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the TIMBERJAY



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CITY OF TOWER

City Council postpones reorganization

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER—The newly-seated city council here left several contentious topics on the table Monday night, but managed to make it through a shortened agenda in a meeting that alternated between temperate and testy.

Closed meetings to be held to address employee complaints

The council, after some discussion, voted 3-2 against holding a closed session to consider an unspecified complaint against an unidentified employee. City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith had included the closed

session on the agenda, but new mayor Orlyn Kringstad asked if Keith had the approval of at least two members of the council to add the item.

Kringstad said he had not been given any information

by the city clerk regarding the issue, despite requests for information. “For the councilors to do the job, they need to be well informed. I want to be sure that all of the councilors are well informed before they

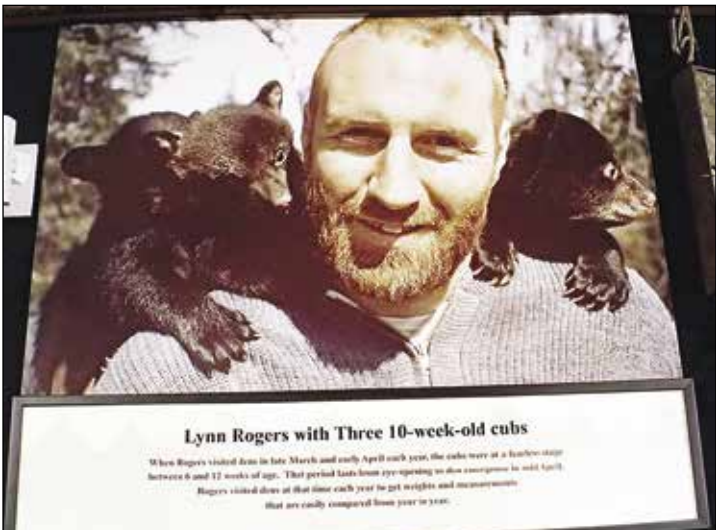
come to the meeting,” he said. Kringstad twice asked whether the subject of the complaint was a city employee and whether the individual had been notified of the complaint. “Asked and answered,” said Keith, who indicated it was an employee but

See...TOWER pg. 8

NORTH AMERICAN BEAR CENTER

New season, new exhibits

Renovated Cub Room,
Dr. Lynn Rogers exhibit,
Lily Pad Picnic anniversary
featured at Ely Bear Center



by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – As the ambassador bears at the North American Bear Center are enjoying their long winter naps, staff members are putting the finishing touches on new exhibits and making plans for the 2019 season.

NABC senior director of operations Scott Edgett recently outlined the varied improvements and additions that will be ready at the facility this spring.

A new biologist, Spencer Peter, joined the NABC staff last year after attending school at Vermilion Community College and Bemidji State University to earn a degree in wildlife biology. “He is in charge of our growing education programming,” Edgett said. “We now utilize our new fully-functioning Hope

See...BEARS pg. 9



Dr. Lynn Rogers, top, is featured in a new exhibit at the North American Bear Center in Ely marking his 50 years of black bear research. A new children’s Cub Room, above, is also ready to go when the facility opens for the season this spring. photos by K. Vandervort

SULFIDE MINING

Did top EPA officials suppress comments on PolyMet permits?

Rep. Betty McCollum to pursue question

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Fourth District Congresswoman Betty McCollum said she’s requesting that the federal Environmental Protection Agency release prepared comments from the agency’s professional staff that may have expressed concerns about air and water quality permits issued to PolyMet Mining by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

A recent public data request to the MPCA, by Duluth-based Water Legacy, revealed evidence that someone within the agency or elsewhere may have blocked the submission of those comments, prepared by career EPA regulators, to the MPCA. Water Legacy legal counsel Paula Maccabee provided the documents to McCollum and others in Washington and has asked for an investigation.

The EPA is considered a cooperating agency in the PolyMet environmental review and permitting process, and the agency has routinely provided highly detailed and authoritative comments as the project has advanced. It was highly unusual when the MPCA processed final air and water quality permits for PolyMet without receiving written comments from the agency.

Maccabee said the EPA had rebuffed her effort to obtain the comments

See...POLYMET pg. 10

COOK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Supernatural researcher separates fact from fiction

by MARCUS WHITE
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK - There might be more to that ‘bump in the night’ you heard in the woods last summer. You may have had a chance encounter with Big Foot, or even the legendary Wendigo of the Great Lakes, or

it could have been just the wind playing tricks on your senses. Chad Lewis wants to help you figure out what the answer is.

For the past several weeks, Lewis, a Wisconsin-based paranormal researcher, has been traveling to every branch of the Arrowhead Library system doing just that, educating

Chad Lewis, a Wisconsin-based paranormal researcher visited Range-area libraries to talk about Lake Superior legends. photo by M. White

ing people on the paranormal legends of Lake Superior and the surrounding area.

“Somedays I have a theory, somedays I get set back to square one,” Lewis said. “I think these

things are happening to people. Most people are logical, rational people. They’ve just seen something weird happen.”

See... GHOSTS pg. 10



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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

SWCD annual tree sale begins now; order early for best selection!

REGIONAL- Small trees are available to order for your spring planting needs. Take your choice of over 20 varieties of shrubs, deciduous trees, and conifers in bundles of 15 or 25 from the North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District's annual tree sale. All are reasonably priced between \$30 and \$45 per bundle. New this year are river birch, black chokeberry, serviceberry, and peachleaf willow. Plantskydd and Repellex brands of organic animal repellent products are also available to help keep the critters away. Order early for best selection. Quantities are limited. All proceeds are used for conservation efforts in the northern part of St. Louis County. Deadline to order is May 6. Pickup will be in Eveleth on May 9 and 10. For questions about what types of trees to plant on your property, contact our forester, Beth Kleinke at 218-730-8002. Order forms and more information are available at www.nslswcd.org, via email to info@nslswcd.org or by call or text to 218-749-2000.

Auditions open on Jan. 21 for CABARET musical in Ely

ELY- Northern Lakes Arts Association and Vermilion Community College announce auditions for the 2019 Ely Community Spring Musical, CABARET. Auditions will be held on Monday, Jan. 21 and Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Vermilion College Theater. There are roles for performers ages 16 to 60+, with many character roles for every type of person.

Interested performers should come ready to dance, sing, and read from the script on either Monday or Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. There is no need to prepare an audition monologue or song selection ahead of time. Everyone will have an opportunity to learn a short dance sequence and a short song, and then read from the script.

The version of CABARET that the Ely Community Spring Musical will perform is the original Broadway version produced by Harold Prince in 1966. The familiar 1972 film version starring Liza Minelli and Joel Grey was altered quite significantly from the stage version, and our stage version features characters of a variety of ages who were not included in the film version.

There are many back-stage and off-stage opportunities as well, for carpenters, costume helpers, light and sound operators, ticket takers, and lobby helpers. Anyone interested in participating on or off stage should come to the theater to find out more about the production or call Artistic Director Sara Skelton at 218-235-2142. Performance dates for the Ely Community Spring Musical are March 28, 29, 30, 31, and April 2, 4, 5, 6.

Ruby's Pantry on Jan. 26 in Babbitt

BABBITT- Ruby's Pantry will be distributing food on Saturday, Jan. 26 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. at Babbitt Municipal Center, 71 South Drive. A \$20 cash donation buys an abundance of food. No checks will be accepted. There are no income or residency guidelines. Bring two large boxes or baskets. Babbitt Ruby's Pantry is regularly held the fourth Saturday of each month and is sponsored by St. Pius X Catholic Church. Volunteers are always welcome.



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Announcing Auditions for the Ely Community Spring Musical

CABARET

Monday, January 21 and Tuesday, January 22
Vermilion College Theater, Ely
6:30 p.m.

- Roles for characters ages 16-60+
- Be ready to dance, sing and read from the script

Performance dates
March 28, 29, 30, 31
April 2, 4, 5, 6

For further information, contact director Sara Skelton at 235-2142

TOWER



Finnlander Bocce Ball Tournament set for Saturday, Jan. 26

TOWER- The second annual Finnlander Bocce Ball Tournament will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26 starting at 9 a.m. in the Iron Ore Bar parking lot. The games have been moved off the harbor due to ongoing construction this year.

Cost to enter is \$40 per team of four players (must be two men and

two women). All players must be 18 or older. Cash payout (100 percent of entry fees) goes to the top four teams.

Enjoy a winter day sliding on the ice. The event is being sponsored by the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board.

Good Ol' Days will have their food truck on site, offering hot food

and cold drinks.

To sign up, see the registration forms at Good Ol' Days, D'Erick's, or Benchwarmers in Tower, or sign up on the Facebook page (Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board). For questions, contact Julie Johnson at 218-750-7242.

ELY WINTER FESTIVAL

Ely Medallion Hunt begins Feb. 7

ELY- As part of the 2019 Ely Winter Festival, the Ely Chamber of Commerce Event and Promotion Committee will host the third annual Ely Northwoods Medallion Hunt. This is an annual event with a different Northwoods theme each year.

There will be a total of ten clues released, one each day, at 10 a.m. each day starting Thursday, Feb. 7, with the final clue posted Saturday, Feb. 16 to lead hunters to the medallion. The clues will



be posted at the Chamber of Commerce building at 1600 E Sheridan St., on the website page at www.ely.org/medallion-hunt, on the Ely Chamber of Commerce Facebook page, and at participating Ely merchants.

The first one to find the medallion will win \$250 in Chamber Bucks! There are more chances to win. Each participating Ely merchant will also have Northwoods Medallion Hunt commemorative wooden nickels. For every ten wooden nickels turned in at the Chamber of Commerce, you will receive an entry form for a drawing for four prizes: first place - \$100 Chamber Bucks, second place - \$75 Chamber Bucks, third place - \$50 Chamber Bucks and fourth place - \$25 Chamber Bucks.

No purchase is necessary. Visit participating merchants often to collect a

coin - one coin per person at each store per day. There is no limit to the number of days you visit each store, so you can collect wooden nickels galore to turn in for an entry form for the drawings (just remember it takes ten wooden nickels to get an entry for the drawing). Why not collect eleven wooden nickels, keep one for the start of your collection and turn in the other ten for an entry into the drawing?

2019 is The Year of the Moose! For more information about this event, please visit www.ely.org/medallionhunt.

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"A Graceful Life" at Mesabi Unitarian on Sunday, Jan. 20

VIRGINIA- On Sunday, Jan. 20, the Rev. Suzanne Wasilczuk will give a presentation titled "A Graceful Life." Grace is a gift that comes to us unexpected and unbidden. It is the gift of life itself as well as the surprising gifts that bless our lives. Perhaps Mary Oliver's approach is best. She writes, "You can have the other words—chance, luck, coincidence, serendipity. I'll take grace. I don't know what it is exactly, but I'll take it." The service time is 10:30 a.m. at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church, which is handicap accessible and located at 230 7th St. S in Virginia.

2019 Ely Winter Festival

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ELY SCHOOLS

Board okays hiring of collaboration lobbyist

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The Ely School District unanimously agreed this week to hire a lobbyist to work on behalf of the newly-formed Iron Range School Collaboration (IRSC) for state and regional funding for the next year.

Besides ISD 696, the IRSC includes the St. Louis County, Mesabi East, Mt. Iron-Buhl, Chisholm and Hibbing school districts, which are all working together to enhance the learning and educational opportunities for Iron Range students.

Gary Cerkvenik will serve in the role of lobbyist for the collaborative group, and has begun to form proposals to be presented to the state Legislature this session, which runs through mid-May.

Each of the six school districts agreed to pay Cerkvenik as much as \$500 per month for the next 12 months, plus a portion of mileage expenses, for his lobbying services.

Gary Cerkvenik to represent several school districts in funding push

“The scope of his service will include representation at the Minnesota Legislature and its committees, the administration of the state government, the office of the governor, and all boards and commissions, advocate for the IRSC before other grant agencies, advise the IRSC regarding applications for state funds, IRRRB funds and other sources including state bonding,” said Superintendent Kevin Abrahamson.

The original proposal did not include the mileage expense reimbursement. “We would be responsible for one-fifth of that expense so it should be pretty minimal,” Abrahamson added.

In addition, the agenda recommendation initially called for a six-month commitment to the lobbyist’s contract, but that was changed to a one-year contract.

“What Gary is attempting to do is to come up with state funding as well as help us with

IRRRB funding to figure out how we can best collaborate,” he said. “Initially, we are looking at some summer camps and that type of thing, and how we could enhance our curriculum (and add) what some schools offer and we don’t, and not with any intent to save money or reduce staff or any of those things.”

He advised caution as the district moves forward with the collaboration. “This is just in its infancy. We are going to be very deliberate and not jump in head-long,” Abrahamson said. “But at least for the foreseeable future, if Gary is going to work for us to try to obtain money. We have to have some skin in the game.”

School board member James Pointer said he preferred a six-month trial “to see what actually happens,” but Abrahamson said that action could be seen as a breach of contract if all the other school district members sign the one-year contract as presented.

School board chair Ray Marsnik noted that the state Legislature’s current session runs from January to May. “But they could have special sessions, too,” he said.

School board member Heidi Mann said the lobbyist’s work with IRRRB would last all year. “It takes time to get moving on these things and we have to give it enough time to work,” she said.

Pointer pitched his position to have just a six-month contract for the lobbyist, but ultimately voted in favor of the one-year contract.

The funds for the \$6,000-plus agreement will be paid out of the general fund. “Our audit ended up being much better than anticipated,” Abrahamson said, “but that’s because some expenses were moved into this fiscal year.” He said the district is likely to deficit spend this year in either case. “We intended to spend down some of our fund

balance, and we will definitely do that this year,” he said.

Other business

In other business, the school board:

► Accepted the school district audit for the year ended June 30, 2018, as prepared by WIPFLI CPAs and Consultants, with financial statements still to be completed.

► Listened to a presentation by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources forester Steven Horndt on the state of the Minnesota School Trust fund.

► Elected school board officers to include Marsnik, chair, Rochelle Sjoborg, clerk, and Tim Omerza, treasurer, and made committee assignments.

► Designated the second Monday of the month as the day of the regular school board meeting and the fourth Monday of the month as the study session

See SCHOOLS...pg. 5

NATIVE PERSPECTIVES

Tribal report: Urgent action needed to protect wild rice

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The ongoing political battle over how to protect wild rice in Minnesota is heading back to the Capitol as legislators are being asked to create a new stewardship council designed to seek ways to address the apparent decline in the state’s official grain.

A task force on wild rice, created by Gov. Mark Dayton last year, recommended formation of the council in a report the group issued in December. But the task force and its work was overshadowed by a decision by the six

member bands of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribes (MCT) not to participate out of concern that the group leaned too much in favor of the regulated industries that discharge sulfates, a pollutant that a slew of studies indicate is linked to declining stands of wild rice.

Those regulated industries include taconite mining and major electrical utilities, according to Margaret Watkins, a water quality specialist with the Grand Portage band. Watkins said members of the Grand Portage band have rights to hunt, fish, and gather throughout the 1854 Treaty region and so

have a strong interest in seeing wild rice protected throughout northeastern Minnesota.

Dayton had offered the MCT, which represents the Bois Forte, Grand Portage, Fond du Lac, White Earth, Leech Lake, and Mille Lacs bands, a single seat on the governor’s task force, which prompted the decision to withdraw. Instead, tribes from across the state agreed to create their own wild rice task force to assemble relevant science and

See WILD RICE...pg. 5



Bois Forte band members hand-parch wild rice at Nett Lake. file photo

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OPINION

“CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW...
ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM
OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;”

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

Broadband funding

The Legislature should back policy changes to spark private investment

With the Legislature now in session, improving telecommunications in rural Minnesota should be near the top of the to-do list for lawmakers. As legislators continue to grapple with how to bring reliable, high-speed Internet access to less-populated parts of the state, they must recognize that the lack of investment by regulated providers, like Frontier Communications or CenturyLink, is currently the biggest hurdle to achieving widespread broadband access.

The Department of Commerce highlighted the challenge earlier this month when it released the results of a months-long investigation into the quality of Frontier’s service to the roughly 100,000 households it serves in the state, including many here in northeastern Minnesota.

As we report this week, the department found what most residents of our area already know, namely that Frontier has failed to provide reliable phone and Internet service to many parts of our region. Much of the problem stems from the company’s unwillingness to make the kinds of investments in infrastructure and equipment necessary to improve its service quality. It appears that Frontier and other big corporate providers believe smaller communities represent smaller profit potential, and so are increasingly unwilling to direct resources to places like northeastern Minnesota.

The lack of private sector investment has become the missing element when it comes to fast and reliable Internet in our region. We’ve seen multiple public projects to expand high-speed fiber to area communities. Those are essential efforts, and legislators like District 3A Rep. Rob Ecklund deserve credit for advancing such funding. We’re hopeful that lawmakers

have come to recognize solving this issue will take more than public dollars. It will require committed private sector partners that will utilize the fiber network that our tax dollars pay to install.

If the big corporate providers like Frontier and CenturyLink aren’t willing to do the job, both legislators and state regulators need to start clearing the way for alternatives. They need to develop financial incentives that make it possible for smaller local companies, or locally-based cooperatives, like Bemidji-based Paul Bunyan, to extend their services into communities that the big corporate providers would just as soon ignore. We’re already seeing interest from alternative providers, such as Jackson-based BackForty Wireless, which recently installed a wireless service in Orr. Brainerd-based Consolidated Telecommunications Company has also been exploring possibilities in Tower and Ely.

Unlike the big corporate providers, locally-based companies are generally far more responsive to outages and questions from users. The cooperative Paul Bunyan has an excellent reputation for customer service in the communities it serves. And when you have a problem, you can quickly get a live person on the phone who actually speaks Minnesotan.

The bottom line is this: the technology exists to bring high-speed communications to even the smallest of our area communities. The big corporate providers, however, appear unwilling to make the investments to bring these technologies to our area. If they won’t do it, the Legislature and state regulators should clear the way for others to serve rural parts of the state. We’ve waited long enough.



Letters from Readers

Russia is running the show with Trump

Today we are faced with an NRA/Republican President who has to answer the question: “Do you work for Russia?” That’s incredibly disturbing.

The reality now is that he is either a Russian agent, or he is what Russian intelligence calls “a useful idiot”. I think it’s a combination of both. Amazing to me is how former KGB agent Vladimir Putin is able to recruit the NRA to help do his dirty work, including using the NRA to channel money to the Trump campaign. Apparently there are more than enough “useful idiots” to go around.

Sadly, the new Eighth District Congressman, Peter Stauber, has already demonstrated that he is following Trump and the NRA down one rabbit hole after another. I think it will come out, one way or another, that Trump is being blackmailed by Putin and the Saudi prince. If Trump’s tax returns are fully revealed, his presidency will end. Let’s hope this happens soon. We’ve already suffered enough damage from an NRA/Republican President who actually lost the election by three million votes.

**Lee Peterson
Greenwood Twp**

Treason in the air?

Who is calling the shots anyway?

What does Trump do? Everything that Putin tells him to do. Recently Trump had a phone conversation with Putin and now Trump has taken our U.S. soldiers out of Syria, which needs stability!

Putin is an expansionist and has his eye on everything from Crimea to Alaska.

What does Trump want? A casino in Moscow? Sure. One could think that Trump is a puppet of Vladimir.

Russian radio reports that Putin is “extremely pleased” and laughing like heck to have a president of the United States in his pocket. I heard that via

public radio and Putin was almost giggling.

So, is Trump colluding with Russia? Do we still hang people for treason?

**Janet Y. Schultz
Sturgeon Twp**

Teacher lawsuits a case of “gotcha”

Regarding the *Ely Echo’s* Dec. 15, 2018, article “Teachers sue school district” it is reported that the names of the teachers suing the school district, other than Krista Moyer, were not released by the paper’s deadline.

A simple investigative search of the Minnesota court records on Jan. 5, 2019, shows that the other teachers suing the district over this issue, and which said cases were filed with the court back in November 2018, are Mike Rouse, Tiffany Davis, Megan Wognum, Amanda Vanderbeek, Risto Kultala, Kelly Ann Noble, John Meyer, Kaley Hotaling, Jason Limp, Molly Olson, Cory Lassi, Jennifer Kerntz, Paula Anderson, Mariah Jeske and Tara Johnson. In my opinion this is nothing more than a case of “I gotcha ya – you (the school district) made a honest mistake and I can benefit from it.”

For the 2017/2018 school year, it is my understanding that none of these teachers were paid less than they should have been, and in some cases, more than they should have been paid. Why for 13 pay periods did none of these educators not notify the district that they were being overpaid? Did they not know what they should be getting paid?

The school district (taxpayers) was very generous in its last negotiated contract with the teachers and other staff which included both pay raises and increasing, substantially, the amount that the district contributes towards health insurance. It is also my understanding that if these teachers are successful in court this could cost the district (taxpayers) over \$50,000, not to mention legal fees the district will incur and valuable staff time devoted to this issue. Where will this money come

from? Less educational programming for students, less building improvements, more taxes for the taxpayers? What are the public and taxpayers to think the next time the school’s wish list for these teachers comes out or they are asked to have their taxes increased for building projects or excess operating budgets? Such shenanigans!

**Scott Kellerman
Winton**

I am being misquoted

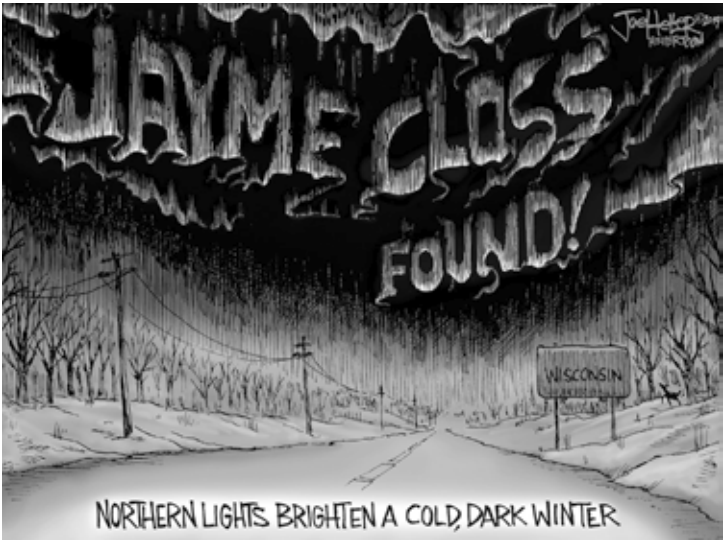
This is a response to JoAnn Bassing’s letter in the Dec. 21, 2018 *Timberjay* and John Bassing’s comments at the meeting on Jan. 9, 2019.

Once again, I am being misquoted by the Bassings. I did not say that the board set the levy and saved us taxes. I only stated that Greenwood’s taxes were the lowest on the lake. I did not try to raise fear about a fire district. I just asked questions about what would happen if the fire department was dissolved. What is left of our township without the fire department? A nice building and recreation area. John Bassing has made public statements that his goal is to eliminate the fire department. I question why they are attacking me. Is my support of our fire department not in line with their ideas? Is this the guy we want representing us?

The whole point of my letter and presentation was to applaud the fire department and show how we are saving more on our insurance than we are spending on township property taxes in one year. It was meant to be a letter so that our residents could be informed. I do not think it is wrong for the treasurer to research and present items that are applicable to the residents.

The Bassings are obviously trying to deflect the point of my original letter and presentation. I will say it again – the fire department saves the Greenwood residents more money than what we pay for township taxes and I fully support them.

**Pam Rodgers
Greenwood Twp**



Ireland’s final episode of merrymaking and mayhem

We haven’t left Ireland yet, but this is the last leg of my journey. In the previous installments of my three-part Ireland adventure, I’d been to Dublin, Giant’s Causeway, and visited the Republic of Ireland cities of Belfast and Derry, while enjoying Guinness and Irish stew all the way.

Days ran together in a glorious delight of vacation pleasures. We stopped



**SCARLET LYNN
STONE**

here and there and did this and that, even making a quick stop to see the grave of Irish poetry legend, William Butler Yeats, in the peaceful country cemetery at Drumcliff Church.

Our next stop was the town

of Ballina. It was raining but we all had rain jackets and wanted to explore. On one corner was a shop filled with fresh salmon and other fresh catch. When you see something like a fresh fish shop, you wish you could take it home. I felt the same way when I spotted a magenta feathered fascinator-hat in a shop window. “I must have the charming thing and take it home!” I said to my friend. In agreement, she nearly pushed me into the shop to try it on. I was determined to wear it home on my head if need be,

as suitcase space would soon be threatened because I still had sweaters to buy!

I will never forget seeing the lush green Irish countryside in Connemara County as the bus wove along the narrow, curving roads to our next stop. On the opposite shore of a calm lake stood grey-stoned Kylemore Abbey and its Victorian gardens. Now owned by Benedictine nuns it was originally built by a wealthy man for his bride. When she died of dysentery on a family trip to Africa he built her

a Gothic chapel and mausoleum on the grounds. Such intertwined romance and tragedy abounds in Ireland.

We then ventured to the village of Cong, where the 1951 movie “The Quiet Man” was filmed, starring John Wayne and Maureen O’Hara. There is a bronze statue of them there and I recognized some of the landmarks from the movie. While walking down a street I spotted a corner shop with a sign

See **IRELAND ...pg. 5**

Letters from Readers

Federal workers forced to work without pay for our convenience

If I could, I would list all of the ways the people of our federal government serve the public. They have saved homes and people, they inspect our food, monitor our weather, provide invaluable insight as to the responsible management of our natural resources. They help protect us and our coastline from danger. They process information providing critical services to keep us going as a country. They help monitor our northern border.

If you think the government shutdown hasn't impacted you, then you should thank the government employees who are required to work without pay, so

that the things you need to live out your life are not interrupted. It is beyond difficult to watch federal employees struggle to get by, just to be the President's pawns. Devoted people who, day in and day out, keep our governmental infrastructure strong, now being called to work without pay. This is wrong, and should make everyone restless. The economic impact of federal payments not made to agencies and employees (working and not getting paid) will very quickly unravel any ease of this shutdown, and effects will be felt by all. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell must allow a vote to open the government, continue negotiations, and the President must agree.

Melissa Roach Cook

House moves to relax ban on NGO abortions

House Democrats have quietly inserted language repealing pro-life policies and expanding funding for organizations that promote or commit abortions in a bill intended to end the government shutdown. According to the Washington Examiner, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019 would END a provision requiring foreign NGOs to guarantee that they will not "perform or actively promote abortion as a method of family planning." The bill would also codify a \$5 million increase to the United Nations Population Fund (from \$32.5M to \$37.5M), which has been accused in the past of coercive abortion and

sterilization and lends support to China's restrictive child policies.

The current policy targeted by the bill is called the "Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance" policy, formerly known as the "Mexico City" policy. The policy was instituted by President Reagan in 1984 and has been re-instituted during every Republican presidency. Trump expanded this policy, which allows for NGOs to remain eligible for federal funding only if they choose to stop committing abortions.

In addition, the bill allocates a minimum of \$595 million in taxpayer dollars to family planning programs — with no set limits — essentially giving a blank check for the government to fund abortion-supporting organizations.

Pray to God Almighty, Jesus

Christ, and the Holy Spirit to convince Democrats of the need to protect human life at ALL ages, from conception on. As of January 22, there have been over 63 million human babies murdered by abortion since 1973, and California doesn't even keep track of its number! The USA's largess in using taxpayer dollars to promote abortion will go down in history as the nail in our national coffin. God Almighty's perfection in love is matched by His justice. God cannot protect the USA when leaders disregard the most sacred value-- human life.

Linda M. Freeman Cook

IRELAND...Continued from page 4

that read 40 percent OFF ALL ARANSWEATERS! Bonanza! Once inside, my eyes feasted on the soft stacks of folded sweaters in rich colors. There were pullovers, shawls and cardigans...with so many crafty buttons and let me tell ya, "it was pure hell to choose." I bought a green pullover for Bill and a natural tone shawl for myself. From Cong we boarded the bus and headed west toward the port town of Rossaveal on Galway Bay to catch the ferry to Inishmore, the largest of the three Aran Islands. We said goodbye to our driver Mick who would be leaving us for good.

It was a 35-minute ride through very choppy waters to the island village of Kilronan. A van picked us up and took us to the family-owned B&B we'd be staying at for two nights. The inn was darling, the landscape was bleak, rocky and barren, yet so beautiful. The houses overall were small and plain. There were few cars on narrow roads and most folk were walking or bicycling. Fish, sweaters and tourism is what it's about there!

The island people are very self-sustaining and unpretentious and many still speak Irish Gaelic. Arthur, our island guide, took us to see the ruins of medieval churches, Roman graves, and structures destroyed by Oliver Cromwell's invasion in the 17th century. The locals still talk about the invasion like it happened just ten years ago. We hiked to see the medieval hillfort of Dun Aengus built at the edge of the 300-foot vertical cliffs above the Atlantic. In Ireland they don't build safety fences at tourism sights so I stayed a good distance from the edge not to tempt a determined wind to knock me off my buxom balance. After more Celtic pub music and the best seafood chowder I've ever had, we headed back to the B&B, visiting each other's rooms, laughing and doing show-n-tell with our new purchases. The next morning we boarded the ferry and crossed to Galway on calm waters. The ancient pagan Celts call the Aran Islands "thin places," where the distance between heaven and earth collapses. It has been said,

these are surreal physical spaces that allow us the ability to catch glimpses of the divine or infinite. They are places where we become our more essential selves. Ireland has many of these places.

On the shore of Galway Bay we met our new bus driver and traveled south to see the Cliffs of Moher. The wind was blowing hard that day. I had enough of being "on the edge"...of cliffs, and opted instead for a satisfying latte. Later that afternoon, we checked into our hotel in Ennis for our last night in Ireland. Then we all dressed to attend a medieval dinner nearby.

Bunratty Castle is a well-established tourist site for medieval banquets but has a long, long real history. The original structure had been a Norse settlement destroyed around 977. The current (fourth castle) was built in 1425 after others had been destroyed by centuries of clan fighting, raids, wars with the English and more. I was excited to be going to this place! I elected to wear my new fascinator and a special Renaissance top I'd carried over just for the occasion. Hey,

my first and probably last chance to visit an authentic Irish castle and I wasn't going to go bare of jewels, hatless, and dressed in a Herberger's clearance frock! When we arrived, I was thrilled there was a bagpiper outside the castle setting the mood. Upon entering the castle we enjoyed mead and early English music before climbing a steep stone spiral staircase to the upper level for dinner. More than one-huff and two-puffs came from my lips by the time I made it to the top. We were seated at long wood tables and NOT given any cutlery to use. Really! We all managed to unboorishly tear, dip and feast on our food. Sláinte! A fine group of costumed singers and musicians entertained us in the lantern-lit room. I listened while studying the ancient carved furniture and faded tapestries that decorated the stone room with its high arched ceilings. I went to the restroom at one point and noticed a narrow arched doorway with pie-shaped steps leading down into darkness. It was like being in a movie! Who ran down those stairs and from whom

were they fleeing? Being there, I could imagine all the sights, smells, sounds, fears and discomforts of past ages...best summarized, "Nice place to visit, wouldn't want to live there!" Hate to eat and run, but goodbye Bunratty.

On departure day we arrived at the airport in Shannon and were soon in the security lines, able to clear customs on the Ireland side. My magenta fascinator was packed in a small sturdy box at the top of my backpack. I was rockin' it. I was nearly through security and was putting my shoes back on when I was alerted by a security person. My friend had gone through her near-strip search in another line and was putting herself back together. A large gruff security guard approached me, carrying my backpack. I smiled, as I usually do...and he said, "Ma'am did you know you have a knife in here?" My mouth dropped, eyebrows wrinkled in confusion as I replied, "I do?" He replied, "Uh huh!" As he started unzipping the pack it dawned on me I had bought my son a carved wood pocketknife

in Dublin and forgot it was in my carry-on. I started explaining, as he listened to my matron-toned "I'm so sorry's," followed by, "I fully intended," and "I am rather an inexperienced flyer," ending in, "Oh no, I suppose you have to take it?" He studied my sweaty, cherub-like face under fuzzy, humid hair, then looked back at the knife. The officer looked at my eyes through glasses a bit ajar on my nose by this time, and he tipped his head. "I tell you what, I'm going to let this go," he said, "but I need to get my supervisor's final approval." With my knife in hand he walked over to his superior who listened and studied the weapon through his bushy eyebrows, took a quick look at me, then replied, "Yes, we'll let this go." I was amazed. How did I rank? Must have been the fuzzy hair and crooked glasses. I conclude, looks are everything!

That does it for Ireland.

It was a great trip and also great to get back home in one enriched piece...with my tattoo, fascinator and knife. Sláinte!

WILD RICE...Continued from page 3

make recommendations for lawmakers on how to improve conditions for wild rice.

Their report, issued Dec. 15, is substantially more urgent in its appeal than the governor's task force, and includes a recommendation to begin implementing and enforcing the state's wild rice sulfate standard of 10 milligrams per liter. "There's a thread running through the entirety of the tribal report intended to elevate people's awareness of the fragility of wild rice," said Nancy Schuldt, water protection coordinator for Fond du Lac. "It's very sensitive to environmental changes and is so degraded already. We need to pull out all the stops to protect it."

At one time, it appeared that state officials were interested in doing so, approving the country's strictest sulfate limit in the U.S. back in the mid-1970s, in order to protect the valuable wild grain. But the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency failed to enforce the rule, even though it was required to do so under the Clean Water Act. Under pres-

sure from environmental groups, tribes, and the EPA, the MPCA began taking steps to enforce the standard several years ago, which prompted representatives of the state's mining industry to push back—hard.

The industry found support at both the Legislature and from many operators of small wastewater treatment facilities around the state. Industry-affiliated groups had suggested those operations could be forced to spend millions of dollars to clean up sulfate discharges. But tribal officials discount that contention, suggesting such claims amount to scare tactics by pro-industry groups. "What our analysis really showed is that their wastewater discharges, by themselves, are not causing a violation of the sulfate standard," said Watkins. "What we did see is that those communities discharging near a mine or major utility likely wouldn't need treatment if the mines and utilities would clean up their situation."

The Legislature has largely sided with the

industry, however, passing a law in 2015 to effectively prevent the MPCA from enforcing the sulfate standard until it could devise a new one, based on updated scientific research which the Legislature funded. But when that research largely confirmed the need for the existing standard, the MPCA faced more political pressure to weaken the wild rice standard. In the end, the agency proposed a so-called "flexible," formula-based standard, but an administrative law judge disallowed the new approach. That's when the governor proposed a task force to see if the various stakeholders in the fight could find some common ground. As proposed, the new stewardship council would expand native participation to include representatives from all six of the MCT-affiliated tribes.

That's a step forward according to Kathryn Hoffman, CEO of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. "The recommendation to form a [council] with full representation from all eleven federally-recognized Native American

Tribes and communities in the state is critical for continued momentum forward," said Hoffman, who served on the Governor's Task Force. Hoffman said the tribal wild rice report also "provides helpful and important guidance on the next steps to protect wild rice."

Schuldt, who participated on the tribal task force, supports a stewardship council, noting that tribes have advocated for such a group for years. But both she and Watkins are concerned about the membership of the group, and question whether the regulated industries should be members of the council. "Sustaining wild rice is not their mission," said Schuldt.

Tribal regulators, like Watkins, say state agency officials have been too willing in the past to take the concerns of industry over those of the tribes and it's clear that such long-simmering frustrations are likely to be a factor in the ultimate decision by tribes to take part in a stewardship council.

Both Watkins and Schuldt also fear a council

could be used as another means of delaying what the tribes feel is essential—namely enforcement of the 10 mg/l sulfate standard.

"We've been pushing for enforcement of existing rules since 2006," notes Schuldt. "Despite shining a bright light on that, here we are in January 2019 and we still don't have a permit written in the state of Minnesota that requires the mining industry to clean up its pollution."

The Fond du Lac band recently took steps to try to advance that goal. The band filed suit against the MPCA on Dec. 31, arguing that the new permit it issued for the Minntac tailings basin fails to comply with the wild rice standard among other issues (see related story page 9).

One of several maps included in the tribal report highlights the degree to which high sulfate levels in some northeastern Minnesota watersheds appears to be strongly connected with mining, with the highest sulfate levels appearing right along the southwest-to-northeast trajectory of the Iron Range. The map also

indicates that some downstream waters, such as the St. Louis River and Lake Vermilion, are experiencing higher-than-normal sulfate levels according to test results.

While the entire issue might seem a relatively minor one to many Minnesotans, Schuldt said the future of wild rice, known as "Mahnomen" to the Ojibwe, is fundamental to the spiritual and physical health of native peoples in the state. "It's more than food," she said. "It's medicine, identity and culture."

According to Schuldt, historical records show that Mahnomen was once widespread in North America, east of the Rockies, but has seen dramatic decline since European settlement. "With westward expansion, and things like agriculture and forestry, what is left now is largely confined to the state of Minnesota and few areas in northern Wisconsin and a handful of locations in Michigan," she said. "It's profoundly diminished from its historic range."

SCHOOLS...Continued from page 3

date.

► Designated Klun Law Firm as the district's legal counsel for 2019 at the rate of \$120 per hour,

an increase from \$110 per hour in 2018.

► Established 2019 compensation rates of \$189 per month, for

school board members and \$243 per month for the board chair, and \$30,000 life insurance, plus an additional \$54 per board

member for study session attendance.

► Designated the *Ely Echo*, the only quote received, as the official

newspaper of the school district for 2019 at the rate of \$5.22 per column inch for display and public notice advertising.

► Approved paying \$1,250 in 2019 dues to the Range Association for Municipalities and Schools.

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Township agrees to pay partial damages after sewer back-up

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- After a resident's sewer backed up into the basement of his Soudan home last November, the town board, at their meeting on Jan. 9, agreed to pay the Service-Master cleaning bill of Paul and Lynn Roy. The township is still working with its insurance adjuster to determine the township's responsibility in the matter. Chairman Tim Tomsich was initially told by the adjuster that the township should not be liable, but after reviewing pictures of the sewer taken about a month before the backup, showing a large blockage, the town board decided to pay the cleaning bill of about \$22,000. The township acted before hearing back from their

insurance adjuster, in order to take advantage of a 10-percent discount from ServiceMaster. The Roys still have many additional costs, besides the actual cleaning bill, stemming from the sewer backup but have not yet made an insurance claim.

Maintenance director Dale Swanson said he had cleaned that sewer about a year earlier in August of 2017, so it is unclear why the sewer would have backed up so soon.

The Roys expressed thanks to Swanson and Tom Poderzay who responded quickly to remedy the incident and prevented further damages to the home.

Costs for hired clerk/treasurer discussed

Tomsich presented estimates regarding proposed costs

of switching to a hired clerk/treasurer position. He presented a worksheet that showed the current elected-clerk's wages at \$20,000 per year and the elected-treasurer's wages at \$21,000 per year, for a total cost of \$41,000. The estimates for an appointed clerk/treasurer showed a \$41,000 annual wage, a deputy clerk/treasurer at \$8,400 per year, and an additional \$23,000 for a required external audit. Tomsich estimated the additional cost of moving to a hired position at \$31,400 per year. Tomsich said this is a low-ball estimate and doesn't include possible benefits if the position were to be full-time.

Other business

In other business, the board:

► Will be working with Scott Sosalla from Architectural Resources Inc. (ARI) of Hibbing and John Jamnick with JPJ Engineering on the township renovation project. Sosalla will send plans soon and the board will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 16 at 1 p.m. to go over them.

► Will seek an estimate from ARI to complete plans for the proposed gazebo in the Breitung Recreation Area due to time constraints with the previous architectural firm.

► Approved a Breitung Township Employee Handbook that would cover both employees and elected officials.

► Rescinded the Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement that was made between Breitung, Tower, and Greenwood fire departments that states for any call in those municipalities all

three departments will respond. The board's exit from the agreement will officially take place after the switch to a box alarm system, recommended by Fire Chief Steve Burgess. The new system would eliminate many nuisance calls.

► Heard from Burgess that the fire department may have found a new fire truck and is in the midst of price negotiations. If the price is \$130,000 or less, the amount previously approved by the board, a representative from the fire department and a mechanic will take a look at the vehicle, which is located in Pennsylvania.

Red Hats to meet on Feb. 14

TOWER- The Northern Red Hat Belles will meet on Thursday, Feb. 14 at the Black Bear Café at 12 noon. Please RSVP by Monday, Feb. 11 to Pam Lundstrom at 218-753-3006. There will be a limited menu to order from.

Lyme Disease Support Group to meet on Jan. 24

TOWER- A Lyme Disease Support Group will meet on Thursday, Jan. 24 at 6 p.m. at St. James Presbyterian Church, 302 Spruce St. in Tower. All interested community members are invited to attend.

Chimpy's Family Fun Night on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at TS Elementary

TOWER- Come join in the fun and games at Chimpy's Family Fun Night on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at the Tower-Soudan Elementary School in the gym and flex room from 3 to 4:15 p.m. Gym time includes rolling globe, tightrope walking, spinning plates, a bounce house, and more. Snacks will be provided, and

parents are encouraged to attend, too. All participants need to fill out a registration form before participating. This event is hosted by ISD 2142's Community Education program.

Gunnar Olson earns President's List at Central Lakes College

BRAINERD- Gunnar Olson of Tower earned a place on the President's List at Central Lakes College in fall semester. The President's List includes 228 students who earned a grade-point average of 3.75 to 4.0 while enrolled for at least 12 credits. Central Lakes College is a comprehensive community and technical college in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System. The college serves about 5,300 students annually.

St. Paul's sets annual meeting for Jan. 27

SOUDAN- St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Soudan will hold their annual meeting on Sunday, Jan. 27 after the service. All members are encouraged to attend. Any questions please call Susan Trucano-Precht at

218-780-1560.

Local township filings now closed; races on the ballot in Greenwood and Vermilion Lake

REGIONAL- Filings for township elections closed on Tuesday, Jan. 15 at 5 p.m. Local township elections are being held in Vermilion Lake, Greenwood, and Breitung. Most area townships have a supervisor and treasurer position on the ballot, though Vermilion Lake also has an open clerk seat.

In Vermilion Lake, Crystal Alaspa has filed for the open one-year clerk seat, and Steven Lotz (incumbent) has filed for the treasurer seat. Robert Pratt (who had been appointed to an open seat last year), and former supervisor Bruce Swieringa both filed for the open supervisor seat.

In Greenwood Township, as of press time, Carmen DeLuca (incumbent) and John Bassing have filed for the supervisor seat, and Pam Rodgers (incumbent) and Carol Maus have filed for the treasurer seat.

In Breitung Township, Tim Tomsich (incumbent) filed for supervisor, and Jorgine Gornick (incumbent) filed for treasurer.

Kugler, Embarrass and Eagles Nest hold their township elections in November.

Joint Powers Recreation Board to meet

TOWER- The Joint Powers Recreation Board will meet on Friday, Jan. 25 at 8:30 a.m. at Sulu's in Tower. All requests must be made in writing to either Julie Suihkonen, Clerk of Kugler, or Linda Keith, Tower Clerk/Treasurer, prior to the meeting.

Chimpy's Skating Parties

SOUDAN- Chimpy's skating parties at the Soudan Rink are now underway.

This weekend, Jan. 19 and 20, there will be skating parties from 12 noon - 2 p.m. This weekend's parties are sponsored by the Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board. 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 the skating season. The warming shack regular hours are weekdays from 4 p.m. to closing, and weekends from 11 a.m. to closing.

Tower-Soudan Athletic Association to hold annual meeting, Jan. 31

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Athletic Association will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, Jan. 31, following the end

of the Vermilion Country School Board meeting at approximately 6 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Vermilion Country School.

TSAA is a local booster club that raises money at its annual fall auction to fund athletics and activities at the Vermilion Country School, summer baseball programs, and special elementary athletic opportunities at Tower-Soudan Elementary. In 2018, the group donated about \$3,500 for youth activities, including Tower-Soudan Little League (\$650) and Babe Ruth (\$650); community programs at VCS, including the Lake Superior Zoomobile visit and community open house; sponsored the VCS running club; sponsored the VCS yearbook; and paid the entry fees for the TS Elementary students who participated in the Ely Marathon (\$360).

Funds available for donation vary due to the success of the annual auction. This year's auction raised almost \$1,000 more than previous years, so the group will have additional funds available.

The 2018 officers were Marshall Helmburger, president; Joan Dostert, vice-president; and Jodi Summit, treasurer. The 2019 officers will be elected at the annual meeting. Anyone wishing to learn more about the group, or to request funding, can contact Jodi Summit at vcs.charter@gmail.com.

Friends of Vermilion Country School holds annual meeting on Jan. 31; group hosts monthly senior bingo

TOWER- Friends of Vermilion Country School will hold their annual meeting on Thursday, Jan. 31 at the Vermilion Country School, at approximately 6:15 p.m. The group is a booster

club for the school, and all money raised goes to support school activities and other needs that are not funded through the regular budget.

The group sponsors Senior Bingo, held at the Tower Civic Center on the first Monday of each month from February through December. This year, bingo raised, on average, \$360 per month. Students from VCS volunteer each month at bingo, helping run the event. The group also sponsors the Fourth of July 10K run/walk, and also writes grants to support school activities and community events. In addition, Friends sponsors the annual December Craft Show at the Tower Civic Center.

Friends also works with the school's student council, helping to support student fundraisers and activities such as dances. School activities supported in 2018 included paying fees for participation in the ice sculpture contest at the Ely Winter Festival, supplies for various student community service projects, Minnesota State High School League fees, a trip to the Duluth Aquarium, honey beehive project supplies and live bees, graduation expenses, Boundary Waters canoe trip food, paintball trip, school supplies and prizes for the open house, young adult novels for reading groups, field trip transportation expenses, math classroom smartboard, and help with the school's marketing efforts to attract new students.

The 2018 officers were Muriel Scott, president; and Jodi Summit, treasurer. New officers will be elected at the annual meeting.

Friends would like to send special thanks to its regular adult bingo volunteer crew of Muriel Scott, Joan Dostert, Jodi Summit, and Sheldon Majerle.

Thank You

Thanks to everyone from the Tower-Soudan area who came to my benefit, worked, and contributed. It was great to see everyone and know I have so many friends and so much support and love.

Most Sincerely,
Neil Mayo and Family

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SOUDAN SKATING FUN



Chimpy’s skating parties are fun for all ages

Above: Julia Tuchel (left) and Elsie Larson take a break on the ice.

Left: Brayden gets a skating lesson from his father Jordan Purkat.

photos by S. Ukkola

THE NEWS OF THE WEEK FROM MS. VERA MILION



Dear Hearts,

HAPPY NEW YEAR..... so far??? We have started the New Year without TV. Not intentional, however, news has gotten to be too much for anyone who is rational – that’s just not an option! Many people will jump to the conclusion that we old liberals are just overreacting to the situation we find ourselves in politically.

It seems, from what the boys at Perpich TV tell us, that when you drop kick your TV – it causes permanent and irreparable damage. “And,” the man said, leading us to a repair area in the back which had heaps of TV’s with kicked in screens which reached up to the ceiling, “there are a lot of people ahead of you.”

So, we had to revert to ancient methods of entertainment... reading! We started with “True Story”...come on girl, get a life.

“Family Circle” and “Woman’s Day” were next... way too many decorating tips, recipes and tips for family fun nights. We attempted Martha Stewart, but we are on a fixed income and could not afford (or find

locally) the vast variety of scissors, parchment paper, glue... well if you know Martha you know what we mean.

WE ARE BOOK-WORMS! However, when THREE area libraries AND a Bookmobile demand that we return our cards – even Moose and the boys would get the hint.

Sending a deputy sheriff and two squads seems a bit of an over-kill. And was the strip search necessary? So, we are getting our books from those twirly wire stands and used book sales. Since Dec. 15, we have read the following authors, listed with their romantic category:

Elizabeth Adler- romantic suspense/travel romance

Charlotte Vale Allen- contemporary women’s issues

Susan Anderson – romantic suspense – usually with a light touch

S u s a n n e Brockmann- romantic suspense

Lisa Cach- paranormal romance/humorous romance

Jackie Collins – glitz and glamorous... and there are one hundred more.

On Christmas morn, there beneath the tree is a small package, so small that it has to be a book. I cry out, fall to my knees, and rip open the package with my teeth. A book!

Not one of those

cheap romances with bodices ripped asunder by a pirate king, nor a school teacher from the East hoisted to the saddle of a cattle rustler by her shredded bodice, nor heart-stopping palpitations overcoming a widow lady whose ranch was being foreclosed by the local crooked banker.

Well, beloved readers, it was a copy of “The Complete Guide to Hosta.” Who knew there were hostas named “Alakazaan,” “Hanky Panky,” “Seducer,” “Ben Vernooij,” and “Wheee!” I had heart palpitations to the max – real heart palpitations. I haven’t had such throbbing in my chest since I read “Peyton Place” in junior high. Not the ones we fake so we can get that cute ambulance attendant who gives MOUTH-TO-MOUTH resuscitation. Do not judge, it is cold. Judge not, lest you be judged and there is nothing on TV.

One hundred and twenty-seven hosta in glorious color–I stand on our snow-covered deck imagining summer, what will go where. Should I specialize? Only Blue Hosta, giant ones five feet across? Oh, the summer looks better already.

This recipe was included in an unsigned Christmas card. Have at it!

Not one of those

Bacon, Bourbon, and Hazelnut Hot Chocolate Recipe

4 thick-cut slices of bacon

1/2 tsp cornstarch

1/4 cup cocoa powder

1 tbs sugar

1 pinch kosher salt

3 cups whole milk

4 oz. milk chocolate chips

4 oz. bittersweet chocolate chips

4 oz. Frangelico

4 oz. bourbon

Whipped cream and chopped toasted hazelnuts for garnish

Directions:

Cook bacon in a large, heavy bottomed skillet over medium-low heat until crisp and rendered. Transfer bacon to a paper-towel-lined plate. Pour fat into a small bowl and stir in cornstarch with a fork.

In medium saucepan, stir cocoa with sugar and salt. Stir in reserved bacon fat/corn starch mixture, milk, milk chocolate, and bittersweet chocolate. Heat over medium heat, stirring constantly, until chocolate is melted, and mixture is hot. Gently whisk to completely homogenize mixture.

Add Frangelico and bourbon. Pour into individual serving cups. Top with whipped cream, chopped toasted hazelnuts, and a strip of bacon. Serve immediately.

Ms. Vera Milion

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 Jan. 21

Monday- Beef Fried Rice, Bread Stick, Vegetable

Tuesday- Lasagna, Dinner Roll

Wednesday- Chicken Alfredo, Bread Stick, Green Beans

Thursday- Taco Salad, Corn Muffin

Friday- No school, no lunch served

Week of Jan. 28

Monday- Chicken Chow Mein, Brown Rice

Tuesday- White Chicken Chili, Tortilla Chips, Bread Stick

Wednesday- Cheese and Bean Enchilada

Week of Jan. 21

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 Feb.19.

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 vermilioncountry.org.





the TIMBERJAY

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Publisher	Marshall Helmberger
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Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, Jan. 23; Feb. 13; March 6, 27	
Bois Forte Boys/Girls Club	11:00-11:30 a.m.
Greenwood Town Hall	12:00-12:30 p.m.
Soudan Fire Hall	1:45-3:00 p.m.
Tower Civic Center	3:15-4:15 p.m.
Embarrass, Four Corners	5:15-6:00 p.m.

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

Transfer station

Soudan Canister		Hwy. 77 Canister	
<i>Expanded hours year-round</i>		<i>Summer Hours through Sept. 30</i>	
Monday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Tuesday	1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Wed.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Thursday	8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Saturday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Sunday	12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
For info: 1-800-450-9278		Recycling canisters available daily at the Greenwood Town Hall. For info: 1-800-450-9278	

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

Tuesday Group

ELY - The upcoming Tuesday Group schedule is listed below. All talks are at 12 noon on Tuesday at the Grand Ely Lodge.
Jan. 22-Sherry Abts - Sharing with Sherry/Loon Stories
Ely Space Camp set to blast off
ELY - The 2019 Ely Space Camp will be held Friday and Saturday, Jan. 18-19 at Grace Tabernacle Church, 3 E Allaire St.
As part of their five-year anniversary, Space Camp organizers will be hosting a special Friday night for families complete with rocket launches and telescopes.
Ely Space Camp will take place Friday, Jan. 18, 5-7p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 19. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
To register online, go to VBSmate.com/ElySpaceCamp or find the link on the Ely Space Camp Facebook page.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2019




town frozen over
formidable cold seeping
light pastel mornings

WINDOW INTO YESTERDAY

Ely's Norman Rockwell pictures

by DAVID KESS
Ely-Winton Historical Society



The Lekatz brothers, above, in this World War II portrait, include from left, Michael, Peter, Louis, Paul and Joseph. Former Ely Santa Claus, below, was Dan Toms. photos courtesy of the Ely/Winton Historical Society.

ELY - Norman Rockwell—so many of us are familiar with his calendar pictures: ones given to us by banks, merchants, and insurance agents. Better quality ones may have been bought in card shops and galleries. He became very well known for his nearly fifty years of covers for The Saturday Evening Post. He also did fifty-one annual calendars and other art work for the Boy Scouts of America—receiving the Scouts' highest honor, the Silver Bear.

Norman Rockwell never lived in a small town but used faces and places from a number of them. His output was prodigious, painting seriously until he was eighty-two. He died at age ninety-two in Connecticut, his work having been memorialized in two museums.

Closer to home a number of his down-home pictures of ordinary citizens can be compared to some of ours in Ely. The Ely-Winton Historical Society has collected more than 22,000 photographs from the Ely area and a great many are of ordinary citizens.

They have pictures of a soda counter at Vertin's, Dr. John Hanson in his optometrist's office, school room pictures (1906), swimming at Semer's Park, kids playing ball, people boarding the train in Ely, actors in a VCC play, Ely's Santa Claus (Dan Toms), and an Ely High School baseball team coached by George Marsnik and Matty Stukel. Look for the Lekatz brothers in military uniforms, the Kess family at Thanksgiving, and EHS cheerleaders (Betty Kunstel was still a cheerleader last year!). These perhaps will show you how we compare to Norman Rockwell's calendar pictures.

Rockwell's subjects were often idealistic and somewhat sentimental. They were not from a single town anywhere although many of them were inspired by New England scenes imagined and real. Some thought Norman Rockwell to be more of an illustrator than an artist but he himself said he was both. His intent was to capture the American culture of the time: average citizens finding happiness in everyday events. Ely citizens were really not so unlike many of the subjects he painted although it could be said his faces were not as ethnic looking as Ely's once were.

So many of the photos given to the historical society unfortunately have no recorded names. If you see these pictures in the Fine Arts Lobby at VCC and recognize some faces, please help by sharing your information with whomever might be in the office.

The previous display, devoted to World War I and the hundred-year anniversary of its conclusion, will be moved the the Ely Public Library for the next two months. "Ely's Norman Rockwell Pictures" will be on display at VCC for January and February before moving to the library.

They will be followed by a second series of "Ely's Norman Rockwell Pictures" in March and April at the college.





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LIVING HISTORY

Open house set at Halfway Ranger Station

ELY - Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps is hosting an open house at Halfway Ranger Station Historic District near Ely on Saturday, Feb. 2 from noon to 3 p.m.
The Ranger Station, located on Highway 1, has a history that goes back to the early 1900s starting as a lumber company site, then a ranger dwelling for the Forest Service, and its most recent use by the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station for fire and mammal research.
The Halfway Ranger Station Historic District, consists of eleven buildings and one structure on twelve acres of land along the Kawishiwi River, which includes buildings built by the Works Progress Administration and the Depression Era Civilian Conservation Corps.
Come for a tour or just to look around. There will be a bonfire, plenty of history, and great views.
Feel free to bring snowshoes to explore the rest of the grounds. Please note that the site does not have running water and the facilities is an outhouse.
Other questions or inquiries please email jessica@northernbedrockcorps.org.
This project has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society.



MINNESOTA YOUTH SKI LEAGUE

Nordic ski school opens at Hidden Valley



The Ely chapter of Minnesota Youth Ski League held opening ceremonies on Jan. 6 for the 2019 ski season. The program offers children the opportunity to learn about Nordic skiing. More than 100 area children are enrolled this year. Emily Dunn, top, is all smiles at her first lesson. Carl Skustad, above, runs participants through warm-up drills. Etta Meyer, below left, gets help from her mom, Shannon. Elton Brown, below right, lights the ceremonial torch to open the season. A couple of participants, below, seemed to enjoy rolling around on the slopes.

photos by K. Vandervort



Higher Education

Ely students make UMD Dean's List

ELY – Local students attending the University of Minnesota - Duluth, Emma R. Kari and Mathew A. Maternowsky, were named to the Dean's List for the fall semester 2018. Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Kari, a freshman enrolled in the School of Fine Arts, is studying Graphic Design.

Maternowsky, a senior, is enrolled in the Swenson College of Science and Engineering and is studying Electrical Engineering.

Ely students make NDSU Dean's List

ELY – The North Dakota State University's Fall 2018 Dean's List includes two Ely students, Benjamin P. Gantt, studying Horticulture, and Elliot A. Omerza, studying Mechanical Engineering.

Killoran honored at Bethel University

ELY - Matthew Killoran, a Junior at Bethel University in St. Paul, has been named to the Dean's List for academic excellence for the fall 2018 semester. He is the son of Alan Killoran of Ely.

The Dean's List honors students who achieve an outstanding scholastic record during a semester with a grade-point average of 3.6 or greater.

For information on Bethel University, go to www.bethel.edu.

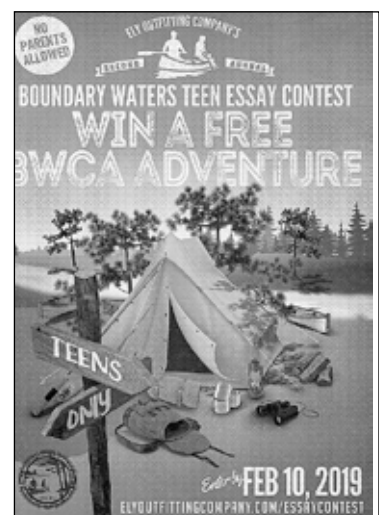
The Great Outdoors

Wilderness essay contest, for teens only, deadline is Feb. 9

ELY – The deadline for The Ely Outfitting Company's second annual "Boundary Waters Teen Essay Contest" is Saturday, Feb. 9.

The winner receives a fully outfitted, self-guided, five-day, canoe-camping adventure in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). Up to three friends, ages 15 through 18, can join in, but—no parents or adult guides are allowed.

The contest is open to current high school sophomores, juniors and seniors. Essays should range in length from 1,000-1,500 words and respond to the question, "Why do you want to go on a parent-free, BWCAW canoe-camping adventure with your friends?"



Jason Zabokrtsky, Ely Outfitting Company founder, cited recent studies that show young people today sometimes spend less time outside than prison inmates. "That trend can lead to anxiety, obesity and attention deficit disorder," he said. "The Boundary Waters Teen Essay Contest is a celebration of unstructured time outdoors and a chance for young people to safely challenge themselves, build self-confidence and eventually take the reins as this country's future leaders."

Safety is the top priority to ensure the winning trip is set up for success. "We address considerations and concerns from parents who might have reservations about their child participating in a self-guided trip," he said.

The winning outfitting package includes high-end gear like Kevlar canoes, backcountry tents, specialized trail meals, maps and an emergency communication device. Throughout the contest, Ely Outfitting Co. will also give away random prizes like BWCAW calendars, shirts, hats and water bottles to entrants. Everyone who enters will receive a \$50 coupon good toward outfitting packages and equipment rentals.

For complete contest details, go online to elyoutfittingcompany.com/essaycontest.

WASHINGTON D.C. SENIORS

Spaghetti Dinner

F+U+N+D+R+A+I+S+E+R

ALL-U-CAN-EAT Spaghetti Dinner

Friday, January 18 • 4-7 pm

Ely High School Cafeteria

Spaghetti w/Meat or Veggie Sauce
Tossed Salad/Dressings/Bread Sticks
Cookies/Beverage

Adults \$7 • Students (with school ID) \$6

Seniors \$6 • Children Grades K-6 \$4

Age 4 And Under FREE

JOIN US BEFORE THE
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS
BASKETBALL GAME



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
2019 WASHINGTON DC SENIORS

Community Notices

Winter Reading Programs

COOK - The Cook Public Library is ready for winter, offering programs and events for all ages. The programs kick off in January and runs through March.

Adult Winter Reading:

Curl up with a good book and enter to win prizes during the Winter Reading Program. Prize entry tickets will be given for each book or audio book checked out from the Cook Public Library. This includes items requested from other libraries. Write your name, phone number and prize number on your ticket and turn it in at the front desk. Prize bundles are on display at the library. Drawings for prizes will be held on March 13.

Teen Winter Challenge (Grades 7 – 12):

Check out 25 books or more and get an invite to an all-day Saturday party at the library in March.

Preschool – Sixth-Grade Reading Challenge:

Every time a child checks out a book she or he will receive a mitten cutout to hang in the library window. If 400 mittens are in the windows by March 8, we'll have a pizza party at the library.

Winter Events at NWFA Gallery

COOK - Northwoods Friends of the Arts (NWFA) Gallery winter hours for viewing the exhibits and shopping are in effect now until April: Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

New Painting Class to register for.

“A Study in Light and Color” presented by Thomas Chapman from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16. Open to adults using any media. Bring your own materials. Necessary colors: red, yellow, blue, white and black.

You must register with Tom Chapman at

218-750-4416 or tom@artfromgodsheart.com.

Aside from Feb. 16, every Saturday is Open Studio Art Space at NWFA Gallery from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Note the ending time is 12:30 to accommodate transition to the writers group.

Woodcarvers For Beginners to Expert meets every Tuesday night at 6 p.m. at the gallery.

Grocery delivery services offered in Cook

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.

Empty Bowl event at North Woods

FIELD TWP - North Woods is celebrating their seventh year of Empty Bowl. This year it will be on Friday, Feb. 22, from 4:30-7 p.m. in the North Woods Commons. To switch it up this year students made more bowls on the pottery wheel than ever before, along with decorative plates! You'll want to get to the event early because bowls made on the pottery wheel sell very fast!

This year, Miss Minnesota's Outstanding Teen, Eden Webb, will also be in attendance. She will be providing free autographs and taking pictures. So, be sure to bring the entire family along. As usual, there will be plenty of soups and desserts to chose from. One bowl costs \$10. In return you get a soup meal and get to keep the handmade bowl. All of the proceeds are given to the food shelf. We look forward to seeing you there!

Daniel Holman earns Dean's List

BRAINERD- Daniel Holman of Orr earned a place on the Dean's List

at Central Lakes College fall semester. The Dean's List includes 291 students who earned a grade-point average of 3.25 to 3.74.

U of M Beef Team to host Seminar, Tour, and Trade Show

IRON- The University of Minnesota Beef Team is proud to host the annual Cow/Calf Days Seminar Tour and Trade Show in Iron on Friday, Jan. 25 at 5:30 p.m. at Clinton Hall, 9831 Hwy. 37. This event has been held for over 45 years and continues to be the leading information, technology, and research outlet for cow/calf producers in the state of Minnesota.

The 2019 event will feature information on cow herd efficiency, genetic selection for commercial cow/calf operators, and optimizing ranch production per acre. The program also will feature a Q & A session with Elanco Animal Health veterinarians Dr. Brett Terhar and Dr. Bruce Hoffman. Updates from the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association will also highlight the event. The corresponding trade show will feature vendors with new information, technology, and products with a wide-array of practical uses for the operators in the cow/calf sector.

More information at www.extension.umn.edu/beef, or contact Eric Mousel at 218-513-0781, or emmousel@umn.edu.

Voges places at archery tourney

GREENWAY - Jeremiah Voges placed first in the high school boys division of the archery tournament here last weekend.

Voges tallied 293 points during the event.

He was the only competitor from the area to place in the tournament.



Steven Sopoci, Isabelle Koch, Lauren Burnett and Braden King took top spots at Monday's spelling bee. photo by M. White

Sopoci outlasts Koch in 11-round spelling bee

by MARCUS WHITE
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP - Thirty minutes is what it took to find out who was the top speller at North Woods on Monday afternoon. Eight students, two each from grades five through eight, competed for the top prize of moving on to the regional bee in Mt. Iron later this year.

In the end it would be eighth-grader Steven Sopoci defeating fifth grader Isabelle Koch in eleven rounds.

In the first round, four of the eight contestants were eliminated on their first word, stumbling on squeeze, prayer, rubbish, and lunar.

Fifth graders Isabelle Koch and Lauren Burnett each spelled their words, sneakers and cardboard, correctly.

Eighth-graders Sopoci and Braden King survived the round as well, spelling guilty and interviews respectively.

In the second round, Burnett and King both missed their words.

Koch and Sopoci spelled radish and mulch.

Koch and Sopoci would then battle it out over eight rounds with Koch initially spelling thirst, infested, aromas, and citizen correctly.

Sopoci spelled dwelling, discomfort, swindle, and monopoly correctly.

In round seven both misspelled their words meaning neither was eliminated.

Koch would go on to spell achieve and sensible correctly before misspelling advanced.

Sopoci would spell

plodding, anthem, and composition correctly. He then went on to spell one additional work, immune, correctly, giving him the win, with Koch as runner-up.

He will now go on to compete against other regional schools in Mt. Iron for a right to proceed to the state level. The district this year is participating in the National Spelling Bee.

Students participating in the bee this year included eighth-graders Steven Sopoci and Braden King; seventh-graders Madison Dantes and Adriana Whiteman; sixth-graders Rylan Jesme and Ben Koskela; and fifth-graders Isabelle Koch and Lauren Burnett.

Briefly, from the Orr City Council

ORR - The city council met here for the first time this year to re-organize for the coming months. The council took action on:

➤Contracting with Sterle and Co. as the city's auditing firm.

➤Voted to continue using the *Timberjay* as their legal newspaper.

➤Voted to continue use of American Bank as the city's financial institution.

➤Raised the mileage rate to 58 cents on new IRS guidelines.

➤Retained the same committee structure and appointments as last year.

➤Appointed Bruce Black the acting mayor in the event Joel Astle-

ford is absent.

➤Voted on a new policy that will charge \$25 per hour at the Community Center when a bartender is requested for an event. The fee to rent the hall did not change. Bartenders will also be guaranteed \$14 per hour in wages when they work a community center event.

Crane Lake News by the Singing Teapot Dames



Looks like fair weather is on the horizon for the next few days. Predictions are for above-zero daytime temps, with only a couple of days to be in the below-zero range. It is January, so we can be glad that we are not having icebox temps.

January has several "notable" days, if one pays attention to those. Since it appears no one was born in January in Crane Lake, or wants to admit to it, some of the other occasions will be mentioned.

You may be unaware that you have already missed some interesting

days to celebrate, such as Run It Up the Flagpole and See If Anyone Salutes Day (Jan. 2), Cuddle Up Day (Jan. 6), Peculiar People Day (Jan. 10), or Dress Up Your Pet Day (Jan. 14). It could be that some of the Jan. 14 people could qualify for the Jan. 10 day as well. Jan. 21 sees two important events sharing the same day: National Hugging Day and Squirrel Appreciation Day. The Dames are sure no one will want to forget them.

National Pie Day is Jan. 23, 2019.

National Pie Day was born in 1975 in Boulder, Colo., thanks to a school teacher named Charlie Papazian. On Jan. 23, his birthday, he declared that this day would be forever remembered as National Pie Day. Why did he do that, you ask? Well, for one good reason: Charlie really loved pie. In fact, he loved it so much he would have a "birthday pie" instead of a birthday cake. Since then, his idea for a National Pie Day

has spread all over the United States.

Pie can trace its roots all the way back to the Greeks. The Greeks created what is believed to be the pastry shell by mixing together water and flour. They would then fill these pastries with a variety of different things – everything from honey to fruits to meats. The Romans adopted these pies and began to improvise with them by filling them with a variety of fruits and nuts, meats, fish, and even mussels.

We are unsure why, but Jan. 23 is also Measure Your Feet Day. Could it be that after eating a lot of pie, it has settled and feet have become larger? Chocolate Cake Day is commemorated on Jan. 27—perhaps after eating pie, one needs another sweet dessert to celebrate.

Since we seem to be stuck on food, are you aware that honey is a unique food item? Honey is something of an oddity, in that, unlike most

foods, it doesn't spoil over time. In fact, the oldest known sample of honey, found in an Ancient Egyptian tomb and dated to approximately 3,000 years ago, was still edible. Honey has been called the only food that truly lasts forever, thanks to its magical chemistry and the handiwork of bees. The nectar from flowers mixes with enzymes inside the bees that extract it, which changes the nectar's composition. The liquid created has less moisture and is more acidic, keeping the bacteria away naturally. When the honey is sealed properly, moisture cannot be absorbed, and the honey stays the same forever.

Both of the Dames have been having issues with rather necessary services if one lives in a remote area during winter. One of the Dames has been having plumbing difficulties, while the other old Dame has been having issues with a satellite provider. Is

anyone else having difficulties getting thru the winter? We could have a "lament" day where sharing of problems could help us support each other and commiserate. Conveniences that become necessities during the dark, cold winter always seem to be more troublesome than they should be.

Did anyone cheer for the Saints last Sunday? It was a hard choice to figure out who one wanted to win in the game—the Saints who treated our quarterback so poorly in a past playoff game or the team whose fans told Viking fans to "get out of our stadium, get out of our town". And just another question—what did you think of the Packers firing Mike McCarthy mid-season? Super Bowl is coming up. Maroon 5 is performing amid lots of hype. The Dames are showing their ages as they have no clue who they are!

Destin, Fla., experienced a really great

week temperature-wise, but cooler temps have moved in. Cooler temps means mid-50s during the day; warmer days will be coming. Crane Lake has the Crane Lake Challenge in early March to look forward to, plus there's always ice fishing and snowmobiling. How are the trails? Has Bingo started up at Voyageaire yet? And has anyone taken the Polar Plunge yet? (Who says we don't know how to have fun?)

Hope all is well for you and yours. Prayers are sent out to all in our community who are suffering health issues and disappointments.

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!

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Supercharge your life with these wellness tips

by Holly Holmes
Nutrition Services Director

We have all heard it helps to have a strong core to engage properly in exercise. Same is true with our bodies as a whole to maintain good healthy weight and energy level for healthy lifestyle. In order to have success with our weight and nutrition, we need some pillars around us to be strong; these “pillars” are a good basis for success with a “lifestyle change” which is needed for success with any weight loss/maintenance and exercise goal.

Mindfulness is the first pillar I am going to mention. Mindfulness is a state of awareness. It is paying attention a particular way: On purpose, in the present moment, and nonjudgementally. With good sound nutrition, it is imperative to practice mindfulness. Quick tips

for simple mindfulness when you think you are hungry- STOP:

S- Stop what you are doing

T-Take one minute

O-Observe bodily signals. Are you truly hungry or angry or lonely or tired?

P-Proceed.

If you truly are hungry, taste your food and take time, noticing the temperature, aroma, texture, and the joy of the experience of eating healthy food. Mindful eating research shows an increase in activity levels with practice and decrease in depression and anxiety as well as increase in self-esteem and body image and enhanced psychological well-being, and long term success with diet and an exercise plan.

Characteristics of Mindfulness:

➤Rushing most of the time.

➤Random ctivity.

➤Sense of urgency/anxiety.

➤Constant judgement and reactivity.

➤Repetitiveness.

➤Lack of focus and clarity.

Characteristics of Mindfulness:

➤Slowing down from time to time.

➤Thoughtful activity.

➤Sense of calm/serenity

➤Nonjudgemental and appropriate, more effective response.

➤Creativity

➤Ability to stay focused.

Another pillar is physical activity. We all know we need to get some physical activity in every day. The more we move, the more calories we burn. Physical activity naturally increases endorphins in our body which helps reduce stress, which in turn helps reduce cor-

tisol levels, which helps decrease insulin output and craving for sugary fatty foods especially if our blood sugar is low after insulin is secreted. Without physical activity, any good nutrition goal will be tough to sustain.

The pillar of sleep is huge. The statistics show that Americans do not get enough sleep. The CDC reports that one in three adults do not get enough sleep. Sleep is critical, enabling the body to heal, repair, restore, and regenerate itself. One study demonstrated that drivers who had gone 17-19 hours without sleep, functioned like subjects with a blood alcohol level of 0.05 percent.

Research shows that overweight patients report about 1.8 hours a week less sleep than normal weight patients. Studies show overweight individuals, who sleep less, have lower levels

of leptin, a hormone that acts on the hypothalamus to suppress appetite. Less leptin often translates into more eating.

Short sleepers also had higher gherlin levels. Gherlin is a hormone produced by the stomach when it is empty. It stimulates the hypothalamus to increase appetite.

Also, the immune system will be seriously compromised in the face of sleep deficit. There is evidence that one rough night can take its toll on the immune system.

Research has showed as much as a 50 percent drop in lymphocyte counts after just one night of four hours of sleep. Cell counts returned to normal after a good night of recovery sleep.

Another pillar is good nutrition, including antioxidants to help fight free radicals that are in our environment as well as our systems with different stressors.

➤Vitamin C rich foods along with the ever important minerals of potassium, magnesium, and selenium.

➤Trying to incorporate a variety of fruits and vegetables is important while reaping the benefits of antioxidant rich foods such as berries and beets which are rich in anthocyanins which helps fight those free radicals that contribute to inflammation over time, which in turn can affect our outcome with becoming sick or an inflammatory condition taking over.

At eatright.org, there is a great tool, the MyPlate Plan, where you can enter your age and calorie recommendations, and amounts for each food group deciphered.

➤Whole grains over white flour is a better option for more vitamins and minerals as well as fiber.

➤Lean meats, eggs, cheese, milk, yogurt, legumes, and nuts and nut butters good protein sources.

➤Limit lunch meats and bacon and sausage meats. Limit processed foods as much as possible. Coffee and tea are full of antioxidants and have a lot of benefits.

➤Coffee is known to be a complex mixture of more than 1,000 bioactive compounds that may have beneficial antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anticancer properties.

➤Sugar consumption feeds inflammation as well as our waistlines, so sugar should be kept to a minimum for all of us. As far as fat goes, we want to limit that as well but also know the difference between healthy fats and unhealthy fats.

➤Monounsaturated fats are those in canola oil, olive oil, avocado oil, safflower oil and nuts to name a few also known as healthy fats and have a significant amount of omega 3 and omega 6 fatty acids that help fight free radicals as well; they are liquid at room temperature, but start to harden when chilled.

➤Saturated and trans fats, such as butter and margarine and lard, are solid at room temperature.

These unhealthy fats contribute to heart disease and other health problems.

Holmes is the Nutrition Services Director at the Cook Hospital. Readers are welcomes to contact her at 218-666-5945.

GRIZZLY UPDATES

Meet Mrs. Jane Scherf

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

This week we continue our teacher interviews with Mrs. Jane Scherf. A possibly interesting piece of information is that Mrs. Scherf is from the same Minnesota town as my wife, Cari. This town was also where I had my first teaching job as a band director! It is truly a small world, especially in education.

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

Mrs. S: I went to High School in Thief River Falls. Go Lincoln High School Prowlers! I received a B.S. from Bemidji State in Elem Education and Special Education. I also have a Masters in Education from Southwest Minnesota State.

Mr. V: Were there teachers who were an influence on you? Please name a few if you can. What characteristics did these teachers have that were important to you?

Mrs S: Frau Young was my high school German teacher. She had a quiet demeanor and was interested about each student on a personal level. Mr. Marshall was my American Lit teacher. He was very knowledgeable and made learning fun!



JOHN VUKMANICH

My parents also guided and supported me along the way...even during those teenage years.

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

Mrs. S: I teach second grade.

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

Mrs. S: Teaching chose me...I always wanted to be a teacher. I can't remember wanting any other career. I'm a third-generation teacher following in the steps of my mom and grandma.

Mr. V: What are your hobbies?

Mrs. S: I enjoy watching my own kids participate in sports throughout each season: Football, hockey, tennis and baseball. I en-



JANE SCHERF

joy time at the lake with family and friends in the summer months.

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

Mrs. S: I enjoy the relationships I have formed with the students and co-workers. North Woods is a great place to be!

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

Mrs. S: I plan to continue to grow and change as a teacher. If we expect our kids to keep up, we should grow as professionals too.

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

Mrs. S: The peaceful and quietness of the area. I enjoy seeing people I know. Both of these are reaffirmed each time I

visit the Twin Cities. It feels very busy and full of unfamiliar faces in the Metro area.

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

Mrs. S: Be kind. One kind work can change someone's entire day.

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

Mrs. S: "Childhood is not a race to see how quickly a child can read, write and count. It is a small window of time to learn and develop at the pace that is right for each individual child." M. Gerber.

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

Mrs. S: I want my students to know that I care about each of them.

Thank you, Mrs. Scherf, for letting us get to know you better, and thank you for your commitment to our kids at North Woods School!

Go Grizzlies!

Your principal, John Vukmanich

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Jan. 31; Feb. 21; Mar. 14

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

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

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

Kabetogama – Town Hall 3:15 - 3:45 p.m.

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TOWER...Continued from page 1

did not indicate whether the individual had been notified.

Council member Kevin Fitton said he had been handling the issue for “about a week” and would only discuss the details in closed session.

In fact, it appears that Fitton’s attempt to close the meeting under the circumstances were contrary to state law, which requires that individuals against whom a public body is considering charges or allegations be informed of the meeting and subject matter in advance and be allowed to request it be held in public.

After it became clear that no other council member had asked to add the closed meeting to the agenda, Councilor Brooke Anderson offered to support the call, but council member Steve Abrahamson said the process appeared highly irregular based on his past experience as long-time mayor of the city. He also questioned Fitton and Keith on their claim that they were acting on advice of the city attorney, especially since they had no documentation of their conversation. “I would always get every opinion in writing,” Abrahamson said. “Otherwise, it’s hearsay.”

The previous council faced a similar issue late last year when it now appears Keith misled the council about a conversation she claimed to have had with attorney Chris Virta, who she said had told her that a tax abatement plan for the town home project was illegal

because state law limited interest rates to the prime rate, plus two percent. The *Timberjay* has since confirmed that Minnesota law puts no such limit on interest rates on city indebtedness and Keith has since tried to modify her original claims.

When Kringstad called the question on Monday night, Anderson and Fitton voted for the closed session, while Abrahamson, Kringstad, and new council member Rachel Beldo voted no. The council will meet, in closed session, on Monday, Jan. 28 at 5:30 p.m. The city council will actually hold two special meetings, both in closed session, to hear the unspecified complaint discussed by Fitton as well as a second complaint that has been made against Keith.

The council then voted to postpone addressing several other topics from the agenda, including the city’s annual reorganization, city administrative guidelines, city website and technical support issues, and a city hall access policy— an item requested by Kringstad in response to Keith’s decision to deny Kringstad a key to city hall. Kringstad had campaigned, in part, on his intent to maintain office hours and be available for members of the public to meet at other times in his office, but Keith is seeking to restrict his access.

According to Abrahamson, he had keys to city hall during his entire tenure as mayor, as did at least some members of the council.

In other business, *Timberjay* publisher Marshall HelMBERger, under public input, responded to a vitriolic attack against him by Keith at the city’s Dec. 19 council meeting. Keith, at the time, accused HelMBERger of falsely stating in a private email to Fitton that a set of TEDA loan guidelines that Keith had provided to the city council in recent packets was not the version approved by TEDA in 2017, when HelMBERger was chair of the group. TEDA adopted guidelines as part of a \$125,000 grant from the IRRRB to provide funds to Tower Harbor Shores and Tower Vision 2025, which were working to build town homes at the harbor at the city’s request.

At issue was the final provision in the guidelines presented by Keith, which called for disbursing the loan funding based on 50 percent of paid invoices submitted by the project developers. It was a provision that Keith had pushed TEDA to adopt, but the TEDA board had resisted. HelMBERger presented the council with his original email to Fitton and supporting documentation, including minutes, a monthly TEDA report from the time and a copy of the Hibbing EDA guidelines, upon which the original TEDA guidelines were based, and which did not include the 50-percent disbursement policy that Keith had sought.

Keith, in her angry presentation last month, called HelMBERger “a bitter old newspaper reporter” even though his concerns on the issue were never

reported in the newspaper prior to her outburst. Keith dramatically presented nearly a dozen “exhibits” which she said proved that TEDA had approved the policy. She also claimed that the provision in question had been adopted by several other communities in Minnesota, but that claim proved to be false on review of loan guidelines from the communities she cited, none of which included the disbursement policy she claimed they did. HelMBERger provided copies of those guidelines to the council on Monday.

HelMBERger noted the IRRRB officials had indicated they supported 100-percent payout on invoices presented by the town home developers and challenged Keith’s claims. Keith had also claimed back in December that the developers had failed to provide additional invoices that were necessary to close out the grant from the IRRRB, but IRRRB officials confirmed to the *Timberjay* that the grant was fully paid to the city and closed out in August of 2017. Grant coordinator Chris Ismil noted last month in a *Timberjay* interview that the grant could not have been paid in full without all the required paperwork in place.

Councilor Fitton responded immediately to HelMBERger’s input, accusing him of acting unprofessionally for “shouting” at a council member following an unspecified meeting and for calling him on his personal cell phone to ask questions about city matters. “I’m not your puppet on the council,” Fitton said.

Fitton also took issue with *Timberjay* editor Jodi Summit for trying to set up a meeting to discuss potentially defamatory comments made by Ambulance Director Steve Altenburg against the *Timberjay*, which Fitton claimed he was looking into.

He said he told Summit, who is board chair at the Vermilion Country School, where Fitton serves as administrator and instructor, that he would file a complaint if Summit ever raised city business or asked questions about city matters again. “It puts me in an impossible position because I have to say ‘no’ to my boss now about questions regarding things going on at the city.”

Fitton had expressed no such concerns, however, when he voted to appoint two of his direct subordinates from Vermilion Country School to the city’s planning and zoning commission, a commission that includes Fitton, raising questions about

the ability of those two members, Morgen Carlon and Jolene Herberg, to vote independently of Fitton on the five-member board.

Fitton continued on for several minutes, questioning whether the TEDA grant was actually closed out because the IRRRB’s website still listed it as “active”. HelMBERger said it would hardly be unusual for a state website to not be updated in a timely manner and told him to call the IRRRB for himself. He then offered to talk to Fitton about it after the meeting in an effort to get the council back on track.

Kringstad, at that point, cut Fitton off and suggested that discussions on the question would best be addressed outside of a council meeting. “I would like to see these things get resolved because we have so many things we need to do to productively grow the city,” he said.

But the issue wasn’t settled as Tony Sikora, of Soudan, interjected his own views on the matter, attacking Mayor Kringstad for his connection with the loan. “You ask how we can resolve this thing?” he said angrily. “It’d be real easy. Get your checkbook out and write the city of Tower a \$125,000 check. This issue won’t go away until every dime of that money is paid back.”

Sikora claimed that the loan has been in default for half a year, and that the city council had granted interest-only payments on the loan only through June of 2018.

Kringstad reacted calmly to Sikora’s accusations, explaining that repayment of the loan was always supposed to coincide with the start of construction on the town home project, since that’s when the project would be able to access its bank financing, which will be based on signed purchase agreements. Kringstad said he is no longer involved in the project but understood that repayment of principal from the loan would commence once the project is underway.

Sikora had earlier taken issue with another comment by Kringstad, which indicated that Sikora was representing the *Tower News*. Sikora said he didn’t work for the newspaper but only submitted letters [to the editor] or correspondence to the paper, which the publisher chooses to portray as actual news coverage. Sikora has made similar claims in the past when criticized for inaccurate or opinionated statements in his various “letters,” implying that he doesn’t have the same obligation as an actual reporter to maintain a level of objectivity.

In other public input, Richard Hanson informed the council that a visioning session for a Blandin broadband initiative for Tower would be held at the former American Legion building on Main Street on Feb. 13. He said the group spearheading the work is planning to apply for a \$70,000 grant to develop a broadband project in Tower and is looking for public input or ideas on the topic.

Most other business before the council was routine. In other action, the council:

- Accepted a letter from the Department of Health showing test results for haloacetic acids and trihalomethane were within current standards.

- Approved two pay estimates for Lenci Enterprises for work on the new TEDA industrial building. They were for \$203,300 for building work and \$7,600 for site work.

- Approved a pay estimate from TNT Aggregate totaling \$86,757 for work on the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center. The city is serving as fiscal agent for the project and is expending grant funds obtained by the center.

- Approved a motion to rescind automatic mutual aid with Breitung and Greenwood townships. The local fire departments will still be automatically paged for structure fires and will be available for mutual aid whenever necessary.

- Approved a resolution to transfer city land in the industrial park where the new industrial building is being constructed to TEDA, which will own and manage the site.

- Approved a pay estimate of \$17,730 from Neo Electrical Solutions for ongoing work at the city airport.

- Granted approval for the city to expend \$1,000 to advance a transfer of a small piece of land owned by Vermilion Housing to the Cemetery Association. Keith told the council that a small storage building long owned and used by the association is actually on property owned by Vermilion Housing, which has offered to sell the land in question for \$2,000.

- Granted Keith authorization to have a parcel of city land examined by SEH for possible use as a disc golf course. A company, Prodigy Disc, has proposed the creation of a disc golf course at a cost of \$17,729 for 18 holes and \$9,472 for nine holes.

- Accepted the low bid from the *Tower News* for the city’s official newspaper for 2019.

- Accepted several resignations from the city’s ambulance service, including Bob Dale, Jesse Gornick, Brylie Landfried, Kim Mattila, and Andrea Suikhoen. Dale also submitted his resignation from the city’s fire department.

- Accepted reports from officers and committees.

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MINING

U.S. Steel seeks to intervene in lawsuits over Minntac tailings permit

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The U.S. Steel Corporation is seeking to intervene in a pair of lawsuits that challenge the company’s new permit for water discharge from the Minntac tailings basin north of Virginia.

As the *Timberjay* reported last week, that permit is being appealed by the group Water Legacy, which contends the permit issued by the state’s Pollution Control Agency last month is a violation of the federal Clean Water Act.

U.S. Steel, given the impact the twin lawsuits could have on the company’s operations, is likely to be granted the right to intervene in the case, and will likely do so on the side of its regulator, the MPCA.

“They have a right to do so, and we don’t intend to challenge it,” said Paula Maccabee, legal counsel for Water Legacy.

The second lawsuit, filed Dec. 31 by the Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwe, argues similarly to the case filed by Water Legacy, contending that the provisions of the newly-issued Minntac permit fail to comply with federal laws and rules.

As with Water Legacy, the tribe takes particular issue with the MPCA’s decision not to classify Minntac’s tailings basin as a point source of pollution. “Therefore, the MPCA reasoned, it need not include in the permit certain adjacent, impacted surface waters or groundwater because they would only be considered “receiving waters” if the tailings basin were a ‘point

source.”” writes the band’s attorney in its legal filing. The tribe notes that the MPCA’s proposed classification was rejected by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2016, although the EPA under the Trump administration offered no comment whatsoever on the MPCA’s proposed permit when it went to public comment earlier in 2018. In the 2016 comments on the proposed permit, the EPA argued that the tailings basin is “a point source which, according to MPCA’s own documentation, is discharging pollutants to nearby surface waters in the Sand and Dark River watersheds.”

According to the EPA, the basin’s various seeps and discharge points were discharging a combined 4.3 million gallons of polluted water into the two

river systems. The Sand River is a tributary of the Pike River, which flows into Lake Vermilion.

The tribe also contends that the MPCA is misrepresenting data in claiming that discharges into the Sand River have been halted by the construction of a pump-back system at the discharge point located there. “The uncontested facts confirm ongoing flow of over 1,000 gpm at this site, and that sulfate load is thereby being added to the Sand River,” notes the band in their legal filing. “There is no justification for eliminating this monitoring site, nor for ignoring the data already collected there, much less for omitting the Sand River as a “receiving water.””

Fond du Lac is also contesting the MPCA’s decision not to enforce the

state’s 10 milligram-per-liter sulfate standard, which has been a part of state water quality rules since the 1970s in order to protect wild rice. The MPCA justified its decision to ignore the federally-approved standard by citing a 2015 law passed by the Legislature, but the Fond du Lac filing argues that the law does not prohibit the agency from enforcing the law, but only prohibits it from requiring companies to expend funds to reduce sulfate discharges. In the end, the band argues that the law, as it is being implemented by the MPCA, is itself a violation of federal law and must be overturned by the court. Water Legacy has made a similar argument and the case is likely to test the constitutionality of the Legislature’s 2015 decision to bow to the

demands of the state’s mining industry over the issue of sulfate discharges.

The two challenges to the MPCA’s discharge permit will be heard by the state’s Court of Appeals, where the two cases are likely to be combined.

Minntac is the state’s largest taconite mine and processing plant and employs about 1,800 workers. Its massive tailings basin contains billions of gallons of water that is known to contain high concentrations of sulfate, total suspended solids, bicarbonates, and other pollutants. Critics contend that discharges from the basin have decimated once-abundant wild rice crops in some receiving waters, including Sandy and Little Sandy lakes, as well as the Dark and Sand rivers.

MPCA sued over recent decision to issue new water discharge permit

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

MT. IRON— U.S. Steel has filed two lawsuits against the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency over the state regulator’s recent decision to issue a new water discharge permit for the company’s Minntac tailings basin located north of Virginia.

The new Minntac permit, issued Dec. 1, has also been challenged by the environmental group Water Legacy as well as the Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwe, both of which claim the new permit fails to comply with the federal Clean Water Act.

U.S. Steel, by contrast, argues that the MPCA acted in an “arbitrary and

capricious” manner or beyond its authority over several provisions in the permit, including a provision that the company be required to reduce sulfate contamination of groundwater in areas adjacent to the 8,700-acre tailings basin.

The MPCA is aware of substantial groundwater contamination in and

around the basin and the agency is requiring the company to reduce sulfate levels to meet the federal drinking water standard of 250 milligrams per liter.

U.S. Steel is also challenging the MPCA’s requirement that the company meet a new schedule of compliance to lower pollution levels within the Minntac tailings

basin, as well as provisions that require the company to engage in “certain monitoring and testing provisions.” The basin discharges approximately 4.3 million gallons of contaminated water each day into surrounding watersheds.

Finally, U.S. Steel is challenging the MPCA’s decision not to hold a contested case hearing prior to

issuing the final permit last month. Both the company and environmental groups urged the MPCA to hold a contested case hearing to allow experts to weigh in on certain factual disputes.

BEARS...Continued from page 1

Learning Center.”

Visitors will be greeted at the NABC with a new gift shop that has doubled in size. “We have close to a hundred unique ambassador bear items now,” he said.

A new exhibit highlighting 50 years of bear research by Dr. Lynn Rogers is set to open this spring at the Bear Center. “The reason behind this new addition to the NABC is that it puts validity in all the research that is here,” Edgett said. “The entire body of study work highlighted here was initiated by Dr. Rogers, and this whole place, opened in 2007, is an outgrowth of this work.”

A grand-opening event for the Rogers exhibit is set for July 19-21, during the tenth anniversary of the Lily Pad Picnic that celebrates the first-ever webcam-viewed birth of a bear cub. “We have fans from all over the world that watched that event and come here to celebrate year after year,” he said.

The grand-opening and expanded picnic will be held at the NABC, located on Hwy. 169 just west of Ely, and will include many special events, including live music, food trucks, silent auction, and special programs. “This will be a huge event for us,” Edgett said.

white pine tree trunk in the center of the room, modeled after a local tree that was struck by lightning. “They molded that trunk and made a model for us,” Edgett said. “Lynn (Rogers) thought it was real. Check out the mom and cubs in the canopy.”

“The cool thing is that the Cub Room was all put together by donations, particularly from the Give to the Max Day,” he said. The project cost about \$150,000 and was completed by Antlers by Klaus, a Wisconsin company who also worked on the Four Seasons and Camping with Bears displays at the NABC.

“The Cub Room allows our little visitors to have fun while learning about bears and wildlife,” Edgett said. “A reading area, interactive bear den cave, and hi-def audio-visual capability, all in a forest setting, focuses on the cub-mother interaction. It is a very realistic area. Even the floor is made of special material to make it feel like you are walking on a forest floor. It turned out fantastic with the space we had to work in.”

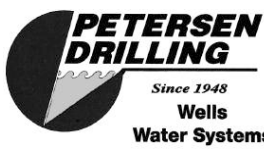
The new Cub Room at the Ely Bear Center.
photo by K. Vandervort

and Tasha will enjoy a new, deeper pond, and our visitors will be able to watch them as they take a dip.”

New programming is also in the works for 2019. Monarch butterfly tagging and releasing will be initiated by Spencer Peter and should be a popular part of the student education programming.

New and improved trail cams are already up and running. “We have seen many animal footprints in the snow,” Peter said. “And there are lots of bucks in the area.” The nature trails around the Bear Center will also be expanded and improved this spring, Edgett said.

“And future expansion calls for a larger enclosure for the ambassador bears as we grow our acreage.”



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CITY OF ELY

Timberjay named 2019 legal newspaper for Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — The city of Ely's property taxpayers stand to save thousands of dollars this year on the cost of required legal publishing with the city council's decision Tuesday night to name the Ely *Timberjay* as its official newspaper for 2019.

It was the first time in at least three years that the

Timberjay had submitted a bid, and the lack of competition had sent the city's legal publishing costs with the *Ely Echo* skyrocketing.

The *Echo* also submitted a bid this year, but it was nearly twice as expensive as the quote provided by the *Timberjay*.

Ely's city charter requires the legal newspaper designation be awarded to the lowest responsi-

ble bidder, according to Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski. "Bids are accepted from a paid newspaper of general circulation in the city of Ely," he said. "Based on our interpretation of the charter, both of the newspapers meet that requirement."

In comparing the two bids, the cost of a lower-case alphabet letter and the cost of a provided

sample ad were used.

The cost of a legal print ad in the *Timberjay* costs \$0.1857 per lower case alphabet, compared to \$0.3516 for the *Echo*.

The cost of a sample display ad in the *Timberjay* was bid at \$8.85. The cost of the same-sized sample ad in the *Echo* was more than double in price at \$18.27.

Langowski said the

Echo has been the lone bidder for the Ely legal newspaper for several years and he has seen their bid price for advertising steadily increasing. "These are taxpayer dollars we are talking about spending here," he said.

Echo General Manager Nick Wognum wrote in a letter to the city, "The legal newspaper services we provide far outweigh any other

proposal you will receive because we have a higher circulation than anyone else. You get the best bang for your money locally at the *Ely Echo*."

Relative circulation had no bearing on the bid process, however, per the city's charter.

Both media operations have property-owning employees living in the city of Ely.

SULFIDE MINING

Rep. Stauber's PolyMet-friendly legislation unlikely to gain traction

REGIONAL — Freshman Eighth District Congressman Pete Stauber has introduced legislation in Washington to codify the recent federal land exchange between the U.S. Forest Service and PolyMet Mining, but the measure, known as HR 527, appears unlikely to gain much traction in the Democratic-controlled body.

Previous attempts to pass similar legislation during the past two years of Republican control also proved unsuccessful.

"It is highly unlikely that it

moves in the House," said Bill Harper, chief of staff to Fourth District Congresswoman Betty McCollum, a critic of copper-nickel mining in the Superior National Forest. McCollum is now chair of the Interior-Environment subcommittee in the House.

PolyMet supporters have attempted to enact the land exchange bill into law in order to head off judicial review of the exchange. Legal challenges to the exchange are currently moving through the federal

courts, creating an element of uncertainty for PolyMet's proposed NorthMet mine.

"Minnesota is blessed with an abundance of natural resources that puts us in a unique position to not just ensure that the United States remains competitive on a global level, but also to create good paying jobs for hardworking folks here at home," said Stauber in a release announcing his legislation. "Like all Minnesotans, I treasure our state's natural beauty. With 21st century technology, respon-

sible mining and preserving the environment are not mutually exclusive."

The Forest Service and PolyMet finalized the 6,650-acre exchange last year, but all parties in the lawsuit have acknowledged that it could still be undone pending the outcome of the court challenges. The exchange was necessary to allow PolyMet to strip mine the site. Federal law prohibits strip mining on the federal lands in question, so the Forest Service agreed to the exchange to avoid a possible

legal fight with PolyMet over the provisions of a century-old law, known as the Weeks Act, under which some lands in the Superior National Forest were acquired.

PolyMet still requires one major permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before it can move forward with its project. Current low metal prices, however, raise questions about the project's financial viability.

POLYMET...Continued from page 1

or related documents from the federal agency, demanding as much as \$10,000 to even search for the records she requested. She made a similar request, however, to the MPCA, which provided hand-written notes from state regulators which documented conversations between MPCA officials and the EPA. The notes suggest that EPA officials had several concerns with the permits being proposed by the MPCA, including questions about the water

quality standards being applied to the company's water discharge permit. The notes also indicated that EPA officials expected to provide their usual written comments, but that appears to have changed somewhere in the process.

"The data disclosure information revealed in this letter seems to indicate that EPA professional staff did have concerns about violating water quality standards and drafted comments with the intention of making them public," said

McCollum in a statement issued on Tuesday. "What happened?"

McCollum said she'll be seeking release of the comments prepared by the agency.

"The public deserves to know," she added. "I also intend to work with my congressional colleagues on the relevant House committees on this matter, because if the EPA is hiding information related to PolyMet, what other critical information is being kept from the American

people? We must ensure that the EPA operates in a transparent manner and that EPA scientists and professional staff can do their job of protecting human health and safety without political interference."

If EPA officials believed that the MPCA permits might not comply with federal law, Maccabee said agency professionals had a legal obligation to note that in official comments. "It's clear the

career staff at EPA had concerns and wanted them in writing," said Maccabee. "The question is, who suppressed those comments?"

GHOSTS...Continued from page 1

The author of more than a dozen books, Lewis became interested in the paranormal while growing up in Eau Claire. He said the nearby small town of Elmwood has long been considered one of the UFO capitals of the world, and he wanted to know more.

His childhood interest would grow into a passion, with Lewis attending college and graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

"I studied psychology to find out why people see and believe weird stuff," Lewis said. "People in the audiences at research symposiums would come to me and ask for help."

Upon graduation, with a book already under his belt, Lewis struck out to find stories around the world from people who have seen or experienced strange things, but he wouldn't describe himself as a ghost hunter. He saves that title for pop culture icons on television.

"I see myself more as a folklorist, or paranormal adventurer," he said. "When someone tells me they saw a ghost, it's hard to prove or disprove it."

A large part of his work revolves around uncovering the histories behind certain legends and how they came to be part of the regional culture.

"As humans we want to know answers," he said. "A lot of young people are into these things. They use them as dares to prove a rite of passage. Others want a sense of uniqueness. In a lot of cities everything can look the same. But a lot of towns want to cele-

brate their strange legends because it's something unique whether it is true or not."

In northeastern Minnesota, one of the most popular folklore tales is taken from Native American legend in the form of the Wendigo.

"It has worked its way over hundreds of years into northern Minnesota and Wisconsin," Lewis said. "It's a creature that infects people, who then turn into cannibals. There are stories of tribe members who killed others when they thought they were infected. Early settlers tried natives for murder because they didn't understand the culture."

Lewis said he's interviewed people who were warned to run home if they heard "The Wendigo Woman" banging on her boiling pot in the woods.

For some of the elderly folks, he said, the stories of their childhood still resonate even in old age.

"For years when I was collecting these stories, people didn't want it known because they thought others would think they are crazy," Lewis said. "Now people come forward and they are surprised to know how many others have had the same experience."

While he didn't have any specific stories, Lewis said the abandoned mines of the Range could have plenty of their own stories to tell.

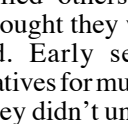
"Abandoned structures tend to have stories associated," he said. "Some speculate that minerals or rocks can act as a booster for these phenomenon."

At the end of the day, however, Lewis said it's not always about whether the stories are true or not, but about how they have impacted local cultures.

The core of his mission, he said, is not to debunk or prove whether something is real, but to create a record for future researchers who want a glimpse into what a legend may have looked like in the past.

"I have no idea if I am going to solve these questions," he said. "What I am hoping is that when I'm gone, somebody can grab my book or research and see the stories that *have been going on. I am under no belief that I am going to solve these things."

While Lewis' tour of the local library system is over as of press time, all of his research is available for purchase at his website, <https://www.chadlewisresearch.com/>.



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SPORTS

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NORDIC SKIING

Ely boys take first at meet, girls take second

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

TWO HARBORS – Ely’s Jasper Johnston topped the field twice in a row in Nordic ski action this week. On Tuesday, in Two Harbors, Johnston dominated the Korkki Classic Nordic ski race, topping the competition by a whopping 22 seconds across the six-kilometer course. His winning effort helped lead the Ely boys team to a first-place overall finish against a seven-team field. The Ely girls, meanwhile, finished second



Johnston the Ely boys, Kjetil Midttun finished sixth before James Schwinghamer, Raif Oson, and Nate Nettifee took spots eight, nine, and ten. Gabriel Pointer finished out the boys team as he came in 13th,

out of nine teams. Team scores are based on the top four finishers of each team.

For the Ely girls, Devine led the way for the girls, finishing seventh in the eight-team field, while Eilrich was right behind in eighth. Schwinghamer finished in 15th place, while Bercher rounded out the Top-20 finishers, in 19th place.

giving the boys the first-place finish.

“The boys team is coming into its own as they are a really cohesive bunch and working super well together as a team,” said Ely Head Coach Paula Anderson. “They are motivated by each other and it shows.”

Brooke Pasmick had the girls top finish, taking seventh place. The Wolves then had a strong run, putting four more skiers in the next nine spots. Zoe Devine took 11th and was followed by Julia Schwinghamer and Kalyssa Eilrich finishing

13th and 14th while Ana Bercher was just behind in 16th. Lucy Stouffer finished 41st

“The girls are settling,” said Anderson. “Zoe is skiing strong and Kalyssa, Brooke, and Julia are getting faster every week.”

On Saturday, Johnston did it again, taking first for the boys at the Cook County Classic Invite with a comfortable 45-second lead over his nearest rival. Midttun and Nettifee took fourth and fifth while Schwinghamer and Pointer were just behind at seventh and eighth. Olson rounded out the top ten.

Devine led the way for the girls, finishing seventh in the eight-team field, while Eilrich was right behind in eighth. Schwinghamer finished in 15th place, while Bercher rounded out the Top-20 finishers, in 19th place.

The Cook County Classic Invite is held at Pincushion Trails by Grand Marias. Scores are based on the top four finishers of each team over a 5.7-kilometer course while racing classic style.

Next up for the Wolves is the

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

BOYS BASKETBALL

Timberwolves hold off Huskies

Ely lands a nail-biting finish after struggling to maintain second-half lead at home

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY— A big night for senior guard Pat Vanderbeek helped Ely hold off the Huskies Tuesday night, 64-53. The Timberwolves looked to be headed for an easy win early, as they took a 16-point lead into the halftime break, but went cold for several minutes in the second half, allowing Bigfork to get back in the game.

Vanderbeek went ten-for-ten from the charity stripe and added 14 more points from the field on his way to a 24-point night. But Vanderbeek wasn’t the only key to the win, as Will Davies provided a second half spark to end

Ely’s mid-period scoring drought. “Davies came into the game and hit two three-point baskets and a two-point basket,” said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. “And Vanderbeek’s freethrows in the second half helped to ice the game for us.”

Strong defense proved key to Ely’s win, even as the team’s offensive performance was inconsistent.

Junior forward Dylan Fenske added ten points and eight rebounds for the Wolves, while senior guard Trevor Mattson posted eight boards.

The Bigfork game was a nice recovery after a disappointing 67-52 loss to Nashwauk-Keewatin

last Friday. “We never really got on track offensively against them and they defended us very well,” said McDonald. The Wolves shot an anemic 20 of 62 from the floor, contributing to their offensive struggles. “We aren’t going to win many games shooting that poorly,” said McDonald.

Vanderbeek poured in 24 points for Ely, while Fenske posted a double-double, with 18 points and ten rebounds.

Ely will host Mt. Iron-Buhl on Friday and travel to Duluth Marshall on Saturday for a 4 p.m. contest. They’ll visit Fond du Lac on Tuesday, with tip-off set for 7:15 p.m.



Left: Eric Omerza holds off a Bigfork player. Above: Dylan Fenske goes up against a Bigfork defender.
photos by J. Greeney

Goggleye to contend for Mr. Basketball Minnesota title

by MARCUS WHITE
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP - Cade Goggleye has been listed as one of the 32 boys student athletes to watch this year for the prestigious Mr. Basketball Minnesota award.

Goggleye, a senior guard for the North Woods Grizzlies, currently holds the team’s all-time scoring record.

“This acknowledgment by the selection committee is quite an honor and one that is well deserved for Cade,” said Grizzlies Head Coach Will Kleppe. “You have to be an exceptional basketball player to make this list and Cade’s accomplishments have made him recognized statewide as one of the best. The North Woods boys basketball program and our communities are very proud of him and his hard work.”

The list will be narrowed to a Top 10 on Feb. 10. A Top 5 will be released in early March before the winner is announced on Mar. 26 at a Minnesota Timberwolves game in Minneapolis.

The award has been given out every year since 1975. Only two Iron Range basketball players have ever taken home the coveted prize— Kevin McHale from Hibbing in 1976 and Joel McDonald from Chisholm in 1991. McHale played for the Boston Celtics before coaching both the Timberwolves and Houston Rockets NBA teams.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wolves down Nighthawks

Mattson leads Ely in scoring in 81-41 home court victory

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY— Erika Mattson had another huge night last Thursday as she poured in 39 points to lead the Timberwolves to an 81-41 win over Northeast Range. Ely was playing without the services of starters Brielle Kallberg and Winter Sainio, who were out sick, but it didn’t seem to slow the Wolves down as they dominated the game throughout. “It was a great opportunity

to give our younger players quality minutes on varsity,” said Ely Head Coach Darren Visser. “We played well as a team and had 10 different people score in the game.”

Senior guard Lida Dodge added 13 points for Ely, while eighth-grader Madeline Perry scored seven and seventh-grader Grace Latourell added six.

The Nighthawks’ senior guard Shayler Lislegard led Northeast Range with 16 points, while sophomore Willa Koivisto added ten.

Despite the loss, Nighthawks Head Coach Paxton Goodsky said he’s seen improvement from his team throughout the season, particularly in recent games.

The Nighthawks are enjoying a mid-season break, but will be back in action next Thursday, Jan. 24, when they host 11-2 Cherry. Ely, meanwhile, will visit Duluth Marshall on Saturday, with a 2 p.m. start. They’ll then head to Bigfork for a rematch with the Huskies. Tip-off is 7:15 p.m.



Shayler Lislegard evades an Ely defender.
photo by J. Greeney

BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies hit speed bump in Duluth; roll past MI-B, Hill City

by Marcus WHITE
Cook-Orr Editor

HILL CITY - It wasn't even close Tuesday night as the fifth-ranked Grizzlies squashed the Hornets on their home court, 102-30, to improve to 10-2 on the season.

TJ Chiabotti led the team offensively with 27 points, while Cade Goggleye added 21, and his cousin Darius added 13.

On Saturday in Duluth, North Woods faced undefeated and fourth-ranked BOLD (Bird Island, Olivia, Lake Lillian) High School, and suffered their first loss of the year, falling 77-57.

Head Coach Will Kleppe said the game was a good indicator of where the team stood going into tournament season.

"They (BOLD) are a very good team and controlled the tempo of the game," he said. "It was a good test for us at this point in the season and will allow us to improve on the things we will

need to be better at when tournaments roll around."

In this game, Cade Goggleye would command the court with 27 points. He'd also lead the way in assists with nine and four rebounds. Ian Sherman and Chiabotti each had nine points with Trevor Morrison adding eight.

Darius Goggleye posted six rebounds.

At Mt. Iron - Buhl last Thursday, the Grizzlies showed off their scoring ability once again, topping the Rangers 84-47.

Kleppe said the team put up an impressive defensive game.

Again, Cade Goggleye led the team with 27 points and eight assists. Sherman would add 12 points while Morrison added 11 more plus nine rebounds.

The Grizzlies hit the road this coming Tuesday to take on Cherry. The team then returns home to face Eveleth-Gilbert next Friday. Both games are scheduled for 7:15 p.m.



Chase Kleppe goes up against Carter Martinson for a rebound during the Grizzlies defeat of Mt. Iron-Buhl last week. The game was one of two big wins for North Woods over their opponents during this week's match ups. photo by C. Stone

HOCKEY

Ely can't maintain lead despite breakout start

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

ELY – The Wolves did something they've struggled to do all season long in their Friday night matchup with Bagley/Fosston — claim an early lead.

But the two-goal advantage didn't last as the Flyers put six points on the board in a huge second

period to claim a 7-5 win.

Still, the opening period went to Ely as they scored just 40 seconds into the game when Dalton Schreffler hit the net off an assist from Austin Meskill. Nick Mattila, assisted by Luke Olson, added one more later in the period, leaving the Wolves up 2-0.

But the Flyers roared back in the second, outscoring Ely 6-1 in the

stanza. Bagley/Fosston opened the scoring in the period, but Mattila notched his second goal of the game shortly after, on an assist from Jerimiah Kaercher and Luke Olson. But the Flyers then rattled off five unanswered goals leaving them up 6-3 going into the third. They would pad that lead early in the third, but the Wolves didn't quit as they pieced together back-

to-back goals to stay in the hunt. Austin Meskill posted the first, unassisted, followed by Luke Olson on a Logen Loe assist.

Unfortunately, it was too little too late for the Wolves who were outshot 39-15 in the match. Each team was guilty of four penalties, however they cost Ely 16 minutes compared to just eight for the Flyers.

Ely will be busy this coming week as they take to the road. They visit May-Port on Friday, at 7 p.m. and stop at Red Lake Falls for a Saturday matinee with a scheduled 1 p.m. start. They'll be in Proctor on Tuesday, with a 6 p.m. start.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Rangers rout Grizzlies on the road

by MARCUS WHITE
Cook-Orr Editor

MTIRON - The North Woods girls were dealt their third loss in a row last Thursday, suffering a crushing 102-47 defeat at home against Mt. Iron-Buhl.

It was an uphill battle for the Grizzlies even before the first tipoff.

"They (MI-B) have been beating everyone," said Head Coach Robbie Goggleye. "Everyone arrives thinking they are going to get beat."

Even with that mindset, Goggleye said

he's proud that his team walked onto the court with the attitude of wanting to do their best.

Their best wasn't enough, though, with the 6-9 Grizzlies giving up 60 points on turnovers to the 12-2 Rangers.

As the Grizzlies head into the home stretch of the season, Goggleye said the team is using the week off to improve their skills to win as many games as possible between now and the end of February.

"We have to get our fast break going again," he said. "We also need to improve upon our half-

court offense, we're not producing very well. We need to cut down on turnovers. If we fix those up, we'll be winning more games."

Making solid choices on the court will also help improve on how the team is handling the ball, and Goggleye said he hopes extra conditioning training this week pays off.

"When we're tired, we are making the wrong decisions with the ball," he said. "Good practices should translate into better games."

During last week's game, Kate Stone and

Sasha Strong led the team with 10 points apiece against the Rangers. Regan Ratai would put eight more points on the board with Nicole Olson and Bria Chiabotti each putting up six.

For the Rangers, Allie Negan posted 20 points with Mia Ganyo and Mattison Bennet putting up 19 and 18 points respectively.

The Grizzlies will remain at home this week, facing Nashauk-Keewatin on Friday evening. Tipoff is set for 7:15 p.m.



Kate Stone up strong on the boards for the rebound. photo by C. Stone.

NORDIC...Continued from page 1B

Marshall Sprints on Saturday with a scheduled start time of 11 a.m.	11. Zoe Devine 23:43.0	6. Grand Rapids 304
ELY BOY INDIVIDUAL TOP FINISHERS KORKKI CLASSIC	13. Julia Schwinghamer 23:54.8	7. Duluth Denfield 221
1. Jasper Johnston 18:38.0	14. Kalyssa Eilrich 23:58.8	TEAM RESULTS FOR VARSITY GIRLS KORKKI CLASSIC
6. Kjetil Midttun 20:08.7	16. Ana Bercher 24:14.1	1. Duluth East 387
8. James Schwinghamer 20:16.0	41. Lucy Stouffer 26:34.4	2. Ely 359
9. Raif Olson 20:17.2	TEAM RESULTS FOR VARSITY BOYS KORKKI CLASSIC	3. Grand Rapids 348
10. Nate Nettifee 20:18.2	1. Ely 380	4. Proctor/Hermantown 324
13. Gabriel Pointer 20:30.8	2. Cloquet-Esko-Carlton 355	5. Marshall School 322
ELY GIRL INDIVIDUAL TOP FINISHERS KORKKI CLASSIC	3. Marshall School 351	6. Duluth Denfield 297
7. Brooke Pasmick 22:53.6	4. Mesabi East 340	7. Cloquet-Esko-Carlton 279
	5. Duluth East 329	8. Mesabi East 259
		9. Two Harbors/Cook Cty 240

Wolves lose at Cherry

CHERRY— The Ely girls struggled against 10-2 Cherry Tuesday night, falling 70-34.

"It was really a tale of two halves," said Ely Head Coach Darren Visser. "In first half we played very competitively with Cherry only up nine at that half. But in the second half we were unable to match Cherry's intensity and fell behind quickly and were unable to gain any ground."

Junior Brielle

Kallberg was back in action after missing a game due to illness, and she led the way for Ely offensively with 17 points. It appears Cherry was ready for junior Erika Mattson, who has been the team's hot hand in previous games but was held to ten points against the Tigers. Seventh-grader Grace Latourell added three points for the Wolves.

Kaelyn Kudis led all scorers, pouring in 25 points for Cherry.

Sports week

BOYS B-BALL

Friday Jan. 18
Ely hosts Mt. Iron - Buhl, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday Jan. 19
Ely at Duluth-Marshall, 4 p.m.

Tuesday Jan. 22
North Woods at Cherry, 7:15 p.m.

Ely hosts Fond du Lac, 7:15 p.m.

Friday Jan. 25
North Woods hosts Eveleth-Gilbert, 7:15 p.m.

GIRLS B-BALL

Friday Jan. 18
North Woods hosts Nashauk, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday Jan. 19
Ely at Duluth - Marshall, 2 p.m.

Tuesday Jan. 22
Ely at Bigfork, 7:15 p.m.

North Woods hosts I - Falls, 7:15

Thursday Jan. 24
NE Range hosts Cherry, 7:15 p.m.

North Woods hosts Red Lake, 7:30 p.m.

Friday Jan. 25
Ely hosts Duluth - Denfeld, 7:15 p.m.

NE Range hosts Hill City, 7:15 p.m.

HOCKEY

Friday Jan. 18
Ely at May-Port, 7 p.m.

Saturday Jan. 19
Ely at Red Lake Falls, 1 p.m.

Tuesday Jan. 22
Ely at Proctor, 6 p.m.

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ELY

Shopko faces restructuring; fate of Ely location uncertain

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Shopko, the Wisconsin-based retailer with a store in Ely, is closing stores in Wisconsin and several other states, giving this town’s largest retailer an uncertain future.

The company announced Wednesday that it, along with its subsidiaries, has filed voluntary petitions for a court-supervised financial restructuring under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code.

The company is seeking to facilitate the restructuring as a result of excess debt and ongoing competitive pressures. The petitions were filed in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nebraska. During the restructuring process, Shopko will continue to operate and serve its customers, vendors, partners and employees.

Shopko has obtained up to \$480 million in debtor-in-possession (DIP) financing from certain of its pre-petition secured

lenders, led by Wells Fargo, N.A. as administrative agent, to help fund and protect its operations during the Chapter 11 process.

This incremental liquidity will ensure that suppliers and other business partners and vendors will be paid in a timely manner for authorized goods and services provided during the Chapter 11 process, in accordance with customary terms.

In order to position the company for future success, Shopko has announced that it will be closing an additional 38 stores, relocating over 20 optical centers to freestanding locations, and conducting an auction process for its pharmacy business.

All other stores remain open as the company continues to optimize its store footprint.

The move has many in Ely wondering how long the Shopko Hometown facility will remain open. The Goodwill store here will close its thrift store and donation center on Saturday.

There were no reports on if or when the Ely facility would

cease operations. The Ely store manager did not provide a comment.

Ely Mayor Chuck Novak said Tuesday that if the Shopko closed here it would have a negative impact on the retail atmosphere. “I haven’t heard anything on the closing,” he said Tuesday night, “but I do know that many pharmacy customers there are moving their prescriptions to the clinic.”

A Shopko spokesperson did not return messages or answers to questions provided by email. Sun Capital Partners, Shopko’s parent company, declined to comment for this story.

Shopko, formerly called Pamida, has been located in Ely since the 1970s. The company moved from its downtown Chapman Street location in 2012 and opened a new facility on Ely’s east end near Highway 1.

The Ely store has about 18 current employees, a number that almost doubles during the summer months.

The Green-Bay, Wis.-based



department store chain operates 363 stores in 24 states under various formats, according to its website. Shopko has said the closures are dictated by the long-term outlook on profitability, sales trends and growth potential.

The *Green Bay Press-Gazette* reported last weekend that Shopko added to the list of stores closing, in Appleton, Grafton, La Crosse, Menasha, Seymour and Sussex. Before, it had announced only one Wisconsin closure, in Mauston.

Pharmacist James Ruben opened the first store in 1962, about the same time that Walmart Inc. and Target Corp. went into business, and Shopko went public in 1991.

Sun Capital bought the company in 2005 for about \$1.1 billion. The following year, real estate investment trust Spirit Finance Corp. bought the retailer’s real estate in an \$815 million sale-leaseback transaction.

In 2012, ShopKo acquired Pamida’s 193 stores for an undisclosed sum to expand its presence in rural markets.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Thomas M. Rukavina

Thomas “Tom” Martin Rukavina, 68, of Pike Township, died on Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, at the University of Minnesota Medical Center in Minneapolis after a battle with leukemia. The family would like to thank the talented staff at the University of Minnesota Medical Center for their extraordinary care of Tom during his stay.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 19 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Virginia, with visitation beginning at 9:30 a.m. Visitation will also be held on Friday, Jan. 18 from 5-7 p.m. at Range Funeral Home in Virginia. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the Tom Rukavina Scholarship Fund c/o Mesabi Range College Foundation, 1001 W Chestnut St., Virginia, MN 55792.

Tom was born to Martin “Benny” and Martha Rukavina in Virginia on Aug. 23, 1950. He grew up on northside in an ethnically diverse neighborhood with a close

immediate and extended family which positively shaped his life forever.

He graduated from Virginia High School in 1968. He attended the University of Minnesota-Duluth campus where he graduated magna cum laude in political science, with a minor in history, in 1972. While at UMD, he met Lenore Lampi of Palo; they married in September 1973. They lived for nearly 30 years north of Virginia where they homesteaded in Pike Township and built a house together with their family and friends, using lumber they milled themselves. Tom and Lenore had two children, Ida and Victor. Tom later married Jean Cole in October 2012, adding three stepdaughters to his circle of love.

Tom was proud to have been a steelworker at Minntac like his father before him. He was also a milk truck driver in the Tower and Soudan area, which he credits as one of the reasons a Croatian/Italian learned to speak Finnish. For many years he worked as a part-time logger alongside his friend Roger Manning, in a venture they named Pike River Logging.

He also worked at Ironworld, where he recorded the oral histories of hundreds of early Iron Rangers, establishing a rich resource and legacy for generations to come. Giants Ridge in Biwabik was another employer of Tom’s and the development of the ski hill held a special place in his heart.

He began his life as a public servant on the

Virginia School Board and as a Pike Township supervisor. In 1986 Tom was elected state representative to the Minnesota Legislature, representing the 5A district of Virginia and the East Range, a position he held for 26 years. After ‘retiring’ from politics to help with his first grandchild, Delia, he took a job with Congressman Rick Nolan. In 2014 Tom was elected as a St. Louis County Commissioner, a job he held until he passed away on his last official day in office.

Tom loved the Iron Range of Minnesota - its history, its natural resources and above all, the people of the Iron Range. He was a devoted public servant, answering phone calls and emails at all hours, doing his best to serve his constituents - even responding to constituents these past months from the hospital.

Tom believed that as a politician and legislator it was his duty to improve people’s lives. Throughout his career, he defended workers’ rights and union rights, seniors, education, and youth. As testimony to his dedication and hard work, the building which houses the Iron Range Engineering Program at Mesabi Range College bears his name.

He enjoyed participating in DFL politics, visiting people, incessant story-telling, cross-country skiing, camping, and tending his organic garden. He liked to travel and made special trips to meet his relatives in Italy and Croatia. He loved his family and friends and

would do anything for them. His greatest wish was to spend more years with his granddaughters.

Tom will forever be known for his quick wit, his intelligence, his hard work and effectiveness, his passion, his heart, his integrity and honesty, his humor, and his dedication to improving people’s lives. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends, constituents and colleagues who worked with him over the years.

Tom is survived by his wife, Jean Cole; daughter, Ida Rukavina (Jesse Dahl) of Palo; son, Victor (Michelle) Rukavina of Minneapolis; granddaughters, Delia, Lucia and Serafina; sister, Chris (Dennis) Rudy of Washington, D.C.; brother, Mark (Barbara McQueen) Rukavina of Boston, Mass., and their children Ben, Nate and Sara; brother-like cousin, John “Butch” Folman and his wife Anne of Pike Township; stepdaughters, Katie (Nick) Calvert of Mancos, Colo.; Kelsey Cole of Jackson Hole, Wyo.; and Christine Cole of Ely; sisters-in-law, Liz (Paul) White of Crossville, Tenn., and Marie (Joe) Hallett of Columbus, Ohio; brother-in-law, Sid (Marilyn) Tregillis of Sylvania, Ohio; numerous cousins and their families; former spouse, Lenore Lampi (Chris Soares) of Duluth; and an enormous multitude of friends.

Tom was preceded in death by his beloved parents, Martin “Benny” and Martha; aunts and uncles, Louis and Helen Mordini, Laura and Bob Carlson, Gloria and John

Folman, Michael “Mela” Rukavina, Catherine “Katie” Rukavina, Anne and Roy Thornton, Joseph “Joey” and Arlene Rukavina; cousins, Kay Marie Rukavina and Roberta Louise “Bobbi Lou” Sisler; and his beloved in-laws, Reino and Viola Lampi.



Charles C. Hoffman

Charles Chester Hoffman, 87, of Buyck, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2019, at the Cook Hospital. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 21 at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Orr. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. A reception in honor of Charles will be held immediately following the service at the Orr American Legion in Orr. Military honors will be accorded by the Cook VFW Post 1757 Honor Guard and the Orr American Legion Post 480 Honor Guard. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the Alzheimer’s Association. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of

Cook.

Charles was born to Stanley and Rose (Lasky) Hoffman on Nov. 19, 1931, in Buyck. He attended school in Buyck, graduating from Orr High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in March of 1950, serving honorably until his release from duty in December of 1953. Following his Navy career, Charles entered college and earned his bachelor’s degree in education. He taught school for 28 years. Charles was also a successful business owner in Buyck. He owned the Vermilion River Tavern along with his late wife Jeanette for eleven years, and also started the operation of the Vermilion River Greens golf course in Buyck.

Charles was a very loving husband and father. He will be remembered for his activity in the community, including the Buyck Portageurs Snowmobile Club, Buyck Fire Department and Buyck Township Board; he was a member of St. Joseph’s Catholic Church. He loved to be around people and help out wherever there was a need.

Charles is survived by his children, Kevin (Ilana) Hoffman, Daniel (Geraldine) Hoffman, and Scott (Mary) Hoffman, all of Buyck; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Charles was preceded in death by his wife, Jeanette; parents, Stanley and Rose; brothers, Albert, Theodore, Donald, Anthony and Stanley Jr.; and sisters, Dorothea Halverson, Jesse Rutar and Marie Sertich.

Charles J. Merhar

Charles John “Cherla” or “Charlie” Merhar, 80, lifelong resident of Ely, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019, at Carefree Assisted Living in Ely. A Funeral Mass was held on Saturday, Jan. 12 at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely. Family arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his brother, Dave (Janet); sons, Charlie (Polly) of Bemidji, Mark (Marolyn) and Chris (Misty), both of Ely; and three grandchildren, CJ, Gage and Jenna.

Steven A. Tekautz

Steven Anthony Tekautz, 42, of Owatonna, passed away suddenly on Monday, Jan. 7, 2019. Some of Steve’s ashes will be spread at the places he loved best, the cabin at White Iron Lake and the hunting shack. Burial will be in the family plot in the Ely Cemetery. A celebration of Steve’s life will take place at the cabin early this upcoming summer, when the fish are biting. Arrangements are with Brick-Meger Funeral Home of Owatonna.

He is survived by his wife, Kelly of Owatonna; children, Cayce and Alex of Owatonna; parents, Anthony and Gail of

Chisholm; sisters, Tara Tyo of Brimson and Tracey (John) Fenske of Ely; nieces and nephews, Travis, Jenny, Dylan and Ryan; and countless friends.

Monika M. Workman

Monika Marie Weatherton Workman, 46, of Mt. Iron, died on Friday, Dec. 28, 2018, after a courageous battle with cancer. A gathering time for family and friends will be held from 12 noon until the 2 p.m. Celebration of Life Service on Saturday, Jan. 19 at Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran Church in Virginia. Kari Olson, S.A.M. will officiate. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her husband, Jason Workman; children, Brianne Olson of Virginia, Jesse Olson of Cook and Skyler Workman of Mt. Iron; granddaughter, Lily Irene; father, Karl “Smoke” (fiancée Penny Warren) Weatherton of Cook; brothers, Mark (Cari) Weatherton of Aurora and Travis (Alicia Kendall) Weatherton of Cook; godmothers, Fran Shimmin and Debbie Ranum; nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

Outdoors in brief

Take a kid fishing on hard water this weekend

REGIONAL—Take a Kid Ice Fishing Weekend is this Saturday, Jan. 19, through Monday, Jan. 21. During the weekend, Minnesota residents age 16 or older can fish or dark-house spear without an angling or spearing license if they take a child younger than 16 fishing or spearing.

“This weekend is a way to encourage anglers to take a kid fishing,” said Jeff Ledermann, education and skills team supervisor with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. “Ice fishing is a great way to get outdoors in winter.”

Fishing report

Ely area

This season’s trout opener is off to a less than idyllic start as lake conditions continue to frustrate anglers in the area. With a foot or less of ice on most lakes, topped with a foot or more of snow, travel has been restricted to sled, four-wheeler or on foot. The influx of wheel houses, that in the past have been the norm, was down to a few and those were left in either the resort and hotel parking lots or just parked at the landings. Some local anglers were starting to plow some roads out, but have been slowed by the slush that has made its way through to the surface.

Some anglers who did brave the conditions were rewarded with a few trout. Burntside Lake was the headliner for lakere, with a few nice fish in the six to eight-pound range. A few of those caught were within walking distance of the public access at Van Vac. Aggressive jigging has been the most productive method as is typical at this time of year. The most popular of baits have been white tubes, Chubby Darters and Little Cleo spoons. Dead stick and tip-up fishermen were having some success on frozen smelt or minnows fished right on the bottom.

Steam trout anglers were doing fairly well as they jigged tiny spoons or jigs tipped with spikes or mousies in the upper fifteen feet of the water column. The most productive holes seemed to be less than ten feet deep near the shorelines. The best approach was to slowly lower their offerings from just beneath the ice to the bottom and back. This could be indicative of the trout feeding on small insects rising from the lake bed, so keep your lure selection on the tiny size for now. This is almost surely to change as fish become more aggressive.

Panfish anglers have been doing fairly well on some of the smaller lakes. Although travel has been difficult, a good number of crappies and sunnies are being taken. Some of the sunnies have been around the eight or nine-inch range which is more than an acceptable size for the pan. Small minnows and wax worm tipped jigs have been the ticket for bringing them out of the hole.

Courtesy of Babe’s Bait at Ely’s west entrance.



NORTH COUNTRY LIVING

A beaver pond diary

Reflections on how this unique species shaped our time in North Woods

by ANNE UEHLING

Guest columnist

In mid-summer, three years after we did, the beavers arrived— and changed our experience here in the North Country. Our house sits on a high ridge with red and white pines overlooking what was a dried up marsh with grassy hummocks. Brunhilde’s Rock rises up twenty-five feet at the edge of the marsh and from there you can see the small stream that flows along the south edge of the marsh.

The summer of 1994, standing on Brunhilde’s Rock, I noticed inches of water in the marsh. That fall, in a letter to a friend, I noted, “Every evening at sundown there is lots of heavy-duty splashing and the water level has been creeping up—something interesting is going on”

Journal entry of December 27: We and our resident beavers, whom we can observe from our south windows, worked industriously over the summer. Now we and they have the benefits of cozy winter homes....It appears they have closed the hatches for the winter and are inside roasting marshmallows.

According to *Wikipedia*, after the freezing weather arrives in late fall, the beavers apply a final coating of wet mud which freezes solid and keeps warmth in— even in below-zero temperatures. The body heat of the beaver family serves as a heating source.

The beaver pond expanded and brought new sights and sounds.

1995: May 10: Peepers and other frogs have been going full force for a week now.

1996: May 10: Spring peepers in full voice.

New plants appeared in the pond, or perhaps reappeared— seeds that had been dormant, waiting for their time.

July 7: Canoeed the stream and found marsh cinquefoil, calla lilies, tufted loosestrife, and smartweed.

1998: April 14: Walked along east edge of marsh. Trees including a large aspen cut down by beaver.

2000: June 23: I showed my grandson the tree, their teeth-marked whittle a testament to persistence.

“Why would they chew down such a large tree?” I ask. “They can’t possibly move it anywhere.”

“It’s a guy thing,” his mother explains to me. She could be right.

2002: March 22: Muskrat scat on our snowshoe trail in the marsh.



Top: A beaver slowly swims across its pond, which creates valuable habitat for a wide range of creatures.

Above: A broad-winged hawk takes flight from a perch over a beaver pond while (at right) a male hooded merganser swims.

Right: Signs of recent beaver activity from last fall.

photos by M. Helmberger

Muskrats sometimes carve out part of a beaver lodge for their home and have been known to share space with beavers.

April 28: Hooded mergansers in the southwest corner by the dam.

April 29: All kinds of ducks in the small pool by the dam gobbling up frogs.

2003: July 14: Sitting on top of Brunhilde’s Rock, I watched a large beaver climb up on top of the lodge. I would guess it weighed 40 or more pounds. Some can get as large as 60 pounds.

Resting on top of the lodge, the beaver groomed itself with the special claw on the second toe of its hind foot, taking oil from its oil gland and spreading it through its fur to waterproof it. The broad tail serves as a rudder when swimming and “kick stand,” as described by naturalist Sparky Stenaas, when it wants to sit upright. The rear paws are broad and webbed for swimming. The front paws have five claws, almost finger-like. It looks human-like holding its food in its front paws to eat.

In the winter, our snowshoe route circled past the beaver lodge. Once I found a star-nosed mole laying on top of snow near the lodge with no sign of injury. Otter slides and tracks were imprinted on the south ridge slope. The otter had a home past the dam in the bank by the stream. Wolf, fox, snowshoe hare, pine marten, all left their prints and scat.

And then the beavers were gone. Why? Dryer years, low water, old age? We had had several dry years. The most noticeable thing in the succeeding summers was the absence

of frogs, especially the spring peepers.

The lodge developed a hole in one side. My grandchildren and I could peer inside the snug, domed hut. The dirt floor was hard packed and level. The living space was above the waterline. The downward sloped passageway exited under the water. During the time of open water, beaver store their food supply underwater near the lodge. It is a short trip under the ice to retrieve food.

2005: The marsh plant community was changing. I found marsh St. John’s-wort, water hoarhound, willow herb and Joe-Pye weed.

2006: July 14: Walked along the stream in the marsh. Found one or more deteriorated beaver lodges besides the most recent and signs of other dams and sub-dams. They seem to have put a log every twenty feet or so: to slow the movement of water?

Two hawks overhead— broad-winged. A beautiful day! Couldn’t ask for more. How lucky to live for a moment in this beautiful spot.

2012: March: Can’t find any pussy willows. Need the beavers back.

2015: September: Marsh seems to be filling with water. A few inches at least.

No dam or lodge was visible, but that fall the water steadily increased.

2016: January: On a snowshoe trip downstream we found a lodge, and farther on a massive dam. This pond is far larger than the small one that had been on our property.

2016: May 4: Water creeping higher and higher.



The water rose to cover the old dam.

May 21: Thousands of frog voices. Peepers, wood frogs. So good to have them back

July 31: Lots of small gray tree frogs: some green, some brown.

2017 April: Pond ice sinking. Ducks quacking.

June 19: Large snapping turtle on my deck. Sent it back towards the pond.

June 30: Beaver pond looks drained. Looked like a large rush of water passed under the road where the stream flows into the lake.

July 24: The pond is back. Guess the beaver fixed the break in their dam.

November 29: The spruce grove on the west side of the property is under several inches of water. The trees are dead.

That area had been damp but solid ground. As the dead trees fall and decay, they will add to decomposed trees that have fallen before. The spruce, too, are part of a cycle—this area is on its way to becoming a bog.

Spring 2018: Frogs. Many, many frogs, wood frogs, peepers by the thousands.

May 2: The beavers cut down a fair-sized birch which fell in the water. No way they can get that to their lodge.

See **DIARY...**pg. 5B

DIARY...Continued from page 4B

May 16: Beavers working on top half of tree, stripping bark, and taking parts away, a branch at a time.






September 16: Piles of bleached pinchers, fish scales, and bones—remains of scat left by otters on Brunhilde’s Rock.

Throughout the summer and fall children and grandchildren came for a last visit to Brunhilde’s Rock and the pond. I am moving on. The beaver are staying for now.

For those who in the future stand on Brunhilde’s Rock, they will see the pond come and go, witness the cycle of beaver, otter fox, alder, willow, pine and birch trees, grasses, sedges, meadow rue, Joe-Pye weed...the spruce grove will evolve to bog. The stream may deepen. The cycle of marsh to pond will spin on.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
																								
-2 -25					-2 -26					-2 -14					10 -3					11 -6				
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.
01/07	31	16	0.16	2.4"	01/07	30	14	0.16	1.1"	01/07	30	16	0.18	2.0"	01/07	34	27	0.18	0.5"	01/07	31	24	0.50	3.5"
01/08	34	19	0.00		01/08	33	19	0.00		01/08	34	19	0.02	2.0"	01/08	27	7	0.00		01/08	34	16	0.00	
01/09	18	5	0.00		01/09	19	3	0.00		01/09	17	4	0.02	0.4"	01/09	9	6	0.00		01/09	27	4	0.00	
01/10	11	-5	0.00		01/10	10	-13	0.00		01/10	9	-4	0.00		01/10	18	-4	0.00		01/10	11	-7	0.00	
01/11	20	0	0.00		01/11	16	-1	0.00		01/11	19	0	0.00		01/11	21	19	0.00		01/11	19	0	0.00	
01/12	23	17	0.00		01/12	22	8	0.00		01/12	21	18	0.00		01/12	21	18	0.00		01/12	22	15	0.00	
01/13	25	17	0.00		01/13	24	16	0.00		01/13	25	18	0.00		01/13	27	23	0.00		01/13	25	15	0.00	
Totals			0.17	39.2"	Totals			0.26	31.5"	Totals			0.23	40.5"	Totals			0.02	NA	Totals			0.55	32.05"

Hit the Trails!



Area Trail Conditions

Taconite Trail
Fair to Good Condition
1-4" base, 14-22" snow on the ground, Groomed

Arrowhead Trail
Fair to Good Condition
2-5" base, 14-22" snow on ground Groomed

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Council Minutes - January 2, 2019 Regular Meeting Ely City Council – City Hall, Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER- Mayor Novak Called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Clerk Langowski swore in Mayor Novak, Council Member Omerza, Council Member A.Forsman, and Council Member Campbell.

PRESENT: Council members A.Forsman, Kess, Debeltz, Omerza, Callen, Campbell, and Mayor Novak
ABSENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Debeltz/ Callen moved to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2018 Regular Council Meeting. Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADDITIONS OROMISSIONS TO AGENDA:
Addition 5.B Invitation Swearing in Constitutional Officers of the State of Minnesota
Addition 9.B.ii Fire Department Thank you's
Addition 13.H. Approve Resolution 2019-003 Resolution Authorizing the Application of the Knights Of Columbus Council 3238 to Conduct Bingo
Items A-C were added without objection.

MAYOR'S REPORT
Council Members Committees for 2019 – will be discussed at the next meeting
Mayor Novak stated that he received an invitation to the swearing in of the constitutional officers of the State of Minnesota and he will be going down to the cities on Sunday to attend.

CONSENT AGENDA:
Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda
Approve to call for sealed bids for 2019 legal newspaper.
Callen asked if the city announcements and minutes

could be together on one page for the newspaper bids. Approve advertising for open committee seats
Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the consent agenda items A-C. Motion Carried Unanimously.

REQUESTS TO APPEAR: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Standing/Special Heritage Planning Commission – Minutes included in the packet

Iron Range Broadband Communities – Ely Vision Workshop II- Minutes included in the packet

Ely ABC Steering Meeting – Minutes included in the packet

D E P A R T M E N T A L REPORTS:
Clerk-Treasurer

Fire Chief
Air Pack Bids- Chief Erchul stated that he received the bids for the Air Packs, now he is waiting to hear from FEMA, but they are currently closed due to the government shutdown.

Debeltz/Kess moved to post internally on the fire department for a safety officer. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Debeltz/Callen moved to continue with training and testing for one firefighter opening. Motion Carried Unanimously.
Chief Erchul stated once the firefighter passes the testing he will bring it up to the council to approve for hire.

Thank you's
The fire department received three thank you's from students at Ely Schools.

Library Director
Library Director Heinrich gave an update of the upcoming events at the library which can be located on the Library Website.

Police Chief
City Attorney
City Engineer

COMMUNICATIONS:

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:
City and EUC claims for January 2, 2019 – \$711,710.57
2019 RAMS Membership Dues \$700.00
Pay Estimate #1 for the 2018 Pavement Rehabilitation Project at the Ely Airport to KGM Contractors for \$100,901.23 for State Project Number A6920-49.
Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the Claims for Payment items A-C. Motion Carried Unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:
Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve the of 2nd Reading Ordinance 329, 2nd Series An Ordinance of the City of Ely, Minnesota, Amending the Ely City Code, Chapter 2, Section 2.13, Salaries of Mayor and Councilors. Roll Called: A.Forsman – Yes, Kess –Yes, Debeltz – Yes, Omerza – Yes, Callen – Yes, Campbell – Yes and Mayor Novak – Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Mission, Vision, Values Statement
A.Forsman/Kess moved to approve the Mission Vision and Values Statements:
Mission Statement:
The City of Ely provides the infrastructure, services and programs essential to be the desirable community in which we live, work and play.
Vision Statement:
The City of Ely provides unique opportunities for recreation, culture, and work not often seen in a city of its size. Ely continues to offer an excellent quality of life to residents of the region. We strive to maintain our outstanding educational opportunities, a full range of medical services, exceptional outdoor experiences, and an unequalled sense of community spirit. Ely provides a safe and friendly atmosphere, in affordable neighborhoods that complement their natural surroundings. Ely supports business, industry, institutions, and entrepreneurship - providing long-term, quality employment and economic vitality.
Values Statement:
The City of Ely is committed to be a community that welcomes and values diver-

sity. We will work to be place where all people, citizens and visitors alike, will feel safe and confident that the City of Ely respects the rights and dignity of all people. Motion Carried Unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:
Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the 2019 official city depositories: Frandsen Bank & Trust, Boundary Waters Bank and 4M Fund. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Omerza abstaining.

Debeltz/A.Forsman moved to designate the Assistant Treasurer as the designated person to oversee, monitor, accept responsibility and evaluate the "nonattest/non-audit services, which include the preparation of the notes to the financial statements to be included in the audit of the City of Ely for the year ending December 31, 2019. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Omerza/Campbell moved to approve Resolution #2019-001 authorizing City officials and staff to attend meetings outside of Ely. Roll Called: A.Forsman – Yes, Kess –Yes, Debeltz – Yes, Omerza – Yes, Callen – Yes, Campbell – Yes and Mayor Novak – Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Callen/Debeltz moved to approve the City of Ely 2019 Fee Schedule as provided in the council agenda packet with changing under Utility Service Fees Replace Meter from \$85 to Replace Meter to Cost of Meter to Replace Meter. Motion Carried Unanimously.
Kess asked if Park and Rec could look at possibly renting out the Rec Center for half days, and if people do not clean the Rec Center after using it they would be charged a double deposit the next time they used the Rec Center. Omerza will bring to Park and Rec Committee.

Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the State of Minnesota Grant Contract PO ID 3000006869 FY2019 for \$2,315,900.00 for the ATV Trails.
Langowski stated that the grant is for three dif-

ferent Trail Organizations. Langowski will be having a meeting with the IRRRB and the three trail organizations. Motion Carried Unanimously

Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve the State of Minnesota Grant Contract PO ID 3000006868 FY2019 for \$20,000.00 for the Hidden Valley Bike Trail. Langowski stated that this is for phase one of the Bike Trails. The city is still waiting on the lease for the rest of the school lease land. Motion Carried Unanimously

Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve Resolution #2019-002 Resolution Supporting The US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant Application To Be Submitted By The City Of Virginia, And Authorizing The City Of Ely To Enter Into A Memorandum Of Agreement With The City Of Virginia For A Community-Wide Assessment Project. Roll Called: A.Forsman – Yes, Kess –Yes, Debeltz –

KUGLER TOWNSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 6 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall.

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 18, 2019

Yes, Omerza – Yes, Callen – Yes, Campbell – Yes and Mayor Novak – Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously.

A.Forsman/Callen moved to Approve Resolution 2019-003 Resolution Authorizing the Application of the Knights Of Columbus Council 3238 to Conduct Bingo. Roll Called: A.Forsman – Yes, Kess –Yes, Debeltz – Yes, Omerza – Yes, Callen – Yes, Campbell – Yes and Mayor Novak – Yes. Motion Carried Unanimously.

OPEN FORUM: None

ADJOURN
Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting at 5:59pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff
Deputy Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 18, 2019

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STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No. 69VI-PR-18-201 Notice and Order for Hearing on Petition for Descent of Property

Estate of: Beatrice Elaine Edeen aka Beatrice E. Edeen aka Beatrice Edeen, 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 further given, that the Petition will be heard on

February 13, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., by this Court at 300 5th Ave. South Virginia, Minnesota.

1. 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.
2. 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 27, 2018

BY THE COURT

Robert C. Friday
Judge of District Court

Amy Turnquist/
Court Administrator
Debra Thorstensen/Deputy

Attorney for Petitioner
Angela E. Sipila
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Super Crossword

THE LATEST FASHION

ACROSS

1 Stuff pumped into a 747
8 Bracing devices
14 Teeny bit
20 "Stephen," to the French
21 Rip into
22 Untrue rumor
23 Start of a riddle, part 2
25 "Ironic" singer Morrisette
26 Enzyme name ender
27 Solo for a 41-Across
28 Not feeling well at all
30 Set aflame
31 Riddle, part 2
39 Shar —
40 No, to Burns
41 Certain opera singer
42 Actress Joanne
43 Bit of slander
44 Neighbor of a Croat
46 The, to Josef
48 Apt rhyme of "grab"
50 — -O-Fish (McDonald's sandwich)
52 Riddle, part 3
59 Very pungent

61 Certain opera singer
62 Adders, e.g.
63 Most blaring
66 Sculling tools
68 As blind as —
69 Elegant tree
72 Pharmacy amount
73 Riddle, part 4
76 Blackthorn
77 Fire residue
78 Lady Grey
79 Sauce brand since 1937
80 Stays away from
82 Total or Life
84 Neighbor of a Swede
86 Goes fast
87 Riddle, part 5
93 NATO part
94 Mineo of "Tonka"
95 Knighted one, e.g.
96 Pleasant
99 The Beatles' "— Loser"
100 "Citizen X" actor Stephen
103 Equine noise
107 Do a lawn chore
109 Relo vehicle
110 End of the riddle

115 Dir. from Del. to Vt.
116 Busy mo. for a CPA
117 Big particle physics lab in Switz.
118 "Hail, Nero!"
119 Big name in sneakers
121 Riddle's answer
128 Lenient
129 Beethoven's Third, familiarly
130 Mark Antony's wife
131 Local lingoes
132 Wet slightly
133 Wee baby

DOWN

1 Seder celebrant
2 Ordinal number ender
3 Carrere of "True Lies"
4 Beyond embryonic
5 Oneness
6 Baja California resort port
7 Permit to
8 Biblical angel
9 Chicana, e.g.
10 Many flying creatures
11 Got together

12 Compadre
13 "Shrek!" author William
14 Like time, speed and temperature
15 Bad, to Luc
16 Including everything
17 Author Steel
18 More sandlike
19 MS markers
24 "Yuk" relative
29 PC screen variety
31 Special — (mil. group)
32 Toll, for one
33 Atomizer for spraying paint
34 Turned right on a horse
35 Has no life
36 — Ark (biblical boat)
37 With 57-Down, supporter for a caterer's dishes
38 Pets' docs
45 Groom's partner
47 Microwave brand
49 Unoriginal
51 Indefinite things

53 Keats verse
54 Gobs
55 Railing locale
56 Hurricane relative
57 See 37-Down
58 Green-lights
59 Alan of "White Mile"
60 Doves' calls
64 Horrify
65 Reasonably muscular
67 Lactose, e.g.
69 Unrequired course
70 Rob of the Brat Pack
71 Disorder
74 Gets close
75 Mom or dad's sister
76 "Da Doo Ron Ron" singer Cassidy
78 — Tull (rock band)
81 — -Magnon man
82 Persian, e.g.
83 Country singer Rimes
85 Suffix with lion
87 Army group
88 Ball of perfume in a closet
89 Exhausting

90 Urged in defense
91 Intentions
92 Close friendship between guys
97 "Wheels"
98 Nav. officer
101 Expunges
102 African viper
104 Implant that helps in returning a lost pet
105 Athens' land
106 Husband of Lily Munster
108 Greet with a hand motion
111 Resulted in
112 Followed a curved path
113 Hit skit show since '75
114 "— & Kel" (1990s teen show)
119 — Khan
120 Height fig.
122 Hunters' gp.
123 — de plume
124 Cyclotron bit
125 Actress Longoria
126 Apt humor
127 Letter encl. to facilitate a reply

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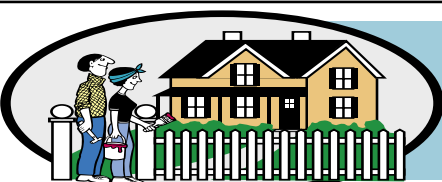
Answer

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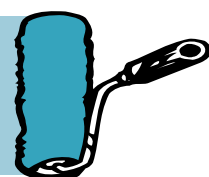
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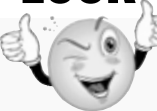
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Answers

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E	T	I	E	N	N	E		H	A	V	E	A	T		C	A	N	A	R	D
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A	R	G	O	T	S			D	A	M	P	E	N		N	E	O	N	A	T

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