Paul Sirba, Libby Suihkonen (St. Martin's), Maddy Zupancich (St. Martin's), and Becky Triska (St. Mary's). submitted photo

Stories sought for 40th anniversary booklet

GREENWOOD TWP- The 40th Anniversary Committee is seeking stories of the history of all the township roads. Committee members are asking township residents to share their own stories, however detailed they may be, and the stories will be compiled into a booklet that will be available at the 40th Anniversary Picnic on Saturday, Aug. 25.

Committee member Pam Lundstrom has shared this sample history of her own road— East Fectos:

Sanfrid Lundstrom, who was my husband's father, bought his lake property on Greenwood Bay in the 1930s for two carloads of pulpwood. The land was up for sale for back taxes. Sam gave each of his four sons 5-7 acres each in the 1960s. The rest of the property was divided into lots. Sam gave Mr. Trucano one lot for making the road into the lake lots with the assistance of the Lundstrom son. The Trucano family still has a cabin on this lot. The road they built is called Fecto's Road E. Today, five families have year-round homes and 10 families have seasonal homes or cabins on this road. Fectos Road was named after a French boat maker who came from France in the 1880s whose name was Fecto. The side-wheeler was built by Fecto and when the boiler engine on his boat exploded it threw him into Frasier Bay where he drowned. Sanfrid's father also had a cabin on Fectos Road but on the Frasier Bay side. His name was Leander Lundstrom. The home that I presently live in was moved across the ice in the Spring of 1972. I bid on our cab-

in/home which was located on the Trout Lake Portage in 1971. The Boundary Waters was extended in 1970 to include land on the north shore of Lake Vermilion. Our home originally had been built on Trout Lake in 1948 by the Bystrom brothers. It was first moved to the Trout Lake portage by Morcoms in the 1950s to become the Portage Inn and Store.

The forestry department had a closed bid on the house in 1971 and I bought it for \$651.50. My husband Rod was not very happy that I had put a bid on it. The first winter the ice was too poor to move the house, but the next winter, on April 1, Dewy Popovich came with his large truck and house-moving trailer and moved our home and set it up on our lot on Greenwood Bay. Jim Nelson from Moccasin Point had plowed the road that entire winter. My husband Rod drilled holes in the ice to see how thick it was. Many times after drilling, he moved the road because the ice was much thicker, especially around the islands. My husband and his brother also bought two smaller "overnight" cabins on the Trout Lake side of the portage for \$1 each from the forestry department. They moved them across the lake that year also. The cabins are still standing, one on my lot and one on Roger's lot.

Today, in 2018, Mr. and Mrs. Sanfrid Lundstrom have died, along with their sons William, James, Rodney, and Arnold. Their son Richard lives in Duluth. Dick had divided his property into three parts and built two of the homes on his former property. Their daughter Maxine Hughes lives on Pike

Bay. Originally Sam and Margaret lived on Pike Bay also when their children were growing up. My son Rod and his family built a new home next door to our home and live year-round on Greenwood Bay. Their daughter Kendra was the fifth generation of Lundstroms to grow up on Lake Vermilion.

Vermilion Country School third quarter honor roll

TOWER- The following students have been named to the Vermilion Country School third quarter honor roll.

A Honor Roll
Kelsie Walker
Leah Anderson
Alexander Dorman
Alyssa Pratt
Andrew Sauls
Julianna Schmidt

B Honor Roll
Mariah Mitchell
Jacob Karasti
Shaylin Peliska

Northeast Range High School Honor Roll

- A Honor Roll**
- Grade 12**
Tasha Bissonette
Courtney Kilmister
Melissa Nelmark
Hannah Peitso
- Grade 11**
Sophie Lenz
Mikayla Mellesmoen
- Grade 10**
Carolyn Desilets
Maude Lenz
Shelby Nelson
Lara Poderzay
Kaliyah Reinhardt
- Grade 9**
Anne Barich
Dillon Gorsma
Kaleb Kappes-Bliss
- Oskar Koivisto
Willa Koivisto
Phoebe Morgan
James Zupancich
- Grade 8**
Audrey Anderson
Erin Backe
Ty Fabish
Markus Maki
Natalie Nelmark
Hannah Reichensperger
- Grade 7**
Rachael Kratz
Inga Lakey
Jennie Nelson
- B Honor Roll**
- Grade 12**
Zachary Anderson
Emma Barret

- Chase Bialke
ShaRee Kachmarzinski
Madisyn Littler
Brett Rosendahl
Bethany Runquist
Wynn Tripp
Jonathan Weston
- Grade 11**
Jacob Bjork
Chelsea Larson
Shayler Lislegard
Maija Maki
Justice Porisch
Mersadies Stordahl
- Grade 10**
Brody Anderson
Makaya Bodas
Kayla Johnson
Casey Zahnw
- Grade 9**
Robert Bielejeski
Christopher Ferguson
Ariel Kalinowski
Alexia Lightfeather
Ethan Zaitz
- Grade 8**
Aili Bee
Wyatt Gorsma
Joscelyn LaSart
Rylan Poppenhagen
Kaya Sawyer
Hunter Shennett
Jenna Smith
- Grade 7**
Morgan Bush
Zoey Cameron
Logan Meskill
Tori Sawyer
Alice Wolter

AEOA Senior Dining Menu

TOWER- Vermilion Country School and AEOA sponsor a senior dining site at the charter school in Tower. All meals include salad bar, fruit, choice of beverage and dessert.

Reservations are appreciated the day before, or morning of, but walk-ins are always welcome. Take-outs available. Seniors age 60 and older who have registered for the program and their partners qualify for special pricing of \$4 per meal, but all ages are welcome at the regular rate of \$5.75. There are no income guidelines.

Meals are served from 12:30 – 1 p.m. on days when the charter school is open. Call the school at 218-753-1246 ext. 1003 for reservations, or call AEOA at 1-800-662-5711 ext. 7323 for the one-time registration process.

Week of April 23

Monday- Grilled Cheese, Tomato Soup
Tuesday- Chicken Chow Mein, Brown Rice, Chow Mein Noodles
Wednesday- Tater Tot Hot Dish, Dinner Roll
Thursday- Pork Roast Dinner
Friday- Pizza

Monday
TOPS - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower, at 9 a.m.

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

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

Greenwood Fire Dept. Meetings on the first (drill) and third (business meeting) Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

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

Thursday
Vermilion Country School Board- Next meeting is Tuesday, April 24 at 4:45 p.m. Meetings posted online at vermilioncountry.org.

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

Transfer station

Soudan Canister
Expanded hours year-round
Monday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wed. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
For info: 1-800-450-9278

Hwy. 77 Canister
Summer Hours start April 15
Tuesday 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Thursday 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Recycling canisters available daily at the Greenwood Town Hall. For info: 1-800-450-9278

the **TIMBERJAY**

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Congratulations to LARRY TAHIJA

To the citizens of Greenwood Township, thank you. It has been my pleasure to serve.

John Bassing

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, April 25, May 16, June 6, 27

Bois Forte Boys/Girls Club 11:00-11:30 a.m.
Greenwood Town Hall 12:00-12:30 p.m.
Soudan Fire Hall 1:45-3:00 p.m.
Tower Civic Center 3:15-4:15 p.m.
Embarrass, Four Corners 5:15-6:00 p.m.

For further information call the Arrowhead Library System at 218-741-3840 or www.arrowhead.lib.mn.us

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, Ledgerrock
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 encoun-
ter alcoholism in a
relative or friend.
BABBITT AL-ANON -
Thursdays, 7 p.m., at
Woodland Presbyterian
Church.
CO-DEPENDENTS'
12-step support group,
noon Fridays, St.
Anthony's Catholic
Church, Ely.
ELY FOOD SHELF -
third Wednesday each
month. 15 W. Conan St..
ADULT BASIC
EDUCATION
GED - Study materials
and pre-test available.
Ely Community Center
Thursday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.;
Tower by appointment.



The Ely Chix With Stix women's hockey team took first place in their division at the Stick it to Cancer hockey tournament last weekend in Blaine. submitted photo

Ely 'Chix with Stix' hockey team helps cancer research

ELY – The Ely Chix With Stix women's hockey team took first place in their division last weekend at the "Stick it to Cancer" tournament in Blaine. Thirteen members of the team braved the mid-April snowstorm to compete in the C2 skill level division. "We played three games and won the championship based

on a tie-breaker of how much money we raised," said Jess Edberg. "Our online fundraising effort is still ongoing and so far we raised as much as \$600 for the University of Minnesota Cancer Research Center. Thanks to all our supporters who helped us out." Chicks with Sticks (CWS) is a fun learn-to-play hockey program

for women. The nationwide program offer clinics covering every skill level from complete beginner through advanced. Most CWS clinics are scheduled throughout the year with convenient daytime or evening time slots. CWS also offers daytime hockey leagues at two skill

levels - novice/beginner and intermediate/advanced. Leagues run throughout the year and are perfect for moms with kids in school or ladies with flexible work schedules. For more information, visit the Ely Chix With Stix Facebook page.



ELY PUBLIC LIBRARY



The Ely Public Library recently purchased new seating for the library through a Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust grant. Trust board members enjoying some of the new chairs include, front row, from left, Jill Swanson, Cade Thibodeaux, Trust executive director Keiko Williams, Ryan Callen, Beth Ohlhauser; back row, from left, Andy Messerschmidt, Laura Moberly, Librarian Rachel Heinrich. Missing from picture: Becky Zientek and Andrea Strom. submitted photo

the TIMBERJAY

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Ely Free Clinic open Mondays

ELY - The Ely Community Health Center is open every Monday evening from 5:30-7 p.m. in the lower level of the Frandsen Bank building on 1st Ave. in downtown Ely. For more information, call 218-365-5678.

Breathing Out



ARBOR DAY

City of Ely named Tree City USA

ELY – Ely was recently named a 2017 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. Ely achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

"Tree City USA communities see the impact an urban forest has in a community firsthand," said Dan Lambe, president of the Arbor Day Foundation. Trees provide multiple benefits to a community when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values,

reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits. More information on the program is available at arboraday.org/freeCityUSA.

Ely mulching party

Join the Ely Tree Board, Friends of the Trees of Ely, and the new ECR Tree Brigade on Saturday, April 28 to make sure the young trees planted to replace several old maples thrive. The day after Minnesota's official Arbor Day, the city is throwing a Mulching Party. Meet at Whiteside Park at 10 a.m. Participants split into teams and go to the new trees to mulch, check stakes, and learn

how to take care of them as the weather gets warmer. At noon, participants will gather at Ely Presbyterian Church for a free lunch. Members of the Tree Board will answer tree questions, and there will be lots of information to pick up on keeping trees healthy. The debut of the new Adopt a Neighborhood Tree Program begins that day. Forty new trees planted in 2017 are up for adoption. Watering containers will be given out to families and individuals who commit to watering a tree (or three) on the city boulevards. Trees positively affect our community in a multitude of ways so come, pitch in, learn more about adopting a tree or other ways to volunteer, and celebrate the city's trees.

ELY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Awards highlight 'Smile' event

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Dairy Queen Grill & Chill, Sarah Guy-Levar honored

ELY – The Chamber of Commerce here held their annual “Smile, You’re in Ely” event last week that included the presentation of the Good Neighbor Business Award and Jackpine Bob Cary Spirit Award.

“Ely is very fortunate to have businesses which provide valuable goods and services to our residents, create jobs, give back to the community through charitable endeavors and work to promote the Ely area as a great place to visit or live,” said Chamber of Commerce Interim Executive Director Eva Sebasta.

“There are a number of ways these businesses demonstrate their commitment to our community. A few examples include financial contributions to various organizations or

fundraisers; sponsorship of events; volunteer work (owners or their staff); donations of services, facilities or other resources; and involvement in community organizations or activities.”

Sebasta said all could agree that there are very many Ely businesses that are deserving of this award. “The board chose this year’s honoree because of the many ways they give back to the community and how they work to promote the Ely area as a great place to visit,” she said.

“This year’s Good Neighbor Business Award recipient has shown a great deal of support for a wide variety of events, organizations and fundraising activities,” she said.

The support of Ely Dairy Queen Grill & Chill includes: Ely

Christmas Choir, all area churches, Hoops for Hope, Young Leaders Conference, WolfTrack Classic Sled Dog Race, Dorothy Molter Museum, the Great Nordic Bread Fest, 5th and 6th Grade Play, Ely Little League, Baseball Association, Jeremy Hiltbrunner Cystic Fibrosis Walleye Fishing Tournament, July 4th Parade, International Wolf Center, Wednesday Bowling League, Ely Nordic Ski Club, Clown Band, Ely Hoop Club, Ely Net Club, Ely Blue Line, Vermilion Community College Football, Baseball and Basketball, Happy Days Preschool, School Patrol, Cops & Kids Program, Ely Line Dance, All Night Grad Party for both Ely and Babbitt Seniors, American Cancer Association,

Conservationists with Common Sense.

Paul Ivancich accepted the award.

“The Jackpine Bob Cary Community Spirit Award was conceived as a way to honor its namesake, Bob Cary, for his great contributions to the Ely area,” Sebasta said.

“The award is not given annually, but rather it is given in true recognition of an individual’s unselfish contribution to our community.”

It was first given in 2009 to Bob Cary. Past award recipients are: Anne Swenson – 2010, Linda Fryer – 2013; Mike Hillman (posthumously) – 2015; Bill Tefft – 2016; Tom Coombe – 2017.

“We had several great nominations for this year’s award and they are all deserving people. We

had difficulty in picking just one,” Sebasta said. “Sarah Guy-Levar is the 2018 Jackpine Bob Cary Community Spirit Award winner.” She was unable to attend the banquet, so her husband Andy Levar accepted the award in her place.

“This individual has resided in the Ely area since 1988. During that time she has served as a volunteer for a number of local non-profit organizations,” Sebasta said.

“Arts and heritage are most important to her. She has volunteered and served as chair of the Theater Committee for North Lakes Arts Association, helped carry out a two-year fundraising plan with the Ely Band Boosters to purchase new band uniforms and served as musical director of the

5-6 grade musical for five years,” she said.

Currently, Guy-Levar serves on the board of the Minnesota Association of Museums and is the president of the Ely Rotary Club. “She also served as executive director of the Dorothy Molter Museum for 11 years helping to build the organization into a dynamic visitor attraction that draws people to Ely,” Sebasta said. “To date the museum has sold and distributed over \$1.4 million of Dorothy’s Isle of Pines root beer.”

Now retired from the museum, Guy-Levar continues to give back to the community by volunteering on truck day at The Ely Food Shelf and donating artwork and art lessons to local non-profits for fundraising auctions.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY

Elton Brown is first to sign the canoe

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Freemans leave today on ‘Pedal to DC’ trip

ELY -Local environmental advocates Dave and Amy Freeman will continue their efforts to save the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness on Friday, April 20 as they embark on a 1,750-mile bicycle trip from here to Washington, D.C. “Pedal to DC: A Book Tour to Save the Boundary Waters,” will take the Freemans across nine states between April 20 and June 18.

“We hope the tour will bring renewed awareness of the efforts underway to protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness from sulfide-ore copper mining,” Dave said. They will also share their critically acclaimed book “A Year in the Wilderness.”

The Freemans will be towing a canoe behind their bicycles and will collect signatures on it along their route.

They picked up their canoe last week. “After picking up our canoe at the Wenonah Canoe factory we stopped in Rochester to visit our friend Elton,” Amy said. “Elton visited us more times during our year in the BWCAW to Save the Boundary Waters than any other person. An avid paddler and skier he came in throughout the year, often bring others with him along with a few treats.”

Elton is living in Rochester for several months to receive cancer treatment and will not be home in Ely to sign the signature canoe at the send off celebration so he signed the canoe on top of their car. “We can’t think of a more appropriate



Ely resident Elton Brown signs the canoe that will be towed to Washington, D.C., by Dave and Amy Freeman. submitted photo

first signature. Thanks for speaking loudly, Elton, for the Boundary Waters,” Amy said.

The public can join the authors from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, April 20 at Sustainable Ely, 206 E. Sheridan St. to celebrate the launch of their tour. The event will include a brunch followed by a group ride. There will also be a presentation and audience Q&A, book signing, and a chance to sign their canoe to show support.

“Please join Elton in signing the canoe we will tow behind our bicycles from Ely to Washington, D.C.,” Dave said. “Do you have friends in Duluth, Minneapolis, Madison, Milwaukee, Chicago, Indianapolis, Columbus, Pittsburgh, or other towns and cities along our route? Please tell your friends we are coming and encourage them to come to a Pedal to DC event, sign our canoe and online petition, support our kickstarter campaign, and help protect

the Boundary Waters from sulfide-ore copper mines being proposed on the edge of our nation’s most popular Wilderness.”

The husband-and-wife explorer team spent 366 straight days in the BWCAW, from 2015 to 2016, on an epic trip they describe as “witness activism” to raise awareness of the dangers proposed copper-nickel mines pose.

The Freemans, seasoned worldwide explorers who were named National Geographic’s 2014 Adventurers of the Year, used social media to communicate the vulnerable majesty of their surroundings. They blogged daily posts as they paddled, portaged, and dog-sledded more than 2,000 miles across 500 bodies of water.

Last fall the Freemans published “A Year in the Wilderness,” an account of their marathon BWCAW trek and the activism that fueled it.

“This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the

Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act of 1978 and we hope you will use Pedal to DC as a way to celebrate and protect our public lands during this momentous year,” Amy said.

“Follow us, share our posts with your friends, come sign the signature canoe we will tow behind our bikes, help host or promote an event in your area, read our book and share it with your friends, and alert people you know along our route that we are pedaling their way,” she said.

“When we all speak loudly for this quiet place our collective voices will be heard and sulfide-ore copper mining will not be allowed in the watershed of our nation’s most popular wilderness.”

To learn more and find updates on the tour, visit: <http://www.savetheboundarywaters.org/pedaltoDC>.

Honor Roll

Ely Memorial School Quarter 3 Honor Roll 2017-2018

* Denotes 3.5 GPA or above

Grade 6: *Chase Anderson, *Esther Anderson, Colton Bramley, Jace Conaway, Lily Dirks, *Kiarstin Eaton, *Abigail Johnson, *Grace LaTourell, Brielle Lindland, Henry Lowe, Andrew Marolt, *Gavin Marshall, *Jacob Moravitz, Ella Nappa, Ailie Petrzilka, *Samuel Prijatel, *Deegan Richards, Isabelle Schiltz, Rose Mary Schlosser, *Ava Skustad, *Sarah Visser.

Grade 7: William Bach, *Kale Beno, Joseph Bianco, *Bennett Cavalier, Jacob Cochran, Ashton Cook, *Katherine Coughlin, *Rachel Coughlin, *Margaret Dammann, *Zoe Devine, *Sidney Durkin, *Courtney Eilrich, *Natasha Fulkrod, *Taylor Gibney, *Madelyn Gruba, *Gunnar Hart, *Jackson Hegman, *Phoebe Helms, Madeline Kallberg, *Jason Kerntz, Kole Macho, *Gabriel Mann, *Sean Ogburn, *Cedar Ohlhauser, *Elizabeth Omerza, *Madeline Perry, *Madison Rohr, Levi Shusta, *Juliet Stouffer, *Grace Sundell, *Lillian Tedrick, *Audrey Thomas, *Kelly Thompson.

Grade 8: Rylee Dusich, *Bryce Fairchild, *Charly Flom, Joseph Foster, *Jon Hakala, *Drayke Hanninen, *Madison Hasz, Matthew Janeksela, *Micah Larson, *Sidney Marshall, *Annikka Mattson, Willow Ohlhauser, *Cora Olson, *Lauren Olson, *Gabriel Pointer, *Gracie Pointer, *Abigail Rehbein, *Zachary Robbins, Chase Sandberg, *Katrina Seliskar, *Harry Simons, *Kellen Thomas, Ande Visser.

Grade 9: Madisyn Carlson, *McKenna Coughlin, Harrison Dammann, *William Davies,

*Grace Erickson, Jasper Johnston, *Cameron Kienitz, *Brock LaTourell, Hanna Littler, Sophie Montana, Katie Pinckney, *Amelia Pluth, Margaret Renner, Sydni Richards, Madelyne Roderick, Hailey Schaller, *Julia Schwinghamer, Abigail Thompson.

Grade 10: Elissia Bennett, *Ana Bercher, Adrianna Bishop, *Ethan Bremner, *Eli Conaway, Nils DeRemee, *Kalyssa Eilrich, *Dylan Fenske, *Apolonia Homer, Haley Hopkins, *Sarah Isbell, *Savannah Johnson, Christopher Jones, *McCartney Kaercher, *Joshua Larson, *Henry Matthys, Eric Mattila, *Erika Mattson, *Jenna Merhar, *Nathan Nettifee, Justin Nyman, *Luke Olson, *Raif Olson, Eric Omerza, *Brooke Pasmick, Mitchell Peterson, Lauren Porthan, *Seann Prigge, *Winter Sainio, Dalton Schreffler, *James Schwinghamer.

Grade 11: Jessica Anderson, *Dana Crenshaw, *Charles Dammann, *Lida Dodge, Isaac Gawboy, *Leo Georges, Nash Hren, *Madelene Johnson, Jeremiah Kaercher, *Kaitlyn Lanker, *Gabriella Omerza, Mackenzie Peterson, *Shane Spangler, *Lucy Stouffer, Logan Synnes, Patrick Vanderbeek.

Grade 12: *Evelyn Bercher, *Lindy Dalberg, Cody Davis, Chase Eilrich, Kalley Fischer, *Carter Gaulke, *Benjamin Gustafson, Gracie Hanson, *Ethan Hasz, *Hannah Jankovec, *Emma Kari, Jeremiah Kari, Dylan Kienitz, Danielle Krostue, *Blaise Lah, *Emma Larson, *Brandon Martin, Gage Merhar, *Thomas Montana, Tyler Moravitz, *Anna Nelson, Austin Nelson, *Laura Pasmick, *Ryne Prigge, Andrew Rouse, *Emma Terwilliger, Shayla Zaverl.

News in Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

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 24 – Congressional Candidate Michelle Lee

May 1 – Daryl Lamppa and Dale Horihan – Lamppa Manufacturing

EMPOWER meets

ELY - In celebration of Earth Day, EMPOWER members will meet at the Grand Ely Lodge lobby at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 23 to pick up trash along the Trezona Trail.

After they work, they will enjoy drinks and snacks back at the GEL. All are welcome.

NORTH WOODS HIGH SCHOOL

North Woods art students win four "Best of Show" awards

by MELISSA ROACH Staff Writer

FIELD TWP- North Woods School competed in the 2018 Minnesota State High School League Art Competition on April 3 at the Moose Lake School. The Grizzlies had 18 submissions, with nine students receiving a Superior rating and seven students awarded an Excellent rating. This was the first time the Grizzlies brought home four "Best in Show" wins, one in each category.

Best in Show winner Madison Antikainan entered her ceramics piece in the competition. She didn't expect to get the top nod with her first-time entry. Betterley said, "She was determined to make it happen, it was a very complicated piece." A junior this year, and able to take the class because art classes have previously been scheduled at the same time as band, she had not taken an art class since 7th grade. Even though she hadn't taken an art class in a while, she has been competing at the State Fair since childhood in 4-D art in floral design.

Combining more than one media, Mikayla Jesme won Best in Show for her first-time mixed-media piece. Betterley described Jesme's style as "romantic" and "having emotion." She also said that since she is shy, "she lets her art speak for her." Jesme agreed with her teacher.

Student artist Lilly Wheeler brought home a Best in Show in Printmaking. "I did a print of my grandma; it was cool," she said. Betterley said this is the first year she has worked in depth with printmaking for the class, sharing what she has learned in getting her Masters Degree. She said the payoff is seeing her student's success. Learning printmaking added another layer for Wheeler's creative process. "I really liked it, we've been exploring a lot of it in class. I didn't know it was a thing...and it's now it's a new world of ideas, of things I can

do," Wheeler added. The competition adds some academic credentials for Wheeler, who spends most of her time working on collage and painting pieces in her home studio. She said that she intends to travel to Salt Lake City to focus on creative entrepreneurship. She even has her own website at lilylazarus.bigcartel.com.

Winner Ellie Frazee captured Best in Show for her sculpture of a head, based on a place that is special to her, and inspired by a character she created. Betterley says Frazee is very good at whimsy and fantasy.

"I get inspiration from a lot of things. I'm very fascinated by taking something bland and making it whimsical, something that people want to look at more, and be like, 'where the hell did she get this idea from.' I like that," Frazee said. She is also definitely interested in continuing in art education. "I saw a lot of other work at the competition and definitely see a lot of other artwork that made me want to improve myself."

"We've got a lot of talent here. Not to brag," Frazee said of her fellow winners. She also said the competition inspires her to continue working on her process.

Betterley agreed. "At the competition they really talked about work, effort, and improving yourself. You're only as good as your own motivation. You can have all the talent in the world, but if you have no effort to work, or put effort to do what you want to do, you're not going to go anywhere, and then it's a waste." Betterley said the show proves the art program at North Woods is growing. "We've won best in show in sculpture every year since I've been here. We've kind of been known for being really good in ceramics and sculpture, now we are starting to branch out into printmaking and mixed-media. It's very promising."



CRANE LAKE

Crane Lake News by the Singing Teapot Dames



Old Man winter will not give up! The mid-section of the state has been hit by over a foot of snow. Schools in Duluth and Superior were closed as were most roads. The snow started on Saturday and continued all night and all day Sunday. The Crane Lake area did not get the snow until Sunday night, snowing all night into Monday morning, heaping on eight to ten inches. Many plans and air flights have been canceled. The Minneapolis

and Duluth airports were closed. Feno Rainaldi reported she had a foot and a half of snow in her driveway in Minnetonka. The plow cleared the street making a huge drift in her driveway. Fortunately, a good neighbor cleared her out. These are the times we appreciate good friends and neighbors. Will spring ever come?

One of the Dames is stranded somewhere between Crane Lake and Bloomington, Ill. Hopefully she will make it home in time for her to travel to Texas to celebrate a daughter's special birthday. Hold the phone: the Dame is not stranded; she came back early on Saturday due to the anticipated snow report. The Dame had been visiting in Illinois for a grandson's Confirmation; she was glad

she could attend as the Monsignor gave a truly inspiring message that was pertinent and enjoyed by all age groups present. Coming across Wisconsin was still not a pleasant journey, even pre-storm. White-out conditions at times. Very windy, with five semi-trucks pushed out of control, landing in ditches and trees. She's very glad to be home, and thanks to Jeff Sanborn for plowing so early after the snow. We sure hope this is the LAST time that it is needed.

The Andersons are busy painting the new house being built for Thera. How exciting to have a lovely new home for Thera.

The floor has been poured in the new Handberg's Marina facility. Word is that they are working like beavers to get everything ready for the opening of fishing, whenever that will be. At last report there is still

four feet of ice on the lake.

Sandy Bodkin celebrated her birthday this week, with her niece Pam from Grand Rapids bringing an ice cream birthday cake for the celebration. Several of the local ladies gathered to wish Sandy a happy day and many more. Sandy had an eye doctor appointment the next day, receiving wonderful news on her eye progress. Everyone wishes the best for Sandy as she is one of Crane Lakes special ladies.

The hummingbirds are making little progress. They are now in mid-Missouri and mid-Illinois. Hopefully none of them got hurt by the weather. They are so small a sleet storm can wipe out an entire flock. The hearty little beauties migrate across the Gulf of Mexico to mid-Canada.

Our hummers are the ruby-throated hummingbirds; there are many varieties. The Dames will

give a weekly report on the hummers' progress so you will know when to get your feeders ready for their arrival.

If I were to ask you who holds the Guinness World Record for most game show episodes hosted by the same presenter, would you answer Bob Barker on The Price is Right? I did, and if you had, we would all have been wrong! Alex Trebek has hosted Jeopardy since it began its run in 1984. Trebek has a total of five daytime Emmys, and he has been honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Trebek hails from Canada, but now lives with his wife in Los Angeles.

Spring dreams of planting seeds for seedlings and planning what we want to plant in our gardens has been delayed once again. Visions of budding shoots popping through the dirt have been pushed out of the realm of possibility for some time. Were you aware that a garden staple (the tomato) was grown purely for decoration in colonial times? Folklore held that eating a tomato would poison the blood, turning it into acid. However, not everyone agreed; many thought eating tomato seeds had an aphrodisiac effect. The French even named the toma-

to the "apple of love" or "love apple". Whatever you call it, gardeners are anxious to get dirt under their fingers again. Deer Stay Away!

A Dame is putting on her traveling shoes again and heading for Texas to help celebrate a daughter's HUGE birthday. It's hard to understand how the Dame and her child are now the same age, but there it is! The younger daughter is going to host the gathering; shopping, relaxing by the pool, and doing a wine tour are on the agenda. Temps are in the 80s, and an added plus will be the sight of a strange illumination coming from the sky: I guess it's called "sun"!

There is not much news at this time of year. Folks will be busy getting ready for the fishing opener whenever that will happen.

Let us hear from you! Send news by e-mail to info@thelakecountry.com, by fax to 218-757-3533 or by phone to Sandy at 218-757-3233 and it will be added.

One Dame has ten inches of snow to shovel off steps and decks and the other Dame is packing for the birthday trip to Texas, so until next week they are singing off.

Congratulations to LARRY TAHIJA To the citizens of Greenwood Township, thank you. It has been my pleasure to serve. John Bassing

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FUN WITH APRONS

History of Aprons presentation at NWFA on April 29

COOK- Stop in for tea and a presentation by Patti Norrgard on "The Styles and Historic Significance of Aprons" as she shows her extensive collection of aprons at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook on Sunday, April 29 at 2 p.m.

There will be refreshments served after the presentation and visitors will have time to view NWFA's "Aprons in April Exhibition" comprised of 200 artist-designed, historic, ethnic and purposeful aprons. This will be the concluding day of this exhibit created by Lyn Reed, Kris Musto, and all the community members who loaned NWFA their special aprons.

NWFA is located at 210 S River St., next to Dream Weaver Spa and Salon. Check the website at www.nwfamn.org for information about classes, events, exhibits and hours.



Wings and Things set for April 28

COOK- 2018 Wings and Things will be celebrated on Saturday, April 28 at the Cook VFW. It may be a busy spring day with a lot going on, but make sure you find the time to stop in at the VFW to win great prizes and to eat delicious wings. It is an event you won't want to miss.



Carrolle Wood sells Brad Schultze a Wings and Things raffle ticket. submitted photo

The day will start out with bingo from 12 a.m. - 3 p.m. Orders for wings will start at noon until 7 p.m. Wing flavors will include honey garlic, bourbon, sweet chili, teriyaki, buffalo hot and buffalo mild. You may also order wings to go by calling the VFW at 218-666-0500. Tickets for all prizes will be sold throughout the day. For some drawings your ticket will need to be presented for your prize and for other drawings you will be contacted. However, all prizes must be picked up Saturday night or Sunday morning. So come for the whole day or part of it. We will have basket drawings, raffle drawings, 52-card drawings, poster board drawings and the main raffle drawing. We have some great prizes: baskets, coolers of beef, a kids package, golf passes, casino stays, a four-room tent and Giant Jenga package, a floating island, gift certificates, an adult beverage rack, a rack of wine and so much more. New this year will be a limited number of Wings and Things t-shirts.

Do you feel the excitement? Have you purchased your main raffle ticket yet? They are available at Zup's, Country Store, North Star Credit Union, the VFW, Dream Weavers and from Friends of the Parks board mem-

bers. First prize is \$500 in cash, second prize is a \$200 gift card from Zup's and third prize is a \$100 gift card from the Country Store/Vermilion Motel. Who wouldn't want to win cash or gift cards? You can't win if you don't buy one, so make sure you take the time to purchase one and wait for your name to be drawn at 8 p.m. on April 28.

Wings and Things is sponsored by Cook's Friends of the Parks, a group of volunteer members that spearheads fundraisers for the benefit of all of our parks. In addition to being a fundraiser, it provides for community camaraderie and entertainment. Some of the projects Friends of the Parks have supported are: a covered sandbox, score boards, pet duty scoop bag stations, toy digger shovels, ballfield signs, refinishing of picnic tables, fence safety rails, the community youth center building project, a storage garage, and additions to the playground. Future endeavors include the revitalizing of other park areas. The support and help of local businesses, organizations and citizens is key to the success of each event and very much appreciated by the members. Together we can make things happen.

St. Martin's and St. Mary's Confirmation



Several of the religious education students from St. Martin's in Tower and St. Mary's in Cook received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Paul Sirba on Saturday, April 7. The ceremony was held at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Pictured above are: Father Nick Nelson, Carley Tausk (St. Mary's), Gavin Olson (St. Martin's), Bishop Paul Sirba, Libby Suihkonen (St. Martin's), Maddy Zupancich (St. Martin's), and Becky Triska (St. Mary's). Submitted photo

National Day of Prayer event on May 3 in Cook

COOK- At noon on Thursday, May 3, citizens will gather by the flagpole at Cook's City Hall to pray, asking the Creator of the Universe, God Almighty, the second Person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, and his Holy Spirit for guidance and blessing of our city, our region, our coun-

ty, our state, and our country and all of its leaders. The Apostle Paul admonished Timothy to pray for everyone in authority over us, that we may live in peace. Church leaders from local Cook churches will be in attendance to lead the prayers and create a safe space for everyone to share a sentence prayer of their own as we share our concerns.

Bria Chiabotti earns All-Arrowhead Conference honorable mention

FIELD TWP- North Woods Grizzly player Bria Chiabotti was named to the All-Arrowhead Conference Girls Basketball Honorable Mention Team.

GRIZZLY UPDATES

Spring sports? Coming soon!

Hello Grizzlies Families!

I write this article beginning Monday morning looking at six inches of fresh snow on the ground. Thankfully, with the way this spring has been I decided to leave the snow tires on my car. Despite owning a four-wheel drive truck, I use my car to commute as the mileage is considerably better. It's amazing the amount of snow that a little front wheel drive car will go through with modern snow tires. If you own a front-wheel drive, you owe it to yourself to put snow tires on it! The local tire shops can thank me later!

Spring sports are dependent upon the cooperation of Mother Nature. As our golf, baseball, softball, and track athletes wait to get outside, we seem to have been handed an endless winter. The gyms at North Woods, along with the stage, the commons, and even sometimes the library, are full of spring athletes working and waiting, hoping to see



JOHN VUKMANICH

green grass. In a typical spring (this year is not typical), the metro area already has green grass, and sometimes athletes "down south" are swinging their bats and clubs before the actual end of the winter sports season. Winter will usually hold on a few weeks longer up here in the Northland, which has been frustrating for our teams and coaches. The length of the spring sports season varies widely in Minnesota depending on location.

With the winter weather holding on in the Metro area this year, the MSHSL is considering changes to the season in an attempt to salvage it. I guess they are feeling our

pain this year! With our last day of classes being May 31, we are already looking at a season of less than 45 days with no grass in sight.

The strong competitive tradition that North Woods has in many sports is shared by its golf teams. To spotlight some of the highlights of past seasons, the Grizzlies Boys Golf Team has been the Section 7A Runner-Up 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017. Past golfers who have gone to State are Spencer Viita (2012, 2013, 2014, 2016), Scott Rutar (2013, 2014, 2015), and Cole Martin (2014, 2015). Current golfers who qualified for State are Tate Olson (2013, 2015, 2016, 2017) and Chase Kleppe (2017). Tate and Chase were also members of the State Runner-Up Basketball Team and the Grizzlies Region Champion Football Team.

The Girls Golf Team has also had remarkable success. They have been Academic All State as a team and Region Academic Champs 2015,

2016, and 2017. Smart AND athletic! They were Section 7A Team Champions in 2016 and 2017, and participated at State as a team in 2016. Individual golfers who competed at State were current 10th-grader Nicole Olson and 2017 graduate Kristen Lilya.

Best of luck to our athletes in track, baseball, softball, and golf as we wait to compete.

Lastly, the last day of classes at North Woods is May 31. Graduation is June 1. With about five weeks of school left, please encourage our kids to continue to work hard towards the end of the school year, especially our seniors. Graduation is an important milestone, and this Principal wants to make sure that the seniors finish strongly! Hang in there seniors, and make the best of your last days in high school, because this is it!

Your Principal, John Vukmanich



the TIMBERJAY

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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Leonard Bernstein centennial concert set for April 21 and 22; please note change in locations/dates

REGIONAL- The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra, with University of Wisconsin/Superior's orchestra and choir, will be remembering Leonard Bernstein a century after his birth. Join us for *Candide*, *West Side Story*, and *Chichester Psalms* on Saturday, April 21, in Virginia's Goodman Auditorium at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 22, in UWS' Thorpe-Langley Auditorium at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the door. For more information, visit www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org.

This concert is made possible, in part, by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature's general and arts and cultural heritage funds.

Vermilion Dream Quilters meets May 3

TOWER- Vermilion Dream Quilters will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 3 in the social hall at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower.

Borders frame our quilts and our May program will continue April's discussion on border options. We will look at curved and scalloped borders presented by Vickie Lange and applique border layout presented by Karen Lamppa. Our hostesses this month are Pam Carter, Kathy Sacchetti, DeDe Doi and JoAnn Anderson.

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. Guests and visitors are welcome. For more information, please contact Corrine Hill in Tower at 218-753-4600.

Changes for BEST Juniors summer baseball program

REGIONAL- Babbitt, Embarrass, Soudan and Tower baseball is gearing up for its summer season. The season will tentatively begin on Monday, June 11 and playoffs will be held August 3-5 at a site yet to be determined. The BEST team will be switching from a VFW to Junior Legion league. Many local teams are making this change and will still be able to play any VFW teams. The new age limit for Junior Legion is anyone born on or after Jan 1, 2003, allowing some 15 year olds to play.

Coaches will be Greg Dostert, Jared Poderzay and Nick Myre, and other volunteers are welcome. For more information call Greg Dostert at 218-248-0648.

Tower-Soudan Memorial Day Service set for Monday, May 28

TOWER- Plans are being finalized for the Tower-Soudan area-wide annual Memorial Day Tribute to be held on Monday, May 28 at the Tower Civic Center from 10 a.m. to noon. This tribute will honor the military service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform, their families at home, and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

The Bois Forte Honor Guard will provide the Flag Ceremony, 21 Gun Salute, and Taps. The names of local veterans killed in action and deceased veterans will be read.

The Tower-Soudan Area Singers will practice on Tuesday, May 15 and Tuesday, May 22 at 6 p.m. at the Soudan Baptist Church. We are in need of singers. Please contact Rolf Anderson at 218-753-3262.

The program will conclude with a traditional Memorial Day wreath placed on a symbolic Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in a ceremony to be held outside the Civic Center.

Refreshments, provided by the Tower-Soudan Civic Club, will be served before and following the tribute. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this heartwarming event.

The American Legion Women's Auxiliary Unit 220, of Mt. Iron will be selling fundraiser poppies and will present the wreath in the ceremony.

Current members of the United States military and local veterans are encouraged to participate in the tribute. Anyone who would like to read names of departed veterans or to otherwise assist is urged to contact Pauly Housenga at 218-753-3415/218-235-7208 or Marion Sederstrom at 218-753-5717. The deadline to call is May 21.

TOWER BINGO Monday, May 7

TOWER- Senior Bingo will be held in Tower on Monday, May 7 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 or school cancellation, bingo may be cancelled. Questions, call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950.

Upcoming dates for 2018:

Monday, June 4

Monday, July 9 (second Monday)

SUSTAINABILITY

Iron Range Earth Fest set for April 20-21



MT. IRON- The Earth Fest 2018 Kick-Off on Friday, April 20, at 6 p.m. will feature demonstrations of how to make a medley of Iron Range delicacies such as pasties, porketta, squeaky cheese and potica. Nibbling will be encouraged! Space is limited, so RSVP by calling 218-735-6875 or e-mailing ironrangeearthfestevents@gmail.com. Everyone is also invited to enjoy *Lost Iron Range*, a documentary that will be hosted by WDSE TV at Messiah Lutheran Church. On Saturday, April 21, from 9 a.m.

to 3 p.m., plan to join us for the 10th annual Earth Fest, now at four locations along the Highway 169 corridor in Mt. Iron. Featured this year, in line with the theme of reclaiming our local sustainable traditions, is our keynote speaker from The Sioux Chef collaborative. Frank Haney will talk about indigenous foods that once made up the diet of the Midwest. Haney and others from The Sioux Chef have sparked an inspiring indigenous foods movement in our region and beyond.

Earth Fest 2018 will host an exceptional collection of hands-on demonstrations, presentations, and music to engage your mind, body, and soul. Explore the signs of spring, discover your past, learn a new skill, and then get ready for the summer growing season, all in three hours or less! National Public Radio's Tiny Desk Concert winner Gaelynn Lea will give a live per-

formance, as well as speak about overcoming disabilities in today's society. You can also enjoy the welcoming sounds of local band Silver Wilder playing over the lunch hour. Families and children can look forward to snuggling with and learning about farm animals from Mr. Ed's Farm, try their hand at indoor archery, free play with chalk and bubbles, and other indoor and outdoor activities.

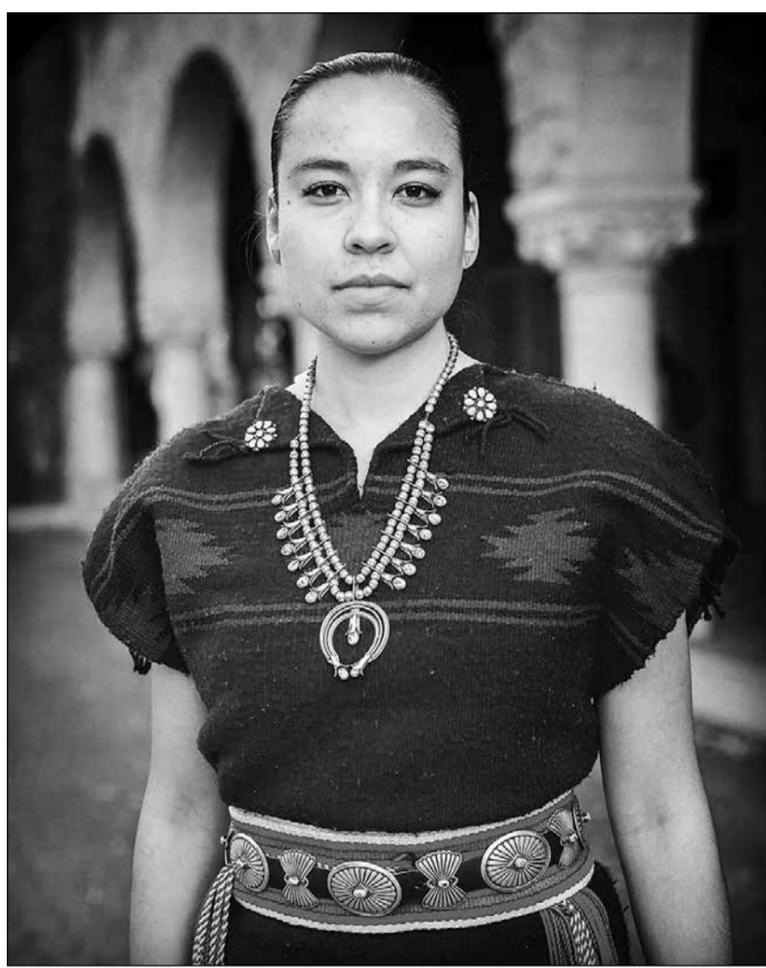
The entire event is free and open to the public. Live radio broadcasts, dozens of local exhibitors and vendors, a delicious lunch offered by Natural Harvest Food Co-op, and much, much more are crammed into this annual event. Visit www.irpsmn.org/earthfest for more information. We look forward to seeing you for our first decade celebration of sustainability!

NATIVE AMERICAN ARTIST

Lyla June, musician and activist to visit Bois Forte and Ely in May

REGIONAL- Lyla June, a Diné (Navajo) activist, and her friends are generating a new genre of Indigenous music that inspires youth. The Taos, New Mexico artist is known worldwide for her tireless leadership and as a protector of the rights, language and culture of Indigenous People. Along with being a graduate of Stanford University and the University of New Mexico, Lyla June is also an award-winning singer, songwriter and performance poet. Lyla presents a multi-genre performance touching on a wide range of topics such as Native American community empowerment, women's healing, cultural revitalization, forgiveness, interracial harmony and reconciliation.

Lyla June will be making several appearances while in Minnesota and signing copies of her new book, "Lifting Hearts Off the Ground." Lyla will appear on Thursday, May 10 and Friday, May 11, speaking with youth at Bois Forte and on KBFT Radio; on Friday, May 11, "Bridging the Gap" at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Ely; on Saturday, May 12 as a guest lecturer at Vermilion Community College in Ely; and Sunday, May 13 playing with students at The Ely Folk School.



NORTHERN LIGHTS MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Barber of Seville featured opera during this year's festival season

REGIONAL- Rossini's "The Barber of Seville" will be the centerpiece of the 15th Anniversary Season of the Northern Lights Music Festival, with a brilliant cast, new sets and costumes, and a full orchestra in the pit. The NLMF will present classical music and opera during the month of July throughout the Iron Range including the cities of Aurora, Chisholm, Virginia, Ely, Gilbert, Hibbing, and for the first time at the Carnegie Library in Buhl.

The Festival opens its season in Aurora on July 4, with a Festive Fourth Concert, underwritten by the Zuponic Family as a gift to the community. Pianist Veda Zuponic will perform Rachmaninoff's romantic Piano Concerto No. 2, and the concert will also feature performances by the NLMF artists and members of the Barber of Seville cast, who will be accompanied by the NLMF Orchestra, conducted by Gavriel Heine, in a selection of opera and Broadway hits.

NLMF Opera will present three performances of *The Barber of Seville*, starring the brilliant Chrystal Williams as Rosina; and Norman Shankle, renowned for his performances of Mozart and Rossini, as Almadiva. NLMF Music Director, Gavriel Heine, of Russia's Mariinsky

Theatre will conduct and Francis Kuhn will direct. Mr. Kuhn, whose productions have won "Best Production of the Year" awards in Sacramento and in Denver, will bring a fast, funny opera to the Iron Range. The opera will be performed in Aurora, Chisholm and Ely on July 13, 15 and 16. Sung in Italian, with subtitles in English, the new production is designed by Bart Healy and built by local Master Carpenters Arthur Cherro and Alvin Rintala of Aurora.

Returning this year is a series of pre-concert lectures before selected events, including *The Barber of Seville*. In a partnership with Minnesota Public Radio, Steve Seel will share his insights about the opera with the public. For more information, go to the NLMF website at www.northernlightsmusic.org and click on Schedule. This event is sponsored by the Hilligoss Family Foundation.

Local libraries, including those in Aurora, Gilbert, Chisholm, Virginia, Ely, and Hibbing will host Kids for Kids concerts, featuring performances by high school participants from across the United States.

Northern Lights Music Festival



Chrystal Williams will star in this summer's production of *The Barber of Seville*.

has received support from Explore MN Tourism, Iron Range Resource and Rehabilitation Board, the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, the Jeno Paulucci Foundation, The Donald G. Gardner Trust for the Humanities, Minnesota Power Foundation, Minnesota Energy, Lake Country Power, Gilbert Bank, PolyMet, Wells Fargo, and The Friends of the Festival. Tickets go on sale after May 1. For more information, call 218-780-2292 or check the website at www.northernlightsmusic.org.

Tickets are also available at the door, at Bradach Lumber in Aurora, at Kess Gallery in Ely, and at Valentini's Restaurant in Chisholm.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

NORTHWOODS FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

Celebrating "Aprons in April"

Exhibit on display through Saturday, April 28 in Cook

COOK- Collaborating artists, Kris and Lyn put out the word a few months ago in a "call for aprons" and the history of each apron.

Aprons came in from everywhere...out of state and out of country! Reed and Musto noted they especially enjoyed interviewing the people (primarily women) they collected the aprons from and hearing details of their mothers and grandmothers. The apron became a symbol for the memories, love and respect they had for these women. The history of each apron or information about the owner or maker has been printed on a tag displayed with each one.

A reception was held on April 13 to celebrate the exhibit, which includes approximately 200 artist-designed, historic, ethnic and purposeful aprons. The public is invited to view the exhibit each Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday through April 28 at 210 S River St. next to Dream Weaver Salon and Spa.

Fifty-five aprons were created and sewn by artists Lyn Reed and Kris Musto. Lyn Reed, an art teacher in Orr, Cook and Northwoods School for the past 30 years, has mostly worked in the field of pottery since her retirement two years ago. This winter her efforts were focused on fabric art.

Kris Musto is an artist unafraid to tackle new media even though she is still working full-time. One apron she created, the "Triple Apron," is displayed in the exhibition and dedicated to the women of Cook. Another is described as such, "This apron is a shield against harm, annoyance, fear and self-doubt. Sewn with Grandma's sewing machine by the lake and full of joy, fun, love and protection!"

The Apron Collection of Betty Johnson was loaned to the gallery by Patti Norrgard, as well as aprons loaned for the display by community members. These included fine examples of American life in the present and past, as well as aprons and fabric of Guatemala, Mexico, Korea, Thailand, Australia, and more. There were crocheted aprons, one from Audrey Peterson's grandmother, Hilma Laakkonen, who



Artists and exhibit curators Lyn Reed, left, and Kris Musto, right, submitted photos

immigrated from Finland on her own as a teenager. Audrey also loaned her family collection of aprons, light and frilly, from the 1950s.

Local businesses were also represented via apron art. Vickie Lange and Sue Wolfe made aprons using the cloth bags of Homestead Mills' products. Industrial aprons, including the ink stains and dirt, were displayed from Duluth Paper Specialties Co., Santa Fe Trading Co. (Saugatuck, Mich.) and well used printers' aprons.

Lyn Reed, who grew up in Australia, made aprons created with unusual fabrics from the United States, and from Australian Aboriginal prints. Each of the Aboriginal prints tells a story such as, "The Fire Dreaming Ceremony" designed by Janet Long, which "provides the right relationship between the people and the Land". "Witchety Grub" fabric designed by Audrey Martin Naparangka is described as,

"... an important insect food of the desert and has historically been a staple food in the diets of Aboriginal people. The raw grub tastes like almond or banana."

The American-made "Bees", a fabric created by Dora Reed who lives at Friday Harbor, Wash., is a design by "woodcut" method. The woodcut was so large she printed it with a (road equipment) steam roller!

You can see these aprons and more at NWFA Gallery, 210 S River St. in Cook. The gallery is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10 to 4 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. until Saturday, April 28. NWFA is a non-profit membership organization pledged to support all arts and artists in the region of Cook. See the website at nwfamn.org. Like us on Facebook and Instagram: NWFAMN and email at nwfamn.org@gmail.com.



From left: Philip Simensen, Gary Whitenack and Bob Ulseth try out the new "triple apron", designed and sewn by Kris Musto as a metaphor for women working together, and dedicated to the women of Cook. submitted photo

Gardens in the North program set for Monday, April 23 in Embarrass

EMBARRASS- St. Louis County Extension will be presenting a new educational gardening program, "Gardens in the North" at the Embarrass Town Hall, 7503 Levander Rd., on Monday, April 23 from 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. The program will focus on both flower and fruit gardening.

Topics will include how to plant, grow, and

care for new hydrangeas; the essentials for gardening success in northern Minnesota; apple varieties; planting, production, and pruning; colorful pollinator plants for the garden; and gardening trends.

The registration fee is \$23, which includes the program, handout materials, a copy of the 2018 Fruit Varieties for Northern Minnesota, and

refreshments. For more information about the program or to register,

call 218-749-7120 or online at stlouiscountymn.gov/ext.



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Ruby's Pantry in Babbitt on April 28

BABBITT- Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution will be held at the Babbitt Municipal Center, 71 South Drive, on Saturday, April 28 (4th Saturday of each month) from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$20 (no checks accepted), which buys an abundance of food. No income or residency guidelines. Bring two large boxes or baskets. Sponsored by St. Pius X Catholic Church. Volunteers always welcome.

Care Partners Swedish Meatball Dinner on Wednesday, April 25

VIRGINIA- The Care Partners 10th Annual Swedish Meatball Dinner will be held Wednesday, April 25 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 306 2nd St. S in Virginia from 3 to 6 p.m. while supplies last. Tickets are available at the door. The cost is \$9 per person, free for children under 5. Take-out is available. All proceeds will directly benefit local individuals and families facing cancer or a life-limiting illness. For more information, call 218-404-1411.

North St. Louis County 4-H salutes area volunteers during National Volunteer Week

REGIONAL- Each year, thousands of volunteers in Minnesota donate their time and energy to make their communities a better place to live.

National Volunteer Week is April 15 - 21 this year.

One group that relies heavily on volunteers is the University of Minnesota Extension's 4-H Youth Development Program. Minnesota 4-H supports nearly 11,000 adult volunteers annually who engage young

people in a variety of hands-on learning experiences. Volunteers are critical to the success of 4-H programs and making a difference in the lives of youth. In North St. Louis County, 70 volunteers, both youth and adult, serve as club leaders, project leaders, committee members and in advisory capacities for the 4-H Youth Development Program. Volunteers spend numerous hours working on tasks, such as mentoring a child with a 4-H project, leading a project with youth to serve the community or helping organize an event at the county fair.

The work of 4-H volunteers is continuous. Every day volunteers lend a helping hand to make 4-H programs more beneficial to the residents of north St. Louis County. Those interested in joining the team of 4-H Volunteers are invited to contact Nicole Kudrle, County 4-H Program Coordinator, at 218-749-7120 or vande422@umn.edu.

North St. Louis County 4-H would like to celebrate and thank all of the hard-working, dedicated volunteers who move the mission of positive youth development forward in our many 4-H clubs and other group settings: Allana Lampton- Hibbing; Amanda Isaacs- Hibbing; Amy Sirjord- Hibbing; Ann Snetsinger- Palm- Zim; Araina Boyd- Embarrass; Barbara Manahan- Thompson- Ely; Betsy Olivanti- Mt. Iron; Bonnie and Jerry Meier- Embarrass; Brock and Cellina Kick- Forbes; Catherine Heltunen- Mt. Iron; Christine Mackai- Embarrass; Christopher Nash- Hibbing; David Saranen- Virginia; Debbie Hadrava- Hoyt Lakes; Elizabeth Chapman- Angora; Ellen Pierce- Embarrass; Gina Hill- Hibbing; Heath Boe- Eveleth; Heather Hill- Hibbing; Jeanette Mellesmoen- Embarrass; Jeffrey Eibler- Ely; Jenny Knuth- Greaney; Julie Schelde- Angora; Karen Pender- Chisholm; Katie Kopic- Cotton; Kristin Wood- Canyon; Lizbeth Thom- Cook; Lorrie Hill- Chisholm; Maude Dammann- Ely; Myia Paradis- Cook; Nancy Lucas- Hibbing; Patsy Chapman- Angora; Paula Herbranson- Mt. Iron; Rebecca Koepke- Eveleth; Renae Gripp- Eveleth; Robin Laulunen- Embarrass; Sandra Tuominen- Virginia; Savannah Pollak- Virginia; Seija Packila Wavrin- Ely; Steve Thompson- Ely; and Tara Forsman- Ely.

Choralaires' Spring Concerts



Friday, May 4 • 7 p.m.

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Sunday, May 6 • 2 p.m.

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TOURISM MARKETING

Ely celebrates TAX (Today's Another Xciting) Day

New marketing effort replaces April Fools' promotions

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - This small town at the end of the road, in a brave and bold effort, is attempting to single-handedly turn a historically unpopular day, Tax Day, into a celebration of all that Ely has to offer as The Last Great Pure Experience.

Earlier this month, Ely officials ended their ten-year tradition of April Fool's jokes and campaigns citing the large number of brands, products and organizations that had followed its lead in turning April 1 into one of the most creative marketing days of the year.

Citing a "Been There, Done That" attitude, they took a closer look at other days on the spring calendar and zeroed in on one of the most derided days of the year.

"After our success putting

Ely on the map with April Fool's jokes," said Ely mayor Chuck Novak, "we were looking for another calendar challenge."

"Rather than complaining about a day when we send a big chunk of our hard-earned money to the government, we thought we could turn that frown upside down, to borrow a popular phrase," said Ginny Nelson, President of the Ely Area Tourism Bureau. "We thought if we could re-name the day, it could be a great springboard to launch our summer tourism efforts."

After trying several different combinations of words, including Tricky Attempts at Xpressiveness, Toxic Affordable Xhibitionist, and Transparent Athletic Xaminations, the Bureau landed on its new "Today's Another Xciting" Day in Ely campaign.

Because every day in Ely brings the potential for a new and exciting adventure in an area surrounded by a million-acre wilderness playground and thousands of lakes, it felt like a perfect fit. That effort was launched with lawn signs throughout Ely and a one-day radio blitz in the Twin Cities.

Officials say that additional efforts, perhaps including some of the silliness associated with its April Fool's campaigns, will find its way into TAX Day campaigns in the future.

Other than Ely-area accountants, who still aren't convinced that there's anything exciting or adventurous about Tax Day, residents say they're hopeful that the town's quirky and fun reputation will live on in the new campaign.



DFL...Continued from page 1

said in an interview this week with the *Timberjay*. "There's a lot of support in the district for sustainable development," she said, but acknowledged that it faces strong resistance from the region's power brokers.

That was apparent among the party's super-delegates at the convention, who worked to prevent Phifer from reaching the 60-percent threshold for party endorsement. Super-delegates are comprised of elected or former elected officials who are automatically seated as delegates for party con-

ventions. Phifer garnered as much as 52 percent of the delegate votes on the fourth ballot but found steadfast opposition from many party officials.

Phifer also faced what she saw as underhanded tactics deployed by some top party officials in the Eighth District, who used Phifer's former position with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, to foment opposition from the party's Latino caucus. Members of the caucus read a letter of opposition to Phifer at the last Saturday's convention. Phifer, a fluent

Spanish speaker, said she joined the federal law enforcement agency to serve as a translator and advocate for Spanish-speaking immigrants. "I was never an agent. I never carried a gun," she said.

Whether the issue proved decisive is unclear, but it left a sour taste with some Phifer supporters, who saw the issue as largely manufactured. "I had reached out to the caucus," said Phifer. "There was ample time to address their concerns ahead of the convention. It was clear that their concerns were being weap-

onized by those who were really concerned over other issues."

Phifer faced opposition, as well, from some DFLers who were still angry over her decision to challenge Rep. Rick Nolan, who bowed of the race after Phifer demonstrated broad support in the February precinct caucuses. "They were trying to punish the person who challenged their traditional power base," said Phifer.

Phifer said she met with her team on Tuesday and concluded that there was no viable path forward for her campaign. "We had never built our strategy or our infrastructure around a primary contest," said Phifer.

Instead, Phifer had banked her efforts on winning the DFL endorsement, which would have provided her the party's resources and infrastructure as her campaign

moved forward, even in the expectation of a primary battle. While Phifer had strong grassroots support, she acknowledged that her campaign never won the backing of major political organizations or unions, which could provide the resources and infrastructure she would need in a primary contest. "We don't see those resources coming in over the next four months," she said.

Phifer had struggled to raise money, having raised about \$81,000 through March 31, the most recent reporting period. But her campaign began months ahead of other contenders and had relatively little cash on hand in the wake of the endorsing convention. "It's not fair to bring my supporters along for a ride that could end in failure," she said. Phifer also stressed her desire to avoid a divisive primary battle.

Phifer currently serves as adjunct faculty at Augsburg University. She will finish spring semester before taking on any new challenges. "It was such an honor to be trusted with the hopes and dreams of the 8th District," she said. "Whatever I decide to do, I'll be working to make our vision of the future a reality."

Phifer's departure narrows the race and will send an active and engaged base of supporters in search of a new candidate. To date, candidates Michelle Lee, Joe Radinovich, and Jason Metsa have announced they intend to campaign in the primary. Both Metsa and Lee had already indicated they likely would not abide by the party's endorsement.

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#4435U Ashen Grey

GRANT...Continued from page 1

in Ely.

EADA partners with the State of Minnesota's Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training (NEMOJT) to offer job placement services to local area residents.

"The job placement services offered by EADA are much needed given the under-employment and unemployment in Northeastern Minnesota," Tyler said. "Such services are offered to job seekers and area employers at no cost to them. EADA assists job seekers in preparing resumes, conducting training sessions with NEMOJT personnel, connecting with employers regarding job openings, holding mini-job fairs, assisting job seekers in how to access Minnesotaworks.net and much more. EADA operations are conducted with unpaid volunteers."

According to Tyler, no other Ely area organization, like the Ely Chamber of Commerce, Incredible Ely or the Ely Economic Development Association, offers job placement services to job seekers "All three of these Ely-based organizations refer job seekers to us, and even though we have requested financial help from various

organizations, we have received only one small grant during the prior four years. Yet, we turn away no one," Tyler said.

He noted that operating expenses incurred by EADA include such recurring expenses as telephone, internet, computers, printing, paper supplies, advertising, insurance (both liability and officers and directors insurance), have been paid by Up North Jobs Inc.

"While EADA's staff has the expertise and experience to continue to offer job placement services, we cannot continue to use Up North Jobs financial resources to fund EADA's operations," he said "It is painfully obvious that the Ely Area Development Association lacks the funding to provide the job placement services that are so urgently needed in our community without receiving financial assistance from a third party source."

In the request for financial assistance from the IRRRB, Tyler asked for a grant to EADA of \$9,000, or about \$750 dollars per month for the next 12 months to cover its expenses.

According to Tyler, the IRRRB has awarded grants to the Ely environmental advocacy group, Sustainable Ely, for both a new roof and new furnace

for their headquarters on Sheridan Street. "Frankly, it's time they did something for us," he said. "We're providing a service that no one else does in the whole city. I am asking the Joint Powers Board to support our request for this grant."

Winton Mayor Kathy Brandau said. "I think it's a great idea and I don't see anything wrong with this." The motion to support Tyler's request carried unanimously.

A brief discussion was held on the ongoing debate over splitting St. Louis County into two counties.

Ely School Board chair Ray Marsnik noted that the three county districts on the Iron Range pay 46 percent of the county taxes. "Our tax dollars are not distributed fairly," he said.

In other business, the Joint Powers Board approved Winton as the next chair of the organization, based on a rotational basis.

Meetings will continue to be held quarterly, in March, June, September and December. The annual legislative session will be held on the last meeting of the year.

Annual dues continue at \$400 for voting members, except for the city of Winton, which pays \$200. Non-voting members pay \$150.

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TRAIL...Continued from page 1

(LCCMR) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, which oversees grant requests from lottery revenues. The LCCMR gives out approximately \$16 million in grants each year for land acquisition and recreation projects. The board has identified other governmental grant programs with dedicated trail grant funding, including the DNR Parks and Trails Legacy program which funds \$7.5 million a year.

The Lake Vermilion Trail plan calls for an approximately 40-mile long, ten-foot wide, paved recreational trail linking Cook and Tower and traveling along scenic Lake Vermilion. Eight governments along the trail, including Cook, Bois Forte, and Tower, have formed a joint powers board to oversee the construction and maintenance of the trail. The joint powers board does not have any taxing authority, or the ability to condemn land along the trail route.

The exact trail route is still being determined. The trail would be built in phases, with the first trail work done at the two ends: a segment connecting the Hwy. 169/77 intersection to Tower, and a segment running from Head of the Lakes public lake access to Wakemup Hill overlook/Wakemup Village Rd. area. Once those two segments are completed, the focus would shift to the middle segment of the trail in Greenwood Township. Completion of the trail will take as long as 20 years, planners said.

At the public meeting in Tower last Tuesday, Outdoor Recreation Planner Holly Larson, who works for the National Park Service, said the vision is to create a premier paved scenic route providing the opportunity for healthy, safe, non-motorized year-round recreation and transportation. The presentation highlighted the many benefits of the trail. A recent study

done by the University of Minnesota on the Mesabi Trail showed clear economic and tourism benefits of that trail, with 70 percent of visitors extending their stays in the area by two days, and 92 percent of non-local trail users spending a night in the area. In addition, the trail study showed that visitors who came to use the trail spent an average of \$144 per person, per day while in the area.

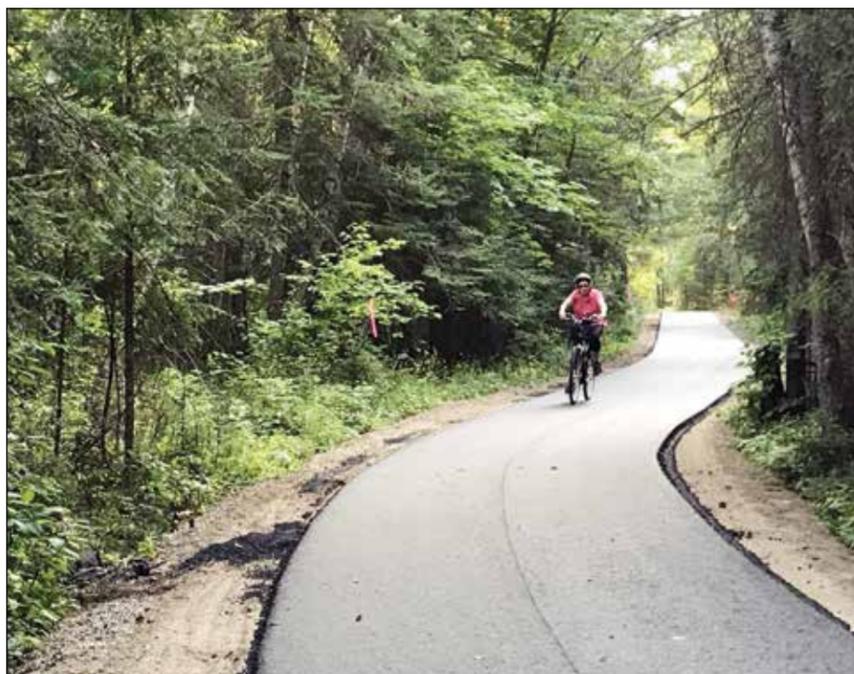
"This group has been busy for the last few years," she said. "Last week we applied for our first state funding for the design and development of the Tower segment, which includes 4.6 miles of trail." The board is also working on their second grant application, which will be submitted this summer, for the first segment on the west end of the trail. The legacy grant applications are a multi-year process, Larson explained, with the first step getting approval from the LCCMR board, and then the next year getting that grant financed by the state legislature, with construction then set for the following year. If the board is recommended for grant funding this year, construction would likely begin in 2021, Larson said.

Larson said the grant program is highly-competitive, but noted that Minnesota is better than most other states as far as funding trails. The trail offers health, safety, economic, community, and transportation benefits so meets the requirements of most grant funding programs.

Costs for construction of the trail are estimated to run between \$400,000 and \$900,000 per mile, with the higher range if bridges or boardwalks are needed. The Y Store to Tower segment is estimated to cost \$1.8 million. This segment will start on its eastern end at Hwy. 135 south of Tower's new harbor development and the Vermilion Country School. It will start where



A biker along a section of the Mesabi Trail last summer. The Lake Vermilion Trail would be a similar paved trail, winding through the woods between Cook and Tower. file photo



Tower's paved trail will end. Tower's trail will be built with the harbor development in 2018/19, and will extend directly from the Mesabi Trail to 135. The LVT will then head southwest on Tower-owned land before crossing state land, in between Hwy. 169 and the DNR Area Headquarters building. It will then continue west and may also use former 169 roadbed in this segment, now deteriorated and owned by the state. The trail may cross West Two Road and traverse the private land in between West Two Road and Hwy 169/1, continuing west, then cross West Two Road again, then cross some private parcels, and some state-owned, county-managed tax forfeit property to continue southwest to Bois Forte Enterprise Board property to reach the Y Store. The subcommittee is actively working with private landowners, as well as the Bois Forte Tribal Government, MN DNR, the city of Tower, and the county to finalize an alignment for this segment. Larson said that, so far, private landowners the board has contacted over possible easements are interested in working together with the board. If agreements cannot be reached with private landowners, Larson said, alternative routes will be determined.

"We will be using

public lands as much as possible," she said.

Members of the trail joint powers board include Tower, Cook, Bois Forte,

and the townships of Vermilion Lake, Kugler, Beatty, Owens, and Greenwood. Each governmental unit appoints

one member to the board. The group is seeking interested volunteers to help with outreach, fundraising, and other projects.

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NORTH AMERICAN BEAR CENTER

Stubborn winter delays Bear Center opening

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Winter has its grip on Ely and the North American Bear Center has been forced to delay their season opening again. They plan to open Friday, April 20. Check their website (www.bear.org) for hours.

Senior Bearkeeper Sharon Herrell provided an update of the bears' activities.

"Last week Ted has been out of his den several times and greeting me as I delivered his meals. Tasha has been our little night owl foraging around the pond area finding the seeds, carrots and apples I've left for her. Ted and Tasha are being fed every other day. This schedule allows their stomachs to expand slowly and gain weight slowly. They both look wonderful."

On April 9, the plows arrived early to clear a path from the double gates up to Lucky and Holly's bunker dens. "The noise roused Holly; she had to check out what was going on. It was my first look at her this year. She is gorgeous, no bias at all," Herrell said.

"Lucky doesn't like



Tasha tastes a biscuit last week after coming out of hibernation.
submitted photo

loud noises or machinery so he didn't come out until the staff had gone up to visit Holly," she said. One of pond chat moderators at the Bear Center caught a video of Lucky and Holly visiting each other nose to nose. Holly started playing after that encounter. Check out the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdreI-JDSqY>.

"I received a few questions this week that I'd like to address; questions help us all learn together. Feel free to post any other questions you may have and I'll do my best to answer them in future editions of Bear News."

1. Question: Did Tasha leave her den

because it was wet? She has been seen with mud on her butt, is that proof that her den is wet?

Answer: "Tasha's den is in a high area, if her butt is wet it is from sitting on the snow to eat the seeds by the Pat tree. She has snow on her butt and goes back to the den and gets dirt on it. It's not melting up there, it's still too cold. She has the front of the den fortified with leaves and ground debris. I haven't personally seen her muddy butt but then I've only seen the videos."

"Bears are resilient and Tasha has proven herself to be a strong bear."

"Also, the gates to the Haven Den and Cabin Den by Ted are open if she chooses to use them."

on March 29."

Last week has been a busy start for the bears. "Tasha was seen in the afternoon of April 11, it's the first time moderators and our viewers caught her on camera during the day," Herrell said. "She also surprised us on April 12 with a visit to the viewing area. This time we were ready and took pictures of her. She sat for a while; still looking tired (walking hibernation) and proceeded to the tree line. She stomp-walked over the area a few times and then left us a nice scat. She is taller than last year, and in comparison will be taller than Holly this year."

Herrell discussed the enclosure gates. "Prior to hibernation last fall Lucky and Holly were not on good terms with one another. We left the gates open while observing behavior; it was clear that neither one wanted to be with the other. Therefore, to allow both a restful hibernation, I closed the gate. When our bears go into hibernation their den gates to the big enclosure are always closed."

"Once it is safe to get back up behind their

enclosures to open the gates we will do so. Right now there is a base of about 30 inches of cement-packed snow. Holly and Lucky can continue to have contact between the fences and through the interior peek holes in their bunkers. Tasha can also visit each of them through the outside fence. Ted's gate won't be opened until he can safely maneuver across the mound to the viewing area. It's always my job to keep all of our bears safe; please be patient with us as the snow melts; that is, if it ever stops snowing and freezing."



Volunteers in the Orr, Tower, Nett Lake and Embarrass areas are needed to drive persons to medical appointments and to work. Must have a valid driver's license, a dependable vehicle, insurance, a clean driving record and pass a background check.

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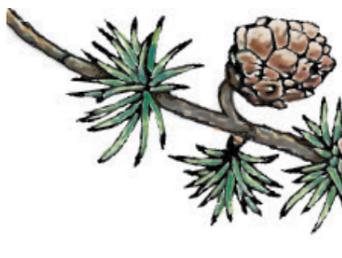
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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Again, judge nixes MPCA sulfate proposal

Legislature advances bill to overturn wild rice protections, but move would face near-certain federal lawsuit

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The state's top administrative law judge has delivered another blow to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's efforts to rewrite state regulations designed to protect wild rice. In a ruling issued April 12, Chief Administrative Law Judge Tammy Pust rejected the MPCA's latest revisions to their proposal to establish an equation-based approach to regulating sulfate discharges into wild rice waters.

Back in January, another administrative law judge had disallowed a number of the MPCA's proposed rule changes, for potentially violating state and federal law. Pust had confirmed that earlier ruling and ordered the MPCA to submit revisions to the rules or maintain the current ten milligrams-per-liter sulfate standard. The MPCA had submitted a lengthy response last month that argued it had made technical changes designed to address the judge's concerns and asked the judge to revisit her order.

But in her latest ruling, Pust

wrote that the changes had fallen short of what is necessary and refused to clear the way for the MPCA to continue its rule-making process with the current proposal. The order does allow the MPCA to consult with the Legislature for advice and comment. The Legislature would have the opportunity to consider its own proposal for changes to the law.

Indeed, a bill that would do just that continues to advance at the Legislature. House File 3280,

See **SULFATE...pg 2B**



Wild rice grows in the Sandy River. Sulfate standards designed to protect wild rice remain a source of controversy. file photo

COMMUNITY

The sound of music?

Community project hits high note in Ely



by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - The Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust, in collaboration with the City of Ely and the city's advisory Park and Recreation Board, will be purchasing large-scale outdoor music instruments this summer for Whiteside Park.

Invented by Grammy Award-Winning musician Richard Cooke more than 20 years ago, these durable and perfectly tuned sound sculptures inspire a love of music and joyful play for both children and adults.

"One of our board members saw an installation of instruments in Iowa and brought the idea to the Trust board," said Keiko Williams, executive director of the Gardner Trust. "In researching the instruments, we found that they are all over the country and in many other cold climates, too. It seemed a perfect fit for the Trust's Community Giving grant program to help enrich our city."

The Trust is purchasing a 'starter collection' that includes a set of five tuned drums and two xylophone-type instruments and is also adding two 'Flowers' to the group that may be more appealing to younger children, she said.

The Trust is seeking individuals or organizations interested in adding instruments to this first installation in Ely's Whiteside Park. The Trust will be purchasing instruments with an estimated cost of \$12,000. Additional instruments can be purchased for \$850 to over \$2,000.

Some specialty instruments cost up to \$5,000. Interested parties can contact Williams directly to talk about specific costs and instruments. General donations received from the community will be used toward installation costs or to purchase additional instruments.

People interested in more information and pictures of other instruments can go to the website: freenotesharmonypark.com. There are also some pictures of a new music park installed in Maple Grove at: <http://firefliesplay.com/maple-grove-music-plaza>. Also a new installation in Northfield at: <http://firefliesplay.com/northfield-music-plaza>.

The Trust is also seeking out organizations and individuals that may be willing to help with assembly or installation of the instruments in July.

Keiko can be contacted at 365-2639 with office hours usually on Monday and Wednesday or by email at info@gardnertrust.org.



EDUCATION

Remarkable milestones

5,000 scholarships and \$50 million in giving for Alworth Memorial Fund

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— For nearly 70 years, the board of the Marshall H. and Nellie Alworth Memorial Fund have given Northland students a major helping hand as they pursue academic and personal success. Earlier this month, the fund surpassed two major milestones when the board approved their 5,000th scholarship and surpassed the \$50 million mark since the founding of the fund back in 1949.

While scholarship programs are hardly uncommon, the Alworth scholarship is one that truly makes a difference for students. It's a significant award, currently running \$5,000 each year for a full four years of a student's studies. It's open to all northeastern Minnesota students pursuing degrees in science or math, based on academic achievement and demonstrated financial need.

"It helps a ton," said Jonathon Lanari, a UMD freshman and Alworth recipient from the Lake Vermilion area. While most students learn about the Alworth scholarship from a school counselor or teacher, Lanari learned of it from his older brother Mark, who was a scholarship recipient several years earlier. Jonathon is currently pursuing a degree in chemical engineering and is having real success, having just been approved for upper division courses. "It's really helpful that I don't have to work and can focus entirely on my studies," said Lanari. "And I have time to get involved in things, like some of the student clubs."

Back in 1949, when Marshall

Above: A few of the recipients of an Alworth scholarship attended the recent award banquet held at the Kitchi Gammi Club in Duluth. Pictured are (l-r) Wyatt Miller, Jacob Sawyer, Alworth Fund Executive Director Patty Salo Downs, Hannah Martilla, KeKe Sirjod, and Tyler Grunenwald.

photos courtesy Alworth Memorial Fund.

Right: A display honoring Marshall W. and Margaret Alworth, the founders of the fund.



W. Alworth and his wife Margaret created the fund, college tuition and student debt weren't the hot topics that they are today. In those days, scholarships ranged from \$300-\$800, which was often enough to cover all of a student's expenses.

These days, the scholarships no longer cover all of a student's expenses, but they make a significant difference, allowing students to focus more on their studies and spend less time worrying about next semester's tuition. And with many students able to earn college credit while still in high school these days, the four years of Alworth funding can give students a leg up on more than just their undergraduate studies, since the funding can be applied to graduate school studies as well.

While there actually are a few rocket scientists among the list of former

Alworth students, Alworth board chair Eric Norberg, of Tower, said the scholarships aren't just for the class "brainiac."

"We're looking for a hard-working, gritty kid who has an interest in math and science and has a financial need, and where we can help provide the nudge that can make the difference."

Patty Salo Downs, the fund's executive director, said the scholarship can provide the kind of incentive to encourage students to seriously consider a degree in math or science. "We've heard from students who do pursue math or science because of the scholarship, and it does give them that extra boost of confidence," said Salo Downs.

It doesn't always work out as planned, of course. Kate Beaudry, who graduated last year from the North Woods School, won an Alworth scholarship and is currently studying at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. She said she's having a great experience in college, and that the scholarship's

See **ALWORTH...pg. 2B**

HONORS

Sheriff Litman presents annual 911 Lifesaver awards

REGIONAL—Ten-year-old Ian Kimmes was the youngest recipient of a 911 Lifesaver Award this year for his prompt actions when his great-grandfather suffered a stroke on Lake Vermilion.

St. Louis County Sheriff Ross Litman presented the awards earlier this month to a number of citizens, first responders, and 911 dispatchers who assisted in four separate incidents.

Kimmes had been fishing with his great-grandfather Robert McCarty when the elderly man suffered a stroke, which allowed their boat to run aground. Ian was able to help McCarty lift the motor and get them underway back to their dock, where Ian helped land the boat and tie it up. He then helped his great-grandpa walk to their cabin. Ian then got a phone and called his grandma, Jean McCarty-Jalonen, who recognized something was wrong based on McCarty's speech.

Jean called 911 for help.



Left: Ten-year-old Ian Kimmes receives a reassuring pat on the head from his great-grandfather Robert McCarty as grandmother Jean McCarty-Jalonen looks on.

was placed, Robert is with us today," said Sheriff Litman.

Both Kimmes and his grandmother received awards for their actions.

Also recognized for their lifesaving work were 911 emergency communications specialists Nanette Blom, Heather Barnes and Don Walters, as well as representatives of Tower Ambulance, and the Vermilion and Fortune Bay First Responders.

Another 911 Lifesaver Award went to St. Louis County 911 Emergency Communications Specialist Sarah Kemp for an incident last July of a man who'd struggled to make it back to shore while swimming in Lake Vermilion, and had been under-

water for two to three minutes. Kemp was able to provide instructions over the phone to the man's wife on how to perform CPR. After a few minutes, the man was able to expel some of the water he had in his lungs and began breathing in a labored manner, and by the time emergency responders arrived, he was conscious.

Also playing a part in the rescue were 911 emergency communications specialists Sue Hill, Ashley Erickson and Dana Nelson, as well as Breitung Police officers and members of Tower Ambulance and Greenwood First Responders and Fire Department.

An award was also given to a group of civilians who saved the life of Jerry Wallner, a Virginia man who suffered a heart attack right before the start of a girls basketball game in the Virginia High School gym. Lifesavers included Darren Aho, Kerry Bidle, Rick Wilson, Michelle Miskowitz, Stacy Theil, Jeff Ramponi and Jack Walsh, who

coordinated efforts to save Wallner's life.

A 911 Lifesaver recognition also went to two Hibbing Police officers and two St. Louis County deputies. Last December, a woman fell through the ice on Kelly Lake. She was able to call 911 and provide her location and situation. Hibbing Officers Daniel Mooers and Sgt. Cliff Arola, Deputies Kevin Hagen and Adam Danielson all responded, but due to the ice conditions could not reach her.

Thinking quickly, Deputy Danielson tied a boat seat cushion to a rescue rope and threw it to the woman, who was able to grab hold. The four officers then worked together to pull her from the water. Also assisting in this rescue were 911 emergency communications specialists Laura Vukmanich, Molly Martinson and Christi Muellner, as well as Hibbing firefighters and ambulance.

ALWORTH...Continued from page 1B

focus on math and science proved helpful in convincing her that the field wasn't for her after all. She said she's discovered her aptitudes are more in the area of communications, and that she'll be shifting her studies next semester after a heavy load of calculus and physics this year. That means she'll be giving up her scholarship as she shifts to her new area of study.

A rigorous process

Each year between Nov. 1 and Jan. 15, the fund accepts scholarship applications from high school seniors across a wide swath of northern Minnesota, including all of the Arrowhead.

The application includes essay questions, a personal statement, family financial information, and

a letter of recommendation from a math or science teacher.

Salo Downs and her staff sort through the roughly 200-240 applications they receive each year, to ensure that they meet the various criteria, including a high school GPA of 3.5 or above and a minimum ACT score of 25. The students must also confirm their intent to pursue a math or science-related career. The list of qualifying areas is fairly broad, including everything from medicine to forestry, wildlife management to meteorology.

The applications that meet the criteria are added to "the book," which goes out to the eight board members after the application period closes.

Each board member selects their own top 100 or

so, a list that is ultimately whittled down to about 60-70 new recipients on top of the students already being funded from previous years. It's a subjective process, one that considers much more than GPA. "We want to see what kind of academic rigor they had in high school. We look at the activities they were involved in, as well as leadership and things like volunteer service. It's pretty rigorous, but the payoff is potentially huge," notes Salo Downs. "They might have to put four good hours into the application, but when you consider you can get \$20,000, that's a pretty good return on investment. I often tell students it's the most money they'll ever make per hour in their entire life. It can make the difference between grad-

uating with debt or not."

Giving back

Marshall H. Alworth made his fortune in the lumber and mining industries in northern Minnesota and he was a prominent longtime resident of Duluth and a benefactor to the community. Born in New York in 1846, Alworth left home to pursue employment at age of thirteen, working in various fields, but eventually became skilled as a land and timber explorer, a job that eventually brought him to Minnesota. While he left the state for a time in the wake of the 1873 financial panic, Alworth returned to the area in 1882 and began purchasing government timber land, both for others and for himself.

Some of those sales included the mineral rights

and that eventually proved lucrative for Alworth when iron ore was found across the Mesabi Range, where he held significant ownership and profited from the development of the minerals there.

Throughout his life, Alworth distinguished himself as a generous benefactor of community projects in Duluth, and it was a tradition carried on by his son Marshall W. Alworth, who was born in Duluth in 1883 and lived in the city until 1966. The younger Alworth focused much of his giving on educational pursuits, funding major facilities at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, including the science lecture hall and faculty office building and the planetarium, both of which bear his name.

Salo Downs said the

focus on math and science was consistent with Mr. Alworth's interests. "Mr. Alworth loved medicine, he loved research, and loved math and science," she said. "He felt that's where the most benefit to humanity could be obtained."

Working for the Alworth fund has given Salo Downs reason to believe in the continued value of that founding vision. Despite the usual complaints about the younger generation, Salo Downs says she's optimistic. "We have some pretty amazing kids out there. It's really, really exciting to see the initiative they've taken throughout high school," she said. "It gives me hope for the future."

SULFATE...Continued from page 1B

co-sponsored by Reps. Jason Metsa and Rob Ecklund among others, would nullify the existing sulfate standard for wild rice and require the MPCA to begin a new rulemaking process if the agency opts to move forward with adoption of a new standard.

The measure has advanced past several committees in both the House and Senate in recent weeks. A second reading of the bill was approved in the House on April 12.

Yet the state faces an almost certain legal challenge if the legislation is signed into law. "This is not a gray area," said Paula Maccabee, chief legal counsel for Duluth-based Water Legacy. "If the Legislature goes ahead and adopts this, they will be inviting federal litigation," she said.

Maccabee notes that under the federal Clean Water Act, states cannot weaken federally-approved discharge rules without a scientific basis for doing so. MPCA officials had advised legislators of that requirement back in 2011, which prompted the Legislature to approve funding for a new study of sulfate's impact on wild rice.

The wild rice sulfate standard dates back to 1973 and was based on science dating back to the 1940s and 50s, so legislators had anticipated that new research would provide a basis for sweeping aside the earlier rule. But the science largely confirmed the link between sulfate discharges and toxicity to wild rice, although it confirmed that the sulfate was

not toxic until bacteria in lake and stream sediments converted it to sulfide. The research also suggested that the presence of iron in the water could partially mitigate the effects of the sulfate and sulfide.

The MPCA initially proposed to maintain the standard as is, but under pressure from iron mining interests and Iron Range legislators, the agency eventually proposed its flexible, equation-based approach, which is the proposal that the administrative law judge disallowed earlier this year.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency would also have to weigh in on the question. Under federal law, the EPA would have to approve of any weakening of the state's sulfate standard, and could only

agree to the change if it was scientifically supported. Maccabee said the EPA under President Obama would never have allowed it, and she suspects that even under President Trump, the agency won't grant its approval, mostly for fear of losing in federal court.

Maccabee said a federal legal challenge would be formidable. "This is a situation where the science is very strong and getting stronger all the time," she said, noting that peer-reviewed research suggesting that iron may not provide much protection to wild rice is slated to be published soon.

Tribal officials have also voiced opposition to the proposed changes given the importance of wild rice in Ojibwe culture.

On the other side are

the mining sector and wastewater treatment plant operators, who argue that the cost of treating sulfates in wastewater is too high. MPCA officials agree, and have noted that the

expensive reverse osmosis process is the only currently available method of treating sulfate pollution.

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LOCAL PHILANTHROPY

Northland Foundation awards grants

REGIONAL— The Northland Foundation awarded 45 grants between Jan. 1 and March 31 totaling \$526,240. The funding supported programming that nurtures children, youth and families; strengthens individual and community wellbeing including reducing poverty and its impacts; enhances the lives of older adults and their caregivers; and promotes thriving communities in the seven counties of northeastern Minnesota.

Three grants totaling \$53,400 were made to child care centers located in Barnum, Grand Marais and Hibbing. Funding for these grants was provided by the State of Minnesota, with the support of the Northland Foundation, to expand the availability of child care.

Another \$181,100 was awarded

through the Northland Foundation's Rural Aging Initiative, for capacity building in 10 community-based organizations that serve older adults and their family caregivers in our rural region.

"It has long been a focus of the Northland Foundation to support the 'bookends of life'—the youngest and oldest members of our communities," stated Tony Sertich, President. "We are thankful for the funding partners whose contributions make these grants possible, and the organizations in our region doing the on-the-ground work."

The following organizations in our area received Children, Youth and Families grants. Ely Public Schools received a \$3,000 grant to provide information and support for children entering Kindergarten

and their families. Little Eagles Childcare of Tower received a \$1,500 grant, and the Ely Folk School received \$10,000 to support engagement of area youth in building a birch bark canoe.

The Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency of Virginia received an \$18,000 Individual and Community Wellbeing Grant to address transportation needs in rural areas.

The following grants were awarded through the Northland Foundation's Rural Aging Initiative to help older adults and caregivers live well in their homes and communities. Northwoods Partners of Ely received \$20,000 and AEOA of Virginia received \$25,000.

Briefs

Mineral Royalties Scholarship process open at area colleges

REGIONAL- College opportunities on the Iron Range will be a bit more affordable this fall, stemming from the announcement that the St. Louis County Board is dedicating \$150,000 to a workforce development scholarship program for those who received a high school diploma while they were a resident of St. Louis County.

Through this program, the County is dedicating a portion of the iron ore royalties it receives to create scholarships for students at Hibbing Community College, Mesabi Range College, Vermilion Community College, and Lake Superior College.

Northeast Higher Education District President, Bill Maki, says that this program will be positive for both students and the local industries looking for skilled workers. "By providing these scholarships, our St. Louis County board members have shown a significant commitment to

education and to growing the skilled workforce in our region. These scholarships will provide a great opportunity for local students to gain the skill sets needed in high-demand careers so they can continue to live and work here in the northland."

The application period for the Mineral Royalties Scholarships opened at the recipient colleges on March 1. Individual college foundations will implement the scholarship process and recipient selection, and scholarships will range from \$500-\$2,500 annually per student.

More specific guidelines have been established by each local college tied to specific academic programs and future career goals. For more information regarding eligible career programs, and to receive the scholarship application, contact college admissions offices: Hibbing Community College www.hibbing.edu 218-262-7200; Mesabi Range College www.mesabirange.edu or 218-742-3095; and Vermilion Community College www.vcc.edu or 218-235-2191.

Small buildings offered for bid by Mesabi Range carpentry students

EVELETH- Mesabi Range carpentry students are now taking bids on three small buildings (10'x16') that they built as part of their classroom work. All three are uniquely different; they can be seen at Mesabi Range College - Eveleth Campus. The college will be accepting sealed bids for each building from April 10-28. Sealed bid forms can be obtained at the front office of the Eveleth campus; see Roseanne Omersa. The winning bidder will be announced at the open house that has been scheduled for Saturday, April 28 at 3:30 p.m. Buildings are "AS IS", Minnesota Sales Tax is applicable, and bid winner is responsible for moving the building. For more information, please call 218-744-7506.

Community work day planned at Vermilion Lake Township Cemetery

VERMILION LAKE TWP- A Community Work Day at the Vermilion Lake Township Cemetery, 6499 Wahlsten Road, will be held on Saturday, April 28 beginning at 1 p.m. Area residents are asked to come help straighten headstones and raise grave markers. Many hands will make quick work of the project. The township has only a few tools. Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own shovels, etc. If you have any questions, please call Town Clerk Steve Peterson Jr. at 780-7717, or one of the township supervisors: Sarah Schmidt 750-2524, Phil Anderson 749-3462, OR Bob Pratt 753-6709.

Defensive Driving Class offered in Wuori on April 25

WUORI TWP- The four-hour refresher course for drivers age 55 and older who have already completed the eight-hour defensive driving course, will be held on Wednesday, April 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wuori Town Hall, 7449 Werner Rd. The cost of the course is \$12. The instructor is retired MN State Trooper Mike Flatley. Pre-register by calling 218-750-3189 or email mnflats@hotmail.com.

Watercolor workshop at Lyric Center

VIRGINIA- All are invited to the Fun with Flowers watercolor workshop with Sarah Guy-Levar at the Lyric Center for the Arts in Virginia. This watercolor workshop is perfect for both beginning and experienced painters. The two-day workshop will cover easy step-by-step drawing instructions and proven techniques to create watercolor paintings of daisies, sunflowers, roses, and tulips. In an atmosphere of creativity and fun, we will usher in the beauty of summer.

The workshop will be held on Friday, April 27, from 3 to 9 p.m. and will continue on Sunday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at The First Stage Gallery, 510 Chestnut St. in downtown Virginia. Register online at <https://squareup.com/store/the-first-stage-gallery> or at the gallery Thursday or Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Range of Voices Spring Concert on April 27 and 29

REGIONAL- The Range of Voices will perform their spring concert twice in late April. The 50-voice ensemble has members from throughout the area, and will sing a concert of madrigals, motets, and movie tunes.

The concerts will be held on Friday, April 27, at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Chisholm, and on Sunday, April 29, at 2 p.m. at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Virginia. The choir, a small ensemble from the choir, and soloists will provide the audience with an array of old and new choral classics.

Admission is \$5, free for kids under 12. The singers will be led by guest director Rolf Anderson and accompanied by Dawn Thompson.

Obituaries And Death Notices



Frank S. Stepan

Frank S. Stepan, 89, of Superior, Wis., died on Sunday, April 15, 2018. Visitation will be held on Friday, April 20 from 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. Funeral Mass at Cathedral of Christ the King in Superior. Rev. Fr. Andrew P. Ricci will officiate. Burial will be in St. Williams Cemetery at a later date. The family would like to give a special thank you to the staff at Villa Marina Health and Genesis Rehab and Essentia St. Mary's Medical Center staff in Duluth. In lieu of flowers, please send a gift to Essentia Hospice. Downs Funeral Home of Superior is assisting the family with arrangements.

Frank was born on Nov. 16, 1928, in Breitung Township, Minn., the son

of Martin and Katherine Stepan. He graduated from Tower-Soudan High School. Frank served his country in the U.S. Army as a medic from 1946-1949. Following his service, he earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and his Master's Degree from Texas A&M. He taught at Superior Central High School and Central Junior High School.

Frank was a member of Cathedral of Christ the King and the Polish Club. He enjoyed gardening and fishing and loved polka music.

Frank is survived by his children, Terri (Bill) Cranmer of Tempe, Ariz., and Allan (Wendy Johnson) Stepan of Superior; brother, John Stepan of Seattle, Wash.; and sister, Mary (Len) Greving of Crystal, Minn.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Dolores (nee Chudecke); son, Gary Stepan; brother and sister, Martin, Joseph, Paul, John, Jacob, Aloys and Katherine.

Jane M. Shoden

Jane M. Hendrickson Shoden, 94, of Virginia, died on Friday, April 13, 2018, at St. Michael's

Health and Rehabilitation Center in Virginia. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 21 at Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran Church in Virginia. Pastor Nathan Sager will officiate. A gathering time for family and friends will begin one hour prior to the service at the church. Spring inurnment will take place in the Greenwood Cemetery. The family would like to thank Dr. Keith Peterson, the East Range Hospice Staff, and the staff of St. Michael's for their compassionate care. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her children, Diane (Dan) Carlson, Pat Sleeman, Cheryl (Craig) Aluni, Debbie (Terry) Carpenter, Ron (Sandi) Shoden, Steve Shoden and Darrell Shoden, all of Virginia;

grandchildren, Kathy (Rusty Olson) Carlson, Beth (Willie, Jr.) Spelts, Troy Sleeman, Heather Gulbranson (Gene Flaim), Brad (Diane) Sleeman, Lisa Shoden-McNamee, Stacy Shoden Russell, Holly (Jason) Semerad, Derek Shoden, Lindsey (Brent Turner) Shoden, Casey (Courtney) Aluni, Danielle (Matt) Seppi, Michael Shoden, Brittany (Dominic) DelCaro and Jenna Sandnas; 26 great-grandchildren; sisters, Dorothy Aronen of Lake Vermilion-Tower and Ruth (Joe) Jeanette of Arizona; extended family and friends.

James E. Shaleen

James Edward "Kyd" Shaleen, 71, of Britt, died on Nov. 20, 2017, at St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth after a courageous battle with lung cancer. A Celebration of Life will be

held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 21, 2018, at the VFW in Cook, of which he was a member.

He is survived by his loving wife, Mona; daughter, Carrie (Stephen) Sarazine of Ramsey; son, Michael of Mt. Iron; step-daughter, Stacey Vesel of Vero Beach, Fla.; siblings, Margo Hammerstad of Plymouth, Laurie (Allen) Hanson of Cherry, Carol (Gary) Thompson of Baxter and Walter Shaleen of Minnetonka; seven grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Brynhild Kishel

Brynhild "Bryn" Holmesland Kishel, 77, passed away peacefully on Friday, April 13, 2018, at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth. Her children, two granddaughters, daughter-in-law, and sister from Norway were present

during her hospital stay. A Celebration of Life was held on Thursday, April 19 at the Elks Club in Virginia. Inurnment will be in Norway. Memorial donations may be made to www.mealsonwheel-samerica.org.

She is survived by her children, A. Eric (Lori) Kishel of Florida, Karen (Jim) Adler of Colorado, Bud Kishel of Britt and Paul Kishel of Florida; nine grandchildren; two siblings in Norway, Olaf K. (Mari) Holmesland and Anlaug (Herman) Heibek; and brothers- and sisters-in-law, Colette (Peter) Johnson of Tower and Deane (Diane) Kishel of Golden Valley.

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FISHING OUTLOOK

Vermilion's walleye population remains robust

Survey captured 16 fish per net in last fall's test netting; average size continuing to increase



by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

LAKE VERMILION— The walleyes are hefty and there are plenty of them. That's according to the most recent test netting results from the Department of Natural Resources.

The annual fish survey on the big lake, conducted last fall, confirmed that Vermilion's walleye population remains robust, with the bulk of the population currently at an ideal size for anglers.

"The harvest opportunity is above average for walleyes from 14 to 18 inches," concludes the latest survey report, produced by DNR Large Lake Specialist Matt Hennen, who's based in

Tower. Overall, DNR crews caught an average of 16 walleye per net, which is above the lake's long-term average of 14 walleye per net. At the same time, the average size of a Vermilion walleye is larger than it's been in years, which should make for some big smiles from anglers this year.

While the bulk of the walleye are in the ideal eating range, Hennen noted that walleye over 20 inches continue to be abundant, which should allow anglers potential trophy opportunities as well. The DNR narrowed the protective slot on Vermilion last year to allow anglers to harvest more walleye. The new regulation includes a 20-26-inch protected slot, which should enable anglers to harvest

the vast majority of fish they catch.

The latest test results suggest anglers should continue to see the kind of success they experienced in 2017, when catch rates were well above average on the lake, and other testing suggests the trend of high walleye numbers should continue for some time. Fall electro-fishing results continue to show upcoming strong to exceptionally strong year classes in 2015 and 2016, which should begin to enter the harvestable population as early as this year. Preliminary data suggests that the 2017-year class won't be as strong, but strong results from 2015 and 2016 should provide for strong harvests for a number of years.

FISHERIES

Late ice-out could hamper Fond du Lac fish harvest

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The Fond du Lac Band has issued its declarations for spring spearing on lakes in the 1854 Treaty area, although the late warm-up this year could significantly alter the planned harvest on area lakes.

Birch Lake, near Babbitt, could see the largest harvest in the region, with a total declaration of 5,837 pounds of walleye. The west end of Vermilion is also on the list, with the usual limit of 2,500 pounds. Other area lakes subject to walleye harvest include Crane Lake (1,418 pounds), and Bear Island Lake (1,248 pounds).

Whether band members actually reach those limits remains to be seen. Tribal conservation officials select certain lakes each year, but that does not mean that band members always take advantage of the opportunity, particularly if conditions are difficult. This year, anticipated late ice-outs could also impact the harvest according to Brian Borkholder, inland fisheries biologist for Fond du Lac. During late ice-outs, Borkholder said walleye will frequently spawn under the ice, making it difficult to effectively net or spear fish.

And once the fishing opener arrives, tribal officials prefer to leave the public accesses available for the non-native angling public.

Outdoors briefly

Catch and release your northern pike trophy

REGIONAL— Anglers who catch and release northern pike can earn state records through an expansion of a DNR's record fish program that previously included only lake sturgeon, muskellunge and flathead catfish in the catch-and-release category.

This category of the DNR's record fish program lets anglers submit photos and documentation of potential record fish they catch and release. Anglers send one photo of the fish displayed alongside a measuring stick, ruler or tape and one photo of the angler with the fish.

Detailed guidelines for participating in both the catch-and-release and certified weight categories can be found at mndnr.gov/recordfish.



WEATHER HISTORY

Minnesota's longest winter

In 1949-50, the Pigeon River crossing recorded 190 days of continuous snow cover; could that record fall this year?

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

Editor's note: Two weeks ago, we reported that the record for continuous snow cover was 172 days, set in Duluth in the mid-1950s. That was the longest stretch that State Climatologist Pete Boulay could readily find on digitally-available records, and it was a record that most weather stations in northern St. Louis County surpassed as of Tuesday. But our inquiry prompted Boulay to dig deeper, through the dusty old paper records at the state climatology office, which is where he found the data documenting an even more impressive winter at the former Pigeon River border crossing at the tip of the Arrowhead. The story below reports on his findings.

REGIONAL— Here's a record that most North Country residents would probably rather not break. Back in the cold and very snowy spring of 1950, the weather station at the Pigeon River crossing at the Minnesota-Ontario border recorded continuous snow cover for a total of 190 days, the longest such period ever officially recorded in the state. It was a remarkable winter in the region, with exceptional snowfall and record late ice-outs just about everywhere.

History buffs will likely remember that Lake Vermilion's latest-ever ice-out, for example, was set on May 23, in the spring of 1950.

At Pigeon River that year,



the local weather observer recorded a state record of 170.5 inches of snowfall during the winter of 1949-50. On March 28, 1950, the observer reported a total of 75 inches of snow on the ground, the greatest average snow depth ever reported in Minnesota. April didn't bring much relief, as the station picked up 31.5 inches of new snow during the period and began the month of May with a solid 30 inches of snow still on the ground. The snow cover increased to 35 inches three days later, when the Pigeon River station picked up another six inches of snow on May 3.

Weather observers in northern St. Louis County probably won't beat any of those records, but they likely won't miss the continuous snow cover record by much. As of Friday, the region will have reached 176 days of continuous snow cover, which is defined as having an average of at least one inch of snow cover on the ground.

But unlike that winter at

Top: The Pigeon River crossing from the Canadian side, looking south to Minnesota, circa the 1930s. In the winter of 1949-50, a Minnesota weather observer at this location recorded the most snow in a winter season, the greatest snow depth, and the longest period of continuous snow cover ever officially reported in Minnesota. There's at least a chance that portions of northern St. Louis County could break the continuous snow cover record this year.

photo courtesy P. Boulay

Above: Nearly 23 inches of snow remained on the ground near Tower as of Tuesday this week. The area has maintained continuous snow cover since Oct. 27, 2017. If at least an inch of snow remains on the ground as of May 5, it appears the area will set a new record for continuous snow cover in Minnesota.

photo by M. Helmsberger

Pigeon River, the persistent snow cover in northern St. Louis County has been much more a function of persistent cold than abundant snowfall.

In fact, barring any other major spring snowstorms, the winter of 2017-18 will enter the history books as decidedly average for snowfall. As of this week, snow totals across northern St. Louis County ranged from 70 inches in Tower to 84 inches near Cook, very close to the long-term average of 71 inches

(in Ely).

This year's lengthy stretch of continuous snow cover benefitted from an early start. A two-inch snowfall across much of the area on Oct. 27 marked the start of the snow season north of the Laurentian Divide. A little more snow the following day, three inches on Halloween, and back-to-back snows of several inches the first week of November left more

See **WEATHER...pg. 5B**

ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS

BWCAW threatened?

American Rivers adds BW to list of endangered rivers



by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

THE BOUNDARY WATERS— A national conservation group is highlighting Minnesota's premier federal wilderness as among the most endangered river systems in the country. The Washington, D.C.-based American Rivers has listed the 1.1 million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in third place on its annual ranking of endangered rivers. While not technically a river, the BWCAW is home to over 1,000 pristine lakes interconnected by thousands of miles of rivers and streams. According to American Rivers, the unique region remains threatened by the proposed Twin Metals copper-nickel mine, which would be located near the Kawishiwi River, one of the largest river systems in the BWCAW.

"Hardrock mining is notoriously dirty," notes Jessie Thomas-Blate in a press statement issued by the group last week. "Similar mines elsewhere generate hundreds of millions of tons of waste rock and require active water management for hundreds or even thousands of years," said Thomas-Blate. "Twin Metals and other companies with mining interests in the region

would transform the edge of this unique Wilderness into an industrial mining zone. The likelihood of a water contamination event in the future is high."

While mines do also create employment, American Rivers argues that it would bring economic dislocations to the area, potentially affecting thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in property value. "Ruining the Boundary Waters' untouched ecosystem and endangering the jobs it supports is out of line with Minnesota's values. It's a risk that Minnesotans simply cannot afford," said Thomas-Blate.

The listing also ranked the Mississippi River Gorge in Minneapolis-St. Paul as the sixth-most endangered river due to the ongoing presence of no-longer-operating lock and dams.

The annual America's Most Endangered Rivers report is a list of rivers at a crossroads, where key decisions in the coming months will determine the rivers' fates. Over the years, the report has helped spur the removal of outdated dams, the protection of rivers with Wild and Scenic designations, and the prevention of harmful development and pollution.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
54 26	54 29	55 34	58 31	49 29

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.
04/09	36	-3	0.00		04/09	35	-10	0.00		04/09	32	-3	0.00		04/09	36	9	0.00		04/09	34	-1	0.00	
04/10	39	10	0.00		04/10	37	11	0.00		04/10	38	9	0.00		04/10	32	14	0.00		04/10	37	5	0.00	
04/11	31	10	0.01	0.1"	04/11	32	0	0.00		04/11	33	15	0.00		04/11	45	21	0.00		04/11	32	6	0.00	
04/12	47	19	0.15		04/12	44	12	0.20	2"	04/12	45	22	0.07	1.2"	04/12	39	28	0.00		04/12	44	15	0.18	2.2"
04/13	45	24	0.00	1.6"	04/13	41	26	0.00		04/13	42	19	0.00		04/13	37	21	0.00		04/13	41	20	0.00	
04/14	40	20	0.00		04/14	40	17	0.00		04/14	36	18	0.00		04/14	30	19	0.00		04/14	40	18	0.00	
04/15	30	19	0.00		04/15	27	15	0.00		04/15	29	18	0.00		04/15	27	19	0.00		04/15	27	18	0.00	
Totals			1.98	70.6"	Totals			2.41	70.9"	Totals			2.60	77.2"	Totals			NA	NA	Totals			2.22	63.2"

WEATHER...Continued from page 4B

than a foot of snow on the ground in much of the region.

While milder conditions later in the month and early December melted some of that snow, weather observers in the area reported that the snow never left entirely. "We've had snow on the ground since Oct. 27," notes Don Potter, who reports the weather from his home outside of Cook. "We didn't have any gaps at all," he added.

Roland Fowler, in Embarrass, confirms the same. "The snow came early and it never left," he said.

That's a contrast to the winter at Pigeon River, when the snow cover arrived for the season on Nov. 12, a far more typical date in northeastern Minnesota. It was a cold and snowy

April, and that final snowstorm in May, that clinched the record for Pigeon River. The last inch of snow on the ground disappeared there that year on May 21.

It's worth noting that the former crossing at Pigeon River was located well inland from the current crossing, which meant it wasn't as subject to the warming influences from Lake Superior. That, undoubtedly, contributed to the lengthy period of snow cover recorded at the station there.

Snow cover can be tough to measure at times, notes State Climatologist Pete Boulay, particularly in forested regions, like northeastern Minnesota, where snow depths can vary quite a bit

depending on a number of factors. It can be a bit of a judgment call at times, best determined by averaging several readings.

As of Tuesday, April 17, snow depth mapping completed daily by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration showed snow depths in northern St. Louis County ranging from 16-30 inches.

To beat the Pigeon River record, that remaining snow will need to linger until May 5. With no dramatic warmup in the offing, the North Country could well give that record a run for its money. But is that really a record we want to beat?

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www.irpsmn.org/earthfest

PUBLIC NOTICES

Morcom Township

Important information regarding your property assessments. This may affect your 2019 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Morcom Township will meet on **May 1, 2018 from 10 -11 am at the Bear River Community Center, formerly the Bear River School.**

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. This board will review your assessments and make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county board of appeal and equalization.

Sasha Lehto, Morcom Township Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 20 & 27, 2018

LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL and EQUALIZATION for EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP

St. Louis County, Minnesota will meet at the **Eagles Nest Town Hall on Saturday, May 5, 2018, from 10 a.m. - 11 noon.**

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the town has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after conferring with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to your county board of appeal and equalization.

Deb Siverhus, Clerk, Eagles Nest Township

Published in the Timberjay, April 20 & 27, 2018

GENERAL NOTICE TO CONTROL OR ERADICATE NOXIOUS WEEDS

Notice is hereby given this day of April 18, 2018, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 1 (2015), that all persons in St. Louis County, Minnesota. St. Louis County, Minnesota, shall control or eradicate all noxious weeds on land they occupy or are required to maintain. Control or eradication may be accomplished by any lawful method, but the method(s) applied may need to be repeated in order to prevent the spread of viable noxious weed seeds and other propagating parts to other lands. Failure to comply with the general notice may mean that an individual notice, Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 2 (2015), will be issued. An individual notice may be appealed within two working days of receipt to the appeal committee in the county where the land is located. Failure to comply with an individual notice will mean that the inspector having jurisdiction may either hire the work done or seek a misdemeanor charge against the person(s) who failed to comply. If the work hired is done by the inspector, the cost can be placed as a tax upon the land and collected as other real estate taxes are collected. You may obtain a list of the plants that are designated as noxious weeds and the members of the appeal committee from your County Agricultural Inspector or County Designated Employee. You can also obtain this information from your Local Weed Inspectors. Local Weed Inspectors include the township supervisors, city mayors or their appointed assistants. More information regarding the statewide listed noxious weeds, the MN Noxious Weed law and a list of County Agricultural Inspectors and County Designated Employees can be obtained from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Web Site by visiting: <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/weedcontrol>.

Kristin Fogard, County Agricultural Inspector, Land and Minerals Department
320 West 2nd St, Ste 302
218.726.2606 • fogardk@stlouiscountymn.gov

Published in the Timberjay, April 20, 2018

EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT

Nett Lake School Indian Home-School Liaison/Director

The Nett Lake School is seeking applications for an Indian Home-School Liaison/Director. This is a 35 hr./wk for 42 weeks position. A complete job description and application can be found at www.nettlakeschool.org or you may stop by the Nett Lake School. Salary will be based on qualifications and experience.

The district will begin reviewing applications on April 20, 2018. This position will remain open until filled. tfm



Ely Chamber of Commerce Seasonal Staff Position

The Ely Chamber of Commerce has an opportunity for an individual seeking seasonal work (20-32 hours per week). This part-time position requires a flexible work schedule that includes weekends. The position involves data entry, filing, stocking and assisting the public with area information. Lifting up to 35 pounds is required. For more details, please contact the Chamber office at 218-365-6123 or at fun@ely.org. Office located at 1600 E. Sheridan Street, Ely. 4/27

HOUSEKEEPERS WANTED

Would you like to be apart of the Success of the #1 rated resort on Trip Advisor? Do you have an attention to detail?

*** \$15/hr * Monthly Bonuses**

We are looking for individuals come alongside us every week to ensure we put our best foot forward with immaculately clean cabins for our guests to enjoy.

If this is you, please call Chad at 218-929-7741

Nett Lake School Teachers Wanted

The Nett Lake School is seeking applications for (2) elementary teachers for the 2018-19 SY. Applicants must submit a letter of interest, resume, copy of their valid MN teaching license or eligible for a variance and three letters of reference. Applicants may apply online at www.nettlakeschool.org. The district will begin reviewing applications on Friday, April 20.

Submit to: James J. Varichak, Superintendent, Nett Lake School, 13090 Westley Drive, Nett Lake, MN 55772. tfm

POSITION OPENINGS - ISD 696 ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- 1.0 FTE 7-12 Physical Education;
- 5-12 Health; Coaching Desired
- 1.0 FTE Science
- (7-12 Chemistry License Preferred)

Salary and fringes as per Master Agreement Between ISD #696 and the Ely Education Association and School Board policy. Include district application, resume, official transcripts, letters of recommendation and current Minnesota teaching license; background check required. Application available at www.ely.k12.mn.us, click on District then on Job Openings, then Application for Employment in Licensed Position or at the General Office, 2nd floor of the Memorial Building; return materials to: ISD No. 696, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731. Application deadline: April 27, 2018. 4/20

Non-Profit Leadership Opportunity!

Well Being Development (WBD) is a 501(c)3 non-profit with the mission to inspire and foster activities that develop and enhance the mental well-being of residents in and around the rural NE Minnesota communities of Babbitt, Ely, Embarrass, Soudan, Tower, and Winton.

This is an exciting opportunity for an individual seeking a challenging and rewarding career working in a non-clinical clubhouse community and with an innovative Behavioral Health Network. We are hiring for our Executive Director position. This individual will work under the direction of the WBD Board of Directors to implement a Clubhouse program following the standards of Clubhouse International and to oversee Ely's Behavioral Health Network.

- Qualities: ➤ Open-minded and approachable; ➤ Active listener; ➤ Someone who believes that peoples lives can change for the better; ➤ Able to prioritize and multi-task in a fast-paced environment; and ➤ Enjoys being part of an innovative team.

Our priority is finding the right person. Therefore, we are open to full- to part-time hours. This position has a starting wage of \$23/ hour with paid time off. Send inquiries and resume to jennyu@elynlc.org or jesyork@frontiernet.net by April 30, 2018. For more info go to www.elynlc.org or call Jenny Uhrich Swanson at 218-576-5756. 4/20

CHILDCARE CENTER Classroom Teacher

Job Overview
The Little Eagles Childcare Center in Tower is hiring a Lead Teacher to provide quality, engaging and safe care for the children in the Tower/Soudan area. The Lead Teacher will teach and supervise the children alongside a team of like minded caregivers to promote the development of their social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth.

- Minimum Requirements:**
- Hold an AA degree in Early Childhood Education from an accredited college
 - 1040 hours experience as a teacher, aide or student intern
 - Experience working with young children and families
 - Possess current First Aid/CPR certificate or must be able to obtain
 - Ability to pass a background study
 - Able to lift 50 pounds and occasionally more; and able to kneel, bend, stoop, and sit on floor to attend to children's needs

- Responsibilities**
- In partnership with the Director, design and follow a full schedule of activities and discover suitable teaching material
 - Provide basic care and caregiving activities
 - Use a wide range of teaching methods to enhance the child's abilities
 - Evaluate children's performance to make sure they are on the right learning track
 - Communicate with parents and update them on the progress of their children
 - Observe children's interactions objectively
 - Identify behavioral problems and determine the right course of action
 - Collaborate with other colleagues
 - Adhere with teaching standards and safety regulations

- Preferred Candidates also must have the following qualities:**
- Proven experience as a child care provider or assistant
 - Excellent knowledge of child development and up-to-date education methods
 - Methodical and creative
 - Patience, flexibility and love for children
 - Strong communication and time management skills
 - Leadership and organizational skills

**Pay Scale: \$15+/Hour (DOQ),
.75 to full-time hours per week**
Submit resume and qualifications to Marshall@timberjay.com, or call 218-753-2950 for more information.

Vermilion Country School

Special Education Paraprofessional

\$14.00 per hour, benefit package (prorated at 20+ hours/week), approximately 180 days/school year plus a few training days, approximately 8:30 am to 3:15 pm, except with additional duties

**Full job description
online at
www.vermilioncountry.org/employment**

The Vermilion Country School (VCS), is a grades 7-12 public charter school in Tower. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: interact with staff, students, parent/guardians, and the community; facilitate academic and personal goal-setting; assist students with skill development in reading and math; monitor student progress; manage the physical needs of students as needed; chaperone field explorations; records maintenance and due process paperwork; proctor assessments and diagnostic tests; supervise students during lunch and out in the community; address behavior issues in accordance with school policy; maintain strict confidentiality; assist office staff and director as needed.

Minimum qualifications: Experience working with children, and a commitment to their learning; Excellent math, reading, and organizing skills; Excellent computer and office machine skills; Mature, friendly, and responsible; Commitment to the school's mission and vision; Positive references; A minimum of 60 semester credits or the amount required to complete two full years of fulltime enrollment as determined by the institution of higher education attended; or an AA, AS, or AAS (or higher) degree; or a passing score on an assessment from the state-approved list (The ParaPro test has been approved for state-wide use. The cut score is 460.) Additional desired qualifications (please see website).

Position will remain open until filled.
Please e-mail resume, cover letter, transcripts of college work and/or ParaPro score, and three letters of recommendation to:
Vermilion Country School,
P.O. Box 629, Tower, MN 55790
kfitton@vermilioncountry.org
www.vermilioncountry.org

VCS is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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	7			9			3	

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

- ◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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**Classifieds & Legals
online at timberjay.com**



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Considerations of personal privacy, time and resources prevent the newspaper from investigating ads placed in the classified section. If you respond to an ad, we urge you to use the same care and prudence that you would use when conducting business in any other situation.

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HAIR CARE

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DREAMWEAVER SALON & DAY SPA- Open Monday-Friday 8:30 - 6:30. 218-666-5594. tfn

HOSPICE

VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS can provide help for patients and their families in ways such as: comfort care, massages, last wishes and more. For more information, contact Program Director Becca Bundy at 218-780-5423 or vhhpdirector@gmail.com. This ad is paid for by Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners.

LICENSE BUREAU

COOK AREA LICENSE BUREAU- 221 S. Hwy 53, Cook. Open M-F 9-5. FastTrack Title Service-MVR-DNR-Limited DL, Dry Cleaning Drop off/Pick up, CDL/Motorcycle/Drivers Manuals. Now accepting Visa/MC/Discover. Questions call 218-666-6199. tfn

REAL ESTATE

Search ALL MLS listings at www.pfremmerrealty.com. tfn

2BR FURNISHED HOUSE for sale in Soudan. Call Greg or Joan Dostert at 218-753-3047 for a showing. 5/4v

FOR RENT

APARTMENT FOR RENT IN TOWER- Furnished, 2BR, 2BA, quality throughout, heated attached garage. \$850/mo. Call 218-750-6566 tfn

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SALESPERSON WANTED- No previous auto sales required. We will train the right person. Must be outgoing, highly-motivated, and self-disciplined. Clean driving record required. Call David Sabart at Waschke Family Chevrolet of Cook at 218-666-5901. tfn

HOUSEKEEPER- Pike Bay Lodge, Lake Vermilion, Tower is looking for a year-round part-time housekeeper/cabin cleaner. Call 218-753-2430. tfn

DOCK/YARD PERSON- Pike Bay Lodge on Lake Vermilion, Tower, is looking for full-time summer help. Yard work/dock service/maintenance. Call 218-753-2430. tfn

INTERESTED IN WORKING in a unique environment (on an island) with other engaging staff members? And learning about the hospitality industry? Join the 2018 crew at Ludlow's Island Resort. Wages start at \$12/hour and experience is not necessary. Contact Kelly at kelly@ludlowsresort.com. 4/27

SUMMER HOUSEKEEPING HELP NEEDED- at Oveson's Hotel, 4675 Hwy 53 Orr. 218-757-3613. Please call or stop by for an application. There will be an interview required. 6/15

A vibrant, growing congregation in Tower is seeking applicants for a PART-TIME OFFICE MANAGER position. The job entails a variety of office and secretarial duties. Experience and knowledge working in Word and with data bases is preferred. To apply send cover letter and resume to PO Box 466 Tower, MN 55790 or with questions you may call 218-753-2378. 4/27

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY: Will pay cash for junk cars and pickups. Will pick up. Also, we collect used oil. Call 218-757-3255 or 218-780-2579. tfn

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

7	3	4	9	8	1	2	6	5
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9	1	8	6	3	2	7	5	4
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Classifieds run in all 3 editions of the Timberjay.
Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum. Classified ads can be run a second time at half price (private parties only). We now accept payment by Visa, Mastercard and Discover. Call your ad in to 218-753-2950. Display (boxed) classifieds are billed by the "inch"- please call for prices and information on discounts. Call Today - 218-753-2950 or 218-365-3114

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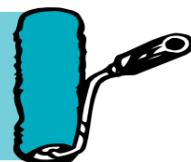
CELEBRITY SPOONERISMS

Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Former Delta rival
 - 4 Humane org. since 1866
 - 9 Shining
 - 14 Birds' beaks
 - 19 On top of, in verse
 - 20 Nerd relative
 - 21 City in Utah
 - 22 Bugged a lot
 - 23 Support a female donkey?
 - 25 All fired up
 - 26 Flag sewer
 - 27 "Dies —" (Mass hymn)
 - 28 Squirmy
 - 30 "Listen up, warm-blooded animal!"
 - 32 More itty-bitty
 - 34 African country
 - 36 Disfigure
 - 37 Horror director
 - 38 Open a new tavern?
 - 41 Magna — laude
 - 42 Baltique or Adriatique
 - 43 Units of bag thickness
 - 44 "Bridge of Spies" actor
 - 46 Core belief of orthopedic practice?
 - 48 Home to Pago Pago
 - 52 "Vesti la giubba," e.g.
 - 53 — Majesty the Queen
 - 54 IM-offering
 - 55 Choose a wooden peg?
 - 57 Aromatic resins
 - 59 Chai or pekoe
 - 62 Pyle and Els
 - 63 Railcar walkways
 - 64 Sees
 - 66 Church call
 - 67 Makes a warden gentle?
 - 72 Australian avians
 - 73 Be the king
 - 75 Deillah
 - 76 Rub down
 - 78 Sketch show since '75
 - 79 Estate of a winegrower
 - 81 Curly-furred cat's giggle?
 - 84 The way, to Lao-tzu
 - 85 Undertake
 - 86 Thing to hum
 - 87 Wraith
 - 88 Descend upon a certain grainfield in droves?
 - 92 Circles around heavenly bodies
 - 94 Sails through
 - 95 Neither hide — hair
 - 96 Bad review
 - 97 Very tentative taste of food?
 - 102 Greek "H"
 - 103 Match unit
 - 104 Ballroom dance
 - 106 Dr. Seuss' real surname
 - 107 Pale people writing things quickly?
 - 110 Jetsons' dog
 - 113 Caffeine-laden nut
 - 114 Perrier rival
 - 115 Aristocratic
 - 117 Toast topper that's nifty?
 - 119 Tuscan town
 - 120 Bugs a lot
 - 121 Sporting site
 - 122 Big cat's lair
 - 123 Stunning gun
 - 124 Cries out
 - 125 Cyclist, e.g.
 - 126 Before, in verse
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Way of being thrilled or torn
 - 2 What to do if the shoe fits
 - 3 Esoteric stuff
 - 4 Modifying word: Abbr.
 - 5 Really rely on
 - 6 100-Down's partner in magic
 - 7 Euro fraction
 - 8 Big gulf
 - 9 Orang, e.g.
 - 10 Minister Billy
 - 11 Boston airport
 - 12 Outranking
 - 13 Guys on the job site
 - 14 Elephant king of kiddie lit
 - 15 Agenda unit
 - 16 "Open up!"
 - 17 The Bunkers' "old" car
 - 18 Hair salon employee
 - 24 Actor Dullea
 - 29 Agave plant
 - 31 Actress d'Abo
 - 33 Online brokerage
 - 35 Receivable
 - 39 What "there oughta be"
 - 40 Uncommon
 - 42 Choice bit
 - 43 Hollywood's Gibson
 - 45 Zippo
 - 46 Celebrity lawyer
 - 47 Mix, as salad
 - 48 Pickle units
 - 49 Flying guys
 - 50 "Chicago Hope" doctor
 - 51 Assenting to (effects)
 - 53 — impact on
 - 56 East, in Ulm
 - 57 Small jewel
 - 58 Suffix of enzymes
 - 59 V8 ingredient
 - 60 Musician's exercises
 - 61 Affirm
 - 63 Analyze
 - 65 Australian state capital
 - 68 — whole
 - 69 Subject
 - 70 Manufacture aid
 - 71 Scoundrel
 - 74 University sports org.
 - 77 Tuna variety
 - 80 Wasp variety
 - 81 1921 sci-fi play
 - 82 Sufficient, in verse
 - 83 TV "Warrior Princess"
 - 84 "Conan" network
 - 86 Pacific island country
 - 88 "My Little Chickadee" co-star
 - 89 Wife of Nero
 - 90 Head-hugging hats
 - 91 Mega Millions, e.g.
 - 92 Soup holder
 - 93 French forest region
 - 96 Soft shade
 - 98 Moped, e.g.
 - 99 "Tristan und —"
 - 100 6-Down's partner in magic
 - 101 Boosler of comedy
 - 103 Sub detector
 - 104 Quaver
 - 105 Actor Werner
 - 108 Tarzan's lady
 - 109 Author Wiesel
 - 111 Actress Polo
 - 112 Bog grass
 - 116 Slalom path
 - 118 Pickle holder



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TOGO - 151-acre homestead includes original home (needs TLC) and numerous outbuildings. Property is a mixture of open and wooded areas. \$162,000

#129548 - LAKE VERMILION - Surveyed 4.7-acre building parcel w/ 400 ft lakeshore. Electric and phone available nearby. \$129,000

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www.TheLakeCountry.com

Little Fork River, Cook-\$59,900 Over 11 acres with 1,250 ft of shoreline and bunkhouse. MLS#132121

Ban Lake, Orr-\$99,500 36 wooded acres with 600+ ft of shoreline. Near Elbow Lake. MLS#126515

Crane Lake-\$189,000 Boat-access cabin with 103 ft of shoreline. MLS#131487

Crane Lake-\$225,000 Log cabin, boat-access with 215 ft of shoreline. MLS#133042

Ash River, Orr-\$295,000 3 BR newer log home with access to Ash River. MLS#134113

Super Crossword

Answers

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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Court File No. 69VI-PR-18-50

If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated April 18, 2018

BY THE COURT
ROBERT C. FRIDAY
Judge of District Court
AMY TURNQUIST/Stephanie Higgins, as Deputy Court Administrator

Attorney for the Petitioner
Angela E. Sipila
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