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The **TIMBERJAY**



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\$1⁰⁰

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY

Landwehr to lead 'Save the Boundary Waters'

Former DNR chief said decision to join campaign was personal

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
 Managing Editor

ELY — Former Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Tom Landwehr has joined the Campaign to Save the

Boundary Waters as its new executive director, and the decision is not without controversy within the environmental community.

The campaign made the announcement of Landwehr's hiring on March 5, although Landwehr said

he started his new position several days before the decision was made public. "I've been focused on getting up to speed," said Landwehr in an interview with the *Timberjay* this week.

For Landwehr, who spent eight years as DNR

commissioner under Gov. Mark Dayton, the decision to join the campaign was a personal one, that was reinforced by his many trips into the 1.1 million-acre wilderness near Ely. "My jaw dropped when I first learned of the Twin Metals project

because of its proximity to the Boundary Waters," he said.

In particular, noted Landwehr, the mine would be located along the Kawishiwi river system, just

See... **LEADER** pg. 11



Tom Landwehr

CELEBRATION OF MUSIC



Inspiration: One voice at a time

Boundary Waters Choral Festival celebrates 10 years

by **JODI SUMMIT**
 Tower-Soudan Editor

ELY — "This festival gets more special every year," said guest conductor Matthew Olson. "And with Carrie Newcomer's presence this year, her message inspired these singers to be the best versions of themselves."

The Boundary Waters Choral Festival celebrated 10 years on March 1 with a day of rehearsals, workshops, coaching sessions, an evening performance, and a very special guest artist, the Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Carrie Newcomer. She has recorded 16 albums, toured around the world, and has been featured on several PBS specials for her work as a musician as well as her efforts to bridge political divides and bring communities together.

Olson, the choir director at Carleton College in Northfield, said festival organizer Billie Rouse has a passion for using music to bring a sense of belonging and community to high

See... **CHORAL** pg. 12



Area high school students, top, spent last Friday at Ely Memorial School involved in rehearsals, workshops and an evening performance as part of the Boundary Waters Choral Festival. Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter Carrie Newcomer, above, was part of the festival's 10th annual celebration of music.

SENIOR CARE

New life for senior living in Tower

New owners bring change to town's assisted living center

by **MARCUS WHITE**
 Cook/Orr Editor

TOWER - When new owners took over what had been Golden Horizons assisted living last summer they knew they had a lot of work to do mending community relations.

"It did not have a good image in the community because of the care in the facility," said Demetrius Bray, the new manager at the facility, now known as Vermilion Senior Living. "A lot of guardians were not happy. There were sheriffs involved in incidents. It was poorly managed with

See... **SENIORS** pg. 11

CITY OF TOWER

Questions arise over bid process for ambulance

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
 Managing Editor

TOWER — Representatives of two different ambulance manufacturers are raising questions over the process and lack of transparency surrounding the Tower Area Ambulance Service's recent purchase of a new ambulance.

The city council here approved the purchase of the ambulance on Dec. 10, but documents and public comments from the city's ambulance director indicate the decision had been made long before that official council action, in apparent violation of legal guidance provided to municipalities by the League of Minnesota

See... **TOWER** pg. 10



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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Ruby's Pantry in Cook, March 14

COOK- Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution will be Thursday, March 14 from 4:30 – 6 p.m. at the old Cook School. Registration begins at 3 p.m. with a \$20 cash donation at the door. Volunteers are asked to please arrive at 3 p.m. Please bring your own containers. Ruby's Pantry is now offering online registration at rubyspantry.com starting Friday, March 15 for April distribution, a \$21 donation at sign up. Ruby's Pantry is sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Alango. For more information, contact Amy Viita at 218-666-2220.

Wildlife manager to discuss white-tailed deer at EFN meeting on March 13

ELY – The Ely Field Naturalists will host Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Manager Tom Rusch at their next meeting on Wednesday, March 13. He will present a program on white-tailed deer and 2019 DNR initiatives.

The meeting will be held at the International Wolf Center in Ely from 6-8 p.m.

Northern deer are facing a challenging winter traveling roads and trails and eliciting discussion about their winter survival, food availability and feeding, winter impacts, and the Winter Severity Index.

Rusch will discuss not only activities of deer in winter, the current deer population and relationships with predators, but he will also address the pros and cons of feeding, deer health, and disease spread, deer survival, and ecological relationships of deer in the northern forests.

In addition to deer management, Rusch oversees management of other game species and wildlife management areas in the Ely area. He will answer questions about current research and other current DNR Wildlife project priorities for 2019.

Irish Dance Lesson on Monday at Ely Folk School

ELY- Carol Booth and Jim Ganahl are leading an Irish Dance class on Monday, March 11 at the Ely Folk School in advance of the Friday, March 15 Irish Dance in Ely. Admission per adult per class (children free) is \$5 payable in advance or at the door. Class begins at 6 p.m. Comfortable shoes are recommended. Carol and Jim will be teaching the steps and patterns for both group and couple dances including jigs and reels, waltzes, polkas and hornpipes. More information is available at elyfolkschool.org or by calling 218-666-5990.

ELY SENIOR CENTER

22nd Annual Irish Dance in Ely on March 15

ELY- In the Tower Civic Center, twenty-one years ago on March 21, 1998, Carol Booth on piano and Jim Ganahl on accordion led the band and did the teaching and calling for their first Irish Dance on the Iron Range. It was part of the inaugural season for the Home On The Range Community Dance Association and it became a permanent part of the spring schedule with the date falling on or near Saint Patrick's Day. When the dance association disbanded in 2010, Carol and Jim continued the annual Irish Dance tradition in one form or another in various places across the Iron Range. This year the dance will be taking place on Friday, March 15 at the Senior Center in Ely at 7 p.m.

A traditional Irish Ceili (kay-lee) dance is a combination of group and couple dances. The group dances will include The Waves of Tory, The Haymakers Jig, and other jigs and reels danced in circles and long lines. The couple dances will include waltzes, polkas, and hornpipes. Because the dance floor is linoleum over concrete, it's



Above: Carol Booth and Jim Ganahl have been playing music at traditional Irish dances since 1998. submitted photo

important to wear comfortable shoes with plenty of cushion. Music and dancing will begin at 7 p.m. Admission at the door is ten dollars per adult with children free. The Senior

Center is located at 27 S First Ave. in Ely. More information is available at elyfolkschool.org or by calling 218-666-5990.

The band is called FriendsOnTheRange in honor



Above: A copy of the poster from the first Irish Dance held in Tower.

of the dance association. Carol and Jim will be joined by Joey Lee on flute and pennywhistle, Susan Hoppe on fiddle, Joey Kenig on guitar, and Eli Bissonett on fiddle. All dances are taught. No experience is necessary. Singles are welcome. Ely Folk School is sponsoring the event and the dance is made possible in part by a generous grant from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Bike with the NSLCHFH Team this summer

REGIONAL- North Saint Louis County Habitat for Humanity (NSLCHFH) is more than delighted to welcome the Habitat 500 Bike Ride back to the Iron Range. NSLCHFH is hoping to have their biggest team ever this year and encourage you to spring into the bike ride. Nathan Thompson and the other experienced riders on the team are more than happy to answer any questions and to help you with any concerns you might have. The Thompson family has been involved in the ride for the past 15 years, with this being Nathan's sixteenth year riding, and he will tell you it is a ride, not a race. Take it as slow and easy as you wish; as we all know, the scenery is lovely.

There are many ways in which to get involved in this fun week. Not available for the whole ride? Participants have a three-day or one-day option. Not ready to ride this year? Join the volunteer crew or help us feed the riders. Just call, the team is ready to help in any way possible. Call us at 218-749-8910 for more information or to register, or email us at habitat@nslchfh.org and get riding.



The 2018 North St. Louis County Habitat 500 Team (from left): Pastor Brian Birk, Shianne Gheen, Deb Hultman, Nathan Thompson, Marjie Thompson, Sara Thompson, Greg Krog, and Virginia Krog. submitted photo

EMBARRASS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Matt Hoffland in concert on Sunday, March 17 in Embarrass

EMBARRASS- Matt Hoffland will be presenting a concert on Sunday, March 17 at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Embarrass at 10:30 a.m. Hoffland is a singer/songwriter, dramatist, and worship leader from Rib Lake, Wis. Everyone is invited to attend this inspirational concert.



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The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center is reaching out to the entire community to help us reach our goal of raising \$25,000 by March 31. *If we reach our goal, we will receive a \$25,000 matching grant from an anonymous donor.* So far, over \$8,000 has been raised. We would love your support in this excellent opportunity to obtain the funds needed to finish the roof and put new siding on the entire building this summer! Any amount you can give will go directly to the match.

Checks should be made out to LVCC and mailed to:

Lake Vermilion Cultural Center
PO Box 659, Tower, MN 55790



You can also donate at <https://vermillionculturalcenter.org>

COMMUNITY

Progress made on Vermilion Cultural Center

Board working to raise \$25,000 by end of March to take advantage of anonymous matching grant

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER — Weeks of fresh work on the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center have raised newfound excitement for a community project that has faced more than its share of challenges. Now, organizers are focused on raising the additional funds needed to complete much of the remaining work on this remarkable effort to transform the historic St. Mary's Episcopal Church building into a showcase center for arts and culture.

"We are working towards that wow factor," said John Bowe, one of the project managers for the renovation effort. The work currently under-

way is being funded by a \$268,000 IRRRRB grant and should be largely completed by the end of March. The building now sits on a finished basement foundation, with a large addition to make room for future arts and community programming.

"Hammerlund Construction is definitely struggling with this weather," Bowe said. "But they are not cutting any corners. Things are taking a little longer but that is okay."

Bowe said this phase of the project has pretty much proceeded as planned, with a few adjustments being made as the new roof sections are tied into the existing roof pitch.

"Architectural Resources has done a tremendous job of troubleshooting in advance," he

said. "No one had any expectation that this was going to be easy."

Work on this phase included work on the foundation, completing the framing of the exterior walls and roof, closing in the walls and roof, and construction of the elevator shaft. The project also included integrating some building code design issues that had changed since the building had been moved onto the site.

The next phases of the project will get the building closer to becoming the community centerpiece its board has envisioned.

"The underground work and rough framing that has

See CULTURAL...pg. 5



A Hammerlund Construction worker was busy enclosing a cupola at the roof peak of the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center on Monday, despite windchills of minus-35. photo by J. Summit

CITY OF TOWER

City website contract signed without apparent authorization

TOWER — The Timberjay has confirmed that City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith approved a three-year contract extension for the city's website service and did so without apparent authorization and without seeking multiple quotes.

That would appear be a violation of the city of Tower's charter and spending policies, which limit the city clerk's authority for approving city contracts and expenditures to \$500 or less. The three-year contract signed only by Keith and a representative of the website service, known as Tech Bytes, totals \$1,386.

Keith's action also appears to conflict with statements made

by the clerk-treasurer to the city council during the city's Jan. 28, 2019, reorganizational meeting.

While the selection of a website maintenance service has not typically been part of the city's annual reorganization, both Mayor Orlyn Kringstad and Councilor Brooke Anderson raised the issue during the Jan. 28 meeting, indicating they would like to see a more engaging city website. The city switched its website to the current host company in 2013.

"I think that is a service that should be bid out periodically to see what is new and what ideas people have for making the Tower city website more effective," said Kringstad.

"I'd like to see the website look a little snazzier," said Anderson. "My husband designs websites and we're always looking at the things we could do with it."

Anderson, who has been on the council since 2017, asked when the contract was up.

"I just signed for another three years," said Keith in response.

"Did that come before the council?" Kringstad asked.

"Um, I'm pretty sure we talked about it," said Keith. "I'd have to go back and see what meeting it was."

Kringstad asked Keith to come back to the council with a response to his question about

council authorization. More than five weeks later, however, Keith has yet to provide the response requested by the mayor.

A Timberjay review of city minutes and agendas from 2018 found no mention or discussion of the city website service in 2018.

A copy of the latest Tech Bytes contract, signed by both Keith and Tech Bytes operator Dustin Miller, and dated Dec. 5, 2018, runs for 36 months but automatically renews after that until termination. The service costs \$38.50 per month, which includes a half-hour per month of maintenance work by the company.

The Timberjay obtained the

contract as part of a data practices request to the city. Keith had failed to respond to the request for nearly two weeks, which prompted the Timberjay to issue a Feb. 28 deadline for compliance. In an emailed response just ahead of that deadline, Keith claimed that the contract "is tied up with the auditors along with the rest of the paperwork from 2018."

But a call from the Timberjay to the city's auditing firm, Walker, Giroux & Hahne, confirmed that the auditors were not, in fact, holding up Keith's response to the Timberjay's information request. An official

See WEBSITE...pg. 5

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OPINION

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OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;”

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Tower's P & Z mess

City council needs expertise to establish a workable process for development

The Tower City Council needs to take the reins from a zoning administrator who is clearly unsure how to do her job and who threatens to embroil the city in a potential lawsuit — one that the city is likely to lose.

The troubles are most apparent with the city's handling of the RV park proposed by Dave Rose, although a second pair of would-be developers, Gary and Charity Ross, have experienced the same frustrations with a ham-handed project approval “process” that is, actually, not a process at all.

Planning and zoning is serious business because it affects the ability of individuals and businesses to use their private property. Litigation is commonplace. That means the process has to be clearly laid out in advance and designed to be fair and to create certainty for developers within an efficient time frame. Unfortunately, the current process, under Zoning Administrator Linda Keith, is entirely undefined, with constantly changing demands, endless delay, and arbitrary decision-making that is ripe for legal challenge.

Back in 2016, Keith notified Rose in writing that the planning commission had rejected his RV park conditional use application and that it would not be reconsidered until he had completed an environmental assessment worksheet, a wetland delineation, addressed sewage discharge, and completed a density study to determine how many RV lots would be appropriate for the site.

Two years and many thousands of dollars later, Rose said he had completed those items.

Instead of considering a new CUP application, however, Keith provided Rose with an entirely new list of demands, including a complete site drawing with a list of materials, burial depths for utilities, details on planned docks, proposed rental agreements, campground rules, spill prevention plans, and more. Rose then paid an engineer more money to try to meet those demands.

Fast forward to last month, when Mr. Rose notified Keith by email that he was again prepared to move forward with his project and wanted to schedule a meeting with the planning commission. Just over an hour later, Keith responded with her longest list of demands yet, including a tree and brush removal plan, a runoff plan, a stormwater prevention plan, a dock plan, a complete survey and staking of all roads and proposed sites, a dust control plan, impervious surface drawings, full design drawings, grading plans, a Phase 1 Cultural and Historical assessment, building

plans, and all regulatory permit approvals. And the coup de grace was in all caps “ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS THAT WILL BE DETERMINED TO BE NECESSARY.”

In other words, Keith is demanding that Rose spend tens of thousands of additional dollars before the commission will even consider a new application, at which time they may well reject it, having forced Rose to flush a small fortune for nothing.

This is not the way this works anywhere else. Take St. Louis County, for example. Anyone can submit a conditional use application at any time and the county has 45 days to hold a public hearing, at which time the application is typically approved or rejected. Approval of a conditional use permit does not mean a project is ready to go forward. The permit is called “conditional” for a reason. The CUP review seeks sufficient information to determine if the project complies with the ordinance, to assess its potential impact on the neighbors, and other factors. We've reported recently on the significantly larger Bay View RV park project, which was approved by St. Louis County, based on a hand-drawn map and far less information than Rose has already provided to the city of Tower.

Once the application is approved, the applicant then needs to obtain all of the other relevant permit approvals and meet any other conditions before they actually receive their permit. But by granting the initial approval, the applicant understands that if they take all those required steps, they have a project. In the city of Tower, developers are being forced to do all that work in advance, and only then will the city consider an application.

To call it “unfriendly to development” is putting it kindly. Here's the reality. There is real interest in bringing development to Tower. But it is all but impossible given the disastrous state of the city's planning and zoning “process.”

Whether one supports Mr. Rose's RV park plan or not, it is undeniable that the man has been treated in a completely arbitrary and capricious manner by the city's zoning administrator. And no one on the planning commission seems willing or able to straighten it out. They need the city council to step in and help the commission establish a viable and fair process.

Bring in a consultant or ask St. Louis County for help. Until this mess is fixed, the city itself will continue to serve as the number one impediment to development in Tower.



Letters from Readers

Systemic change is long overdue in U.S.

How did America's founding patriarchs (45 percent owned slaves) define “We the people?” Slaves, indigenous people, poor, propertyless commoners, debtors and women were excluded from participation by these “superior overlords.” Words like slavery, freedom and woman do not appear in the main body of the U.S. Constitution. They created a government of, by and for wealthy white, propertied adult males. Twelve U.S. Presidents owned slaves at some point in their lives.

The social system favored private property over people. Power and interests of wealth in the hands of privileged white males became the cause for preserving the economic status quo. When persuasion failed, reactionary elements used force and violence to suppress mobilization for real economic change. Law and order was preferred to law and justice. Gated minds create gated communities and compartmentalized economics.

A long struggle for inclusion ensued and the fight for social justice became part of the American story. Fulfilling human potential in our society was realized as possible. One election after another, political promises are made, but rarely acted on. Even incremental social change encounters fierce resistance.

Abolitionism, women's rights, labor, civil rights, anti-war and environmental movements have made significant changes, but extreme economic inequality persists, now more so than ever before. Disproportionate incarceration rates criminalize and marginalize poor whites and minorities for social control and disenfranchisement. Weakened regulatory power diminishes the common good and privatization only enriches the entrenched class.

Democratization of

society always encounters pushback. Political left and right are vague and artificial constructs of compartmentalized thinking that plays one against the other, allowing corporate domination of economic life. Income and wealth inequality suffocates the community spirit. Systemic change is long overdue. “We the people,” their rights and well-being must replace the economic status quo at the center for real change.

**Harold Honkola
Tower**

Our union parents would be ashamed

Connecting the dots between Mr. Helmberger's “Tax cuts for the rich have hurt the economy and democracy” and Mr. Eliason's letter, “Stauber's statements on mining are false”:

Keep the population uneducated, unskilled, and hungry, and they'll fall for the promise of jobs every time, asking only “How high, master? How high do you want me to jump?”

Our union member parents and grandparents would be ashamed of us all.

**David K. Porter
Attorney at Law
Minneapolis**

Carmen DeLuca has been an asset on the town board

I am writing this letter in support of re-electing Carmen DeLuca as Greenwood Township supervisor. I have worked with Carmen on various fire department committees and projects and have learned that he is thorough and detailed in his assessment of the projects. I have also learned that he does not always agree with a proposal by the fire department, but is willing to listen, negotiate and come to a consensus. The ability to negotiate rather than deny and contradict is a sign of an effective supervisor,

which strengthens the town board as a whole and benefits the residents of Greenwood Township.

Our current town board can take credit in supporting the strength of our fire department. By strength, I mean our membership is growing, which is bucking the current national trends as well as some of our neighboring departments. Most recently we requested and received approval for additional radios that were needed because of new members. We are seeing very strong attendance at meetings/drills and 911 calls. These things don't happen on their own; they are the results of cooperation between the town board members and the fire department.

Carmen has proven himself to be an asset to the town board in his commitment to the township with the numerous duties he has taken on. I believe Carmen does not have a hidden agenda; his only agenda is doing what's best for the citizens of Greenwood Township and he understands that a dictator and contradictory style of governing accomplishes very little.

**Ed Borchardt
Greenwood Twp**

We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words. Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.

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

Ely riding the growing folk school phenomenon

A delightful phenomenon is sweeping across the country and is particularly strong in our region.

In the past 20 years, the number of folk schools in the U.S. has grown to about 100, according to the newly-formed Folk School Alliance, a national network of



BETTY FIRTH

folk schools. That represents an 800-percent increase from the 1990s, with concentrations in the Northwest, the middle Atlantic, and here in the upper Midwest. That doesn't even include many other organizations that have folk arts education as part or all of their mission.

The term “folk school” was coined in Denmark in the 1830s by Nikolai Frederik Severin (NFS) Grundtvig who was a philosopher, poet, theologian, educator, historian, composer of hymns, translator, and social critic, but education was one of his primary concerns. At that time, classical education was prevalent, emphasizing Greek and Latin studies, which he felt separated learning from life, so he advocated for popular education. He believed in lifelong

learning and recognized the need for imaginative and expansive education, with creativity and community at the center rather than books and grades. The majority of the population were farmers, and he felt that schools should bring dignity to rural people along with pride in the farming life and Danish culture in general.

From 1660 to 1849, Denmark was ruled by an absolute monarchy, but a series of land reforms and other changes

in the early 1800's brought the promise of a more democratic government. Grundtvig felt that his vision for education was critical if Denmark were to have a successful transition to democracy with the necessary skills to create a peaceable and a just society. He felt that human identity was comprised of an individual identity, a cultural identity, and a democratic identity, that the individual identify

Letters from Readers

Elected officials serve at the pleasure of voters

The Minnesota Association of Township Manual provides job descriptions of the various offices held by township officers. These job descriptions are based off legislation provided by the state of Minnesota.

A brief description of each of those offices has been taken directly from the 2017 Manual on Town Government provided by the Minnesota Association of

Townships.

§4-7: Duties of a Town Clerk states "The town clerk performs a variety of duties for the township. The primary duties of the clerk are listed in Minnesota Stat: §367.11, but there are many other references to clerk's duties spread throughout the statutes, and the clerk frequently performs other tasks needed for the town to function effectively and efficiently". §4-8, Duties of the Township Treasurer. "Town treasurers are mostly responsible for properly handling and

accounting for the town's funds. The treasurer does not have a vote on the town board, but treasurers keep a register of all the demands for payment made to the town and all of the checks the town issues. The primary duties of the treasurer are listed in Minnesota Stat: §367.16." §4-6. Duties of Town Supervisors. "By law, supervisors have charge of all town affairs not committed to other officers by law. Minnesota Stat: §366.01 subs .1. Town supervisors are charged with the duty to make

decisions on behalf of the town and to have the responsibility to see that the town fulfills its duties to the state and to the town residents. Common duties include awarding contracts, authorizing township expenditures, adopting ordinances and resolutions."

It's also interesting to note in the discussion in this same section that, and I quote, "As a practical matter the Chair does take on many tasks that need to be performed, but the assignment of additional tasks must not be mistaken for the power to control

a matter." There's more to read in this section, but one thing I fail to find anywhere in the manual is language that places one elected position as superior to any other. The intention is clear—there is no "Boss" on a town board. They are all supposed to work together as one, each within their own job descriptions. Elected officials serve at the pleasure of the voters, not themselves.

**Rick Stoehr
Greenwood Twp.**

FOLK SCHOOL...Continued from page 4

cannot be separated from community, and so wholeness depends on connection with community. Conversely, he thought the "Schools for Life" would help people understand their own identity and therefore strengthen and empower communities.

Grundtvig did not actually found any schools, but Christen Kold put the Grundtvigian philosophy into practice, based on the belief that education should be available to all and that the main purpose was not to teach factual knowledge but "life's awakening." Grundtvig said, "The school should be for life, for the spiritual, and for that which is of the heart."

So, the folk schools became part of a decentralized grassroots movement that gave farmers a means for personal and social transformation. Major change did indeed come to the Danes with the first democratic constitution in 1849 based on a parliamentary liberal democracy and a national citizenship

based on a universal set of rights and obligations. Grundtvig's work for public education and the folk school movement are given credit for helping the Danes in the successful transition.

In the United States, folk schools have taken many forms. Political progressives in the early 1900s liked the Danish folk school model since they wanted to bring together economic, political and educational experiences. Poconos People's College in Pennsylvania and Waddington People's College in West Virginia evolved from these motivations. Highlander Folk School in Tennessee is probably the best known early folk school, founded in 1932 to empower the mountain people of Appalachia. Myles Horton, one of the founders, felt area schools were offering a generic education that did not reflect the needs of the people or the region. Highlander's folk education includes sharing culture through

food, stories, and music; group sharing and reflecting; developing resources for collective action; encouraging leadership; and supporting grassroots organizations working for justice. Some community leaders who participated in this unique training were Rosa Parks, Ralph Abernathy, and Martin Luther King Jr. The civil rights anthem, "We Shall Overcome," was adapted from a gospel song by Highlander music director Ziphia Horton (Myles' wife) in 1946. Shortly afterward, it was published by folksinger Pete Seeger. The school is still operating under the name Highlander Education and Research Center.

The John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, North Carolina, was founded in 1925 and is the largest in the country with over 8,000 students annually. Its mission reads, "The Folk School seeks to bring people to two kinds of development: inner growth as creative, thoughtful individuals, and

social development as tolerant, caring members of a community." Locally, the Ely Folk School's mission statement also follows the Grundtvigian philosophy: "...to build community by providing learning experiences that celebrate the wilderness heritage, art, history, culture, and craft of the people of northern Minnesota."

Students find that they can relax and try new things without fear of judgment or bad grades when they are in an environment that focuses on building community, appreciating individual differences, and valuing the process, not just the end result. As the program coordinator at the Ely Folk School, I have often heard people say, "I've never done anything creative before," or "I never thought I could do that" with broad smiles. The sounds of the folk school are lots of conversation, laughter, and often relaxed, concentrated silence while students are practicing their new skills.

That silence may indicate people are getting "in the flow," a term coined in 1975 by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi (pronounced "Me-High Chick-Sent-Me-High") a Hungarian academic and psychologist. A flow state is characterized by a loss of self-consciousness when you are so absorbed by an activity, often something creative, that nothing else seems to matter; you can easily lose track of time. Csikszentmihalyi suggested that 'flow' is highly correlated with happiness and that people who experience it regularly seem to develop other positive traits, such as improved concentration, self-esteem, and performance.

Just this week a college student who has a full class load, a demanding part-time job, and is actively involved in extracurricular activities, told me that she liked to draw and knit to relax, that it felt meditative to her. An old friend who is a university chemistry professor just told me she is the advisor

for over 100 students in addition to teaching, and she's usually exhausted at the end of the day. But every Monday she goes to an open studio type of art class with an incredible teacher who knows how to encourage and support students in their individual and unique efforts. My friend said she's surprised by some of the abstract pen and ink work she produces, isn't sure where it comes from or why it does, but she leaves intrigued and energized and hasn't missed a Monday in several years.

I'd guess both these women are getting "in the flow" and reaping the benefits. Next time you think you're too busy or tired to "waste time" doing something fun or creative, think again. And check out the folk school website at www.elyfolkschool.org or stop in and visit at 209 E. Sheridan St.

Thanks to the Folk School Alliance and Marine Mills Folk School for contributing information to this article.

WEBSITE...Continued from page 3

from Walker, Giroux, said he would look into the issue. The *Timberjay* received the contract about 45 minutes later.

The city of Tower's charter specifies in Section 7.06 that: "No officer or employee of the CITY shall place any order or make any purchase except for the purpose authorized by resolution. Any obliga-

tion incurred by any person in the employment of the CITY for any purpose not authorized in a resolution or for any amount in excess of the amount authorized by the CITY COUNCIL shall be a personal obligation upon the person incurring the obligation."

Critics of the newly-elected Kringstad have sought to investigate his

spending of city funds for elected official training by the League of Minnesota Cities, as well as for conversations with the city attorney regarding issues surrounding the performance of Keith.

While Kringstad, as a new mayor, might be able to claim some confusion over his spending authority, Keith should have no

such confusion after more than five years as the city's clerk-treasurer.

The city's purchasing policy does allow the clerk, with approval from the mayor and at least one other council member, to approve a contract or spending between \$1,000 and \$10,000. The *Timberjay* did contact Councilor Kevin Fitton

and former Mayor Josh Carlson to see whether they might have approved the contract in coordination with the clerk-treasurer. Fitton indicated in writing that he did not recall signing a purchase order for the website service. Carlson did not respond.

The *Timberjay* provided Keith the opportunity to

respond to the newspaper's findings, and also submitted a data practices request for any other city-solicited bids that she might have sought. She did not provide any additional quotes and did not offer any explanation for her actions as of press time.

CULTURAL...Continued from page 3

been done isn't that glamorous," Bowe said. "But when this project is done, it will be a gem, a showcase."

The LVCC board is currently working to raise \$25,000 that will be matched by an anonymous donor. They have also received a \$50,000 gift in memory of Bernice Lenont Adams which will fund construction of the reading room/library area.

Board members Mary Batinich and Linda Haugen said if they can

meet the matching grant deadline of March 31, the total of \$50,000 will give them enough to help finish the exterior of the building, with shingles on the new roof sections (now covered with underlayment) and exterior siding. The final phase will include finishing the interior and installing all the electrical and plumbing required.

The board has raised a little over \$8,000 so far and are "really beating the bushes" to pull in

enough to receive the entire \$25,000 match.

"We did just receive an additional \$1,500," they said.

In addition, once they have raised the \$25,000 and received the matching grant, they will qualify for a \$20,000 energy-efficiency grant from the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency.

Bowe said that work still needs to be done to the old church roof, which has two layers of shingles

over the original cedar shakes. Those will all need to be removed, the roof area insulated, and new shingles put in place.

"We are not done by any stretch," he said, "but we are moving in the right direction."

Bowe noted that the enthusiasm for this project has ebbed and flowed since it began back in 2009. The challenges of incorporating the old church building into the new structure have been a once-in-a-lifetime

challenge.

He said this work being completed right now has created a new spark of enthusiasm in the community. He said he is confident the project will be a success. "We have a team of true professionals working

together," he said. "It is very exciting. I am as optimistic about this project as I've been since the beginning."

You can learn more about this project or see how you can donate at www.vermilioncultural-center.org.

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BREITUNG

Breitung to ask residents to approve 10-percent levy bump

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA Staff Writer

BREITUNG TWP- The Breitung Town Board, on Feb. 26, proposed a budget change that would require a 10-percent levy increase. While the budget includes a \$30,000 increase to help fund the current township building renovations, it also includes increases in other areas. An additional \$2,200 is planned for increased ambulance sub-

Increase to help fund township building renovations, additional maintenance staff

sidy, \$2,000 for administrative costs, and an increase of \$29,800 for a possible new hire in the maintenance department adding up to a total levy increase of \$64,000, a 10-percent increase from last year.

Breitung township residents will discuss, determine, and vote on the levy at the annual meeting on Tuesday,

March 12 after the polls close at 8 p.m.

This proposed levy increase follows a 6.27-percent increase in 2018 and a 4.15-percent increase in 2017. Before that, the eight previous years showed no changes or decreases in the levy. While there has been a recent trend of increases, the tax levy is

still much lower than it was 10 years ago, \$606,000 proposed today compared to \$685,400 in 2009.

Other news

► Heard that Supervisor Chuck Tekautz reminded residents to run water if they are prone to frozen water pipes. Many households in town have

reported freeze-ups.

► Accepted an agreement with Architectural Resources, Inc. .

► Paid an invoice for \$6,744 to BZAK Construction for plumbing inspection. The town board will hold \$960 because a washer base was not properly installed.

Area elections, annual meetings set for Tuesday

REGIONAL- In Vermilion Lake Township, 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. Polls are open from 1 - 8 p.m., and the annual meeting is at 8:15 p.m.

In Greenwood Township, 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. Polls are open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. Annual meeting is at 8:15 p.m.

In Breitung Township, Tim Tomsich (incumbent) filed for supervisor, and Jorgine Gornick (incumbent) filed for treasurer. Polls are open 1 - 8 p.m., and the annual meeting follows the counting of ballots.

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

Kugler Annual Meeting is at 6 p.m.

Eagles Nest Annual Meeting is at 7 p.m.

Embarrass Annual Meeting is at 7 p.m.

In case of inclement weather, all annual meetings and elections are postponed for one week to Tuesday, March 19.

St. James donates to Tower Cemetery



St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower donated half the proceeds from the March 5 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Meal to the Tower Cemetery Association, which maintains the Lakeview Cemetery. The meal also will help fund this summer's Vacation Bible School. Pictured is Joanne Connell, of St. James, presenting the check to Leonard Stefanich, from the cemetery association. Also pictured are the volunteers who helped prepare the meal. photo by J. Summit

100 days of learning



Math was on the agenda as elementary students celebrated the 100th day of school in late February. submitted photos

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Re-Elect Jorgine Gornick Breitung Township Treasurer

I'd appreciate your vote on Tuesday, March 12

Paid for by the candidate on her own behalf

VOTE TIM TOMSICH

for Breitung Supervisor Tuesday, March 12

"I appreciate your support."

Paid by the candidate on his own behalf.

Jared Poderzay named to dean's list at SCS

ST. CLOUD- Jared Poderzay of Soudan was named to the Dean's List at St. Cloud State University. Poderzay is attending the School of Health and Human Services pursuing a BS in Health and Physical Education. To be eligible for the honor, students must have a grade point average of 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Mesabi Range Dean's List High Honors, 3.75 - 4.0 GPA

Nicole Bach, Tower Tristan Johnson, Emb. Maude Lenz, Emb. Sophie Lenz, Emb.

Mikayla Mellesmoen, Emb. Steve Oja, Soudan Jazmin Portz, Emb. Max Posey, Babbitt Joseph Wenzel, Babbitt

Mesabi Range Dean's List Honors, 3.5 - 3.74 GPA

Morgan Hensley, Emb. Clarence Jordan, Soudan Kenneth Lolling, Emb. Trista Miller, Babbitt Elizabeth Zupancich, Tower

Benjamin Farley graduates UW-Madison with highest distinction

MADISON- Benjamin Farley of Tower graduated from the Uni-

versity of Wisconsin - Madison with highest distinction during the winter ceremony. Farley graduated from the College of Engineering with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

Local students named to Minn. State-Mankato Dean's List

MANKATO- Korissa Kishel of Tower and Araina Boyd of Virginia have been named to the Dean's Honor List at Minnesota State-Mankato. All three are seniors at the university and are seeking a degree in Integrated Engineering.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Red Hat's sets upcoming events, March 24, 31

TOWER- The Northern Red Hats are planning two events in the month of March. First will be lunch and a musical. The group will meet at Adventures in Virginia at noon for lunch then go to the musical "Bye, Bye Birdie" at the Virginia High School Auditorium on Sunday, March 24 at 2 p.m.

The following Sunday, on March 31, the Red Hats will have another lunch and musical outing. They will meet at the Tower Café at noon for lunch and then travel to Ely for the musical "Cabaret" at Vermilion Community College.

Rides will be shared to both events. New members are always welcome. Call Pam Lundstrom at 218-753-3006 if you are planning on attending one or both events so she can order your tickets and arrange the ride-shares.

Soudan Men's Breakfast on Saturday, March 9

SOUDAN- Breitung Police Officer Jason Sanderson will be speaking on the opioid crisis and its impact on the local community at the Soudan Men's Breakfast

on Saturday, March 9 at 8 a.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soudan. A free breakfast will be served. All are welcome to attend.

Community Closet free event on March 13 at Immanuel

TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower is hosting their first "Community Closet" give-away on Wednesday, March 13 from 12 noon - 2 p.m. in the church fellowship hall (downstairs). All clothing and household items will be free, and a light lunch will be served at no charge. This event is open to the public. No electronics, books, or exercise equipment will be accepted.

Little Church meeting, March 9

VERMILION LAKE TWP- There will be a Little Church meeting on Saturday, March 9 at 9 a.m. The church welcomes anyone and is looking for people interested in keeping The Little Church active and maintained in our community.

There is a men's group that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation. All are welcome. The

Little Church is located in Vermilion Lake Twp. on County Rd. 26/Wahlsten Rd. For questions, please contact Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

Chimpy's Skating Parties

SOUDAN - Chimpy's skating parties at the Soudan Rink are now underway. This weekend, March 9 and 10, there will be skating parties from 12 noon - 2 p.m. This weekend's parties are sponsored by Emily Anderson, Gregg Malmgren, and Starkovich Distributing.

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

The warming shack regular hours are weekdays from 4 p.m. to closing, and weekends from 11 a.m. to closing.

St. Martin's Lenten Schedule

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church is happy to announce their schedule of Lenten activities.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed Friday evenings (beginning March 8) during Lent at 5:30 p.m. A fish dinner will be served after the stations.

The Women's Bible

Study continues through Lent; meeting on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall.

In addition to the Women's Bible Study, Father Nick will be leading a Bible Study on Friday mornings at 8:45 a.m. This Bible Study is open to everyone.

St. Martin's Annual Pasty Sale

TOWER- It's that time of year again- the St Martin Youth are getting ready for their Annual Pasty Sale. Orders are now being taken; the last day to order is March 13. You may place your order with any of our high school students, or by calling the rectory at 218-753-4310.

You have the option of having rutabaga in your pasties or not. You will need to tell us at the time of your order. The cost of the pasties is still \$5 and they must be paid at the time of the order. Pasties will be available for delivery/pick up on March 30.

Proceeds from this project will go towards the Steubenville Conference trip in July. This year we have five students attending the conference in St. Louis!

BREITUNG POLICE DEPARTMENT

January 2019

Calls: 142
Arrests: 0
Citations/formal charges: 4
Monthly mileage: 1,791 (Tahoe: 1,265, Explorer: 526)



January Police Report

Breitung Police Chief Dan Nylund

not attend any training during the month of January.

Squads: Current end of the month mileage for the 2012 Chevy Tahoe (Tower) is 78,998. Current end of the month mileage for the 2017 Ford Explorer is 16,910.

Additional shifts

During the month of January, the Breitung Police Department worked one TZD (Towards Zero Deaths) shift.

Training

Breitung Police Department officers did

for every three out of ten drivers, or about 63.6 million drivers. It's not just aggressive driving, it's deadly driving.

Citations/formal charges/arrests

- (1) Speeding - citation issued
- (2) Driving after revocation - citations issued
- (1) Fleeing a police officer on snowmobile - felony charges sent to the county attorney.

Speeding is deadly

Speeding is a problem across America. In 2017 speed was a contributing factor in 26-percent of all fatal crashes, killing 9,717 people. Speeders account

Letters from Readers

The Three Sources of Temptation: The Flesh, the World, and the Devil

The forty days of Lent began this week on Ash Wednesday. Lent is the holy season of preparation for the pinnacle of the Christian faith-The Paschal Mystery, the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. As we begin the holy season of Lent, we find ourselves in the desert with Jesus being tempted by the Devil. These three temptations have been traditionally known as the flesh, the world, and the devil. Jesus has fasted for forty days and is first tempted to turn stones into bread. This is the temptation of the flesh. Second, He is tempted to throw himself off the Temple so that the angels can come to save him. This is the temptation of the world. Finally, He is brought up high and tempted with the power and glory of having all the kingdoms of the world if he wor-

ships the devil. This is the temptation of the devil. The flesh, the world, and the devil are the three traditional enemies of the soul. These three are the UN-holy trinity.

The flesh refers to our fallen human nature. Because we are descendants of Adam, we were born with Original Sin. That was removed at our baptism, but it's residue, concupiscence, remains. Concupiscence is a fancy word meaning our passions and desires are disordered. They don't order or direct us towards what is always good for us. We often want things that are opposed to our flourishing. We have a bent towards sin. For example, I want five pieces of chocolate cake instead of one. Or I want to be silent rather than speak up for the truth.

The world refers to all the vanities and seductions of the world. Think of all the commercials and billboards you see. They all tempt and seduce you to wanting the four main things this world offers us, i.e., power, honor, wealth, and pleasure. But they are four things that by definition cannot totally fulfill you.

And then there is the Devil. While the Devil works through the other sources of temptation, i.e., the flesh and the world, he also works in a more direct way at times. He and his evil demons can suggest ideas indirectly through our senses, especially through what we see and hear. First, they can work through deceptions. Jesus called the Devil "a liar and the father of lies" (Jn 8:44). Second, the Devil also works through accusations. Scripture refers to him as the 'Accuser' (Rev 12:10). Accusation is a more personal lie. Such as, "you're hopeless," or "nobody likes you." Third, the Devil tempts through doubt, especially doubt concerning the Fatherhood of God. "Can you really and fully commit to God? Maybe he really just wants you to

be unhappy your whole life." Fourth, the Devil tempts through enticements. Finally, the Devil tempts by provocation. He plants thoughts or arranges circumstances that will provoke us to sinful thoughts such as lust, pride, vanity, or despair. "Finally," St. Paul tells us, "draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the Devil." (Eph 6:11-12).

A Blessed Lent to you all!
**Father Nick Nelson
St. Martin's
Catholic Church**

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Expanded hours year-round
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Wed. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
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Hwy. 77 Canister

Winter hours now in effect
Thursday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

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

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 March 11
Monday- Pizza, Fruit Salad

Tuesday- Chunky Chicken Gravy over Mashed Potatoes, Dinner Roll, Green Beans

Wednesday- Tater Tot Hot Dish, Dinner Roll

Thursday- Pigs in a Blanket (Hot Dog), Baked Beans

Friday- Cheese Enchilada, Corn

Week of March 11

Monday

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

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

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on March 11

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 March 19.

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

Township Annual Meetings- times vary, see page 6, March 12

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.

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the **TIMBERJAY**

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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., Ely

WOMEN'S AA - Noon Mondays, St. Anthony Church basement, Ely

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. Tower by appointment. Call 365-3359, 827-3232, or 1-800-662-5711.

Tuesday Group
ELY - The upcoming Tuesday Group schedule is listed below. All talks are at 12 noon on Tuesday at the Grand Ely Lodge.

March 12 - Meet New Elyites

March 19 - Denis Miller - The History of Air Conditioning

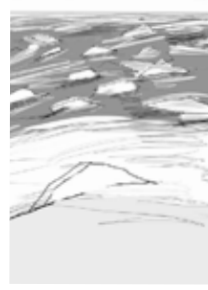
Ely Free Clinic
ELY - The Ely Community Health Center is open every Monday evening from 5:30-7 p.m. in the AFU Building, 111 S 4th Ave. E.

For more information, call 218-365-5678, or visit their website, www.elycommunityhealth.org, or Facebook page.

Senior Center hosts Smear tournaments
ELY - Smear tournaments are held the first and third Mondays at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. 1st Ave E, starting at 6 p.m.

There is a \$5 entry fee, plus 25 cents per set.

Breathing Out
by Cecilia Rolando © 2019



on gitchi gummi water turned to barren ice glass-like formations

ELECTION 2019

Cooper challenges Cersine for a seat on Morse Town Board

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

MORSE TWP - Residents here will have a rare choice to make next week for town supervisor. Longtime incumbent supervisor Len Cersine is being challenged by Terry Cooper.

Voting for the three-year position on the town board will take place from noon to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12. The township's annual meeting will begin that day at 8 p.m.

Cersine, who has served on the board for more than two decades, did not respond to a request for comment from the *Ely Timberjay*.

Cooper has lived in on Cedar Lake Road in Morse Township since 2011. He moved here from Little

Canada, and grew up in Clare, Mich.

He attended Michigan State University where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Soil Science. He served in the United States Marine Corps, in the 3rd Marine Air Wing in 1971 and 72, and after his Marine Corps service he earned a Ph.D. in 1975 from MSU in Soil Science.

Cooper taught soils at Cal Poly in California until 1980 when he moved to the University of Minnesota. Terry was a professor of Soil Science at the UM-St. Paul campus and taught soil science, environmental science, and environmental review courses.

He was also the coach of the UM Soil Judging Team and traveled all over the country with his

teams. One of his last accomplishments at UM was to develop a new major in Food Systems for undergraduates.

Cooper retired in 2013. Terry and his wife Pam, an artist and assistant manager of the Art and Soul Gallery in Ely, live on five wooded acres with two border terriers, Cooper and Jazzy, and one black lab, Gordo. Terry is the father of four grown daughters and five grandchildren.

Terry enjoys fishing on local area lakes, grouse hunting, archery, deer hunting, hiking with dogs, and gardening. He is an avid gardener and a local CSA member. He cans pickles, tomatoes and relishes in the fall and fills the freezer with vegetables and venison.

"I believe that it is

important to make the planet a better place than what we found it and to think out to seven generations when decisions are made about land use," he said.

He said understands the need for jobs in the area and also the need for protecting the environment. He has provided a soils class and a composting class at the Ely Folk School. He has also given presentations at the Tuesday Group on his travels and experiences.

Terry was an undergraduate advisor for over 1,000 students in his career and is a good listener. "I will listen to issues brought forth by township residents and bring them to the Morse Town Board for discussion and action," he said.

OUR COMMUNITY

Ice rescue lessons



Students in the Vermilion Community College Wilderness and Park Management program participated in a Tech Rescue II ice rescue awareness exercise recently on Shagawa Lake. submitted photo

Ely's Gardner Trust extends deadline for youth review

ELY - The Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust has extended the deadline for youth grant applicants to call for a grants review meeting. Youth grant applicants need to call the trust office by Monday, March 11.

"The grants review meeting is a low-stress get-together to help young students improve their writing skills," said Keiko Williams, the trust's executive director. "We like to go over their draft application with them and talk with them about what inspires them or why the arts opportunity they are seeking is so important to them. Then we help them maybe reword or update their grant narratives to be more compelling."

Any students who attend the Ely schools in grades 6 - 12 or are home-schooled in grades 6 - 12 and who live in zip codes 55731 and 55796 are encouraged to apply for fine arts opportunities through workshops, classes, lessons or mentorships.

The full guidelines for the youth grant are located on the trust website at www.gardnertrust.org. Students who call by Monday, March 11 will be setting up a grant review meeting with Keiko before the final grants deadline of noon on Wednesday, March 27.

Medica Foundation awards grants

ELY - The Medica Foundation has awarded \$10,000 in grants to two Ely organizations, Northwoods Care Partners and Well Being Development, to support community health needs in Lake and St. Louis Counties. They will each receive \$5,000.

The Medica Foundation awarded nearly \$1.5 million in grants to more than 120 nonprofit organizations for their 2019 programs and services.

The funding priorities for the Medica Foundation include behavioral health, early childhood health and general health improvement.

Pink Ribbon Riders



The Pink Ribbon Riders gathered for a group photo at the Pioneer Mine last month prior to their snowmobile ride to raise funds in the fight against breast cancer. photo by K. Vandervort



the TIMBERJAY

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LOCAL HISTORY

Ely's mining history dates back to 1880s

by DAVID KESS AND MARGARET SWEET
Ely-Winton Historical Society

Although it now looks nearly like a lake that has been there since the glaciers left this area thousands of years ago, Ely's own Miner's Lake is perhaps the lake we would have to number as Minnesota's No. 10,001.

It slowly came into being sometime after 1967, when the underground pumps in the Pioneer Mine were shut down. As the seventeen tunnels (at intervals of 100 feet) filled with water, they also collapsed and created a new lake.

Much of the Chandler Mine, Ely's first, overlapped that of the Pioneer since it had been both open pit and underground. The first ore shipped out of it was in 1888. When the Pioneer closed in 1967, nearly 39,500,000 tons of iron ore had been mined. During World War II, more than a million tons of ore were taken out in some years.

On that closing day of April 1, 1967, 475 miners were still on the payroll. There were eight mines in the Ely area during the mining years from 1887 to 1967: The first was the Chandler and the last was the Pioneer. In between were the Zenith, Sibley, Savoy, Section 30, and two smaller ones, the Shagawa and the Anderson.

The following list of names and statistics for the Vermilion Range mines was prepared by Dan Hestetune, a retired mining engineer who worked in Ely. The information is taken from the 2010 Skilling's North American Mining Directory.

▶ Armstrong Bay 1923 to 1923, 4,478 tons

▶ Chandler North 1891 to 1942, 9.5 million tons

▶ Chandler South 1888 to 1957, 2.4 million tons

▶ McComber 1917 to 1918, 8,386 tons

▶ Pioneer 1888 to 1967, 41.1 million tons

▶ Savoy 1899 to 1916, 1.9 million tons

▶ Section 30 1910 to 1923, 1.5 million tons

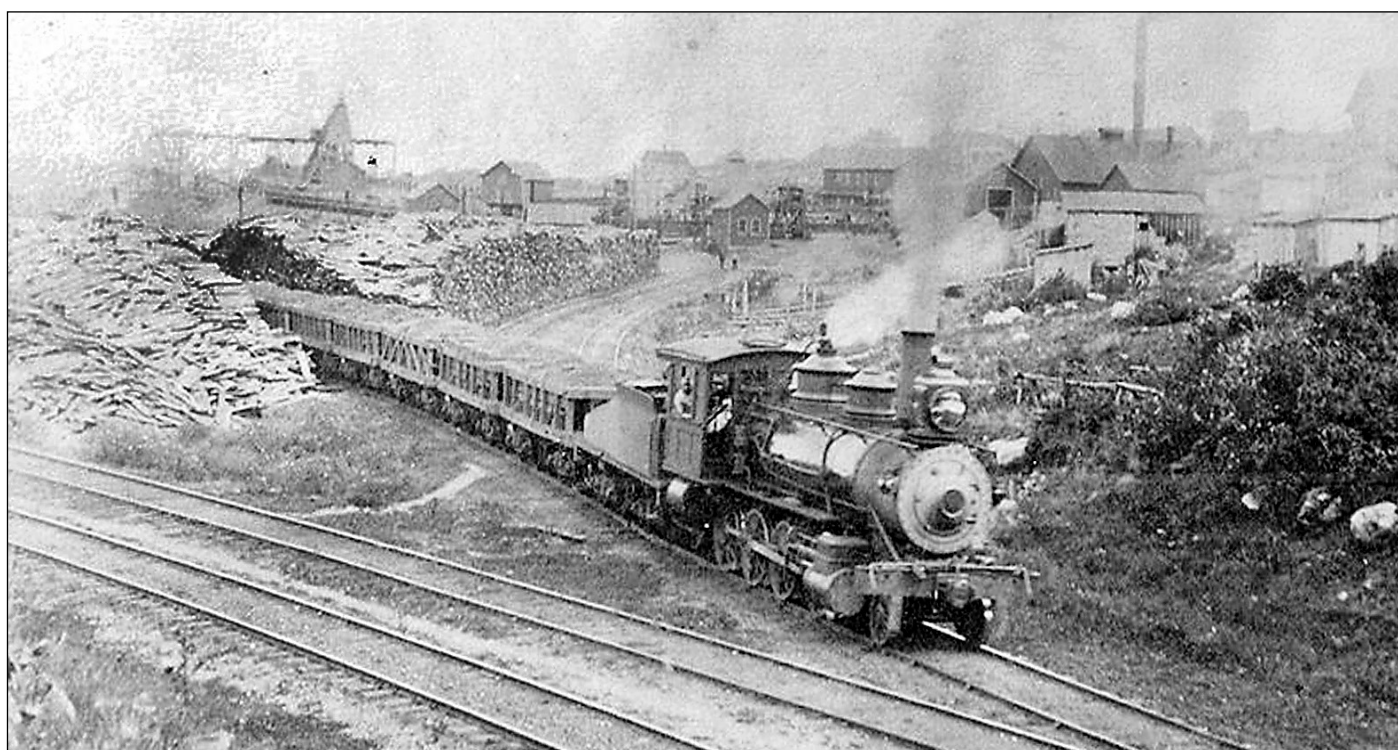
▶ Sibley 1899 to 1954, 9.8 million tons

▶ Soudan 1884 to 1963, 16 million tons

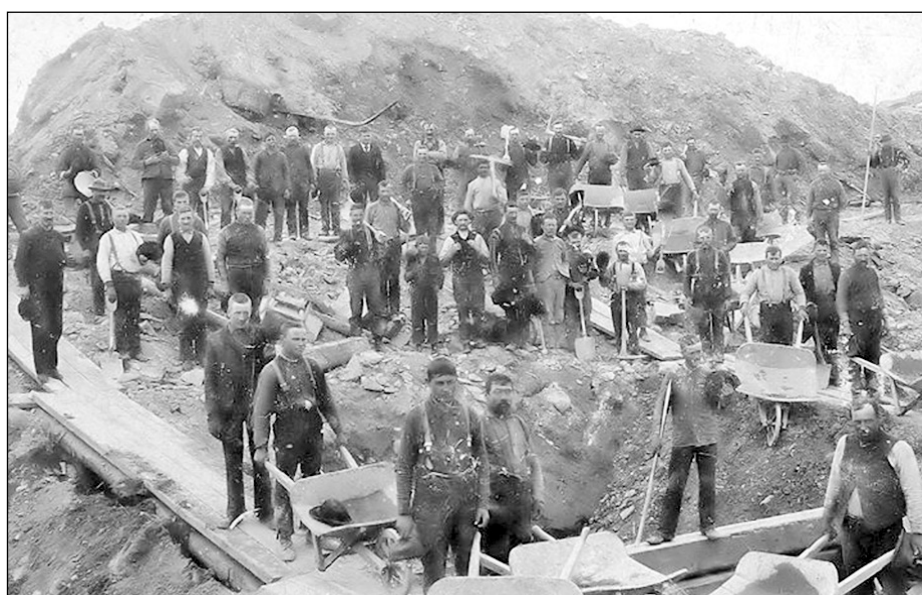
▶ Zenith 1892 to 1964, 21.6 million tons

The Lucky Boy Mine located southwest of the present Ely Hospital complex was a relatively short-lived operation. A shaft was sunk and ore removed but records are vague and mostly nonexistent. By 1924, there were at least 15 abandoned mines around Ely. The mines produced tremendous profits for the fee holders (investors). For instance, the Chandler Mine paid stockholders a net profit of \$100,000 per month for the first 19 years of operation.

The iron ore deposits, near Sandy Point on Shagawa Lake, were first discovered by George Stuntz in 1882. Because of the somewhat problematic structure of the ore, the fee holders who became interested in extracting these deposits looked to existing mining operations in



Above:
A train carries ore from the Chandler Mine in the 1890s.



Left:
The first season at the Chandler North Mine was in 1891.

photos courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society

from either northern or southern Europe with no "kith or kin" in this country.

Ely's oldest cemetery, located near the Ely golf course, includes some of those graves. Records, if they ever did exist, are no longer available. Fortunately, at least in one sense, mining accidents were very newsworthy items, so by reading the microfilms of these old newspapers, Anne Stewart and Judy Swenson of the Ely-Winton Historical Society have been able to recreate a much more accurate list. It has been a project that has gone on for several years.

Ely's mines swung back into full production with the entrance of the United States into World War II. The steel produced from Ely's ore went into the building of ships, planes, tanks, and all those instruments of war. The ore dug out of Ely's mines was the richest and purest to be found. However, it was just that which brought on its downfall. With advances made to the way steel was produced, that rich, red ore was no longer competitive against the newcomer – taconite.

Ely's long mining history ended on April 1, 1967. No one in Ely considered it much of an April Fool's joke. It has taken years and the remaking of Ely's economy from one of mining to one of tourism and learning to be hospitable to the world in general. Now the promise of a sulfide mining future stands waiting in the wings and the area wonders what this new endeavor will bring.

Sources:

"More Than Just Ore" by David Kess
Minnesota Historical Society

Hy Berman, Professor of History,
University of Minnesota

the United Kingdom. Mining captains and miners were recruited, particularly from Cornwall with its rich history of copper mining. They were nicknamed "Cousin Jacks." The first ore from the Chandler was shipped out in 1888 after the railroad had been extended to Ely.

Ore was discovered on the Mesabi Range in the early 1890s. Mining this ore was done by means of open pits (strip mining) using power shovels. The process was both less expensive and labor intensive. After the recession of 1893, mining operations in Ely nearly came to a halt.

Mining was also nearly at a standstill during the Great Depression of the 1930s when unemployment on the Iron Range was at 70 percent. According to Hy Berman, history professor at the University of Minnesota, steel plants in the East were operating at 22 percent of capacity while 78 percent were cold.

If the rate of steel consumption continued, there would be enough ore stockpiled at the steel plants and at the mines – especially on the Iron Range – to feed the steel plants for five years. This meant that there was no reason for iron miners to be working. In Ely, with the mines working only on a limited basis, mine captains scheduled their men for one or two shifts a week – just enough to give the hard-up miners a little something with which to feed their families.

Berman went on, "It was a very disastrous time. Between the time Roosevelt was elected and when he became president, the bank system collapsed so he was faced with an immediate problem. In an attempt to solve the problems the nation faced, it was thought that recovery could be done by putting control of the industries into the hands of the large corporations and their leaders, but it just didn't work. The result was a major period of upheaval and discontent that reached a peak in 1934 all over the nation. Work relief was only an afterthought during the deep economic depression of the winter of 1933-34."

The establishment of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) gave many young men a way out of dire poverty and allowed them to send money back to their parents who were suffering the loss of their mining income. Many of their stories are to be heard on audio tapes collected in a project done in the 1980s. Those tapes speak tellingly of the rough life miners led and the perils they faced daily. Mining accidents and deaths were frequent and the newspapers wrote of them in gruesome detail.

In the early years not all names were carefully recorded or those records may have been misplaced. No doubt some of this was due to the fact that many of the earliest miners were young single men

WOLFTRACK CLASSIC 2019



Ely veterinarian Jen Freking, is all smiles at the starting gate of the 2019 WolfTrack Classic on Feb. 24. She finished fourth in the eight-dog, 50-mile race with a time of 5:39:42. photos by K. Vandervort



Community Notices

Your story as art

COOK - Your story matters, so who is this class for? Any person at least 12 years old who wants to play. Artists looking for inspiration. Writers wanting a new perspective on their story and poets with ideas. Humans who need a break from the daily grind. Makers seeking community. The curious. The intimidated. The open-minded.

Join us at the NWA Gallery in Cook on Saturday, March 30 and Saturday, April 20 from 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Each class will stand alone, and may be attended separately. Attending both will be a deeper experience.

For each day, be guided in creating a visual representation of your story. Use drawing, collage, paint and paper provided (or other materials you bring) to create a finished art piece on canvas, board or paper. This class transcends just the technique of 'how to' draw, paint, etc, by diving into concept, symbolism, representation and metaphor in a fun and stress-free environment!

We will spend some time developing our stories and experimenting with materials. Then continue to learn about composition, visual symbols, drawing, surface treatment, and current artists who are using story.

What is 'My Story'? "Story" may be a memory, fiction, dream, story, idea, poem, opinion, struggle, victory, comedy, tragedy, etc. We can work with anything!

A check confirms the registration for each class. \$40 for NWA members, or \$55 for non-members for each class plus an additional \$5 supply fee payable on the day of class (minimum of 10 students, maximum of 12).

Need more info? Contact Kris at kmusto@mcad.edu or 612-325-0258.

Register through nw-famn.org@gmail.com or by calling Alberta Whitenack at 218-666-2153 or Shawna Kishel at 218-780-6510. Checks written to NWA can be dropped off at the NWA Gallery in Cook or mailed to NWA, PO Box 44, Cook, MN 55723.

Winter events at the Cook Library

COOK - The Cook Public Library is ready for winter, offering programs and events for all ages. The programs kicked off in January and run 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.

ies. 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.

Cook Senior Citizens Club

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

Dramatic poetry reading at Voyageurs

INTL FALLS - Our natural world inspires many artists and writers from all walks of life. Join local actor and poet, Douglas Skrief, at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center on Sunday, March 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. for a dramatic poetry reading. Free. Recommended for ages 10 and up. This event is part of the park's 2019 Winter at Voyageurs Event Series.

Pancake Breakfast served by Cook Lions

COOK - The Cook Lions Club will be holding a pancake breakfast at St. Mary's Catholic Church (next to the Cook Hospital) on Sunday, March 24 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please join the Lions who serve pancakes, sausage, coffee and juice for a free will donation. Proceeds go to the Cook Food Shelf.

McDonald's donates the juice, syrup and butter and Homestead Mills the pancake mix.

Red Hats' events, March 24, 31

TOWER- The Northern Red Hats are planning two events in the month of March. First will be lunch and a musical. The group will meet at Adventures in Virginia at noon for lunch, then go to the musical "Bye, Bye Birdie" at the Virginia High School Auditorium on Sunday, March 24 at 2 p.m.

The following Sunday, on March 31, the Red Hats will have another lunch and musical outing. They will meet at the Tower Café at noon for lunch and then travel to Ely for the musical "Cabaret" at Vermilion Community College.

Rides will be shared to both events. New members are always welcome. Call Pam Lundstrom at 218-753-3006 if you are planning on attending one or both events so she can order your tickets and arrange the ride-shares.

Colors of Minnesota with Ryan Schroeder at ECFE, March 21

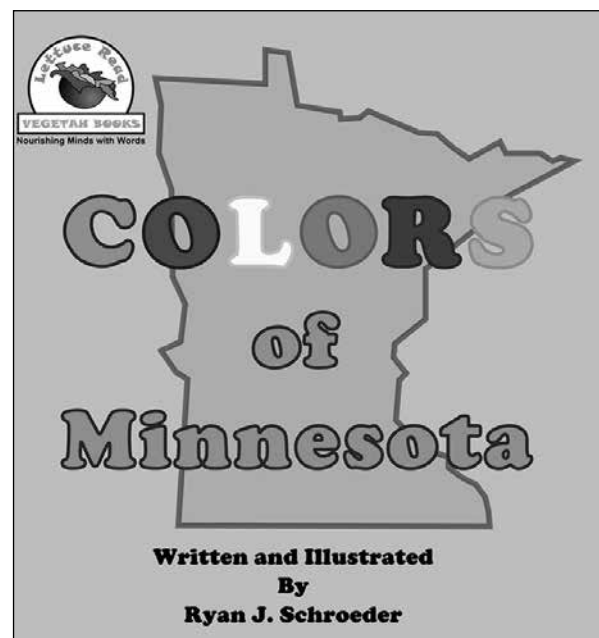
REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present Colors of Minnesota with Ryan J. Schroeder, a free 45-minute program being offered for ages 3-6 in Cook at North Woods ECFE on Thursday, March 21 at 6 p.m.

Every state has colors, people just view them differently. Did you know that in Minnesota the color of rain is purple? Or that when Minnesotans see blue, they see a land of 10,000 lakes? Or that instead of playing Duck, Duck, Goose, kids in Minnesota play Duck,

Duck, Gray Duck?

Join author Ryan J. Schroeder as he explores the state of Minnesota and the colors that surround us. Through a reading of his book, "Colors of Minnesota," and a discussion as to how he chose which objects to represent which colors, his presentation will entertain and engage children as they learn more about colors and the state of Minnesota.

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural



Heritage Fund. To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at www.alslib.info, follow

us on Twitter@ALSLibraryNews, or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo.

Crane Lake News by the Singing Teapot Dames



The cold is with us. As of this writing, it is March and 13 below with a wind chill of 31 below. Any of the Snowbirds picked a good winter to be gone from the North Country. When it isn't bitter cold, it snows. We have snow banks which are a safety hazard because drivers cannot see around corners for traffic. February had the most snow for the month in history since records have been kept.

Even Destin, Fla., saw a downturn in temps from the low 70s to daytime highs in the mid-50s. One morning it was 44 degrees, but with the wind, it felt like 37! People were on the beach in hooded jackets, gloves, and long pants. For Florida, that is "dangerous" cold. However, to be perfectly honest, it probably is for some. There appears to be a contingent of homeless people who live in the woods around Destin. It is not uncommon to see them standing with their signs "Need food". Recently, an old Dame saw a fellow standing by the stop sign with a baby; his sign said, "need milk—God Bless You for your gift". Probably not a good time to point out that many places have signs stating that they have "help wanted"—and the Dame's heart did ache for the infant. We don't choose the situation we get born into.

In spite of the cold, the hearty souls of Voyageurs country enjoyed the great Crane Lake Challenge as usual.



The three kids who won the Crane Lake Challenge last weekend, Brecken Cornelius, 5, Shelby Blazevic, 7, and Sydney Blazevic, 9. submitted photo

The Crane Lake Challenge Radar runs were held on Saturday March 2. It was a very cold and windy day! But the sun was shining bright, and hundreds of hardy people showed up to enjoy the races. Overall there were 87 racers in 35 different classes. Runs lasted from 10 until about 3:45 when one of the non-traction machines unfortunately damaged the timing lights. Many familiar names were not in attendance this year, which gave some new folks a nice opportunity to take home cash prizes. Top speed for the day went to Jake McCann, who drove an open mod 110 cc at 147.73 mph. Second prize overall went to Travis Junkermeier on an Arctic Cat 1500 at 145.58 mph. The third-place top speed of the day was 141.97 achieved by Jacob Leman on his Polaris 1500.

The most popular riders were in the kids class, as always. Brecken Cornelius (age 5) took home a trophy and cash prize. He was first place

in his class with a speed of 9.94 mph. He drove a Polaris 120. Shelby Blazevic (age 7) also took home first place and a cash prize. She drove a modified 120 at 28.8 mph. Finally, Sydney Blazevic (age 9) had the kids' highest speed of 42.75 mph driving a Polaris 500. Congratulations to these Crane Lake champions!

We all thank Voyageur Lodge and the following organizations for making the day so successful. Curt Mohawk and family (Straight Line Speed Association) always do an amazing job running a top-notch race with the perfect track and the organized registrations. The Crane Lake Snowmobile Club sends volunteers to plow the track and parking area several days before the event, which was a snowy chore this year especially! The Crane Lake Fire Department/EMS also volunteers their time attending race day. To the volunteers, we all say a big Thank You! Finally, credit goes to Five Sea-

sons Sports in Eveleth and the Crane Lake Visitor and Tourism Bureau for helping sponsor the event.

Next year the Crane Lake Challenge will take place on Saturday, March 7. So, mark your calendar.

Daylight savings begins March 10. How can we save daylight when we hardly get any?

This is also the beginning of Lent, with Ash Wednesday having been March 6. Meatless meal time for some and the season of "giving up" selected items. Religious and inspirational people urge us to give up our bad habits or to work on those areas where we fail to be our best. It is hard to know which bad habit to work on if one has several!

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!

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PERFORMING ARTS

A mid-winter gathering: Dinner theatre returns to Cook

by **KAREN SHERMER**
Timberjay Contributor

COOK - The Cook Community Center was transformed Saturday, Feb. 23 into a charming dinner theater. The linen tablecloths, elegant china and picture-perfect centerpieces by Patti Norrgard and Laurie Walker purposefully transported patrons to a classical evening in the WWI era, matching the time period of the play. Tom Youngquist, clad in top hat and tails, gave the evening an opening flair of festivity as he ushered guests to their tables as they arrived for a glamorous night of food and entertainment.

Patrons enjoyed mingling before Pastor Brian Haynes, Associate Pastor at First Baptist, kicked off the event by blessing the authentic period meal. Head Cook Jessica Hannine researched recipes from the 1910s and along with assistant cook Berta Young created a menu complete with "ration stamp" desserts. Mutton stew, roasted root vegetables, Wartime Spice Cake and Tiny Tim's Plum Pudding were just a few of the tasty dishes served by Cook's Helpers Karis Antikainen, Abbi Shuster, Natasha Hodge, Sonya Hannine, Jasmine Munson, Xena Hannine



Cast members posed at the end of the dinner theater performance. submitted photo

and Brian Hannine.

The play, *The Art Collector and His Daughter*, written and directed by Mary Lou Ellison and co-directed by Ellen Ellison and performed by the Bleak Mid-Winter Players, followed the dinner. The elaborate set, centered in the corner of the hall and continuing down the walls, included a flickering fireplace with a realistic mantle, marble pillars, a baroque door with a chiming doorbell, and a stunning display of paintings. The detailed costumes created by Beryl Vogt, Irene Semon and Char Olson completed the talented acting troupe's transference to the early twentieth century.

The actors and actresses delighted the guests as they merged their personalities with those of their characters to draw the audience into the story.

Tom Whiteside as Victor the butler masterfully and humorously managed the home of Sir Edward, Lord of the manor, an avid art collector along with his daughter Olivia, brought to life by Eric Trip and Calli Carlson. No words were needed by Sir Edward's footman, played by Pierce Johnson, as he capably assisted Victor and managed the props. Trip and Carlson in their respective roles quickly captured the hearts of the audience members, some

of whom reacted with tears and sniffles as Kohen Briggs' heavy footfalls sounded Olivia's death knell.

Marisa Whiteside's performance brought tears as well as she adopted the role of Greta Lockhart and presented Sir Edward with the play's pivotal portrait (painted by the actress) expressing her character's overwhelming gratitude. The painting was sold in the final scene by the auctioneer (Matt Carlson), who artfully managed an unruly group of art dealers (Wanita Munson, Anna Trip, Marty Walker and Angela Byram). British decorum was accentuated with little flattery by the hoity-toity, snobbish,

and humorous characters whose antics sent waves of laughter through the sea of spectators.

Once the final lines were spoken and the last actor left the stage, Pastor Jared Bangs commented on the parable message of the play as he thanked the cast and crew for a wonderful evening. His

thanks were echoed by the audience's energetic applause during the curtain call. It was with full hearts and full stomachs that patrons left that evening, and our community may well look forward to next year's return of the Bleak Mid-Winter Players.

Bookmobile schedule

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

March 14, April 4, 25, May 16

Nett Lake

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

Crane Lake

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

Orr - Lake

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

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

For further information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, write or call the Arrowhead Library System, 5528 Emerald Ave., Mt. Iron, MN 55768 218-741-3840.



GRIZZLY UPDATE

Meet Mrs. Rachel Betterley

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

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

Mrs. B: I'm from Hastings and went to Hastings High School (the Raiders). I received my undergraduate degree in Art Education from UMD and a Master's in Art Education from Boston University.

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

Mrs. B: My high school Art Teacher Mr. Casperson for sure. I loved my elementary teachers, too. Every one of them remembered me when I was able to go back to my old school.

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

Mrs. B: Mr. Casperson made me feel very confident in art. As a kid, I always felt like I didn't fit into one single mold, and he taught me that it was okay to not fit into one category, but to focus on my strengths in art. I still keep in touch with him.

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

Mrs. B: Grades 7-12 Art.

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

Mrs. B: I didn't at first, but as a senior in high school I started volunteering at my old elementary school. I loved the relationships that I built with kids. For me, it was easy to build those relationships, and therefore I made the decision



JOHN VUKMANICH



RACHEL BETTERLEY

to go into education. I loved art, and decided to join the best of both worlds: My passion for art and my strength in building relationships.

Mr. V: What are your hobbies?

Mrs. B: Art, writing (I would love to eventually publish a book for young adults or children). Writing my own stories is one of the reasons I fell in love with learning. It actually improved my college experience and success. I am also getting more into snowmobiling. I'm not a pro, but I am getting better courtesy of my husband's undying passion for the sport.

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

Mrs. B: I love that our school feels like a family. It isn't just a public institution. I went to a really big school (Hastings) and it didn't feel personal. It felt like I was just going through the motions. At our school, it does feel personal and it is really hard to not be a part of everything. Our staff work so hard to provide opportunities for our kids in a smaller setting.

The events and programs that we have to support our students were unheard of at my big school. We have cultural events, character-building events like our 7 Mindsets Week, guest speakers and assemblies. Even looking at art, I never had the chance to compete in an art contest (in high school), but our art and music students all have that opportunity (to compete at Regions) at North Woods.

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

Mrs. B: Eventually I would like to get a second Master's Degree, perhaps in Special Education, and also teach a college-level/college credit art course at North Woods.

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

Mrs. B: The summers. If we didn't have such great summers, I am not sure I could live here. I love being surrounded by nature. It is very inspiring.

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

Mrs. B: I always tell them that you can have

all the talent in the world, but without passion and self-discipline it won't get you anywhere. It takes drive.

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

Mrs. B: I feel like I have lots. I just can't think of one specifically. I do always tell them, "No cotton candy clouds or sun with sunglasses are allowed." (Note: In speaking to a student, I was told that Mrs. Betterley ALWAYS finds a way to give positive feedback on student art projects.)

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

Mrs. B: I hope they remember that I am real with them; honest with them while still inspiring them. I want them to feel I supported them no matter what their ability. I really try to teach them to think independently when it comes to art, and I hope that they always appreciate that they learned to have a voice through art. I try to hold them to a high standard, sometimes even if they think they cannot reach it.

Thank you very much, Mrs. Betterley, for letting us get to know you a little better! Your passion for art is very apparent and it makes a positive difference for so many of our students. Also, congratulations to Mrs. Betterley on soon becoming a mom. In case you didn't know, she is expecting her first baby.

Go Grizzlies!
**Your Principal,
John Vukmanich**



the **TIMBERJAY**

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NWFA Writers Group meets March 9

COOK- The Northwoods Friends of the Arts Writers Group will meet Saturday, March 9 from 1 to 3 p.m. at NWFA Gallery, 210 S River St. in Cook. Dr. Ellie Larmouth, a volunteer instructor, is in her ninth year as NWFA's Writers Group facilitator. Winter Writers Group meets the second Saturday each month from 1 to 3 p.m. All who enjoy writing, talking about writing, and writing together are welcome to join this supportive writers' group. Larmouth often assigns a prompt subject to write about during the meeting. The Summer Writers Group will begin on Tuesdays starting June 11 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. For more information, contact Ellie Larmouth at 218-753-5327.

"The Journey We're On" at Mesabi UU, March 10

VIRGINIA- Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church welcomes the Rev. Eric Northard back on Sunday, March 10 at 10:30 a.m. to present "The Journey We're On". Attendees will look at the amazing journey of life that each one of us is on. We will explore how our understanding of life and ultimate meaning takes shape over time, and how we gain new insights and awareness that shape the person we are becoming. The church is located at 230 7th St. S in Virginia and the building is handicap accessible.

Free business development and marketing classes offered in Ely

ELY- The Ely Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the city of Ely is pleased to announce a new business development series. Cecilia Quattromani, of CQ Squared Consulting, will offer two Human Resource development sessions: Employee Engagement and Recruiting and Onboarding Strategies. Jane Pederson, from Glensheen Mansion in Duluth, who specializes in social media, will have sessions: Tweet, Post, Gram, and Engaging Your Audience with Instagram. Molly Solberg, from MAS Marketing, will present three sessions on marketing tools and strategies; Your Website - Everything You Need to Know About Your #1 Sales Tool: Creating Killer Social Media Content, Planning and Scheduling; and How to Market Your Local Business, Mobile Marketing, and Future Trends.

Each session is offered free of charge through a generous grant from the Blandin Foundation. The Grand Ely Lodge is the host site for each development session. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and sessions begin at 9 a.m. Each session will be 2-1/2 to 3 hours in length and includes a soup and sandwich lunch. Advanced registration is required and seating is limited to 25 participants.

Development session schedule: Recruiting & Onboarding Strategies (March 18), Your Website - Everything You Need to Know About Your #1 Sales Tool (March 27), Tweet, Post, Gram (April 8), Employee Engagement (April 15), How to Market Your Local Business, Mobile Marketing, and Future Trends (April 23), How to Create Killer Social Media Content (April 30), and Engaging Your Audience with Instagram (May 10).

Each business attending one or more seminars will be entered into a drawing for one of three one-on-one consultations with Molly Solberg. Limit one consultation per business.

Registration is available by contacting the Chamber at 218-365-6123 or director@ely.org.

GOLF

The Wilderness at Fortune Bay recognized for environmental excellence

TOWER- The Wilderness at Fortune Bay has retained its designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, an Audubon International program. Vincent Dodge, golf course superintendent, led the effort to maintain sanctuary status on this course. The Wilderness at Fortune Bay was designated as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in 2005 and is one of 910 courses in the world to currently be designated as such.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, endorsed by the United States Golf Association, provides information and guidance to help golf courses preserve and enhance wildlife

habitat and protect natural resources. Golf courses from the United States, Africa, Australia, Canada, Central America, Europe, Mexico, and Southeast Asia have achieved certification in the program.

"The Wilderness at Fortune Bay has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for preserving the natural heritage of the area by protecting the local watershed and providing a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said Christine Kane, CEO at Audubon International.

"To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas," explained Kane. These categories

include: environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, outreach and education, chemical use reduction and safety, water conservation, and water quality management. Courses go through a recertification process every three years.

Audubon International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Troy, N.Y. In addition to golf courses, Audubon International also provides programs for businesses, schools, communities, and new developments with the purpose of delivering high-quality environmental education and facilitating the sustainable management of natural resources.

HELPING OTHERS

Support your local food shelf during the March FoodShare Campaign

by MARCUS WHITE
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL - March is a very good month to think about donating to your local food shelf. Food shelves receive a special grant, based on their March donations, through the Minnesota FoodShare program's March campaign. Last year, over \$8.1 million dollars and 5.5 million pounds of food were raised by Minnesota food shelves and Minnesota FoodShare during this March campaign.

FoodShare is a grass-roots effort started by the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches in the 1980s by joining together 300 food shelves with corporate sponsors, faith communities, businesses, schools, and organizations across Minnesota to end hunger.

Ely Food Shelf Manager Cheryl Boyes said that while the individual food shelves report how much they have raised, all of the money or food product donated stays in the local communities.

Marge McPeak, who manages the Tower Food Shelf, said that while all types of donations are



Vermilion Country School students volunteer at the Tower Food Shelf each month, unloading the truck from the food bank, helping stock the shelves, and cleaning up. photo by J. Summit

accepted at area food shelves, donating money is preferred because food shelves can spend it according to their needs as well as get deep discounts that extend a single dollar by nearly five times when purchasing cases from the Second Harvest Food Bank in Duluth.

"We get very good deals on items purchased from the food bank," she said. "A dollar donated to the food shelf is more valuable than a dollar used to purchase food at a local grocery store."

McPeak said that while they welcome all donations of non-perishable foods, some items just aren't popular with food

shelf users. "Artichoke hearts just aren't very popular," she said with a laugh. "We like to stock the foods that our clients are used to eating." Food pantries like to fill their shelves with the basics: rice, pasta, canned vegetables and fruits, beans, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti sauce, canned tuna, cereals, flour and sugar, soups, and easy-to-prepare meals.

Food shelves in Tower, Ely, and Cook serve an estimated 1,000 people in the area.

"Cutting back on food purchases is often the first step in trying to make ends meet," Boyes said. "Many must stretch their food

budget or work to supplement it by purchasing inexpensive, unhealthy food, getting help from friends or family, some hunt, fish and attempt to grow their own food during the summer."

In Ely, the food shelf is open the third Wednesday each month from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and can be reached at 218-235-8527.

In Tower, the food shelf is open the third Tuesday each month from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and can be reached at 218-753-3503.

In Cook, the food shelf is open the third Wednesday of the month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and can be reached at 218-666-2109.

More information on the campaign can be found at <https://www.mnfoodshare.org/march-campaign>.

Open knitting at Sisu Designs Mondays and Saturdays

ELY- Sisu Designs in Ely hosts Open Knitting/Learn to Knit sessions on Mondays from 1 - 3 p.m. and 6 - 8 p.m., and Saturdays from 1 - 3 p.m. All level of knitters are welcome to stop by. There is no charge, and store staff can help beginners choose their first projects. "We are very patient and gentle with our new knitters," said owner Anna Shallman.

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Tower Area Food Shelf is located in the back (lower level) of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Open the third Tuesday of the month from 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. Donations can be mailed to PO Box 533, Tower, MN 55790 or dropped off at the Timberjay office on Main Street.

Cook Area Food Shelf is located behind St. Mary's Catholic Church. Open the third Wednesday of the month from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Donations can be mailed to PO Box 633, Cook, MN 55723. Questions, call (218) 666-5022

Ely Food Shelf is now at a new location at 15 W. Conan St. Open the third Wednesday of the month from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Donations can be mailed to PO Box 786, Ely, MN 55731. Email: info@elyareafoodshelf.org.

CITY OF ELY

Big snow requires a big snow blower

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

City of Ely looks to replace snow removal equipment

ELY —If residents have noticed that the city here has been a bit slower than usual to clear the streets this winter, it's not just because of the plentiful snowfall. The city's industrial-sized snow blower has spent more time in the maintenance garage than on the streets, and finally wore out to the point that making repairs is no longer feasible.

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski told city council members Tuesday night that it makes more sense to buy a new piece of equipment than to keep repairing the 1985 German model that was purchased in used condition more than two decades ago from a Colorado airport.

"It served the city fairly well," he said. "It was manufactured in Germany and parts availability is absolute non-ex-



Ely is replacing this 1985-era snowblowing equipment. file photo by K. Vandervort

istent. Our mechanics did wonders trying to make parts and keep the thing operating."

So far this winter, the city's snow blower has broken down as many as four separate times, Langowski said. "Some (repairs) were minor, like

a fuel leak issue and a broken oil line that were fixed within a day or two. The gear box experienced an issue about three weeks ago and they were able to get the equipment back up and running for another week, then we had an epic failure in the gear box."

The city's maintenance department reached out to salvage companies and other contractors that use the same type of snow blower, seeking any available replacement parts. "We haven't even received a call back from anyone," Langowski said.

He noted that for several thousand dollars, the gearbox could be repaired again. "But we would still have a machine that is obsolete," he said. "It is our recommendation that we purchase a new snow blower."

Utilizing the state bid process and a cooperative purchasing agreement, Langowski requested spending \$104,226.96 for a new Snocrete Model 984D from Fair Manufacturing, Inc. of Yankton, S.D. "We received a quote from this manufacturer for the same piece of equipment back

in 2013 for \$113,000," he added.

Other similar machines on the state bid list cost more and were much heavier and would not operate on the front of the city's loader, he said. The model recommended for purchase weighs in at 9,000 pounds and has a cutting width of 108 inches and a cutting height of 54 inches. The impeller is more than 47 inches in diameter and the unit's Cummins engine is rated at 275 horsepower.

"The snow blower is located in Yankton, S.D., about nine hours away, and we can utilize someone local to pick it up for us," Langowski said. "Otherwise we would have to wait for them to deliver it. We can have it here by about March 19."

Mayor Chuck Novak noted that the purchase has

been on the city's equipment list for many years. "I think one time we had a bent shaft to repair on that thing. We got lucky on that," he said. "I think we have gotten a lot of good use out of that."

There is a one-year warranty on the new blower and a two-year warranty on the engine, Langowski added. "Any warranty work would come out of Duluth."

The purchase was approved unanimously.

On the subject of snow, Fire Chief Tom Erchull said city crews "have been doing a great job" keeping fire hydrants clear, but he implored residents to help keep a three-foot area cleared around the hydrants near their homes. "That would greatly help us in the event of a fire," he said.

ELY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Scheming and dreaming: Ely school facilities task force plans for growth

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — The Ely School District Community Task Force "schemed and dreamed" at their second of several meetings to discuss options for a proposed facilities improvement and renovation project.

Officials with Architectural Resources, Inc. (ARI) are moderating a group of 15 community stakeholders and school staff to

help make a recommendation to school board members to consider for an improvement and modernization plan for the three buildings that make up the campus of ISD 696.

With a \$500,000 state grant to add security and safety features to the building, such as having one monitored school-day entrance to the campus and possibly connecting all three buildings for added safety and security, taxpayers in the Ely

school district will likely be asked to approve a bonding referendum as early as this fall to help finance the project.

ARI designer Katie Hildenbrand and architect Kevin Piron asked the group to think about what they would like to see for improvements throughout the school buildings.

"Today we are looking at the big picture," Hildenbrand said. "It is important that as we think and dream big, that we come

back with a plan that makes some sense."

Illustrations showing comparisons of feedback from various brainstorming sessions were similar in their conclusions. Teachers and faculty and community-member priorities were both highlighted by a need for improved common areas and flexible spaces in the school buildings, safety and security on the campus, and the need for more gymnasium space for

students and the community to use. Size and use of classrooms, and the cafeteria and kitchen area were also identified by both groups as areas of needed improvements.

"The top three priorities are pretty clear," Piron said. "A commons area for students to gather and the need for more flexible spaces for learning, more gymnasium space or

See...SCHOOL pg. 10

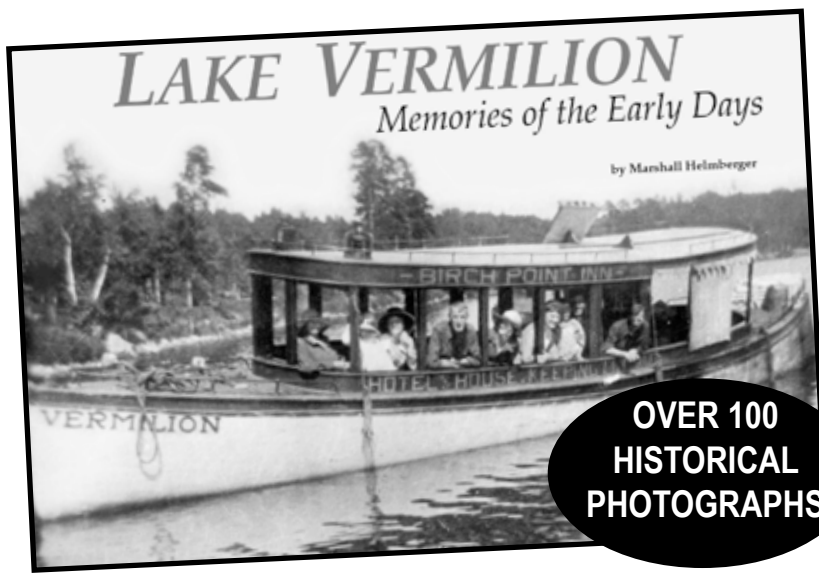
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TOWER...Continued from page 1

Cities. Under Minnesota law, any governmental body, including cities, must competitively bid any purchase of goods or equipment in excess of \$175,000. The ambulance and an accompanying cot purchased in December, priced out at \$243,993, which clearly required a competitive process.

But while the city did, ostensibly, put the ambulance purchase out for bid, it did so in such a way that it all but guaranteed the business would go to one particular manufacturer, known as Lifeline. Indeed, it appears the decision had already been made weeks before the purchase ever went to bid.

Perhaps the most telling evidence of that came from the mouth of TAAS director Steve Altenburg, who told the city council on Nov. 13 that he had "called around" to three vendors to get prices, including Lifeline, Braun, and McCoy-Miller, and found the prices all in the same range, at just under \$250,000.

"I'm looking at going with the Lifeline one," he told the council, without explaining his rationale.

According to the League, competitive bidding processes should be designed to "limit the discretion of con-

tract-making officials in situations that are susceptible to fraud, favoritism, or other similar abuses."

Mike Hornbostel, the North Central Sales Manager for Braun, said he's grown increasingly disenchanted with the way some ambulance services disregard established bidding guidelines to direct business to favored vendors.

"It's kind of an honor system," said Hornbostel. "A lot of departments try to honor that and try to be fair. But some try to eliminate the other vendors."

Usually, said Hornbostel, those departments that fall short are using specifications designed for a particular vendor, which makes it difficult for other companies to compete. But even at a time when the process used by many departments falls short, Tower's case stood out, according to Hornbostel.

"I can say that it is unusual for a chief to announce prior to a bid that he's going with a specific manufacturer," he said.

Altenburg subsequently claimed that his comment to the council had been misquoted in the Timberjay. But the Timberjay, which records all Tower City Council meetings, provided council members with an excerpt

of the recording, which shows the newspaper's reporting of Altenburg's comment was, in fact, word-for-word.

Indeed, Altenburg's Nov. 13 comments to the city council strongly suggested that he had no plans to even use the formal competitive bidding process required by law given the dollar amount of the planned purchase. He told councilors at the time that he was finalizing the ambulance specifications and would be bringing back a "final contract" for their approval in the near future.

It was only after the Timberjay inquired about the lack of a public bidding process that city officials solicited bids in a process that was so rushed that two of the three vendors say it was difficult if not impossible to effectively respond to the city's notice.

In the end, said Hornbostel, Braun never submitted a bid, and only in part because of Altenburg's comments suggesting he had already made his decision to go with Lifeline. "They gave us like two days to put a quote together," said Hornbostel. Given the complexity of designing an ambulance, Hornbostel said it takes his team a minimum of two weeks, and preferably three, to

take a specification offered by an ambulance service and develop a design that meets the requirements of the bid. Only once the design is complete, can the company develop a reliable quote.

Altenburg provided notice to three ambulance vendors, Lifeline, McCoy-Miller, and Braun on the afternoon of Nov. 30. The notice required the companies to provide a sealed bid by 1 p.m. on Dec. 4, which would have realistically required the companies to have a bid prepared for overnight delivery no later than Dec. 2, just two days after Altenburg provided them notice.

"We were handcuffed to only have two days," said Hornbostel.

The city did publish a bid notice in the Tower News, its official newspaper, on Nov. 23, which just met the ten-day public notice required in state statute, but none of the vendors contacted had been aware of the notice in the limited circulation newspaper. Typically, cities notify likely vendors for purchases like ambulances, since most manufacturers are located in other states and are unlikely to see a notice in a small local newspaper.

Mike Peck, of Fire Safety USA, a retailer of McCoy-Miller ambu-

lances, said vendors rely on notification from the ambulance services since they can't possibly scour the tens of thousands of newspapers around the country for bid notices.

Despite the short notice, Peck's company did manage to get a bid put together, but only because he and one of his reps had visited with Altenburg in Tower months earlier, had gotten a pretty clear idea of what he was looking for, and had already made some progress on putting a quote together. He questioned whether any vendor that had not done that work ahead of time could have possibly responded. "We always like to have 30 days," said Peck. "Most of the time, you at least get two weeks."

Lifeline, on the other hand, did not face the same time limits that hobbled its two competitors, since the bid it submitted appears to have been created in October 2018 and was apparently submitted well in advance of the bid notice. While the pages on the McCoy-Miller submission are all date-stamped as Dec. 3, 2018, or one day prior to the bid opening, Lifeline's submission, which also operates under the name 94 Services, is dated Oct. 16, 2018.

Not only does it appear that Lifeline's

quote was in well ahead of the others, it is apparent that the city's specification was reproduced almost exactly from the one provided by Lifeline. That's considered a significant flaw, based on guidance from the League. While the League acknowledges that vendors often assist municipalities in developing specifications, when they do so they should not be allowed to bid on a project like an ambulance purchase. "Otherwise, the vendor may have an unfair advantage when bidding on the contract," notes the League in their official handbook for cities.

Hornbostel explained that some provisions in the spec that Altenburg provided to vendors are proprietary to Lifeline, which makes it difficult for another vendor to comply. Peck said he doesn't expect to win every bid, but he is troubled by the lack of transparency in the case of Tower.

In a March 4 email to TAAS director Steve Altenburg, the Timberjay outlined the concerns raised by vendors, asked several questions, and offered Mr. Altenburg the opportunity to explain his actions. He did not respond as of the Timberjay's March 6 press time.

SCHOOL...Continued from page 9

another gymnasium, along with improved safety and security features are all very close to the top of the lists of priorities. We are starting to see some areas of direction."

Hildenbrand and

Piron also with a group of eighth-grade students to gain insight into their priorities.

Hildenbrand summarized their discussions into a list that included more windows and natural

light in the classrooms; more wi-fi and electronics outlets (even in every locker!); added privacy in the bathrooms and locker rooms; more gymnasium space; an enlarged cafeteria with more food choices; a swimming pool; running track; more band room space; a nurse in the elementary building; and adding newer books

in the library with more computer space.

In discussing the take-aways from the priority lists presented, task force members broke into small groups. Community member Celia Domich spoke for her group, saying they were "a bit uncomfortable" with where the priorities stood. "In our minds, the safety and

security (aspect) should be much higher on the list," she said.

K-5 Principal Anne Oelke said her group concluded that usable community space is important. "Having adaptable spaces to switch around as space needs change from year to year should be doable. Enrollment is always changing and we need to adapt," Oelke said.

Task force members looked at several examples of recent renovations completed by ARI at area schools. They discussed

the modernizing of old school spaces rather than building brand new structures. "Subtle changes, like adding natural light, maybe enlarging some spaces, adding new colors and freshening up the walls and adding new equipment can sometimes make a big difference," Hildenbrand said.

Financing options and the cost of making improvements to the Ely school buildings will be discussed by the community task force at their next meeting set for March 11.

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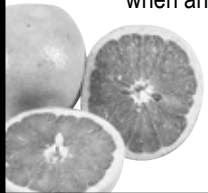
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Please join me, John Bassing, at the annual meeting and vote for the taxes you support.

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SENIORS...Continued from page 1

lack of leadership.”

But all that has changed less than 12 months after Bray and his new nursing crew took over.

“We brought in a lot of staff,” Bray said. “Staff that are trained and have background in working assisted living facilities. They are passionate and care about the residents. They come here and it’s not just about a paycheck. They want to make people happy. I value who they are and what they bring to the table.”

Families with loved ones in the facility have taken notice.

“The bottom line is I can go home and sleep at night,” said Steve Larson, of Soudan. Larson’s mother is a current resident at Vermilion Senior Living and has been there for the past five years.

“In the past they would call me when she fell,” Larson said. “Now they call for minor things and when good things happen. They call when they want my opinion on her care.”

He added that it feels like the staff are caring for him as well with the peace of mind he is left with each time he visits.

“Now when I see that phone number on my phone, my heart doesn’t drop into my stomach,” he said.

Barbara Lofquist’s Aunt Pat loves the facility so much under the new managers, she sometimes prefers the facility over going to other’s homes for the holidays.



Demetrius Bray visits with resident Frank Akins. CNA Kaylie Pucel helps Frank with his lunch. photos by J. Summit

“It is truly her home,” Lofquist said. “She has called family saying she is ‘sick’ so she can stay at the facility to help out. I don’t worry about a thing with her being there.”

Lofquist said her aunt had lived at another facility in Virginia but moved to Tower while the home was under the previous management.

Since the change in ownership last year, Lofquist said the turnaround has been evident.

“The staff is happier and the facility is cleaner with new management,” she said. “Demetrius is a hands-on manager. He is an incredible manager. I have great piece of mind with my aunt living there.”

Bill Macomber’s father lived at the facility for the last 14 months of his life.

“I felt they afforded him the maximum amount of independence the last months of his life,”

Macomber said. “They provided assisted living and cooperated with him being free to drive around town on a side-by-side mule. The staff was always kind and considerate.”

“It’s been a breath of fresh air for families,” Bray said.

To get the facility up to top-notch standards and expectations, Bray said he’s relied heavily on nurses, especially local resident Emily Sipola, an LPN studying to be a registered nurse.

Together, Bray and his nurses have constructed a plan where the residents now have a voice in their monthly activities.

“Residents have a say in what they want,” Bray said. “From baking to bingo, the local churches participate and birthdays are celebrated. This is their place, I want them to tell me what they want to do.”

The nursing staff has also been working to get



Steve Larson, of Soudan, visits his mother, June, at Vermilion Senior Living almost every day.

the facility more in line with state requirements, passing the state survey less than a year after the change in ownership and management.

Challenges still remain for the facility, though.

“The toughest thing has been to reshape the minds of the community,” Bray said. “To be successful in this business, you have to have support. I have spent time going to the stores, the banks and the gas stations to let them know we’re here. We know what happened before. We want to get acquainted with everyone, let them see what we’re doing.”

Sipola said transportation for residents has also been an issue.

“There is so much distance between us and other towns like Ely and Virginia,” she said. “There aren’t many options.”

But with the remoteness comes some amenities that many facilities lack.

“What makes us different is the nature scene,” said Sipola. “You’re not looking at a parking lot. You’re looking at deer, sometimes even bear cubs.”

Having turned the operations around, the team is now working to get the facility back to full

capacity. Bray said right now they have eight beds open out of 20.

He said they’re focusing on heavy advertising in local papers as well as walking the town and letting people know there are open spots.

And if there is any question about the changes that have taken place in the past year, Larson said he would vouch for Bray and the staff’s work.

“I would sit down with any family and recommend this place,” he said. “It’s not easy to uproot your parent and put them in a place, but I wanted to keep my mom close to me.”

LEADER...Continued from page 1

upstream from his favorite wilderness entry point, at Little Gabbro Lake.

“We wouldn’t dig a huge mine next to Yellowstone or the Grand Canyon, and we shouldn’t dig one next to the Boundary Waters,” he said.

For the campaign, the hiring of a well-known and respected former top state natural resources official is a big deal. “We are thrilled to have Tom as executive director,” said National Chair Becky Rom. “He is the right person at the right time to lead our campaign to protect America’s most popular wilderness from the threat of sulfide-ore copper mining.”

But the decision isn’t sitting well with other environmental organizations, including the Friends of the Boundary Waters, who are concerned about Landwehr’s apparent support for the proposed PolyMet copper-nickel mine barely 12 miles from the proposed Twin Metals operation. “As Commissioner of Minnesota DNR, Landwehr took an active role in advancing the permits for PolyMet,” said Chris Knopf, executive director of the Friends. “PolyMet does not use best available technology to reduce water pollution and the risky PolyMet mine dam design threatens to create an environmental catastrophe here in Minnesota just like what we saw earlier this year in Brazil. The same permit leaves Minnesota taxpayers at risk for over \$1 billion in cleanup costs.”

The hiring of Landwehr could reignite a longstanding rift within the environmental community over how to fight copper-nickel proposals in

Minnesota. The Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters has faced some criticism from other environmental groups for focusing solely on the Twin Metals proposal, while appearing willing to accept development of the PolyMet mine.

“This isn’t Sophie’s Choice,” said Paula Maccabee, legal counsel and advocacy director for Water Legacy. “The idea that the watershed and the people who live downstream of PolyMet are not valuable is unacceptable,” she added. “We need to protect both watersheds. They are both iconic and critical to Minnesota.”

Campaign at key point

Landwehr’s hiring comes at a critical juncture in the fight to preserve the nation’s most popular wilderness area. Currently the Trump administration is attempting to fast-track the Twin Metals project by reissuing new mineral leases to the company without required environmental review. In addition, the administration recently cancelled a study into a proposed 20-year mineral leasing ban that would include the area Twin Metals is considering for a proposed copper-nickel mine.

“Federal agency leadership in D.C. are ignoring laws and policies in order to push this project through,” said Landwehr. “Those laws and policies are intended to protect people and the environment, and I simply can’t stand by and watch that.”

Landwehr said information the campaign has obtained shows that the administration began its push to advance the Twin

Metals project almost from the day President Trump took office. “Within three weeks of the inauguration, there was already discussion about how to overturn the previous decision,” he said, referring to the decision in the final weeks of the Obama administration to cancel two federal mineral leases critical to the mine’s prospects.

Landwehr said he sees a connection between the administration’s efforts and the personal connection between Ivanka and Jared Kushner and Andronico Luksic, who rents a 7,000 square foot Washington, D.C., mansion to the members of Trump’s inner circle. Luksic is the billionaire primary owner of the Chilean mining giant Antofagasta, which controls the Twin Metals project.

Landwehr said he doesn’t expect a change in direction for the campaign under his leadership. “The campaign has done an excellent job,” he said. “This really is a David and Goliath battle, with a small nonprofit going up against a huge foreign corporation. Our grassroots educational efforts are critical to our success and that outreach will continue.”

Landwehr’s new position as an outspoken opponent of a proposed copper-nickel mine could appear somewhat at odds with his previous role as the DNR commissioner who gave the green light to the PolyMet copper-nickel mine located about 12 miles from the proposed Twin Metals project. “People need to understand this is not a PolyMet,” said Landwehr. “It’s pristine.”

The proposed PolyMet mine is also located in the

Lake Superior watershed, so possible contamination from the mine would likely not flow into the BWCAW. “Any problems with Twin Metals will negatively impact the Boundary Waters,” said Landwehr. “The margin of error here is absolutely zero, and it would destroy a national treasure.”

Water Legacy’s Maccabee said she finds such comments “dismaying.”

“It would be a travesty to have a sulfide mine next to the Boundary Waters, but it’s just as terrible to have one upstream of Lake Superior,” she said. “We shouldn’t have to give up one of our children.”

The Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters is a broad coalition of more than 35 partner

organizations, including conservation, sportsmen and veterans groups. The campaign is also supported by more than 300

local and national businesses. The campaign is led by Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, based in Ely.

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Business development provided by the Ely Chamber of Commerce and City of Ely through a generous grant from the Blandin Foundation.

CHORAL...Continued from page 1

school choir students in the area.

"They get to know each other through music," said Olson, who noted that, traditionally, high school students get to know each other through sports, but that is on a competitive, not a cooperative, footing.

"I am honored to keep coming back here," said Olson, who is looking forward to his seventh trip up north for the festival in 2020.

Olson also said the festival helps area choir teachers, who are busy creating a musical culture in their own building, by exposing students to a wider variety of choral music, and by giving them the opportunity to sing in a larger group. This year 125 students participated, the biggest ever, Olson said.

Carrie Newcomer was having a terrific time on her first trip to Ely.

"This is a stunning community," she said.

"I had Crapola for breakfast," she said with a laugh, "and that's a good thing."

Newcomer said she hadn't done a lot of work with choirs before. But last week she conducted a workshop with Olson and followed that up with her visit to Ely thanks to the invitation from Billie and her husband Mike Rouse, who is the choir director in Ely.

"Everyone asked me why I was going to the Boundary Waters area in February," she said. "But I got a really good feel for this community."

Newcomer has been described as a "prairie mystic" by the *Boston Globe*. She was raised in rural Indiana, not far from where Mike and Billie Rouse lived before coming north. Billie said she amazed that she was able to get in touch with Newcomer, and doubly amazed that she agreed to make the trip up to Ely. Newcomer is one of Mike's favorite vocal artists, so her willingness to take part in the festival made it a kind of "bucket list" event for him.

Newcomer worked with the students during the day. Students performed three of Newcomer's songs, "Room at the Table," "Lean in Towards the Light," and "The



Singer-songwriter Carrie Newcomer and conductor Matthew Olson, above, and the rest of the Boundary Waters Choral Festival participants pose for a selfie Friday night after their concert. photo by Matthew Olson. **Newcomer, below, thanked the students after they sang several of her most popular songs. The choir included students from six area high schools all wearing their distinctive choir robes.** photo by J. Summit

Gathering of Spirits."

"It was just wonderful," Newcomer said. "The whole process was amazing. The kids worked so hard and were very open to working with me."

Students also worked with vocal professors from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Rachel Inselman, Alice Pierce, and Elias Mokole, all made return trips to the festival's teaching staff. Ely's Irene Hartfield was the concert accompanist.

The evening concert featured individual performances by the Vermilion Country, Mt. Iron-Buhl, International Falls, Eveleth-Gilbert, and Ely high school choirs. North Woods choir students also participated in the day's workshops and joined in with the group choir, which sang two choral pieces under the direction of Olson, in addition to the songs with Newcomer.

The evening before the festival, Newcomer worked with a small group of interested Ely students for a songwriting workshop. Newcomer then performed that song, along with the entire choir,



as a finale for the concert.

The song featured things the students loved about the area—the Blueberry Festival, Dorothy's Root Beer, loons and bears, and pasties. It even included a mention of the ethnic specialty potica, mostly because the fledgling songwriters needed something to rhyme with pizza, Newcomer said. Here is the chorus for their song:

"This is my home
This is where I belong
Birch trees and stone
Where the cold makes
friendships strong
Friendships strong."

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies fall hard in opening round of 7A tournament



BIGFORK - The Grizzlies season came to an end here last Wednesday evening, falling hard to the Huskies, 58-24.

Senior guard Bria Chiabotti led the team with nine points. Senior forward Kate Stone had eight. Senior guard Alanna Rutchasky only scored four points.

The Grizzlies are now out for the season following their first round elimination from the Section 7A tournament.

Senior Bria Chiabotti drives to the hoop against a horde of Bigfork defenders.
photo by C. Stone

The team was 9-16 for the season and will graduate four seniors who have played with the Grizzlies since their career began.

The team had entered the tournament as the eleventh seed. Bigfork entered at the sixth seed.

When the two teams previously met in December, the Grizzlies were outmaneuvered once again, falling to the Huskies, 55-47.

As of reporting, all of the area schools had been eliminated from the playoffs with Northeast Range losing to Cromwell Wednesday night as well, 75-20.

The Ely game recap can be found below.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

An early ending

Ely girls basketball season comes to an abrupt end after a successful year on the court

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

ELY— An otherwise successful season came to an early end for Ely last week as they slipped to South Ridge in the opening round of the Section 7A girls basketball tournament.

Just five days earlier, the Timberwolves had topped South Ridge 64-57, but the Panthers dominated the hardwood here as they cruised to a relatively easy 60-42 victory.

“It is always tough ending a season, especially losing to a team you had just beaten,” said Ely Head Coach Darren Visser. “But in the end South Ridge was just the better team in this game,” he said.

South Ridge was largely able to contain Ely’s top scorer, junior Erika Mattson, who

the Panthers held to 15 points. Mattson had been averaging 20-30 points in recent games, but South Ridge successfully kept pressure on Mattson much of the night. Fellow junior Brielle Kallberg put up 13 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for a double-double, while seventh-grader Grace LaTourell scored ten points, including three treys.

While a disappointing loss, Visser said he’s optimistic about the team’s progress and prospects for next year. “When a season ends you always want more, but overall I feel we made some big strides this year that are going to help

See **WOLVES...**pg. 2B

Brielle Kallberg goes up at the net. photo by J. Greeney



BOYS BBALL

Wolves take sixth seed

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

WRENSHALL— Ely ruffled the Wrens here on Friday as they wrapped up their regular season at 16-10 with a convincing 72-49 victory. The win clinched the sixth seed in the Section 7A boys basketball tournament, which was set to get underway Wednesday night, as the *Timberjay* went to press.

Ely was set to host 11th seeded Hill City. Check timberjay.com for sports updates as they happen.

In Friday’s action, Ely had another big scoring performance from senior Patrick Vanderbeek, who led all scorers with 25 points, while adding five assists. Junior forward Dylan Fenske added 21 points and seven rebounds, while junior guard Eric Omerza added eight points, 12 assists and seven boards.

“Wrenshall had been playing very well so it was nice to go to their gym and come out with a win,” said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. “We played really well on the defensive end and shot pretty well, which led to the win,” he added.

Grizzlies grab one last win before playoffs

by **MARCUS WHITE**
Cook-Orr Editor

DEER RIVER - The Grizzlies ended their regular season on a high note here last Friday, topping the Warriors 87-46 for their 13th win in a row. The win could be a harbinger of things to come as the

two teams could well meet again in tournament action should they both make it to the semi-finals.

“We played excellent defense and did a good job on the boards,” Head Coach Will Kleppe said. “We got good minutes from our bench and kept the ball moving in tran-

sition.”

Junior forward Trevor Morrison led the team with 23 points and four rebounds. Freshman guard T.J. Chiabotti wasn’t far behind, notching 22 points along with four assists. Senior guard Dylan Chiabotti tallied 12 points while fellow senior guard

Cade Goggleye rounded out the top scorers with 11 points. Senior guard Chase Kleppe notched 10 rebounds.

The Grizzlies, who wrapped up their regular season at 21-2, entered the Section 7A tournament as the number-one seed with their first match on

Wednesday night against sixteenth-seeded South Ridge. Results from the game were unavailable as of press time. Last time the two teams met was in the season opener when the Grizzlies routed the Panthers, 74-26.

Assuming the Grizzlies advance, they

would face the winner of the matchup between eighth-seeded Mt. Iron-Buhl and ninth-seeded Bigfork on Saturday at 1 p.m. at the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

SAFETY TRAINING

Tower church hosts program on active shooter situations

by **JODI SUMMIT**
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER-The sanctuary at Immanuel Lutheran Church was almost full, and Pastor Liz Cheney greeted all those who entered. But Immanuel’s doors were not open for a regular Sunday service. Instead, the church had invited Duluth Police Department Lt. Bob Shene to give a presentation to the wider community on a topic that was once unthinkable but is now an all-too-common reality—



active shooter violence.

Active shooter incidents, classified as violent attacks on random individuals, most often in

a workplace, school, or similar setting, have grown in number since the first such attack in 1966. From 1966 through 2012, there

Lt. Bob Shene with the Duluth Police Department talks at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower.
photo by J. Summit

were 324 such incidents, or an average of seven per year. By contrast, there were 30 such incidents in 2017 alone, noted Shene, and there’s little sign that the trend is likely to slow any time soon.

“It is hard to make sense of random violence,” said Shene, a 22-year veteran of the

Duluth police who has served in numerous capacities including patrol, homicide investigations, sexual assault investigations, predatory offenders, domestic violence, and crimes against children.

“With the events at Parkland and Las Vegas, we still have no idea of the motivation behind the attacks.” Such violent attacks too often have one thing in common—domestic violence, Shene said. He noted that many of these attacks begin with the murder of family

members, and then move out into the wider community.

While there are no easy answers on how to prevent such attacks from happening, there are things that everyone can do to be prepared in the very rare case they are the victim of such an attack.

The first thing for people to understand is that police are unlikely to be able to respond in time to prevent the loss of life. “You are responsible for

See **SAFETY...**pg. 2B

ISD 2142

County schools' SROs creating teacher safety kits for the classroom

by Marcus WHITE
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL - The St. Louis County School District's School Resource Officers are working on a plan to put 'Grab "N" Go' bags in every classroom.

The idea, according to Sheriff Deputy Brock Kick stemmed from conversations he had with Deputy Pat Olson and other district staff following a series of annual safety drills and other school activities where teachers would benefit from having a supply bag on hand.

"If there was an evacuation, there would be supplies to help," Kick said. "The bags would be versatile enough to bring on field trips."

While the exact contents of the bag are still a



Deputy Brock Kick stands by his cruiser at the Tower School earlier this year. file photo

work in progress, Kick said they could include anything from school forms to a basic first aid kit.

The supplies would be in a high visibility colored backpack in each classroom in a standardized

location so all staff would know where to locate it.

Kick said a specific rollout time period to bring the bags to the district's five schools has not been established, but that he and Deputy Olson were

in the process of working with district staff and local businesses to begin acquiring the necessary supplies. Kick estimates the district would need about 200 of the bags to provide one for every classroom.

SAFETY...Continued from page 1B

your own safety, not a cop," he said, "They aren't there to stop it, you are." Shene said that people are much more capable of responding to violence than they have been taught.

Shene said that evidence shows that these violent attacks are planned, often for many months in advance. Potential victims, he said, need to have a plan as well.

"I don't want to make you paranoid. You can't plan for everything." But by thinking through possible responses in advance,

people are more likely to use reason, not reflexes.

Shene explained that people are hard-wired, in cases of emergencies, to freeze, fight, or flight.

"A moving target is harder to hit," he said, "but your brain is saying freeze."

Once out of the immediate area, only then is it the time to call 911 and give as complete a description of the situation as possible.

If running is not possible, the next option is hiding if possible. And if hiding, be sure to silence

your cell phone.

And finally, if your life is at risk, people are encouraged to fight, using improvised weapons.

(View the video created by the Department of Homeland Security at www.dhs.gov/cisa/options-consideration-active-shooter-preparedness-video).

"Shooters are often very calm and are not moving fast," he said. "Action beats reaction."

Shene questioned the current strategy of lockdowns, especially

in schools, noting that at Sandy Hook in Newtown, Conn., the shooter was able to kill all the children huddled in a closet, a supposedly safe place. He noted that other strategies, such as barricading a classroom door with a door stop wedge to prevent the door from being opened, might be more effective in some situations, but is illegal due to fire code. Shooters have entered locked classroom doors by breaking through the door's window and unlocking it from the inside. The safest thing, he emphasized, was getting people away from the shooter.

He urged people to always be attentive to their surroundings.

"People are creatures of habit," he said, noting they will want to exit a building the same way they came in.

"Take time to look for all the exits, including windows," he said. "And try using different exits from a building to get used to it."

He noted that with

so many people using cell phones constantly, or wearing earbuds, they are not paying attention or considering that they might be walking into a potentially dangerous situation.

If flight or hiding is not possible, and your life is at risk, the remaining option is fighting.

Shene talked about some examples he had seen in Duluth of even elderly victims successfully fighting back against an intruder, gaining the upper hand because they acted first, not waiting for the intruder to act.

Shene said that law enforcement officials are seeing more examples of school or workplace staff stopping potentially deadly violence, which suggests that fighting back can be an effective approach when fleeing the situation is not possible.

Finding ways to respond effectively to shooting injuries is another consideration, said Shene. He said it is a good idea to start stocking medical

tourniquets in first aid kits, which can be used to stop bleeding in arms or legs in case of a shooting.

"I carry two of them with me all the time," he said. "They save lives."

Shene talked about things that could be done in a church to make it safer.

"Your ushers are not security, your teachers are not security, and your pastor is not security," he said. "Security can be just watching. People often know what doesn't look right."

"Fear is our friend," he said.

Shene said in a church setting, for example, to have two or more people approach a suspicious stranger and ask them some questions and see how they respond.

"Everything after that 'uhh' is a lie," he said.

Church staff should also be kept informed if members have protective orders against a spouse. If you see both the wife and husband enter the church, he said, something might be wrong.

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Briefly

Northland Foundation awards 45 grants to area non-profits

REGIONAL- In the last quarter of 2018, the Northland Foundation gave 45 grants to benefit people and communities in the counties of Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Lake, Koochiching, and St. Louis. Of these, 15 grants totaling \$205,000 were awarded through the Foundation's Rural Aging Initiative.

The Rural Aging Initiative is a three-year special program to help older adults age in place, with purpose and independence in their rural communities, as well as to support caregivers. A dozen Rural Aging Initiative grants last quarter went toward community-based intergenerational projects that connect children and youth with older adults for friendship and civic engagement including older adults helping children to improve their reading and literacy skills.

These groups in our area were among the many who received grants this cycle: Children's Dental Services, Inc., Minneapolis, \$15,000 to support access to dental care for low-income children in northeastern Minnesota; Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Virginia, \$500, Support for Lake County Community Connect to provide information and services to people living in poverty; Intergenerational Programming, Northeast Minnesota Communities, \$155,000 to support intergenerational programming through the Rural Aging Initiative; Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Nett Lake, \$15,000 to help elders age in place by improving the accessibility of their homes; and the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, St. Paul, \$23,500 to support the development of indicator publications for northeast Minnesota.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

continue to improve the program."

The team will lose two seniors, including guard Lida Dodge and forward Gabi Omerza. "They have been with the program for their entire careers and

have been great leaders for our younger girls," said Visser.

The team should have its top two scoring and rebounding leaders — juniors Mattson and Kallberg — back next

year, which should help keep the team competitive.

"I also feel good about the future of the program as we were able to use several of our younger players, at the varsity level, in significant roles," said Visser.

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Obituaries and Death Notices



George R. Wilson
George Robert Wilson, 81, of Cook, passed away peacefully in his sleep with his loving wife by his side, on Sunday, March 3, 2019, at his home. A Memorial Service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 9 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Military Honors will be accorded by the Cook VFW Post 1757 Honor Guard and the Orr American Legion Post 480 Honor Guard. A reception

in honor of George will be held at the VFW in Cook immediately following the services. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

George was born to Frank and Dorothy (Chambers) Wilson on May 3, 1937, in Oak Creek, Colo. George grew up in Oak Creek and attended school in Yampa, Colo. During his youth, George worked as a sheep-herder, a trade learned from his Greek brother-in-law. George took an early exit from high school, earned his GED, and joined the U.S. Navy. He served his country honorably for four years. After George left the Navy, he became a man of many trades. He worked as a bus driver and at a flour mill in Denver. George met the love of his life, Georgine, in Colorado. Georgine was a Cook, Minn., girl and George followed his love North as they made their

way back to Cook. They were united in marriage on May 1, 1971, in Gheen. During this time George worked any job that would provide for his family. He worked in Duluth in the shipyards as a welder and flew to Beulah, N.D., while working as a laborer for ABI Construction on the pipeline. George also worked as a driller and blaster, clearing the large rocks to make way for road construction. George was a person who worked hard all his life. In his later years, he worked as a maintenance man on the cabins on Lake Vermilion. George was still working odd jobs in the summer of 2018.

George led a full life. He was very involved in his children's lives and there was nothing he would not do for them. It seemed like he had a natural talent for everything, regardless of what it was, including giving

his girls perms, frosting hair, and even piercing ears. He also baked all the family birthday cakes, often from scratch. His specialty was his homemade carrot cake. George loved to travel and he and Georgine would spend their winters in Truth or Consequences, N.M. They would go to the desert to collect rocks that George would later polish. George and Georgine also traveled to the Grand Portage Cajun Festival every year, enjoying the cuisine and throwing beads at the parade. George loved to dance and he and Georgine joined a Polka Dance group that would travel to Michigan and Baudette. George loved to spend time outdoors hunting and fishing. He was also an avid Denver Broncos fan. George was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Alango.

George was a fun-loving person, a jokester and

prankster who loved to make people laugh. His family would describe him as a very loving but independent and bullheaded person; if he wanted to give you something, which he often did, there was no argument, you took it. It was all out of love and trying to help his family in any way he could. George was a rock to his family, and he will be truly missed.

George is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Georgine; children, Susan (Pat) Setter, Dale (Jane) Kennedy, Sandy (Rick) Sailer, Jackie (Bill) Wilson and Jolene (Greg) Wilson; grandchildren, Nicole Setter, Amber (Ben) Stifter, Chelsie Kennedy, Oakley (Mike) Lange, Brandon Sailer, Jurnee (Dan) Wilson and Aaliyah Heglund; seven great-grandchildren; and brother, Alan "Butch" (Barbara) Wilson.

George was preceded

in death by his parents; brothers, Bill and Frank; sisters, Pearl, Mary, Grace, Florence, Laura Mae and Eva Ruth; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Vienna and George Bergman.

Ronald W. Fisher II

Ronald William Fisher II, 44, of Virginia, passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019, at his home. Traditional Native Services were held at the Bois Forte Government and Services Center with the Wake on Saturday, March 2 and the Funeral Service on Sunday, March 3. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

More obituaries on page 8B

PUBLIC NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

PROJECT NO: VCAC18-01
OWNER: CITY OF ELY
SEALED BIDS FOR:
FOREST RD 601 TO
KABUSTASA RD TRAIL
IMPROVEMENTS AND
VERMILION RIVER BRIDGE
CONSTRUCTION including
the approximate quantities:

- Trail Improvements (4.4 miles total length);
- Clearing and Grubbing;
- Remove Pipe Culverts - 48 Lin. Ft.;
- Aggregate Base (CV) Class 5 - 670 Cu. Yd.;
- 18" CAS Pipe Culvert - 352 Lin. Ft.;
- 24" CAS Pipe Culvert - 20 Lin. Ft.;
- 48" CAS Pipe Culvert - 136 Lin. Ft.;
- Random Riprap Class III - 456 Cu. Yd.;
- Wire Fence Design 60V-9322 - 80 Lin. Ft.;
- Silt Fence, Type PA - 60 Lin. Ft.;
- Erosion Control Blanket - 350 Sq. Yd.;
- Turf Establishment.

- Bridge Construction (185-foot span, 12-foot width, steel overhead truss bridge):
- Structural Concrete (1G52) - 30 Cu. Yd.;
- Structural Concrete (3B52) - 27 Cu. Yd.;
- Reinforcement Bars - 1820 Pounds;
- Reinforcement Bars (Epoxy Coated) - 2860 Pounds;
- Structure Excavation - 1 Lump Sum;
- Slope Preparation - 1 Lump Sum;
- Pedestrian Bridge (Superstructure) - 1 Lump Sum;
- Aggregate Backfill (CV) - 33 Cu. Yd.;
- Geotextile Filter Type 7 - 520 Sq. Ft.;
- Random Riprap Class III - 215 Cu. Yd.

Bids will be received by City of Ely, City Clerk/Treasurer, Ely City Hall, 209 East Chapman Street, Council Chambers Second Floor, Ely, Minnesota 55731, until 1:00 P.M. local time Monday, April 1st, 2019.

The information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans and Specifications, and Forms of Bid Bond, Performance and Payment Bond, and other contract documents may be examined at Benchmark Engineering, Inc. (8878 Main Street, Mountain Iron, MN 55788).

Copies may be obtained at the office of Benchmark Engineering Inc. upon payment of \$60.00 (non-refundable, sales tax included). Electronic documents are available from QuestCDN Project No. Benchmark Engineering, Inc. 2 Advertisement for Bids 6181941 for a non-refundable cost of \$20.00.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informality or to reject any or all bids.

Each Bidder must deposit, with their bid: security in the amount, form and subject to the conditions provided in the Information for Bidders. The bid should be in a sealed envelope with the project name, bid date and time clearly labeled on the outside.

All applicable state laws rela-

tive to wage rates shall apply on this project. Contractors will be required to submit payroll reports.

No Bidder may withdraw their bid within 35 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Harold Langowski
City Clerk/Treasurer
Published in the Timberjay, March 8 & 15, 2019

CITY OF ELY Council Minutes - February 19, 2019 Regular Meeting - Ely City Council - City Hall, Council Chambers

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

2. PRESENT: Council members A. Forsman, Debeltz, Omerza, Callen, Campbell, and Mayor Novak
ABSENT: Council member Kess

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the minutes from February 5, 2019 Regular Meeting. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Kess Absent.

4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA: A. Addition 13. C. Resolution 2019-006 Resolution in Support of Increasing Local Government Aid in the 2019 Legislative Session Item A was added without objection.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT
Mayor Novak indicated that the rink in Whiteside Park has been a huge hit this year, thanks to Gordon Shеды for the idea several years ago. Mayor Novak, Omerza, and Campbell will be going to St. Paul to the League of Minnesota Cities Legislative Conference on Wednesday and Thursday and Campbell will be going to the newly elected official training in Brainerd on Friday and Saturday.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:
A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda
B. Approve Staff and Council to attend the League of Minnesota Cities Annual Conference in Duluth, MN on June 26-28, 2019.
C. Approve Staff to attend the Minnesota Municipal Clerks and Finance Officer Association (MCFOA) Annual Conference in St. Cloud, MN on March 19-22, 2019.
D. Approve the Police Chief to attend the 2019 ETI Conference and Law Enforcement Expo in St. Cloud on April 14-17, 2019.
Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve the consent agenda items A-D. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Kess Absent.

7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR:
A. Ely Police Department Tactical Vest Presentation by Shield616 Jake Skifstad the founder and President of Shield 616. Skifstad was with the Colorado Springs Police Department for 14 years, and was involved with 2 active shooter situations. In one of the active shooter situations 5 officers were shot and one was killed. After that situation he wanted to better protect officers and build better community relationships

for these men and women. Skifstad has since worked with communities in 18 states and hundreds of agencies to equip offices with this equipment for active shooter situations. Twin Metals Minnesota donated \$10,500 for the 7 vests for the Ely Police Department.

Dean Debeltz, Director of Operations and Safety spoke and stated that this fits well within the Twin Metals Pillars of Support, Personal and Community Safety is one of Twin Metals pillars of support. Debeltz has been working with Chief Lahtonen and they saw this as a great opportunity to work with the local law enforcement.

Skifstad stated that his goal is that when the officers put this gear on it will give them the courage and boldness to go towards gunfire, to go towards a door that may have gunfire on the other side. Our law enforcement needs all the help they can get; they need all the support, encouragement and prayer that they can get. Skifstad stated that they want the officers to be partnered with members of the community to check up on the officers to make sure that they are not only safe, but that they are mentally ok, and that the officers are being supported. Shield 616 has a support team for the officers in Ely made up of several Twin Metals employees, Oasis International, Ely Gospel Men's Group, and St Anthony's Catholic Church. Skifstad presented the Officers with the vest and equipment.

Mayor Novak Recessed the meeting at 5:50pm, to clear the council chamber so the officers, families, and support team could have a social gathering in the hall.
Mayor Novak called the meeting back to order at 5:55pm

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
A. Standing/Special Heritage Preservation Commission
Campbell/Debeltz moved to approve the recommendation from Heritage Preservation Commission to extend the grant for the Pioneer Mine Condition Assessment to June 1, 2019 with the final report date of June 30, 2019. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Kess Absent.

Planning and Zoning Commission - Minutes included in the packet

Projects Committee
Callen/Omerza moved to approve the recommendation from Projects Committee to revise the purchase agreement to reflect Dr. Chip Hanson's counter offer of \$10,000 due to the duration of the lease and payments made for the Ely Vet Clinic Lot. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Kess Absent.

Callen/Omerza moved to approve the recommendation from Projects Committee to approve the grant agreement from the IRRRB for the Downtown Beautification Project for \$50,000. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Kess Absent.

Callen/Omerza moved to approve the recommendation from Projects Committee to sign the agreement from St. Louis County for painting of the traffic signals at Central and Sheridan, and for Harold

to request additional information from St. Louis County concerning the estimated cost. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Kess Absent.

Legal Publishing Task Group
A. Forsman/Omerza moved to approve the recommendation from the Task Group to reaffirm the original award of the legal publishing in 2019 to the Ely Timberjay due to their not being any substantial reason to reject their bid. A. Forsman indicated that this decision has not been taken lightly. The task force looked at the laws governing legal publishing. There were minor discrepancies that came up and were explained in a way, that there were simple oversights and such. At the advice of the group and our legal counsel, this is how we are addressing this now. In the future we will have to look at how we have our Charter set-up and look at that separately, but for this year this is the recommendation.

Nick Wogum, General Manager of the Ely Echo spoke and stated that he was not notified of the Task Force meeting on the Legal Publishing when he asked to be there after the February 5th Meeting. Wogum stated that city officials asked the Timberjay to bid for the legal publishing. Wogum stated that there has been evidence that the Timberjay did not meet the legal requirements to be a legal newspaper when it submitted the bid. The Timberjay was not listed as a legal newspaper with the Secretary of State when the time the bid was submitted and voted on. The Timberjay is claiming a house as an office, although at the time the bid was submitted there was not a home occupation permit for the residence. Fiscally responsible is also what Wogum has heard about the bidding from council members. Wogum stated that they pay both commercial and residential property taxes in Ely and have 10 full and part-time employees who live and work in Ely. Motion Carried 5-1-1 with Campbell voting no and Kess Absent.

Employee Relations Committee
Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve the recommendation from Employee Relations to allow the Police Chief to post to establish an eligibility list. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Kess Absent.

Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve the recommendation from Employee Relations to award the position of Assistant Building Engineer/ Equipment Operator to John Sjoberg and hold the number two candidate for one year if the position becomes open again. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Kess Absent.

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

A. Clerk-Treasurer
Fiber Project
Langowski states that we are looking at going forward with a downtown fiber loop going from White Side Park to the Water Tower on the North and South sides of Sheridan Street. We have an opportunity to apply for grant funding through the IRRRB in the development infrastructure program. CTC out of Brainerd is interested

in partnering with us, they would provide the service, with the city owning the fiber, installing it on the pole owned by the city and frontier communications. We would be eligible for a tax abatement general obligation bond to do the project, and the revenue source would be the lease payments back on the infrastructure, being utilized by CTC. Langowski suggested to form a small task force, this item will be brought up at the next council meeting.

B. Fire Chief: Nothing to Report

C. Library Director
Council Member Omerza gave an update of the upcoming events at the library which can be located on the Library Website.

D. Police Chief: Nothing to Report

E. City Attorney
Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the note and mortgage for Brian and Karen Maverick to replace windows at 415 E Chapman St for \$10,000.
Attorney Klun stated that the loan is for 10 years with a 2% interest rate.
Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Kess Absent.

Correspondence from Attorney Klun regarding the City Code Book being codified.
Attorney Klun stated that every year her office codifies all the approved Ordinances for the year and updates the City of Ely Code Book.

F. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:
Matter of Information
Correspondence from Ely Community Resources 2018 4th Quarter Progress Report.

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:
Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the City and EUC claims for February 19, 2019 for \$474,524.99. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Kess Absent.

12. OLD BUSINESS:
A. Omerza/A. Forsman moved to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 330 2nd Series, An Ordinance of the City of Ely, Minnesota, Adding to the Ely City Code, Chapter 20, Section 20.13.31, Entitles Vacation of Portion of City Owned Property in Kapsch Garden Tracts. Roll Called A. Forsman - Yes, Kess - Absent, Debeltz - Yes, Omerza - Yes, Callen - Yes, Campbell - Yes, and Mayor Novak- Yes. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Kess Absent.

B. EEDA Position
Appointment
Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the recommendation from the Ely Economic Development Authority (EEDA) to appoint Angela Campbell to the EEDA. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Kess Absent.

13. NEW BUSINESS:
A. Debeltz/A. Forsman moved to approve Resolution 2019-005 Resolution requesting the United States Forest Service to Reinstate the Lottery Permitting System for Motor Use Permits into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). Roll Called A. Forsman - Yes, Kess - Absent, Debeltz -

Yes, Omerza - Yes, Callen - Yes, Campbell - Yes, and Mayor Novak- Yes. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Kess Absent.

B. Omerza/Callen moved to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 332 2nd Series, An Ordinance of the City of Ely, Minnesota, Amending Chapter 6, Section 6.31 Regulating Peddler's, Solicitors, Transient Merchants, Mobile Food Carts, and Mobile Food Vehicles.

Attorney Klun discussed the changes to the ordinance. Planning and Zoning is looking at the fees for food trucks, which will be done by resolution after the ordinance is approved.

Omerza asked how the Farmers Market would play into this. Klun stated that there is an exception with city festivals or city sponsored activities, like the Farmers Market, Blueberry Arts Festival, Harvest Moon, Marathon, etc. These events would apply for a permit from the city then they are responsible for insuring that the booths to meet the requirements of state law.

Langowski stated that the City is following State Law with this ordinance. There will be 2 reservable spots available, one at Whiteside Park and one at Semers Park. These 2 spots will be the only 2 places on public property that a will be available.
Roll Called A. Forsman - Yes, Kess - Absent, Debeltz - Yes, Omerza - Yes, Callen - Yes, Campbell - Yes, and Mayor Novak- Yes. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Kess Absent.

C. Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve Resolution 2019-006 Resolution in Support of Increasing Local Government Aid in the 2019 Legislative Session. Roll Called A. Forsman - Yes, Kess - Absent, Debeltz - Yes, Omerza - Yes, Callen - Yes, Campbell - Yes, and Mayor Novak- Yes. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Kess Absent.

14. OPEN FORUM
Mike Banovetz - 427 E Harvey St
Banovetz asked if there is information available as to who was on the Legal Publishing Task Group and if the are minutes available. Mayor Novak stated they are on the City Website in Council Agenda Packet for tonight's meeting.

Laura Butterfield- 421 E Washington St
Butterfield thanked the council for the vote to approve the bid made by the Timberjay. Butterfield stated that she is not employed by either newspaper; she is just a regular citizen and taxpayer. She believes that the council reacted in the best interest of the taxpayers of Ely by saving us thousands of dollars this year.

15. ADJOURN
Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting at 6:33pm without objection

Casey Velcheff
Deputy Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, March 8, 2019

CITY OF ELY, MINNESOTA SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 332, SECOND SERIES FOR PUBLICATION

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6 OF THE CITY OF ELY CODE OF ORDINANCE
On February 19, 2018, the City Council for the City of Ely, Minnesota ("City") approved a first reading of AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6, SECTION 6.31 REGULATING PEDDLER'S, SOLICITORS, AND TRANSIENT MERCHANTS, MOBILE FOOD CARTS, AND MOBILE FOOD VEHICLES

It is hereby determined that publication of this Title and Summary Ordinance will clearly inform the public of the intent and effect of Ordinance No. 332, Second Series. A copy of the entire Ordinance will be posted at the Ely City Hall.

It is hereby directed that only the above Title and Summary of Ordinance No. 332, Second Series be published conforming to Minnesota Statutes §331A.01 with the following:

This proposed ordinance amends current Ely City Code language relative to the administrative procedure for Peddler, Solicitor or Transient licenses. In addition, it mandates that all Peddler, Solicitor or Transient merchants within the City obtain a license unless the product they intend to sell was grown, produced, cultivated, or raised on a farm owned and/or operated by the applicant

This proposed ordinance also establishes necessary requirements, procedure and process for mobile food carts and mobile food vehicle licensing with the City of Ely.

The language of this ordinance includes, but is not limited to the following: Licensees may not operate more than 21 days annually at any one location. To operate longer than 21 days annually at any one location requires the mobile food vehicle to be owned and operated by a permanent brick and mortar business having a Safe Food Handlers License. In addition, the applicant must obtain City approval to operate longer than 21 days annually at any one location and shall obtain a Minnesota Health Department permit to operate longer than 21 days annually at any one location upon which Minnesota Health Department would require permanent hook up to City sewer, electrical, water, utilities and garbage service.

All applications for a license under this ordinance shall be accompanied by the fee established in the City's fee schedule as adopted from time-to-time by a resolution passed by the Council.

Persons interested in reviewing a complete copy of the Ordinance may do so at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 209 E Chapman Street, Ely, Minnesota 55731.

Published in the Timberjay, March 8, 2019



Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

RECREATION

Better late than never: New BW permit system now working

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness reservation system went back online this week, after a couple of false starts, and things went fairly smoothly for local outfitters and permit seekers.

"There were some glitches, but for a new system that was rolled out for everybody,

it went smoothly," said Ely Outfitting Company owner Jason Zabokrtsky.

Back in January when the reservation system crashed, local outfitters and resort owners worried it could seriously affect their summer season.

The new system, which included highly-sought-after motor permits on a first-come, first-served basis for the first time, went online on

Jan. 30, but Forest Service officials shut it down after about an hour of operation due to technical problems. A new opening date was set for the end of February, but that date was pushed back again by the U.S. Forest Service as the operator of recreation.gov made improvements.

"Permit opener is an exciting day for us," Zabokrtsky said. "It's a little bit like Christmas because

all the guest permits become available."

Monday was a busy day at his Sheridan Street business. "We had as many people as we could reserving permits, and we were doing it as fast as we could," he said.

"There were certainly some quirks and foibles with the new system, but they seemed of the variety a person

See PERMITS...pg. 5B



Folks can now begin making reservations for the BWCAW for the 2019 season at recreation.gov.

Outdoors in brief

Try to limit use of salt

REGIONAL — Too much salt isn't just a problem in our diet, it's also a big problem for our environment. So as we work to keep sidewalks and driveways safe from ice and snow, we also need to think of our drinking water and fish populations.

When spring eventually arrives, the de-icing salt that Minnesotans use by the ton each winter runs into storm drains and into rivers, ground-water and lakes.

"Every bit of salt we put down on our sidewalks ends up in our water, one way or another," said Lucie Amundsen, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Duluth regional public information officer. "The best practice is to simply use less. You can do that by shoveling snow first and then applying sand or poultry grit. Salt should be used only when it's truly needed to melt an ice patch."

These best practices are essential given that it takes only one teaspoon of salt to pollute five gallons of water permanently. There is no feasible way to remove chloride once it gets into the water. Researchers are finding increasing amounts of chloride in our Minnesota waters. Salty water can foul wells and create a caustic environment for freshwater fish and other aquatic wildlife.

However, there is some good news when it comes to reducing our salt habit. Scattering salt lightly, leaving about three inches of space between grains, will still effectively remove ice. It only takes a coffee mug full of salt (about 12 ounces) to treat a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares (roughly 1,000 square feet). Also, a frequently missed step is sweeping up any extra de-icer product that is visible on dry pavement. It is no longer doing any work and if left on the ground will only be washed away into local waters. And good news—it can be reused the next time your walk requires de-icing.

Why it matters

When salt (sodium chloride) concentrates in water, it immediately stresses the creatures in that environment. Aquatic insects, such as mayflies, feel the impact first. They're sensitive to chloride and die with little exposure. When the mayflies are gone, it eliminates a prime food source for fish, like trout.

Also, some fish and amphibians lay their eggs in the water. Eggs exposed to chloride have poor success rates, endangering future populations of these species.



Left: A healthy male whitetail deer, or an early carrier of chronic wasting disease? If CWD becomes established in our region, it may be impossible to know without having your buck tested.

file photo

Below: A whitetail doe suffering from CWD in southeastern Minnesota that was captured on a trail camera. A hunter later shot the animal and testing proved positive.

Courtesy MNDNR

WHITETAIL DEER

For our area, CWD just got real

Positive test from northern Crow Wing County way too close for comfort

For those of us in the North Country who hunt deer and eat venison, concerns about chronic wasting disease just got real with the confirmation of this incurable disease in a wild deer in northern Crow Wing County.

Up until late February, hunters in northeastern Minnesota had a sense that CWD was a concern someplace else, like in southeastern Minnesota, where isolated pockets of the disease had popped up in recent years. Most of us were aware of the pervasive nature of CWD in southern and central Wisconsin, but it's always easy to ignore when it's a problem in another state, and when northwestern Wisconsin counties were still largely free of the disease.

That sense of security is now gone. "This is absolutely a big deal," says Michelle Carstensen, the DNR's wildlife health group leader, during an interview with me last week.

As Carstensen noted, it remains to be seen if this single deer, found dead not far from Crosby, is an isolated case or is a sign that CWD has taken root within the wild deer population in that area. The dead deer was found less than half a mile from

a deer, or cervid, farm which has had several positive CWD tests in recent years, so it's entirely possible that this is a case of transmission from the captive population to a single doe.

The DNR plans to work with adjacent landowners to remove and test as many deer as possible in about a two-mile radius of the spot where the dead doe was found. That removal and testing effort could already be underway by the time you read this. We should know test results from that effort quite soon.

There's reason to hope that the positive test is an isolated case. The DNR has tested nearly 9,000 deer in that area over the past few years out of concern that the deer farm in question could pose a transmission risk to the wild herd in the area. But until last month, they had yet to see a positive result.

Some folks, who aren't that familiar with CWD, may wonder what all the fuss is about. CWD is a big deal because it's fatal to deer and can begin to impact populations if it becomes well-established. What's worse is that there are scientific studies that strongly suggest that eating CWD-infected meat could lead to similar symptoms and eventual death in humans. A



recent Canadian study found that macaque monkeys became infected through the ingestion of CWD-tainted meat. Findings like that have prompted the World Health Organization and other entities to issue an advisory against the human consumption of meat from CWD-infected animals.

The implications of this are potentially devastating. In parts of Wisconsin today, CWD is believed to infect as much as half of the deer population. Once this thing gets out of control, you really can't put the genie back in the bottle. While many Wisconsin hunters have, to date, ignored the risk of eating infected venison, that could change if more research confirms the risks to humans, or if hunters start to exhibit the symptoms of CWD infection, which can take several years in humans.

What happens if the public perception of your deer herd shifts from a great source of

healthy, organic meat, to a potential source of deadly infection? There have been fears that the spread of CWD could all but wipe out the deer hunting industry in many states if additional research confirms the risk of eating infected meat.

Hunters might think they could avoid this risk by not eating deer that show the symptoms of CWD, such as general emaciation. Yet the outward symptoms of CWD infection typically don't show up in deer for one-to-three years after initial infection, even though the animal could be loaded with the disease vector, known as a prion. Within a few months of infection, however, a deer begins to shed more prions through feces, urine, and saliva.

Prions are scary little things, described by the Centers for Disease Control as "abnormal pathogenic agents that are trans-

See CWD...pg. 5B



MARSHALL
HELMBERGER

Outdoors in brief



Angler turns to social media for help landing state record sturgeon

REGIONAL — A Minnesota angler has a new state record lake sturgeon thanks to other fishermen who helped him get the six-and-a-half-foot long monster through the St. Croix River ice.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has certified the fish as a state catch-and-release record.

Early on in the effort to land the fish on Feb. 9, record holder Darren Troseth knew he had something special on the line.

"I've seen a lot of big sturgeon in my life, but I was stunned when I got a look at it," Troseth said.

Troseth and his fishing companion, John Kimble, were ice fishing on the St. Croix near Bayport. To get away from other anglers, they were at a location they had never fished before.

When he hooked the record fish, Troseth was fishing out of a double hole he'd prepared. With his auger battery about to die, he was able to drill a third hole — but the fish still did not fit.

So Troseth took to Facebook to put out a call

for help to anyone in the area with an auger. Within a few minutes, two anglers who Troseth and Kimble had never met before showed up with an auger and expanded the hole. Even with five holes, the sturgeon could barely fit through. With the help of his fishing companion, Troseth was able to land the lake sturgeon. He quickly measured the fish at 78 inches, took photos and returned the fish to the river to potentially be caught again another day.

Five DNR fisheries staff, two DNR conservation officers and the state record certification official reviewed Troseth's state record fish application and supporting documents. After concluding that all requirements had been met and that the fish had been legally captured, the DNR officially certified Troseth's sturgeon as the new state catch-and-release record.

Find current records and guidelines for each type of state record at mndnr.gov/recordfish

CWD...Continued from page 4B

missible." These things are not alive in the traditional sense, so they really can't be killed. You can boil them, drop them in acid or fry them in a nuclear reactor and they'll be just fine. Cooking your venison burger to well done is certainly no solution.

Prions kill by inducing a certain type of protein found in our cells to fold in an irregular way, killing the cells. The cells most affected are generally concentrated in the brain, which is why prion disease symptoms are focused on the neurological system. These diseases go by various names, including "mad cow" disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease when it infects humans.

The bottom line is you don't want these things anywhere near the meat you plan to feed to yourself or your family.

Which is likely one reason that the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association has reacted to the latest discovery with such alarm. At the organization's Feb. 23 annual meeting in Grand Rapids, the members voted to support a number of legislative initiatives to try to slow the spread of CWD. Those initiatives include requiring double fencing around all cervid, farms, mandatory depopulation of all cervids on a farm with a positive CWD test, a moratorium on the licensing of any new cervid farms and a voluntary buy-out of existing farms.

Most of the MDHA's

recommendations focus on cervid farms, since they have been linked in most cases to CWD outbreaks.

But Carstensen notes that hunters have a role to play as well, particularly those hunters who hunt out-of-state in areas where CWD is well-established. That includes Wisconsin, Iowa, and many western states. Hunters who bring deer from those areas home with them are potentially bringing prions that can infect deer in their area. You might think tossing some bones on the back forty from a Colorado deer that you butchered doesn't pose a risk, but you'd be wrong. Those remains could well contain prions, which can then enter the soil, where they will continue to exist indefinitely. And recent studies have shown that plants can take up prions through their roots, which means the deer that comes along and feeds on grass or shrubs near those bones you tossed five years ago could very well become infected. Keep in mind, these things don't seem to die. They just cycle through the food web indefinitely.

For years, we had the luxury here in the North Country to think CWD wasn't a risk factor for us. But as this latest discovery shows all too plainly, we are not immune.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
26 11					31 18					31 13					30 9					32 10				
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.
02/25	22	-17	0.01	0.1"	02/25	18	-18	0.04	0.6"	02/25	21	-19	0.05	1.0"	02/25	1	-17	0.00		02/25	21	-21	0.05	1.4"
02/26	2	-25	0.00		02/26	0	-30	0.00		02/26	0	-23	0.00		02/26	7	-25	0.00		02/26	2	-27	0.00	
02/27	9	-25	0.03	0.6"	02/27	7	-28	0.04	0.5"	02/27	8	-23	0.06	1.0"	02/27	16	-25	0.00		02/27	8	-27	tr	0.2"
02/28	16	-6	0.00		02/28	14	-9	0.00		02/28	14	-7	0.00		02/28	25	-6	0.00		02/28	15	-11	0.00	
03/01	24	-9	0.00		03/01	24	-15	0.00		03/01	24	-4	0.00		03/01	18	-9	0.00		03/01	24	-13	0.00	
03/02	18	-16	0.00		03/02	17	-20	0.05	0.6"	03/02	17	-7	0.02	0.5"	03/02	9	-16	0.00		03/02	17	-22	0.00	
03/03	11	-23	0.00		03/03	10	-24	0.00		03/03	8	-21	0.00		03/03	0	-23	0.00		03/03	10	-23	0.00	
Totals			1.29	66.6"	Totals			1.64	57.0"	Totals			1.51	62.8"	Totals			1.52	NA	Totals			1.96	60.4"

PERMITS...Continued from page 4B

might expect with the roll-out of a new and somewhat complicated online system," Zabokrstsky said. "We were able to reserve permits for all of those who asked us to. I'm thrilled that the permit reservation system is back on track, and that our clients have their permits reserved and can now firm up their travel plans."

Zabokrstsky said he encountered some issues through the day with permits showing as available but the system not allowing him to reserve them. "The Forest Service and vendor were working throughout the day to address the issues, and some of them were resolved by the end of the day," he said.

The Superior National Forest office said on Twitter Monday that online reservations were working best but the call center may require users to call back during "extremely busy times." The Forest Service did not comment on how the system was working overall.

Misty Merhar, of Ely, told *Minnesota Public Radio News* she tried on Monday to make Boundary Waters reservations for Basswood Lake. She was able to fill out the

form, but said it was confusing and she ended up with the wrong type of permit. By the time she tried again the slots were all taken.

"My husband has been going up there for years with his dad and grandpa and started a tradition with my son. They like to go to the same campsite," she said. "It's a family tradition. To not be able to go just really sucks."

Ely outfitter Spirit of the Wilderness made the following post Monday on Facebook:

"We have been booking permits this morning on the new BWCA permit website. Motor permits (day use and overnight) are pretty much taken for the summer. Overnight paddle permits still have availability for many dates. Some of the more popular dates are taken."

Meanwhile, U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber said he heard from a "handful of people" on Monday who were still frustrated with the reservation system.

Stauber threw a wrench into the works last week, introducing legislation that would require the Forest Service to return to a lottery system for permit distribution by 2020.

The Forest Service scrapped the lottery system for the vast majority of Boundary Waters entry point permits several years ago without major incident. They retained the lottery for motor permits for five high-demand entry points, but opted to transition those this year to the same first-come, first-served basis that has been in place for other Boundary Waters permits for years.

The switch concerned many people in the Ely area, including some canoe outfitters, who voiced their frustrations to Forest Service officials at a public meeting in November, and again to Rep. Stauber last month.

Quota permits for the BWCAW may be reserved through Sept. 30.

The BWCAW, located on the Superior National Forest, is one of over 3,500 facilities across the country that utilizes Recreation.gov to manage their reservation processes. Full details on the reservation process are located at <https://www.recreation.gov/permits/233396>.

Minnesota Public Radio News contributed to this report.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333. The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.
ASSUMED NAME: Goose Painting
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 3414 W 2nd St., Duluth, MN 55807
NAMEHOLDER(S): Dirk Vermeulen, 3414 W 2nd St., Duluth, MN 55807

Dated: February 27, 2019
SIGNED BY: Dirk Vermeulen
Published in the Timberjay, March 8 & 15, 2019

CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333. The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.
ASSUMED NAME: Golden Birch Communications
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 3414 W 2nd St., Duluth, MN 55807
NAMEHOLDER(S): LaReesa Sandretsky, 3414 W 2nd St., Duluth, MN 55807

Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

Dated: February 27, 2019
SIGNED BY: LaReesa Sandretsky
Published in the Timberjay, March 8 & 15, 2019

PUBLIC NOTICE

St. Louis County intends to expend Title III Federal funds for search and rescue activities on Federal Lands. These funds will be expended during the 2019 calendar year and are not to exceed \$10,000. Please contact St. Louis County Emergency Management if any questions, at (218) 726-2936.

Published in the Timberjay, March 8, 2019

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTALS IN THE CITY OF ORR

THE CITY OF ORR WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON:

DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2019

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

WHERE: ORR CITY HALL
4429 HWY 53
ORR, MN 55771

THE ORR CITY COUNCIL HAS SCHEDULED A PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS AND RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT ON WHETHER SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTALS SHOULD BE ALLOWED IN THE CITY, AND WHETHER THEY SHOULD BE REGULATED. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT 218-757-3288 WITH QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheri Carter, City Clerk/Treasurer

Published in the Timberjay, March 1 & 8, 2019

KUGLER TOWNSHIP ANNUAL TOWN MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019

The Opening of the Annual Town Meeting for Kugler Township will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall, to set the levies and to conduct any and all other business proper to be conducted when the Annual Town Meeting is convened. The Regular Monthly Meeting to follow.

In case of inclement weather, the Annual Town Meeting will be held one week later, Tuesday, March 19, 2019, at the same time and place stated.

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, March 1 & 8, 2019

EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Eagles Township, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the Eagles Nest Town Hall. **The Town Board will be presenting information to the voters on the possibility of becoming a mail-in ballot precinct in the future.**

In case of inclement weather, the Meeting may be postponed until Tuesday, March 19, 2019.

Deb Siverhus, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, March 1 & 8, 2019

Notice to the Voters of the Town of Crane Lake

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of the Town of Crane Lake, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 5:30 PM at the Crane Lake Chapel Fellowship Hall to set the levies, and conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. In case of inclement weather, the Meeting may be postponed until Tuesday, March 19, 2019.

Jo Ann Pohlman, Clerk, Town of Crane Lake

Published in the Timberjay, March 8, 2019

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POSITION OPENING - ISD No. 696 ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS School Bus Driver

3 hrs./day; 5 days per week, student contact days.

Qualifications: Commercial driver's license, passenger endorsement, school bus endorsement, must have good driving record, pre-employment drug test required; \$18.72/hr. Start date: TBD.

Contact Tim Leeson, Transportation Facilities Director at 365-6166 ext. 1747 with questions.

Application available at www.ely.k12.mn.us, or on the bulletin board, 2nd floor of the Memorial building; return application to: ISD No. 696, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731. Application deadline: March 13, 2019.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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AA OPEN MEETING- Thursdays at 7 p.m. at Woodland Presbyterian Church, Acacia Blvd. and Central Drive in Babbitt.

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

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

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

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SUPPORT GROUPS

MS SUPPORT GROUP- meets the second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Babbitt Municipal Building, senior room. Open to all. For information contact Mary at 218-827-8327.

ORR AA meets Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church, Orr.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS- Meetings every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Virginia.

ELY CO-DEPENDENTS MEETING- Fridays at noon-St. Anthony's Church Classroom 3-Use west side entrance. For more information go to coda.org on the web.

BABBITT AL-ANON- meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. at the Babbitt Assembly of God Church.

VIRGINIA AA WOMEN'S MEETING- Ladies by the Lake. Tuesdays at 12 noon. Peace United Methodist Church, 303 S 9th Ave, please use side door and parking.

HIV/AIDS? For confidential compassionate local support call the Rural AIDS Action Network, toll-free 1-888-647-RAAN(7226).

MEETING in Ely! "New Ideas" WOMEN IN RECOVERY: 12 Steps. For women seeking help and hope to recover from any addiction: drugs, alcohol, food, gambling etc. Every Thursday noon at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. Come join us! Q: 218-235-3581.

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Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Symphony, e.g.
 - 5 Sing like Bing
 - 10 Pampers product
 - 16 Mensa stats
 - 19 Scheme
 - 20 Big artery
 - 21 Flowery
 - 22 Almond, e.g.
 - 23 31-day period honoring TV's Joy? [actor]
 - 25 Greek letters
 - 26 With 47-Down, Christmas evergreen
 - 27 Fall back into illness
 - 28 Place with a lot of refuse-disposal chambers? [swimmer]
 - 30 Old space station
 - 31 Slash
 - 32 Ovine noise
 - 34 And others, in a list
 - 35 Brutes of fantasy
 - 36 Smears gunk on rugged mountain ranges? [hockey player]
 - 40 Shows up
 - 41 Sequence in heredity
 - 42 Robber, e.g.
 - 43 Bat hangout
 - 46 Finals, e.g.
 - 48 Seven-figure income earned in a Nebraska city? [actor]
 - 54 Scheme
 - 57 DVD- —
 - 59 Little barks
 - 60 "The King —"
 - 61 Guilty feeling
 - 64 One doing penance
 - 68 Olympic speed skater
 - 70 Ethyl ender
 - 71 Prohibition of quick insights? [investor]
 - 74 Suffix with journal
 - 75 Item in a file cabinet
 - 77 Ideal conditions
 - 78 Imply
 - 80 Field of study
 - 81 Sikorsky of aviation
 - 83 Dir. from N.D. to La.
 - 85 "Not — goes by ..."
 - 86 Promise to marry a cute marsupial? [painter]
 - 91 Novelist Hermann
 - 94 Waikiki necklaces
 - 95 Rene of "Get Shorty"
 - 97 Poland's Lech
 - 101 Sounded like a kitten
 - 105 Pale-colored wall paneling for a room? [writer]
 - 107 Final, e.g.
 - 108 2004 Chevy debut
 - 111 Storm center
 - 112 Demolition stuff
 - 113 — -cone (icy treat)
 - 114 Products applied to back-of-the-neck sunburns? [actor]
 - 117 City in north-central California
 - 119 Adding result
 - 120 "Finally!"
 - 121 "C" grade ... or what eight answers in this puzzle have?
 - 124 Draw upon
 - 125 Fix, as Fido
 - 126 Less-played half of a 45
 - 127 Morales of movies
 - 128 As stated in
 - 129 Lorne of "Bonanza"
 - 130 A bit off
 - 131 Old-time comic Ed
 - 28 Ricochet
 - 29 Animal park
 - 30 Soup enhancer
 - 32 Apiary insect
 - 33 Guthrie with a guitar
 - 37 Saying
 - 38 In that case
 - 39 "Mr. St. Nick" actress Ortiz
 - 40 Animator's frame
 - 43 — terrier
 - 44 Roadie's tote
 - 45 Hindu trinity member
 - 47 See 26-Across
 - 49 Wolflike carnivores
 - 50 China's Chou En- —
 - 51 "And how!"
 - 52 Ukrainian port city
 - 53 Fifteen times six
 - 54 Quick-to-build home
 - 55 Poe maiden
 - 56 Brunch fare
 - 58 Line of Apple computers
 - 62 Actress — Dawn Chong
 - 63 Elfish sort
 - 65 "Tsk tsk!"
 - 66 Kabuki sash
 - 67 "Platoon" site, in brief
 - 69 Ovum
 - 72 Black crows
 - 73 "Point taken"
 - 76 Patriotic women's gp.
 - 79 Some Scots
 - 82 F followers
 - 84 Program
 - 87 Unoriginal
 - 88 Actress Meyers
 - 89 Swift sleds
 - 90 Pale-faced
 - 92 Hoodwinks
 - 93 South Carolina river
 - 96 Holy Mlle.
 - 98 Euphoria
 - 99 Desert of the southwest U.S.
 - 100 — -Z (total)
 - 101 Botch the job
 - 102 Pretext
 - 103 Not as cold
 - 104 Big bird
 - 105 Relax
 - 106 Disagreeing
 - 108 Following
 - 109 Think a lot of
 - 110 Tickle pink
 - 115 Snake tooth
 - 116 To be, to Voltaire
 - 117 1,502, in old Rome
 - 118 Duck variety
 - 121 Exec's deg.
 - 122 Suffix with journal
 - 123 Cousin

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Obituaries and Death Notices



Morris F. Alltop

Morris F. "Tom" Alltop, 82, passed away peacefully on the evening of Saturday, Feb. 23, 2019, at Edgewood Vista in Virginia. A Celebration of Life will be held this summer at the Vermilion Club on Saturday, June 22 from 2-4 p.m. Family and friends are invited to share their favorite story of Tom. In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to either the Vermilion Penguin Snowmobiling Club or the Greenwood

Township Fire Hall. Tom will be laid to rest, next to Max, in the Cook Cemetery, at a private ceremony this spring. Arrangements are under the direction of Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook. The family expresses their gratitude to Edgewood Vista for taking such good care of Tom of the last six-and-a-half years.

Tom was born in Franklin County, Ohio, on Dec. 6, 1936, to Frank and Hattie (Roach) Alltop. As a young boy, Tom and his family moved to rural Wyoming, Ill. There he graduated from Wyoming High School in 1955. He began farming and moved on to over-the-road trucking. This allowed him to see most of the lower 48 states along the way. In May 1959, Tom married Jeanette (Hanchett) of Bradford, Ill. In 1973, with three kids in tow, Tom and Jeanette moved to Lake Vermilion-Tower. The

Alltop family ran a small resort called Minonta and a snowmobile business called TJ Alouette. Tom continued truck driving for local companies: Leustek, Ranisate Brothers, Premier Aggregate, and KGM Contracting.

Tom was an avid outdoorsman and while living in "God's Country" on "the farm" in Cook, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating, motorcycling and snowmobiling. He was a longtime member of the Vermilion Penguin Snowmobiling Club and a volunteer fireman for Greenwood Township.

He is survived by two sisters, Mary Jane (Myron) Holmes of Wyoming, Ill., and Jeanette (Jim) Pritchard of Washington, Ill.; two daughters, Kim (Bob) Cederholm of Spokane, Wash., and Angela (Steve) Haugen of Farmington; numerous nieces and nephews; and countless friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Hattie; two sisters, Katherine Groves of Lancaster, Ohio, and Hazel (Arnold) Dawson of Kewanee, Ill.; two brothers, Robert Alltop of Carmen, Ill., and Jerry (Marlene) Alltop of Wyoming, Ill.; and son, Max of Cook.

Richard A. Mobilia

Richard "Dick" Angelo Mobilia, 78, of Ely, died on Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019, surrounded by his family at Chestnut Grove Assisted Living in Virginia, after nine months trying to overcome a traumatic brain injury. Services will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 12 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely with visitation one hour before the service. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his wife of 54-and-a-half years, Karon; children, Jane Mobilia-Witte (Alan) of St. Cloud, Rhonda (John) Greiff of Coon Rapids and William (Shayla) of Duluth; grandchildren, Nicholas, Kylie, Angela and Matthew Witte, Dawson and Kendra Mobilia; siblings, Daniel (Faye), Carol (Ray) Camaish, Sue (Merrill) Roberts and David (Kathy); numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends; and his golfing buddies, Jim Folz and Don DeBeltz.

Joan M. Schreck

Joan Margaret Urick Schreck, 87, of Biwabik, died on Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019, at Essentia Health in Virginia. Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, March 11 at Community United Church of Christ with Pastor John Szarke officiating.

Friends may gather one hour prior to the service. Inurnment will be in Lakeside Cemetery in Biwabik. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Community United Church of Christ or Lakeside Cemetery Association. Arrangements are by Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Gilbert.

She is survived by her children, Kathleen (Joe) Panichi of Buyck, Jeannine (Greg Judnick) Carlson of Virginia, David (Judy) White of San Antonio, Texas, Susan (Steve) Aker of Biwabik, James (Carla) White of South St. Paul and Steven (Kathy) Bradach of Biwabik; 12 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; brother, John (Pat) Urick of Lake Vermilion-Tower; and nephews.

More obituaries on page 3B

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