



**We hope you enjoy this special holiday greeting edition.
Deadline for the Dec. 28 paper is on Friday, Dec. 21.
Please note there will be no Timberjay published on Jan. 4.**

The Timberjay office will be closed Monday, Dec. 24 - Friday, Jan. 4.

the TIMBERJAY

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\$1⁰⁰



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

County OKs BayView Lodge RV park

by **MARCUS WHITE**
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL — The St. Louis County Planning Commission gave its blessing to a proposed expansion to the BayView Lodge complex last Thursday, but not before hearing from several neighbors

Expansion project includes addition to existing lodge

who opposed the plan.

The project includes proposed additions to the existing lodge site as well as the addition of a 33-unit RV park on a property located between the lodge and County Rd. 77.

A new access road, which

would directly connect the RV park and lodge to County Rd. 77, is also part of the plan. The RV park is being proposed by Ryan Horan and a business partner, Dean Ribich, from the Twin Cities, who would operate the facility as a sep-

arate business from BayView Lodge.

The plan presented by the partners suggests it could facilitate the reopening of the popular BayView Lodge bar

See... **LODGE** pg. 10



The BayView Lodge on Lake Vermilion could reopen next summer. file photo

TOWER

Ambulance Service spending pegged at \$440,000 next year

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

TOWER— Operational spending by the Tower Area Ambulance Service is expected to surpass \$439,000 next year, based on the city's 2019 budget approved by the city council here on Dec. 10.

That's over \$200,000 more than the department spent in 2017, which was the last year before the department's transition to paid on-call staffing.

The estimated expenditures do not include the cost of purchasing a new ambulance. The city council, earlier this month, approved spending \$243,000 on an ambulance for delivery in 2019, which could push the department's expenditures next year to nearly \$700,000.

The department spent just over \$235,000 in 2017,

See... **TOWER** pg. 9



Santa time

One-year-old Zella Boshkaykin is not quite sure what to make of Santa, at the Fortune Bay Children's Christmas Party on Dec. 15. Left: Arlene and Norman King talk with Santa.

photos by J. Summit

ELY SCHOOLS

17 teachers sue district over wages

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

ELY — As many as 17 Ely teachers are suing the Ely School District over recent deductions to their paychecks, made without their knowledge or authorization.

Teachers acknowledge that the deductions were an effort by the school district to recover overpayments to teachers, made in error, during the 2017-2018 school year.

The Ely School Board went into closed session last week to discuss the pending litigation with the district's attorney and to develop a response to the claim that was filed last month in conciliation court in Virginia.

Documents provided to the *Timberjay* this week from the first case, Krista Moyer vs. Ely School District et al, say Moyer claims the school district mistakenly overpaid her in the 2017-2018 school year, then proceeded to reclaim the overpaid funds through a series of payroll deductions. Those deductions were unauthorized, according to the lawsuit, and thereby in violation of the law.

The other 16 teachers, who filed their own separate claims, include Paula Anderson, Kelly Chick, Tiffany Davis, Kaley Hotaling, Mariah Jeske, Tara Johnson, Jennifer Kerntz, Risto Kultula, Cory Lassi, Jason Limp, John Meyer, Kelly Noble, Molly Olson, Michael Rouse,

See... **ELY** pg. 9

RECREATION

YMCA opens second family camp near Ely

Two resorts combined into Camp Northern Lights on Bear Island Lake

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

REGIONAL— The YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities recently purchased Timberwolf Lodge and Northern Lights Lodge and Resort on Bear Island Lake to create a second

family camp in the Ely area.

The \$4.1 million acquisition, located on Highway 21 North between Ely and Babbitt, continues the YMCA's 162-year tradition of creating access to nature through meaningful outdoor experi-

ences, according to Joan Schimml, senior director of communications and marketing for the Y.

"We are already hosting families this winter and accepting reservations for the summer season," she said. "This is our second family camp

in northern Minnesota, joining Camp Du Nord on Burntside Lake, and part of our effort to expand wilderness opportunities to adults and children."

Camp du Nord was the Y's first family camp,

See... **YMCA** pg. 9



The Timberwolf and Northern Lights resorts on Bear Island Lake were recently combined into a new YMCA family camp. submitted photo



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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES



Lighting up the season in Embarrass

The community of Embarrass celebrated the holidays with the lighting of ice candles at the Embarrass Cemetery along with a get-together at the town hall, on Dec. 15.

Left: Ice candles lit the gravestones and lined the path at the cemetery. Below: Area residents enjoyed a light supper. Bottom left: Lulu Pluswik picks out a cookie. Bottom right: Jasper Strasser enjoys a coloring book that was in a gift bag from Santa. photos by J. Summit



Robotic Welding Training at Mesabi Range College

EVELETH- Four Mesabi Range College-Eveleth Campus faculty recently took part in robotic welding training. The training will allow all four individuals to be able to operate the two robotic welders, as well as train other instructors and students on how to use them. "This allows us to be educated on how to use the latest automated welding technology," says Mesabi

Range College Welding Technology instructor Randy Washenesky. "Our students and area instructors will greatly benefit from what we have learned." The robotic welders will be part of the CNC class Fall Semester in the second year of the Advanced Level Welding Technology Program. The Entry Level Welding Technology Program at Mesabi Range

College is a 33-credit, two-semester program with a diploma for successful student graduates. One or two welder certifications may be available. The Advanced Level Welding Technology Program is a 65-credit, four-semester program (including the ELW Program) that is optional upon completion of the Entry Level Program. Its successful completion gives the graduate an additional diploma. Several more welder certifications are available. The American Welding Society accredits the cutting-edge Welding Program at Mesabi Range College. Applications for Fall Semester are being accepted now. Visit www.mesabirange.edu for more information.



Mesabi Range welding programs now feature training on robotic arm welding technology. submitted photo

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Twin Cities law firm to help Turnbull in pay equity case



by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

Following the *Timberjay's* Nov. 30 story on her plight, the Halunen Law Firm, of Minneapolis, reached out to Turnbull offering to help. The firm's leading partner, Clayton

The story highlighted Turnbull's years-long struggle to be compensated as a "cook manager," which is the title and pay grade that most closely reflects her actual duties. The district has, instead, classified her as an "assistant cook," even though she has run the school kitchen in Tower almost singlehandedly for years. The lower designation has resulted in tens of thousands of dollars in lost income

Turnbull had hoped a Monday meeting with Superintendent Reggie Engebretson might yield some breakthrough on the longstanding issue, but the meeting made little progress after

See **TURNBULL...**pg. 5

Council okays 2019 budget

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

The city's ambulance budget will see the biggest change for next year, with expenditures expected to increase from last year's budgeted amount of \$286,110, to \$439,800 next year. That increase reflects the added expense of the service's new paid on-call service. The higher spending does not include the cost of paying for a new ambulance. The city council approved that purchase, at a total of \$243,994, on Dec. 10 and is expected to take delivery

The city council unanimously approved the renaming of the

The council also approved a resolution in support of a broadband initiative being led by TEDA in conjunction with the Blandin Foundation.

Ely man given probation in assault of former girlfriend

The victim previously had a protective order filed against Savolainen. The report said she

Savolainen was also ordered to have a chemical dependency assessment, refrain from using drugs, have no contact with the victim, and register as a predatory offender.



Ryan Savolainen



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OPINION

“CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW...
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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

Mark Dayton’s legacy

A wealthy heir worked to make life better for average Minnesotans

It should come as no surprise that Minnesota voters opted to keep a DFLer in the Governor’s Mansion this year. As the latest state budget forecast suggests, DFL Gov. Mark Dayton has left the state of Minnesota with a strong economy, improved public investment, and exceptional fiscal health. The governor will leave office next month with the state’s unemployment rate below three percent, with a projected state budget surplus in excess of \$1 billion dollars and more than \$2 billion in the state’s rainy day accounts.

Dayton deserves enormous credit for those accomplishments, particularly when one thinks back to the fiscal disaster he inherited from GOP Gov. Tim Pawlenty. When Dayton took office in 2010, he faced a projected state budget deficit of \$6.2 billion left behind by his predecessor. Pawlenty came into office having pushed through unsustainable tax cuts for the wealthy and spent eight years destroying the state’s finances as a result. In his desperate bid to balance the state’s books without adequate revenue, Pawlenty drained every reserve fund he could tap and even refused to pay out \$1.4 billion in funds allocated by the Legislature for the state’s schools.

During his campaign for governor, Mark Dayton promised to do exactly the opposite. He openly advocated raising taxes on the state’s wealthiest. He won, and then followed through on his promise with the help of a DFL Legislature. Contrary to the claims of his GOP critics at the time, the tax increase didn’t prompt businesses to leave the state or fail to invest in Minnesota. In fact, Dayton has presided over a period of exceptional business and employment growth and will leave office with the state’s economy consistently ranked among the best state economies in the nation. It was a marked contrast to the anemic economic growth the state experienced under

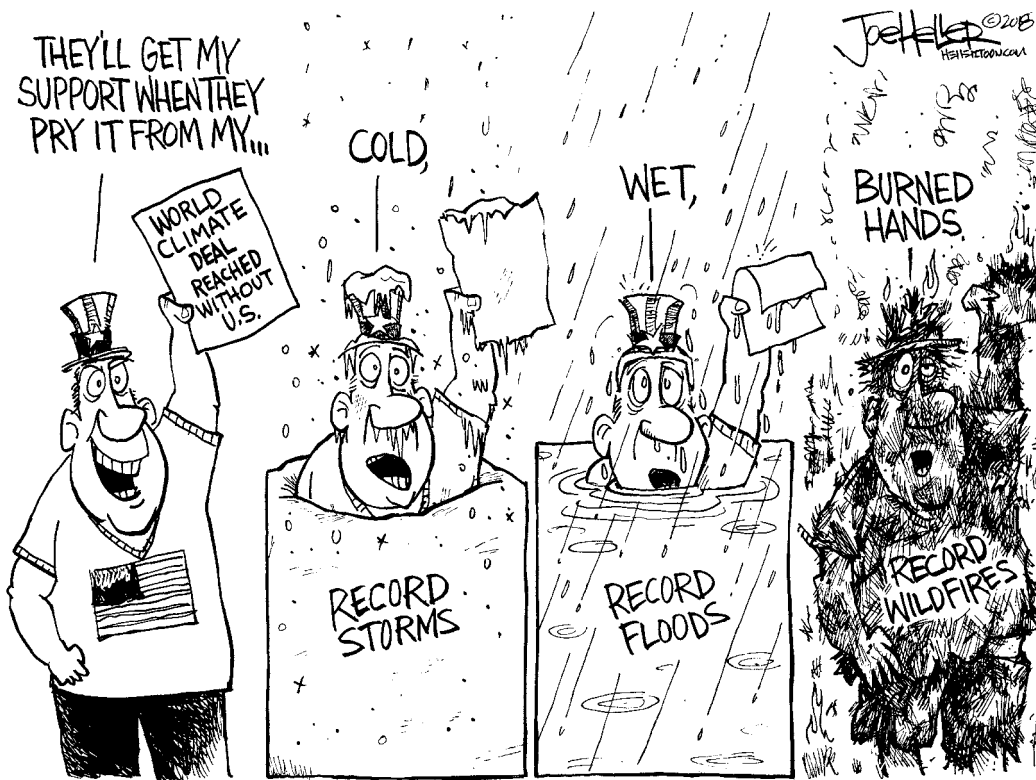
Pawlenty.

He also paid back the \$1.4 billion that Pawlenty had withheld from schools and provided substantial new funding on top of that, leaving most schools in the best fiscal shape they’ve experienced in decades.

And by restoring Local Government Aid, which had been cut deeply under Pawlenty, Dayton helped stem the upward pressure on local property taxes, particularly in non-metro parts of the state. That has had a direct impact on communities throughout northeastern Minnesota, particularly places like Ely, Babbitt, and Virginia, which rely heavily on LGA to fund operations.

While his record as governor is one of real achievement, Mr. Dayton will likely be best remembered for his genuine decency and sincerity, two exceedingly rare commodities in politics these days. As the scion of the department store founder, Mr. Dayton clearly never entered politics as an occupation. He didn’t need to enter the fray and face the slings and arrows of his political critics. What we have witnessed in Mr. Dayton throughout his political career is a genuine desire to serve the public, and particularly those who, on occasion, need a helping hand. Time and again, Mr. Dayton has demonstrated compassion and has always been willing to listen to those who don’t have high-powered lobbyists to represent them. He may come from great wealth, but he has always recognized the challenges faced by average Minnesotans and has worked to make life here a little bit better and a little bit kinder. As he looks toward the end of his career in politics, Mr. Dayton has much of which he can be proud.

He entered political life with a sincere desire to make Minnesota a better place. He can enter retirement with the recognition that he has done exactly that.



Letters from Readers

Letter writer should get his facts straight

For years, *Timberjay* readers have put up with Steve Johnson’s wild assertions about the evils of U.S. foreign policy and the “war criminals” responsible. Though there is truth behind much of this (even as the numbers he quotes— “hundreds of thousands of deaths”, etc.— have often struck me as wildly out-of-whack), his assertions generally do not tell the whole story.

For example, his claims about the first Gulf War. At the end of that war, Baghdad was in no way “destroyed”, as Johnson claims, and as for the so-called “highway of death”, how else were we supposed to convince the Iraqis to retreat from the country they had so brutally invaded but by attacking their army? What is not well-known is what the Iraqis did as they retreated. I have a friend who was in an Army support unit, who told me that for weeks all his unit did was bury bodies, Kuwaiti civilians— men, women and children— who the Iraqis slaughtered en masse as they

retreated. In his words, “The Iraqis killed everyone - entire villages wiped out.” I don’t recall Johnson mentioning that part of the story. If he wants to continue to attack American policy around the globe, it’s certainly his right to do so, but if he expects to be taken seriously, then he should really get his facts straight and tell the whole story, not just his one-sided version.

Lynn Scott
Soudan

Annual meeting sets the township levy

In last week’s *Timberjay*, the Greenwood Township Treasurer once again has made some misleading statements that seem intended to instill “Chicken Little” fear of unincorporation or annexation from being folded into a Fire District. The Cloquet Fire District is comprised of several government entities, two of which are Perch Lake Township and Brevator Township, who joined freely with no folding in or forced admission. Both townships have township supervisors

who are part of the District’s governing board and neither township has become unincorporated or annexed because of joining the District. There are no provisions in Mn Statute Chapter 414 that lead to annexation because of joining a Fire District. The joint Fire Department between Tower and Breitung has not come to fruition so there is no entity even available to initiate a district. However, the Mn Association of Townships and the Mn League of Cities both support legislation designed to more easily create a district because of changing demographics.

The Treasurer would also have us believe the Greenwood Township Board is responsible for our lower taxes, but that credit lies with the Annual Meeting: it alone approves the levy. Pam Rodgers signed her editorial as Treasurer. Does she speak for the board in her opinion, and does the Board think we should be fearful of annexation? Be assured, the sky is not falling.

JoAnn Bassing
Greenwood Township

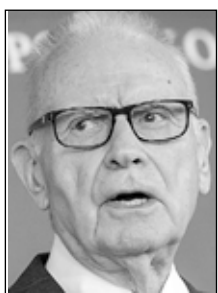
COMMENTARY

Voter suppression is among my biggest disappointments in politics

The other day, a friend asked what surprised me most about politics. This may seem strange, but I’d never really thought about the question.

My response was off-the-cuff but heartfelt. The biggest surprise is also among my biggest disappointments with American political life: the ongoing effort by politicians to suppress votes.

Yes it’s gone on for



LEE
HAMILTON

years. And in some respects, limiting the vote has been a feature of American politics since the beginning, when only white men with property could cast ballots. But when I began in politics, I assumed those days were past us, and everyone was on board with the idea that the more people who vote, the better. Boy, was I naïve.

The truth is, people work

hard to prevent other people from voting. To be sure, some voters do it to themselves — they’re too busy, or they think their vote doesn’t matter, or they encounter long lines and turn away.

But there is also an active, ongoing effort to keep people — often minority or poor voters — from casting their ballots. How do politicians accomplish this? Here’s a short, and incomplete, list:

► They require voter IDs — and then limit which IDs are valid (a gun permit is

See SUPPRESSION...page 5



Trying on some new traditions for the holidays

It’s December 21! Only four more days ’til Christmas so what else is there to think about but merriment, music, family, and food! And when we talk food, it’s a veritable food-a-palooza!! I bet Americans consume more calories between Thanksgiving and New Year’s than at



KATHLEEN
MCQUILLAN

all our other holidays combined!

I had lunch with a dear friend the week after Turkey Day. She reported on her holiday dinner. A large clan gathered at her home, generously contributing to the family feast. The table was filled with irresistible hors d’oeuvres, the tra-

ditional turkey, a juicy ham, mounds of stuffing (no pun intended), homemade mashed potatoes smothered in butter and gravy, numerous side dishes, and to top it off, a host of high-carb, mouth-watering desserts! Once done with her story she added, “There was too much food — so much food it almost made me ill!”

I could relate. I remember feeling this same discomfort when I returned from my time in Zambia where I witnessed many

living with next to nothing. I still wanted to offer her comfort. Instead I kept quiet since all I could think to say was, “Lighten up. This is the season for excess!”

It starts early. Big-box stores begin stocking shelves with all things red and green just in time for Halloween. The season’s glut keeps increasing right up to the grand finale party binge, New Year’s Eve. Then we’re exulted for having helped boost the nation’s economy by “increasing the opportunity to beat last year’s

record for consumer spending.” For some reason, even that doesn’t remove the sensation that something about this isn’t quite right. Maybe deep inside, we want to know when “enough is enough.” My grandmother used to say, “anything more than need is greed.” Now, some might say that’s a little extreme, but it stuck with me and became my ad hoc guide to know when to

See HOLIDAYS ...pg. 5

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Greenwood suspends community loan program

by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP. The Greenwood Town Board, Tuesday, voted to suspend its Community Enhancement Loan program, due to the inability to find an area bank or other institution able to manage the low-interest loan program. Township Treasurer Pam Rodgers noted that the township, itself, does not have the ability to run the loan program on its own. The loan program had previously been overseen by Frandsen Bank in Tower, but they notified the township last month that they were discontinuing that service. The township currently has about \$97,000 in the fund, which made two-year, low-interest loans to cover up to half the cost of installing a new septic system or replacing a failing system. The fund was started with a \$40,000 grant from the IRRRB, and later grew with funding from the township, along with the interest payments received. Rodgers noted that the

IRRRB considers the \$40,000 initial grant closed, and the township has no restrictions on its use. Clerk Sue Drobac noted there are no current requests for funding.

The town board will have the option of moving the money, now in a restricted fund, to the general fund, but took no action at this time other than to formally suspend the loan program.

In other business, Rodgers spoke to the board about the value that township residents receive as a result of the Class 7 insurance rating achieved by the township fire department, which is the highest available to areas not served by hydrants. This rating, she noted, translates to discounts of 20- to 40-percent off the average insurance rates in an area. Rodgers said her family gets a 28-percent discount. She noted that a property with a \$300,000 valuation pays about \$95 per year right now in township taxes, which alone would be less than what people are saving on their homeowner's insurance. "That same home in Beatty

Township pays a little over \$300," she said, "and \$1,200 in Breitung."

In other business the board: Approved the hiring of election judges for the March 12 township election. One supervisor seat, currently held by Carmen DeLuca, and the treasurer seat, held by Pam Rodgers, will be on the ballot.

Heard from Chair Mike Ralston who updated residents on the township's Errors and Omissions insurance policy. The township's carrier, Western World, had contacted the township last month to inform them they would no longer cover costs related to a claim by Jeff Maus. The insurance policy did have an exclusion relating to costs of wrongful employment claims by police or fire departments. Ralston noted they are working with another insurance company to find coverage. The township receives most of its insurance coverage through the Minnesota Association of Townships, but they had stopped covering E and O claims for the township two

years ago, due to the township's claim history.

"We are bound as a township to defend any and all claims," Ralston noted, "so any future claims would be funded by the township out-of-pocket."

Set a new policy for the archiving of township emails.

Noted the township had received a visit from an investigator from the Department of Labor and Standards, relating to the Maus case with Minnesota OSHA. Rodgers said they had provided all the information requested, though more information may be requested in the future. She said the township could expect a report in three months.

Gave first reading to some changes to the fire department SOGs and POC policies that clarify member requirements to be eligible for pension payments as well as continued membership. The requirements include details of attendance at meetings and drills, as well as responding to emergency calls, and when members may be excused due

to illness, work commitments, or travel.

Approved the purchase of up to six new or used radios for the fire department at a cost of up to \$10,000, and also approved a trial of a pager-like system that works with department members' personal cell phones.

Heard public input at the end of the meeting. Jeff Maus talked about campaign promises made by candidate Carmen DeLuca when he was running for office. John Bassing questioned the fire department for paying the department's safety officer while he is out of the state for the winter. Joanne Bassing spoke on township taxation, noting that residents had approved the recent lower levies at the annual meetings. Barb Lofquist talked about the recreation area.

on the issue of having the township pay for work to maintain the recreation area. Rick Stoehr, via letter, reiterated his comments about the comprehensive plan community survey.

SUPPRESSION...Continued from page 4

fine, for instance, but not a student ID);

They close polling places — usually (you guessed it) in poor and minority communities;

They limit the hours polls are open;

They conduct sweeping purges of voter rolls, often stripping voters of their ability to vote without their knowledge;

They restrict eligibility for absentee ballots;

They refuse to invest in the infrastructure that sustains voting, resulting in machines that break down and long lines that discourage potential voters.

The people who oppose making it easier to vote often cite as their reason that they're trying to prevent voter fraud. In other words, they're defending the integrity of our democracy and of the ballot.

But here's the thing: there is occasional voter fraud, and yes, it needs to be guarded against. But rampant voter fraud simply doesn't exist in this country. Efforts to prove that it exists have failed. Let's be blunt: there's no tidal wave of illegal voting in the U.S.

What does inarguably exist, though, is an epidemic

of efforts to suppress the vote. Voting is a basic right of citizenship. It's the foundation of a democracy — people's ability to participate and engage with the issues facing their communities and their country. That ideal lies at the core of American values, and I'm always mindful of the fact that a lot of Americans gave their lives for that ideal. Moreover, excluding groups of voters encourages resentment, risking protests and, potentially, violence.

I've always believed that you win power by convincing people that

your ideas and proposals are right — or at least that you should be given the chance to prove that they're right. Winning power by keeping people away from the polls is a perversion of what democracy is about. Our political institutions need to reflect the will of the people, and if you disenfranchise people, it means that our representative government doesn't reflect accurately the will of the people.

Because voting laws are in the hands of the states, there are plenty of counter-examples — states that have worked to make voting easier, to expand

hours, to allow same-day registration, and the like. There's more to be done, especially making sure that the politicians who control elections aren't themselves running for office, as happened notably in November's selections in Georgia and Kansas. That is a conflict of interest of the most obvious sort.

This struggle, between expanding the vote and trying to limit it, is ongoing. It's not going to be resolved any time soon. I'm always distressed when I encounter efforts to suppress the vote. But I take heart from the fact that over the course

of American history, the dominant trend has been to expand citizens' access to the polls, and I hope that over the long term, we continue in that direction.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar of the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

HOLIDAYS...Continued from page 4

set some limits (or call it quits, altogether).

Not long after debriefing session, I found myself revisiting the same conundrum again. This time, it was my turn to vent about an "outrageous fee" for a service that I suddenly realized wasn't really very important. My friend summed it up with, "I think that's what they call a 'first-world problem'." It was true! My problem suddenly seemed so small.

The message was reinforced again just a few days later when I picked up the December issue of a periodical called "For a Better World: Ideas and Action for a Just Economy". The theme was "Women and Food". It examined women in other countries and their roles in growing, harvesting, processing, and preparing the world's food supply. It described the effects of "food insufficiency", a sanitized phrase for malnutrition and starvation — conditions that plague women

and children because of gross economic disparities.

One article focused on the plight of female farmers in Kenya. Under Kenya's constitution women having equal rights to land and property, but enforcement of those rights is almost non-existent. In Kenya, a woman can't make plans for the future when she lives under the constant threat of losing her rightful ownership to her land, her main source for food, income and shelter. Across Africa, male abandonment, disability, and death are common. With scant provisions to protect and support fatherless households, women risk eviction from their land, leaving them extremely vulnerable to intractable poverty.

Further north, the people of Yemen are in the throes of famine, a more severe form of "food insufficiency". Due to war, an estimated 20 million people, almost two-thirds of the population, are in immediate danger

of starvation. Journalists have tried to get international attention but so far, the world has largely turned their eyes away. Imagine if this were happening in the U.S. Maybe our discomfort over excessive self-indulgence would turn from a momentary sensation to a call to change something.

The magazine emphasized that women have always played a central role in the "care and feeding" of their families. Just think about it. Most American households' meals are prepared by females. Many holiday memories include our grandmothers mentoring younger generations of females in the kitchen. Traditional roles serve as the "relational glue" that help secure family identities. When women must assume the mantle of primary wage earners, their importance in holding the family together becomes even clearer. These commonalities we share can link us as a broader "human family" with ties that heighten

our mutual understanding, appreciation, and compassion.

This year, I've been reflecting on how my life intersects with other people's lives around the world. This Christmas, I'm looking for ways to reduce my over-indulgences that appear on so many fronts.

I want to inject some reflection time into my family tradition. Maybe, I'll ask that before we grab our forks and dive into the bounty set before us, let's light a candle to acknowledge where our food comes from, and think about the people who labored for it? Whose hands prepared it? And ask, do they have enough to eat today? What does that really mean, "enough"? Do we have more than enough? If the answer is yes, then what can we each commit to do about it this year?

Maybe this seems too serious for the occasion. I can hear it, "Let's not go there. Not today!" It's too uncomfortable

and way too complicated? But wait! What if our reflections lead change, adopting some new traditions, and adjusting some of our habits that help create a shift for the better — in me, my family, community, culture, country? I know. I'm thinking big here. But I think the world is waiting anxiously for us to do just that!

I guess I'm ready for Christmas to be about something other than the ritual "loosening of the notch" on my belt buckle or bolstering the GNP. Instead of obsessing on dropping those extra pounds, my new New Year's Resolution will be creating more "Comfort and Joy" for people near and far — caring more and taking less.

May our traditions bring us closer. Warm wishes for a meaningful holiday season, dear friends and neighbors!

TURNBULL...Continued from page 3

Engebritson immediately ruled out any concession on a possible reclassification of her position. "She only wanted to know if I would be renewing my license," said Turnbull. The 66-year-old Turnbull has been a certified food handler for decades and the Tower School kitchen is kept open solely on her license.

Turnbull said she was "flabbergasted" by Engebritson's response and attitude. "I thought they would be willing to do something," she said.

Turnbull had her meeting with the superintendent without union representation, which is unusual according to Troy Swanson, Tower's representative on the St.

Louis County School Board. "She pays union dues. Where were they?" Swanson asked. "The union should be involved with this. They're falling down on the job."

Turnbull is represented by the Teamsters. A local union representative, when contacted by the *Timberjay* last month, had no comment on the situation. The representative had advocated for a reclassification for Turnbull in an email he sent to Engebritson last January, but the superintendent rebuffed the union's request and the matter appears to have gone no further. Turnbull, in frustration, reached out to the *Timberjay* in October, which led to the

initial story last month.

Engebritson said the issue remains one for the district and the union to resolve. "Marilyn needs to bring it up to her union rep

and if she is not satisfied, she can bring it higher up," Engebritson said.

The involvement of the Halunen Law Firm could raise the stakes for

the school district. The Halunen firm has a track record of winning major cases on employment and whistleblower issues as well as product liability

class actions, often going up against major corporations and government agencies.

Let Your Light Shine This Christmas!
from **TIM JOHNSON-STATE FARM INSURANCE**

Winning Artist • EVALYN THIEL
Grade 3

We Wish You A Jolly Christmas!
from **Tower-Soudan Agency**

Kasen Dostert
Grade 2

VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL

VCS carolers serenade Tower businesses

Students from Vermilion Country School sang carols at Main Street businesses on Dec. 12. Earlier in the week, choir students sang at the women's luncheon at Immanuel Lutheran Church under the direction of teacher Karin Schmidt.



Fortune Bay Christmas Party fun



Above: Mary Anderson, who spearheaded the planning for this year's party, helped youngsters play a game. Below: Delonnie and Deniko Dupree tell Santa their Christmas wishes. photos by J. Summit



Letters from Readers

Christmas didn't have to be perfect before Jesus came!

There are a number of Scripture passages that pertain to Christmas and the birth of Jesus. And they express a very fundamental fact, that when Jesus was born things were far from perfect.

Both St. Luke and St. Matthew give us the genealogy Jesus. They detail his human line of descent. Many of the people mentioned are less than saintly. We hear about David for example. David committed adultery with Bathsheba and then David had Uriah, her husband, killed when he wasn't able to conceal the adultery. In the genealogy, there is a woman named Tamar. Well, Tamar was childless so she dressed as a prostitute in order to trick Judah, her father-in-law, so that she could have children by him. Rahab? She didn't just act like a prostitute, she was a prostitute. There is a guy named Manasseh. Manasseh was a king, but as Scripture says, "He did evil in the sight of the Lord." He even built an idol to a false god and put it in the Temple in Jerusalem. He wasn't a model of fidelity. When we

look closely at Jesus's family tree, we have the good, the bad, and the ugly. And plenty of the bad and the ugly.

If you know anything about the historical setting at the time of Jesus's birth, you'll know that it was not one of peace and prosperity. The Jews were oppressed by the Romans. They had high taxes placed on them which some of their fellow Jewish brothers helped extort from them on behalf of the Romans. The Jewish religious leaders, King Herod and the Pharisees, also took advantage of the average Jewish person. This period was not perfect.

We also have the tradition of Nativity scenes and placing the baby Jesus in a beautiful manger on Christmas Eve. Nativity creches are wonderful to look at, but we can tend to over glamorize the birth of Jesus. The first Nativity scene was anything but beautiful. It was the back area of the house reserved for the animals. It would have been noisy, it would have been dirty, it would have been stinky. It would have been cold. It was not the ideal place to spend any amount of time, much less give birth to a baby. Yet God chose to be born in a stable where the animals would live.

These three points demonstrate that the condi-

tions didn't have to be perfect before God entered into our world. God didn't wait for a perfect blood line before he became incarnate. He didn't wait for there to be perfect peace before he entered history. He didn't make sure there was a palace or hospital or even room indoors with a midwife to help with the delivery. No, God entered into our broken, fallen world in order to save it!

I think this is a great lesson to all of us. Our life doesn't have to be perfect before we let Jesus in. Sometimes we think that I need to be perfect before I let Jesus into my life. We think that I need to get my life in order before I start to think about following Jesus. And this is wrong. This is backwards. We let Jesus into our lives, we choose to follow him precisely so that he can save us, redeem us, put things in order for us.

My friends, this Christmas, don't be afraid to let Jesus into your lives. Make this the Christmas you will never forget, the one when you went back to church, back to Mass. Merry Christmas!

**Father Nick Nelson
St. Martin's Catholic
Church, Tower**

Wishing You Health & Happiness!
from ZUP'S GROCERY-TOWER



Artist • SILAS SNYDER
Learning Readiness

Share A Loving Spirit This Christmas!
from Jeanne's Cards & Gifts



Winning Artist • Ava Redetzke
Grade 2

We Send Holiday Wishes To You
from BOB'S SERVICE & TOWING



Winning Artist • Greyson Reichensperger
Grade 6

SEASON'S GREETINGS!
from BREITUNG TOWNSHIP



Artist Kiersten Schoonover
KINDERGARTEN

Jingle All The Way This Christmas
from Scenic Rivers Medical & Dental-Tower



Winning Artist • NOLAN LENCI
Grade 1

Season's Greetings To You All!
from Frandsen Bank - Tower



Winning Artist • KELLIN PRATT
Grade 4

FIRE AND RESCUE

Breitung FD gets cold water rescue equipment

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

BREITUNG TWP- Breitung Fire Department is now prepared to respond to water and ice emergencies. This past spring at the annual meeting, residents approved a \$15,000 purchase of water rescue gear including an inflatable rescue boat, Mustang survival wet suits, ropes, ice anchors, life jackets, flashlights, and whistles. The department received a Walmart Foundation Community Grant of \$1,000 and a Lake Country Power Round Up Grant of \$1,000 to offset the costs. The entire fire department has now completed training with the new equipment and is ready to respond to winter water emergencies.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Chimpy’s Skating Parties Dec. 22, 23

SOUDAN- Chimpy’s skating parties at the Soudan Rink are now underway. The next events are on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 22 and 23, from 12 noon - 2 p.m. Party sponsors are Frito-Lay, Starkovich Distributing, and Brew Pub Lotzza Motzza Pizza.

Children of all ages are welcome to stop by for skating fun and food. Loaner skates are available in the warming shack.

Chimpy is planning to host skating parties on Saturdays and Sundays, weather-permitting, during Christmas vacation. The Soudan Rink warming shack hours on holidays and school vacation are 11 a.m. to closing. The Soudan Rink warming shack regular hours are weekdays from 4 p.m. to closing, and weekends from 11 a.m. to closing.

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Christmas Eve Services

SOUDAN- The Christmas Eve Service will be held at 4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 24. There will be live music with Robbie Mattson. Pastor Greg Anderson will be leading the service. The church will also have its regular Sunday worship at 8:30 a.m. on Dec. 23.

St. Martin’s Catholic Church Christmas/New Year’s Mass Schedule

TOWER- St. Martin’s Catholic Church is happy to announce their Christmas and New Year’s schedule:

Confessions are heard one half-hour before all Masses. If these times do not work for you – contact the rectory.

The Christmas Mass schedule is: Christmas Eve at St. Martin’s at 4 p.m. and at Holy Cross (Orr) at 7 p.m.; Christmas Day at St. Mary’s (Cook) at 1 a.m.

The Solemnity of Mary is celebrated each year on Jan. 1. Our Mass schedule is: New Year’s Eve at St. Mary’s (Cook) at 5:30 p.m.; New Year’s Day at Holy Cross (Orr) at 10 a.m. and at St. Martin’s at 5 p.m.

St. James Advent Services

TOWER- The St. James Advent Theme this year will be “The Colors of Christmas.”

Week 4. White Christmas – Zechariah

NER students donate to the Tower Food Shelf



Northeast Range students held a food drive to benefit the Tower Area Food Shelf this month. Maia Maki and Ryan Milton delivered the donations to the food shelf last week. photo by J. Summit

(the father of John the Baptist) declared certain prophecies about the coming Messiah and how He would fulfill the dream of a “white Christmas” for Israel. What were these prophecies, and how did Jesus fulfill them?

St. James Christmas Eve Service

TOWER- St. James will have its Christmas Eve Service on Monday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. The theme for the service will be “Led By The Star” from Matthew 2:1-12. The service will be followed by a “Birthday Party for Jesus” in the Fellowship Hall downstairs.

Tower-Soudan Women’s Bowling

Dec. 15 Rankings: Vermilion Club (66-38); Broten Construction (62-42), Jeannie’s Cards (60-44). High team game- Jeannie’s Cards 694; High Team Series- Jeannie’s Cards 1,943; High Ind. Game- Marge Harmston 162; High Ind. Series- Bev Thomas 429.

Nov. 14 Rankings: Vermilion Club (60-28), Broten Construction (50-38), Jeannie’s Cards (46-42). High Team Game- Vermilion Club 650; High Team Series- Broten Construction; High Ind. Game- Bev Thomas 187; High Ind. Series- Bev Thomas 466.

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 are 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 – 1:30 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.

Homebound seniors can sign up for meal delivery. To register for the new Meals on Wheels, or for more information, please call AEOA Senior Nutrition at 218-735-6899.

Week of Dec. 24 and Dec. 31

No School All Week- no lunches served.

Week of Dec. 24

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 Jan. 15.

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

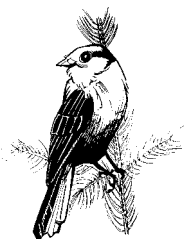
Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

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



Read the news from all three Timberjay editions each week

www.timberjay.com

Timberjay subscribers get free access to the online e-edition



the TIMBERJAY

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| General Manager | Jodi Summit |
| Staff Writers | Melissa Roach Stephanie Ukkola |
| Ely Editor | Keith Vandervort |
| Cook/Orr Editor | Marcus White |
| Office Manager | M. M. White |
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Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, Jan. 2, 23; Feb. 13; March 13

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 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

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

Winter hours now in effect

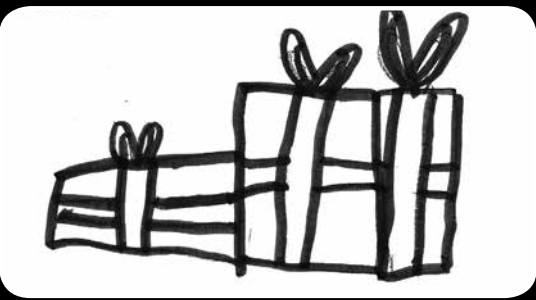
| | |
|----------|------------------|
| Thursday | 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. |
| Sunday | 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. |

Recycling canisters available daily at the Greenwood Town Hall. For info: 1-800-450-9278

Our Christmas Wish To All Of You... from TOWER AUTO PARTS



Artist • Christian Nelson • Grade 5



Artist • Isabelle Nelson • Grade 2

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
AA - 7 p.m. Mondays,
First Lutheran Church,
915 E. Camp St.
WOMEN'S AA - Noon Mondays, Ledgerock Community Church, Ely - use 15th Street entrance.
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church.
AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter 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.

In Brief

Pets lost in house fire

REGIONAL - Authorities are investigating a house fire east of Babbitt that killed two pets and left a family homeless. The Babbitt Fire Department responded to a report of a home on fire near Highway 1 on Kelly Trail, just before 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 4.

The Lake County Sheriff's office said no one was injured, but the homeowners Carl and Jenny Detzel, said a dog and a cat were killed in the fire.

The house is a total loss, authorities said. A GoFundMe page has been established, along with a bank account at the Boundary Waters Bank, 601 E. Sheridan St., Ely, MN 55731, to help the family get back on their feet.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2018



look toward Christmas filling tables with goodies present laden trees

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Ray Thielbar honored for promoting the arts

by SARA SKELTON for The Timberjay

ELY - The Ely Music and Drama Club this week named Ray Thielbar as the 2018 "Community Service to the Arts" recipient. Each year, the Ely Music and Drama Club recognizes someone from the community who has dedicated him or herself to promoting the arts in the Ely area.

Having met as junior high school sweethearts, Ray and Rose Thielbar began their lives together in Illinois, where Ray worked for Caterpillar, Inc., and they raised their three children, sons Bruce and Chris, and daughter Becky.

But they always found time for adventuring, including canoe trips to the Ely area with their family. In January of 1980, Caterpillar moved them to San Paulo, Brazil, to open a manufacturing plant. With his rich bass voice, Ray has always enjoyed singing, and it was in Brazil that he helped found a quartet called "Calvary Four" with three missionaries who were also serving in Brazil.

While in San Paulo, Ray and Rose made plans to retire from Illinois to this land of shimmering lakes, towering pines and rocky shores. In fact, they

have recently completed a book about their life's journey entitled "Rooted in Rocky Soil" about the path that brought them to the north country and the faith that has guided them throughout their lives.

In 1987, the Thielbars moved to their Bissonett log home on Ojibwe Lake. From this base, Ray and Rose have thrown themselves into the life of the Ely Baptist Church (now Ledgerock Community Church) and the Ely community.

With fellow church member Ben Larson and Music and Drama Club member (and former Community Service to the Arts award recipient) Joan Larson, Ray brought his love of quartet singing to Ely, establishing a new "Calvary Four" quartet, and later a Barbershop Quartet that included Dave Staubitz, Bob Hedloff, and Stan Landa, with Ray's bass voice as foundation. Ray has also sung in the Christmas and Patriotic community choirs.

Ray is an accomplished wood worker, and has created signs for multiple businesses in town, including the North American Bear Center. With fellow church member Don Coay, Ray fashioned the stunning wooden cross that stands behind the



Ray and Rose Thielbar moved to Ely in 1987. submitted photo

Ledgerock altar.

But Ray's biggest contribution to the Ely community is his guidance for 25 years of the ecumenical service, Thanksgiving, held each year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, that includes soloists, choirs, hymns, poems, scripture readings and more, all centered around a theme. Ray calls it "a time for all to gather in an expression of thanks and praise."

Ray's faith has been a constant source of strength and guidance, seeing him through two quintuple by-pass surgeries and six months of recovery through a double transplant of a heart and a kidney in 2000.

Ray and his wife Rose have always been ripe for adventure, and coming to Ely has certainly been part of their life's adventure. Our community is better for the many ways they have dedicated themselves to enriching their adopted home.



the **TIMBERJAY**

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TOURISM

Another top-nine travel rating

Expedia.com puts Ely on the list



The Kawishiwi Falls outside of Ely is one of the the are's top tourist areas. photo by K. Vandervort

ELY - A well-know international travel website has ranked Ely as one of the best places in America for a week-long vacation.

Expedia.com surveyed 1,001 travel enthusiasts in the United States and only 13 percent of people said they take trips for one to two weeks at a time.

In a recent article published in their Viewfinder series, the Ely area was listed among the top nine locations across the U.S. to enjoy an extended vacation

Why one would need at least a week in Ely:

According to the website, between hiking to Kawishiwi Falls, stargazing under a dark sky, and floating on Bear Head Lake, set aside a couple days in Ely to learn about wolves at the International Wolf Center. The IWC hosts presentations and activities throughout the day for all ages. Don't forget to slow down and inhale that fresh wilderness air.

Get to know the local scene: Eat local to feel local. Insula is owned and run by Executive Chef Daniel Vollom and Sarah Wigdahl-Vollom, who are committed to serving

gourmet comfort foods — like French onion grilled cheese — made from locally-sourced ingredients.

Other cities on the Expedia.com list included Philadelphia, Orlando, Louisville, Phoenix, Monterey, Calif., McCall, Idaho, Nags Head, N.C., and Chatham, Mass.

Over the years, Ely has been regularly named to numerous "best vacation" lists and was once named "Coolest Small Town in America."

OUR COMMUNITY

Ely AAUW aids education for women and girls

ELY - The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Ely Branch is conducting a shoe drive fundraiser through Jan. 15, 2019, to raise funds for local area, educational programming for women and girls.

AAUW Ely will earn funds based on the total weight of the pairs of gently worn, used and new shoes collected, as Funds2Orgs will issue a check for the collected shoes. Those dollars will benefit mission-based educational projects serving the Ely community.

Anyone can help by donating gently worn, used and new shoes at designated local drop boxes, with any AAUW Ely member, or by calling

218-365-6802 to arrange drop off.

Drop boxes are currently located at The Pebble Spa, Gators Grilled Cheese Emporium, and Vermilion Community College, Office CL135.

All donated shoes will then be redistributed throughout the Funds2Orgs network of micro-enterprise (small business) partners in developing countries where economic opportunity and jobs are limited. Funds2Orgs helps impoverished people start, maintain and grow businesses in countries such as Haiti, Honduras and other nations in Central America and Africa. Proceeds from the shoe sales are used to feed, clothe and house their families.

ELY FIRE RESPONSES

**Sunday afternoon fire alarms**

A two-hour power outage Sunday afternoon, that reportedly affected many communities in northeast Minnesota, kept Ely emergency personnel busy with fire alarm responses. Within minutes of the power outage, at about 11 a.m. Sunday, the Ely Fire Department was called to a fire alarm at the Industrial Arts building on the Ely School campus. Authorities said that sometime alarms trip when the power goes out. No problems were found in the building. Fire crews responded to a residential chimney fire at the corner of 10th Ave South and Harvey Street at about 1 p.m. Burned material was removed and the fire was extinguished.

photos by K. Vandervort

Yesterday's news, this week

from the archives of

THE ELY MINER

Courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society

December 20, 1918

Tax apportionment set

County Auditor Halden has divided the fiscal year apportionment for 1918. Ely's share in the division amounts to \$52,547.79, while the school district will draw \$31,439.223 as its share. Winton gets \$63.15 and the town of Morse gets \$2,118.84.

The total apportionment for St. Louis County amounts to \$5,344,381.64. The county and state break nearly even on the amount they receive. The state gets \$823,656.35 and the county gets \$869,875.65.

Oliver Company shipments

Iron ore shipments to the docks by the Oliver Iron Mining company for the season of 1918 amounted to 25,647,491 tons. Shipments were over two million tons less than in the previous year, and nearly six million tons less than in 1916.

Shipments by mines from the Vermilion range for the year included: Pioneer, 260,516 tons; Sibley, 146,143 tons; Zenith, 243,097 tons; and Soudan, 113,059. Total for the year was 762,896 tons.

The total shipment for all mines on the Vermilion range for the year of 1918 is 1,114,806 tons, as compared to 1,530,692 tons in 1917.

Card of Thanks

We wish to express our gratitude and appreciation for all the kindness shown us, also for the beautiful floral offerings during the bereavement of our beloved wife and mother. D. Routsalainen and family

A LONG WAY FROM ELY

Dave and Amy Freeman explore the Bahamas

For the last week we have focused most of our energy on writing our next book and a variety of boat projects. Don't worry, there have been plenty of runs and walks on the beach, kayaking, and soaking in the sun, but no sailing.

Today the winds were perfect for a beam reach sail down to Tahiti Beach and back to Hope Town, so we decided to take a day off from writing and hoist the sails.

We anchored off Tahiti Beach and went snorkeling after we scrubbed the bottom of the boat to remove a thin film of algae that coated the hull. We were glad to see no barnacles have taken hold yet.

We saw several conch and lobster, but they were too small to harvest. We also saw a turtle, stingray,



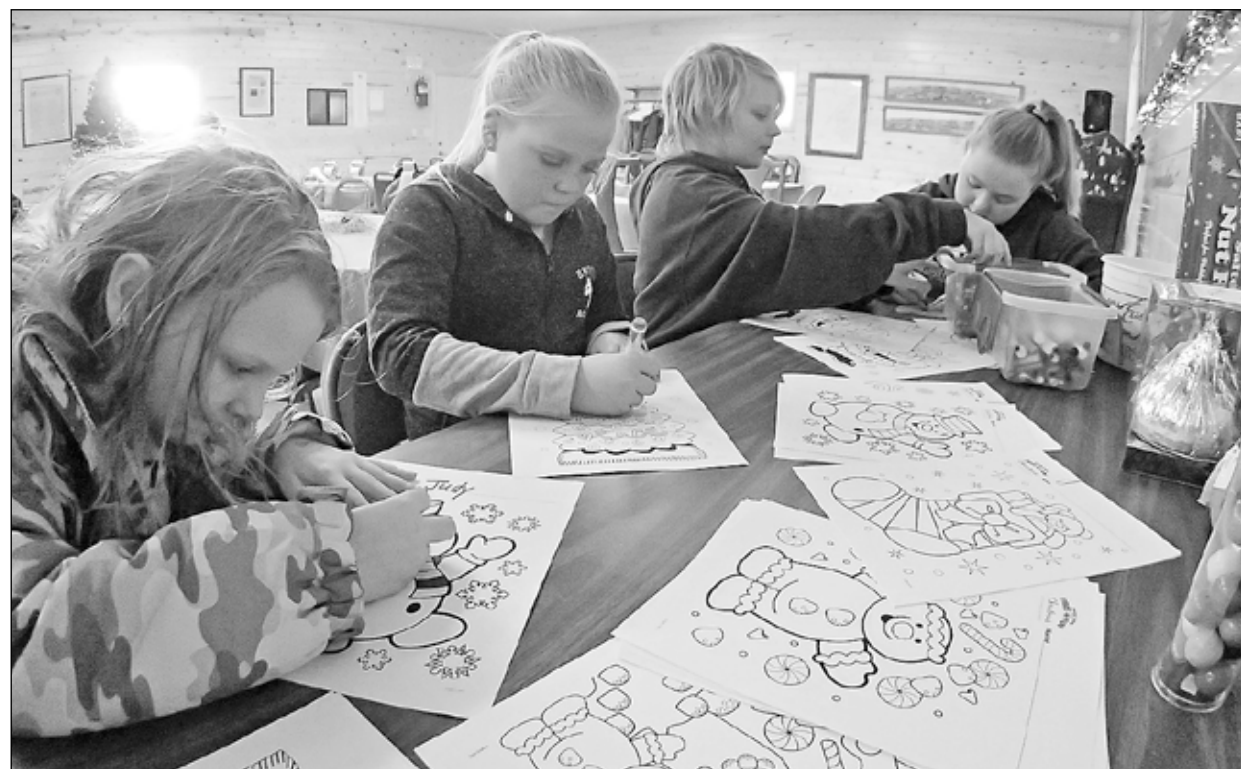
and lots of fish. There were a bunch of silver fish with big eyes that we need to try

and identify.

We didn't go far, but it sure felt good to sail

after being holed up in Hope Town for more than a week.

WINTON CHRISTMAS



Winton kids took part in a coloring contest at the annual Winton Christmas Party last Sunday at the Community Hall. Shown from lweft, Judith Ann Roarty, Chloe Janeksela, Joshua Janeksela and Ella Perish. photo by K. Vandervort

WASHINGTON D.C. SENIORS



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5:30 PM Boys Basketball: Cook Co vs. Bigfork
7:15 PM Boys Basketball: Isle vs. Ely



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1,000 POINTS



CLOQUET - North Woods senior Bria Chiabotti scored her 1,000th career point here last Thursday in the Grizzlies’ huge rout of Fond du Lac, 82-25. Chiabotti is the first North Woods girls basketball player to reach the career milestone since North Woods opened following the ISD 2142 consolidation. More on this week’s games on the sports page, 1B.

Left: Bria Chiabotti stands with the ball used to score her 1,000th point. Above: Crowds cheer on Chiabotti during the game.
photos by C. Stone

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON



FIELD TWP - The North Woods High School band and choir performed their annual holiday concert last Wednesday evening at the school. The concert was the first to be conducted by the school’s new music teacher, Rachel Roettger.

At top: Clarinetist Claire Beaudry (left) plays music surrounded by her peers on clarinet, flute and tuba. Right: The band’s brass section plays songs of the holiday. Above: Nicole Olson singing a solo in the song Hallelujah.
photos by B. Smith

Crane Lake News by the Singing Teapot Dames



Have you noticed the moon? It has been exceptionally bright and colorful. It is working up to the full moon which will be on Saturday, Dec. 22. There is always something special when the full moon falls on Christmas Eve. We are pretty close this year.

What causes a full moon? The full moon is the lunar phase when the Moon appears fully illuminated from Earth’s perspective. This occurs when Earth is located between the Sun and the Moon (more exactly, when the ecliptic longitudes of the Sun and Moon differ by 180 degrees). ... The full moon occurs once roughly every month. Doctors, nurses and law enforcement people are always aware during the full moon as it affects people to act strangely. There are eight phases of the moon, not just the full moon. The eight moon phases in order are new moon, waxing crescent, first quarter, waxing gibbous, full moon, waning gibbous, third quarter, and finally waxing crescent. The moon wanes, waxes, and sometimes we can’t even see the moon during its new phase. There was always a mystery about the moon but now people have walked on the moon, driven buggies and left a little garbage on the moon during the astronauts’ adventures. It still holds a strong attraction to the Dames. They have been known to howl at the moon but only when it is full.

We have been blessed with warmer weather during the past week. Some of our snow has left which is not good for the snowmobile traffic. We look forward to our seasons and the joys of the activities they bring.

Shopping has become quite an ordeal. Seems like no matter where you go, there are people, people, and more people. The clerks at all the stores even comment on how busy their particular stores have been, with last week described as a “zoo” and this week shaping up to be the same. Sometimes it’s hard to keep up with the Christmas spirit with time short and the lines to the checkout long!

The Sanborn family has begun their adventure to have Christmas with son, John. Safe travels to all who are going to be gone for the holidays or have family traveling from afar. Fun and joyful get-togethers are what Christmas is all about but traveling can be a challenge. One of the Dames remembers a year where her daughter and family flew to Minnesota for Christmas, only to have their flight delayed by a day, and then the airlines lost their luggage. Christmas was especially happy that year, as they were reunited with their clothing and toiletries on Christmas Day!

Don’t forget to send in your Christmas tradition. Everybody has something that makes Christmas Christmas to them, so please share. Who knows? You may be the inspiration for someone else’s new tradition.

As the Dames informed you dear readers, beginning in January, the Dames will publish the birthdays of readers. So send in your birthdays or anyone else you would like included. The Dames promise not to publish ages! The Dames are pleased that the entire Jeff and Cathy Erickson family of Crane Lake and Florida have replied with the dates for the entire family. Don’t be left out!

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

Until next week, the Teapot Dames are singing off.

LITTLE GRIZZLIES



The Little Grizzlies basketball camp played during half time at a recent game. At right; Celice King makes a pass to a teammate. Above: Kalle Nelson has possession of the ball while other Grizzlies hustle to get it.
photos by C. Stone



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CHRISTMAS CARD WINNERS



The annual drawing contest for holiday Christmas cards was judged for North Woods last week, with several elementary-aged students winning prizes. Students were judged on creativity, imagination and artistic ability. First place winners won \$5, with runner ups winning \$3 and \$2 respectively. Cards are published throughout this week’s paper. First row (bottom): Lucy Talberg, Libby Glass, Vera Bryson; second row: River Deatherage, Michaela Brunner, Laurin Glass; third row: Ellie Sherman, Alex Boon, Jordan Herdman and Carter Houk; fourth row: Brittin Koskela, Evalyn Thiel, Latisa Strong, Bailey Crenshaw and Matthew Miller; fifth row: Carsyn Burnett, Mikey Sipola, Brittan Lappi, Lauren Burnett, Rory Bundy, Lydia Trip and Jasmine Munson. Not picture: Kailin Geshick. photo by M. White

GRIZZLY UPDATES

Meet Mrs. Allison Thiel

Principal John Vukmanich interviews a selection of educators and coaches at the North Woods School

This week, we continue in North Woods Elementary and interview Mrs. Allison Thiel, who like many of our wonderful staff, has roots right here in our area.

Mr. V: Where are you originally from and where did you go to high school and college?

Mrs. T: I am originally from Cook, and grew up on Leander Road. I went to the Cook School grades K-12, and went to college at Northwestern in St. Paul where I received a degree in Elementary Education with a Kindergarten endorsement. I also received a Masters in Education in Differentiated Instruction from Concordia, and just finished licensure in Specific Learning Disabilities from Concordia, too.

Mr. V: Were there teachers who were an influence on you? Please name a few if you can.

Mrs. T: Mrs. Marconette in fourth grade in Cook. Mr. Panichi and Mr. Reed, too. They did some team-teaching back before it was in style, and also Mrs. Fink.

Mr. V: What characteristics did these teachers have that were important to you?

Mrs. T: They had high expectations, but made learning fun and worthwhile. Mr. Panichi and Mr. Reed took us snowshoeing in the



JOHN VUKMANICH

school forest!

Mr. V: What do you teach at North Woods?

Mrs. T: 1st grade now, but I have taught 2nd, 5th, and Reading K-6 too.

Mr. V: Why did you choose teaching as a profession?

Mrs. T: I love it. Period.

Mr. V: What are your hobbies?

Mrs. T: Right now they are focused on my three school-aged kids. Lots of sports and activities. Outside of that, I love to garden. I also love to mow lawns, and if I could have a second career I would love to be a test pilot for Cub Cadet or John Deere lawn tractors.

Mr. V: What is something you really like about North Woods?

Mrs. T: We aren’t just a school, we are a community. We are fortunate enough to have many staff who have



ALLISON THIEL

kids here, and as a staff we are invested in this community. Our staff attend many events in the community and are collectively invested in our kids being the best people they can be.

Mr. V: What is a professional goal for you?

Mrs. T: As I continue my career, I want to keep learning with my students. There is always something new to learn. I never want to become stagnant.

Mr. V: What is something you love about northern MN?

Mrs. T: Fall. I love campfire weather. I also like the brisk mornings.

Mr. V: What is a piece of advice you’d give your students?

Mrs. T: Work hard. School may not be your favorite thing, but it can lead you to what you want to do down the road.

Mr. V: Do you have a favorite saying or expression?

Mrs. T: Think it, don’t say it. Also, I love the quote, “The great thing about teaching is that it matters every day. The hard part about teaching is that it matters every day.”

Mr. V: What do you hope that your students will remember you for?

Mrs. T: That I loved what I did, and it wasn’t about a paycheck. I want to see them do well, not just in my class, but in school and after school is done.

Thank you, Mrs. Thiel, for letting us get to know you better! We appreciate all that you do, and hope that lawn stays green.

Congratulations to North Woods student athlete Bria Chiabotti. The senior basketball player scored her thousandth point on Dec. 13 versus Fond Du Lac. Congrats, Bria, on joining the 1,000 point club!

As a reminder to our families, North Woods School is on Winter Break from Dec. 24 through Jan. 2. Classes resume on January 3.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone! Go Grizzlies!

**Your Principal,
John Vukmanich**


Briefly

Grocery delivery services offered to Cook residents after Zup’s fire

COOK - Registrations are being taken here for a grocery delivery service following the fire at Zup’s Grocery. The program, offered by the AEOA, is for seniors 60 years of age or older. Registrations will be taken over the phone by calling the agency at 1-800-662-5711 ext. 6899.

Cook Senior Citizens Club

COOK - The Cook Seniors meet monthly on the first Wednesday at 1 p.m. For more information, call Nancy at 666-2726 or Lois at 666-5578.



the **TIMBERJAY**

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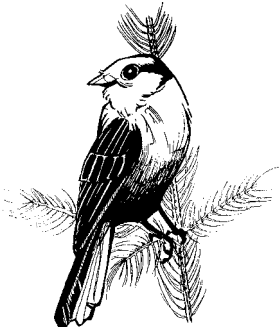
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Winning Artist • CARSYN BURNETT
Grade 3

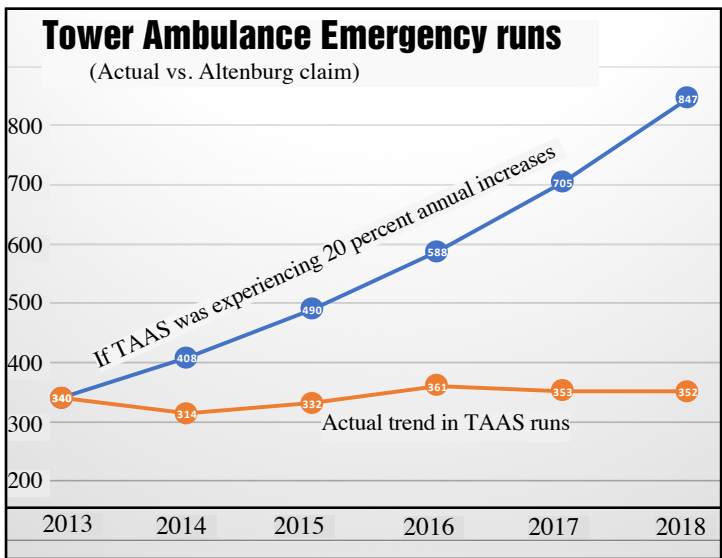
TOWER...Continued from page 1

a modest increase from the \$231,842 the department spent in 2016, according to budget data provided by the city of Tower.

The ambulance service’s anticipated spending in 2019 is nearly \$35,000 more than an analysis by the *Timberjay* predicted last March. Ambulance director Steve Altenburg had criticized that newspaper report for overstating expenditures under the new paid on-call program. In March, the *Timberjay* projected the shift to paid on-call would push the ambulance service’s expenditures to \$402,900, somewhat less than the \$439,800 the department now expects to spend next year.

The *Timberjay* had also projected in March that the shift to paid on-call staffing would likely boost ambulance revenues to \$440,000 due to the department’s ability to respond to additional inter-hospital transfers. The city budget pegs anticipated revenue next year at \$439,800, which is virtually identical to the *Timberjay* estimate.

The anticipated revenue for next year includes an increase in the department’s share of the city’s general property tax. City taxpayers have paid \$7,500 to underwrite the ambulance service in recent years, but the latest budget doubles that amount, to \$15,000. It also includes \$37,500 in township subsidies, although that revenue is earmarked for ambulance purchases. The various tax subsidies are expected to account for 12 percent of the department’s total revenues



next year.

On the revenue side, the new budget projects that ambulance call revenue will rise by \$75,000, mostly as a result of additional transfers, but that additional revenue is projected to fall well short of covering the cost of the change to paid on-call staffing. The budget projects spending on employee wages to jump from the \$54,100 that the department spent in 2017, to \$180,000 next year. Final payroll costs for 2018 likely won’t be available until the city’s audit next spring.

Related payroll costs, such as FICA, are expected to jump next year by about \$10,000, while the department will also spend more for fuel, supplies, meals, and additional maintenance as a result of the extra mileage on vehicles to undertake additional transfers.

The budget approved by the council projects no budget surplus in 2019, which would

represent a significant erosion in the department’s margins, which have averaged about \$110,000 annually in recent years. Director Altenburg has stated repeatedly that the department must maintain substantial margins in order to cover the cost of ambulance replacement. Altenburg has advocated for an increase in the subsidies paid by surrounding townships, to cover more of the cost of ambulance replacement, but he has, to date, found little interest from township officials.

Altenburg misstates run data

In advocating for a switch to paid on-call staffing in 2017, Altenburg claimed the change would result in higher margins due to the department’s ability to undertake more non-emergency inter-hospital transfers, which are significantly more profit-

YMCA...Continued from page 1

opening in 1960, Their waiting list regularly tops 200 in the summer months. The YMCA operates eight overnight camps and 10 day-use camps in Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

Their new Camp Northern Lights sits on 115 acres, features two swimming beach areas on a half-mile of shoreline, a popular fishing lake and 24 lakefront cabins with full kitchens and bathrooms, and decks and/or screened porches.

The Y will be adding eight new tent sites and four new bungalow cabins so it can accommodate as many as 180 guests and 40 staff at one time. “We also plan to add a craft barn, nursery, dining hall and outdoor gathering spaces for sing-a-longs and camp-

fires,” Schimml said.

About \$3 million for the purchase came directly from donors. “With YMCA Camp Northern Lights, we are ensuring the Y continues to serve our community with great outdoor experiences for all to enjoy,” said Glen Gunderson, president and CEO of the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities. “The YMCA is committed to providing everyone opportunities to get away from daily distractions, unplug and enjoy nature year-round.”

The YMCA Summer Family Camp program offers three-, four- and seven-day options. Camp staff lead age-specific programming for a portion of the day and all-family programs in the afternoons and evenings. In

addition to family camp, teens 15-18 years old can develop valuable leadership skills through a two-week program that provides hands-on training assisting camp counselors and facilitating programs, according to Schimml.

During the school year, YMCA Camp Northern Lights has seven winterized cabins that are available for a Book Your Own Getaway experience. Families and groups can enjoy groomed ski trails, snowshoeing, hiking and other outdoor adventures.

Northern Lights campers will have access to fishing boats and trained guides, pontoons, kayaks and paddleboards during the warmer months.

Prices for the new family camp range from \$550 per week to \$3,000



A portion of the new YMCA Camp Northern Lights on the shores of Bear Island Lake between Ely and Babbitt. submitted photo.

for larger cabins. Financial assistance is available.

The YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities is a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy

living and social responsibility. Established 161 years ago, the Y provides life-strengthening services across Minnesota and western Wisconsin communities.

For more information

ELY...Continued from page 1

Amanda Vanderbeek and Megan Wognum.

Moyer said in court documents that she was overpaid \$1,088.10 over 13 paychecks between August 2017 and May 2018. To recoup the claimed overpayment, Moyer said the school district, through a payroll adjustment, deducted \$155.44 from seven paychecks. She is seeking

twice the amount of the deduction, allowable under state statute, in the amount of \$2,176.20, plus filing fees and costs, for a total of \$2,251.20.

The teachers did not respond to a request for comment by the *Timberjay*.

Ely Superintendent Kevin Abrahamson referred the matter to the school district’s legal counsel, Kelly Klun. “She

will provide certain documents and comment. I am not at this time making direct comments concerning this litigation, but may do so down the road,” he wrote in an email response.

Klun provided the following statement to the *Timberjay* on Monday:

“On behalf of the District, I can confirm that there are 17 teachers who have each filed

separate matters in small claims court. From the perspective of the district, the teachers are not contesting that they did not receive their salary as bargained for, rather the issue involves the apportionment of their salary per pay period over the fiscal year.

The District believes it has fully compensated teachers relative to the

2017/2018 school year and will be filing a response, and in some cases, a counterclaim for monies that have been overpaid to certain litigants. The district is committed to ensuring all teachers are paid their bargained salary, while maintaining the District’s due diligence of fiscal oversight to its taxpayers.”

On behalf of the school

district, Klun filed a counterclaim this week, saying that in Moyer’s case, the overpayment was actually \$1,674 and that Moyer owes them that money plus fees and costs of \$1,080 for a total of \$2,754.

A court date in the matter was initially set for Wednesday, Dec. 26, but Klun said it now appears it will be rescheduled to mid-January or beyond.

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LODGE...Continued from page 1

and restaurant and possibly an ice cream parlor, although those changes or additions would be up the owners of the lodge.

The planning commission approved the RV proposal in two steps. First, commissioners agreed to expand the Lake Vermilion Commercial overlay for BayView Lodge to include the RV park property. Then, they approved a conditional use permit, which is contingent on other agency approvals.

The commission approved both measures following sometimes heated public comment and discussion.

Commercial overlay

Last year's closure of BayView Lodge complicated the question of whether the planning commission could approve an expansion of the commercial overlay at the site. Under the Lake Vermilion Plan, existing commercial uses were protected from changes in the underlying zoning as long as a business continues to operate. The existing commercial districts are, in effect, an overlay on the zoning map. Once permanently closed, however, the classification is supposed to revert back to the underlying zoning.

Residents in opposition to the RV park plan claimed the BayView overlay expired because the business closed in 2018.

"The overlay is only in place as long as the business is operating," said county senior planner Mark Lindhorst. "If the business ceases or the permit is revoked, then it reverts to the previous zoning."

BayView Lodge's owners had posted a sign along County Rd. 77 last year indicating that the facility was closed permanently, an action that opponents argued terminated the commercial overlay.

But county officials argued that while BayView ceased operating last year, its permits remained in place and could reopen at any time. Planning chair Roger Skraba said as long as the operating permits on the business were still valid, the commercial overlay continues in effect. County planner Jenny Bourbonais said the county had not received any notice that the permits for BayView should be revoked because the business ceased operations.

But opponents of the project argued as well that the parcel slated for development does not directly connect with the BayView property and can't be included in an expanded overlay.

"The proposed property doesn't even touch the existing property," Greenwood resident Rick Sheehan said. "This applicant doesn't even own the lodge, and you say 'so what.' The effect is spot zoning. The court will take it on. You need to go to the comprehensive plan and justify it."

Spot zoning is illegal in Minnesota.

A county parcel map does suggest that the two properties do touch in the far northeast corner of the RV parcel.

Sheehan also argued

that the residential nature of the area made the proposal incompatible with the Lake Vermilion Plan— and he noted that a previous attempt to expand the property in 2012 was shot down by Greenwood Township when it still controlled its planning and zoning. He noted that the attempt five years ago was also done by the owners of the BayView property, rather than Horan and Ribich.

Skraba disagreed with Sheehan on the legal aspects of the proposal. "The reason why we have the overlay district was to protect everybody," Skraba said. "If you have a business, you could expand within reason. I am comfortable with being here. I don't feel that it is an illegal act to look at the rezoning."

Bourbonais said the county attorney's office had reviewed the plan and had not found it to be in opposition with any ordinances.

The measure to extend the overlay passed unanimously.

Conditional use permit

Ribich told the board he plans to operate a neighborhood-friendly RV park.

"I want this to be a nice facility, a quiet, family-friendly one," he said. "If people want to knock a few back and get a little crazy, there are other places on the lake to do that."

Ribich said he and Horan plan to vet renters before allowing them space. He also said they were targeting seasonal campers, rather than weekend customers, who are often younger and rowdier.

"With such a long wait list at other sites, I don't foresee a difficulty filling these sites," he said. "We don't want to have in-and-out traffic all season long."

The permit application indicates that Horan and Ribich are planning to put up to 33 RV sites on the property, which would allow for a camper and two additional vehicles.

That plan could be revised, however, depending on a review from the Department of Health, which must also permit the project following county approval.

Lindhorst said the county estimates the property could hold as many as 55 spots for campers.

Three individuals from the public spoke out on behalf of the project.

The first, a landowner who lives near the Vermilion Club said complaining residents should have known what they were signing up for when they bought property in close proximity to a resort.

He also said there wasn't enough business on the east end of the lake, and something new was needed to alleviate constraints on other local businesses.

Paul Skubic, one of Greenwood Township's supervisors, said he was speaking as an individual to show his support since the township has elected to stay neutral on the matter and allow the county to decide the project's fate.

"I've heard nothing but good things. People

want to see it," Skubic said. "I ask this board to consider the business opportunities."

A third landowner, who is selling a piece of property to BayView for the project said she was in support.

The opposition, however, came out in force, citing concerns about increased traffic along BayView Drive, which is privately owned. One homeowner said the residents could use their rights to the road to block it off using gates.

The resort plans to open a new entrance, but residents were not convinced it would alleviate traffic on the current road.

"Neighbors take care of the road, but they don't want to maintain it for an RV park," Beth Sheehan said.

Skraba said the lodge had been using the road for years. Horan added that the lodge had also maintained portions of the road, some of which was done by him personally.

"If you overburden an easement, it can be denied to you," Mr. Sheehan said. "With 33 units, that's exactly what is going to happen. You have to do something for us here."

Mr. Sheehan said there was an official easement record on file with the county since 1989 that spelled out the requirements.

He also added that the county requires RV parks to be completely hidden from view, both from neighboring properties and adjacent roadways.

Commissioner Keith Nelson asked how the project would do that.

Horan and Ribich said they wanted to leave as much of the existing foliage in place as possible.

Final Discussion

Following the closing of public comments, the board had their own contentious debate with Skraba firmly expressing his opposition to the plan if Horan and Ribich could not guarantee resort traffic would stay off of BayView Drive and have adequate screening. He wanted his requirement as an amendment to the plan.

Nelson and David Pollock, however, questioned the need for an amendment, instead allowing a friendly amendment to require that signage for the lodge be moved to the new roadway.

Nelson said because of county ordinances, adequate screening between the properties was already required and it was pointless to include it in the motion to pass the project.

The amendment to the plan failed to pass with Nelson saying fences would be ugly and the idea was to preserve the natural beauty of the area.

Skraba said he still would not favor the project without something in writing that would guarantee a protection to the neighbors surrounding the lodge property.

The vote on the permit was seven in favor, including Nelson and Pollock, with Skraba and one other commissioner opposing.

The project now goes before the full county board for approval sometime in the new year.

Be The Creature Stirring This Christmas!
from VERMILION LAND OFFICE



Winning Artist • Thomas Aldrich
Grade 4

Bright Holiday Wishes to You!
from Pelican Lake Resort



Winning Artist LUCY TALBERG
Kindergarten

Dance Around The Christmas Tree!
from Vermilion Fuel & Food



Winning Artist • Josilaney Feather
Kindergarten

Feast In The Excitement of Christmas!
from Wally's Auto



Winning Artist • Rory Bundy
Grade 6

May The Peace Of The Season Be With You
from VOYAGAIRES LODGE & HOUSEBOATS



Winning Artist • LYDIA TRIP
Grade 6

Have a Very Merry Christmas!
from LUMBER ORR HARDWARE



Winning Artist • ALEX BOON
Grade 4

Sharing Cozy & Happy With You...
from VERMILION PARK INN-SOUDAN



Winning Artist • KATIE LARSON
Grade 2

We Extend Greetings to You!
from VERMILION CLUB



Artist Raeanna Medicine-Strand
Grade 4

Warm Wishes This Festive Season!
from Vermilion Land Office-Cook



Winning Artist JASMINE MUNSON
GRADE 6

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

A Christmas cookie walk tradition

Ely's First Lutheran church ladies sweeten up the holidays



by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Part of getting ready for Christmas in Ely for many cookie and treat lovers includes participating in the age-old tradition of the Christmas Cookie Walk.

Members of First Lutheran Church here spend countless hours in their kitchens in early December baking all sorts of traditional holiday goodies to donate for the church auxiliary's Cookie Sale and Dessert Social. Each baker commits to making at least five dozen treats.

The event was held last

Long tables full of homemade Christmas cookies and treats are snatched up in a matter of minutes at the annual cookie walk event held at First Lutheran Church in Ely. Women's Club member Elaine Hartleben, right, fills up a box for a home-bound cookie lover.

photos by K. Vandervort

Saturday afternoon in the church basement and was sold out in no time at all as cookie customers waited in a line that spiraled up the staircase and into the church lobby. Beginning at 1 p.m. sharp, one by one they filled a cake box with as many treats as it would hold. Experienced cookie walkers could place about three pounds of sugary perfection into their containers. Some even filled two boxes.

For \$7 per pound,

cookie walkers saved lots of time in their own kitchens this holiday season and helped pay for remodeling and renovations to the kitchen in the church fellowship hall that needs new plumbing and updated cupboards that date back to the late 1960s.

There was also a baked goods table overflowing with breads, tarts and other goodies, a craft table, complete with the cut-out fabric and instructions to make a life-size Common

Loon doorstep (just add a bag of sand for the weight), and a silent auction for a queen-size and full-size handmade quilts.

After all that, participants could sit down and enjoy a dessert, homemade of course, and cup of coffee for just \$3. At least one person was spotted eating cookies they had just bought as they made their way through the parking lot to their car.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TEDA mulls community broadband committee

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The Tower Economic Development Authority, on Thursday, discussed the formation of the new community broadband committee, that will be working on the issue of broadband connectivity in our area.

Stephanie Ukkola, who is helping lead the effort, updated TEDA on the working session she and Michael Wood attended in Grand Rapids last month. Among other goals, she said they're hoping to recruit 10-12 members, including township representatives, community members, and business owners, to serve on the committee.

The newly-forming committee will hold its first working session on Thursday, Jan. 10 from 5 – 7 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center. They will meet with representatives from the Blandin Foundation to learn about the task ahead, and funding opportunities. The group will host a community visioning session on Feb. 13 at the old Legion Building on Main Street from 4 – 7 p.m.

"The training session in Grand Rapids was very helpful," Ukkola said. "I feel more confident about my knowledge of the program."

TEDA member Steve Peterson Jr., who is also clerk of Vermilion Lake Township, said that Vermilion Lake intends to send a representative to the committee. Contacts will be made with other area townships.

Main Street trees

TEDA member Marit Kringstad asked Tower City Clerk/Treasurer Linda Keith about the city's policy on Main Street trees. Kringstad noted that Keith had told the Main Street Committee that the city council had voted to remove all the trees planted in the sidewalk area.

Keith said the city policy was to simply remove any dead or dying trees, and not replace them.

"People don't want them," Keith said. Keith added that the root systems of the trees had damaged the electrical boxes that had been installed at each tree location, and that the salt and other de-icing chemicals used on the street and sidewalk were

not good for the trees either.

TEDA member Joan Broten noted that many of the trees are not strategically placed, and block the view of storefronts.

Harbor committee

Broten asked what was happening with the city's harbor committee and said she would like to see the committee become active again, as well as have community and business owner input.

Keith said the committee, which was a city council committee, had been disbanded since it had fulfilled its duties relating to getting the harbor area ready for development.

Incoming Mayor Orlyn Kringstad said the issue of the harbor com-

mittee would be addressed at the council's reorganization meeting on Jan. 8.

Other business

► TEDA is still interested in the idea of having a disc golf course in Tower. A disc golf developer visited the area adjacent to the city ski trail parking lot and would like to explore it further. Some of the area needed may be on county land. Keith said the county would be interested in leasing the land to the city, as long as it didn't infringe on the gravel pit and access road in that area. TEDA will have the disc golf group go and flag the area it is interested in, and then TEDA may ask the city council to approve

hiring a surveyor to see if any of the area infringes on the adjacent county parcel, or if it is all on city-owned land.

► Broten discussed the idea of starting up a community garden. TEDA will contact Victoria Ranua, who has experience in this field, to see what steps need to be taken, and find a good location.

► Keith told the TEDA board that the city had received a data request for all emails from the TEDA chair in 2017. The TEDA chair at that time was Marshall Helmberger, who was using his own business email, not a city email account. Keith refused to tell the board who the request was from, falsely claiming it was

private data. In fact, the name of a requestor is typically public data unless the person is the subject of the data requested and the information is otherwise protected.

► Steve Peterson Jr. asked if the data request was specific enough to meet city guidelines, and Keith said it was. He noted this was a request that needed to be handled by the city, not by the TEDA board. As of this week, Helmberger had already notified Keith that the emails were prepared for release, but Keith has not responded in recent days regarding the request.

► TEDA holds its next meeting on Thursday, Jan. 3.




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TUESDAY GROUP

Is climate change just a concept?

Citizens' lobby pushes new legislation to address new reality

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — Advocates of prompt action to address climate change spoke at a recent Tuesday Group gathering, arguing for Carbon Fee and Dividend legislation and highlighting the importance of the Citizens' Climate Lobby, or CCL.

North Shore resident and author Katya Gordon, who wrote "Sea Change: Addressing Climate Change on Lake Superior," (See review on Page 10B) and Eric Enberg, M.D., who works for St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth, presented his "Political/Financial Perspective on Climate Change."

Retired Ely resident Barb Jones, who earned a PhD in Physics at the University of London and was a professor of Physics at the University of California-San Diego, explained how the legislation and the citizens' lobby can help address the growing climate change challenges.

Their recent presentation came as concerns about climate change are intensifying around the world in the wake of two key scientific reports issued in the past few months that have suggested that time is rapidly running out for humans to address climate change in time to avoid catastrophic effects.

Many people, but

not all, are concerned about global warming and understand the need to slow or stop the addition of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, according to Enberg

"Citizens' Climate Lobby advocates that one of the best ways to help our economy shift to less carbon use is through federal legislation called Carbon Fee and Dividend," he said. A bipartisan bill to implement the concept was introduced to Congress earlier this month. It takes steps to implement the "Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act."

How it works

Producers of oil, gas or coal pay a fee to the government based on how much carbon dioxide (CO2) would be produced by that fuel. "The fee starts at \$15 per ton of CO2 and increases by \$10 per ton each year," Jones said. "The government collects the fees and returns the money to each household by a monthly dividend check."

The whole process is revenue neutral.

The producers of the oil, gas or coal will pass on their costs to consumers, so we can expect costs to rise, she said. For example, for each \$10 per ton of CO2, gasoline will increase in cost by about 11 cents a gallon.

"Other products will

increase in cost also, but products that use less carbon-intensive energy in their production will increase less than those that heavily use carbon-based energy," she said. "For the average consumer (that is about 70 percent of us) the monthly dividend check will more than cover these costs. The high-end users will be out of pocket."

Under the bill, according to Jones, the dividend check will be handled by the Internal Revenue Service or the Social Security Administration and will come to each tax filing household with one share for each adult and a half share for up to two children.

All the fees will be returned minus a couple percent for administration costs. "It is expected that the additional revenue coming to the average consumer will boost the economy, providing many new jobs," she added.

In the bill just introduced, fuel for agriculture is exempted so the fees that farmers pay for diesel for their tractors, etc., will be directly rebated.

"As the fees increase, consumers will likely seek the cheaper options," Jones said. "Those options will be products that use cleaner energy in their manufacture and transportation. This will slowly push the economy to greener choices. These changes will be made by market

forces and not mandates."

Studies show that in just 20 years, such a "fee and dividend" system could reduce carbon emissions up to 50 percent of 1990 levels while adding 2.8 million jobs to the American economy.

A "Border Tax Adjustment" would be made for products imported or exported to the United States. "This will prevent companies gaining advantage by moving manufacturing operations across the border or overseas," Jones said. "This process would likely encourage other countries to adopt similar Fee and Dividend legislation."

Ely efforts

As many as five years ago, a discussion group called "Climate Change Group" was formed involving local citizens who wanted to learn more about global warming. They continue to meet the first Tuesday of each month at the Ely Senior Center.

"It is very informal, and we talk about some of the many aspects of global warming, usually taking a specific topic each month," Jones said. "We occasionally have 'experts' come to talk with us but mostly we do our own research. This is not a lobbying group, more of an educational exercise."

Usually 10 to 20 people attend and most participate in the discussion, she said. "Some of us wanted to

New Minnesota education standards would reflect man-made climate change

Teachers across the state will soon be addressing proposed science education standards that would, for the first time in Minnesota, teach that humans are the primary cause of climate change.

Some educators already teach about humans' impact on the climate. Writing it into state standards would add muscle if they face pushback from students or parents.

And it would help ensure the topic gets taught.

The Minnesota science education standards get an update every 10 years. A committee of K-12 educators, higher education representatives and community members create and revise the standards during a months-long review and approval process.

Once they're in place, teachers' coursework must align with statewide standards. Individual educators and districts still have final say in how they present concepts to students.

Members of the public have opportunities to comment before the final standards take effect. The first public comment period has closed, and a second draft of the standards is expected mid-February.

If approved, the standards would be phased in starting next year.

be more active, and with help from Katya (Gordon), we discovered Citizens' Climate Lobby and decided to see if a CCL chapter in Ely would be viable," Jones said.

The Ely Climate Change Lobby group has been active for about a year. "Our goals are to educate our friends, neighbors, local politicians, and the community at large about the problems of global warming and the advantages of passing a Carbon

Fee and Dividend Bill in Congress," she said.

"We have written letters, made phone calls, talked with candidates who are running for office and had a table at the Ely Farmers Market last summer. We have almost 100 people on our email list and a core group of five to eight people who get things done. We get help from CCL chapters in Duluth/Two Harbors, Grand Marais and Mt. Iron."

COUNTY SCHOOLS

Hibbing to join Iron Range school collaborative

by MARCUS WHITE
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL - The Hibbing School District is throwing its support behind a proposed collaboration agreement between several school districts across the Iron Range. At Tuesday evening's meeting of the St. Louis County School Board, Superintendent Reggie Engebritson informed the school board the six districts involved in the plan will seek funds from the state Legislature to aid in the effort.

The agreement as it currently stands will include St. Louis County Schools, Mt. Iron-Buhl, Chisholm, Ely, Mesabi East, and Hibbing.

Beginning next year, Engebritson said the districts will begin working on an integrated bell schedule along with joint summer camps to be offered at the end of the current school year.

Engebritson added that the districts would be looking at how other areas of the school system could be affected, such as union contracts and transportation costs. She provided no details as to what those affects might be.

Currently, both St. Louis County Schools and Mt. Iron-Buhl already share payroll, nursing and transportation services as well as sharing Engebritson as superintendent of both districts.

The district's Director of Teaching and Learning, Kristi Berlin, gave the

board an update on the rollout of the Multitiered System of Support (MTSS) program through the state.

Berlin said the district is currently working on further integrating high school Special Ed students into core classrooms without having to remove them for special instruction.

She said students should be learning core

subjects from the teachers who specialize in the topics.

MTSS works on a three-tiered system.

Tier one is core instruction. Tier two is lending extra support in the classroom where students may need some extra help. Tier three is providing extra instruction outside the classroom for those students who

need it.

"The minute we pull those kids out of class, they are getting two levels of instruction and we can't repair that gap," Berlin said.

Board member Chet Larson asked how the schools would identify students going forward for tier three help.

"It's when they are not on the same level as

the rest of the class or they need help with behaviors to get to the same level as the rest of the class," Berlin responded.

On top of special education, Berlin said the district plans to have teachers unify their teaching schedules by teaching the same topics at the same time in given subject areas.

"We want the teachers

to do their thing," Berlin said, "but we want to make sure there is a standard to it."

She noted that some teachers would likely not be happy with the move. She added the district had originally planned to implement similar standards five years ago but did not enforce it as heavily as they plan to in the new year.

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NORDIC SKIING

Ely skiers have strong season opener

Johnston takes first among 28 skiers in boys competition

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

HIDDEN VALLEY – The Ely Nordic ski teams are off to a strong start as the boys team finished first in last Thursday’s home meet, while the girls team took third.

Conditions were fast at Hidden Valley, and Ely sophomore Jasper Johnston took advantage to claim first place

in a field of 28 skiers from five schools.

Johnston wasn’t alone, as the entire Ely boys team finished in the top 14 to claim first place overall. “Our boys team did very well,” said Ely Head Coach Paula Anderson.

On the girls side, eighth-grader Zoe Devine finished in fifth place overall. “Zoe had a break-out race finishing fifth in varsity after

she was a junior high racer all last season.” The girls squad is dominated by underclassmen, but that didn’t stop them from placing three additional racers in the top 15 spots last Thursday..

“The girls were solid and will continue to develop as the season progresses,” said

See **NORDIC...**pg. 2B



Spectators cheer as Jasper Johnston leaves the starting line.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies roll past T-Wolves

North Woods dominates in 72-40 win

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY— The Grizzly boys have become a nemesis of sorts for the Timberwolves in recent years, and they filled that role yet again on Friday night as they dominated Ely on their home court. The Grizzlies cruised to a 72-40 win as four North Woods players, led by sophomore Darius Goggleye, reached double digits. The Timberwolves, meanwhile, struggled offensively, shooting an anemic 31 percent from the floor.

After losing a couple key players to graduation last year, the big question for the Grizzly boys basketball squad was whether they could reproduce the magic that took them to the state championship match last year. Now, after five straight convincing victories, including Friday night’s win here, it looks like the Grizzlies just might be contenders yet again.

North Woods Head Coach Will Kleppe said he was pleased with what he saw on the court on Friday. “Ely is always going to move the ball well in the half court and I thought our defense created some problems for them and kept them out of any offensive rhythm,” he said.

The Grizzlies, on Friday, did most of their

Coach Will Kleppe

See **BOYS...**pg. 2B



Above: North Woods senior guard Chase Kleppe goes in for a jump shot under pressure from Ely’s Collen Seliskar.

Left: Ely junior guard Eric Omerza looks to work his way around standout North Woods guard Cade Goggleye.

photos by J. Greeney

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Chiabotti hits 1,000 in big week for Grizz

Strong hits two at the buzzer in win over Barnum

by Marcus WHITE
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP— It was a nail-biting, picture perfect ending to a close game Tuesday night as Sasha Strong went up for two points as time ran out to give the Grizzlies a 81-79 win over Barnum before an enthusiastic home crowd.

And it wasn’t the only big play of the week for the Grizzlies, as senior Brianna Chiabotti connected on a free throw to tally her 1,000th career point in last Thursday’s contest with Fond du Lac. It was a big turnaround for North Woods as they won three straight this past week to improve to 5-3 on the season.

During Tuesday night’s game, Chiabotti led the way for the Grizzlies, with 27 points. Kate Stone added 14,

See **GRIZZLIES...**pg. 2B

Sports week

BOYS B-BALL

Friday Dec. 21
Ely at Lake of the Woods, 6:30 p.m.

Friday Dec. 28 and Saturday Dec. 29
Ely basketball tournament

GIRLS B-BALL

Friday Dec. 21
Ely hosts Two Harbors, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday Dec. 27
Ely hosts Wrenshall, 7:15 p.m.

Friday Dec. 28
Ely hosts Carlton, 3:45 p.m.

HOCKEY

Friday Dec. 21
Ely at Lake of the Woods, 6 p.m.

Thursday Dec. 27 - Sunday Dec. 29
Ely at North Shore Tournament

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lislegard scores 47, leads ‘Hawks to first victory

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

FOND DU LAC— The Nighthawks’ girls basketball team is struggling in the early-going this year, but senior guard Shayler Lislegard is having a break-out season as the team’s dominant player.

And she proved that again on Tuesday as she scored 47 points to lead her team to their first win of the season, as Northeast Range topped Fond du Lac 67-53.

“It was Shayler’s biggest night ever,” said Head Coach Paxton Goodsky.

The game remained close throughout most of the first half, although the Nighthawks took a seven-point lead into the break. They extended that to 14 at one point early in the second half, before Fond du Lac hit a hot streak and closed the gap to just two. “But we managed to pull away at the end,” said Goodsky.

Improvement on the fundamentals helped, as

See **‘HAWKS...**pg. 2B



HOCKEY

Wolves still winless

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY – The Wolves’ offensive struggles continued this week as they fell 5-1 to Southwest Christian. Ely managed just 21 shots on goal in the contest, compared to 49 shots for Southwest Christian, a combination

of Richfield and Southwest Christian high schools.

The Wolves have yet to outshoot an opponent this season.

The Eagles put 18 shots on target in the first period compared to just four

See **HOCKEY...**pg. 2B

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Kallberg, Mattson spark big Ely win over Chisholm

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

CHISHOLM— Ely juniors Brielle Kallberg and Erika Mattson lit up the boards Monday night as they combined for 55 points to lead Ely to a convincing 87-37 win over a young Chisholm squad. Kallberg, Ely's domi-

nant point guard, fell just one assist short of a triple-double, after racking up 23 points, 14 rebounds, and nine assists in addition to eight steals. While it seemed, at times, like Kallberg was in two places at once, Mattson stalked the three-point arc much of the night, connecting on eight treys in 17 attempts on her way to a game-

leading 32 points. The Timberwolves grabbed the lead in the opening minutes and kept building from there, using nearly constant pressure to keep the Bluestreaks off balance. "We put on a lot of full court pressure, which led to many quick and good opportunities on offense," said Ely Head Coach Darren Visser. Indeed,

the Wolves combined for a remarkable 20 steals in the game and dominated the boards with 39 total rebounds. Visser said the team continues to gain confidence. "Everyone is starting to gel together and figure their role within the team. That helps us become a much more complete team."

Senior Lida Dodge helped out in Monday's contest, with eight points, four assists and four steals, while Winter Sainio and Taylor Gibney scored six apiece. The Wolves, now 3-2, will host Two Harbors on Friday night. They'll host Wrenshall on Thursday, Dec. 27. Tip-off for both games is set for 7:15 p.m.

Sports briefly

Top-ranked Grizz roll past Esko

FIELD TWP - The sixth-ranked Grizzlies edged ninth-ranked Esko here Monday night, downing the Eskomos 72-67. "The Esko game was a big

win for us considering their ranking in the state," said Head Coach Will Kleppe. "They put a lot of pressure on our guards and we responded by moving the ball to the open man. Our senior captains, Cade and Chase, really stepped up and dominated

in their respective roles." Cade Goggleye had a big night, pouring in 23 points, along with five rebounds and three assists. Chase Kleppe and Darius Goggleye had 14 points apiece with Kleppe adding nine rebounds. The younger

Goggleye had six boards. Esko's Trevor Spindler was the Eskomos' top scorer with 17 points and six rebounds. The Grizzlies are now 6-1 on the season, mirroring their success during last year's season. They were set to play

Lakeview-Christian on Thursday night on the road with a tipoff time of 7:15 p.m. The team then heads to an extended break for the holiday season before returning to play Red Lake on the road on Jan. 4.

NORDIC...Continued from page 1B



Left: Zoe Devine powers up a slope during last week's Nordic event at Hidden Valley. photo by M. Devine

Anderson. "The skiers on both teams were given a great opportunity to get back into race mode," she added. "Results are less important at this point of the season, we focus much more on racing prep and process." While her skiers performed well, Anderson

cautioned that the results might not be indicative of what the team will face later in the season. "Many of the top skiers from other teams were not there yesterday so it is hard to fairly evaluate results," she said. The Wolves' next scheduled meet is Thursday at Coleraine. Here are the top individual performances by Ely and team results. **Ely Individual Boy Places** 1. Jasper Johnston Sophomore 14:39.7

4. James Schwinghamer Junior 15:21.6 6. Raif Olson Junior 15:24.3 9. Kjetil Midttun Junior 15:58.7 13. Nate Nettifee Junior 16:21.1 **Ely Individual Girl Places** 5. Zoe Devine Eighth 18:23.7 8. Kalyssa Eilrich Junior 18:58.8 12. Julia Schwinghamer Sophomore 19:21.6 15. Brooke Pasmick Junior 19:21.6 20. Anna Bercher Junior 20:42.4

26. Lucy Stouffer Senior 22:34.7 **Boys Team Places** 1. Ely 384 2. Grand Rapids 376 3. Cloquet-Esko-Carlton 353 4. Duluth East 351 5. Mesabi East 331 **Girls Team Places** 1. Grand Rapids 375 2. Duluth East 374 3. Ely 364 4. Mesabi East 341 5. Cloquet-Esko-Carlton 335

HOCKEY...Continued from page 1B

for the Wolves. A superior goaltending effort by Ely senior Tyler Housey kept Southwest Christian scoreless until its final shot on a power play, giving the Eagles a 1-0 lead to start the second. The Eagles would add two more goals in the second period, giving them a 3-0 lead going into the final frame. Southwest added two

more goals before junior Luke Olson, with an assist from Nick Mattila, put the Timberwolves on the scoreboard with just 1:58 left in the game. The Wolves were again outshot 16-10 in the period. Tyler Housey defended 44 of 49 shots for Ely for a .897 save percentage. Penalties kept the Wolves off balance much of the game, as a total of

eight infractions kept Ely players in the box for a total of 24 minutes. The Eagles spent just six minutes off the ice on penalties. Ely traveled to Moose Lake last Friday, where they managed to notch their first tie of the season. The Wolves led 2-0 for a time, but allowed the Rebels to score three straight goals to take the lead before a late Ely goal

knotted the score at three apiece. Nick Mattila gave Ely its first lead of the season with an unassisted goal to start the second period. Jeremiah Kaercher, with an assist from Austin Meskill, gave Ely a 2-0 lead. The Rebels would score a goal to end the second period leaving the Wolves up 2-1. Moose Lake Area

would start the third with back-to-back goals giving them a one-goal lead. Ely's Luke Olson stepped up to score the last goal in regulation leaving the game tied at the end of regulation. Neither team added points in the overtime, leaving a 3-3 final score. Freshman goalie Chase Sandberg had his best statistical game of the season as he had a .930

save percentage when he deflected 40 of 43 shots. The Wolves had just two penalties for six minutes in the box compared to two infractions and just four minutes for the Rebels. Ely next heads to Lake of the Woods on Friday. Game time is 6 p.m.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from 1B

while Strong and Regan Ratai added 12 points apiece. It was a back-and-forth match with the Bombers, with the score tied right up to the final second. At Wrenshall on Monday, the Grizzlies would down the Wrens on the road 82-56. Plenty of North Woods players got in


on the scoring action. Brynn Simpson led the way with 11 points, while Stone added 10. Chiabotti, Genesis Day, and Alanna Rutchasky added nine points apiece. Goggleye said his team started slowly, but finally picked up the pace. "It took us about 12 minutes to get into the game," Goggleye said.

"We made some adjustments at half time and got a lot more points and lot more turnovers from them." **A career milestone** Last Thursday's game will go down in the Grizzly history books, with Chiabotti hitting the 1,000th point of her career in the team's match against Fond du Lac.

"I'm very proud of her," Goggleye said. "She works very hard on her basketball. She's always up in the gym with her dad. They've put in a lot of work." Chiabotti is the first girls basketball player in North Woods history to earn the coveted 1,000th point. The point came amid cheers from fans at the


North Woods gymnasium. Along with her 1,000th point, Chiabotti led the team with 24 total points. Stone would add 15 to the total with Simpson, Rutchasky and Hanna Kinsey each adding another 10. "We played really tough at Fond du Lac," Goggleye said. "They were undermanned and they

couldn't keep up with us." The Grizzlies are now on an extended holiday break. They'll return to the court to face Northeast Range on Jan 3. Tipoff for the game is scheduled for 7:15 p.m. at North Woods.



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BOYS...Continued from 1B

offensive damage stalking the arc, as they connected on a total of 11 three-point shots. Freshman T.J. Chiabotti had the hot hand from outside, connecting on four treys, while senior Ian Sherman added three. Seniors Cade Goggleye and Dylan Chiabotti added two treys apiece. Darius Goggleye worked the paint and went three-for-three from the charity stripe for his game-leading 17 points. Sherman finished with 15 points, while Chiabotti posted 12

and Chase Kleppe added ten. Senior Patrick Vanderbeek and junior Dylan Fenske both scored nine for Ely, while junior Eric Omerza added eight points and six rebounds.

'HAWKS... Continued from 1B

the Nighthawks limited turnovers and took advantage of their opportunities at the free-throw line, hitting 21 of 34 from the stripe. Despite her dominant performance, Lislegard needed help and she got it from junior center Casey Zahnow, who put up 12 points, and senior Sophie Lenz, who added four. The Nighthawks are off next week for the holidays. They'll be back in action Dec. 27 and 28 at the Ely Holiday Tournament.



**Steve Fields
Minnesota Attorney**

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Obituaries and Death Notices



Lawrence P. Nehring

Lawrence “Larry” Patrick Nehring, 67, of Babbitt, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Monday, Dec. 10, 2018. Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 11, 2019, at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Hibbing. Visitation will

be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Larry was born the youngest of two children to Alfred and Constance (Olson)Nehring on March 8, 1951, in Hibbing. He was a loving, selfless, kind-hearted person who loved to spend time with his family and friends. He also loved hunting, fishing, traveling, football, baseball, and going for drives. Larry had been employed as a direct support professional at Rural Living Environment. Larry is survived by his wife, Susan (Jensen) Gerber-Nehring of Babbitt; three children, Ryan (Julie) Nehring of Chisholm, Rachel (Jeffrey) Arthurs of Champlin and Lindsey (Jacob) Jenc of Duluth; stepdaughter, Samantha (Kevin) Gerber-Zimski of

Hugo; six grandchildren, Sean, Regan, Jackson, Reed, Averl and Charles; sister, Karen (Patrick) White of Hibbing; numerous nieces and nephews; and his beloved dog, Otter. He was preceded in death by his parents; and stepdaughter, Amy Gerber.

Clifford L. Hoheisel

Clifford “Cliff” Leo Hoheisel, 85, of Babbitt, passed away on Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018, at his home in Babbitt surrounded by his loving family following a courageous battle with cancer. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 22 at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Babbitt with Father Bill Skarich

officiating. Visitation will start at 10 a.m. Luncheon will follow at the church. Interment will be at the Argo Cemetery. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely. He is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years, Joan; children, Mary (Brian Preusser) of St. Cloud, Paul (special friend Cathy Bissonette) of Babbitt, Patricia (Brad Butkowski) of St. Michael and Robert (Lynn Kegler) of Zimmerman; 11 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; sisters, Adeline (William) Gunther and Mary (Raymond) Lucking, both of Pierz, Shirley (Roger) Postrick of Blaine and Jean (Gerald) Billmeyer of Arizona.

Dolores Michlitsch

Dolores Michlitsch, 91, of Eveleth and formerly of Babbitt, died on Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018, at New Journey Residence in Eveleth. A private family service will be held. Family services provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her children, Craig of Eden, S.D., Marlowe of Rushmore, Gloria (Michael) Huseby of Embarrass and Brian (Deb) of Minneapolis; grandchildren, extended family and friends.

Joseph Telich

Joseph “Joe” Telich, 96, left us on Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018, at Carefree Living in Ely. A Memorial Mass was held on Thursday, Dec. 20 at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely. Family arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely. He is survived by his wife, Florence of Ely; daughter, Jo Ann Erickson of Le Bugue, France; sisters, Katherine Lenich of Ely and Jean Vasicek of Florida; nephew, Matt Smrekar of Ely; and numerous other nieces and nephews.

THE NEWS OF THE WEEK FROM MS. VERA MILION

Dear Hearts,

We at Chateau du Vera had quite a shocker this past week which involved an ambulance, stretchers, sirens, flashing lights and Hilda! We were doing some pre-holiday baking—Christmas Cookies. We had finished the spritz and were frosting our first batch of sugar cookies when Hilda keeled over. I immediately called an ambulance, and we rocketed to a nearby hospital. It was OIFBCC! The phrase was tossed about, by the ambulance driver, the emergency room doctor, even a janitor in the emergency room. “Is it,” I said hesitantly to the doctor, “Is it, is it— aerophagia, dyspepsia, acidosis, or gaseous stomach?” There was a pause. The doctor’s face took on a suspicious look— his eyes narrowed. “And, how do you know about aerophagia, dyspepsia or acidosis? Gaseous stomach you could pick up from loitering at some beery dive, places where one shoots pool and snooker. However, aerophagia, dyspepsia from when you hang out at pool halls? Cheap places where money is bet, and snooker is played...” We cut him off. “On the ride here, I paged through ‘Hazzard’s Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology,’ her symptoms indicate to me...” “Pashaw,” he spat out, slapping his hand with his stethoscope. “I do not have to peruse ‘Hazzard’s Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology,’ or ‘Netter’s Anatomy Coloring Book!’ We see this a lot during

this time of year; your friend suffers from a seasonal disorder— plain old OIFBCC.” “OIFBCC, will she live? Does this mean a trip to Rochester— the Mayo Clinic? Macy’s, here we come!!!” He cleared his throat. “OIFBCC,” he pronounced with a sigh, “We see many cases of it this time of year, OIFBCC !” " O I F B C C has éclat, flair, glamour, panache, verve...put that in your “Hazzard’s Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology.” We are almost sure that she was suffering from, a list spun through my aged head “Yellow Fever, Ablepharon-Macrostomia Syndrome, or...” a dramatic pause, “Aceruloplasminemia.” Hilda squealed, “OMGHOIFBCC...we will be famous. We will be on the ten o’clock news, me and Earl Henton.” The doctor cleared his throat, “We have many, many cases of ‘OIFBCC’ this time of year.” “I can see a telethon in our future. OIFBCC the disease...” She was interrupted by the doctor, “OIFBCC is,” he sighed... “OIFBCC is the medical term for *Overindulgence In Frosted Butter Christmas Cookies.*” We went home to do our final baking. We feel that one CANNOT have enough Mexican Wedding Cake cookies during Christmas. Do not inflict oleo or margarine on close friends or anyone this time of year. You will never ever find in a cookbook a section entitled, “Oleo Cookies for Christmas” or “Have a Merry Margarine Yuletide.” You need to sit down and read this recipe carefully...it’s a little different. **Mexican Wedding Cakes** 1 cup BUTTER, soft-

ened 1-3/4 cups confectioners’ sugar, divided 1 teaspoon vanilla extract 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour 1/4 cup cornstarch 1/4 cup baking cocoa (NOT A MISPRINT) 1/2 teaspoon salt 1-1/4 cups finely chopped pecans or almonds 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon Directions: Preheat oven to 325 degrees. In a large bowl, cream butter and 1 cup confectioners’ sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in vanilla. Combine flour, cornstarch, cocoa and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Stir in nuts. Shape tablespoonfuls of dough into 1-inch balls. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake 12-14 minutes or until set. In a small bowl, combine cinnamon and remaining confectioners’ sugar. Roll warm cookies in sugar mixture; cool on wire racks. Store in an airtight container. Who has ever added cinnamon or cocoa to Mexican Wedding Cakes? Oh well...I cannot be political this close to the holidays. Now for the non-bakers out there: **White Chocolate-Covered Oreo Cookies** 1 package Oreo cookies 6 ounces white chocolate 1 package peppermint sprinkles Directions: Melt white chocolate. Dip each Oreo in the white chocolate, then lay out on a paper towel or baking rack and sprinkle with peppermint sprinkles. Let them cool for about 30 minutes. Not just your usual chocolate chip cookie recipe, this one adds Oreo cookies to the mix.

Oreo - Stuffed Chocolate Chip Cookies 1 cup of butter softened 3/4 cup light brown sugar, packed 3/4 cup dark brown sugar packed 1 cup white sugar 2 large eggs 1 tablespoon vanilla 3-1/2 cups flour 1 teaspoon salt 1 teaspoon baking soda 1 bag chocolate chips (12 oz.) 1 package Oreo cookies Directions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cream butter and sugars together with a mixer until well combined. Beat in eggs and vanilla. In a separate bowl, mix the flour, salt and baking soda. Slowly add dry ingredients to wet, along with chocolate chips, until just combined. Using a one-inch cookie scoop to measure out dough, place a single Oreo between two equal scoops of cookie dough. Use your hands to mold the dough around the Oreo until edges are sealed and cookie is completely enclosed in dough. Repeat with each cookie until all dough is used. Place onto a parchment- or Silpat-lined baking sheet. The cookies will expand a bit when baking, so use two pans if necessary, to provide enough space between them. Bake 11-15 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool for 5 minutes before transferring to cooling rack. Please note the cooling stricture! An ambulance run with third degree lip burns from eating cookies BEFORE they are cool is not a way to spend a holiday. PS...IF you have too many homemade cookies we will GLADLY take them off your hands. Our Christmas mantra is ‘...cookies today ...TOPS tomorrow!’ **Ms. Vera Milion**

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ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD

Paul McDonald to focus on education, mental health, jobs

by MARCUS WHITE
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL - Incoming St. Louis County Commissioner Paul McDonald had some big ideas on the campaign trail, and now he's working to find the best way to accomplish his goals.

"Everything takes time," McDonald said. "I talked during the campaign about focusing on kids; I want to do anything I can to help the next generation."

To help the next generation of District 4 residents, McDonald said he is sticking with his big three campaign promises - education, mental health and economic development.

How McDonald plans on addressing these issues is a work in progress, but he said he's been

doing his best to find the right people to help him out.

McDonald added that he has been going to county commission meetings and even filling in for outgoing Commissioner Tom Rukavina when he is unable to attend because of recent health issues.

"When you're new to the board, you need to establish relationships," he said.

When it comes to how the commissioner-elect will address mental health, he said those plans "are still in their infancy" and didn't comment further other than to say the county has some plans in mind for adding beds in Duluth and the Iron Range.

"I think we have to exhaust all of our thoughts and work with local medical facilities to put some type of plan together and

put together a feasibility study," McDonald said.

One hospital in the area, the Cook Hospital, has already begun this process, working with other rural hospitals in the Arrowhead Region to begin studying how the communities can best serve mental health patients. While McDonald is aware of the Cook program, he said he hasn't been to their meetings and prior obligations prevented him from attending the meeting on Dec. 13.

"The Cook Hospital has already been proactive," he said. "We have some things going on in this area, but we need to look at expanding those and bringing in more partners."

Those partners, he said, should include other medical facilities in Ely and Aurora.

On the topic of education, McDonald said he wants to expand scholarship availability to students attending community colleges on the Iron Range.

"More than \$100,000 has already been given," he said. "We need to give more."

To increase those funds, McDonald said he is looking at mineral royalties and diverting more money into scholarship funds at area schools such as Vermilion, Mesabi Range and Hibbing community colleges.

To keep students in the area, McDonald is hoping the region invests in broadband Internet to keep graduates local.

"We need to put some time on developing some partnerships," he said. "You work with your legislators at the state and with county lobbyists both local

and state. You keep knocking on doors to relay the message."

McDonald said he hopes the county will conduct a survey and hold listening sessions in the region to see where people are having the largest issues with Internet access.

"I wish I had an answer on how it's all done," he said. "It will take a lot of work, working with local governments. We need to have a united front to make this a priority for everybody."

McDonald said improvements have been made in rural areas around Ely, but work remains to be done around Crane Lake and Aurora.

McDonald officially takes office on Jan. 7.

FEEDING OUR FAMILIES

Stock the Shelves event raised over \$220,000

Event also included a special fundraiser challenge for the Cook Food Shelf

ST. PAUL - Minnesota DFL Senator Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) hosted the 12th Annual Stock the Shelves event Monday night where attendees raised over \$220,000 for Arrowhead regional food shelves and the Cook Emergency Challenge. The generous donations will alleviate looming food insecurity for thousands of northern Minnesota families.

"Hunger and food instability affect every region of Minnesota," Bakk said. "I am grateful to the sponsors who have helped stock the shelves in my home area, which faces some of the highest unemployment in the state. I encourage those who are able to give back to their community this holiday season."

At this year's event, Senator Bakk introduced the Cook Emergency Challenge. Cook and surrounding communities

were dealt a blow just before Thanksgiving when a fire at Zup's Food Market left the community without its lone grocery store. The loss of this store makes it more difficult for low-income residents to purchase food.

Bakk continued, "We're excited to partner with the local food shelves and community to respond to the need. The Iron Range town will struggle to meet its food needs this winter after the devastating fire of the only full-service grocery store in nearly 30 miles."

The Cook Emergency Challenge will provide temporary emergency food access resources, including increased capacity of the Cook Community Food Shelf, access to a mobile food shelf, community-based services to provide rides and shopping services, and more. A portion of the dollars dedicated to the Cook

Emergency Challenge come from the Minnesota Food Shelf Program which distributes food to nearly 300 food shelves throughout the state. These local food shelves provide food to individuals and families suffering from hunger as they work to become economically self-sufficient.

To contribute to the Cook Emergency Challenge, visit <http://bit.ly/Cook-Challenge>.

"When a grocery store disappears from a community like Cook, the community needs to rally together to make sure everyone has access to healthy food, and we have certainly seen that here," said Colleen Moriarty, executive director at Hunger Solutions Minnesota. "We have worked with the Department of Human Services for years on the Minnesota Food Shelf Program grant. Our partnership is responsive and nimble in being able to

help local food shelves step up and help fill the gap for low-income residents and seniors in the community."

The "Stock the Shelves" event began eleven years ago when Iron Range food shelves were having trouble keeping their shelves stocked into the holiday season. Today, unemployment is still higher in the Arrowhead than across the state. This means many families are stretched to the limit and relying on food shelves to eat.

Paul Carlson, Executive Director at the AEOA said, "It's great to see the larger Minnesota community rally around as they figure out solutions to meet the needs of the community that was affected by the loss of the only grocery store in Cook. Thank you Senator Bakk for continuing to be a champion for Iron Range communities."

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Reuters and Ameriprise Financial.

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Happy Holidays to all Northerners!
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Artist • CELICE KING
Grade 3

Warm Wishes This Holiday Season
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Grade 5

The Spirit of Christmas Surrounds Us
from Vermilion Senior Living



Winning Artist • DENIKO DUPREE
Grade 1

TOWER'S CHARTER SCHOOL

Vermilion Country School showing healthy fund balance

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — The Vermilion Country School, a grades 7-12 charter school, continues to show financial growth according to the school’s latest audit report, produced by the Abdo, Eick & Meyers auditing firm.

The school, now in its sixth year of operation, has enjoyed consistent budget surpluses despite its small size, with current enrollment in the low 40s. In the most recently completed school year, which ended June 30, 2018, Vermilion Country posted total general fund revenues of \$690,235, with total expenditures of \$619,378.

That left a general

fund surplus for the year of \$70,857. The school continues to maintain a modest deficit in the food service budget, which amounted to \$29,703 in the last school year. That left a total budget surplus for all accounts of \$41,154, bringing the school’s unreserved general fund balance to \$175,303, or about 28 percent of its total budget. On a percentage basis, that’s well above the unreserved fund balance of most other school districts in the region.

The audit report did note that the school would benefit from higher enrollment, since the bulk of funding for the school is based on its student count. “Student enrollment is a constant concern,” notes

the report. “At the time of this report enrollment is at about 40 students which is consistent with fiscal year 2017. This number is quite a bit lower than desired and causes stress on budgeting especially staffing. Fifty-five students would be a much better number with 65 making a thriving school.”

The project-based charter school is open to all students and is a public school that requires no tuition and provides free transportation for students within a 25-30 mile radius.

Right: VCS students enjoy roasting marshmallows on a bonfire during holiday week activities.



Lake Country Co-op powering up big projects

by MARCUS WHITE
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL — Lake Country Power will be investing \$25 million in the coming year on upgrades to build a new main service center in Cohasset and update electric meters for its 67,000 customers across north-eastern and east-central Minnesota.

The co-op last changed their meters system 15 years ago, and staff with the rural cooperative have spent months researching the best options. “Fourteen employees sat on the committee to do a lot of research for the next metering system,” said company spokesperson Tami Zaun. “It’s a large investment, so we wanted the best solutions. We

visited with different coops and utilities.”

LCP work crews installed 2,500 new meters in September in the co-op’s service area south of Cloquet as part of a test project. The rest of the over 64,000 remaining meters will be installed beginning this April. The company plans to begin near its current service center in Grand Rapids and move eastward.

The whole project should take about a year and a half to complete with the final meters coming online in November 2020.

Customers should notice that it will be easier to check their own electrical usage when the new meters are installed, Zaun said. The meters will also be able to detect system outages more quickly and

produce a more accurate reading, which should lower monthly cost estimates.

System outages will also be able to be detected faster by an automated system. Using the co-op’s “SmartHub” website, members will also be able to view energy usage to the hour.

Before installation of the new meters begins, Zaun said, customers will receive a letter by mail on how the change will affect them specifically and the timeframe for their installation.

New service center

Opening next August, the main service center for the power utility will be moving down the road

from Grand Rapids to Cohasset.

“We’re in the building like a bunch of sardines in a can,” Zaun said. “When this building was constructed, it accommodated small bucket trucks. The equipment wasn’t as big as it is now. We have a lot of expensive equipment that sits outside in a pole shed. It gets worn down before it gets used.”

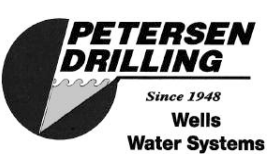
The facility has been in use since 1969 when it was built to house the Dairyland Electric Cooperative, the Grand Rapids precursor to Lake Country Power.

The bulk of the project’s \$11 million cost is being shared by all co-op members at an average of about 50 cents per month on their energy bill.

Zaun said the new

building will help facilitate work on the utility’s 10,800 square miles of territory and 43,000 members.

For more info on the co-op, check out www.lakecountrypower.coop.



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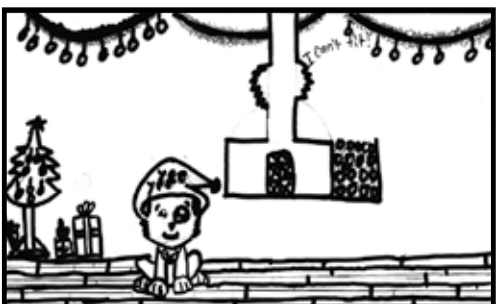
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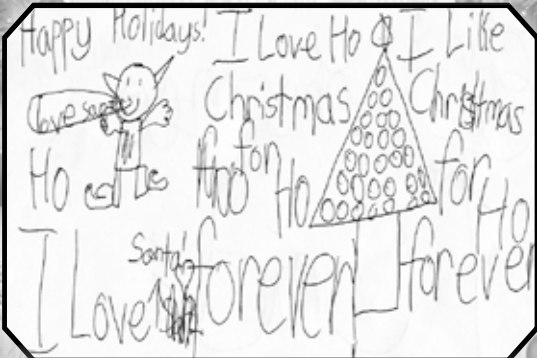
Artist • BRECKEN CORNELIUS
Kindergarten

Deck The Halls This Christmas!
from Rolando Noyes Construction



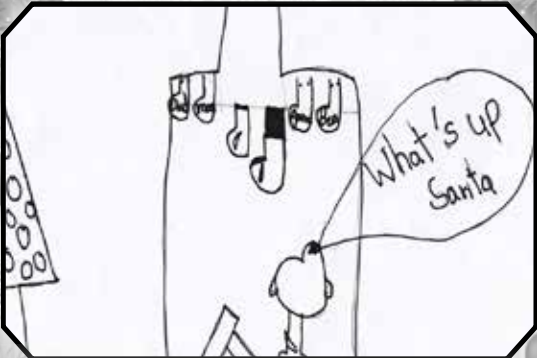
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Grade 5

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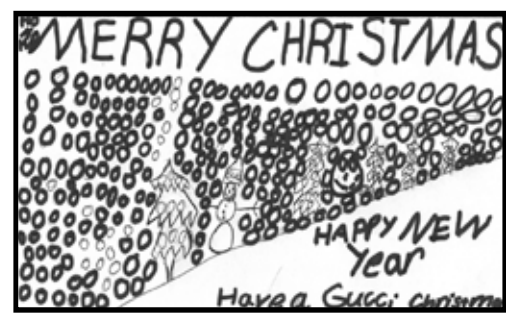
Winning Artist MICHAELA BRUNNER
Grade 2

Season's Greetings To You All
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Winning Artist • EVA LARSON
Grade 3

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Grade 5

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Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

PROTECTED STATUS

DNR reinstates refuge status for Little Rice Lake

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

LITTLE RICE LAKE—Ducks will continue to find protection here following a decision by the Department of Natural Resources to reinstate the lake as a game refuge beginning next year.

DNR officials say the decision came after public input showed overall support for the refuge, which was enacted several years ago to encourage

ducks to remain in the area longer during the hunting season.

Attendees at a public meeting on the issue in October were largely opposed to reinstating the refuge, but written comments expressed much more support for the proposal. DNR officials reported that they received 16 letters on the subject, while six members of the public spoke at the public meeting, held in Tower.

See LITTLE RICE...pg. 9B



Little Rice Lake in late summer, with emerging wild rice. The DNR has renewed the lake's protected status in hopes of encouraging ducks to remain in the area longer during the hunting season. file photo/M. HelMBERGER



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

‘Tis the season



Plenty of opportunities to take part in this annual ritual of citizen science

REGIONAL— Bird enthusiasts will be gathering around the area over the next two weeks to take part in one of the longest continuously-running examples of citizen science in the world, the annual Christmas Bird Count.

With counts planned in Ely, Cook, Eagles Nest, Isabella, and Aurora, there's almost certainly a count you can fit into a busy schedule. It can be a great way to work off a few of those extra holiday pounds as well as meet old and possibly new friends who share an interest in the outdoors.

First up is Ely's count, set for Saturday, Dec. 22, so you'll want to contact Norma Malinowski right away if you'd like to take part in this popular count. If you need more notice, there are other counts coming up over the next ten days. See contact information in the sidebar below.

Each of the Christmas counts is conducted within a 15-mile-wide count circle, centered on a specific point. CBC participants count all the birds they see on that day within the count circle. Some birders spend the day skiing or snowshoeing through the woods. Others drive the backroads, and still others count the birds at their feeders from the comfort of their living room.

Above:
A hairy woodpecker working on some suet. **Above right:** A pine grosbeak.

Right:
Scanning the treeline during the Isabella bird count last winter.



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

While the count is open to all and is free of charge, all participants will want to contact the count compiler ahead of time so they know where you plan to count, or can assign you a count area.

The Christmas Bird Counts were established by the National Audubon Society in 1900, as an alternative to New Year's Day bird shoots, which used to be a tradition in much of the U.S. While bird shoots long ago faded into history, interest in the CBC has only grown. Every year, tens of thousands of birders take part in this event, which has now spread to Canada, Mexico, and portions of Central and South America.

It's a fun way to spend a day, but it's also important scientific work that has helped professional researchers document changes in bird populations over the

See COUNT...pg. 9B



Bird counts galore

- **ELY**—Saturday, Dec. 22. Contact Norma Malinowski at normarj@frontiernet.net.
- **COOK**—Saturday, Dec. 29. Contact Julie Grahn at 218-666-2450 or jg.grahn@gmail.com.
- **ISABELLA**—Sunday, Dec. 30. Contact Steve Wilson at 218-753-6110 or clevergrayjay@gmail.com.
- **EAGLES NEST**—Friday, Jan. 4. Contact Beth Urban at 218-365-5047 or eturtlemoon@frontiernet.net.

Outdoors briefly

Feds offer cash reward in bald eagle shooting case near Cook

COOK - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering a \$2,500 reward for information on the shooting of three bald eagles near here last April. In addition to the April killings, a fourth Eagle was found shot to death on the Leech Lake Reservation in October.

The reward offer comes on the heels of an autopsy and ballistics test undertaken by USFWS investigators in Oregon to identify the types of bullets used to kill the eagles. Under a century-old law, bald eagles are illegal to hunt without a special federal permit. The penalty for poaching an eagle can be up to five years imprisonment and \$250,000 in fines.

The USFWS did not return requests for comment. Anyone with information on the eagle killings is encouraged to call the "Turn-in-a-poacher" (TIP) line at 1-800-652-9093.

Larch beetle, spruce budworm continue to damage forests

REGIONAL — The eastern larch beetle continued to infest large tracts of tamarack in northern Minnesota, and spruce budworm continued to hammer balsam fir, mostly in Lake County. That's according to the DNR.

Recent DNR mapping shows the larch beetle has infested a total of 180,800 acres of tamarack forest as of 2018. While the rate of new infection appears to have slowed slightly from 2017, DNR forest pest specialists say it's too early to know if the outbreak is beginning to ease.

Eastern larch beetle has impacted 535,000 acres of forest since the beginning of the outbreak, and University of Minnesota research indicates a changing climate is at least partly to blame.

Meanwhile, spruce budworm defoliated balsam fir and spruce on about 196,450 acres in 2018. This was almost a three-fold increase in affected acreage from 2017. An area south-east of Ely has sustained the most severe spruce budworm impact, and that area has been impacted since 2013. Most of the damaged area is federally-owned land within the Superior National Forest. Spruce budworm will likely stay active in that area until 2020, and many older balsam fir are expected to die.



Jessica Bright with a 43-inch 24-pound pike she speared on Lake Kabetogama. submitted

Fishing reports

Ely area

With the moderate temperatures of late, ice thickness has been slow to increase. Many of the lakes in the area have eight to twelve inches of good, hard, clear ice, however there are others with four inches or less in places. We cannot stress enough that it's always a good idea to drill test holes as you travel, and it's also a good idea to not venture out alone.

The few anglers that have been out are reporting catching a few walleyes from Shagawa Lake in twelve to twenty feet of water. Most action has been in the hours on either side of sunset. Live minnows on a dead stick have been the way to go for the most part,

but a few larger walleyes have been brought to the hole through active jigging of rattle and swim baits. Seems like the large bait, large fish theory holds true.

Some nice crappies and sunnies are being caught, but once again the numbers appear to be off. Much of the vegetation on the smaller lakes is still up and green, so the fish have been holding in close to the cover. This is where it's important to drill a bunch of holes where you can move about. Do some hole-hopping to achieve the best results.

Pike spearers and tip-up anglers have been getting a few fish, but no huge ones have been reported lately.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

| Friday | | | | | Saturday | | | | | Sunday | | | | | Monday | | | | | Tuesday | | | | |
|--------|----|----|-------|-------|----------|----|----|-------|-----|--------|----|----|-------|-------|--------|----|----|-------|-----|---------|----|----|-------|-------|
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| 22 12 | | | | | 24 17 | | | | | 20 5 | | | | | 17 6 | | | | | 22 7 | | | | |
| 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. |
| 12/10 | 30 | 6 | 0.00 | | 12/10 | 27 | 1 | 0.00 | | 12/10 | 27 | 12 | 0.00 | | 12/10 | 32 | 12 | 0.00 | | 12/10 | 29 | 0 | 0.00 | |
| 12/11 | 35 | 3 | 0.00 | | 12/11 | 32 | -3 | 0.00 | | 12/11 | 32 | -1 | 0.00 | | 12/11 | 25 | 0 | 0.00 | | 12/11 | 35 | -2 | 0.00 | |
| 12/12 | 28 | 3 | 0.00 | | 12/12 | 27 | -1 | 0.00 | | 12/12 | 26 | -1 | 0.00 | | 12/12 | 30 | 25 | 0.00 | | 12/12 | 27 | 6 | 0.00 | |
| 12/13 | 30 | 28 | 0.00 | | 12/13 | 29 | 26 | 0.00 | | 12/13 | 29 | 26 | 0.00 | | 12/13 | 30 | 21 | 0.00 | | 12/13 | 29 | 26 | 0.00 | |
| 12/14 | 30 | 20 | 0.00 | | 12/14 | 29 | 20 | 0.00 | | 12/14 | 30 | 27 | 0.02 | 0.2" | 12/14 | 41 | 21 | 0.00 | | 12/14 | 29 | 17 | 0.00 | |
| 12/15 | 43 | 17 | 0.00 | | 12/15 | 40 | 11 | 0.00 | | 12/15 | 40 | 15 | 0.00 | | 12/15 | 45 | 25 | 0.00 | | 12/15 | 41 | 13 | 0.00 | |
| 12/16 | 45 | 16 | 0.00 | | 12/16 | 44 | 15 | 0.00 | | 12/16 | 44 | 19 | 0.00 | | 12/16 | 36 | 16 | 0.00 | | 12/16 | 46 | 31 | 0.00 | |
| Totals | | | 23.77 | 22.3" | Totals | | | 26.03 | 16" | Totals | | | 30.72 | 21.5" | Totals | | | NA | NA | Totals | | | 28.25 | 13.0" |

COUNT...Continued from page 8B

decades. And that data becomes more valuable with time and consistency. That's something that Steve Wilson, who has served as count compiler for the Isabella count since its founding 37 years ago, has strived for. "It's valuable to have a systematic count and the same compiler, so the methodology doesn't change," he said.

Wilson, who lives in Tower, said the information gathered by

the counts has helped researchers identify population trends, such as the distinct northward movement of many species in recent years, apparently a response to climate change.

You don't have to be a bird expert, since in many cases you could be teamed up with an experienced birder, which could make the count a great experience to expand your knowledge about our

feathered neighbors and how to identify them. Winter is a good time to learn to identify our year-round resident birds, since the number of species found in the area this time of year is much lower than during the summer months. So don't waste another day sitting at home. Get out and take part in this year's Christmas Bird Count.

LITTLE RICE...Continued from page 8B

Originally established in 2012 in northern St. Louis County, its refuge status was reviewed after five years to determine if the refuge should be continued.

Overall, the majority of waterfowl hunters supported the refuge re-establishment as did the Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Izaak Walton League, and the U.S. Forest Service.

According to the DNR, weekly migratory waterfowl counts and waterfowl season hunter harvest surveys on adjacent Big Rice Lake,

conducted over the past five years, suggest the refuge was successful at providing an undisturbed feeding and resting location for migratory waterfowl.

As a state game refuge, Little Rice Lake is closed to hunting and trapping from Sept. 1 through Nov. 30 each year. The refuge, which includes the lake and forest bog perimeter, is about 288 acres. The

refuge remains open to wild ricing and cranberry picking.

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LOCAL AUTHORS

Thoughts and observations on climate change from the North Shore

REGIONAL- If you're a student of climate science, "Climate Change, Musings and Studies from Superior's North Shore," by Katya Gordon, may not be the text for you. However, it is an immensely readable collection of thoughts and observations about climate and its impact gleaned from 26 years of living in the region.

The book consists of selected climate-related columns written by Gordon between 2014 and 2018 for *The Lake County Chronicle*, a Two Harbors newspaper. In those

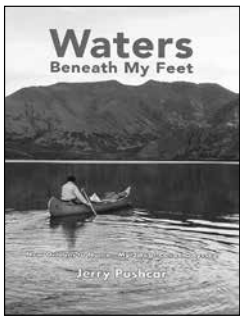
columns, she does lecture. Nor does she not talk down to people who are convinced that climate change is a hoax. She explains in simple terms the difference between weather and climate, and provides data related to temperatures, rainfall, storm events, and changing flora and fauna over enough years to remind us all of changes we can relate to.

She explains Carbon Fee and Dividend, which is gaining support nationally, as a way to encourage the marketplace to tackle carbon pollution. Her discussion of Cap and Trade helps clarify how it differs from Carbon Fee and Dividend and does not offer the

solutions to the carbon issue that it claims to.

The strength of the book is not in the scientific data or explanation of solutions being considered or tried, it is in the approachable way she brings out each topic. Each chapter, consisting of a number of columns, contains gems that lead to the kind of discussions one may have in everyday life.

And she offers hope in her observations on what city councils can do, what students are learning and talking about, and what each individual can do. She offers hope in her observation that the skills we use to reduce poverty or address solutions to our crumbling infrastructure are the same skills we need to reduce the impact of climate change.



Three-year canoe journey to Alaska

NOME, AK - In January 1978, the local paper here was ready to print the obituary of Minnesota native, Jerry Pushcar. It never did after a bush pilot spotted him on a ridge overlooking the Bering Sea. Now the Biwabik native is

telling his story of how he went from small town Iron Ranger to nationally-recognized adventurer.

Pushcar's new book, *Water Beneath My Feet*, details his three-year journey canoeing and hiking from New Orleans to Nome between 1975 and 1978.

At 25, with \$15,000 to his name and a stable life, then 25-year old Pushcar adopted a dog and said goodbye to loved ones and headed south with no other plan than to put his canoe in the river somewhere near the Gulf of Mexico and head back north.

The book is available at local booksellers, including Piragis Northwoods in Ely.

PUBLIC NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
SIXTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT
Court File
No. 69VI-PR-18-176

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF: Denise Johanna Metsa, aka Denise J. Metsa, aka Denise Metsa Decedent
It is Ordered and Notice is given that on Jan. 16, 2019, at 9:30 A.M., a hearing will

be held in this Court at 300 5th Ave. South, Virginia, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Racquel M. Horn, whose address is 412 1st Street South, Suite 1, Virginia, MN 55792 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration.
Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and 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, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the

Estate.
Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 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 months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: December 6, 2018
BY THE COURT
Michelle M. Anderson
Judge of District Court
Amy Turnquist
Court Administrator

Debra Thorstensen, as
Deputy
Attorney for Petitioner
Angela E. Sipila
Sipila Law Office LLC
412 1st Street S, Suite 1
Virginia, MN, 55792
Attorney License No: 024501X
Telephone: (218) 741-5000
Email: ange@sipilaw.com

Published in the Timberjay,
Dec. 21 & 28, 2018

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS
DISTRICT COURT

PROBATE DIVISION
SIXTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT
Court File
No. 69VI-PR-18-195

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR DESCENT OF PROPERTY
ESTATE OF: Geraldine Elizabeth Petterson
aka Geraldine E. Petterson, aka Geraldine Norton Petterson Decedent
A Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago, leaving property in Minnesota and requests the probate of Decedent's last Will (if any), and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this

Court to the persons entitled to the property.

Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted.

It is Ordered and Notice is given that the Petition will be heard on Jan. 16, 2019, at 9:30 A.M., by this Court at 300 5th Ave. South, Virginia, Minnesota, 55792.
Notice shall be given to all interested persons (MINN. STAT. 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-204.
Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by mailing a copy of this Notice

and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.

Dated: December 12, 2018
BY THE COURT
Michelle M. Anderson
Judge of District Court
Amy Turnquist
Court Administrator
Debra Thorstensen, as
Deputy
Attorney for Petitioner
Angela E. Sipila
Sipila Law Office LLC
412 1st Street S, Suite 1
Virginia, MN, 55792
Attorney License No: 024501X
Telephone: (218) 741-5000
Email: ange@sipilaw.com

Published in the Timberjay,
Dec. 21 & 28, 2018

LEIDING TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF FILINGS

Filings for the following offices open on Tuesday, January 1, 2019, and close on Tuesday, January 15, 2019, at 5 p.m.

1 Supervisor: 3-year term
1 Treasurer: 2-year term

Filing fee is \$2.
File the Affidavit of Candidacy at Clerk's Office. Please call 218-757-3205 or 218-355-0163 (cell) for the clerk's office hours.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 21 & 28, 2018

FIELD TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF MEETING

The January regular board meeting of the Field Township Board will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15, 2019, at the clerk's residence, 9998 East Lind Rd., Angora.

Pat Chapman, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 21, 2018

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Vermilion Lake Township
Notice of Filings

Filings for the following offices will open on Saturday, January 1, 2019 and close on Saturday, January 15, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Supervisor 3-year term
Treasurer 2-year term
Clerk 1-year term
Filing fee: \$2.00

Candidates: File Affidavit of Candidacy
at the CLERK'S OFFICE –
BY appointment only . Call 218-780-7717
to make arrangements.

Steve Peterson, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 14 & 21, 2018

FIELD TOWNSHIP
FILING NOTICE

Affidavits of candidacy may be filed with the Field Town Clerk at 9998 East Lind Rd., Angora from Tuesday, January 1, 2019, through Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 5 p.m. for the offices of:

1 Supervisor - 3-year term
1 Treasurer - 2-year term
Filing Fee \$2.00.

Please call the clerk to make an appointment to file your application, 218-666-2487.

The clerk's office will be also be open Jan. 15 from 1-5 p.m.

Pat Chapman, Clerk, Field Township

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 14 & 21, 2018

EMPLOYMENT

POSITION OPENING-ISD No. 696
ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Substitute Custodian

Ely Public Schools is taking applications for an as-needed substitute custodian for the 2018-2019 school year: \$14.24/hr.; background check required. Applications available at www.ely.k12.mn.us or in the General office, 2nd floor of the Memorial Building; return application to: ISD 696, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731. 12/28

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

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IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH DRUGS, give yourself a break. There is a way out with the help of other recovering addicts in Narcotics Anonymous. We have been there. For meeting or other information call 218-728-3199. (Narcotics Anonymous is a non-profit organization.)

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

CREDIT REPAIR SCAMS- "Credit problems? No problem!" No way. A poor credit history takes time to repair, no matter what anybody claims. The Federal Trade Commission says no company can remove accurate or timely information from your credit report. Learn more about managing credit and debt at ftc.gov/credit. A message from The Timberjay and the FTC.

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Super Crossword

THAT GNAWING FEELING

ACROSS

- 1 Dry out
6 Should the necessity arise
14 Eye, kidney and heart
20 Informed
21 Grade on a salary scale
22 Big chicken brand
23 Rodent who helps couples end spats?
25 Forced out of a country
26 Squeezed (out)
27 — polloi
28 Untold millennia
30 — bean (Old World plant)
31 Stand for
33 Rodent causing prices to increase over time?
40 "— Haw"
42 Visit briefly
43 "By the way," on memos
44 Frothy pie topping concocted by a rodent?
50 Bit of a tortilla treat

- 55 Spheres
56 Cliff nests
57 Seized
59 Part of CD
60 Throws in
61 Actor Arnaz
62 "Jazz" writer Morrison
63 Serious rifts
65 Rodent blurring out secrets?
69 Shooters' gp.
70 How cliffs incline
72 Very bad grade
73 Rodent who's a pop star?
77 Fishing boat
81 Chevy now called the Sonic
82 Tune for two
83 Utterances of disgust
85 Ames' home
86 Series with Agent 99
88 Of the eyes
91 Middle name of Poe
92 Malia Obama's sis
93 Rodent who was a U.S. president?
96 Outrage
98 Battery terminal

- 99 Massive fight
100 Revelation of all the relevant facts about a rodent?
106 Nary a soul
111 Shuffle or Mini
112 Silvery gray
113 Silver of film
115 Special air
116 Fight against
118 Rodent-themed hit for Peter, Paul and Mary?
125 Franklin of soul music
126 Bolsheviks' theory
127 Laotian, say
128 Eye liners?
129 Infuriates
130 Idylls, e.g.
DOWN
1 Turned white
2 Stirred from sleep
3 Poe bird
4 Ideology
5 That woman
6 — facto
7 Muslim ascetic: Var.
8 Sch. in Manhattan
9 Manning the quarterback

- 10 Suffix with auction
11 TiVo is one, for short
12 Stinging thing
13 Actress Page
14 Not in secret
15 T. — (big dino)
16 Petty swindle
17 Old veep
18 New, to Julio
19 Roomy auto
24 Actor Charlie
29 Sin
32 Just — once
34 Imitating sorts
35 Spelling of the screen
36 Mayberry tyke
37 Fish parts
38 Having one sharp, musically
39 "— that the truth!"
41 "My word!"
44 Young guys
45 Actor Stoltz of "Mask"
46 Go well (with)
47 Apple debut of 1984
48 G.P.'s study
49 Start of an expiration notice

- 51 Deliberate choice
52 China's — En-lai
53 Pullets, e.g.
54 Comics dog
58 TV and radio stations
60 "Jack & Jill" actress Peet
61 Certain baseball hit: Abbr.
64 — Lanka
65 Roseanne's mom on "Roseanne"
66 "Chi-Raq" director Spike
67 Mo. #4
68 Advanced deg. for a designer
70 Arrange for
71 Pec pic, say
73 Binges
74 Iris locale
75 Filming sites
76 "A Clockwork Orange" novelist Anthony
77 Heaved
78 Entertainer Falana
79 Moviedom's McGregor
80 Novelist Ayn
83 Peptic problem

- 84 With 94-Down, female chum
87 Inn worker
88 "Horrors!"
89 Co. big shots
90 Language in Lahore
91 Brit's prefix for plane
94 See 84-Down
95 White on "Wheel of Fortune"
97 Ranch ropes
100 Like the flu
101 "Rigoletto," for one
102 Doesn't win
103 Plaf of song
104 Dish with kidney beans
105 Make blank
107 Low voice
108 Navel type
109 REM activity
110 Tall stories
114 Bits of resistance
117 That woman
119 Wet lowland
120 Ltd. relative
121 Move hastily
122 Raggedy —
123 Trash-talk
124 Hiker's aid

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

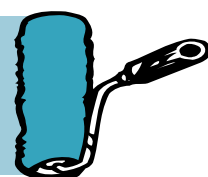
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| 20 | | | | | | 21 | | | | | | | | | 22 | | | | | | |
| 23 | | | | | 24 | | | | | | | | | | 25 | | | | | | |
| 26 | | | | | 27 | | | | | | | | 28 | 29 | | | 30 | | | | |
| 31 | | | | 32 | | | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | | | | 39 | | | | | |
| | | | | 40 | | 41 | | 42 | | | | | | 43 | | | | | | | |
| 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | | | | 48 | | | | | | 49 | | | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | |
| 55 | | | | | | 56 | | | | | | | 57 | | 58 | | | | | | |
| 59 | | | | | 60 | | | | | | | | 61 | | | | 62 | | | | |
| 63 | | | | 64 | | | | | 65 | 66 | 67 | | | | | 68 | | | | | |
| | | | 69 | | | | 70 | 71 | | | | | | | 72 | | | | | | |
| 73 | 74 | 75 | | | | 76 | | | | | | | | 77 | | | | 78 | 79 | 80 | |
| 81 | | | | | | 82 | | | | | | | 83 | 84 | | | | 85 | | | |
| 86 | | | | | 87 | | | | 88 | 89 | 90 | | | | | 91 | | | | | |
| 92 | | | | | | 93 | | 94 | | | | | | | 95 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | 96 | 97 | | | 98 | | | | | | 99 | | | | | | |
| 100 | 101 | 102 | 103 | | | | | 104 | | | | | | 105 | | 106 | | 107 | 108 | 109 | 110 |
| 111 | | | | | | 112 | | | | | | | | 113 | 114 | | | 115 | | | |
| 116 | | | | | 117 | | | 118 | 119 | 120 | 121 | 122 | 123 | | | | 124 | | | | |
| 125 | | | | | | | | 126 | | | | | | | | | 127 | | | | |
| 128 | | | | | | | | 129 | | | | | | | | | 130 | | | | |

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