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The **TIMBERJAY**



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\$1⁰⁰

CITY OF TOWER

Tower harbor town homes: Go or no?

Deadline looms for development agreement

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
 Managing Editor

TOWER—The prospects for a planned town home project here appear increasingly in question as a key deadline nears

without the necessary plat that developers will need to meet the terms of a development agreement with the city of Tower.

Under the latest version of that agreement, signed in early January,

A proposed town home development agreement at Tower Harbor faces an April 1 deadline.

Tower Harbor Shores (THS) LLC has until April 1 to complete a sufficient number of purchase agreements to commit to

building the first of three planned units. Yet with just ten days to go until that See...**TOWER** pg.10



NORTHERN LAKES ARTS ASSOCIATION



Life is a Cabaret

Ely Spring Musical opens March 28

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
 Ely Editor

ELY - "Life is a cabaret, old chum, and I love a cabaret!" With these immortal words, Sally Bowles sings the signature song of the famous musical Cabaret,

made a household name by the 1972 movie starring Liza Minelli.

But before that movie version, there was a 1966 stage version, a non-musical play "I Am a Camera" and a novel called "Goodbye to Berlin" by Christopher

Isherwood, based on his own experiences in Berlin just prior to World War II. That's according to play director Sara Skelton.

The Ely Community Spring Musical will perform the 1966 stage version, set in 1931 Berlin as the Nazis are



rising to power. "The story focuses on the nightlife at the seedy Kit Kat Klub, and revolves around American See...**NLAA** pg. 11

LAKE VERMILION

Daisy Bay expansion approved

by **MARCUS WHITE**
 Cook/Orr Editor

VIRGINIA - The St. Louis County Planning Commission, on Thursday, unanimously backed a plan to expand an RV park at Daisy Bay Resort on Lake Vermilion despite boisterous opposition from neighbors of the property.

The expansion would include up to 43 RV sites on the property as well as additional dock space and ice-fishing facilities. Christine Schlotec, who is proposing the project, has a purchase agreement to buy the longtime resort property from current owner Taren Neumann if the RV park plan is ultimately approved. Schlotec plans to operate the resort year-round, although the RV portion of the property would only operate seven months of the year.

The planning board had originally planned to vote on Schlotec's plan last month but delayed the vote after a clerical error sent some meeting notifications to the wrong address.

Many at the commission meeting drew parallels between Schlotec's plan and another recently-approved RV park plan at the BayView Lodge, although this time county planning staff were

See...**DAISY BAY** pg. 9

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ely retail picture suffers a blow with Shopko closure

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
 Ely Editor

ELY — Shopko announced this week that all of its remaining stores will be closing later this year. All stores, including the 38,000-square-foot Shopko Hometown here are expected to close by mid-June.

The closure will leave a big hole in the retail picture for Ely and some residents were already

The Shopko Hometown retail store in Ely will be closed by the middle of June. Timberjay file photo

calling on the city to take steps to find an alternative.

"This is a devastating blow to Ely and all the small towns that rely on their Shopko stores," said Ely resident Bill Erzar.

Local shopper Peggy Struna agreed and called on city officials to take action. "The mayor and the city need to seek out a replace-

ment tenant for this much-needed store," she said. "This is a major loss to this community!"

At the Ely City Council meeting Tuesday night, Mayor Chuck Novak said he is uncertain what will happen to the building once Shopko moves out. "It

See... **SHOPKO** pg. 9



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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Lessons from Kalevala with Ellie Larmouth at Mesabi UU, March 24

VIRGINIA- At Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church on Sunday, March 24 at 10:30 a.m., Ellie Larmouth of Tower will present "Lessons from the Kalevala: Hearing the Voices of Our Ancestors." The service will examine the Finnish epic poem, The Kalevala, its messages, music, and continued influence for many of Finnish ancestry. The church is located at 230 7th St. S in Virginia. The building is handicap accessible.

Bees of Minnesota, April 7 at Olcott Park

VIRGINIA- Calling all youth in grades 6 and up to be a Citizen Scientist!

The first time a survey of Minnesota bees was completed was in 1919 when only 67 species were listed. Luckily, there has been a lot of research since then and scientists suspect there may be closer to 400 species, but to find out we will need the help of citizen scientists like you.

In this workshop you will learn about the life cycle and ecology of native bees, basic bee identification, and make your own bee block to observe bees right in your backyard. These skills will prepare you to participate in the Minnesota Native Bee Atlas, a citizen scientist program.

This is a free program held Sunday, April 7 from 1-4 p.m. at the Olcott Park Greenhouse, 711 9th Ave. W in Virginia.

Pre-registration is required. Deadline to register is Wednesday, April 3. To register, please use the following link for the Google form, <https://goo.gl/forms/618ALEaib-zYaZZch1>.

Learn to make a painted barn quilt, March 27

COOK- Take home a completed barn quilt on Wednesday, March 27. Cynthia Buchholz of Bittersweet Barn Quilt Company will teach a barn quilt painting class at the Cook Community Center from 1 to 5 p.m.

The supplies included in the cost of the class are a 2' x 2' piece of aluminum composite, over 75 fabulous colors of highest quality Behr exterior paint, dozens of quilt block patterns to choose from, and foam brushes, rollers, aprons, quilters squares, rulers, extension cords, blow dryers, and even a dance off for prizes.

The registration fee for the class is \$40 for NWFA members and \$55 for non-members. At the time of the class each student must pay a materials fee of \$45 to the instructor, Cynthia Buchholz.

Register with Alberta Whitenack at 218-666-2153, Shawna at 218-780-6510, online at nwfa.org or by email at nwfamn.org@gmail.com. Class size is limited to 20 students. A check for \$55 sent to NWFA, PO Box 44, Cook, MN 55723 will finalize the class registration.

POLITICS

DFL listening session at Sulu's on March 28

TOWER- Area Democrats will hold their third listening session on Thursday, March 28, at 6:30 p.m. at Sulu's Espresso Café, 507 Main Street in Tower. The gathering is open to the public.

Democratic Farmer Labor Party officials, including Bob Miller, chair of DFL Organizing Unit 03, will be present to visit with area residents and hear their post-midterm election ideas and concerns and their ideas for how to win in 2020.

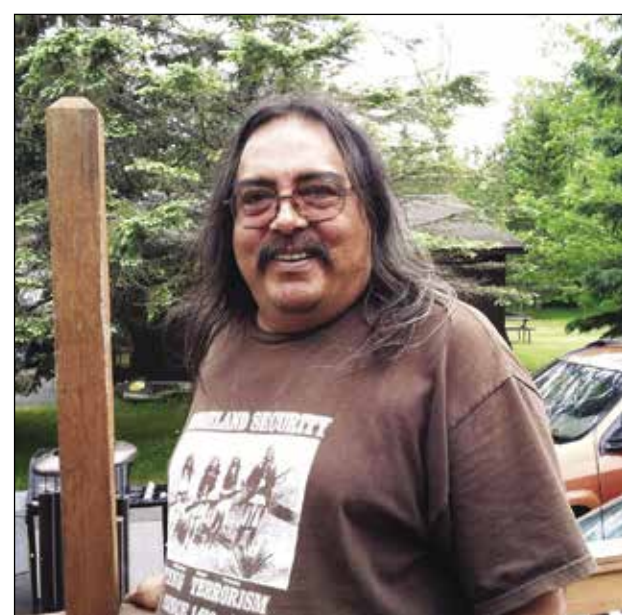
The meeting is sponsored by the Outreach Committee of DFL St. Louis County Organizing Unit 03, which covers northern St. Louis County including Cook, Orr, Tower, Ely, and Babbitt and the surrounding rural areas. Area members of the Outreach

Committee include Melissa Roach of Bear River, Carol Orban of Ely, and Leah Rogne of Gheen.

"Our district is huge, running all the way from Kabetogoma to Duluth," said Rogne. "We've been holding these meetings to give people in the northern part of our district the chance to have a voice and get involved in making a difference."

DFL District 03 held listening sessions in Cook and Ely earlier this winter. Results from all three sessions will be forwarded to district and state party officials. Persons attending the meeting will be able to order refreshments from Sulu's menu.

For more information, contact Ellie Larmouth at 218-753-5327.



Bob Miller

YOUR AREA LIBRARY

One-Dog Canoe and More! Mary Casanova will be at area schools, libraries in April

Program designed for ages Kindergarten to grade five and their families

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present One-Dog Canoe and More! A Visit with Mary Casanova, a free 55-minute program geared towards ages K-5 at Nett Lake School on Thursday, April 4 at 9 a.m., Cook Public Library on Thursday, April 11 at 5 p.m., Ely Public Library on Friday, April 5 at 3:30 p.m., and Babbitt Public Library on Thursday, April 11 at 1 p.m.

You're invited to meet celebrated Minnesota author Mary Casanova. With a PowerPoint program including images of northwoods animals, book covers and illustrations, Mary will recount her journey growing up in a family of ten, struggling with reading, and discovering that books are a window into the world and writing is a way to "have a voice." Audiences of all ages engage with Mary's warm

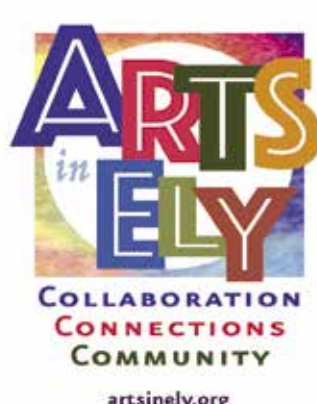


presentation style, including Q&A, and respond with a greater desire to read- and write stories of their own. Program is 55 minutes in length, and while geared towards grades K-5, any age is welcome to attend.

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.

CALLING AREA ARTISTS

ARTS in Ely – Information session on the online arts directory set for March 26



ELY- ARTS in Ely, is a collaborative established to help represent all arts organizations, artists, groups and art resources. ARTS in Ely will host another date at the Ely Public Library if people would like help to set up their free listing in the online arts directory. Join them on Tuesday, March 26 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the library.

When more people sign up, the directory will help

show the strength of the arts community in Ely and help people find each other if they are doing similar work. It will also help others who visit the community or are new to the area find others to collaborate with. The directory may help provide data to our community about the economic benefits that are contributed by the arts.

Artists can also sign up online

Artists and others are also able to set up their own accounts by going to the ARTS in Ely website at www.artsinely.org. There is a link to request an application for the directory. A password will be sent out within two days so people can enter and then be in control of their own content as it changes.

Business Development Opportunity

Tweet, Post, Gram

April 8, 2019, 9 a.m. Grand Ely Lodge

Social Media Platforms 101. Each platform has its strengths of how they best engage with your audience. This session will help you understand the best practices per platform, how to tailor messages to a specific social media platform, and prioritize your multiple platform social media management.

Session lead by Jane Pederson of Glensheen Mansion.

Lunch included with this **free business development opportunity**. Advanced registration required. To register contact director@ely.org or call 365-6123.

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



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Tuesday, March 26th

5:30 PM

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RECREATION

Mesabi Trail work advancing in Embarrass

Funding in place to bring trail as far as Hwy. 26 this year, final leg to Tower still in planning process

EMBARRASS- Work on the new Mesabi Trail section in Embarrass has been underway this winter. Over the past few weeks, crews have been installing a total of 4,900 linear feet of eight-foot wide floating dock in a swampy portion of the Darwin S. Myers Wildlife Management Area. This work needed to be completed over the winter, because the only access is over a winter road.

“This floating dock is ADA-compliant,” said Chris Lee, trail manager.

This new five and a half-mile section of trail will tie into the end of the existing trail that links Giants Ridge to Highway 135 in Embarrass, and will end at Hwy. 21, just west of the Trapline Liquor and Convenience Store.

The brushing and clearing needed for the rest of this section was

done in the fall. Once road restrictions are removed, crews will begin laying down the class five gravel base, and then the asphalt and shoulder work will be done, Lee said.

Lee said they also hope to complete the adjacent section of the trail, which will extend it another five miles from Hwy. 21 up to Hwy. 26 towards Tower. Funding for this section is already in place. Work

is still underway on the routing and easements to connect the trail from Hwy. 26 into Tower, where it will meet up with the existing trail that now goes into Eagles Nest Township.

At the eastern end of the trail, progress is being made connecting the trail from the Lake Vermilion State Park to Eagles Nest. A new section of trail now

See TRAIL...pg. 5



Contractors were working this week to install nearly a mile of floating boardwalk through the Darwin S. Myers Wildlife Management area in Embarrass. The work is part of the continuing effort to complete the Mesabi Trail from Grand Rapids to Ely. submitted

TOWERGATE

Clerk-treasurer allies uphold complaint over evaluation

Grievance part of union effort to block council review of falsification of records

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Despite heated objections by committee and council member Steve Abrahamson, the city of Tower's grievance committee has upheld a complaint filed by Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith against the city council. The 2-1 vote, with Steve Altenburg and Brooke Anderson voting in support, came after almost two hours of debate, mostly between Altenburg and Abrahamson.

The grievance is an effort by Keith's union to call a halt to any investigation into allegations of wrongdoing by the clerk-treasurer, including systematic falsification of city records. The grievance alleges that Mayor Orlyn Kringstad closed a city council meeting to conduct a "performance evaluation" on

Keith, but in the closed meeting provided a packet that included a "report of findings" even though the council had not directed Kringstad to conduct an investigation. In doing so, Keith's union alleges that the council engaged in disparate treatment since no other employee has been subjected to a similar evaluation by the council.

It remains unclear what impact, if any, the decision will have on the city council's ongoing inquiry into Keith's performance.

Altenburg chaired the grievance meeting even though he has his own open complaint against Kringstad before the council. Altenburg claims that Kringstad called him "sexist," although Kringstad's alleged comment predated his taking office. While Kringstad, since taking office, has repeatedly abstained from

voting on matters in which he had an appearance of a personal interest or conflict, Altenburg did not address his own apparent conflict as a member of the grievance committee and both voted and argued vociferously for upholding Keith's complaint.

Altenburg falsely stated repeatedly throughout the meeting that the committee had requested evidence from the city council and received no response. In fact, Kringstad was not permitted to speak during the grievance committee deliberations, although he did provide a detailed written response that directly addressed the issues raised in the grievance.

"This was in fact a performance evaluation," Kringstad wrote, noting this was the term proposed by the city of Tower's attorney when he was informed "about and why the background

research was done." Kringstad noted he could not add additional details because "the essence of the research is referred to in the closed performance appraisal, which was cut short by Mr. Skoog [Keith's union representative]."

Kringstad also noted that this action was not "disparate" given that Keith is the only city employee who is directly supervised by the city council. "All other employees would be given performance appraisals by the City Clerk/Treasurer and the Employee Relations Committee," noted Kringstad.

Altenburg said he believed that Kringstad had conducted an investigation on his own, without authorization from the council. "The statutes do not allow an individual council member to investigate an employee or terminate employment," Altenburg

said, citing an example from the League of Minnesota Cities of a council member who discovered a municipal liquor store employee doing something illegal on the job and then dismissed the employee without any action from the council.

It was unclear how Altenburg knew what Kringstad had provided, since he was not in the closed session. As of this writing, the council has not indicated any plan to discipline or discharge the clerk-treasurer or undertake an investigation. If an investigation is ordered, that would be public information. The Timberjay has already made a request for confirmation of any investigation and the city has not confirmed such a step.

Altenburg also claimed that any issue that Kringstad

See GRIEVANCE...pg. 5

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OPINION

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

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Rep. Stauber misleads

The Green New Deal won't leave
Minnesotans huddled freezing in the dark

It can be painful to watch politicians intentionally mislead their constituents. Such was the case recently when Rep. Pete Stauber posted a nearly four-minute video clip online that's full of disinformation on the Green New Deal—a set of policies designed to invest in the nation's energy and transportation infrastructure, create millions of new high-paying jobs, and advance the nation's transition to a carbon-neutral energy future.

Opinion polls have shown broad public support for the concept of the Green New Deal, which at this point remains a set of policy goals, with no legislation currently introduced.

But to hear Republicans, you'd think the Green New Deal was set for a vote on the House floor, and that its passage would leave Americans freezing in the dark in their own homes, unable to get to work in the morning.

It's part of an ongoing effort by the GOP to not only paint Democrats who support the goals of the Green New Deal as radical, but to head off any progress on the issue of climate change in order to protect the fossil fuel industry, which has become the primary financial backer of the Republican Party.

Stauber's cringe-worthy video, which is posted on Youtube, uses false data, false and exaggerated claims, and scare-mongering in hopes of undermining a positive vision for creating jobs, addressing climate change, and improving air and water quality, objectives that most Republicans in the age of Trump now adamantly oppose. Stauber claims that the Green New Deal would eliminate air travel, shipping, mining, and would require everyone to turn in their cars for electric vehicles and retrofit their homes to install windmills and solar panels. He really says these things, and it's total nonsense.

In his video, Rep. Stauber gets his facts wrong on the state's current energy mix, and falsely claims that the Green New Deal would prohibit the use of various forms of energy, including coal, natural gas, nuclear, hydropower, and gasoline. In fact, related legislation currently being developed in the House doesn't prohibit any source of energy. The goal of the Green New Deal isn't to eliminate all fossil fuels, but to transition over the next few decades to what is known as a

net-zero carbon energy system by investing in non-carbon producing forms of energy and by deploying methods to remove carbon and other heat-trapping gases from the atmosphere. That can be as simple as planting more trees, which remove carbon from the air as they grow.

It isn't just about producing energy in new ways. Getting the most benefit from the energy we do produce is actually more important. Keep in mind, we use power to derive some sort of benefit—a warm house, hot water, the use of lights and appliances, or a trip to the grocery store. In most cases, technologies already exist which could provide us the same benefits for considerably less energy. The Green New Deal would invest in such energy conserving technologies as well as in research and development of new ones.

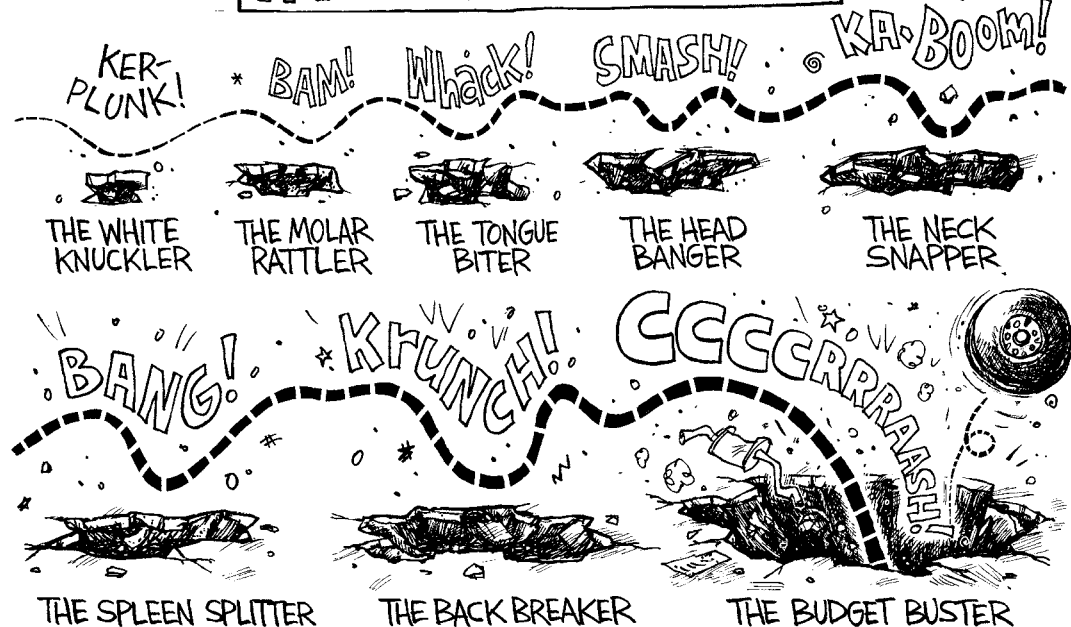
Critics point out that the Green New Deal will be expensive, and that part is true. The kind of energy and societal changes that will be needed to head off the planet-altering and civilization-threatening impacts of climate change won't come cheaply. But it's actually far cheaper in the long run than ignoring the problem. "Without substantial and sustained global mitigation and regional adaptation efforts, climate change is expected to cause growing losses to American infrastructure and property and impede the rate of economic growth over this century." That is among the conclusions of the 4th National Climate Assessment released last year by the Trump administration's own scientists.

By investing up front in initiatives such as many of those proposed in the Green New Deal, we can create millions of good-paying jobs in the energy, transportation, and construction sectors, improve the nation's energy efficiency, our air and water quality, and help to ensure a livable future for our children and grandchildren.

Those are undoubtedly reasons that the Green New Deal is supported by a large majority of Americans. And, unfortunately, it's why politicians like Pete Stauber feel compelled to mislead their constituents. They're afraid that if we knew the facts, we'd be demanding exactly these kinds of policies—and asking why the GOP is standing in the way.

J. H. K. L. R.
@JHKLREITER.COM

A FIELD GUIDE TO POTHOLES



Letters from Readers

Landwehr concern for process comes across as hypocritical

Up North Jobs Inc. is an Ely-based nonprofit membership organization chartered in 2013 to promote economic development and job growth in Northeastern Minnesota. Permit us to offer additional context to the decision by Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness to hire former Minnesota DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr as the executive director of their campaign to fight copper-nickel mining within the BWCAW watershed.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Landwehr was paraphrased saying a commissioner must follow the laws and regulations when facing a project. In other words, an agency head should be guided by the laws, science and due process afforded to a company, and not by their personal beliefs, politics or unfounded potential outcomes. Landwehr's words drip with hypocrisy. He chose to remain silent when Gov. Mark Dayton issued a directive to him in March 2016 "not to authorize or enter into any new state access or lease agreements for mining operations on state land in the Superior National Forest in close proximity to the BWCA." This, although Dayton's action to deny access to state land in the Superior National Forest where mineral development is expressly permitted is contrary to Minnesota law, the Minnesota constitution and Public Law No. 49-495 that expressly permits mining in the Superior National Forest.

In reference to the Trump administration reinstating Twin Metals leases and canceling an environmental review that had been launched to study a proposed 20-year mining ban by the Obama administration on 234,000 acres of federal land in the BWCAW watershed, Landwehr was quoted as saying, "Federal agency

leadership in D.C. are ignoring laws and policies in order to push this project through." "Those laws and policies are intended to protect people and the environment, and I simply can't stand by and watch that." "The agencies don't have the latitude of saying, 'Well, we just don't like this project, we're not going to put it in process,'".

Oh yes, Mr. Landwehr, the process!

Landwehr was the chief regulator for the statutory process of permitting for the state of Minnesota. Now he wants to eliminate the statutory process. By doing so, the long sought-after goal of a mining ban is achieved by Landwehr and Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness. For lobbyist Tom Landwehr to now pretend that he supports a Twin Metals permitting process based upon the facts, science and the law, is self-serving, hypocritical and intellectually dishonest.

Back in the day, President Eisenhower said: "When you put your privileges before your principles, you will soon have neither." When the former DNR Commissioner accepted the job to serve as a lobbyist for Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, Landwehr's credibility as a nonpartisan regulator spilled into the Boundary Waters along with his principles.

Gerald Tyler
Up North Jobs,
Ely

Thanks to all who helped with the WolfTrack Classic

On behalf of myself and the WolfTrack Classic Board of Directors we would like to let you know how much we appreciate the great coverage of the race that you give us. The race has grown over the 11 years that it has been running. It is so wonderful to see all the people come out to the start and finish and the awards presentations at the Grand Ely Lodge.

Our sincere thanks for continuing to help us promote the race. The 2020 race is set for Feb. 22 and 23.

Ellen Cashman
President and Race Director
www.wolftrackclassic.com

Thanks for not backing dissenters

Congratulations to the citizens of Greenwood Township who voted to re-elect Carmen DeLuca and Pam Rodgers in yesterday's election. You have performed a huge service to the township by electing people who place the interests of our township first. Please continue to minimize those who are interested only in the acquisition of power and seek to sow the seeds of dissension!

Steve Rodgers
Greenwood Twp

Bassing was too honest for the job

As a candidate for Greenwood supervisor, John Bassing is just too smart and too honest for his own good. Woe is us.

Sharon Legg
Greenwood Twp

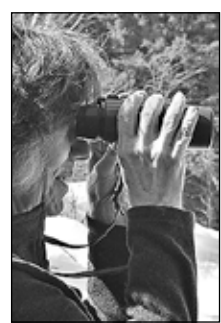
Nice to see skating rink getting lots of use in Ely

Living across the street from Ely's Whiteside Park, we have noticed once again how many people, young and old, are making good use of the outdoor skating rink, provided by Ely Flower and Seed (Dave and Bonnie Starkman), as part of the Ely Winter Festival activities. Thank you to the city of Ely and the Starkmans for providing this skating rink for the children and adults of the Ely area.

Good job!
Larry and Patricia Wellvang
Ely

The long and continuing fight to end hunger in America

March is a grand month! It officially heralds in long-awaited spring! We celebrate Women's History Month, and, if you read the *Timberjay*, you know that it is also Minnesota FoodShare Month. Hearing about our local food shelves in Tower, Cook and Ely, resurrected fond memories of my first encounter



KATHLEEN
MCQUILLAN

with one of the first food banks in the country, over 40 years ago in Tucson, Ariz. Without realizing it then, I was being thrust into the "fight to end hunger".

In 2019, an estimated 40 million Americans still face "food insecurity". A network of food banks remain essential to our nation's social safety

net!

Too young to fully grasp what was in store for me, I assumed the role of director of the Tucson Community Food Bank. In the early 1970s, the idea that the community should accept the task of feeding its hungry citizens was just that, an "idea". At that time, churches were bearing the mantle of "helping the needy." The government had assumed some responsibility to feed the hungry beginning in the 1930s when the Great Depression drove millions of Americans into

poverty. Food stamps, created out of Roosevelt's "New Deal," became the answer to a growing crisis. They provided support for people's most basic needs while the nation's economy recovered and finally got folks back to work.

After 1943, the Food Stamp Program received intermittent funding until the passage of the Food Stamp Act of 1964. Impacted by each new swing of the political pendulum, and guided by strict eligibility requirements, there have

always been many who do not qualify. The federal Office of Management and Budget estimates that some 40-percent of households identified as "food insecure" currently do not receive federal food assistance. That's why local food shelves, along with other sources of emergency food aid, continue to play a key role to help fill the household food gap.

During the 1960s, southwestern states became meccas

See HUNGER...pg. 5

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Legislative push to boost broadband funding underway

by MARCUS WHITE
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL—Minnesota's Commissioner of the Department of Employment and Economic Development, or DEED, urged lawmakers this week to reinstate the Border-to-Border grant program for rural broadband. At a press conference on Wednesday, Commissioner Steve Grove said legislation currently in the works would put \$70 million into the program with \$35 million being available in both 2020 and 2021.

That legislation is being sponsored by District 3A Rep. Rob Ecklund, DFL-International Falls.

Ecklund said an additional \$15 million in unused funds from last year's budget could be added to the new dollars, helping to

further boost funding for rural projects.

"The governor cares deeply about this," Grove said. "The model should be that you don't need to live in the metro to take part in the global economy."

The commissioner said rural projects don't always have as much appeal for private companies because sparser population tends to increase the cost of bringing broadband speeds to customers. Broadband speeds in Minnesota are defined as 25 megabytes per seconds (mbps) for download speed and 2 mbps upload speed.

According to Grove about 87 percent of Minnesota residents have access to these speeds, but the state is pushing for a further increase of 100 mbps download and 20 mbps upload

by 2026.

How the grant money will be dispersed will be determined by a number of factors, including a company's 10-year build-out plan.

Danna Mackenzie, the Director of the Office of Broadband Development, said residents should be contacting their Internet service providers to let them know if they want broadband. She said people who want better Internet service, but feel their local provider is not responding adequately, can call 651-259-7610.

Mackenzie said the state has not looked at the ramifications of the Frontier investigation on how grant monies might be allocated to companies under investigation from the state. She did say, however, that Frontier

was on track to complete projects being paid for through state grant money.

As of right now, Mackenzie said, the rules governing how grant money is awarded to Internet companies will not be changing.

Grove said DEED is also looking to lobby lawmakers to bring grant programs for small startup companies, including tax incentives for angel investors, to put money into rural startups.

He said there is broad support at the Capitol for the programs.

"Generally, the reception has been really good from lawmakers," he said. "This isn't a partisan issue, it's about connecting citizens to the global economy."

Ecklund agreed, noting that

the state may not be able to rely on the major telecommunications companies, like Frontier or CenturyLink, to make the investments necessary to improve service in rural areas. He said he's been talking to township officials in parts of his district about forming cooperative ventures using joint powers as a way to attract more customers. "Then it makes it easier to get local companies or cooperatives, like Paul Bunyan or others, to come in and provide service," he said. Just as rural electrification was accomplished mostly through the use of cooperatives, Ecklund said the same model might work for extending broadband.

HUNGER...Continued from page 4

for unemployed and homeless youth. It wasn't hard to find a place to live, even if it meant just pitching a tent, but to reliably feed oneself was a different matter. Jobs were scarce and wages were low. Churches responded as best they could to this unpredicted influx of newcomers. The increase in requests for food assistance was depleting resources intended for established residents. To cope with this challenge, the default solution became "one-way bus tickets out of town," but many knew there had to be a better way. The churches sent out an S.O.S. A task force of community "movers and shakers", government officials and businesses executives, came together to determine what could be done.

From those meetings came the blueprint for our present-day network of regional and local food banks working with larger purchasing and distribution systems. Food and cash donations from indi-

viduals and organizations would become the main source of support. But corporate food producers were also tapped for goods that were being discarded as "waste," unsuitable for public sale due to size, shape or damaged packaging. Corporations were pleased to contribute to this rapidly developing network of emergency food outlets springing up across the country.

According to the official St. Louis County website, its population hovers just under 200,000 with a poverty rate of 15.5-percent. That's roughly 31,000 residents living on less than \$1,041 per month. Yes, hunger still persists. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) replaced Food Stamps in 2008. It's now the federal government's main response to hunger in the U.S. For those who qualify, the average SNAP benefit is \$192 per person per month, far below what is needed by most households to

meet basic nutritional needs, even by the most frugal standards. So how do people manage?

To find out, I met with Cook Area Food Shelf coordinator, Cleo Cottrell, one of several dedicated volunteers, who have kept this service active since its start-up in 1994. She informed me that they service 80-100 people each month, providing a nutritionally balanced supply of food suited for the needs of each recipient. While we toured the facility, Cleo explained the stream of activity required to maintain an operation of this size. Trained and well-coordinated volunteers purchase, inventory, and stock food and supplies, all in preparation to fill and distribute food boxes on the third Wednesday of each month. She also described some of the predicaments that commonly lead to "food insecurity"—job loss, illness, car repairs, accidental catastrophe, natural disasters, or other events that can unexpect-

edly take a bite out of the household budget.

Government-funded and independent non-profit programs work in partnership providing a "social safety net" in these times of need. Services such as Meals on Wheels, congregate senior dining, and Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors (NAPS), are examples of federally-funded services available to low-income elders. The Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program provides food assistance to pregnant and breast-feeding moms and their children. Subsidies to schools make free and reduced-cost meals available to income-eligible students. Organizations like food shelves, the Salvation Army and Ruby's Pantry utilize varied methods to reach people who are not eligible for government assistance or for whom the assistance is just not enough. It's clear to me now how important these efforts to reduce hunger have become, but my next

question is this. Are we winning that "fight to end hunger"?

All signs say, "No." We've got the "forty million people living with food insecurity." Census data indicates "one in five children in America live in poverty." Labor reports describe many working more than full-time, some at two and three jobs, and still qualifying for government assistance! And with obesity on the rise, we know that cheaper food is not always healthy food. Doesn't look like we're fixing the problem. And we sure hope we're not making it worse!

Good news is, we've started looking beyond "quantity" and are beginning to focus on "quality" as well. We're being encouraged to eat at home, to eat fresher, and avoid processed foods, plant a household or community garden, and support local farmers markets. All these and others present an array of healthy benefits. In addition, there are

people studying the root causes of hunger and advocating for government policy changes designed to improve nutrition and health. Economists are addressing income inequalities, the need to raise minimum wage requirements and lower prescription drug prices to free up more money in the household budget for food. Others are showing us how "food issues" relate to even broader issues like climate change and global poverty. To confront big issues we need bold ideas, courage, faith and commitment! All signs say, "Yes! We've got it!"

I end this story with thanks to all the people who are already engaged, working tirelessly to address hunger in our communities. To volunteers, donors and advocates, thank you for leading our way into the future! And special thanks to Cleo Cottrell for spending time, offering information and insights for this article. You are an inspiration!

TRAIL...Continued from page 3

connects from the state park to the Trygg Road intersection on Hwy. 169. In addition, the trail has paved the route on the old section of Hwy. 169 that

was abandoned when the new highway opened up last year.

"We have a little bit of work left to do before we can connect the trail

to Ely," Lee said. "We have the draft drawings in place, along with the needed easements."

Lee said they hope to complete that section of

trail in a year or two, when more funding is available.

The Mesabi Trail stretches from Grand Rapids to Ely, and once completed will include

over 150 miles of paved recreational trail. Each year the trail hosts the Great River Energy Trail Tour. This year's event, on Saturday, Aug. 3, offers

routes from 10 to 72 miles, with the ride ending in Grand Rapids.

GRIEVANCE...Continued from page 3

might have with the clerk should first have been brought directly to the employee, and then if not resolved, to the city's employee relations committee. Kringstad, in his response, noted that he has proceeded under the advice of the city attorney.

Abrahamson disputed Altenburg's interpretation of both city policies and guidance from the League.

"All employees have an obligation to conduct duties in a manner to serve the public interest," said Abrahamson. "The mayor was gathering information from the public record, and that was serving the public interest. He is upholding the public trust and city resources. I don't find fault here."

Abrahamson asked that the committee reject the grievance and let the issue be settled by the city council. "That would serve the public interest," he said.

Anderson initially appeared to agree with Abrahamson.

But Altenburg pushed to have the committee uphold the grievance.

"The problem is someone can gather information and it all becomes

an investigation and bringing charges," he said.

"We can't answer the question on what is the proper procedure to present that information to the council," Abrahamson said. "I have no problem with an individual council person gathering all the information they wish. The issue is how to present that information to the council."

"Orlyn brought the information to the council [in closed session]," Abrahamson said.

Altenburg claimed there had been a report of findings, a final determination of facts from an investigation that was submitted to the council, although he gave no evidence to support this claim.

Abrahamson said if something is not being done correctly at city hall by employees, that would need to be addressed by the council.

Altenburg then discussed the part of the grievance that stated Keith was being treated differently from any other employee. "Nobody has been singled out and hauled before a public meeting," Altenburg said, noting this issue has been on three pre-

vious agendas, and the last time worded as "employee misconduct."

After the meeting, Kringstad noted that the change in wording from performance evaluation to employee misconduct was made by the clerk, not at the council or mayor's request.

"We have never had an issue where there is public information found that there is something going on," said Abrahamson. "It is critical for the trust in the community that we find this out. We have never had an issue like this before."

Altenburg falsely claimed that the city attorney was not consulted until the closed meeting took place, and that there would need to be "actually valid misconduct" shown, before bringing the issue to the council. Altenburg, who minutes earlier had argued that council members should not be able to gather information or investigate issues on their own, did not specify how someone could demonstrate "valid misconduct" without gathering information.

A motion by Abrahamson to deny the grievance died for a lack

of a second. A motion to uphold the grievance by Altenburg, seconded by Anderson, passed 2-1.

The next step in the process, according to Altenburg, was for the committee to make a recommendation on how to remedy the grievance.

Erik Skoog, responding for the union, asked that the city cease all activities that create disparate treatment of Ms. Keith and have Kringstad send a letter of apology. It would also require the city to expunge all references and materials related to the clerk-treasurer's alleged wrongdoing from city records and have a letter sent to all local and regional media chastising Kringstad for "disparate" treatment of Keith. Skoog alleges that Kringstad has created a hostile work environment through disparate treatment of Ms. Keith and his continued actions provide the foundation of his disregard for Ms. Keith.

The city's grievance committee took no action on determining what remedy they would recommend, deciding they needed to get input from an attorney before

proceeding.

"Are they saying the city can't move on [with a performance review]?" asked Abrahamson. "The information that is part of the public record should still be looked at."

Abrahamson noted

that the grievance committee had the option of not approving any remedy.

The timeline on the grievance is supposed to end on March 19. The committee did send a letter to the union requesting additional time.



WANTED! EMBARRASS FAIR QUEEN CANDIDATES

The Embarrass Region Fair is seeking queen candidates for its scholarship pageant. **The winner will receive a \$1000 scholarship, the runner-up a \$500 scholarship, and Miss Congeniality \$100 cash.**

Candidates must be female, ages 15-18, student in good standing, drug & alcohol free, and live in or be affiliated with family members in Aurora, Babbitt, Biwabik, Breitung, Britt, Eagles Nest, Ely, Embarrass, Greenwood, Hoyt Lakes, Kugler, Morse-Fall Lake, Palo, Pike Sandy, Soudan, Vermilion Lake, Waasa, White, Winton or Wuori.

For more information, contact Bonnie Overton at 218-780-3058 by April 15.

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BREITUNG

Breitung approves plans for major renovations at town hall

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- Architectural Resources will begin detail work on construction design for the township buildings rehab project now that the project plan has been selected. The board approved the residents' choice of Option B, the least expensive plan, with a few minor changes including increasing the size of the community center storage closet, adding kitchen counters, adding a janitor's closet, and moving the door to the fire chief's office. Supervisor Greg Dostert said

there may also need to be some sort of vestibule to keep the cold out. ARI plans to finish their drawings by mid-April and to receive bids by the end of April.

There will be another special deer hunt again this fall. The town board voted in favor of the town deer hunt after hearing results of last year's hunt from Jeremy Maslowski of the DNR. Maslowski gave a detailed report to township officials about the special deer hunt in Breitung and the Lake Vermilion Soudan Underground Mine State Park. He said the muzzleloader season

went from Nov. 24 to Dec. 9 and had 20 hunters with a bag limit of five. Only nine deer were taken. For the archery hunt, Nov. 24 through Dec. 31, there were 10 hunters, each with a bag limit of five. Ten deer were harvested. In the state park muzzleloader hunt, there were 10 hunters and 29 deer taken. Maslowski said that the purpose of the deer hunts is to reduce the population of deer in city limits to reduce disease, car accidents, and crop damage. He also recommended a township-wide ban on deer feeding, though the board took no action on this subject.

The township will be black-topping the unfinished portion of the State Park Road. The township-maintained road is eligible for \$144,000 of funding from the DNR State Park Aid Fund, but the state park funding does not cover engineering, which would cost an additional \$19,000. Chairman Tim Tomsich said that JPJ Engineering did the engineering for the other portions of the road so could possibly do the engineering needed for this project at a lower cost.

The township previously withheld \$960 of labor costs from BZAK Construction be-

cause the washer base the company installed broke soon after its installation. After speaking with Brian Zak the township decided to pay all but \$160 worth of labor costs. The broken base still needs to be addressed.

Supervisor Chuck Tekautz would like to remind residents that alleyways are not to be used as driveways and should not be blocked, even when not being maintained by the township. Alleyways need to be open in case someone needs to use it.

The next township meeting will be Wednesday, March 27

Free smoke detectors for Vermilion Lake Township residents

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Vermilion Lake Fire Department has smoke detectors that department members will install in township residents' homes or cabins, free of charge. If interested, please call Sarah Schmidt at 218-750-2524 or Jake Schmidt at 218-750-1024 to set up an appointment.

All township residents are reminded to check their smoke detectors on a regular basis, and replace batteries as needed!

St. James Lenten Schedule

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church of Tower 2019 Lenten Worship Theme is "The Kiss." March 24 - "The Kiss You Do Not Want", Proverbs 27:5-6
March 31 - "The Kiss of A Sinful Woman," Luke 7:36-50

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.

Passing the Family Cabin on to the Next Generation class set for April 24

TOWER-If your goal is to pass on the family cabin to the next generation, planning ahead is crucial. Together, a local attorney, Kelly Klun, from the Klun Law Office, and you can determine how the cabin will best fit into the family's future. A cabin trust is just one estate planning tool that can be utilized to help maintain and pass on the family hideaway. Learn about the specific trust provisions that could provide future instruction to your family on important issues such as taxes, maintenance, insurance, ownership and a potential sale. Learn about the preparation of an estate plan and how it should be thought of as a priceless preventative tool. Learn the process of taking the next step of developing an estate plan that protects both your family and your private hideaway. This free class will be held on Wednesday, April 24 in the Tower-Soudan Elementary School library at 4 p.m. You must pre-register so we can plan accordingly for class space and materials. Please call or text Leone Graf to pre-register at 218-343-3744. If no answer, please leave a message, with how to spell your name and the class you are interested in and the date of the class.

TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING Breitung Annual Meeting reports given

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- At the Breitung Annual meeting on March 12, township officials gave reports on last year's highlights.

Financial Report

Treasurer Jorgine Gornick's report showed an end-of-the-year balance of \$224,186. The balance is \$7,923 less than the balance at the beginning.

The sheet showed liabilities of \$47,374, including a City of Tower Loan for \$2,374 that will be paid this year. She said the remaining balance will be paid off during the following year.

The township has \$821,108 in reserve funds, \$225,202 in total operating funds, \$4,325,722 in total assets, \$4,325,722 in total liabilities and equity, total income of \$1,341,681, total expenses of \$1,355,263 a net income of -\$13,582.

Road and Bridge Report

During the first three months of the year, Breitung maintenance did usual snow plowing and street sanding; roads were graded as weather permitted. The department had to work on frozen water lines and a water leak at the hydrant on Church Street and installed a flagpole at the baseball field.

In May, June, and July, the department had a berm constructed around the gravel pit and had the area logged. They repaired some water drainage issues in the alley west of Poplar Street, picked up hockey boards from Bois Forte that are yet to be installed, repaired a storm drain on Stuntz Bay Road, and did grading and minor road fills.

From August through December, the maintenance department repaired two manholes that were leaking, one on South Street and one on Main Street. They put a drain line in a culvert on Thompson Road to make thawing the culvert safer. They put in a new culvert at the McKinley Park Campground and did regular winter prep work such as plowing, sanding, snow fencing, and taking docks out.

Breitung Fire and Rescue

Breitung Fire and Rescue did a total of 49 emergency calls including 12 service or public assistance, four structure fires, nine responds and cancel en route, two medical assistance, seven woodlands fires, 11 hazardous conditions, two rescues, one auto extraction, and one chimney fire. Mutual aid was given

en 27 times and received 13 times. Calls were up slightly; in 2017 there were a total of 43 calls. The department has 16 members, a far cry from the 25-person membership desired. Department meetings are held monthly, followed by monthly training sessions.

The fire department purchased water rescue equipment and conducted training on the equipment. Grant funds of \$1,000 each from Walmart and Lake Country Power helped offset costs. The department held numerous officer meetings for a reorganization of the department including a new policy manual, job descriptions, a new membership application, mission and vision statements, organizational chart, policy for frequent alarms, policy for auto extractions, and rules of engagement. The officers also worked on apparatus and equipment replacement, name change, and fire department history.

Breitung Fire and Rescue completed phase one of fire hall relocation to the other side of the building. The work included relocation of the washer/extractor and gear dryer, painting of ceiling, and new lighting and ceiling fans. They changed their name to Breitung Fire and Rescue to reflect the services to the township, and purchased a new high pressure portable pump for rural and island use.

Breitung Police Department

The Breitung Police Department said their busiest days were Friday and Saturday and that their busiest month was July.

The department was busy with community involvement. They taught DARE classes at the Tower-Soudan Elementary, taught Truth About Drugs at Vermilion Country School, participated in the Tower 4th of July parade with two floats, and was at the Breitung 4th of July Community Picnic. They did Big Truck Night at the Breitung Rec Area, gave out candy on Tower's main street for Halloween, participated in Stuff the Ambulance in Virginia which allowed them to do Shop with a Cop. They gave out certificates for ice cream to children caught bicycling with a helmet for I Got Caught, and went to Twins Fest with the DARE program.

The ending mileage on the black Ford Explorer, owned by Breitung, was 16,384 and ending mileage for the gold Chevy Tahoe, owned by Tower, was 77,733. The squads are equipped with Watchguard Camera, CF-31 Panasonic

Toughbook Squad, Computer with docking station, Pentax Pocketjet Printer, Stalker DUAL DSR Radar, Alco-Sensor IV PBT, Laser Labs Tint Meter, M16 Patrol Rifle, Mossberg 870 Shotgun, Zoll AED, Motorola 800 mhz squad radio, Taser X26P, and Stalker XLR LIDAR

McKinley Park Campground

McKinley Park Campground showed \$144,867 in revenue for 2018, \$4,712 more than the year before. McKinley Park also had its bathrooms remodeled over the summer with revenue generated by park users.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Tim Tomsich was not able to attend the meeting, but in writing thanked the residents for their attendance and participation. He thanked the employees, volunteers, clerk, and treasurer. "Your continued dedication, integrity, and work ethics result in an open and effective township government," he wrote.

Tomsich reported on the township's highlights of 2018 including a \$57,000 grant from CBDG for sewer maintenance. He reported that the police moved from their shed-office into the surface building, that the fire department began their transfer into the former maintenance area, and that the township was awarded two grants totaling \$295,000 for the town hall and surface building improvement projects.

The town board conducted a study of the costs of switching to a hired clerk/treasurer and decided the costs outweighed the benefits involved. However, residents in the meeting spoke up and voted that the township keep the option open to address again at the next annual meeting.

The annual PILT state tax payment of \$160,000 to the township will be preserved through legislation that the governor signed into law, thus it will not be reduced if tax values drop below \$32 million. An ordinance regulating the process of thawing frozen water lines in Soudan was enacted in 2018. A dedication of the new flag pole and flag-raising ceremony at the ball field was held in May. Supervisor Chuck Tekautz added that there were also dedication ceremonies for the state park opening and the Hwy. 169 project.

Defensive Driving 4-Hour classes

SOUDAN- The Defensive Driving 4-Hour Refresher will be held on Monday, April 1, Wednesday, May 1, or Thursday, June 13 at the Soudan Fire Hall from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. The four-hour refresher course is offered for drivers 55 years of age and older who have previously completed an eight-hour beginner's course and who need to re-certify to continue receiving a discount on their car insurance. Dana Waldron is the instructor for the class

offered under AARP. Class fee is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Payment is payable to the instructor on the day of class. You must pre-register so we can plan accordingly for class space and materials. Please text or call Leone Graf to pre-register at 218-343-3744. If no answer, please leave a message with your name and spelling, phone number and the class you are interested in.

SOUDAN SKATING RINK IS CLOSED FOR THE SEASON

Valeda McDonald,
Breitung Township

Cook VFW
Open Daily at Noon
CLOSED on TUESDAYS

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

Event Rentals Welcome
218-780-6709

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Lic. 00390

Sunday FREE Pool

Thursday Bingo
Early Bird 6 p.m.
Progressive Prizes

Friday 4:30-7 p.m.
Hamburger Special

Take-Out 666-0500

Red Hats planning trips to two area musicals

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 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.

FASTER INTERNET?

Community invited to attend planning meeting for future broadband projects on Wednesday

TOWER- Community members from Tower, surrounding townships, and Lake Vermilion Reservation are invited to attend a Blandin Broadband Community vision meeting to establish the area's broadband needs and priorities, and to decide on projects to improve Internet access and use in the Tower area. The vision meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 27 at the Tower Civic Center. A light meal will be served at 4:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 5 p.m.

new Blandin Broadband Communities, a program that provides planning, technical, and financial support to communities that demonstrate the determination to bring the benefits of a broadband-enabled economy to their communities. These four communities will have access to a special grant fund; projects will have to meet Blandin Foundation standards in order to be funded.

Representatives from Blandin Foundation, IRRRB, and community leaders will be at the meeting to help participants identify

our community's strengths and gaps, brainstorm project ideas, and prioritize potential projects. Cross-sector and collaborative efforts will be a priority; the greater impact the project can make, the better. Once projects emerge, our area will have the opportunity to apply for up to \$75,000 in total grant funding over two years.

For questions or to RSVP, please contact Stephanie Ukkola at stephanie.ukkola@gmail.com or 715-969-7728.

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Greenwood annual meeting updates

GREENWOOD TWP- In other business at the Greenwood Township Annual meeting, residents:

➤ Passed a voice vote option to have the town board send a letter or pass a resolution asking that St. Louis County pave the county-owned section of Breezy Point Road. Jeff Maus noted that township residents pay a substantial amount of taxes to St. Louis County.

➤ Discussed the Lake Vermilion Bike Trail. Lee Peterson was concerned the trail would end up in the Highway 115 right-of-way, which would not be desirable.

➤ Discussed the township's insurance policy issues, and the need for the board to adopt personnel policies that would have MATIT put the township back on its policy, therefore saving the township the cost of the supplemental policy they now have to purchase at a cost of approximately \$9,000 year, according to Jeff Maus. a Chairman Mike Ralston noted that the Department of Labor and In-

dustry told the township that they do not have employees, they have elected officials and part-time fire department members, who are not considered employees. Carmen DeLuca noted that MATIT has told the township they will put them back on the policy in May or June.

➤ Heard from Clerk Sue Drobac who asked that the board be sure to read policies that they are voting on at meetings, noting that last year board members approved a copy of fire department policies that had been submitted to the clerk without the updates and corrections that had been discussed.

➤ Heard that the canister site area is being kept cleaner by users, and that the council has arranged for additional canisters to be delivered over holiday weekends, when usage is heavy.

➤ Discussed the issue of town hall maintenance. The town board is currently using contractors for town hall cleaning, snowplowing, and grass cutting.

Clerk Drobac noted that TJ

Kladivo has done a wonderful job with plowing for the township.

Volunteers are taking care of the flag at the town hall.

Gene Baland recommended the town board keep a current list of volunteers willing to help out on projects as needed.

➤ Heard from Ralston that brushing may need to be done on Birch Point Extension again this year.

➤ Heard that LED lighting has been installed in the town hall.

➤ Heard the fire department responded to 43 fire calls, 15 rescue calls, and 133 EMS calls. Chief Dave Fazio reported that over 2,200 hours were put in by department members, including 990 training hours. Fazio noted that for many of the fire calls, the fires were out by the time the department arrived.

Readers can find the rest of the news from the annual meeting online at www.timberjay.com or in the March 15 edition.

THE NEWS OF THE WEEK FROM MS. VERA MILION



Dear Hearts,

I really do hate this time of year. Don't think that I am anti-spring or anything like that.

Heavens to Betsy, I have these words embroidered on my garden hat, "I garden; therefore, I like dirt and mud!"

We gardeners are a special group. We are blessed with magic eyes which enable us in the spring to squint our eyes and see clouds of daffodils, corn as high as an elephant's eye, and not an unwanted plant in sight.

You stand on the deck or the garden's edge and see row after neat row of vegetables. We are one with nature until the wind in the corn whispers Mother Earth's enigmatic and eternal song, "Weed Me, Weed Me."

As the season passes you are reminded of that unwritten horticultural rule which runs something like this, "The more money you pay for a plant, the more it becomes 'Today's Special'

for the neighborhood deer herd."

Hilda and I are beseeching the DNR to modify the rules—a summer hunting season, and if you have a garden, no license necessary. The hunting season needs to be earlier...right after the ground thaws.

Our new motto is 'SAVE OUR GARDENS ...Deer today...Venison sausage tomorrow.'

We need sweat-shirts.

WEEDS are another plant problem.

Weeds will sneak in and choke those plants for which you wrote a \$375 check and now have to tell the bank that, "... the car payment has been mailed! I am not to be held liable for the inefficiency of the United States Postal System! It was never like this when Truman was president." Slam down the phone and IMMEDIATELY order caller ID!

You turn your back for one minute and suddenly what was supposed to be a corn patch, or a pansy bed, becomes a home for crab grass, dandelions, quack grass, and nutsedge. We had not heard of 'nutsedge' until the county agent stopped by and identified the un-

wanted garden guest last summer.

It made a nice border!

I am thinking of putting a lot of money into daylilies this summer; I just got the OAKES catalog, thirty-six pages of temptation and daylily recipes.

No names given so this one is Sister Susie's Sauté.

12 daylily flowers
2 chive flowers broken into florets

1/2 teaspoon salt

Put all ingredients into a frying pan. Cover and simmer until just tender and all moisture is cooked away. Do not overcook. Serve hot as a cooked vegetable. For added richness, toss with butter just before serving.

Next recipe is....

Oriental Daylily Buds
Serves 2 to 4

2 cups daylily buds
1 tablespoon peanut oil

1/4 cup almond slivers

1 teaspoon freshly grated ginger

1 tablespoon tamari or soy sauce

1 tablespoon water

2 cups cooked brown rice

Steam daylily buds for 10 to 15 minutes, until

tender. In a wok or heavy skillet, heat the oil over a high heat until very hot. Add the almond slivers, sauté until browned.

Quickly remove the almonds from the pan, set aside.

Turn heat down to medium. Add grated ginger and let it cook for 1 to 2 minutes. Add vinegar, tamari and water.

Stir to mix.

Toss in daylily buds. Serve over hot rice, topped with sautéed almonds.

I am almost SURE daylilies are not toxic.

Ta Ta.

P.S. Wouldn't you know, I just finished my billet-doux (look it up!!) and the Jung Seeds and Plants catalog arrived.

A new hosta has come into the world, Etched Glass, thirty-six inches wide and 18 inches tall.

They also have a Marjatta Hybrid Finnish Rhododendron, developed by the University of Minnesota. Mine bloomed last year, and I hope it has survived the winter— a great addition to the garden.

Ms. Vera Milion

Week of March 25

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 25

Spring Vacation- no school all week

Monday

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

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

Tuesday

Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is April 16.

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

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

Read the news from all three Timberjay editions each week

www.timberjay.com

Timberjay subscribers get free access to the online e-edition

the **TIMBERJAY**

The Tower-Soudan Timberjay and Cook-Orr Timberjay are published weekly on Friday by The Timberjay, Inc. Offices are at 414 Main St., Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 [218-753-2950], and PO Box 718, Ely, MN 55731 [218-365-3114]. Fax number is 218-753-2916. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Visit our website at www.timberjay.com.

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General Manager	Jodi Summit
Staff Writers	Melissa Roach Stephanie Ukkola Keith Vandervort
Ely Editor	Marcus White
Cook/Orr Editor	M. M. White
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Moving? Questions about your subscription? Call the Tower office at (218) 753-2950.
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Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, March 27; April 17; May 8	
Bois Forte Boys/Girls Club	11:00-11:30 a.m.
Greenwood Town Hall	12:00-12:30 p.m.
Soudan Fire Hall	1:45-3:00 p.m.
Tower Civic Center	3:15-4:15 p.m.
Embarrass, Four Corners	5:15-6:00 p.m.

Transfer station

Soudan Canister	<i>Expanded hours year-round</i>
Monday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wed.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
For info: 1-800-450-9278	
Hwy. 77 Canister	<i>Winter hours now in effect</i>
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	

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

Libraries

Ely library
Hours: Monday — Friday,
10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturdays — 8 a.m. to noon
Closed on Sundays
Phone: 365-5140

Babbitt library
Monday Noon-6 pm
Tuesday Noon-6 pm
Wednesday Noon-6 pm
Thursday Noon-6 pm
Friday Noon-5 pm
Phone: 827-3345

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
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 26 - Steve Kolbe - Boreal Chickadees

April 2 - Mary Setterholm and Heather Allison - ERA MN

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.

Play Smear at Senior Center

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



mix of ice and rain water freezing and melting soon to see sidewalks

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Job seekers get more help in Ely

EADA expands Job Placement Services Project Plan

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

ELY - Ely Area Development Association recently launched an expanded program whereby many of the job seeker services offered by the State of Minnesota in their Work Force Centers can be offered by the EADA staff here.

"We will continue to partner with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), and offer such services in our expanded offices in the Frandsen Bank Building," said Executive Director Gerald Tyler. "Our expanded program will provide job placement services to not only job seekers, but in addition, to area employers seeking employees to fill job openings."

The Ely Area Development Association's predecessor was originally formed

in 1959. Since that time its mission has been "to promote the development of economic, educational and charitable opportunities for the common benefit of the residents of Northeastern Minnesota," Tyler said.

DEED has established offices in many Minnesota communities to aid and assist job seekers in seeking employment. The State's Work Force Center Resource offices provide facilities and offer online access to MinnesotaWorks.net to those seeking jobs, yet the Resource area office nearest Ely is located in Virginia.

"Relatively few Ely area job seekers utilize DEED's facilities seeking resume preparation help, to attend workshops held to enhance job seeker's interviewing skills and to access labor market information," Tyler said. "Until recently job seekers were required to travel to

Virginia or Hibbing to do so. Yet many job seekers may not have a vehicle to travel to Virginia or Hibbing or a computer to access DEED's website."

EADA offers the following job placement services free of charge to the job seeker:

► Assist job seekers in the preparation of resumes, word processing, and job applications and perfecting their interviewing skills;

► Provide computers with internet and e-mail access, telephones and printers for job seekers to contact employers, submit job applications and conduct searches for job openings posted on-line by employers;

► Assist job seekers in their search for jobs with interaction by and between DEED, NorthForce (Duluth, Iron Range and Superior), Minnesota's Veterans Employment Representative and the St. Louis County Veterans Service Office;

► Establish a line of communications in our community between employers and job seekers; and interact with the Saint Louis County Public Health & Human Services and the St. Louis County Veteran's Service office; and

► Develop and maintain a website promoting the availability of job-search services and current known open employment positions.

Job seekers may access EADA's website and search the job postings at elymneada.org. Employers with job openings may email the job descriptions to them at eadaj@ gmail.com. The job openings will then be posted on EADA's website.

For more information, call EADA at 218-365-3324.

OUR COMMUNITY

Studio North dancers compete in Duluth

ELY - A group of dancers from Studio North participated earlier this month in the Masquerade Dance Competition at Symphony Hall at the DECC in Duluth.

Receiving awards were:
Solos/Duets/Trio - Teen Jazz Solo, Charlie Carlson, High Gold; Teen Contemporary Duet, Madelyne Roderick and Lauren Olson, High Gold; Junior Lyrical Solo, Bella Davis, High Gold and Judge's Choice Award; Junior Contemporary Duet, Charlotte Hegman and Janae Murphy, High Gold; Junior Jazz Trio, Chloe Anderson, Senja Kess, Rylee Larsen, Gold.

Groups - All High Gold winners: Teen Contemporary Small Group, Teen Jazz Small Group, Junior Large Group Jazz, Junior Large Group Lyrical, Mini Large Group Hip Hop, and Mini Large Group Jazz.



Above: Bella Davis won the Junior Lyrical Solo High Gold and Judge's Choice Award. submitted photos



Right: Madelyne Roderick and Lauren Olson won the Teen Contemporary Duet.

Below: The Studio North Dance Team



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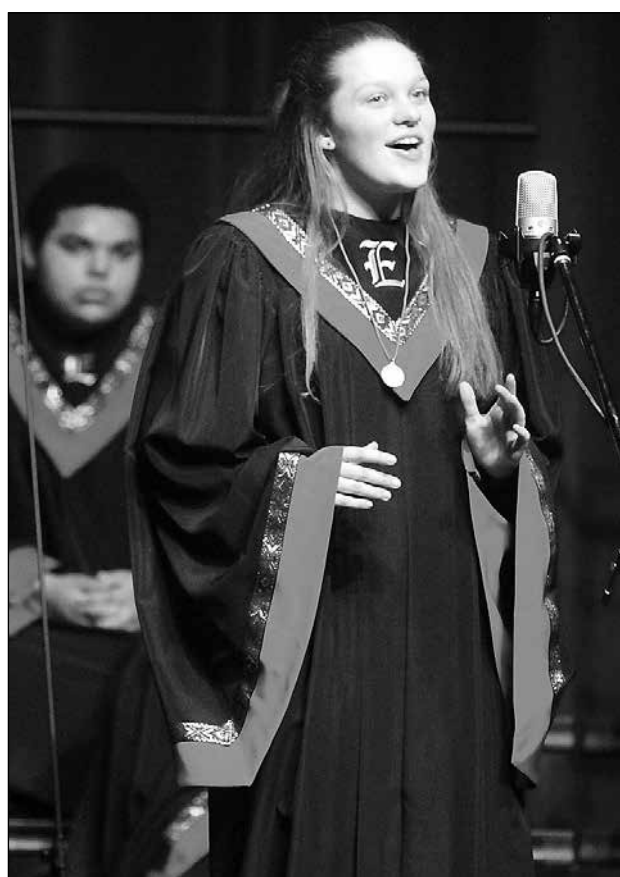
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ELY MEMORIAL SCHOOL

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS



The Ely Memorial School choir and band departments presented the annual Music in Our Schools Concert on March 7. Performances were presented by the High School Choir, top, Middle School Choir, 6th Grade Band, above, 7th/8th Grade Band, High School Band, and the cast of "Giants in the Sky," below. Soloists Matt Janeksela and Grace Erickson, above, were honored for their achievements at the recent Minnesota State High School League Music Contest.

photos by K. Vandervort



News in In Brief

Women Who Care meet Sunday

ELY – Area women (and men) can make a difference in this community by joining 100+ Ely Women Who Care to support local nonprofits.

Anyone can join them for their next fundraising gathering on Sunday, March 24, from 4-6 p.m., at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S 1st Ave.

The event includes a social time where members greet old friends and make new ones. They then get down to business, and using a process of nominations and votes, select one local charity to receive their donations.

For more details and to register, go to 100ElyWomenWhoCare.org.

Have coffee with a cop

ELY – Join members of the Ely Police Department at the Front Porch Coffee and Tea Co. on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. for Coffee with a Cop.

The program was started as a community-police initiative to build relationships between law enforcement and the community they serve. "This event will provide a way to meet a police officer from the Ely Police Department in an informal and relaxed setting," said Chief John Lahtonen.

Feel free to stop by, grab a cup of coffee and have a chat with the police officer, who will have discussion topics on hand for those who just want to listen.

Arts grant deadline is Wednesday

ELY - The first Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust arts grant cycle of 2019 has an application deadline of Wednesday, March 27.

Grant forms and eligibility requirements are available on the Gardner Humanities Trust website at www.gardnertrust.org. Those without Internet access can contact Keiko Williams by phone at 218-365-2639 or email at info@gardnertrust.org to have an application mailed to them.

The deadline for applications will be noon on Wednesday. Completed applications can be mailed to the Trust office at P.O. Box 720, Ely, MN 55731 or dropped off at the Ely City Hall, Clerk's Office, at 209 E. Chapman Street.



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GRIZZLY PRIDE



The North Woods Grizzlies Boys Basketball Team is off to state again! Will this year be the year they make it all the way and bring home the championship trophy to the Northland? Fans from Cook (including this crew from Little Beginnings Daycare, above, the the staff from North Star Credit Union, below) lined the streets as the team bus went by Wednesday morning. The team made their way to Minneapolis the day before they were to open the tournament against Westbrook-Walnut Grove on Thursday. More details on the final games of the Section 7A Tournament and preview of the state tourney can be found on page B1. photos by B. Smith



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 NWEA 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 NWEA 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 Whit-enack at 218-666-2153 or Shawna Kishel at 218-780-6510. Checks written to NWEA can be dropped off at the NWEA Gallery in Cook or mailed to NWEA, 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. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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Holy Cross Catholic Church
ANNUAL LENTEN FISH FRY
Friday, April 5 • 5-7 PM
Orr American Legion
Dinner includes:
All-you-can-eat cod loins, potatoes, salads, rolls, dessert, beverages.
Adults \$12
Children (10 and under) \$5
All proceeds go to our general fund/youth fund to support various projects.
Please bring an item for the Food Shelf.

NEWS FROM THE LAKE

Crane Lake News by the Singing Teapot Dames



Dare we hope that warmer temps and melting snow are here to stay? It is State Tournament time in Minnesota, so you know that we are likely to get dumped on at least one more time. However, 50s are predicted for the weekend, and we will probably all take those temps with a smile and a pair of sunglasses! Just hoping we can avoid the flooding that seems to be plaguing some of the central Midwestern states.

Signs of spring are starting to evidence themselves, some good

and some not-so-good. Texas and Florida are evidencing high pollen counts, and those with allergies are experiencing the effects. Don't go too far away from your allergy pills and a supply of tissues or you will be sorry. However, the bluebonnets, Indian paintbrush, and winecups are flooding the ditches and open grassy areas with a gorgeous array of color. A pleasure for the eyes after the drabness of winter. The bluebonnet is the Texas State Flower and, as such, they are protected. It is against the law to pick them—they are to be enjoyed by all.

Did you hoist a "pint" of green beer in honor of St. Paddy's Day? Or maybe even a pint of Guinness? If so, you were not alone. Sales of Guinness skyrocket on St. Patrick's Day with about 13 million pints hoisted last year. A former Minnesota Governor got in trouble for commenting

on the streets of St. Paul, which he alleged were planned by a bunch of Irishmen, and that's why they are so crooked and have no rhyme or reason for their layout. Do you remember which governor that was? Hint: It was the same one that celebrated the Governor's Fishing Opener at Crane Lake.

Another sign of spring is that baseball has started. Spring training has begun for the pro teams. Did you know that Babe Ruth wore a cabbage leaf under his baseball cap to help keep him cool? Professional baseball uniforms were made of wool until the 1940s, rendering most players a sweaty mess during the midsummer months. As such, the Babe introduced to his teammates an unusual technique for keeping cool. He pried the leaves off a head of cabbage and spread them over the ice in a cooler. When they were sufficiently chilled, a leaf under

the cap would supply much-needed relief for a few innings before needing to be replaced. A large man with an extra-large noggin, the Babe was said to require two leaves for the method to be fully effective.

High school sports are ending their winter season and transitioning to Spring sports, like track, baseball, tennis, etc. Short seasons in our neck of the woods. Proms and graduations are soon to be on our horizons. In the meantime, good luck to the North Woods boys basketball team, heading to the State Tournament for the third year in a row.

Let us hear from you! Send news by e-mail to info@thelake-country.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!

GRIZZLY UPDATE

Meet Mrs. Denise Parson

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

This week we interview another of our seasoned elementary staff. In addition to teaching at North Woods, Mrs. Parson is our Community Education Coordinator, and is also a parent of a North Woods student and a North Woods graduate. Her son Brendan (2018 graduate) was an integral part of the Grizzlies' very successful football and basketball seasons the last couple years.

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

Mrs. P: I grew up in Pine River. I have an AA from Brainerd Community College, a BS in K-6 Elementary Education from Bemidji State University and a master's degree in Education-Differentiated Instruction from Concordia in St. Paul.

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

Mrs. P: Yes, I feel like I had many that I really liked for different reasons. Ms. Jones from 6th grade was one of my favorites. Mrs. Torske, my first-grade teacher was another favorite.

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

Mrs. P: Ms. Jones had a relaxed demean-

or with lots of humor and yet very academic. I loved the balance she had. Mrs. Torske was very loving and motherly and yet helped create independence in us.

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

Mrs. P: I have taught everything except Kindergarten, 4th grade and regular high school classes. Now I teach 3rd grade and love it!!!

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

Mrs. P: I spent many hours playing school in my basement. I had a mini classroom set up with even a grade book. I thought it was so fun to correct papers and record grades. Now, it is my least favorite duty of teaching because it isn't spent with kids. I chose teaching for of course the love for kids, but making a difference in little lives has such a positive im-



JOHN VUKMANICH



DENISE PARSON

pact on me personally and hopefully on the students as well.

Mr. V: What are your hobbies?

Mrs. P: Hobby? I haven't had one of those since pre-children. I do enjoy snowmobiling, spending time with my family and being outside landscaping and tending to my flowers. I love to vacation and the beach is always a good choice. My favorite time though is spent on the lake boating on a hot summer day. I do hope to get back to some hobbies in a year or so when I have an empty nest.

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

Mrs. P: The staff and students pitch in to help no matter what. You can count on them like family. Small schools are special!

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

Mrs. P: I have 39 credits beyond my master's degree so I would really like to finish taking enough classes to complete my lanes. I have always been interested in administration, but I don't know if I will pursue it. I am getting old! I do want to try teaching at the college level, so I might dabble in that.

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

Mrs. P: The landscape is gorgeous and unique!

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

Mrs. P: Believe in yourself!

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

Mrs. P: Nothing changes if nothing changes

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

Mrs. P: That I was loving, had humor and yet pushed students to learn and challenge themselves.

Thanks to Mrs. Parson for taking some time out of her busy day to give us a snapshot of her world, and thanks for all that she does for our kids at North Woods School. Go Grizzlies! Good luck at State!

Your principal, John Vukmanich

Mail-A-Book services available

REGIONAL- With-cold winter weather here and driving can be difficult, paperback books, DVDs, and audio books on CD can arrive in your mailbox.

The Mail-A-Book service from the Arrowhead Library System (ALS) loans paperback books and other items via the U.S. Mail, free of charge. This tax-supported service delivers library items directly to your mailbox, including the cost of postage. They arrive in a canvas bag with a return label and prepaid return postage.

Who is eligible for this service? Rural residents and people who live in a city without a public library. Paper catalogs listing more than 1,000 items are sent out twice a year to more than 2,250 households. If you are interested in cooking, audio books on CD, DVDs, inspirational books, or

children's items, they also have catalogs listing the titles available from Mail-A-Book. Do you have a favorite author? Mail-A-Book can provide you with a list of available titles by that author. Also, Mail-A-Book items are listed in the regional online catalog via the Internet at www.alslib.info/online_catalog/.

Items can be ordered by postcard, e-mail, phone, or a form on the ALS website at www.alslib.info/services/mail-a-book and mailbook@alslib.info, or 218-741-3840.

Find Mail-A-Book on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo.

If you need "large print" reading materials, the Arrowhead Library System has a collection of large print books.

Mail-A-Book staff are always happy to respond to your questions.

Wi-Fi hotspots available for checkout at Cook Library

COOK- The Cook Public Library owns five wireless hotspots available for check out. A hotspot is a portable Wi-Fi device that allows you to connect your computer, tablet, smart phone and other devices to the Internet.

Hotspot Terms of Use

Eligibility: Borrowers must have an Arrowhead Library System library card. This card must be in good standing. Borrowers must sign the Hotspot User Agreement at check out. If under 18, a borrower must have a parent or caregiver sign the Hotspot User Agreement at check out.

Check Out Terms: The hotspot loan period is seven days. Hotspots cannot be renewed. Hotspots circulate only from the Cook Public Library. Hotspots are not available for interlibrary loan. Internet service will be disconnected if the hotspot is overdue. Hotspots cannot be used outside of the United States.

Check In Terms: Hotspots cannot be placed in the overnight drop. Hotspots must be returned to the circulation counter. All items listed on the packing slip must be returned at the time of check in.

Coverage Area: Disclaimer: The hotspot relies on an AT&T 4G signal. There may be some areas without coverage.

Funding for these hotspots was provided through the Blandin Broadband Grant. This grant was awarded to the Grizzlies community to support projects and raise awareness about Internet resources and services.

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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.

Steve Bragg receives Big Hitter Award from Calhoun Companies

REGIONAL- Steve Bragg recently received the 2018 Big Hitter Award at the Calhoun Companies Awards breakfast celebration in Minneapolis. This award was given to the most productive 6 of 21 Calhoun agents servicing a five-state area. He also received an award for being one of the top five listers in the company. Calhoun Companies has been selling businesses and commercial properties since 1908. Bragg operates the Arrowhead Office working with business owners from Ashland, Wis., to Lake of the Woods and buyers from all over the world.

SWOP Ham Dinner

MT. IRON- The Summer Work Outreach Project (SWOP) invites the public to the 23rd Annual SWOP Ham Dinner. The dinner will be held Tuesday, March 26 from 4-7 p.m. at the Mt. Iron Community Center, 8586 Enterprise Dr. S in Mt. Iron. Live music will go from 5-6:30 p.m.

The menu includes glazed ham, cheesy potatoes, green beans almandine, fresh baked dinner roll, frosted cake, coffee, and punch. Adults cost \$10 each, children 10 and under \$6 each. There will be a silent auction, door prizes, and a split-the-pot drawing. Sit-down service will be provided by the SWOP youth. Carry-outs are also available.

To learn more about SWOP, visit the website at www.swopyouth.com. This event is supported by the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA).

Road Runners Special Olympic Team collecting shoes

REGIONAL- The Road Runners Special Olympics team is having a shoe drive to collect new and gently-worn footwear. The collection will run from now until May. Shoes can be dropped off at ERDAC in Eveleth, with any Road Runner athlete or coach, or at door 8 at the Mesabi College in Virginia on Mondays and Wednesdays during the Road Runners' practices. Babbitt area drop-off is at Rural Living next to US Bank. Please call Leola at 218-741-5068, Lynn at 218-780-5916, or Roxy at 218-780-0196 for questions or to arrange shoe pick-up.



Your donations make a difference....

Tower Area Food Shelf is located in the back (lower level) of the Timberjaya 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 Timberjaya 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.- 12 noon and 1 - 3 p.m. Donations can be mailed to PO Box 633, Cook, MN 55723. Questions, call 218-666-2715.

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.

ELY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

28th Annual Smile You're in Ely, April 2

ELY- The Ely Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual spring event 'Smile, You're in Ely' on Tuesday, April 2 at the Grand Ely Lodge. The event will consist of a social hour starting at 5 p.m., buffet dinner at 5:45 p.m., door prizes, business networking opportunities, Chamber news, and a special keynote speaker.

Lynne Jensen-Nelson, founder of Conversion-omics, will be the keynote speaker. Jensen-Nelson is a nationally acclaimed speaker and industry expert in active brand management, creating sales training solutions, and developing competitive advantages. Is your business looking for direction on marketing and

branding strategies? Have you identified what sets your business apart from your competitors? Jensen-Nelson will provide the tools and tips to answer those questions.

Smile You're in Ely serves as the Ely Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting, but is always open to the entire business community and general public. Ever wonder exactly



how the Ely Chamber of Commerce serves both businesses and the community? Join us and find out. We will provide highlights from the past year and the direction we are headed in for 2019.

The cost of the event is \$25 and includes a buffet dinner. Pre-registration is required. For further information or to register, stop by the Chamber office at 1600 E Sheridan St.,

Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. or call 218-365-6123. The deadline for registration is Thursday, March 28.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Marion K. Sederstrom

Marion Kathlene Saari Sederstrom, 90, of Tower, passed away peacefully in her sleep the evening of Saturday, March 16, 2019, at her home. Visitation will be held from 3-5 p.m. on Sunday, March 24 at Bauman-Vermilion Funeral Home in Tower. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, March 25 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower, with a family graveside service at Beckville Lutheran Church in Litchfield at a later date. Memorials are preferred to Immanuel Lutheran Church Choir, PO Box 466, Tower, MN 55790.

Marion was born on May 20, 1928, the daughter of an iron miner and a schoolteacher. Marion grew up in Soudan and loved both the communities of Tower and Soudan dearly, along with Lake Vermilion and the Saari family island, with cabin and sauna built by her father. Surviving the hardship years of the Great Depression left lasting lessons about how to live a happy life.

After graduating from Tower-Soudan High School in 1946, Marion studied at the University of Minnesota's School of Home Economics on the St. Paul campus, where she met the love of her life, Don Sederstrom.

They made a dashing couple, and after college began their great adventure together with unique challenges - Don helping his father with the family farm at Beckville, southwest of Litchfield, while Marion took a teaching job in Morris. After they were married on Dec. 30, 1950, Marion joined him to work the dairy farm, and in the coming years they were blessed with

three children, Noel, Beth and Leigh.

Theirs was a life centered around a one-room country schoolhouse a mile away and Don's home church, Beckville Lutheran, where for years Marion was the organist. Their life evolved, with Don launching a fertilizer-farm supply business in Litchfield, and Marion landing the home economics teaching position at Litchfield Senior High School.

Don's personal history with the International Farm Youth Exchange program during college led them to become hosts of numerous foreign exchange students over the years, from six different nations. Marion and Don were asked to be among the first Americans to tour the People's Republic of China after the thaw of relations with the U.S. in the 1970s.

Marion also traveled to Finland with her sister Natalie and developed a passion for promoting Finnish culture and heritage. This became an ever bigger part of her life when she and Don did a turn-about in 2007 and retired north to her hometown, and Finnish pulla (sweet bread) and pastries flowed from her kitchen.

Marion brought her beloved violets north with her. She had launched a home-based business as a Mary Kay beauty consultant and after her teaching career was over, she continued that role into her later years, even after Don passed away in 2014. Marion was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Tower, where she sang in the choir; she also maintained a relationship with her home church, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran of Soudan.

Marion is survived by her children, Noel

(Cindy) Sederstrom of Rochester, Beth Malmgren of Minneapolis and Leigh (Tim) Lillquist of Tower; four grandchildren, Christopher Sederstrom of Minneapolis, Nicolette (Jason) Whitney of Portage, Mich., Donald (Katie) Quinn III of Woodbury and Dr. Maggie Quinn of Costa Mesa, Calif.; three great-grandchildren, Alex and Andrew Whitney and Emmett Quinn; numerous nieces and nephews; and her Yorkie, Sadie.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald; parents, Gust and Elina Saari; and sisters, Ethel and Natalie.



Richard D. Tomsich

Richard Dean "Rick" Tomsich, 61, of Tower, passed away on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at Essentia Health St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth. A Memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 30 at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower with Rev. Fr. Nick Nelson as celebrant. A gathering of family and friends will be for one hour prior to Mass at the church. Spring burial will be at Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia.

Rick was born on Aug. 8, 1957, in Ely, the youngest of seven children, to Leonard "Lanko" and Nelmi (Carlson) Tomsich. Rick was a lifelong resident of Tower. He attended Tower-Soudan High School, where he played basketball and football, graduating in 1975. He learned the family business, Tower Bakery, firsthand, alongside his parents and sisters and brothers. He worked at the bakery from age 14 until its closing in 1990. He then worked for Pep's Bakery in Virginia for many years and continued on to make the famous "Tower Bakery" pasties for everyone to enjoy.

Rick loved the outdoors. He was an avid grouse and deer hunter, with both rifle and bow. He liked to play darts and pool and was a member of the Iron Range Men's Pool League. He also enjoyed

watching the Vikings and Twins. Rick was proficient at doing sudoku and crossword puzzles and was a master of both. He was hardly ever seen around town without his dog by his side. He was a member of St. Martin's Catholic Church of Tower.

Rick lived with multiple health challenges his entire life, but he displayed a consistently optimistic outlook with his easygoing nature. He was humble, kind, and had a great sense of humor. He is gone too soon.

Rick is survived by three brothers, Leonard (Judith) Tomsich of New Baltimore, Mich., Barry (Gail Nelson) Tomsich of Crosslake and Timothy (Lori) Tomsich of Soudan; three sisters, Cathy (Jim) Wright of Tower, Nancy Larson of Soudan and Robin (Sheldon) Majerle of Tower; aunt, Helen Lakner of Ely; nephews, nieces and numerous cousins; his dog, Breeze; many great friends; and all the people whose lives he touched.

He was preceded in death by his parents; niece, Jill (Tomsich) Langley; and brother-in-law, Richard Larson.

Melvin E. Edstrom Jr.

Melvin E. "Mel" Edstrom Jr., 74, of Orr, died on Sunday, March 17, 2019, at home surrounded by his loving family. A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

He is survived by his wife, Rae; children, James (Linda) Edstrom of Eveleth and Jeremy (Staci) Edstrom of Lincoln, Neb.; ten grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; brothers, Dennis Edstrom of Arizona and Ricky (Linda) Dolinsek of Eveleth; and sister, Jane (Jack) Stanaway of Eveleth.

Richard D. Steinbach

Richard Daniel Steinbach, 44, of International Falls, formerly of Cook, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Monday, March 11, 2019. A Memorial Mass was held on Thursday, March 21 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Cook. Military honors were accorded by the Honor Guards of Cook VFW Post 1757 and Orr American Legion Post 480. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

DAISY BAY...Continued from page 1

recommending an environmental assessment and a review by an engineer due to the steep slopes on the site. Schlotec called that request unfair, noting that such a review wasn't required for the BayView case.

Senior Planner Jenny Bourbonais said that's because the slopes at BayView are not as steep. Schlotec's plan calls for portions of the RV park to be on land with as much as a 14-percent grade in some cases.

Schlotec said BayView has more elevation difference between the road and the lake than Daisy Bay. Planners, however, pointed out the locations of the slope were different.

Schlotec said the requirement was "putting the cart before horse" since there was no guarantee that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency or Department of Health would ask for an environmental or engineer's review and it was not in the county's jurisdiction to request one since state agencies generally were the ones to make the review request.

"She (Schlotec) wants to wait on whether the MPCA will want it (a report)," Bourbonais said. "I think what the applicant is saying that we will get the engineer's report because of what other agencies may require."

Bourbonais said the request for further review was an effort to leverage concerns raised by county staff and by letters

submitted by concerned neighbors.

No one spoke in favor of the project during public comments, but a group of 10 families had banded together to air their grievances over the project.

Jerry Hoel spoke for the group.

"We don't think it is a reasonable request to put this into a residential neighborhood," Hoel said. "The project is designed to bring a maximum amount of revenue. The applicant is asking to change the resort from a mom and pop business to an RV park that will see a 900-percent increase in RV traffic. We understand that there is a law. We don't think the point of the law was to change the nature of an operation from mom and pop resorts to RV parks." He pointed to a provision in the county's conditional use permit ordinance requiring projects to be "in harmony with the neighborhood."

Hoel also brought up the previous BayView permit when it came to residents' concerns over screening of the RV park from view. He said unlike in the previous application, most of the trees would have to be removed from the Daisy Bay Resort to make room for RV sites.

He said too much focus was being put on the "Lake Vermilion experience" for people who don't own property on the lake, and not enough attention was being put on the people who do own property. "You will be adding it for some, but

you will be removing it from the people who are already there," Hoel said.

Another resident, Shelley Padgett, said she was against the project because of public safety concerns. She said she was concerned about the amount of traffic the new RV sites would bring to County Rd. 77 which she said already had enough traffic. She also said she was concerned about an increase in drunk drivers, especially after damage done to properties several years ago by an intoxicated driver leaving another resort on the road.

Planning Commission member Roger Skraba questioned why the information on drunk drivers was related and requested

that Chair Sonya Pineo cut Padgett off.

Padgett said her complaints were valid, while Skraba said drunk drivers were not at issue with the permit. Pineo allowed Padgett to continue but later asked her to leave the hearing after she spoke out of turn once public comments had ended.

Other issues raised by residents included increased smoke from campfires along with an increase of boater traffic creating an unsafe environment for swimmers on the bay.

Following the public comments, the board once again took up discussion.

Skraba returned to the subject of whether an environmental and engineer's

review was necessary.

"I am in the inclination that the engineering plan would come in at another level. I don't think we need it," he said.

On buffers and screening, board member Dave Pollack said he didn't feel the permit needed to address it since the county already had strict ordinances in place to ensure those conditions were met.

Both Pollack and Skraba said there wasn't a way that the county could control smoke from campfires and Schlotec said she doubted there would be a fire at every site each night. On the topic of increased traffic, Pineo said it was not out of the ordinary to have MnDOT come and do an analysis. She ques-

tioned why this wasn't a condition in the staff report but erosion control was.

County planner Jared Ecklund said MnDOT had typically only looked at a project when additional entrances were being put in place, which was not the case with the Daisy Bay project.

When Pineo called for a vote, the board members all approved of the conditional use permit. The plan will next head to the MPCA, Department of Health, and possibly the DNR, depending on whether Schlotec plans to move forward with adding more dock space.

The full county commission will vote on the project at a later date.

SHOPKO...Continued from page 1

wasn't a total surprise that this ended up this way, and the only statement I have is that it sucks," Novak said. "It will be no more. I don't have a crystal ball as to how it's going to work."

Novak is hopeful that the public's trek out of town for shopping is a short-term deal, not a long one. "I cut the ribbon in 2008 when the store opened here, and I get to wrap the ribbon back up in 2019, and that's kind of a sad day," he said. "It really is."

The Wisconsin-based retailer which owns and operates 134 Shopko stores, 176 Shopko Hometown locations, 18 Shopko Pharmacy locations, and five Shopko Express stores, filed for bankruptcy on Jan. 16. Company officials had initially indicated they planned to continue to operate the Ely store and had been attempting to sell off some of its properties as part of a restructuring. On Monday, however, the company announced that despite its best efforts, a buyer was not found after announcing a plan for financial restructuring in January.

The company had scheduled an auction for Tuesday morning in the hopes of driving up the price of initial bids that were due last week. On Monday, it announced the auction was canceled and that one of its bankruptcy consultants will oversee a liquidation process over the next 10-12 weeks.

"This is not the outcome that we had hoped for when we started our restructuring efforts," said Russ Steinhorst, Chief Executive Officer of Shopko. "We want to thank all of our teammates

for their hard work and dedication during their time at Shopko."

The wind-down of its retail operations will start this week, with the liquidation process ending in about 10-12 weeks.

The company has six other locations in the Northland, including stores in Duluth, Aitkin, Moose Lake, and Two Harbors. Like Ely, all were initially spared as part of the original restructuring plan. All are now expected to close by June 16.

David Livingston, a Midwestern retail analyst, said the chain's demise is no surprise. "They weren't able to offer anything compelling compared to Walmart, Target, Amazon," he told Minnesota Public Radio.

Livingston noted that creditors have also challenged more than \$100 million in dividends paid to equity owners in recent years, reportedly paid with borrowed money. Livingston said he believed management hadn't been seriously interested in emerging from bankruptcy.

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

Before the pharmacy closed last month, amid reports that the company owed \$67 million to a pharmaceutical supplier, the Ely store had about 18 employees, a number that almost doubled during the summer months.

MPRNews contributed to this report.

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TOWER...Continued from page 1

deadline is reached, the city has still not delivered a finalized project plat, which the developers need to execute purchase agreements.

It's not clear why officials from the city and St. Louis County have been unable to deliver a plat more than a year and a half after the issue first came up in discussions between the city's engineer, Matt Bolf, of SEH, and the project's developers. The *Timberjay* did reach out to Bolf with questions for this story. He did not respond.

St. Louis County Surveyor Nick Stewart said the process hasn't been unusually long from his perspective, although he acknowledged that the proposed plat is a complex one. "It's not a surprise that it is where it is," he said. The plat is complex because it extends well beyond the footprint of the town home project, encompassing other city lands in and around the harbor and nearby industrial park.

THS project manager

Jeremy Schoenfelder said it's his understanding that the hang-ups with the plat aren't even related to the portion encompassing the town homes, but that's slim comfort as the development team has sat in "hurry up and wait mode" for months as the process drags on. "I'm hard pressed to understand what we've done to cause delays in that platting," he said.

When Bolf first raised the issue in July 2017, city officials and developers feared that the platting could push the start of construction on the project off until 2018. Yet more than 18 months later, the 2018 construction season is ancient history and the failure to complete the plat to date is now putting the 2019 construction season in doubt and could well doom the project entirely.

Schoenfelder said there's no question that the THS development team will need to request an extension on the April 1 deadline. "At this point, we're stuck," he said. "We

really can't even market the properties without having a finalized plat."

Yet any significant delay beyond the April 1 deadline puts another building season at risk. "The challenge is going to be coordinating with our builder," said Schoenfelder. "I've been hedging with them because of the situation." THS is currently planning to work with Dynamic Homes to deliver portions of the town homes in modular fashion, but the setup and planning for that process takes considerable lead time. Schoenfelder acknowledges that the continuing delay on the plat is frustrating. "I sort of shake my head, but I don't know what else I can do to push this forward," he said. "I still think that it's feasible to do if we can get this finalized quickly," he said.

If not, the prospects for the project would appear to be at serious risk.

That would be unfortunate, said longtime Lake Vermilion area realtor

Mark Ludlow, who says he remains confident the project could be successful even as delays have sapped some enthusiasm from potential buyers.

"I think the interest will be renewed when there is finally opportunity to see the final product," he said. "There was a lot of interest initially, but people get tired of waiting. A lot of the delay is related to not having a plat done yet. You can't sell anything without a plat."

In lieu of purchase agreements, Ludlow said Tower Harbor Shores has used letters of intent, with \$10,000 down payments that are placed in escrow, and said they had about four such letters last he checked, although one buyer has since asked for his money back citing the delays.

Ludlow said it's always difficult to sell residential property based on a floor plan. "Once one building is up, it should be a lot easier to make sales," he said.

Ludlow said he thinks

there is considerable interest in the type of residential arrangement the town home project would bring to Tower. "The concept is wonderful," he said. "You have access to Lake Vermilion, from town, with a residence you can just lock and leave." He said a good deal of the demand thus far is coming from people who already have homes on the lake who are looking for a lower maintenance option.

That's consistent with the findings of a market study by Maxfield Research that the city of Tower commissioned in 2015. That study found a potential market for 145 town home or condominium units in Tower with access to Lake Vermilion. Based on that research, the city issued a Request for Qualifications in late 2015 seeking a contractor to develop a city-led town home project. That RFQ led to the involvement of Tower Harbor Shores and Tower Vision 2025 in the effort, but city officials subsequently required the

developer to take on more and more of the risk for the project.

After years of waiting for permits and plats, the development team has experienced changes that are affecting the project. The former lead developer, Orlyn Kringstad, is now the mayor of Tower and has since divested himself from ownership and any involvement, although he remains a supporter of the project given its potential benefits to the city. While Schoenfelder, who is based in Arizona, has taken over as project manager, he has since become heavily involved in some other start-up projects that are taking considerable time.

Michael Wood, of Biwabik, is an investor in the THS project and says the platting delay has been a serious problem and he remains uncertain where the development goes if something doesn't change soon. "It's almost like Tower Harbor Shores is bouncing on the waves right now," he said.

TOWER HARBOR PROJECT TIMELINE

Summer 2007

City holds groundbreaking ceremony for the harbor project, including a visit from Congressman Jim Oberstar, whose backing was critical to securing federal funding as part of a \$6 million package of state, federal, and local dollars. City begins work on Environmental Assessment for the project, a process that consumes two years.

August 2009

City completes Environmental Assessment on the harbor project. The project vision includes multiple phases of development centered around the harbor, with a focus on ground level commercial development with second story apartments or condominiums. City begins application process for permits for replacement of Hwy. 169 bridge.

April 2010

Final permits are approved for bridge construction.

October 2010

Construction begins with a big blast at the city's rock cut on the west end of town.

September 2011

Ribbon-cutting for the new Hwy. 169 bridge. City begins permitting process for harbor dredging. Permitting experiences significant delays.

September 2013

After two years of little progress, Tower hires Gary Lamma and Dick Grabko of Community Resource Development to pursue a private sector partner for the project.

October 2014

Harbor dredging gets underway, with harbor excavation set to begin in January 2015. Funding limitations force city officials to reduce the size of the harbor compared to original plans.

November 2014

City council approves development agreement with Cobblestone Inn and Suites to develop a 36-room hotel at the harbor. The project would have been a significant departure from the city's original vision of a mixed commercial-residential development.

March 2015

Maxfield Research market study suggests strong demand for condominiums near the harbor. City begins consideration of condominiums or town homes in areas near the harbor even as hotel project remains in the air.

July 2015

Lack of progress on Cobblestone project prompts city to take a new look at a mixed-use development including retail, dining, and condominiums.

October 2015

City council greenlights plan for TEDA to take the lead in development of town homes

on the city's harbor, with harbor committee to be the primary group to advance the project.

November 2015

TEDA issues Request for Qualifications for design and construction services to assist the city in the development of the town home project.

December 2015

Harbor committee members begin review of responses to their RFQ. Four companies, including Orlyn Kringstad's Nordic Business Development, Inc. (NBDI), responded to the advertisement.

January 2016

Harbor committee meets with Kringstad's group and reaches an understanding under which NBDI would provide the city with a number of services, including developing a sustainability model, marketing documents, including floor plans, finishes, and pricing necessary to attract buyers to the city's planned condominium project. City officials raise the possibility of having NBDI take on the role of project developer, including handling financing for the project. Kringstad said he would prefer the city's original proposal but agreed to consider the city's suggestion.

January 2016

City's harbor committee confirms that it desires a change in the arrangement it originally proposed in its RFQ and wants Kringstad's group to become lead developer. Kringstad said his group, now operating as Tower Vision 2025, is willing to pursue the project under the new terms.

February-March 2016

City and NBDI sign development agreement. As part of the agreement, NBDI would serve as project developer and would design, market, sell, and construct 20 town homes, financed by pre-sales. The city agrees to provide the land and public infrastructure, including water and sewer, public roads, sidewalks, boardwalks, and docking. Funding for the city's portion of the project would come from public sources, such as the IRRRB, the Department of Employment and Economic Development, St. Louis County, as well as possible tax increment or tax abatement financing. Agreement sets a deadline for construction to commence by October 2017.

May 2016

Harbor committee informs Kringstad that the time required to pursue its portion of the project will likely prevent construction from getting underway before the summer of 2017. Harbor committee discusses the trigger for the city investment. Initially, the committee agrees to begin the city portion of the project with



Groundbreaking for the Tower Harbor project was in 2007.

the signing of six letters of intent. The committee later changes that requirement to six signed purchase agreements.

June 2016

Kringstad informs harbor committee that his group cannot legally obtain purchase agreements until the harbor area is formally platted, because the agreements require legal descriptions.

August 2016

City transfers 2,376 acres of land around the harbor to Kringstad's group. No platting has yet been undertaken.

September 2016

CRD consultant Gary Lamma outlines funding for the city's share of the harbor project, including \$350,000 from the IRRRB and \$400,000 from the Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Fall-winter 2016-2017

Architectural design and cost estimates under development by NBDI. City discontinues contract with Lamma and Grabko.

July 2017

Speaking to the harbor committee, real estate broker Mark Ludlow reports high interest in the town home project. But City Engineer Matt Bolf informs harbor committee that the need to undertake platting could delay the project, all but ending hopes for a 2017 start.

Late summer 2017

Harbor committee begins holding meetings behind closed doors to discuss issues that they seek to keep from the developer and the public. Soil borings show greater potential costs for infrastructure. Higher costs come as it becomes clear that DEED funding is unlikely to help pay for public infrastructure. The new information prompts Kringstad's group to revise the town home project to reduce impact on wetlands and areas with problem soils.

October 2017

Timberjay reveals repeated violations of the Open Meeting Law by the city's harbor committee.

Fall-winter 2017-2018

Harbor committee halts official meetings for extended period.

April 2018

Harbor committee, in a major change, discusses requiring that the developers post a \$750,000 letter of credit before the city

will proceed with public infrastructure for the project. The new requirement would be added to an updated development agreement. Kringstad makes clear that his development group will not sign such an agreement.

May 2018

Harbor committee approves new project timeline, that would have the city begin public infrastructure in August 2018 assuming permits and a new development agreement, with the letter of credit, are in place.

May 2018

Significant increases in construction costs since 2017 force Kringstad's team to regroup after new estimates from builder push home prices out of financial viability. The team switches to a new builder in attempt to keep costs in line.

July 2018

Harbor committee holds another illegal meeting in an effort to come to an agreement with Kringstad's group. The meeting leads to an initial agreement on a phased approach to town home construction. Developers tentatively agree to a pay-as-you-go tax abatement plan that would still leave developers vulnerable for paying for infrastructure if tax receipts fall short of debt service.

July 2018

Permits for the project are approved but delays in platting continue to hamstring the project. Still no progress on execution of a new development agreement. Kringstad files for office as mayor of Tower.

August 2018

City council sets deadline of Sept. 26 for developers to sign updated development agreement with the city or threatens to cancel the project.

September 2018

City and developers agree on terms of new development agreement under which developers have until April 1, 2019, to demonstrate a bankable project through a sufficient number of signed purchase agreements to proceed with the first of three planned condo units. Infrastructure would be prepaid by developers and recouped through a tax abatement plan.

October 29, 2018

The council approves a tax abatement plan under which St.

Louis County would abate 100 percent of property taxes generated by the project and the city would abate 65 percent. Abated taxes would be used to reimburse developers for the cost of public infrastructure.

November 6, 2018

Kringstad elected mayor of Tower in three-way race. Kringstad undertakes steps to divest himself from the town home project.

November 13, 2018

City council agrees to increase city's abatement share to 75 percent to help make the infrastructure financing work. Schoenfelder notes that the private party who has agreed to fund the infrastructure is demanding 12-percent interest given the risk.

November 26, 2018

Mayor Josh Carlson and Clerk-Treasurer Keith attempt to kill the town home project. Keith falsely informs the city council that the previous abatement plan is contrary to a state law that limits the interest rate that cities can pay to two-percent over the prime rate. In fact, state law expressly places no limit on interest rates for city indebtedness. Schoenfelder, on speakerphone, convinces three councilors to reject the move by the mayor and clerk-treasurer and a subsequent agenda item calling for issuance of a new RFP for the harbor is set aside.

December 10, 2018

City officials refuse to let Schoenfelder speak during council meeting and convince the council to reduce the city's percentage of tax abatement and seek less abatement from the county. Developers given four days to sign the revised agreement. Developers indicate they cannot sign the agreement that quickly.

December 19, 2018

Nearly a dozen city residents turn out to urge the council to let Schoenfelder respond to questions from the council. Mayor Carlson initially resists, but eventually agrees to contact Schoenfelder by phone, who addresses council concerns. Council agrees to new deadline of Jan. 3, 2019, to sign the agreement.

January 3, 2019

Development agreement executed with April 1, 2019 deadline for a "go or no-go" decision by the developers. The agreement requires sufficient purchase agreements be in place to ensure construction of the first of three town home units.

March 20, 2019

City still unable to deliver a final county-approved plat to developers, preventing developers from executing purchase agreements necessary to meet the April 1 deadline.

CITY OF ELY

Ely needs a new location for recycled materials bins

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – As winter turns to spring, the relocation of the city’s recycling center is taking center stage here. The Sanitation Committee met this week to discuss the topic and Council member Albert Forsman stressed the importance of the issue at a brief city council meeting on Tuesday.

The planned west end development project, to build a trailhead and visitor center complex, parking areas, and extend Fifth Avenue West from Sheridan Street to Chapman Street behind the hospital, will require the relocation of the St. Louis County recycled material collection area.

Forsman said the Sanitation Committee is proposing to only relocate the recycling canisters to city-owned property elsewhere in town. “There will be no brush dump (for city residents) in areas where we are looking,” he said. “This is based partially on the potential sites we’re looking at, but also the cost of transporting the (brush) materials.”

Forsman stressed the importance of getting the conversation moving on the issue. “We need a public property, or it could possibly be a township property next to us, for the county to park their waste bins on.”

He said he likes the fact that the current recycling collection point is somewhat hidden from view as one enters town. “A couple of the proposed sites would be right alongside our entry ways into the city, and that kind of reflects poorly on our city, but that may be our only option,” he said.

He asked the community to think about the

upcoming changes to the recycling center relocation. “Before we make a decision, maybe someone can give us some good ideas on this,” Forsman added.

He also noted that the city’s annual cleanup days will be held Friday and Saturday, May 17-18, at Whiteside Park. City residents have the opportunity to bring unwanted items, but not recyclables, to the dumpsters available for those two days.

Other business

In other business, the council:

► Approved paying the city attorney for nearly 40 hours of investigation time, at \$110 per hour, requested by council member Angela Campbell, pertaining to the legal publishing issue that resulted in the *Ely Timberjay* retaining the official newspaper status for the city of Ely for 2019.

► Agreed with the Planning and Zoning Committee that the public hearing process for vacating or rezoning public land will now involve a joint hearing process with the council.

► Authorized the Projects Committee to complete the proper paperwork required for a land swap of forfeited land with St. Louis County.

► Approved the hiring of Richard Posey for the Water/Wastewater Operator position, and Roger Nyquist for the Infrastructure Maintenance Worker position.

► Approved Ely Police Department Sgt. George Burger to attend the Leadership Academy at Fort Ripley May 7-10.

► Requested more information from the Projects Committee on a

potential property sale to Chip Hansen.

► Approved a purchase agreement for the sale of a lot in the Spaulding development area to Andrew and Paula Hill.

► Approved a request from Cody Perkins to tap maple trees near his house on the 300 block of James Street.

► Approved a raffle permit for Special Olympics Minnesota for the Northland 300 event in January 2020.

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NLAA...Continued from page 1

writer Cliff Bradshaw (played by Todd Crego) and his relationship with English cabaret performer Sally Bowles (played by Nicole Sophia),” Skelton said.

A sub-plot involves the doomed romance between German boarding house owner Frau Schneider (Maria Paschke) and her suitor Herr Schultz (Zeke Smith), a Jewish fruit vendor. Overseeing the action is the Master of Ceremonies (Tom Bennet) at the Kit Kat Klub.

Bradshaw meets Ernst Ludwig (VCC student Lucas Nygren) who sets him up at the boarding house run by Frau Schneider, where he meets Herr Schultz. A romance blossoms between Cliff and Sally, with a counterpoint of the courtship between Schneider and Schultz, which becomes increasingly difficult as the Nazi’s influence infiltrates the city.

“Although much different from the movie, the 1966 musical version does contain some adult themes and parental guidance is suggested,” she said.

The cast and crew are putting the final touches on this year’s Ely Community Spring Musical, with dress rehearsals all week.

Cabaret revolves around the characters at a Berlin nightclub.

An array of college students and community members fill out the cast as Kit Kat Klub dancers, waiters, patrons and various Berliners from many walks of life.

“As always, the 2019 Ely Community Spring Musical is a collaboration between Vermilion Community College and Northern Lakes Arts Association,” Skelton said.

The production features eight shows in the Vermilion College Fine Arts Theater. Cabaret runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 28-30 at 7 p.m., a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. on March 31, continuing on Tuesday, April 2, and Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 4-6 at 7 p.m.

Advance tickets are available at BrownPaperTickets.com (credit cards) and Kess Gallery (cash or check) or at the door. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for NLAA members and \$8 for students.

For more information, please check the Northern Lakes Arts Association website at northernlakesarts.org.

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Third time's a charm?

Grizzlies return to state tournament

by MARCUS WHITE
Cook-Orr Editor

DULUTH - The North Woods Grizzlies will make their third consecutive run at the Minnesota Class A boys basketball title after winning the Section 7A tournament here Friday night. The Grizzlies easily outpaced Lakeview Christian, 78-39.

"We built momentum through the (section) tournament," said Head Coach Will Kleppe. "The team played with a lot of pressure on them so by the championship we were focused on the game at hand."

Kleppe added that an early start aided in their victory over Lakeview.

By the end of the first half, the Grizzlies led the Lions, 48-27.

In the second half, the Grizzlies would hold their opponents to just 12 additional points, while scoring 30 more of their own.

Senior guard Cade Goggleye led the way with 31 points along with nine assists and three rebounds. Junior forward Trevor Morrison scored 13 points but added 10 rebounds for a double-double. Freshman guard T.J. Chiabotti added 13 points, while senior guard Chase Kleppe notched his own double-double with 10 points and 17 rebounds.

During last Wednesday's game against Deer River, it was more of the same for Grizzlies as they took down the Warriors, 61-46.

In this matchup, Chiabotti led the Grizzlies' charge with 20 points. Kleppe would add another 10 points along with eight rebounds. Senior guard Dylan Chiabotti added 10 more points, while Goggleye had seven points along with nine assists.

The team now turns their gaze to the Westbrook - Walnut Grove Chargers for the opening game of the state tournament. The game was set for Thursday evening at Williams Arena at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus at 5 p.m. and the *Timberjay* will post game results online at timberjay.com during the course of the tournament.

Kleppe said the team's strategy will remain the same as they enter state competition.

"It's one game at a time, expend our energy on defense and play fast," he said.

Kleppe said his pre-game talks to the team will encourage them to stay focused, but still enjoy the experience.

While Westbrook - Walnut Grove is entering

See **GRIZZLIES**, pg. 3B



Left: Chase Kleppe up at the hoop. Above: Cade Goggleye driving up the court. Below: Trevor Morrison fighting to keep possession of the ball. photos by C. Stone



Above left: Parents and other Grizzlies fans hold signs at UMD's Romano Gym to cheer on North Woods as they fight for the Section 7A Championship. Above right: Captains Chase Kleppe and Cade Goggleye present the trophy to the crowd and team. photos by C. Stone



Below: The North Woods Boys basketball team, cheerleaders and team managers wait to board the bus to Minneapolis on Wednesday morning. photo by B. Smith



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2018-2019 Grizzlies Varsity Roster

No.	Name	Grade	No.	Name	Grade
0	Alex Hartway	9	13	Tanner Barto	12
1	Darius Gogleye	10	14	Dylan Chiabotti	12
2	Blake Scofield	12	20	Levi Byram	11
3	Cade Gogleye	12	21	Brian Whiteman	11
4	Bryce Chosa	9	22	Kent Villebrun	12
5	Davis Kleppe	9	23	Chase Kleppe	12
10	Brendan Chiabotti	8	24	TJ Chiabotti	9
11	Jared Chiabotti	8	30	Parker Jones	12
12	Ian Sherman	12	35	Trevor Morrison	11

Coaches/Managers

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GREAT JOB GRIZZLIES!
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FIGHTING CANCER

Getting through cancer, together

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- Justin Grotberg was three years ago last month when his mother, Christina Hujanen, got the incredible news from doctors at the Mayo Clinic. She had beaten one of the toughest and most aggressive forms of cancer.

Christina had been diagnosed in late 2015 with stage-four esophageal and stomach cancer and doctors said her chances of survival were slim. Justin stayed with his mother for months in Rochester, helping to comfort her through chemotherapy and radiation treatments, and subsequent surgery and reconstruction of her esophagus and stomach. Later, when the doctors offered the good news, Justin said it came like a wave of relief.

"We feel like we've gotten a second chance with mom," he said, following the amazing news. Justin says the whole experience was more than he could have ever imagined. "It definitely caught me off-guard, how much of a miracle this has been."

Now the family is hoping for a second miracle.

Justin, who is 29, has had lingering issues with severe headaches and some seizures over the past several years and was diagnosed earlier this year with an aggressive brain tumor that is nearly always fatal. So now the family's life is once again revolving around treatment at the Mayo Clinic.

Surgery determined that Justin's cancerous tumor (a high grade-two astrocytoma glioma) is rare type of cancer that requires very aggressive treatment.



Family holiday photo taken while Christina Hujanen was undergoing treatment at the Mayo Clinic. submitted photo

Justin has already had surgery that removed part, but not all, of the tumor last month, and he is back at the Mayo for radiation and chemotherapy, which is expected to take about seven weeks.

This type of tumor is not curable and his doctors expect it to grow back. The radiation and chemotherapy, if successful, will only slow this process, not stop it. Doctors are concerned because these types of tumors tend to grow back quickly and spread to other parts of the brain and brain stem, which can cause permanent neurological damage such as blindness, deafness, or paralysis.

"This is all very scary and doesn't seem like it is really happening," said Christina. "We really appreciate all the well wishes, thoughts and prayers." She credited the support from her family and friends as one of the

most important parts of her own journey with cancer. "I know what's gotten me through this is all the support I've gotten from all over the world," she said back in 2016. "I knew I had family and friends counting on me to get through this. That's what kept me strong."

Now she is hoping that friends and family will show the same level of support for Justin.

Justin's diagnosis has Christina thinking again about her own experience. Three years after her treatment, Christina is still cancer free, but does have lingering effects from the chemotherapy and radiation that have made it impossible for her to go back to work. What she has been doing the past three years is taking care of her sons, all four of them.

"When I was diagnosed the doctors gave me less than six months



Justin Grotberg and his younger brother, Logan. submitted photo

to live, she said. "Then I survived, and people said there must be a reason." With tears in her eyes, Christina wondered if this was the reason — that she would be there to help her son through his own cancer treatment.

"It's just so sad," she said. "You never want to see any of your kids go through this."

With their shared experience from her treatment, Christina is hoping that she and Justin can navigate, together, through the coming months of his therapy.

"I know what emotions he will go through," she said. "And he was there so he understands a lot of it already. I keep telling him we will get through this together."

Justin has three brothers. Mark Grotberg, a year younger, has always been Justin's closest friend. The two younger brothers, Ryan and Logan Hujanen, are students at Virginia High School, and will stay with their father while Christina is at Mayo with Justin. All three brothers, his father, and his mother's boyfriend all came down for his initial surgery, and all plan on visiting as often as possible.

Justin, who has been suffering from horrific headaches for many

months, has recently gotten relief from some new medication. The last few days before heading back to Mayo he has been able to enjoy time with his three brothers, family, and friends.

Though not looking forward to this trip back to Mayo, Justin does have some goals for his treatment.

"I was my mom's personal caregiver for almost a year while she was at Mayo," he said. "I wheeled her back and forth to treatments every day."

Justin said he is hoping to be able to walk himself to and from his appointments, though he knows that radiation can make him very tired.

He is also planning to keep his sense of humor and hopes to be able to keep joking with his doctors and nurses through his treatment. He said he was joking with his surgeon as he was wheeled into the operating room last month.

"It was really scary in there with all the instruments, and so bright," he said, "but I looked around and saw my surgeon and got him to laugh." Justin said he hopes that by keeping a positive attitude, it will help his care team have an extra incentive to keep him on track to recovery.

"No one fights alone," he said, mirroring the motto for his type of brain cancer.

Justin and Christina will be staying at a hotel near the hospital the first week in Rochester, and then will move to Hope Lodge (as soon as a room opens up) for the rest of Justin's treatment. The Hope Lodge is operated by the American Cancer Society and offers a safe, home-like environment for cancer patients and their caregivers while undergoing treatment. This will be their second long-term stay at Hope Lodge.

Justin will begin radiation treatment on March 21. He will have treatments, which each take at least an hour, five days a week. Last week Justin was fitted with a special mask to wear during the treatments. The mask totally encloses his face and head, except for two small breathing holes for his nostrils.

Justin, who does not like being in enclosed spaces on a good day, said the mask fitting was rather scary.

"It was like every one of my nightmares combined into one," he said. "But I stayed strong and didn't complain. I guess I can handle this."

There is an account set up for Justin at the three branches of the Embarrass-Vermillion Credit Union, as well as online at gofundme.com (search for Justin Grotberg). Funds donated will be used for expenses while undergoing treatment. While the stay at Hope Lodge is free, the family must cover the costs of the initial hotel stay, food, and transportation costs.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from 1B

the tournament unseeded, they had an impressive season, with only seven losses. They entered the Section 3A tournament as the

third seed and upset first-seeded Southwest Minnesota Christian in the semifinal round and second-seeded Murray County in


the quarterfinals before beating fifth-seeded Dawson-Boyd to win the section title.

If the Grizzlies beat the

Chargers, they'll face the winner of the matchup between unseeded Cromwell-Wright and second-seeded Ada-Borup in

semi-final action at the Target Center in Minneapolis on Friday.

Tipoff for that game is 2 p.m.



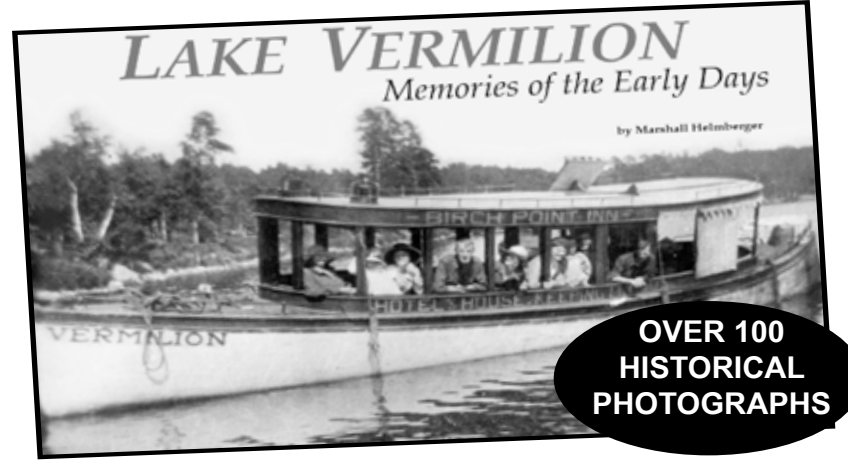
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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

WILDLIFE RESTORATION

Could elk reintroduction fall victim to CWD concerns?

Supporters say the benefits of restoring a native species outweigh potential risks

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The recent discovery of chronic wasting disease in a wild deer near Crosby could affect plans to reintroduce elk in parts of east-central and northeastern Minnesota — and it's not just because the fight against CWD is consuming

the DNR's financial resources and available staff.

As DNR animal health program leader Michelle Carstensen noted during a recent interview with the *Timberjay*, it's also a matter of messaging. "The DNR can't very well tell the public not to move cervids while we do the same thing," she said.

Cervids refer to members

of the broader deer family, including whitetails, elk, and moose.

Wildlife biologists in the state have been advising the public for years against transporting deer from other states, where CWD might be more established, in hopes of limiting the spread of the infecting agent, known as prions, into Minnesota.

If an elk reintroduction is eventually approved, the elk won't come from within Minnesota. The state has only a very limited number of wild elk living in northwestern Minnesota, which means elk would almost certainly be imported from elsewhere in the country. Moving wild

See **ELK...**pg. 5B



Minnesota is home to only a handful of wild elk. A proposal to introduce more is under review. Courtesy MNDNR



WHITETAIL DEER

To help moose, stop feeding deer

The connection between recreational deer feeding and moose decline is clear

We've reported frequently in recent years about the extensive research linking the decline in moose numbers in our region to the presence of whitetail deer in moose country. Whitetail deer are deadly to moose, as they carry a number of parasites, including brainworm and liver flukes, that either kill or weaken moose to such a degree that they become vulnerable to predation.

Think of deer like a toxin. I know, most of us don't see whitetails that way, but to a moose it's not a bad analogy. The more of this toxin that is out there in the environment, the greater the chances are that a moose will eventually be exposed and suffer the effects. More whitetails on the landscape means more moose "toxin," which increases the rate of moose mortality. Even a modest increase in the mortality rate of a species can make the difference between a stable or growing population and one that's in decline.

We see fewer moose in our area because we've had higher deer densities in recent decades. Milder winters have contributed to that trend, but so has the huge increase in recreational deer feeding in our region. It's just one more way that humans are

stacking the deck against moose in the North Country.

I spoke the other day with DNR Tower area wildlife manager Tom Rusch, who regularly gets an "eye-in-the-sky" look at the area's moose population as one of the state biologists who takes part in the annual aerial survey each January.

The good news is that moose are doing very well in those portions of our region where there is good habitat and where deer numbers are low. As I've written before, moose are doing exceptionally well in areas that have burned in recent years, such as the Pagami Creek area.

But, according to Rusch, a few things stand out, namely the absence of moose in places where they used to be found, particularly east of Ely along the Fernberg Road, the Eagles Nest area, and along the North Shore of Lake Superior. In those areas, it's pretty clear what has been killing moose: people who feed deer recreationally.

There are plenty of reasons not to feed deer, including that the jury remains out as to whether it does more harm than good. Concentrating deer increases the risk of spreading disease, like chronic wasting disease, and increases the likelihood of car crashes. It



Above: Recreational feeding of whitetail deer has increased dramatically in our region. While it may be enjoyable to watch deer up close, the practice increases the risk of disease in both deer and moose. file photos

also makes life easier for deer predators.

But the impact of the practice on moose is one more factor that folks should think about before they roll out the smorgasbord for their neighborhood whitetails.

Some folks have always fed deer, but it increased dramatically in popularity in the wake of the severe winters of the mid-1990s. One area feed dealer I spoke to last year told me that deer feed constituted an incidental part of his winter business 25 years ago, maybe three-to-five percent. Today, it's 35 percent of his winter business and he has some customers who provide many tons of deer feed each season, drawing in dozens of deer.

Such activity may or may not help deer survive the winter here, but there's no question it threatens the survival of any moose in the vicinity, and for two primary reasons.

First, the diseases that deer carry sicken and eventually kill adult moose. And the presence of larger numbers of whitetails invariably increases the density of the deer's primary predator in the North Country, the gray wolf.

As DNR research has shown, wolves are the primary cause of moose calf mortality in our region. Put more wolves on the landscape, which we do through recreational deer feeding, and fewer moose calves survive to adulthood. It's basic cause and effect. Thirty years ago, a solid majority of the moose calves born in northeastern Minnesota regularly survived to adulthood and contributed to sustaining the population. Today, fewer than one-in-three moose calves is surviving and the higher density of wolves on the landscape is the primary reason. But don't blame the wolves. They're doing what they do for survival. It's our decision to recreationally feed deer that is sustaining higher wolf numbers to the detriment of moose. As Pogo once said, we've met the enemy and he is us.

So what's the answer? I don't think a ban on deer feeding is in the cards, and I don't like bans in any case, in part because they are difficult to enforce. But there's justification for an educational campaign to warn the public about the negative consequences of deer feeding.

See **FEEDING...**pg. 5B

HONORS



Vermilion Lake Association president Terry Grosshauser holds the stewardship award recently presented to the organization.

Vermilion Lake Association wins award for stewardship

REGIONAL - The Vermilion Lake Association has been honored for its work on behalf of environmental stewardship.

The Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation presented its 2019 Wilson Stewardship Award to the association for its work during the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Forum in International Falls on March 13.

The VLA was one of two lake associations honored with the award, which recognizes water quality work within Rainy-Lake of the Woods watershed.

The award is presented on behalf of the 160 researchers, resource managers, and water stewards from the United States and Canada who attended the forum. "The Vermilion Lake Association and the Lake of the Woods District Stewardship Association both have histories of over 50 years of engaging citizens in stewardship," said Todd Sellers, Foundation Executive Director. "They have been very effective at raising awareness of environmental issues and actively pursuing solutions and partnerships to advance science and implement concrete stewardship actions."

VLA president Terry Grosshauser said he was honored to accept the award on behalf of the association's 2,500 members and hundreds of volunteers.

While the award recognizes the Vermilion Lake Association's broad range of lake stewardship over 50 years, the foundation specifically cited its extensive aquatic invasive species

See **AWARD...**pg. 5B

Outdoors briefly

DNR to host deer open house

TOWER — Anyone with an interest in white-tail deer management in northern St. Louis and Lake counties is invited to attend an open-house style meeting on the subject on Wednesday, March 26, at the Tower Area DNR office located on Hwy. 169 near the west entrance to Tower. The meeting runs from 5-7 p.m.

The meeting, one of a series to be held around the state, will give residents a chance to discuss deer and deer management with DNR area wildlife managers. The meetings do not include formal pre-

sentations, so people can arrive any time during the scheduled meeting times. For those who prefer to talk on the phone, people are welcome to call their local area office. The main number for the Tower Area Office is 300-7800.

In addition to discussing general concerns about deer, individuals can ask DNR staff about the current winter severity index, the 2018 harvest, or get a preview of the updated DNR Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan that will be formally released in April.

FEEDING...Continued from page 4B

We spend millions educating the public about invasive species, and that's an important issue because the survival of native aquatic species is at risk. But the survival of our native moose is also at risk. Education can be incredibly effective, since most people want to do the right thing. Many folks

who feed deer assume they are doing a good thing, and most greatly enjoy the chance to observe deer up close. But once you make the connection between deer feeding and the disappearance of moose, I suspect many will choose not to feed. If so, our moose will have a fighting chance.

AWARD...Continued from page 4B

(AIS) prevention work beginning in the 1990s, its 40 years of water quality sampling and support for actions to improve water quality, and its 36-year count of common loons, the longest running single-lake count in the United States.

The Wilson Stewardship Award is presented annually by the

foundation to individuals, groups, or projects that have made significant contributions to environmental stewardship in the Rainy-Lake of the Woods watershed. The award is named in honor of its first recipient, Gerry Wilson, in recognition of her contributions to lake stewardship.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
40 19					48 25					37 11					34 14					41 17				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
03/11	29	6	0.16	0.8"	03/11	28	6	0.01	0.3"	03/11	29	6	0.16	0.8"	03/11	30	0	0.15	2.5"	03/11	28	3	0.08	0.6"
03/12	31	4	0.00		03/12	30	6	0.00		03/12	29	6	0.16	0.8"	03/12	45	18	0.00		03/12	31	3	0.00	
03/13	42	17	0.00		03/13	43	4	0.00		No readings					03/13	39	34	0.00		03/13	42	17	0.00	
03/14	42	34	0.72		03/14	42	33	0.87		at presstime					03/14	37	28	0.80		03/14	42	34	0.79	
03/15	38	25	0.10	0.2"	03/15	38	24	0.08							03/15	28	21	0.00		03/15	38	25	0.18	
03/16	29	20	0.02	0.3"	03/16	38	17	0.00							03/16	34	10	0.00		03/16	30	16	0.00	
03/17	36	3	0.00		03/17	34	-2	0.00							03/17	37	1	0.00		03/17	36	0	0.00	
Totals 2.44 72.4"					Totals 2.79 59.7"					Totals 1.65 65.6"					Totals 1.52 NA					Totals 2.17 63.4"				

ELK...Continued from page 4B

cervids always presents a level of risk, but it's a manageable one according to Mike Schrage, a wildlife biologist with the Fond du Lac Band. The Band, based near Cloquet, is one of three partners in the proposed elk restoration project, along with the University of Minnesota and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Currently, the project's backers envision reintroducing elk in parts of south-central St. Louis County along with portions of Carlton and Pine counties.

The DNR and county land departments have also been providing some assistance, with most funding for the project coming primarily from the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources.

To date, the DNR has not taken an official position on the reintroduction, although the agency did offer support for an initial funding application to the LCCMR. But it's clear that wildlife officials within the agency have somewhat mixed views on the idea and see the latest CWD discovery as one more hurdle for the project. "The elk reintroduction here might not be done because of CWD," noted DNR Tower area wildlife manager Tom Rusch during a recent interview.

But Schrage points out that the CWD discovery, at least so far, is quite limited and doesn't change the risk factors for an elk reintroduction. "I think the recent CWD find near Brainerd has brought it home now to northern Minnesota. It has

more people talking about CWD, which is long overdue. But where this wild deer was found was sixty miles from our nearest proposed restoration area."

Schrage said he understands the messaging concern, but argues that any animals that might eventually be transported to Minnesota would be thoroughly tested and would almost certainly come from an existing wild elk population without any known incidence of CWD. "If we move forward, it will be about managing that risk just as we do with everything else," he said, noting that other states with existing CWD have brought elk in successfully. "As far as I know, there's never been an elk reintroduction anywhere that led to a new CWD infection," he said.

Still in initial stages

While the latest CWD discovery is fresh in the minds of many wildlife managers in Minnesota, the concerns could fade somewhat if no additional positive tests are found in wild deer near Crosby. The elk reintroduction effort, meanwhile, is still very much in the planning stages, which means it could be a few years before animals might actually be released in the wild.

Wildlife researchers are currently assessing whether the areas identified for possible reintroduction contain enough quality browse to sustain elk.

This past fall, U of M researchers conducted a survey of landowners who could be affected by a reintroduction and found strong

public support for the effort.

Schrage noted that elk have long been native to Minnesota. But overhunting in the 1800s and early 1900s largely wiped out the species in the state. And while the state maintains three small herds of wild elk in northwestern Minnesota, those animals do create conflicts with farmers there. Schrage said any attempt to truly establish a viable population of elk in Minnesota would likely have to be done in the northeast, where there are large tracts of public land and where conflicts with agriculture would be limited. "My idea of a successful elk restoration is that they fill the available habitat we've identified and then begin expanding," he said. "This is about restoring a native species that by most other considerations should be on the state's endangered species list. It's also about preparing and adapting to climate change. Elk can survive in Minnesota even with climate change— some of our northern species may not."

Schrage said restoring a native species would be considered a significant victory for conservation. "It seems conservation doesn't have that many wins any more. It would be nice to do something positive."

Whether elk are eventually returned to northeastern Minnesota could be determined later this year. Researchers are expected to complete their overall feasibility study by June, which would be presented to the LCCMR after that.

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Somewhere a journey begins at the end of the worldly existence we know, somewhere a path stretches over the stars and rivers of memories flow. Somewhere a silence is heard far away, and the brightness of day fills the night, where trails of life are resolved into peace when a soul finds its way to the light. Our lives go on without you but nothing is the same, we have to hide our heartaches when someone speaks your names. Sad are the hearts that love you, silent are the tears that fall. Living here without you is the hardest part of all. You did so many things for us, your hearts were kind and true and when we needed someone we could always count on you. The special years will not return, when we were all together, but with the love within our hearts you will walk with us forever.

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Gayle Littlewolf, LeighAnn Donald, Carolyn Donald (Daughters of Joanne & Sisters to Coleen)
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SPRING THAW

Spring thaw hits Ely hard with flooding

Rapidly melting snow, rain create havoc around town after warmer temperatures finally arrive

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Sir G's will be closed until further notice for clean-up after a city sewer backup flooded the iconic Sheridan Street business last Wednesday.

According to Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski, mild temperatures, melting snow and rain, created flooding on Third Avenue East and Conan Street to the alley behind Sir G's where the city deployed sandbags around the building to keep the flooding at bay.

"Around 8:30 we noticed water coming through the doorway and the walls around here," Dan Peace, owner of Sir G's, said. "It only took 15-20 minutes before the whole dining area was flooded," he told a Duluth television station.

The problems were exacerbated by the nearly seven feet of frost in the ground, which prevented rain water and snow melt from soaking in. According to Langowski, as much as 200 feet of the city's storm sewer was frozen solid.

A house on Conan Street ended up with as

much as four feet of water in the basement as a result, he said.

At Sir G's, on Wednesday night, it didn't take long for the community to spring into action. The Ely Fire Department and personnel from the Public Works Department assisted with sand bags to help minimize flooding. "I was surprised how fast people showed up; we had a lot of people just show up to see what's going on. We had people bring trucks of sand bags," Peace said. "It's a great town, the community steps in when they have to help out."

In a Facebook post, Heidi Peace, who bought the Italian-style restaurant last fall with her husband, wrote, "Thank you to everyone that helped us (Wednesday) from sandbags to moral support. We are waiting on the insurance adjuster, and we have been cleaning and ripping out carpet and now scraping glue. All the restoration companies I have called are not able to help since so many places have had trouble like this."

She added, "A huge 'thank you' to Jennifer Janeksela, Bret Janeksela, Steve and Chris from

Arrowhead Outfitters, and also all of our employees who have been helping us with this huge clean up. You all make this seem more bearable." She said they plan to reopen the business as soon as they can.

G-Men suspended service

Due to the flooded and snow-packed alley and road conditions, G-Men workers were unable to service many of their customers last Thursday. "We sent out a four-wheel-drive truck ahead of the collection truck and it got stuck multiple times. We are doing what

we can and will resume service when conditions allow," they said.

After colder temperatures last weekend, the weather turned milder toward the end of the week with highs forecast to reach close to 50 degrees over the weekend. More melting and flooding is possible.

"I know the city crews are doing what they can to keep the roads cleared," said Ely Police Chief John Lahtonen. "They were hit pretty hard and fast with the warming and melting conditions. Please use caution on city streets."

TUESDAY GROUP

New retired residents make Ely their home

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Ely continues to attract new people. A number of new residents have moved here full-time since last fall, and they told their end-of-the-road relocation stories at a recent Tuesday Group gathering.

Matter-of-factly, Randy Greiner simply said, "I live in a cabin out on Bear Island River Road and moved here last August. I'm retired, and this isn't my first retirement home."

He first retired to a small farming community in southern Wisconsin.



James and Susan Stone speak at Tuesday Group. photo by K. Vandervort

"I was either taking trips up north or planning trips up north. So I moved up north," Greiner said. He looked at properties to call home for the past seven

or eight years in northern Wisconsin, northwest Ontario, and northern Minnesota, but the Ely area, which he has visited since the 1960s, was his

ultimate choice. "So here I am," he said.

Greiner was born in Minneapolis and spent part of his youth "on the mean streets of Excelsior. His father was transferred to Chicago and they lived and worked there for the past 50 years. Greiner's career was in the medical device industry.

"There are a lot of hidden gems in Ely," he said. "There's a lot going on up here." He has been learning how to cook since he's been here. He has two married daughters and seven granddaughters. "They are really looking forward to coming up here, starting this summer," he said.

As for hobbies, Greiner enjoys canoeing and kayaking. "I've spent the last 15 years kayaking, and now I'm learning to paddle a canoe. "I'm into photography, reading and Gin Rummy, and always looking for another player."

James and Susan Stone, were introduced to the group by their realtor, Gil Knight. As an information officer for

natural disaster response efforts, Knight said he met James Stone, also a disaster response information officer, about 10 years ago. They crossed paths over the years, and each time Knight talked up Ely to him.

Last summer, the Stones showed up in Ely and called Knight to help them look for a house here.

James retired from the U.S. Forest Service after 30 years and worked in many western states. "We retired to Idaho, but kept looking for a place to live," he said. "Susan noticed that real estate on the east side of the 100th meridian is much cheaper than on the west coast," James said. "Neither of us had ever been here before." They bought a place and moved in on Sept. 18, right when the weather turned toward winter. "I've been in wool since the second day I got here."

They love to kayak and enjoy watching waterfowl. "Now I have to learn how to canoe," he said.

Susan Stone grew up in New Orleans. "Ten years ago, if you told me I would move up here to temperatures like this, I would have said you are sick," she said. "But I like

it here, even with the cold and snow. She is a retired college English teacher. "I'm really into fiber arts and have a big loom that I'm trying to re-assemble," she said. They also have 15 bookcases and the books to fill them.

"I'm kind of a stick in the mud," she admitted. "I'm friendly, and if you talk to me, I'll be happy to talk to you. I've kind of grown into a hermit the last couple of years."

The Stones participate in historical re-enacting events, mostly from the Colonial era. "James didn't talk about his hobbies, but his special hobby is starting a fire by rubbing two sticks together. He must have 1,500 combinations on how to do that," she said.

James once belonged to the American Long Rifle Association, and at re-enactment events would portray a Pennsylvania farmer from the 1780s. Susan portrayed his wife, and was adept at the spinning wheel and fiber arts creation. "I got pretty good at starting fires with flint and steel," he said.

Look in next week's *Timberjay* for more information on new Elyites.

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Lunch & Learn: Non-Traditional Lending
April 4, 2019 Noon to 1:30 pm - Grand Ely Lodge

Are you using local assets to your advantage or know how to? Be a part of an active conversation as panelists share: non-tradition business lending options, how to partner on commercial loan projects, how to find available resources and much more.

Join our panel of financial experts from a variety of organizations. Each panelist will present a brief presentation before the discussion begins.

Registration is required. Lunch is available for purchase.

To reserve your spot call 218-365-6123 or email director@ely.org. To learn more about upcoming trainings sessions visit: www.ely.org/events/BusinessTraining.

This training is sponsored by the Ely Chamber of Commerce.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF ELY Council Minutes- March 5, 2019 - 5:30 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, Kess, Debeltz, Callen, Campbell, and Mayor Novak
ABSENT: Council Member Omerza

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the minutes from February 19, 2019 Regular Meeting.
Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Omerza Absent.

4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. St Paul Trip- Mayor Novak reported on his recent trip to St. Paul

B. Snow removal- Mayor Novak also updated on the recent slowdown on snow removal. The City's current 34 year old snow blower has suffered a failure in the gear box and because of the age of the machine, parts are no longer made for it.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Motion to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda

B. Approve having a Special Council Meeting on April 11, 2019 from 5pm-6pm for the Local Board of Appeal & Equalization Meeting in the Ely City Hall, Council Chambers.

C. Approve the Summary of Ordinance 332, Second Series for Publication
Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the consent agenda items A-C, Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Omerza Absent.

7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR:

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS: Standing/Special Heritage Preservation Commission
Campbell/Debeltz moved to approve the recommendation from Heritage Preservation Commission to request authorization from the Council to offer for sale the roughly 200 E' chairs left in the ECC (at \$15/chair with the possibility of a negotiated discount available for a volume purchase) Motion

Carried 6-0-1 with Omerza Absent.

Planning and Zoning Commission – Minutes included in Packet

Budget Committee
A. Forsman/Callen moved to approve the recommendation from the Budget Committee to pay a disputed invoice to Voltz for the Ely Police Department in the amount of \$120.00 Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Omerza Absent

A. Forsman/Debeltz moved to approve the recommendation from the Budget Committee to purchase Scott Air Packs from Clarey's Safety Equipment in the amount of \$6,373.42 per pack. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Omerza Absent.

Park & Recreation Board
Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the recommendation from the Park & Recreation Board to suggest the following proactive items pertaining to food trucks to Planning and Zoning

- Food trucks can reserve a pre-designated spot for 2 concurrent days to sell to public, spots must be reserved at least 48 hours in advance, trucks left in an unreserved spot may be towed, fee of \$40/day to reserve a spot
- If a private party has reserved a rental space at either Whiteside or Semers Park, they are not guaranteed the designated space for the food truck to use for their party. Food truck operators must reserve those spots on their own - may add some variation of following language to rental contracts "private parties are not guaranteed the availability of the food truck spot for their event and it is recommended that they have their food truck caterer contact the city asap to reserve the adjacent spot"
- If a food truck is onsite in a designated food truck spot to serve to a private party, they should leave their public sales window closed and serve the food inside the building (or designated party area) rather than directly from the truck.

Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Omerza Absent.

Ely Utilities Commission – Minutes included in Packet

Library Board – Minutes included in Packet

Telecommunications

Advisory Board-Minutes included in Packet

Employee Relations Committee
Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the recommendation from the Employee Relations Committee for Council to approve the job description for Water/Wastewater Operator Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Omerza Absent

Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the recommendation from the Employee Relations Committee for Council to approve the job description for Infrastructure/Maintenance Worker Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Omerza Absent

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

A. Clerk-Treasurer

i. The following items of business were recommended for approval at the regular EUC meeting of Wednesday, February 27, 2019:

1. Elected President Warren Nikkola, Vice President Rob Wilmunen, Secretary Judy Niemela

2. Authorized Quality Control to replace the control panel and the Spaulding lift station for \$9,480.00 and the RV Park/MNDOT garage lift station for \$9,090.00

3. Approved payment for EUC December, 2018 bills for \$474,770.5

A.Forsman/Campbell moved to approve the EUC Consent Agenda items 1-3. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Omerza Absent.

ii. Fiber Project- matter of information

iii. Debeltz/Callen moved to approve an extension for the Lucky Boy Timber Sale for an additional year. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Omerza Absent.

iv. Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the purchase of a Snocrete Snow Blower in the amount \$104,226.96. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Omerza Absent.

B. Fire Chief

C. Library Director

D. Police Chief

E. City Attorney

F. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Resignation letter from Dixon Shelstad from the Tree

Board after his 5 year term
A.Forsman/Debeltz moved to send a letter of Thanks to Dixon Shelstad for his years of service to the Tree Board. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Omerza Absent.

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:
A. City and EUC claims for March 5, 2019 – \$168,817.46
B. Partial Payment Estimate No. 8 for 17th Ave East/7th Avenue East/Water Tower Supply Line Project for \$7,147.80 to Casper Construction.

Callen/A. Forsman moved to approve claims for payment items A&B. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Omerza Absent.

12. OLD BUSINESS:

13. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Debeltz/A. Forsman moved to approve US Forest Service Special Use Permit for the VCAC18-01 Trail and Bridge Project Voyageur Country ATV. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Omerza Absent

B. Callen/A. Forsman moved to approve Forest Road 601 to Kabustasa Rd Trail Improvements and Vermilion River Bridge Construction Voyageur Country ATV Project No. VCAC18-01 Requesting the City Council to approve the Plans and Specifications and then to advertise for bids. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Omerza Absent.

C. Proposal from Andy and Paula Hill to purchase City owned land Sibley Drive, Block 4, Lot 1 for \$10,000.

Campbell stated that she had concerns due to the covenant of the lot, that owners could not buy lots that were adjacent to them.

Andy Hill stated that the two lots are not buildable by themselves and that by putting the two together you can build, he also stated that they have been sitting for 25 years and no one entertained the idea of building there and because of the drainage ditch by the Trezona, which makes the lot unbuildable, but the two lots put together make it a buildable lot. He also stated that he has a proposal to buy the lot to the East.

Langowski stated that previously the owner of Lot 3 wanted the City to buy it back because it was unbuildable due to the amount of grading required, and that pile of material is on Lot 2 as well, and this what pushes the buildable site further to the West.

Hill stated that one of the issues of Lot 2 is that the pile of overburden on Lot 3 is spilling onto Lot 2 and he needs to consider that when he is building a house.

Kess asked if there was a covenant that limits the City's ability to sell.

Attorney Klun stated that the City has historically indicated one Lot per build and has declined to take offers and denied neighbors to purchase vacant lots, and when Lot 2 comes up for sale, it would have to be approved by the City, as there is a right of first refusal because of the three year build on these lots. The requirement was 1 home per lot, no buying adjacent lots.

Building Official Whitney stated that we may need combine the parcels into one tax parcel so it can become 1 lot because of required lot line setbacks.

Langowski stated that because of the location of the particular lot there are some circumstances that would exist on the lot due to the location of Trezona trail. Campbell asked if city would consider an easement.

Langowski stated that an easement would be required. Attorney Klun stated that if the council were to go that direction that they would need to amend the ordinance and need to enter into a purchase agreement. With the purchase of Lot 2, there would have to be a right of first refusal, and a three year build required.

Forsman asked if Building Official Whitney agreed that in order to build on Lot 2 you would have to be on the line to be able to build there, Whitney concurred that they would have to be combined into 1 parcel because of required setbacks.

Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the proposal from Andy and Paula Hill to purchase City owned land Sibley Drive, Block 4, Lot 1 for \$10,000 under the condition that they build within three years and reserve an easement in favor of the City. Council directs City Attorney to prepare purchase agreement and requisite documents. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Omerza Absent.

D. Debeltz/Callen moved to approve Resolution 2019-007 A Resolution in Support of the City of Virginia Seeking Funding for a Regional Public Safety Center & Training Facility. Roll Called A. Forsman-

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

E. Campbell/Callen moved to approve State Project SP. 069-090-033 Mesabi Trail Construction within the City of Ely. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Omerza Absent.

14. OPEN FORUM
Bruce Veste Crane Lake, MN- Board Member with Voyageur Country ATV project stated they were hoping to have a completion date of Sept. 20th and will be sponsoring and hosting a state ATV ride and rally and ribbon cutting and will be sending invites to council

Matt Weissert- Ely, MN- Wilderness Wood Fire Pizza had several concerns with the new Food Truck Ordinance and the impact with will have on their business. Council advised them to attend the next Planning and Zoning meeting with their concerns since no action was taken at the Regular Meeting.

15. ADJOURN

Mayor Novak Adjourned the meeting at 6:38pm without objection.

Katie Richards
Accounting Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, March 22, 2019

CITY OF ELY ORDINANCE NO. 333, 2nd Series

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ELY, MINNESOTA, ADDING TO THE ELY CITY CODE, CHAPTER 20, SECTION 20.2.33, SALE OF LAND LOCATED IN THE EAST SPAULDING PLAT ENTITLED ZONING MAP AMENDMENT

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELY DOES HEREBY ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. A new Section shall be added to Chapter 20 as Section 20.2.33, of the Ely City Code to read as follows:

SEC. 20.2.33. SALE OF LAND LOCATED IN THE EAST SPAULDING PLAT. The Council of the City of Ely is hereby authorized to sell land located in the East Spaulding Plat, on terms

and conditions acceptable to the City Council and the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute all documents and do all things necessary to effect the sale of that certain real estate described as follows, to wit:

Block	Lot	Total Price
2	8	\$15,000.00
2	9	\$18,000.00
2	10	\$18,000.00
2	11	\$18,000.00
2	12	\$20,000.00
2	13	\$18,000.00
2	14	\$18,000.00
2	15	\$15,000.00

3	1	\$15,000.00
3	2	\$15,000.00
3	3	\$15,000.00
3	4	\$15,000.00
4	1	\$10,000.00
4	2	\$19,800.00
4	3	\$19,800.00
4	4	\$19,800.00
4	5	\$19,700.00
4	6	\$19,700.00
4	7	\$19,700.00
4	8	\$19,700.00
4	9	\$19,700.00

Following are the terms and conditions of the sales of the above-referenced parcels:

1. There will be no access from Pioneer Road.
2. There will be three years from installation of utilities to build.
3. Buyer is to pay all legal fees, permits and water and sewer access fees.
4. Earnest Money of \$500.00 will be required to hold the lot for the buyers.
5. One residential unit per lot, except for Lot 1, Block 4 which is deemed unbuildable as single residential lot.

SECTION 2. Effective Date: Pursuant to Section 3.08 of the Charter of the City of Ely, Minnesota, the adoption of this Ordinance is effective immediately after final adoption and publication.

First Reading: March 19, 2019
Chuck Novak, Mayor
Harold R Langowski, Clerk-Treasurer

Published in the Timberjay, March 22, 2019

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 707 Nett Lake, Minnesota 55772-8122

REGULAR MEETING
January 11, 2019

Members Present
Beverly Steel, Chairman
Marilyn Geshick, Vice-Chairman
Shane Drift-Treasurer
Malita Spears, Clerk
Jane Villebrun, Director
Janice Connor, Director

ALSO PRESENT:
Jim Varichak, Supt./Prin.
ChristineHampson, Bus Mgr
Corinne Whiteman, Sec.

ABSENT: None

Mr. Varichak called the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 707 to order at 8:14 a.m.

19-063 Janice Connor and Malita Spears took oath of office after the meeting was called to order.

19-064 Motion was made by Geshick and seconded by Villebrun to approve the agenda with 2 additions a letter from Danny Lambert under Correspondence, and to add Action Item # 5, to hire Joan Whiteman as a Temporary Head Cook. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-065 Motion was made by Geshick and seconded by Villebrun to approve the December 10, 2018 regular meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-066 Motion was made by Geshick and seconded by Villebrun to approve the bills in the amount of \$72,991.40 (list attached). MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-067 Motion was made by Drift and seconded by Geshick to approve the December 31, 2018

Financial Report. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

Beverly Steel took oath of office at 8:31 a.m.

19-068 Jane Villebrun nominated Beverly Steel as Chairman. No other nominations were called. Beverly Steel declared Chairman. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-069 Marilyn Geshick nominated herself as Vice Chairman. Shane Drift nominated Malita Spears as Vice Chairman. Votes were cast, both candidates were tied, Mariyn Geshick won tiebreaker. Marilyn Geshick declared as Vice Chairman. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-070 Shane Drift nominated himself as Treasurer. Marilyn Geshick nominated Jane Villebrun as Treasurer. The Board voted for the two candidates. Votes were cast, Shane Drift won the tiebreaker, and was declared Treasurer. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-071 Shane Drift nominated Malita Spears as Clerk. Beverly Steel nominated Janice Connor as Clerk. Janice Connor declined the nomination. Malita Spears was declared Clerk. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-072 Motion was made by Geshick and seconded by Villebrun to use the old Signature Plate until the new Signature Plate comes in. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-073 Motion was made by Drift and seconded by Geshick to keep the Board Salaries the same as last year. Which are the following:
\$250.00 per member per regular meeting
\$40.00 per negotiations meeting
\$130.00 per year additional for Chairman
\$100.00 per year additional for Vice Chair, Clerk and Treasurer
\$40.00 per year one issue, meeting lasting less than one half hour
\$65.00 per one issue meet-

ing lasting over one half hour MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-074 Motion was made by Drift and seconded by Geshick to Approve American Bank of the North and MSBA Liquid Asset Fund the District Depository. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-075 Motion was made by Geshick, and seconded by Drift to approve the Timberjay and Bois Forte News as the Official District Newspaper. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-076 Motion was made by Drift and seconded by Geshick to set the second Monday of each month and time 8:00 a.m., for the School Board meetings. The meetings will be held in the Board Room at the Nett Lake School. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-077 Motion was made by Geshick and seconded by Villebrun to adopt Robert Rules of Order 11th Edition for the Nett Lake School. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-078 Motion was made by Drift and seconded by Geshick to approve the School Board and Staff expense allowance \$65.00/day with receipts for one full day. (with receipts) MOTION CARRIED 5-1-0

19-079 Motion was made by Villebrun seconded by Drift to use the Federal IRS rate for 2019 which is at \$0.58 MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

The following board members have been appointed as Representatives to the following committees:
Community Education – Marilyn Geshick, and Beverly Steel
Early Childhood Family Education Committee – Malita Spears
Local Indian Education Committee (LIEC) and Indian Education Meeting – Shane Drift

The following people were approved to be on the following committees:

Certified Negotiations/ Grievances – Shane Drift, Mariyn Geshick, Jane Villebrun
Policy Committee – Marilyn Geshick, Beverly Steel. Jane Villebrun
Meet and Confer – Marilyn Geshick, and Jane Villebrun
Building and Grounds – Mariyn Geshick and Beverly Steel

Legislative – Shane Drift and Jane Villebrun
Personnel Committee – Mariyn Geshick, Janice Connor, and Beverly Steel
Approve Individual with Official Authority (IWOA) Jane Villebrun, Mariyn Geshick, Shane Drift

Lee Gillson Special Ed Teacher and Jeanine Whiteman Indian School Liaison Coordinator presented the Dream Catcher program to the School Board.
Jim Aylesworth with Miller McDonald Inc, presented the 2018 audit. Discussion occurred.

Superintendent /Principal report was given:
The Holiday Program went well. I have a meeting with Northwoods regarding Achievement and Intergration Dollars. With A & I dollars we will input with Malita's program and LIEC to put a plan into place. March 15th I need to report to MDE. We will be using the UMD grant, and will be looking at, using the UMD grant next year. We are preparing for MCA testing. 3rd-8th grade will be testing for Reading and Math and 5th, 8th, 10th grade will be testing in science. The MCA's are used as Bench Marks for Graduation.

Shane Drift left the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

No Technology Report.

There is no Consent Agenda.

19-080 Motion was made by Geshick and seconded by Drift to approve the 2018 Audit that was presented. MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0

19-081 Motion was made

by Geshick and seconded by Drift to approve Laura Reinsch Maternity Leave Request. MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0

19-082 Motion was made by Geshick and seconded by Villebrun to approve the World Best Work Force Report. MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0

19-083 Motion was made by Connor and seconded by Geshick to approve the Drug Testing Quote from McNeil Environmental Inc., and Drug Testing will be administered every other month. MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0

19-084 Motion was made by Geshick and seconded by Connor to Hire Joan Whiteman as Temporary Head Cook at \$17.00 an hour effective January 7th, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0

Meeting went into Closed Session regarding Personnel Issue with Personnel Committee.

The Board came out of Closed Session at 11:15 a.m. and meeting was adjourned.

Published in the Timberjay, March 22, 2019

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 707 Nett Lake, Minnesota 55772-8122

REGULAR MEETING
February 11, 2019

Members Present
Beverly Steel, Chairman
Marilyn Geshick, Vice-Chairman
Shane Drift, Treasurer
Malita Spears, Clerk
Jane Villebrun, Director
Janice Connor, Director

ALSO PRESENT:
Jim Varichak, Supt./Prin.

ChristineHampson, Bus Mgr
Corinne Whiteman, Sec.

ABSENT: None

Beverly Steel called the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 707 to order at 8:10 a.m.

The Board recognized Karen Drift and Judith Chosa, they wanted to address the issue of the Anishinabe Language. Karen Drift brought to attention the Language is dying out and we need to try and preserve it. She had asked if the school can increase the time of Culture/Language and possibly bring the Culture/Language classes back to Northwoods, for the High School students. Mr. Varichak will look at the budget to see if that's an option.

19-085 Motion was made by Villebrun and seconded by Geshick to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-086 Motion was made by Geshick and seconded by Drift to approve the January 11, 2019 regular meeting minutes, with corrections. MOTION CARRIED 6-0

19-087 Motion was made by Drift and seconded by Villebrun to approve the bills in the amount of \$63,638.96 (list attached). MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-088 Motion was made by Drift and seconded by Geshick to approve the January 31, 2019 Financial Report. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

Suptertendent Report was given: Jeff Tibbetts from Fond Du Lac Community College came up to work with our 5th and 6th grade students with Stone Carving. The session went well. The 5th and 6th graders will be going fishing on Tuesday. 1854 will be putting on this event. Russ Davidson, Math Expert, will be working with staff on Wednesday, to work on Math, to gear students up for the MCA's.

MN Science Museum will be here to present to the K-3 on Solid, Liquid, and Gas. Science Museum will present Engineering for the 4-6 grades. Book Fair went well. LIEC donated \$20.00 for each student.

19-089 Motion was made by Geshick, and seconded by Drift to approve the Consent Agenda. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-090 Motion was made by Drift, and seconded by Villebrun to approve the Impact Aid Application. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-091 Motion was made by Villebrun, and seconded by Connor to approve the Resolution to Change the Date for the Special Election to May 14, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-092 Motion was made by Malita Spears and seconded by Shane Drift for the Personnel Committee to review Danny Lambert's Salary Increase request, and for the Personnel Committee to make a recommendation. MOTION FAILED 3-3-0

19-093 Motion was made by Janice Connor and seconded by Marilyn Geshick to deny the request, and have Danny Lambert's Salary Increase brought to the Negotiation Committee at the time of Negotiations. MOTION FAILED 3-3-0

19-094 Motion was made by Mariyn Geshick, and seconded by Shane Drift to deny the Salary Increase Request for Danny Lambert based on Personnel Policy. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-095 Motion was made by Marilyn Geshick and seconded by Shane Drift to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 a.m. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

Published in the Timberjay, March 22, 2019

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Duties: Kindergarten Classroom
Salary: BA Step 0 (Prorated)
Terms of Contract: Start Date: Aug. 26, 2019. Approximate end date: Oct. 16, 2019
Due Date: Review of applications will begin April 1, 2019. Will remain open until filled. Please submit a letter of interest, resume, current copy of licensure. Online application can be found at www.nettlake-school.org

James J. Varichak, Superintendent
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Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦♦ Moderate ♦♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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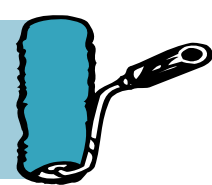
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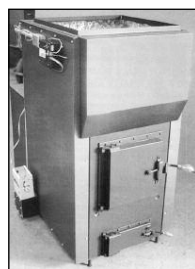
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#135385 COOK Gorgeous 38 acres of partially field/partially timbered property located west of Cook and north of Hibbing. Includes a pond and is mostly level. Listed below tax assessed value. **\$42,000**

#134670 - COOK 2 BR, 1-1/2 BA single level living with open floor plan and a pellet stove fireplace. Property on 4 city lots w/ 2-stall garage. **\$79,500**



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