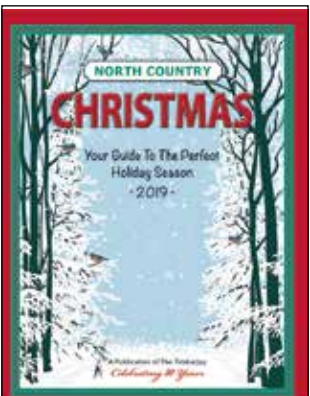




Wishing all our readers
a Happy Thanksgiving

Timberjay offices closed
until Monday, Dec. 2

Don't Miss....
This year's North Country
Christmas magazine inside



the TIMBERJAY

VOL. 30, ISSUE 47 November 29, 2019

\$1.00



SULFIDE MINING

DNR to conduct own Twin Metals review

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

Mine plan expected to be released next month

EDITORIAL

DNR and Twin Metals. Page 4

REGIONAL — The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will conduct its own environmental impact statement on any copper-nickel mining proposal issued by Twin Metals.

That's according to DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen, who made the announcement at a

press conference held in St. Paul on Friday.

Twin Metals, a subsidiary of Chilean mining giant Antofagasta, is expected to issue

its plan to mine copper-nickel near Ely in December, at which point both the DNR and federal agencies will need to develop their process for reviewing the proposal's environmental impacts.

The federal review is governed by the National

Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, while the DNR's process is governed by a separate state law, known as MEPA. While state and federal agencies conducted the previous EIS on the proposed PolyMet project jointly, the state of Minnesota will do its own

See...**REVIEW** pg. 12



NORTHERN LAKES ARTS ASSOCIATION



Scrooge in love

'A Christmas Carol' continuation opens Saturday in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — What happens after "A Christmas Carol?" A year has passed and Ebenezer Scrooge is now a happy

man. But is he, really? Is there something lacking? Old pal Jacob Marley and a trio of brand new ghosts arrive to give Scrooge a new chance at a love

See...**SCROOGE** pg. 9

David Wigdahl plays Ebenezer Scrooge and Jennifer Merhar portrays the Ghost of Christmas Past in NLAA's production of "Scrooge in Love" in Ely.

photo by K. Vandervort

ANNIVERSARY

Timberjay to mark 30 years at open house

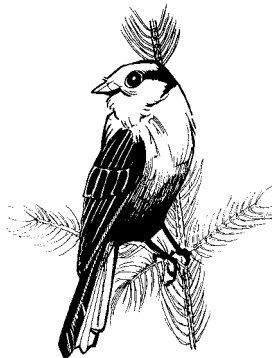
REGIONAL — Thirty years from the date of its first publication, the *Timberjay* Newspaper will host an open house to celebrate as it enters its fourth decade serving the North Country.

"We've come along way since that first edition of what was then the *Orr Timberjay* rolled off the press in International Falls on Dec. 4, 1989," said Publisher Marshall Helmberger. "From those humble beginnings, we've built a newspaper that has become known around the state, and even nationally, for the quality and accuracy of its investigations and news reporting."

While *Timberjay* readers now span the country, the newspaper continues to focus its reporting and feature writing on the communities it serves, including Orr, Cook, Tower, Ely, and Embarrass.

Next week's open house is set for 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6 at the *Timberjay* office in Tower and readers are encouraged to stop by for cake, hors d'oeuvres, and other refreshments. At the same time, anyone purchasing a new

See...**30 YEARS** pg. 12



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Greenwood residence destroyed by fire

Residents were home and escaped Sunday blaze without injury

GREENWOOD TWP — An afternoon blaze destroyed a residence here on Sunday, Nov. 24. According to a St. Louis County Sheriff's report, the fire destroyed the home located at 2648 Mordini Rd. County records show the

home is owned by the Norman Nelson family.

Residents of the home were present when the fire broke out and all managed to escape without injury before the structure was fully engulfed in flame.

Firefighters from the Greenwood, Breitung, and Cook fire departments all responded to the scene, along with the sheriff's office, which is investigating the incident along with the state Fire Marshal.



Firefighters from Greenwood, Breitung and Cook fire departments responded to a Sunday afternoon blaze on Mordini Road. photo by Pete Makowski/ Northland FireWire



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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Holiday Boutique and Pancake Breakfast in Embarrass on Saturday, Dec. 7

EMBARRASS – The 2019 Holiday Boutique and Pancake Breakfast will take place on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 8-11 a.m. at the Timber Hall. Join us for all-you-can-eat pancakes, your choice of ham or sausage links, a fruit cup, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee. Adults \$5, children 6-10 \$3, and under 5 years free. Proceeds go to support the Embarrass Region Fair.

Holiday Bazaar at Cook Hospital on Friday, Dec. 6

COOK – The Cook Area Healthcare Auxiliary (Thrift Shop), Cook Care Center Activities Department and Day Break (Adult Day Services) and the Cook Hospital Lions Club will join together to host the annual Holiday Bazaar on Friday, Dec. 6 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Cook Hospital. Those interested in attending the event should use the Care Center entrance. There will be a bake sale, a cookie walk, holiday crafts, decorations, and Thrift Shop treasures. For more information, call 218-666-5945 ext. 264.

Annual Christmas Tea at Cook's First Baptist Church on Dec. 2

COOK - The ladies of our communities are invited to attend the annual Christmas Tea at the First Baptist Church in Cook on Monday, Dec. 2 at 6 p.m. We will be blessed with a personal visit from some very special individuals, including a shepherd, a wise man, Mary and Joseph. They will bring their messages of hope, leading us into a deeper meaning of "What Child is This?", our theme for this year. Join us for carol-singing, special musical numbers, and of course, delightful refreshments. We welcome you to invite your friends to enjoy the evening with you as well.

Cook Thrift Shop Announces Holiday and Winter Hours

COOK – The Thrift Shop will be closed on Thanksgiving and Black Friday, as well as the weeks of Christmas and New Year's. In December, it will be open during its regular hours on Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. It will also be open on Saturday, Dec. 7, 14, and 21 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. There are lots of Christmas items, and we want to give people the extra opportunity to shop for the holidays. The Thrift Shop will be open again on Jan. 9, 10, 11, 23, 24, and 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thanks to the continued support of our patrons, we were able to donate over \$114,000 this year to our local hospital and care facility, as well as a \$1,000 scholarship to a local student. Thanks to all our volunteers, those who donate, and those who shop at our local gem of a store. Good wishes to all in the upcoming holiday season!

Mesabi Range College awarded Essentia Grant

VIRGINIA – Mesabi Range College applied for and received a community health grant from Essentia Health in the amount of \$4,500. The grant will allow the college to provide fresh fruits, vegetables, and other nutritious food options to students who access the college's food shelf. It will also provide students with information on preparing healthy, low-cost, nutritious meals, as well as the opportunity to research and present two global tasting events for our community members. Please watch Mesabi Range College's website, www.mesabirange.edu, for upcoming dates and more information.

Annual Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner at Gethsemane on Tuesday, Dec. 3

VIRGINIA – Come and join us for our annual lutefisk and meatball dinner on Tuesday, Dec. 3 from 3-7 p.m. at Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran Church in Virginia. We will be serving lutefisk with drawn butter and cream sauce, handmade Swedish meatballs, potatoes and gravy, lefse and bread, beet pickles, vegetables, coffee, milk, and cupcakes. Meals for adults are \$16 and children ages 6-12 are \$6. Children under 5 eat free.

VERMILION COMMUNITY COLLEGE

VCC veterinary tech program accredited



ELY – The Vermilion Community College Veterinary Technician program has been granted accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (AVMA CVTEA), a national educational accreditation agency. As an AVMA CVTEA-accredited institution, VCC meets national standards and demonstrates excellence in programming that "protects and elevates the quality of veterinary care."

"To be an AVMA CVTEA-accredited institution, over 50 standards of accreditation must be met," said program coordinator Dr. Peter Hughes, DVM, "and the accreditation process is extremely thorough. AVMA CVTEA accreditation is an

endorsement of our program's solid curriculum, top-notch credentialed faculty, outstanding facilities and equipment, and overall quality."

The Veterinary Technician program consists of five semesters of basic sciences and practical hands-on courses, including an internship, that prepares students for work in clinics, hospitals, shelters, and other animal-focused industries. One of only four such programs in Minnesota, VCC's Veterinary Technician program launched in the fall of 2017 with support from IRRR program development grant funds, which were used to purchase top notch equipment and construct a state-of-the-art teaching facility.

The program's first cohort has 13 students that will walk the stage

this December as the program's first graduating class. Enrollment has grown each year with there being thirty-seven applications for the fall of 2020.

AVMA CVTEA accreditation assures Vermilion's Veterinary Technician graduates will meet eligibility requirements for professional credentialing and/or licensure and specific competencies that prepare them for professional practice. To learn more about the Veterinary Technician program and the college's status as an AVMA CVTEA-accredited institution, visit Vermilion's website at www.vcc.edu or contact the enrollment team at admissions@vcc.edu.

ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM

Good Vibrations for Winter Wellness by Christina Cotruvo coming to area libraries in December

REGIONAL - The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present Good Vibrations for Winter Wellness at the Ely Public Library on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 3:30 p.m., the Babbitt Public Library on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 6 p.m., and the Cook Public Library on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 5 p.m. This program will feature Christina Cotruvo playing and discussing the American-Celtic harp, the hi-tech Harp Ukelele, and the therapy harp. She will also share the history of the songs she performs from a variety of genres and how they work toward wellness. Music can lighten the holiday blues, bring warm feelings to a cold winter day, and calm to a stressful time. This hour-long program is geared toward teens and adults.

Cotruvo resides in Duluth and is a Certified Clinical Musician who uses unique instruments and her voice in community music groups, memory care facilities, and one-

on-one patient therapeutic music services, focusing on the wellness intent of good vibrations. Inspired by living on the shores of Lake Superior, she publishes No-C-Notes® audio music description for those with visual impairment, is the leader of Duluth Ukulele Community Strum, teaches harp and ukulele, and provides seminars on therapeutic music.

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/



Christina Cotruvo

alslibinfo.

TOWER CRAFT SHOW



HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW

**Saturday, December 7
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Tower Civic Center**

Stop by for homemade baked goods, holiday gifts, craft items, coffee and, taco-in-a-bag, and more!
Get your holiday shopping done close to home!

TOWER CRAFT SHOW



2019

Holiday Events

Festival of Trees

Welcome to Northwoods Partners 17th Annual Festival of Trees, where beautifully decorated trees and wreaths transform the lobby of the Grand Ely Lodge into a winter wonderland for a silent auction from Nov. 28 - Dec. 8. Lighting Ceremony At 5 pm on Thanksgiving evening with refreshments and entertainment.

Thanksgiving Night Shopping

Join us for a longstanding tradition that is part of our charming, small town culture. Since the eighties, Ely merchants have been welcoming people with goodies and holiday cheer for Thanksgiving Night Shopping. It starts at 6 pm. Bundle up and take a stroll through downtown and share this neighborly tradition with us. Sponsored by Ely Chamber of Commerce Events & Promotions Committee

Small Town Christmas

Saturday, November 30 10 am - 5 pm

There is something special about Christmas in a small town - darting in and out of beautifully decorated shops. Friendly merchants help you find that perfect gift from a great selection of unique items and quality gifts. Don't forget our Ely made products too. Sponsored by Ely Chamber of Commerce.

Holiday Parade/City Tree Lighting

Saturday, November 30 5 pm

Celebrate the magic of the season with this Ely tradition. The parade begins at 5 pm and is followed by the City's Tree Lighting at Whiteside Park. Complimentary hot refreshments and cookies will be served. Kids visit with Santa and create a fun art project with Dafne from the Art Corner. Sponsored by Ely Chamber of Commerce and City of Ely.

Mrs. Claus Holiday Party

Saturday, December 14 1 - 3 pm

Join us at Amici's Event Center for this free event with games, activities, cookie decorating, dancing, storytelling, hot chocolate and hot cider. Don't forget to bring your list for Santa as he will be stopping in for a visit. Every child gets a bag of goodies. While in town, stop by our shops for holiday gifts! Sponsored by Ely Chamber of Commerce.

For a full list of all the holiday activities, visit our Event Calendar at www.Ely.org or follow us on Facebook @ElyChamberOfCommerce.

CITY OF ELY

Ely polling place to remain at Senior Center

Split council narrowly rejects call to move voting center to City Hall

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The city’s one and only polling place will remain at the Ely Senior Center in 2020, but some city council members here are increasingly dissatisfied with the tradition and want voting to take place at City Hall.

A split council voted 4-3 last Tuesday to approve a resolution designating the Ely Senior Center to remain as the city’s lone polling place for the upcoming election year.

Council member Heidi Omerza led a charge in an attempt to move voting to City Hall, citing a \$2.5-million renovation project five years ago to improve ADA access. “I am going to vote against this (resolution) simply because we have things in place, such as early

voting and absentee voting, and access to vote (at City Hall) where we have a ramp and elevator,” she said.

“This is one of the main reasons we spent that money so we could have voting here. I believe the closer voting happens to where we actually do the business of the city, the better off we all are,” Omerza continued. “I understand I am in the minority, but I will continue to stand by my position, because I think this is where we should be voting.”

Omerza noted that many residents are already voting at City Hall, either for absentee or other early voting. “More and more people are choosing not to vote on Election Day,” said Omerza. “I’m not against the Senior Center. We have spent so much money on this building that it would be ridiculous for us

not to have voting here.”

Mayor Chuck Novak agreed with Omerza. “Part of the discussion for renovating this building was to make this the polling place for the city of Ely,” he said. “Eventually, someday, that Senior Center will not be able to accommodate voting day. I cannot disagree with the rationale at this point.”

Indeed, the 40-year-old Ely Senior Center is in need of major repairs and renovation, and a major fundraising campaign is underway to help with the cost of installing new windows and completing major electrical and kitchen upgrades.

Council member Paul Kess argued to keep voting at the Senior Center. “Having a comfortable and accessible place to vote encourages more participation and outweighs the fact that

we spent a lot of money here,” he said.

Novak and Omerza convinced council member Ryan Callen to vote against the resolution. Just two years ago, Callen voted to keep voting at the Senior Center. He did not comment on why he changed his vote this time.

Kess was joined by Albert Forsman, Jerome Debeltz and Angela Campbell in voting for the resolution to keep voting at the Senior Center.

The Minnesota presidential primary will be held on Tuesday, March 3. Voters will return to the voting booth in August for a local primary, and again in November for the general election.

Other business

In other action, the council:
► Authorized the Heritage Preservation Committee to

submit a grant request to the IRRR Mine Land Reclamation fund to complete design work for the retaining wall restoration project at the Pioneer Mine site.

► Approved a Projects Committee recommendation to purchase a 15-acre parcel of land for \$200,000 that includes a portion of the Trezona Trail alignment.

► Authorized the sale of city property on Washington Street for a city resident to build a “tiny house”.

► Heard from the police chief who said the department’s new pickup truck squad vehicle should be operational by Dec. 1.

► Approved a resolution authorizing the application of raffle permits for the Dorothy Molter Memorial Foundation.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Former Tower clerk-treasurer charged with felony

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER—Former Tower City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith is now facing a felony charge stemming from her acknowledged destruction of a city-owned laptop computer earlier this year. The complaint, which became public on Thursday, charges Keith with Damage to Property in the First Degree, with total damage in excess of \$1,000. That’s the threshold that elevates the charge to a felony, punishable by up

to five years in custody or a \$10,000 fine.

The charges have been expected for months after Keith told city officials and a Breitung police officer on June 20 that she had destroyed the city-owned laptop. “Specifically, the Defendant stated her son had used it to shoot at, it had been run over with her truck, and other parts of it were burned,” states the complaint. Keith further informed Breitung police

officer Jason Sanderson that she had no parts remaining from the computer.

The Breitung officer was present at Tower City Hall at approximately 4:22 p.m. on June 20, when Keith arrived as part of a pre-arranged visit to claim some personal items from her desk.

The city council had placed Keith on administrative suspension days earlier and had directed her to return the laptop computer

during the same visit to city hall.

The complaint, drafted by the St. Louis County Attorney’s Office, notes that Keith had been directed to return the laptop and had never been given permission to destroy the device.

The laptop was an HP EliteBook 850 valued at \$1,999.

The latest complaint further complicates Keith’s legal situation. She had been scheduled for a court hearing on Nov. 20 related to a separate charge of

falsifying official city records, but that hearing was rescheduled to Dec. 19 at 9:30 a.m. given the additional charge.

Keith has filed a grievance through her Teamsters Union representative over her removal from office, but the union has not pressed the issue in recent weeks given the criminal charges Keith is facing. The city and Keith did approve a separation agreement in August, but Keith subsequently rescinded her signature, which, per the agreement, led to her automatic dismissal.

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OPINION

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

DNR and Twin Metals

Agency makes a good decision to go its own way on environmental review

The decision by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to conduct its own environmental review process into the impacts of a proposed Twin Metals copper-nickel mine is a good one, that will allow Minnesotans to have a stronger voice in ensuring the protection of the most spectacular place in our state.

As we’ve seen in the past three years, the Trump administration simply cannot be trusted to protect the environment, and it has corrupted the internal workings of our government to serve, in many cases, the president’s personal interests and agenda. That has certainly been the case with Twin Metals. We can only wonder what kind of *quid pro quo* led to the administration’s illegal reinstatement of mineral leases for the project.

By conducting its own separate review under the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act, or MEPA, the DNR will, at a minimum, make it far more likely that the process is conducted deliberately and in the light of day. Commissioner Sarah Strommen is promising full transparency, which would be a marked change from the shroud of secrecy that has descended around the workings of the federal government under the Trump administration.

Strommen told reporters this past Friday that the DNR has already requested any and all information developed by the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service related to the project, and that includes all of the studies and other documentation received during the review of the proposed mineral withdrawal, a review that the Trump administration abruptly ended just weeks before it was scheduled for completion. So far, the administration has refused to release the results of that review, even to congressional oversight committees, which suggests there is information the administration doesn’t want the public to know.

It certainly must be stated that the DNR lacks a perfect track record when it comes to its involvement in such environmental reviews. The agency’s handling of the PolyMet review and subsequent permitting has prompted the Minnesota Court of Appeals to suspend PolyMet’s permit to mine, along with other permits, until issues raised by mine opponents can be properly examined. That’s an unusual step for Minnesota courts to take and it suggests judges don’t like what they’ve seen so far.

But there’s reason for optimism that things will play out

differently in the case of Twin Metals. Given its location just upstream of a major BWCAW watershed, the environmental risks associated with the mine are extraordinary. Sulfide-based mining in a water-rich environment has proven to be a disaster time after time. Locating such a mine on the edge of the nation’s most popular wilderness area, where water quality is of paramount concern, is foolhardy, which is why the U.S. Forest Service ultimately exercised its veto on the project back in late 2016. The Trump administration has since opted to ignore the Forest Service’s authority on the matter.

Yet, Minnesotans have indicated that protecting the BWCAW is of paramount importance. Polls show strong bipartisan opposition in the state to a sulfide-based mine on the edge of the wilderness. This is an important issue for Minnesotans and we suspect that the Walz administration and any future governor will endeavor to ensure that a state review is methodical, rigorous and transparent — if only because it’s good politics to make sure of it.

Ultimately, this mine proposal may not even get that far, since the legality of the lease reinstatement which makes the project possible is certainly questionable. While the Trump administration is likely to win the first round on that issue — given that the case was assigned to an ideological Trump appointee — opponents have far better prospects once the case arrives at the D.C. appellate court.

And there are still significant questions about the financial viability of the project. The economics of the Twin Metals project have always been sketchy. Twin Metals officials still insist they plan to operate an underground operation, which is inherently more expensive than open pit mining. Yet even open pit mining of the extremely low-grade ore found in the Duluth Complex is economically marginal, as the finances of the PolyMet project have demonstrated.

We’ll learn more about the economics when the company issues an actual mine plan next month.

In the meantime, Minnesotans should, at a minimum, feel more confident that at least one environmental review of that proposal will be transparent and science-based. It means Minnesotans are less likely to lose control of a process that could have major repercussions for the future of the state.



Letters from Readers

New Tower Area Ambulance contract is badly needed

The new three-year “contract” that TAAS member townships are expected to sign is in dire need of a re-write. The wording is the same as the expiring contract except that the numbers asked for in the subsidy payments have gone up significantly.

1. The townships need to insert language that defines and protects the ambulance fund accounts. For example, it needs to be stated that the city council cannot transfer money out of the ambulance accounts to pay for unrelated city projects and city expenses as has been past practice. Don’t sign a contract without it. Well-written contracts produce trust. No one should fear that.
2. Profits from the city’s newly begun “non-emergency transfer business” need to be proportionally spent toward the purchase and repair of the extra ambulances that the city is going to require for this business. Vermilion Lake Township Treasurer Steve Lotz lays out the facts and figures quite well in his research.
3. It has been said that the townships’ subsidy is only to be spent on buying new ambulances. That language is not included

in the existing or in the presently proposed three-year contract.

4. The city needs to provide written monthly financial reports detailing the income, the expenses, and the current status of the Ambulance Service accounts. This reporting needs to be spelled out in the new “contract” with the townships. Had this been done in the past, the city probably wouldn’t be in the financial mess that it is in now. Transparency, like it or not, is a good thing for taxpayers.
5. The townships’ supervisors, along with help from the member townships’ attorneys, need to come forth with a comprehensive Ambulance Service contract, which I am sure will include more than the provisions I have recommended above. This isn’t a re-invention of the wheel. I’m sure that the Greenwood Twp. attorney, for example, has references available that cover several ambulance service agreements between member entities.

**Lee Peterson
Greenwood Twp**

Drivers needed to assist disabled vets

Because so many sick and disabled veterans lack transportation to and from VA medical facilities for needed treatment, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) operates a nationwide

transportation network to meet this need. It is with great pleasure that I can announce that rides are now available in northeastern Minnesota for our veterans. This is a vital and extremely beneficial service to our veterans who have served our country.

All DAV drivers are required to be registered Minneapolis VA Volunteer Drivers. Volunteer drivers must have a state driver’s license, a clean driving record, personal auto insurance, no current health or mental issues and must be able to complete a physical and a background check.

In addition to the pleasure of serving veterans, it’s a great way to enjoy conversations with veterans and make new friends.

This is a plea to sign up to be a volunteer driver for the program. We NEED drivers to make this program successful!

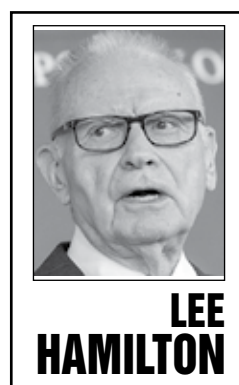
Please contact Dan Welsand, DAV Northeast Minnesota Transportation Coordinator, at 715- 398-2416 or 218-204-0693, or email him at Daniel.Welsand@va.gov if you want to be a part of this special team. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

**Paul McDonald
St. Louis County Comm.
Fourth District**

COMMENTARY

We make progress when citizens tackle the small stuff

One of the not-so-small gifts of living in a representative democracy is that you can’t accomplish things alone. Whether you’re trying to get a stop sign put up on a dangerous corner or to change US



LEE HAMILTON

policy on greenhouse gas emissions, you have to reach out to others. And learning how to persuade, motivate, and involve them — learning the skills of active citizenship, in other words — makes this a stronger, more resilient country.

So I want to make

a case for building and using those skills by tackling the issues right in front of us. We all live in communities that we know better than anyone who doesn’t live there — including the policy makers who every day make decisions on larger issues that affect our lives there. Who better than those who live

See HAMILTON...pg. 5

The traditions of the deer hunt mostly stay the same

Kaboom! A rifle shot splits open the morning silence. It’s just after dawn. A soft lemony sun is hanging low on the eastern horizon. The thermometer outside the window reads a chilling three degrees, the coldest morning yet this fall. My ears are trained for another shot but none follows. It’s



KATHLEEN MCQUILLAN

opening weekend of deer season, 2019.

The living room is strewn with blaze orange hunting garb, piled in every corner, draping from cardboard boxes, deceptively belying an effort at organization with each hunter’s name neatly printed on the flaps. “Tinks” scented hats and vests are intermingled with

the much-loved fragrance of balsam bows. And a few emptied packages of hand and toe warmers lay a path to the porch where legions of boots and shoes are left in an attempted effort at a neat formation.

Two hunters left well before dawn. One is still snoozing in the recliner with Skinny, our little black pug, nestled in the warm nook of his armpit. This is the lucky one, the eldest of the three, who shot his buck opening morning and spent most of yes-

terday following the blood trail of his son’s “long shot”. Both returned at dark, exhausted and more than deeply disappointed. After sixteen years of hunting, this was a first for our son who has been the subject of many stories over the years. Most often those stories are harangues about how he’s “the one who comes up from the Twin Cities for a weekend of hunting and gets the first deer on his first day out,” in stark contrast to his father who is always preparing for the hunt

weeks in advance, posting our land, checking stands, “scouting for deer sign”, building stands, sitting in the rifles, washing the clothes and hanging them far enough from the house to avoid even the slightest scent of wood smoke, packing them in boughs, labeling boxes, stocking up on supplies and ammo, all with the purpose of fulfilling the welcomed expectations for another successful

See DEER HUNT...pg. 5

LITIGATION

Suit would prompt action on endangered species petitions

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — A national environmental group has filed a legal notice of its intent to sue the Trump administration for failure to protect a total of 274 species of plants and animals that it believes are imperiled. The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) calls it “one of the largest lawsuits ever launched under the Endangered Species Act,” and the lawsuit is expected to cover several species in Minnesota, including the moose, the spotted skunk, the golden-winged warbler, and the wood turtle. The CBD, in a release issued this week, alleges that the Trump administration has failed to act on petitions

seeking protection for the species included in the pending lawsuit. Delays in the federal listing process are hardly unknown, but the CBD alleges that the situation has significantly worsened under the Trump administration. Under the Obama administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service developed a workplan to address a backlog of more than 500 species awaiting protection decisions, including the 274 species included in the CBD lawsuit, but the group alleges that the Trump administration has kept the agency from completing decisions for dozens of species every year. According to the CBD, its planned legal action is intended to ensure that all the remaining species in the workplan that are still awaiting

protection get decisions as soon as possible. Earlier this year the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, known as IPBES, warned governments around the world that one million species are now at risk of extinction because of human activity. IPBES scientists said that urgent actions are needed to avert mass extinction in the coming decades. “Scientists around the world are sounding the alarm about the extinction crisis, but the Trump administration can’t be bothered to lift a finger for hundreds of species that are in serious trouble,” said Noah Greenwald, endangered species director at the Center. “Every day protections are delayed is a day that

moves these fascinating species closer to extinction.” Meanwhile the Trump administration has only protected 19 species under the Endangered Species Act — the lowest of any administration at this point in the presidential term. By comparison, the Obama administration protected 360 species under the act during the same period. President Clinton protected 523 species and George H.W. Bush administration extended protection to 232 species. Even the Reagan administration, which was widely considered less than enthusiastic about environmental goals, extended protections to 254 species. “The Trump administration’s hostility toward wildlife is appalling,” said Greenwald.

“The Endangered Species Act has saved 99 percent of species under its protection, and it can save these plants and animals too, but only if they get the protection they need.” The 274 species occur across the lower 48 states and include birds, butterflies, fish, mammals and more. All of the species face serious threats to their survival, ranging from habitat destruction to climate change to disease. Other Minnesota species included in the pending court filing are the Blanding’s turtle, the Regal fritillary (a butterfly), the salamander mussel, and the tricolored bat.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

Prosecution of criminal polluters continues to fall under Trump

REGIONAL — Criminal environmental enforcement continues to fall under the Trump Administration, according to the latest figures released today by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, or PEER. Prosecution of pollution crimes in fiscal year 2019 fell to levels not seen in 25 years, as the ranks of Environmental Protection Agency criminal investigators also shrank.

Rejecting criticism of declining pollution prosecution, enforcement chief Susan Bodine recently told an American Bar Association conference that EPA remains aggressive. Yet, Justice Department records compiled by Syracuse University’s Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse paint a far different picture. For FY 2019 (which ended this past September), there

were only 75 EPA-initiated criminal prosecutions filed, a low dating back to 1994. Secured convictions are at the lowest level this century (back to 1995) and half the number of such convictions won just five years ago. “By any recognized metric, the odds of corporate polluters facing criminal consequences have reached a modern low,” stated PEER Executive Director Tim Whitehouse,

a former EPA enforcement attorney, expressing skepticism about Bodine’s claims the Trump administration is tough on corporate violators. “Every year under Trump has seen a further enforcement decline.” One measure that saw a slight uptick was EPA criminal referrals (i.e., new cases). Ironically, Bodine dismissed referrals as an example of “statistics mongering” even though

she previously touted the number of new cases opened as evidence of her diligence. Nonetheless, the FY19 referral numbers remain well below pre-Trump years and the lowest since 1990. At the same time, the number of EPA Criminal Investigation Division (CID) agents continues to decline with only 145 on staff as of February 2019, a decline from 175 in 2012, and a level well below

the 200-agent minimum threshold that Congress set in the U.S. Pollution Prosecution Act of 1990. “As evidenced by the trend under Trump, unless more resources are devoted to enforcement, pollution prosecutions will diminish further,” added Whitehouse. “Fewer criminal referrals today inevitably leads to fewer prosecutions and convictions in coming years.”

DEER HUNT...Continued from page 4

hunt. And often hunting for many days straight before getting his. It’s a tradition in our household as (or, I would argue, way more) anticipated and revered as Thanksgiving, “the other November holiday.” I pour myself the last cup of coffee in the pot and start another kettle of water for a fresh batch. My opening role is to make a clearing of the debris accumulated on the kitchen table from the hustle and bustle of everybody’s getting out the door before sunrise. It’s a minor mess that must be dealt with and that has become my main purpose over the years, to maintain a semblance of order amidst the apparent chaos, the result of single-minded

effort to get settled in the right spot at the right time to get the chance to get a “nice eater” or better yet, a chance at that “trophy buck” that’s been spotted in the area. The other part that I play also stages me in the kitchen. As is so familiar to women around the globe for centuries, the planning and preparing of meals is at the center of everything! And in this case, the hike down the road, the traipsing through the brush, that sitting motionless perched in a tree in the bitter cold isn’t easy, and certainly will work up an appetite. So the smell of fresh coffee, a bowl of soup and toast are a great way to welcome them in! It also sets the table for some great

stories, and this is just the beginning. I’ve never had an interest in actively participating in the taking of a deer, but I always relish the stories. I enjoy most hearing about the antics of does and their fawns that lingered under the deer stand providing interest while anxiously hoping a buck will catch their scent. Or those stories that include the stealthy wolf who appears like a ghost, also on the trail of the vulnerable. Then there are their tales of woe about an annoying squirrel, chattering up a storm, alerting every living thing around with maddening attention-seeking antics! I can’t help but recall my kids, who once drove me

crazy with the very same strategy. But I don’t say a word. Everyone has finally found a place to lay their heads and catch up on a few “zzz’s”. I go about cleaning up and preparing for “the feast” that’ll occur after dark. Dinnertime comes early when the days are so short and everyone is in from the woods and hungry! Here the traditions continue. Homemade pasties purchased from the Methodist ladies in Hibbing, or homemade sarmas prepared with potatoes, onions, carrots, and fermented cabbage leaves harvested from the garden, with our own tomato sauce on top. And, as Da Yoopers would have it, there’s plenty of beer. Seems

like that too is part of the tradition. How does that song go? “We drink, play cards and shoot the bull but never shoot no deer.” Well, we don’t play cards. My hunters usually get their deer. But the bull and beer parts sure fit! I love serving these guys. They seem to enjoy whatever I make, thank me profusely, and I get to listen to some very entertaining tales. As traditions go, some things change while many things stay the same. I no longer help with dragging in the deer. John and I would call it our “annual cardiac stress test”, joking that if we made it home, then we’d be good to go for

another year. Now, thanks to the trusty four wheeler, I’m no longer needed. I kinda miss being out in the elements but then again, braving the cold has lost some of its allure. So, I wait where it’s warm and see how the tall tales measure up with reality. This year opener measured up quite nicely. Everyone carried on despite the expected highs and lows, and to top off the weekend, the Vikings provided some top-notch fan glow by beating “America’s Team”, the Dallas Cowboys. Honestly, it just doesn’t get any better than that!

HAMILTON...Continued from page 3

in a particular community to step up, identify its problems, and then work to solve them? Don’t get me wrong. There are battles aplenty on the big issues of health care, climate change, education, the role of government, tax policy, foreign policy... These matter, and they require the attention of ordinary citizens as well as of political leaders and policy makers. But so does improving the quality of life where we live. As a member of Congress, I was constantly impressed by the issues constituents wanted addressed: they were usually linked in some way to the larger issues we took upon Capitol Hill, but always approached with the unique perspective of the particular community. These approaches ranged widely. One group’s purpose was to upgrade railroad warning lights, after too many accidents at crossings spurred them on. In a drought-stricken community, residents came together to manage the use of water in their watershed. Schools were a con-

stant concern, as parents struggled to make sure that bright kids could be challenged while kids who were struggling or in some other way disadvantaged got opportunities to find a path to success. Hospital emergency rooms, roads and bridges, community centers and programs for the elderly... All of these commanded attention from ordinary people who identified the problem, gathered allies, debated tactics, and found a way to make their communities better. Often these were people who were not closely connected with politics or government. They just wanted to improve something in their community, so they learned how the system works, and then learned how to make it work to help them accomplish their goals. Some of them, over time, became community leaders and moved on to school boards, city councils, and state legislatures after honing their democratic skills by working on problems of immediate concern. Others went back to their lives, pleased that they’d

improved one aspect of their neighbors’ lives. I came to see these examples as the well-spring of representative democracy. To be sure, even at the local level, things can get complicated. It used to puzzle me when someone would come forward with an idea to improve a water system or a sewer system, and just as quickly opposition would pop up. Often this was because improvement required change—including, sometimes, a tax increase. And there will always be voices for leaving things be. But that’s the nature of the democratic process: change deserves debate, and learning to marshal facts, find and work with allies, and ultimately sway public opinion is part and parcel of living in the system we enjoy. The more people are willing to do this, the more confident we can be that the answer to Lincoln’s question at Gettysburg — can this nation “long endure” — is Yes. It works if citizens step up to address the needs and conditions they

face. Participating in the process challenges us to make our case, develop our skills of persuasion, and become better at speaking, listening, building consensus, and being an engaged member of a community. These are the bedrock skills on which democracy rests, and the more of us who possess them, the stronger our system will be. Nothing in public life gave me greater pleasure than to see citizens in action. *Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*



NORTHERN COMMUNITY RADIO
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Independent, nonprofit community radio
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103.9 FM



Free hockey skates and sticks available

SOUDAN- Ben Johnson from Heavy Metal Sports in Ely has donated 25 pairs of hockey skates, 30 hockey sticks, and assorted hockey gear to give away to area children. The gear will be available at the Soudan Skating Rink. Anyone interested in receiving a pair of skates, a hockey stick, or other equipment should contact Greg “Dusty” Dostert at 218-248-0648. “This is really a great gift,” said Dostert. The Soudan Skating Rink is usually open for skaters starting in late December. Chimpu Tuominen hosts weekend skating parties at the rink throughout the winter.

New bookmobile dropbox available in Soudan

SOUDAN- A dropbox for returning Arrowhead Bookmobile books and media is now located in the new Breitung Community Center in Soudan. It is located near the coat racks by the clerk’s office. The building is open Tuesday through Thursday from 12-4 p.m. The next bookmobile visit is on Wednesday, Dec. 4 and is in Soudan from 1:45 - 3 p.m.

Red Hat Belles to meet Friday, Dec. 13

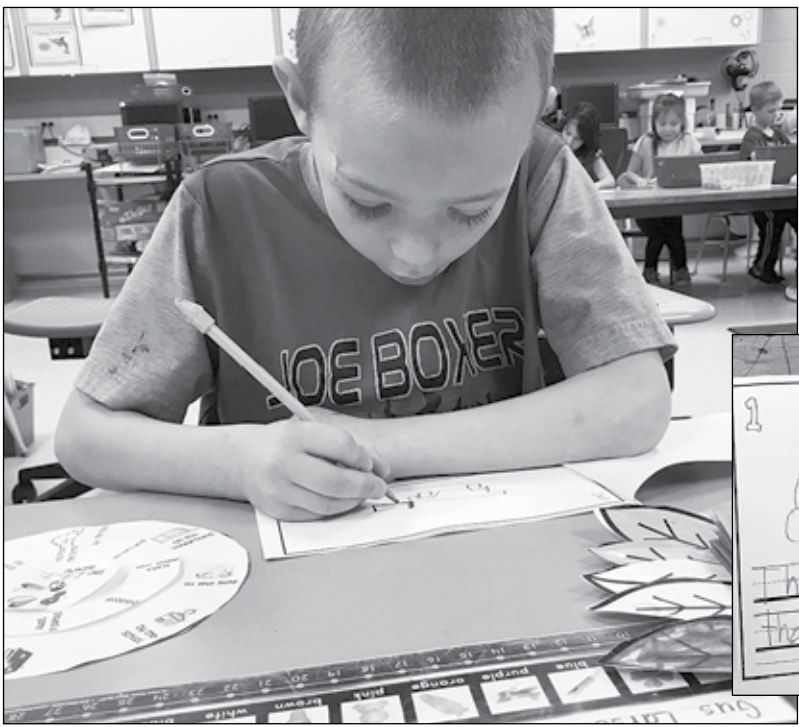
TOWER- The Northern Red Hat Belles will meet for their annual Christmas luncheon at the Vermilion Club on Friday, Dec. 13 at 12:30 p.m. Members are asked to bring an unwrapped gift for Operation Santa and also non-perishable items for the Tower Food Shelf. Any “next-to-new” items you may bring will be used for gifts for games. New members and guests are always welcomed. Please RSVP by Monday, Dec. 9 to Kathy 218-753-2530 or Pam 218-753-3006. We will be ordering off the menu. Hope to see you there.

Tower Holiday Craft Show set for Saturday, Dec. 7

TOWER- The annual Tower Holiday Craft Show will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center. This show features many talented area crafters and bakers, offering a wide selection of holiday gifts. Stop by for homemade baked goods, gifts for all ages, craft items, coffee an’, taco-in-a-bag, and more. Get your holiday shopping done close to home and support local crafters and vendors. This year’s show will feature many local favorites and some new vendors: hand-made wooden cutting boards, lots of home-made craft items, holiday ornaments, jewelry, wreaths, crocheted items, candles, holiday baked goods and candies, potica, LuLaRoe clothing, Young Living Essential Oils, Rarity Nails, Iron Ranger sweatshirts, Nordic Home North gifts, and a table featuring information about the Vermilion Park Inn. The show is sponsored by Friends of Vermilion Country School.

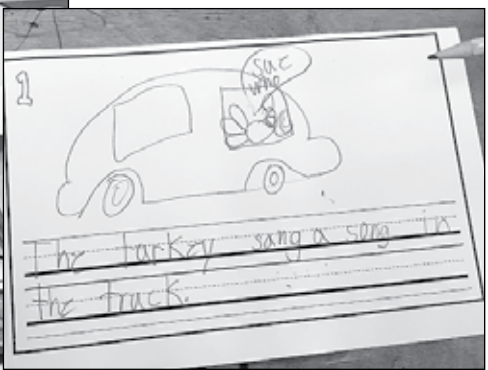
St. James Presbyterian Church of Tower begins Advent series

TOWER- The Advent Theme at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower will be “Christmas At The Movies.” The Dec. 1 service will feature Miracle On 42nd Street – The miracle in the movie: “Miracle on 34th St” depended upon letters from the US Post Office. But the miracle on “42nd” St depended upon a different paper trail.



Turkey tales

Tower-Soudan first and second-graders created silly turkey stories using a story wheel. The story wheel had the students choose an adjective to describe their turkey, and then let them spin their way to create silly sentences that they then illustrated. Pictured are Cora Goodbird and Gus Larson working on their stories. photos by J. Summit



VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS

Lights of Love tree lighting ceremony in Tower on Sunday, Dec. 8

REGIONAL- Please mark your calendars and join us for the Lights of Love tree lighting and caroling which will take place at the Cook Library and Gazebo on Friday, Dec. 6 at 5 p.m. or Orr’s Community Center on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 8 at the Tower Civic Center at 4 p.m. You are also invited to join us following the ceremonies for coffee, cider and treats. The 29th annual Virgie Hegg Hospice Partner’s Lights of Love campaign, our largest fundraiser of the year, begins in November to commemorate National Hospice Month and National Family Caregivers Month. Last year’s Lights of Love raised approximately \$5,600. Fundraising goals

are achieved through the dedicated efforts of our Board of Directors working together with a community of supporting individuals and businesses. We invite you to continue the tradition of remembering and honoring loved ones by supporting VHHP through this Lights of Love campaign. Our mission is to bring comfort care services to enrolled hospice patients and their families as well as hospice eligible patients in our local communities. Your tax-deductible donation will help light the trees at the holiday celebrations in Cook, Orr and Tower in support of local hospice patients and their families. Donations may be given in honor or memory of a loved one. Ice

candles are available for purchase to be displayed as part of the tree lighting ceremonies. All Lights of Love contributions and dedications will be published in local area newspapers during the month of January, unless otherwise indicated on the attached form. For more information about Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, visit our website at www.vhhp.org or contact Becca Bundy, Program Director at 218-780-5423 or Ivette Reing, Chairperson at 218-290-6177. To make a donation, you can find a form on our website or please make checks payable to VHHP Lights of Love and mail to P.O. Box 244, Cook, MN, 55723. PayPal is also available via our website.

Northeast Range High School First Quarter Honor Roll

A Honor Roll Grade 12

Jolie Langevin
Shelby Nelson

Lara Poderzay
Casey Zahnow
Grade 11
Anne Barich
Oskar Koivisto
Alexia Lightfeather
Phoebe Morgan

Ethan Zaitz
James Zupancich

Grade 10
Audrey Anderson
Erin Backe
Rylee Dusich

Thia Lossing
Natalie Nelmark
Rylan Poppenhagen
Hannah Reichensperger

Grade 9
Jennie Nelson

**B Honor Roll
Grade 12**
Brody Anderson
Charles Fritz
Tracker Koivisto
Stephanie Sam
Jason Skube

Wyatt Gorsma
Amara Lampton
Joscelyn LaSart
Alysia Miller
Ryan Milton
Jenna Smith
Calvin Winger

Grade 8
Aubree Gerlovich
Abby Koivisto
Allie Larson
Hailey Lindquist
Ruby Milton

Grade 7
Kyle Kratz
Greyson Reichensperger
Danica Sundblad

Grade 11
Christopher Ferguson
Niisa Honkola
Ariel Kalinowski
Kaleb Kappes-Bliss
Jacob Vernlund

Grade 10
Alli Bee
Max Dean

Grade 9
Connor Berhow
Zoe Cameron
Mariah DeJoode
Layne Kaufenberg
Logan Meskill
Gerald Pete
Kassidy Turner
Alice Wolter
Jonathan Zaitz

Grade 8
Natalie Backe
Mikko Maki
Wesley Sandy

Grade 7
Noah Backe
Else Bee
Joshua Burton
Ethan Howard
Aubree Minier
Chelsey Nelmark
Zachary Poderzay
Maisy Sundblad
Lydia Wright

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

Pull-Tabs Sold Daily
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

TOWER BINGO Monday, Dec. 2

TOWER- Senior Bingo will be held in Tower on Monday, Dec. 2 at the Tower Civic Center from 11:45 a.m. – 3 p.m. There is a \$10 charge for the bingo party, which includes lunch. All ages are welcome to attend this community event. Lunch is served starting at 11:45 a.m., and bingo begins at 12:45 p.m. Senior Bingo is organized by the Friends of the Vermilion Country Charter School. In case of inclement weather school closure in Tower, bingo will be cancelled. Questions, call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950.

Upcoming dates for 2020:

No bingo in January
Monday, February 3, 2020
Monday, March 2, 2020
Monday, April 6, 2020

OPEN CRIBBAGE
Tuesdays 5 PM • Starts December 3

\$5 Buy-In Draw for partners
1st & 2nd place prizes awarded
(Amount dependng on turn-out)
Call or stop in to sign up!

OPEN Tues-Sun: 11 AM-9 PM
6699 Highway 169, Tower • 218-749-2460

Start thinking about Operation Santa

Donations needed by Dec. 13: toys, gift cards, clothing, and cash welcome

TOWER- This year’s Operation Santa toy drive is officially underway. Operation Santa is a local fundraiser which purchases Christmas gifts (toys, gift cards, and warm winter items) for children whose families use the Tower Food Shelf. Last year we served over 160 area children.

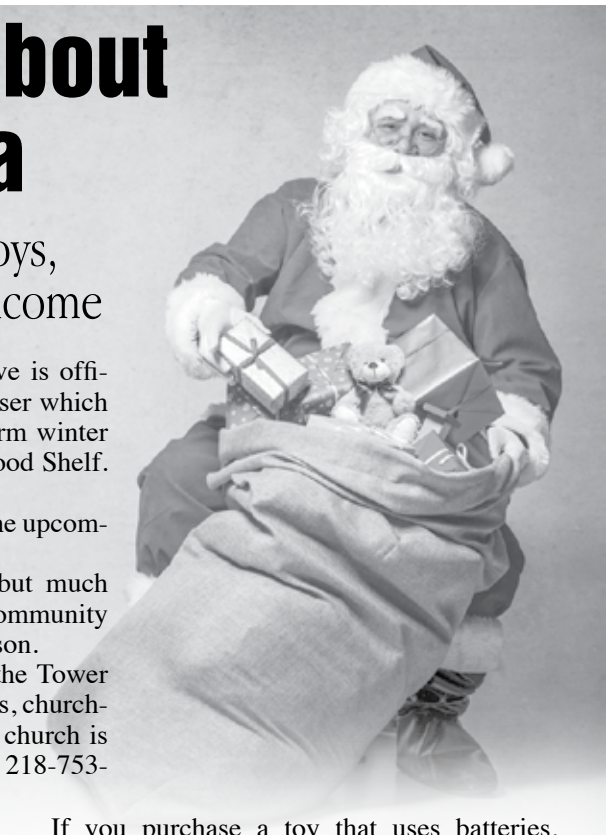
Take advantage of the great deals offered over the upcoming holiday to bring some joy into a child’s life.

We have started to receive some donations, but much more is needed to make sure every child in our community receives gifts and warm clothing this Christmas season.

The effort is organized by *the Timberjay* and the Tower Soudan Civic Club, with help from many area groups, churches, organizations, and individuals. If your group or church is planning to donate this year, please contact Jodi at 218-753-2950. (This helps with planning!)

Lake Country Power’s Operation RoundUp® program has once again made a very generous donation to the Tower Soudan Civic Club (formerly the Tower Women’s Club), to help cover the cost of purchasing warm items for the children.

We are looking at donations of toys, games, art supplies, and sporting equipment for children, and gift cards to either Target or Walmart for our teenagers (\$10 or \$15).



If you purchase a toy that uses batteries, please also send a spare set!

We also accept gently-used holiday decorations and gifts for the adults who use the food shelf.

Donations can be dropped off at *the Timberjay* in Tower, and will be distributed at the food shelf on Dec. 17.

Tower Council to meet with Virginia Fire Chief Lewis to discuss advanced life support (ALS) ambulance services

Public invited to meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m.

TOWER- The city of Tower is holding a special meeting of the Tower City Council on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center.

Virginia Fire Chief Allen Lewis will make a presentation on advanced life support ambulance services. The information is relevant to all beneficiaries of the Tower Area Ambulance Service. This presentation will include:

- An overview of all fire and EMS incidents occurring in North St. Louis County in the last year.
- A detailed breakdown of specific incident types county-wide and in the Tower Area Ambulance Service.
- Geographic location by city and township of incidents responded to

by the Tower Area Ambulance Service.

- The number of times and the location of calls where an intercept with the Virginia Ambulance Service was called for ALS.
- Performance measurements based on St. Louis County dispatch call response and arrival times.
- Financial health

and stability of current and projected future operations based on call volume, type, and revenue collected in 2018, per billing company data.

The regular council meeting on Monday, Dec. 9 will include financials for the Tower Area Ambulance Service.

BREITUNG POLICE DEPARTMENT

October Police Report

Calls: 151
Citations/Formal Charges: 3
Monthly Mileage: 1,422 (Tahoe 911, Explorer 511)

Squads: Current end of the month mileage for the Gold 2012 Tahoe (Tower) is 89,790. Current end of the month mileage for the 2017 Ford Explorer is 23,929. The Ford had new tires installed.

Additional shifts: Breitung officers did not work any TZD shifts.

Training: Chief Nylund attended 16-hour EMR training. All officers attended our annual training.

Community: Chief Nylund and Lieutenant Sanderson handed out



October Police Report

Breitung Police Chief Dan Nylund

candy during Tower Main Street trick-or-treating.

Citations/formal charges/arrests: 2 Speed, 1 Assault.

Tips for driving in winter

- Stay home. Only go out if necessary. Even if you can drive well in bad weather, it’s better to avoid taking unnecessary risks by venturing out.
- Drive slowly. Always adjust your speed down to account for lower traction when driving on snow or ice. Acceler-

ate and decelerate slowly. Apply the gas slowly to regain traction and avoid skids. Don’t try to get moving in a hurry and take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: it takes longer to slow down on icy roads. Increase your following distance to five to six seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.

- Know your brakes. Whether you have anti-lock brakes or not, keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.
- Don’t stop if you can avoid it. There’s a big

difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.

- Don’t power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads will just make your wheels spin. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed downhill slowly.
- Don’t stop going up a hill. There’s nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.

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 Meals on Wheels, or for more information, please call AEOA Senior Nutrition at 218-735-6899.

Week of Dec. 2	
Monday-	Chicken Sandwich
Tuesday-	Taco Salad
Wednesday-	No lunch served (students on field trip)
Thursday-	Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Dinner Roll, Green Beans
Friday-	Mini Corn Dogs, Baked Bean

Week of Dec. 2

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 Dec. 17.

Greenwood Fire Dept.- Meetings on the first (business meeting) and third (drill) Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

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

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

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

Subscribe Today
(218) 753-2950
timberjay.com



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.

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office in Tower, Minnesota. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Timberjay, P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Three award-winning community editions are published each week for Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

Publisher	Marshall Helmberger
General Manager	Jodi Summit
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Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
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Official Newspaper:
City of Orr, City of Ely, Townships of Bearville, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, Crane Lake, ISD 707.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce, Orr Chamber of Commerce.

Subscriptions Available:
St. Louis County: \$37 year Elsewhere: \$52 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover. Please specify Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr or Ely edition.

NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$100 year or \$10 per month.

Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details at www.timberjay.com.

Moving? Questions about your subscription? Call the Tower office at (218) 753-2950.

Transfer station

Soudan Canister

Expanded hours year-round

Monday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wed.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For info: 1-800-450-9278

Hwy. 77 Canister

Winter hours now in effect

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

Recycling canisters available at the canister site when open. For info: 1-800-450-9278

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, Dec. 4; Jan. 15; Feb. 5

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

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

Join us for the
29th Annual “Lights of Love”
2019 Tree Lighting Ceremony

Sunday, December 8th at 4:00 p.m.
Tower’s Herb Lamppa Civic Center

- Meet **outside** Tower Civic Center for the lighting of the “*Lights of Love*” tree and singing of a few Christmas carols
- Move **inside** the Tower Civic Center:
- Coffee, Christmas cookies and other holiday goodies will be served to everyone
 - Christmas music sung by the Community Christmas Choir directed by Rolf Anderson
 - Joy Bell Ringers will perform
 - A special Christmas Story will be read
 - Little gifts will be given to all children

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,
 and 7:30 p.m.
 Wednesdays, 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 encoun-
 ter alcoholism in a
 relative or friend.
BABBITT AL-ANON
 Thursdays, 7 p.m. at
 Woodland Presbyterian
 Church.
CO-DEPENDENTS'
 12-step support group,
 noon Fridays, St.
 Anthony's Catholic
 Church, Ely.
ELY FOOD SHELF -
 Third Wednesday each
 month, 15 W. Conan St.
**ADULT BASIC
 EDUCATION**
GED - Study materials
 and pre-test available.
 Tower by appointment.
 Call 365-3359, 827-3232,
 or 1-800-662-5711.

Tuesday Group
 schedule

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

Dec. 3 - Tyler Fish
 - Crossing Greenland

Game night

ELY - Smear tour-
 naments are held the first
 and third Mondays, and
 cribbage tournaments
 are held the second and
 fourth 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.

Ely Free Clinic

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

For more infor-
 mation, call 218-365-
 5678, or visit their
 website, www.ely-
 communityhealth.org.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2019



big snow storm warnings
 botched weekend travel plans
 white knuckle driving

the **TIMBERJAY**

The Ely Timberjay is published weekly on Friday by The Timberjay, Inc. Offices are at 414 Main St., P.O. 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: www.timberjay.com.

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office in Tower, Minnesota. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Timberjay, P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Three award-winning community editions are published each week for Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

Publisher
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 Ely Editor
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Official Newspaper:
 City of Ely, City of Orr, Townships of Bearville, Breitung, Crane Lake, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, ISD 707.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce, Laurentian Chamber of Commerce.

Subscriptions Available:
 St. Louis County: \$37 year Elsewhere: \$52 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover. Please specify Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr or Ely edition.

NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$100 year or \$10 per month.

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OUR COMMUNITY

Ely Senior Center needs help for major building renovations

ELY – The Ely Senior Citizens organization is in need of financial help as they undertake repair and renovation work to their building and the non-profit organization is seeking the community’s help.

The building at 29 S 1st Ave E has been home to the Ely Senior Center for the past 40 years, according to Terry Muhvich. “It needs repairs and the electrical system and kitchen need to be brought up to code,” she said. “The single-pane windows now leak and also need replacement.”

Many groups and organizations use the building, including Northwoods Partners, Home Health Care, Women Who Care, the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital

rummage sale, and T.O.P.S., Muhvich said. “There is line dancing, a nail clinic, Bridge and Cribbage groups, Ely Folk School-sponsored barn dancing, along with many weddings and family gatherings,” she added.

“The State of Minnesota driver’s license tests are conducted here so seniors citizens don’t have to drive to Virginia,” she said. “Our voting place is here too. Noon meals are served here through AEOA.” The Ely Senior Center also serves as the home of the Oasis International religious group for Sunday services.

The building is available for rent to individuals, organizations and businesses. “Our main source of income is our bingo on Wednesdays,”

Muhvich said. “That helps pay for our insurance, fuel and utilities.”

She asked the community for a tax-deductible donation. “In addition to any donations, we have matching funds available, and we are applying for grants,” Muhvich said.

The Ely Senior Center luncheon membership drive and membership dues (\$6 per year) will take place at the beginning of the year. “Anyone age 55 or older can become a member. We need you,” she said.

Send donations to Ely Area Senior Citizens, Inc., 29 S 1st Ave. E, Ely, MN 55731. An Ely Senior Center Building Fund account is also set up at the Frandsen Bank in Ely.

For more information, contact Muhvich at 218-365-4305.

ELY BEAVER PATROL



City of Ely public works crews were dispatched to a report of a tree that has fallen across east Sheridan Street late last Thursday morning. “A healthy birch tree just doesn’t randomly fall over, said Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski who noticed the branches partially blocking the north side of the road across from Spirit of the Wilderness Outfitters. “I looked over by the marshy area and saw a great big beaver just sitting there on the sidewalk chewing on a branch,” he said. “By the time I got my phone out to get a picture, he was gone.” City crews soon showed up to clean up the beaver’s handiwork. photos by K. Vandervort



GIFTS THAT GIVE



More than \$750 was raised for the Ely Area Food Shelf, Saturday, during the annual Gifts That Give event at First Presbyterian Church through the sale of soups, breads and sweet treats. “Thank you to the following businesses that donated food and supplies to make this possible, Gator’s Grill Cheese Emporium, Insula Restaurant, Boat House Brew Pub and Restaurant, Northern Grounds/Jasper Bakery, Karl Jonas Breads, Merdie’s Cardamom Bread, and all who baked and donated, along with Ely Northland Market and Zup’s Market, said EFS Director Cheryl Boyes. Sarah Levar, above, offered hand-watercolored cards. Clara Luthens, 8, worked at a craft table hosted by the Vermilion Commujity College Forestry and Wildlife Club. photos by K. Vandervort

Christmas Cookie sale is Dec. 14

ELY - First Lutheran Church’s, Ladies Aid has scheduled their annual Christmas Cookie and Baked Goods Sale and Dessert Social for Saturday, Dec. 14 from 1-3 p.m. in the Social Hall. Cookies will be sold for \$7 per pound. Let them help you with your holiday baking and join them for a cup of coffee with dessert.

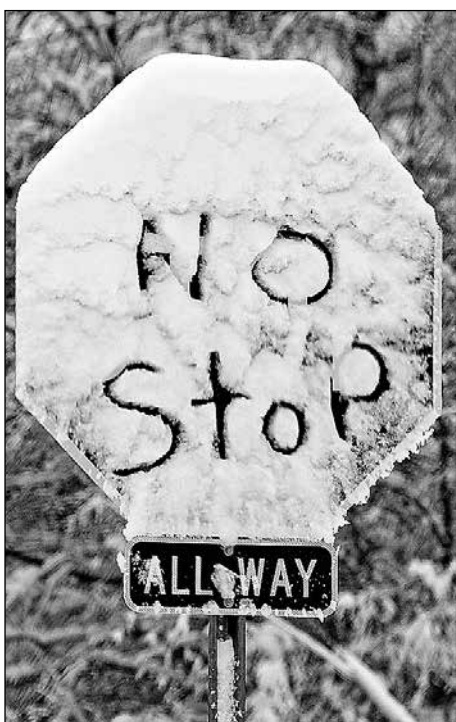


Subscribe: 218-753-2950

FIRST SNOWFALL IN ELY



The first major snowfall of the season in Ely dumped as much as eight inches of wet, heavy snow around the area last Thursday. The storm was bad enough to cancel classes and activities at the Ely School District. A trail groomer, above, passed snow-covered branches as he groomed the Trezona Trail. photos by K. Vandervort



The low, throaty sounds of snowblowers, above left, could be heard all over town Thursday morning. Some people had a hard time finding their parked cars, bottom, left. A snow-covered stop sign near VCC, above, was slightly altered by a prankster.



An Ambassador Wolf at the International Wolf Center Interpretive facility outside of Ely didn't seem to mind the new snow. photo courtesy of International Wolf Center

News in Brief

Ely Winter Festival seeks sponsors

ELY - The Ely Winter Festival, scheduled to run Feb. 6-16, 2020, seeks sponsors, including businesses and organizations in the Ely area, to help support the independent, non-profit organization.

The group relies and depends on sponsorships, grants, and gifts in-kind to keep the festival running, marking 26 years.

Despite support from all sectors of the Ely community, and having received a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board for specific expenses, they still depend on sponsors for their ongoing operation.

If you are interested in being a sponsor, contact the festival at 365-SNOW or at their website, <https://elywinterfestival.com/>.

The Ely Winter Festival and Ely ArtWalk are funded in part by grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council (thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund), the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust, and the Ely Chamber of Commerce.

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.

Artists sought for 2020 Ely ArtWalk

ELY - The 2020 Ely ArtWalk is just around the corner. Held from Feb. 6-16 this annual affair will once again be part of the Ely Winter Festival.

“Our non-competitive, non-profit display of creative talent will be the 21st edition of Ely’s hardy mid-winter window shopping tradition,” said organizer Mary Setterholm. More than 45 businesses participate by offering their store windows as a city-wide gallery.

Ely ArtWalk 2020 registrations and payment are due by Dec. 6.

Paper entry forms can be found at The Front Porch, The Art Corner, and Art & Soul Gallery. Artists can also register at www.elyartwalk.org which can also be accessed through www.elywinterfestival.com.

Individual entries require a \$10 fee for a maximum of five pieces, and group entries require a \$30 fee for a maximum of 15 pieces. Those with PayPal accounts can pay online, and other options are detailed on the website and in the paper application.

“The Ely ArtWalk draws many visitors from all around the Arrowhead and beyond,” Setterholm said. “Most of the work can be purchased and 100 percent of sales go to the artist.”

The Ely ArtWalk is dedicated to the creation, promotion, and appreciation of the arts and is made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation and an appropriation from the arts and cultural fund; a grant from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust Fund; the Ely Chamber of Commerce; and individual and business sponsors.

Higher Education

Ely student honored at UW-Madison

MADISON, Wis. - The University of Wisconsin-Madison recognized Ely student Thomas Montana who was named to the College of Letters and Science Dean’s List for the spring semester of the 2018-2019 academic year.

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the Dean’s List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction.

BUSINESS NEWS

Northern Grounds expands with wine shop

ELY - Northern Grounds celebrated the opening of their Wine Society + Shoppe last Wednesday. The event marked the third anniversary of Ely’s Coffee + Wine Bar, 2 West Sheridan St.

After the Chamber of Commerce’s ribbon cutting ceremony, patrons enjoyed a complimentary wine tasting in the Society Hall, located on the second floor of Northern Grounds. “Visitors learned more about the Society Hall’s new initiatives, the Business Lounge and calendar of events on Meetup.com including the Wine Society’s weekly tastings,” said owner Cindy

Beans.

With the opening of the Wine Society Shoppe, Northern Grounds becomes Ely’s first On and Off-Sale Establishment. “The Wine Society Shoppe is a boutique fine wine retail vault on the main floor of Northern Grounds,” Beans said. “The wine program represents a wide variety of varietals and terroirs. Northern Grounds’ Wine Bar boasts an impressive 50-plus wines by the glass and weekly wine tastings.”

The Wine Society will introduce Ely residents and visitors to new and interesting wines during weekly tastings. No membership is required.

“Each tasting will include tasting notes presented by an accomplished wine professional,” Beans said. “Attendees will have an opportunity to learn how to pair the featured wine with food and gain a better understanding of the terroir in which the grapes were grown, the wine’s history, body and nose.”

She added, “The Wine Society is a perfect opportunity for groups, couples or individuals who share an affinity for fine wine to enjoy an evening of swirling and sipping.”

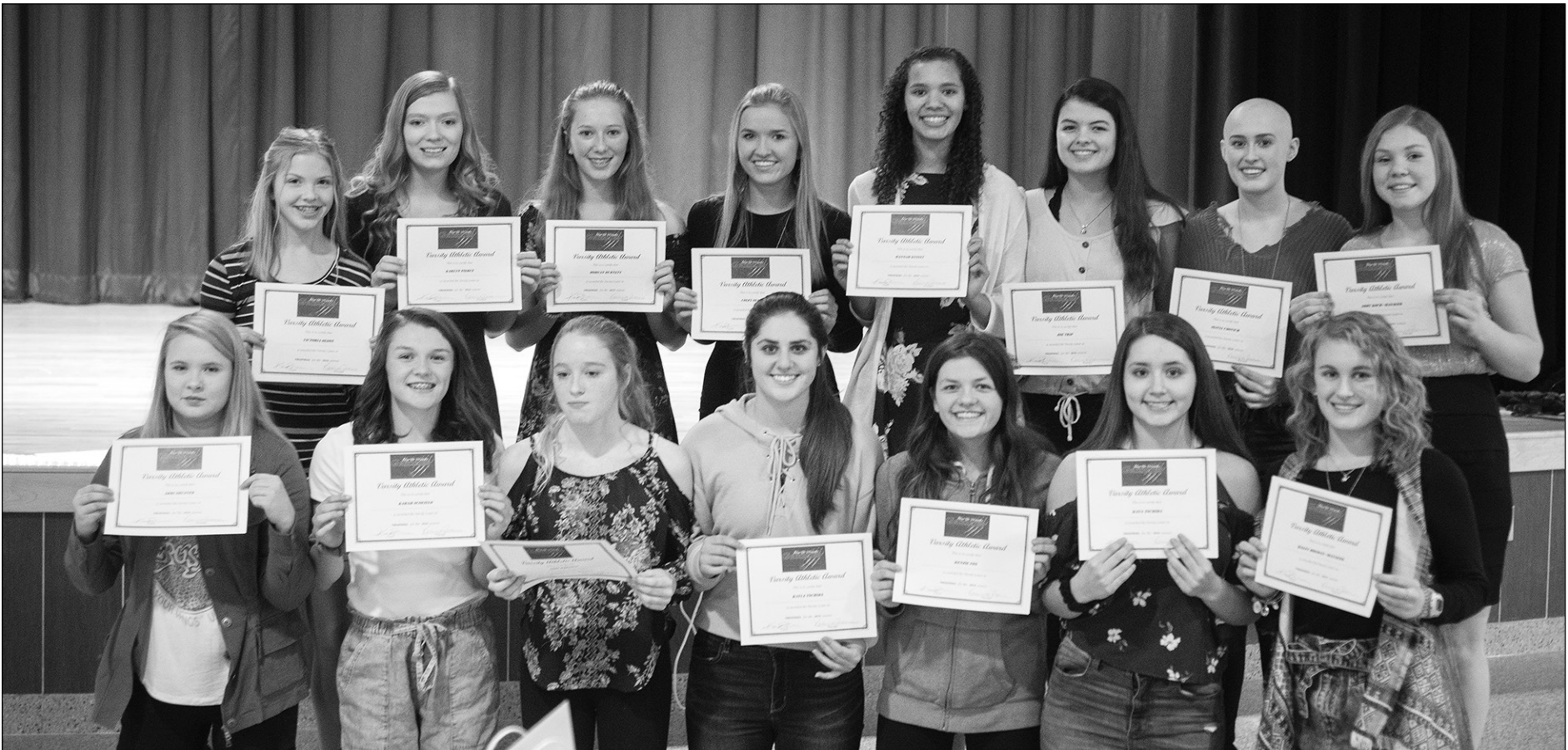
In addition, bottles of the featured wine will be available to take home at a discount. Each

gathering will revolve around a theme such as Wine 101 (great for new wine lovers), oak versus un-oaked Chardonnay, dessert wines, etc.

On the occasional fifth Wednesday of a month the Wine Society will enjoy an exclusive, high-end or rare Fine Wine.

The Wine Society will gather weekly on Wednesday nights from 6-8 p.m. in Northern Grounds’ Society Hall. Wine Society tickets will be sold for \$12 on an individual basis or in discounted multiple packs. Tickets can be purchased in advance at Northern Grounds prior to the event.

GRIZZLY VOLLEYBALL



Varsity letter earners (players and managers). Back (from left): Tori Olson, Karlyn Pierce, Morgan Burnett, Coley Olson, Hannah Kinsey, Zoe Tripp, Olivia Udovich and Abby Koch. Front: Abbie Schuster, Karah Scofield, Addie Hartway, Kayla Tschida, Kenzie Fox, Kaya Tschida, and Hailey Bogden.



Award winners (from left): Coley Olson, Karlyn Pierce, Kayla Tschida, Hannah Kinsey, and Morgan Burnett. photos by C. Stone

Volleyball players honored

FIELD TWP- The Grizzlies Volleyball team held their awards banquet earlier this month. Players were recognized for their achievements this season, and awards were presented.

Academic All State- Coley Olson and Karlyn Pierce

Senior Awards- Coley Olson, Karlyn Pierce, Kayla Tschida and Kenzie Fox

Best Serving Percentage, Most Ace Serves, Most Kills, Most Digs : Coley Olson

Best Hitting Percentage- Karlyn Pierce

Best Serve Receive Percentage- Kayla Tschida

Most Blocks- Hannah Kinsey

Most Set Assists- Morgan Burnett

Most Improved Player- Hannah Kinsey

Seniors voted on the Player with Promise Award- Karah Scofield

Inspirational Teammate- Olivia Udovich

Most memorable moment- Hannah Kinsey

Unsung Hero Award- Kenzie Fox

The ACE Award- Kayla Tschida

MVP- Coley Olson

Cook-Orr Calendar

Annual Lights of Love Campaign is underway

REGIONAL- The 29th annual Virgie Hegg Hospice Partner’s Lights of Love campaign, our largest fundraiser of the year, begins in November to commemorate National Hospice Month and National Family Caregivers Month. Last year’s Lights of Love raised approximately \$5,600. Fundraising goals are achieved through the dedicated efforts of our Board of Directors working together with a community of supporting individuals and businesses. We invite you to continue the tradition of remembering and honoring loved ones by supporting VHHP through this Lights of Love campaign.

Our mission is to bring comfort care services to enrolled hospice patients and their families as well as hospice eligible patients in our local communities.

VHHP sponsors two education scholarships for students enrolled in the North Woods School and Tower enrollment area, pursuing a medical career and one for college students.

Your tax-deductible donation will help light the trees at the holiday celebrations in Cook, Orr and Tower in support of local hospice patients and their families. Donations may be given in honor or memory of a loved one. Ice candles are available for purchase to be displayed as part of the tree lighting ceremonies. All Lights of Love contributions and dedications will be published in local area newspapers during the month of January, unless otherwise indicated on the attached

form.

Please mark your calendars and join us for the Lights of Love tree lighting and caroling which will take place at the Cook Library and Gazebo on Friday, Dec. 6 at 5 p.m. or Orr’s Community Center on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 8 at the Tower Civic Center at 4 p.m. You are also invited to join us following the ceremonies for coffee, cider and treats.

For more information about Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, visit our website at www.vhhp.org or contact Becca Bundy, Program Director at 218-780-5423 or Ivette Reing, Chairperson at 218-290-6177. To make a donation, you can find a form on our website or please make checks payable to VHHP Lights of Love and mail to P.O. Box 244, Cook, MN, 55723. PayPal is also available via our website.

Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner on Saturday, Dec. 7 at Trinity Lutheran

COOK – The Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook will be hosting a traditional Scandinavian dinner on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 4-7 p.m. Join us for a meal of lutefisk, white sauce and/or melted butter, meatballs, potatoes and gravy, green beans, rutabaga, lefse, homemade bread, cranberries, pickled herring, desserts, and more. Proceeds from this event will be donated to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) World Hunger, the Cook Community Food Shelf, and for other renovations. Tick-

Create Water Creatures with Art by Freya of the Northland; class set for Saturday, Dec. 7 at NWFA in Cook

COOK - Grab a snorkel mask and let’s paint with Art by Freya of the Northland. Let’s dive down under the lake or local mine pit and capture the creatures we find with pen, ink, watercolor, and masa paper at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts (NWFA) gallery in Cook on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 1-3 p.m. The class, “Pen and Ink, Watercolors and an Introduction to Masa Paper,” will explore techniques with Japanese masa paper and do their own hands-on water coloring using the new techniques they will learn. Students will also employ pen and in details to create Zentangle-inspired art. Create a high, low, or medium key portrait of a Northern, Walleye, or other Minnesota fish, and don’t be afraid to bring in a



reference photo of the big ‘un you caught last summer. The class fee is \$10 for NWFA members and \$20 for non-members. Call Alberta at 218-666-2153 to pre-register.

ets for adults are \$15. Children under 10 are \$6.

North Woods School National Honor Society Induction Ceremony set for Dec. 4

COOK - Seven North Woods High School students will be inducted into the National Honor Society at the annual induction ceremony this year. Brielle Anderson, Morgan Burnett, Alex Hartway, Abby Koch, Michaela Luecken, Olivia Udovich, and Brandie Walker have all met the requirements to become members. The ceremony will take place in the high school cafeteria on Wednesday, Dec. 4

at 6 p.m.

To be eligible for membership in the National Honor Society, students in grades 10-12 must have a cumulative GPA of 3.60. Additionally, members must meet high standards of leadership, service, and character. Students being considered for membership were evaluated by a faculty council of five teachers.

Come meet Santa in Cook, Sunday, Dec. 8

COOK - Word was received this week that Santa and his elves will be making an early stop at the Cook Community Center on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 3-6 p.m. He will be bringing treat bags for all the little

boys and girls. Friends of the Parks are planning a Santa’s Workshop event to coincide with his visit. Activities will include pictures with Santa taken by Becky Smith, with a photo being mailed to each family. There will also be stations set up for making ornaments, cards, and other fun crafts, as well as decorating sugar cookies and playing games. Pizza, bars, cookies, and beverages will be served. This event is free of charge thanks to the generosity of Friends of the Parks and other area service groups. All families and individuals wanting to join in the fun are welcome to attend.

Bookmobile Schedule

Thursdays: Dec. 12; Jan. 2 & 23

Nett Lake Community Center	9:30 - 1:15
Crane Lake Ranger Station	11:15 - 12:00
Orr Lake Country ReMax Bldg	1:45 - 2:30
Kabetogama Town Hall	3:15 - 3:45

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



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Do you have a family member with memory loss who lives in a care facility?

The University of Minnesota is examining the effects of an educational program to support family members with a loved one in a care facility. It will be led by a trained coach. Learn more about participating in this free study by contacting Professor Joe Gaugler at 612.626.2485 or gaug0015@umn.edu. To learn more visit the website: sph.umn.edu/research/projects/residential-care-transition-module/

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NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

Some thoughts on education and deer hunting



Deer hunting certainly gives a person plenty of time to think and reflect. I have literally solved the world’s problems alone in a 16-foot ladder stand many times over. Once in a while, a deer actually interrupts my thoughts!

In my quest to think of new ideas for my articles, I decided to compare deer hunting and education. For the non-hunters out there, please bear with me, because I feel there is much to be learned anytime we pursue our passion.

In order to understand my perspective, I need to give you some background. I was raised by a dad who hunted. He deer hunted very seriously. When I turned 12 and passed Firearms Safety, there was no question that I would be in a tree stand come opening day. My dad’s father also was a deer hunter. Although he passed long before I was old enough to learn from him, the antlers of several of the trophy deer he shot over 60 years ago are still on the wall.

I can sum up my childhood deer hunting experience in this paragraph. Dad put me in a stand that was a one-foot square platform with a tiny wooden bench that was nailed in between a clump of three big oaks in an old clear-cut in Britt. I

had a one-piece snowmobile suit that used to be my mom’s, and it was covered in blaze orange with a pair of orange sweatpants and a hoodie. I had choppers on my hands, Sorels on my feet, and an orange muff with a charcoal fueled red flannel hand warmer. Those hand warmers have to be illegal today because you literally ran the risk of burning yourself or starting yourself on fire with them! I had an old Winchester 30-30 with iron sights. Dad would walk me in at 7 a.m., come get me at noon for a sandwich, and then come get me again at 5 p.m. when it was just getting dark. He was in another stand in an adjacent clear-cut, but if he didn’t get a deer by 8 a.m. he was usually walking. Otherwise, I sat there all day. Alone. No electronics, nobody to talk to. Freezing. Bored. I saw one buck when I was 14, and he snuck up behind me and I couldn’t get a shot. Otherwise, I only saw does at 100 yards, and we only had doe tags once in a while. But, I kept hunting, because it was something that I wanted to do with my dad. Dad finally let me use his scoped .308 Remington when I was 17, and I promptly shot a couple does with it, the first deer I had ever shot. It’s a miracle that I still hunt deer with my poor initial success!

How in the world does education have anything in common with deer hunting?

In deer hunting, like education, technology has changed the game. Schools have developed

new lessons, strategies, and curriculum in order to use the technology at our fingertips. Every student has access to a computer or tablet with more technology in the palm of their hand than the first space mission to the moon. In deer hunting, technology has had a big impact too. Game cameras have changed how we scout. Google maps have opened up easy access to locating public lands. The GPS has eliminated the need to use a compass, and your smartphone has the compass and the GPS built in. So much for getting lost, as long as you have a phone signal. I still use a compass, because Dad taught me to. It’s automatic for me. It will be for my son, too.

Technology has also given us better equipment. Students now have access to learning tools such as videos, computerized models, 3-D printers, and even the act of turning in homework is just a click away. Technology has given us better equipment for hunting, too. The clothing we wear has high-tech, lightweight insulation. Our boots are Gore-Tex, and our long underwear is now Under Armor, a far cry from the cotton flannel stuff we grew up with. Improved manufacturing techniques, including computerized milling machines, have given us rifles with accuracy that used to be reserved for top-line guns. The new bolt-action models with adjustable triggers and a scope can be had for \$300 or less, and will shoot just as well as Grandpa’s old Model 70,

if not better. The quality of scopes is also much better, and at a reasonable cost. The newer Leupold on my .270 has clarity and light-transmission that is incredible, and it is not even close to their best model. Compared to the old Redfield on my 70’s era 30-06, which was top-shelf in 1970, it is not even close. It is like comparing a movie from 1970 to a modern film. No comparison.

Sometimes you have to change it up. Not every student learns the same way. Teachers now are very adept at using different techniques to explain material and incorporate different platforms, many tech-based, to engage kids. The days of a teacher lecturing in front of a class are long gone. In deer hunting, you also have to change strategies based on conditions like wind, hunter pressure, time of day, time of season, etc. I sat in a stand last season for hours and never saw a deer. This season, I moved it 100 yards, and am now seeing deer. Now, later in the season, I have again had to change tactics due to wolves, hunter pressure, weather, and wind. Just like our students, the same thing does not work for every kid in every subject all the time.

Education and deer hunting both take strategic planning. Teachers plan for every day. They plan lessons based on agreed-upon standards put forth by the State of Minnesota. They plan for the ability levels of their kids. They plan for possible behavior issues. The best teachers become ex-

perts at anticipating what might happen in class. In deer hunting, we plan our stand placement based on agreed-upon norms for when deer feed, travel, bed down, the rut, while taking into consideration the weather forecast. Other deer hunters are a variable. Ever walk out to your tree and find that someone put a stand 50 yards away? Plan B, folks. Wolves? Another variable. Yes, they seem to do laps around different areas and just when they seem to be gone, that lonesome howl in the distance right at dark reminds us that they are never too far away.

We all have different skills. Students come in all different variations of abilities and interests. Some have more of a “math brain.” Some have a stronger “language brain.” Some students are not very interested in academics at all, and would rather pursue vocational areas. All students can learn at high levels, though, and acquire new skills. It is called “Growth Mindset.” Similarly, a good deer hunter needs to be a competent marksman, understand deer behavior and patterns, have varying levels of stamina depending on hunting style, the ability to track an animal, navigate in the woods, start a fire, and most importantly be safe. Plan ahead and carry safety gear. I thank my father for teaching me the skills to be a competent woodsman.

School, much like hunting deer, requires patience. In an era where instant gratification is often considered the norm, we

need to understand that all that is good does not happen without a serious commitment of time and energy. Learning math, science, or writing is hard. Becoming an expert welder requires training and practice. Learning the skill to play a band instrument takes years of commitment. Sometimes we need to remind kids that you have to persevere, and you may fail before you figure it out. I know deer hunters who have committed hundreds of hours of time, only to get skunked. But, it is all worth it when that trophy walks by and you get the deer of a lifetime. It also demonstrates that we commit energy to different subjects and interests. Not everyone deer hunts. Not everyone loves American History. I myself am an example of patience. I waited six years before I shot my first deer, and several more before shooting a buck.

Biology and Culinary Arts. Do you gut, skin, butcher, and process your own deer? Case closed!

There are many more analogies that could be made in comparing different areas of our lives. When it comes right down to it, though, being a successful student involves hard work, patience, occasional failure, finding your strengths, and sometimes persevering through something that you don’t actually want to do. Personally, I feel that our kids have a lot to learn from the outdoors that can help carry them through different parts of their lives.

COOK

Council lends support to trail plan

City looking for more election judges for 2020 elections

by E. M. SCHULTZ
Staff Writer

COOK – A request for a letter of support prompted discussion by the Cook City Council about the benefits of trail development for both recreation and economic development. The Lake Vermilion Trail Joint Powers Board was seeking a letter of support for the efforts behind completing a trail along the south shore of Lake Vermilion and council members and Mayor Harold Johnston expressed strong support at the council’s regular meeting held Thursday, Nov. 21.

Council member Elizabeth Storm said she had recently attended a viewing of a film about the Appalachian Trail at the Comet Theater and was impressed by those who choose to hike it. She said those who can’t get out to the Appalachian Trail may still hike the 800-mile Lake Superior Trail and the future Lake Vermilion Trail.

Once finished, the Lake Vermilion Trail will connect the businesses, resorts, state parks, cities, and townships along the lake. It will serve as a means of recreation and transportation for walkers, bicyclists, runners, and others, and will allow more interaction

with the area’s amenities. The Lake Vermilion area will also benefit from the trail through increased tourism and economic development, councilors noted.

In other action, the council discussed the need for new election judges, indicating that a couple of their past election judges have retired. Interested parties should stop in at City Hall to discuss the duties of an election judge. The council will present a slate of candidates for the position at the next regular meeting on Thursday, Dec. 19.

The council also plans to direct city officials to send out information packets to residents regarding the election process prior to the next election. They would like to make sure everyone is educated on what to expect at their polling place. The city’s designated polling place will be the Cook Community Center. Council members would also like to issue a reminder to all government-related committees that no meetings may be held after 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 25, because it is caucus night in the state. Minnesota will also hold a presidential primary on Tuesday, March 3.

In other business, the council:

- Approved an application to the Department of Iron Range Resources for a grant to help complete work on the community center. The council has also applied to the Community Development Block Grant program for similar funding. The work done will help make the community center compliant with requirements set by the Americans with Disabilities Act, or ADA.
- Approved a payment of \$1,047.50 to JPJ Engineering for work on the Library Site Plan.
- Approved a payment of \$12,616.97 to JPJ Engineering for work on the Hwy. 53 Corridor.
- Approved a payment of \$144,328.04 to Utility Systems of America for work on the Cook Public Infrastructure project, which is part of the Zup’s rebuild.
- Approved the Cook Public Library service animal policy. A service animal is defined as a dog that has been trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Emotional support animals do not qualify under the new policy.
- Approved the 2020 strategic plan for the library’s Year 4 action plan. The goal of this plan is “to ensure people of all ages enrich their lei-

- sure time, broaden their world-view, and stimulate their creativity.”
- Approved a payment of \$2,240 to SEH for work they did on the airport access road. Airport zoning laws were changed in August, but Council Member Karen Hollanitsch says the state looked at Cook’s 2007 report and found everything satisfactory. She also said the new laws were somewhat less restrictive than the previous ones.
- Council member Storm thanked the city’s maintenance crew for their prompt and excellent job clearing the streets after the recent heavy snowfall.
- Acknowledged the new availability of wifi at the Cook Community Center. This is part of the city’s broadband community connectivity initiative.

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the *TIMBERJAY*

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

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office in Tower, Minnesota. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Timberjay, P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Three award-winning community editions are published each week for Cook/Orr, Tower/Soudan, and Ely.

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Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Orr Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce.

Subscriptions Available:

St. Louis County: \$37 year Elsewhere: \$52 year Online web-only \$29.95. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover. Please specify Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr or Ely edition.

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Readers and Rappers to meet on Dec. 10

COOK- Readers and Rappers, a Cook Area Book Club, will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 1 p.m. in the Community Room of the Homestead Apartments in Cook. Priscilla Hiipakka will be moderator for the discussion on “Eleanor Oliphant” by author Gail Honeyman. Members are asked to bring a half-dozen cookies to share. New members are always welcome.

Finland native to perform at Gethsemane on Saturday, Nov. 30

VIRGINIA - Kati Arikoski, a native of Finland now residing in the U.S., will perform a classical program of Sibelius, Beethoven, Debussy, and Gershwin at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Virginia on Saturday, Nov. 30 at 2 p.m. Arikoski trained at the Turku Art Academy in Finland, as well as the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen. A reception will follow the concert, and \$10 is suggested as a donation. This is a rare opportunity to hear a wonderfully talented performer! The event is sponsored by the Finnish Americans of Hibbing.

The Times They Are A-Changing at Mesabi Unitarian

VIRGINIA – Rev. Suzanne Wasilczuk will present “The Times They Are A-Changing” at Mesabi Unitarian Church on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 10:30 a.m. For the Christian world, this day is the first Sunday of Advent, a time of preparation for the birth of Jesus, the Christ. It is a change from ordinary time to a special time of waiting and watching. Any transition is like that: part anticipation, part anxiety, a bit of melancholy, and an expanse of uncertainty. Do we perceive an abyss? Or is there an unfamiliar, but fertile, valley before us? All are welcome to attend.

Indoor Walking at Timber Hall begins Monday, Nov. 4 from 7:30 - 9 a.m.

EMBARRASS- All are welcome to attend indoor walking at Timber Hall on Hwy. 21 in Embarrass on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 7:30-9 a.m.

NORTHWOODS FRIENDS OF THE ARTS Buyck artist featured at NWFA in December

Opening reception set for Friday, Dec. 6 from 5 - 7 p.m.

COOK- Come and meet Buyck artist Chris Lange on Friday, Dec. 6 at NWFA Gallery during an opening reception from 5-7 p.m. His work, the robust outdoor paintings of an experienced artist and outdoor adventurer, will be featured at the gallery throughout the month of December. Light refreshments will be served at the reception.

NWFA Gallery, which exhibits and sells for forty artists year-round, is open three days a week in the winter: Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m Call 218-780-7130 with any questions you may have. See the website at NWFAMN.ORG, email at nwfamn.org@gmail.com.

Curious to work with clay?

COOK- Instructor Kris Musto will teach “Clay Play” on Tuesday, Dec. 3 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Working with polymer clay (Sculpty), you will create a turtle or critter that can be worn as a necklace or a pin. Sculpture and clay artwork will be on display for inspiration. You will then incorporate color, contrast, and texture to make a 3-D piece to ‘fire’ or bake in your home oven. Learn about this fun medium and a few tips and tricks for building little sculptures of your own. Materials will be supplied by NWFA. Class size is limited to 10, so call Alberta at 666-2153 to register early. Each non-profit class requires a \$10 fee for NWFA Members and \$20 for non-members. Annual NWFA membership is \$25.

More upcoming classes

► Kris Musto will host Clay Play on Tuesday, Dec.3 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. You

will create a small, polymer clay turtle or other critter that can be worn as a necklace or pin. Materials will be supplied by NWFA. Class size is limited to ten.

%LynReed will be leading two classes on simple etching. One will be on Saturday, Jan. 4 from 1-3 p.m. and will cover design and print etching. The second will be on Saturday, Jan. 18 from 1-3 p.m. and will cover color etching.

► The gallery will be hosting “Almost Picasso” on Tuesday, Jan. 7 from 6-8 p.m. Attendees will have a chance to learn about Pablo Picasso, a complex character who shook up art history. Did you know that Picasso made sculptures, ceramics, and prints as well as paintings, collages, and drawings? Check out this class to learn more about Picasso, be inspired by his art, and make some artwork of your own. Class size is limited to ten.

► Lyn Reed will be hosting “Let’s Paint a Feather,” on Saturday, Jan. 25 from 1-3 p.m. Draw and paint a realistic



watercolor feather and create grays using complimenting colors.

Learn about jazz during free talk on Monday, Dec. 2

COOK- Bill Conger will present jazz from the 1950s and 60s at NWFA Gallery on Monday, Dec. 2, beginning at 7 p.m. This will be Conger’s fourth jazz listening session at the gallery. These sessions are an exploration into a music form that was first created in the United States and lead the participants to an enhanced listening experience by giving the listener tools that will unlock an understanding and appreciation of jazz, as well as other music types. Sessions will be based on listening and discussion, with an overview of resources available for self-directed exploration of jazz. The event is open to the public.

You may find more info about NWFA at NWFAMN.ORG.

Timberjay turkey winners announced

Congratulations to all the winners in this year's *Timberjay* Turkey Giveaway. Thanks to all the businesses who participated this year. We wish all of our readers a Happy Thanksgiving holiday.

Orr area winners

Orr Municipal Liquor Store - n/a
Pelican Bay Foods - Laura King
Lumber Orr Hardware - Aaron Olson
American Bank - Laura Manai

Cook area winners

Cook VFW - Carol Keister
American Bank - Melody Martin
Waschke Family Chevrolet - Pat Olson
McDonald's - n/a
Cook Building Center - Robert Petrusha
Mini Zup's Grocery Cook - n/a

Subway of Cook - Karen Lind
North Star Credit Union - Ken Mattson
1st National Bank - Deb Olson
The Old Muni - Jeanine Rutchasky

Tower-Soudan area winners

Benchwarmer Grille - John Bystrom
Nordic Home North - Joanne Bergin
Soudan Store - Dale Bjorgo
Tower-Soudan Agency - Betsy Bystrom
Black Bear Café - n/a
UBetcha Antiques & Uniques - Martha McPheeters
Frandsen Bank-Tower - Seth Leino
Zup's Tower Grocery - Lynn Benson
Good Ol' Days - Harlan Broten
Vermilion Fuel & Food - Tom Gorsma

D'Erick's - Julie Johnson
EVCU, Tower - Diane Sarkela
Tower Auto Parts - Craig Henderson

Ely area winners

Potluck Kitchenware - Morgan Sauls
Winton Roadhouse - Brian Bittner
Mary's Spinning Wheel - Claire Taylor
Zup's in Ely - n/a
Frandsen Bank-Ely - Karen Koivisto
Wintergreen No. Wear - n.a
Piragis - n/a
Dee's Bar - n/a
Gator's Grilled Cheese Emporium - Toni McDonald
Ely Auto Service - Mary Larson
Grand Ely Lodge - n/a
Steger Mukluks - James McBride
Ely Flower & Seed - Holly Waugh
Ely Surplus - Mike Maternowsky

Mealey's Gift & Sauna Shop - Tasha Trucano
Front Porch Coffee & Tea - Kaffie Springhoff
Ely Cenex - Mick Shusta
Ely Northland Market - Barb Hiltbrunner
Merhar's Ace Hardware - Sandra Makkyla

Babbitt area winners

Babbitt Cenex - Richard Klinzing
Zup's Grocery Babbitt - Nancy Mettler
Losing Building Center & Cat Shack - Helen Kangas

Embarrass area winners

EVCU, Embarrass - Carol Emery



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EDUCATION

VCS newsletter sends school news home to families

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Parents of students enrolled at Vermilion Country School now have a new way to see what their teenager has been up to during the school day. With the help of school staff and the journalism class students, the school is now producing a regular newsletter that is sent home to all families, as well as made available on the school's website.

The newsletter is part of an outreach effort by the school to engage the parents and guardians of the high school students, as well as alert the wider community to the philos-

ophy and teaching style of the school. With many school students living as far as 30 miles from the school, it is often difficult for parents to attend school functions. The newsletter is an effort to bring the school home to families. Students and staff issued the first newsletter in late October, with the next one scheduled to be published in December.

Meanwhile, the school is also set to launch a newly-designed and mobile-friendly website, which will go live next week. Both outreach efforts are being spearheaded by the new school administrator Frank Zobitz, who is also a professional

website designer. Starting in January, Zobitz said they expect to be adding student-produced newsletter content on a regular basis to the school website.

In the inaugural newsletter edition, students from the VCS journalism class reported on the school's environmental education program and this year's focus on phenology and biomes, as well as an article about an apparent school-wide craze for Dum-Dum lollipops, started by the school's newest teacher, Brad Neyens. The newsletter also includes articles by school staff on language arts, math, philosophy, and social studies classes.

Kitchen manager Cindy Pettinelli gave updates on the senior dining and meals on wheels program (call 218-753-1246 for information), and office manager Jolene Herberg gave parent reminders on how to use the online parent portal to track students' progress.

Language arts teacher Karin Schmidt is seeking adults to come and be guest readers in her class.

"Did any special person read to you when you were a child?" Schmidt asks. "How about as an adult? When I read aloud, I experience metacognition as the story vividly appears in my mind," she said.

Schmidt is reading

aloud to her students every day, from a wide variety of picture books, short stories, and poetry.

"Nobody is ever too old to be read to," she said.

Schmidt is looking for some adult helpers to read to her three classes.

"VCS students need other voices in the classes reading aloud. I would like to invite you to be a guest reader if you have a favorite picture book or story. Call us at 218-753-1246 to arrange a few minutes. Volunteers can share some of their favorite books or stories or read from the classroom collection."

The newsletter also contained a silly story that students wrote as part of one week's Big Circle program

(held each Wednesday), as well as unveiling some of the school's new marketing materials, urging students to "Find Your Place" and "Discover" Vermilion Country School.

Writing for the newsletter is only part of the journalism class efforts this fall. Students are creating the school yearbook, mastering their computer graphics, layout and design and photography skills. The class also uses the "Journalism Matters" curriculum, which teaches journalism techniques, teaches students how to analyze media, teaches independent thinking skills, and teaches journalism ethics.

SCROOGE...Continued from page 1

he once threw away.

That is the story behind Scrooge In Love, presented by the Northern Lakes Arts Association with support from Vermilion Community College.

Performances will start with a matinee at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater on Saturday, Nov. 30 at 2 p.m., so families can come and enjoy the show, then head downtown for the Holiday Parade and the tree lighting in Whiteside Park. Performances will continue on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 2 p.m. and then the following Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6-7, at 7 p.m.

"Scrooge in Love continues the treasured story of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol on the morning after Ebenezer Scrooge wakes up from his night with Marley's Ghost and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future," said VCC instructor Sara Skelton.

"All of Dickens' familiar characters return in this romantic and festive sequel to the perennial classic," she said. "The score, with lyrics by Kellen Blair and music by Larry Grossman (known for SNOOPY!), bubbles with energy and lyricism."

Under the direction of Mike Rouse and Crystal Poppler, the cast of favorites includes local Potluck kitchenware business owner David Wigdahl in the title role as Ebenezer Scrooge, with Tom Bennett as Jacob Marley, Jennifer Merhar as the Ghost of Christmas Past, Dani Krostue as the Ghost of Christmas Present, and Drew Rouse as the Ghost of Christmas Future.

The Cratchit family includes VCC student Connor Jungers as Bob Cratchit, Maria Paschke as Mrs. Cratchit, and Jack Rintala as Tiny Tim. Mr.



More than two dozen Ely community members make up the cast of Scrooge in Love. The musical opens Saturday, Nov. 30 at Vermilion Community College Fine Arts Theater, and runs for two weekends.

photos by K. Vandervort

and Mrs. Fezziwig are played by Paul Keinitz and Andrea Strom.

"A host of other VCC students, Ely Public School students, and community members fills out the cast of characters for a talented group of 26 performers," Skelton said. "Sprinkled with beloved characters and delightful tunes, Scrooge in Love is the perfect way to usher in the holiday season."

Tickets are available at Potluck, online at northernlakesarts.org, or at the door. Festival seating. Adult tickets are \$15, Northern Lakes Arts Association members are \$12 (new and renewed memberships available online or at the door) and students are \$8.





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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Support local businesses on Small Business Saturday

by E. M. SCHULTZ
Staff Writer

REGIONAL – With the holiday shopping season set to kick off on Black Friday, many small, locally-owned businesses are gearing up for a somewhat lesser-known shopping event— Small Business Saturday, or SBS.

Here in the North Country, there are a number of businesses participating in the annual event, set this year for Nov. 30, and most are offering a variety of sale specials as well as special treats. It's all designed to encourage North Country residents to spend at least a portion of their holiday budget at locally-owned retailers.

Some of those retailers say that many local residents already understand that message.

"I feel lucky that many of our customers, local and tourist, patronize small, family-owned businesses throughout the whole year," said Elli Piragis, with Piragis Northwoods Company in Ely.

Ubetcha Antiques & Uniques of Tower is another local retailer who will be taking part in SBS



Small Business Saturday will be held on Saturday Nov. 30 in many communities of the North Country. photo by E.M. Schultz

once again. According to Vicky Meloche, who owns and operates the store with her husband Charlie Carlson, the store sells a variety of items from high-quality antiques to unique artisan pieces. They actually extend their specials to the Friday before and the Sunday after SBS. This year, Ubetcha will be taking care of the sales taxes themselves, which means anything you purchase will be tax-free. They will also be holding drawings for \$20, \$30, and \$40 gift certificates. If you'd like a chance to win, you'll have to stop by the shop over the course of the weekend.

Small Business Saturday has proven to be

successful with a number of local shops in recent years as word of the event has spread. "The turnout has been wonderful," said Sola Anderson, marketing manager for Wintergreen Northern Wear in Ely. "We're grateful that so many people are acknowledging the importance of small businesses."

Wintergreen will, once again, be offering discounts throughout the weekend. There, you'll receive 20-percent off everything in the store, beginning on Friday morning through Sunday evening.

According to Anderson, the closing of Ely's only true big-box store, Shopko, has helped

people realize just how important these small businesses are, both to the city and overall. She says local stores provide good jobs as well as financial contributions to the community.

"When our community supports local businesses, the domino effect occurs as the money is circulated within the community," says Anderson. "Shopping local keeps businesses in town."

Keeping businesses in town is of vital importance because it would be, as Anderson puts it, "a terrible inconvenience" not to have them. Ely's Chamber of Commerce even attempted to collect a list of products that businesses in town carry to help consumers find the items they need locally, rather than having to drive the fifty miles to Virginia.

"Ely is a small town comprised of small, family businesses," says Anderson. "What goes around stays around."

While the idea of shopping locally is catching on with some shoppers, not everyone has gotten the message. Marit Kringstad, who operates Nordic Home North in Tower,

noted that not a single person stopped by the store on Small Business Saturday last year, despite her best efforts to advertise the event. She said this suggests that many people are choosing to do their shopping at big box stores in Virginia and Duluth.

"That is their decision," she says, "But soon they will have no options in Tower and Soudan."

Despite the lack of turnout last year, Kringstad still plans to hold special sales for the event. She's offering a thirty-three percent discount on "in stock" Nepali handwoven rugs, and if you spend \$100 on gifts and things at the store, you'll receive \$20 off. She will also be serving Norwegian Krumkake and hot apple cider to those who stop in during the day.

"We will be open and looking forward to welcoming any and all customers who may stop by to see us," she says.

The concept of Small Business Saturday arose in the wake of the Great Recession as a way to help small businesses survive the economic devastation brought on by the financial collapse.

Since its inception, an estimated \$103 billion dollars have been spent by consumers during the event. This is good news for both the businesses and the communities in which they are located because, according to a 2018 Small Business Economic Impact study commissioned by SBS founder American Express, sixty-seven cents out of every dollar spent at a small business remains in the local community.

Supporting local businesses is not all about purchasing material goods. Every time you stop in at a coffee shop such as Sulu's Espresso Café in Tower, or the Front Porch in Ely, you're supporting a local business. When you grab lunch at the Montana Café in Cook or the Tower Café in Tower, you're supporting a small business. When you buy a gift subscription to your favorite local newspaper, you're making a difference.

So, as you head out to do your holiday shopping this year, keep the spirit of this event in mind and do what you can to support your community by shopping locally.

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Ely's Historic State Theater will host an open house Thanksgiving Night

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The doors will open and popcorn will be served Thanksgiving night

for a special open house event at Ely's Historic State Theater. The public will have their first look at the restored landmark

during an open house from 5-8 p.m. on Nov. 28.

Abandoned and in failing condition for a dozen years, complete

with leaking ceilings and random pigeon homes, the theater and adjacent building complex were purchased by Alley A Realty, and a five-year refurbishing project was initiated.

With millions of dollars worth of renovations complete, the State Theater is under the management of a newly-created nonprofit group.

David Wigdahl, chair of the group's board of directors, said last week at the Ely City Council meeting that residents and visitors alike are invited to come out during the city's traditional Thanksgiving community night for guided tours, and to get a sneak peak at what's been accomplished and what's coming at the theater.

"We are working hard

to get your State Theater open again," he said. "We're going to have it all lit up and decorated for the holidays with fresh popcorn, and the entire board will be giving a behind-the-scenes look with guided tours."

The open house will also include live music, with Max Thompson playing both the keyboard and accordion. "There will be several other surprises, but I don't want to spill the beans too much," Wigdahl said.

He did reveal that a new print by Jim Brandenburg that depicts what the theater used to look like will be unveiled. "Prints will be for sale," he added.

In addition to major exterior repairs, that included a new roof,

new air conditioning and heating units, upgraded electrical work, foundational stabilization of the building along with the rehabilitation and re-lighting of the theater marquee, the inside of the theater was completely overhauled.

The interior of the main theater includes exactly 287 seats, providing for more legroom. The stage was extended to accommodate concerts and stage shows. The nonprofit group is planning its first major production, a performance of The Quiltmaker's Gift, scheduled for Jan. 24-26.

Wigdahl said the group's vision for the State Theater "is a cultural hub of films, arts entertainment and learning that cultivates a vibrant, health

BLACK FRIDAY

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HEALTH CARE

Ely Community Health Center looks to grow

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - As the Ely Community Health Center's new director settles in, this town's source for free medical assistance is experiencing an increase in clients along with the addition of new health care options.

ECHC Executive Director Jon Erickson, who describes himself as "both new Ely and old Ely," has been at his post for about six months. He introduced himself at a Tuesday Group gathering last week and touched on many new initiatives that are now in place or coming soon.

"Jo Ann, my wife of almost 40 years, is a born and raised Elyite. We have been coming up here for almost 42 years and we have a long history here," he said, "We have seen a lot of the transition that Ely has gone through."

The couple left Ely in 2006 and lived in Mexico for 10 years, moved to California for a year, and then lived in France for the last three years. "I have had a great exposure to different healthcare systems," Erickson said. "There are lots of lessons to be learned on how we should be evolving healthcare."

Erickson was tapped to lead the "Ely Free Clinic" in June. He graduated from Drake University and began his career providing software and operational consulting at Anderson & Co. He later worked for various companies across the United States and Europe and has significant experience in operations, sales, business development and marketing.

In addition to his background in business and technology, he was also an active volunteer with a health care advocacy group that reached out to provide health care and referrals to school children by working with medical and oral hygiene providers to advocate for economically disadvantaged families in parts of Mexico.

The mission of the ECHC, founded in 2011, is to deliver affordable health care services to advance individual and community health. The free clinic, now entirely locally based, is located in the AFU Building at the corner of Harvey Street and South Fourth Ave. E, and serves underinsured and uninsured patients every Thursday evening.

Under Erickson's administrative and operational leadership, ECHC is comprised of 10 medical professionals, seven nurses and Emergency Medical Technicians, one dental hygienist, and



Jon Erickson

13 volunteers who handle patient intake and check-out processes.

Through Oct 31, volunteer medical personnel have provided 167 hours of professional services to the clinic. At ECHC, 170 patients were served in the first ten months of 2019. "That includes 114 new patients and tourists," he said, "And 138 of our patients so far this year have no access to dental care, and 99 had no health insurance. These numbers should absolutely floor most communities."

The ECHC provides a free weekly clinic, on Thursdays from 5:30-7 p.m., that involves non-emergency services including, but not limited to, referrals for x-rays, lab work, and prescriptions. "We have a lot of tourists that come in during the summer who may need stitches removed, or a prescription renewed," Erickson said. "We help a lot of people who don't have access to health insurance and who might not otherwise be able to get health care." He noted that many nearby college and high school athletes come in every season for their required physicals.

Since taking over his new role at the clinic, Erickson said he has learned much about the Ely community and the challenges of health care access "There is a huge problem in Ely and in the surrounding area," he said.

In addition to providing health services, dental care is becoming increasingly important at the ECHC. Since August, patients have the opportunity to obtain fluoride varnish treatments that help to prevent tooth decay. "This is critically important for the very young as well as the elderly," Erickson said.

Health insurance navigation assistance is also a new service provided at the ECHC. "There is a huge gap between what is available to people and what Ely residents are aware of what they qualify for," Erickson said. He noted that for himself, being in his early 60s and not qualified for Medicare, health insurance through MnSure is

not as expensive as he assumed.

"It is still expensive. It is not cheap, but there is help available," he said. "And there is a lot of information available for those who need it. There is a major gap in what is available and what people think is available. There are way too many uninsured and uninformed people in the Ely area. We are here to help you get through the process."

The focus of 2019, according to Erickson, was to expand health clinic services through increasing the number of patients, as well as the

dental fluoride program. In addition to the insurance navigation assistance now offered, community outreach and volunteer recruitment are being expanded.

In the next year, Erickson said he would like to see an expansion of the weekly health clinics. "We want to continue to expand out community outreach and education, and are looking for more volunteers," he said. "More coordination and participation with the behavioral health network and the community care team, as well as more governmental policy

advocacy is also high on the list."

He also revealed that the ECHC is looking to expand dental care. "We want to open a full service dental clinic that would operate twice a month to do restorative dental procedures such as cavities, crowns, bridges and the like, as well as general hygiene services," he said.

This would be fueled by collaboration with the Ely Family Dental Clinic. "Dr. Crystal Chopp is making a major donation to make this possible," he said. In addition, several grant applications are in process to help launch the

endeavor.

"I need any referrals of people who would consider volunteering or actually being a part-time employee, assuming we get the funding, as a dental hygienist or dental therapist," Erickson said. "Talk to anyone, hiring dental professionals here in Ely is really hard. It is crucial we have help to make this work."

In addition, Erickson asked the community for any help by way of volunteers, and/or funding, to keep yje Ely free medical clinic viable for many years to come. "We have a lot of need."



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REVIEW...Continued from page 1

review this time around.

"The credibility and transparency of the EIS process for the proposed Twin Metals project is critical to Minnesotans," said Strommen. "The DNR is committed to ensuring a thorough, scientific, and neutral review of the proposal, based on state law. We believe this will be best accomplished through separate EIS processes at the state and federal levels." Strommen said Twin Metals has requested additional federal mineral leases which will require an environmental review that won't impact the state process, making a separate state process more efficient.

The DNR's decision suggests that state officials are fearful about the credibility of any environmental review conducted under the Trump administration, although Strommen was careful not to say so publicly, despite questions from reporters.

The Trump administration has already come under withering fire from opponents of the Twin Metals proposal for the administration's decision to reinstate mineral leases to Twin Metals that the Obama administration had cancelled just weeks before President Trump took office. That action is currently in litigation, with an initial decision expected soon.

The Trump administration has also rebuffed efforts by the media and Congress to obtain studies that Forest Service officials had gathered as part of a two-year study of a proposed 20-year mineral lease withdrawal that would have prohibited any new mining leases on about 234,000 acres of federal land within the Rainy River watershed. The affected lands are all located upstream of the 1.1 million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, which makes the protection of water quality in those areas of high concern.

Strommen said the DNR expects to have access to all previously prepared federal environmental review data related to the Twin Metals project, including from the study of the federal mineral withdrawal. Should the Trump administration make that information available, Strommen indicated it would become

public under Minnesota law.

According to Strommen, the DNR will continue to work cooperatively with the federal agencies, to the fullest extent possible, to reduce duplication and to coordinate steps like data submittals, analytical approaches, and public participation. "We will also seek to coordinate closely with federal agencies as we undertake Minnesota's consultations with tribal governments. Though the MEPA and NEPA EIS processes will be separate, coordination between state and federal agencies will benefit all interested parties," said Strommen.

The specific details

of how and when the DNR will proceed with its environmental review likely won't be known until sometime after the agency receives the mine plan proposal from Twin Metals. That's also when the agency will learn whether Twin Metals is seeking access to any new state lands for its project development. Gov. Mark Dayton issued an order in 2016 that prohibited Twin Metals from accessing some state lands. Assistant Commissioner Barb Naramore said that the agency does not currently have any such requests before it, so it won't have to decide whether to continue, or lift, Dayton's prohibition until such a request is

made.

Twin Metals, in a statement, said the DNR's decision for a separate state process won't change the company's approach. "The agencies that oversee the environmental review of our project have robust processes in place to ensure we are held to the highest of standards," said Kathy Graul, manager of public relations with Twin Metals. "We look forward to fully engaging with agencies and the public in the coming years, and we ultimately believe that engagement will lead to the best project for Minnesota. We must meet or exceed all environmental standards, or our project will not proceed."

Critics of the pro-

posed copper-nickel mine were mostly supportive of the DNR's decision, with reservations. "While we believe the DNR made the right decision, talk of a state environmental review at this point is presumptuous," said Chris Knopf, with the Friends of the Boundary Waters. "Whether Twin Metals can legally mine on this public land is still disputed. Our lawsuit challenging the legality of Twin Metals' lease renewals is still waiting for a decision in District Court. This foreign-owned mining company is acting as though they are entitled to Minnesota's land, and we are confident we will win our case and they will not mine."

Ely resident Becky Rom, who heads the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, said a prohibition on mining within the BWCAW watershed was the only way to protect wilderness water quality. "It's good that Governor Walz recognizes that the Trump Administration can't be trusted to faithfully and with integrity do environmental review of sulfide-ore copper mining near the Boundary Waters," said Rom. "However, state standards are insufficient to protect the Wilderness from the inevitable industrial pollution that will flow from a copper mine next to this priceless natural resource."

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30 YEARS...

Continued from page 1

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HOCKEY

Young Timberwolves team drops two at home



Kittson Central outscores Ely 18-3 in two-game set

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

ELY – The Timberwolves are fielding one of the youngest hockey teams in school history this season, but fifth-year head Coach Ben Johnson said there is no shortage of desire as the Timberwolves opened the 2019-2020 season last weekend with a tough two-game home set against Kittson Central of northwestern Minnesota.

The Bearcats outscored Ely 9-2 on Friday night and 9-1 on Saturday afternoon.

Ely scored first against Kittson County in the opening period Friday night on a shot by senior Luke Olson, who led the team with 35 goals last season. Jimmy Zupancich and

Jason Skube notched the assists on the goal. But the Bearcats quickly evened the score and took a 3-1 lead after the first period, holding Ely to just five shots on goal in the opening frame.

Ely managed just 11 shots on goal for the game. Kittson, meanwhile, peppered Ely

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



WILDLIFE REHAB

Caring for critters

Local woman is devoted to helping injured and abandoned wildlife

by **E. M. SCHULTZ**
Staff Writer

REGIONAL - Nestled in the woods outside Babbitt there is a place where animals of every shape and size are given a second chance at life. Heather (Flikke) Griffith, the operator of this healing establishment, has always had a passion for helping animals in need. Up until six years ago, when she discovered Wildwoods Wildlife Rehabilitation in Duluth, she did so in an unofficial capacity. Two years later, she started her own center, which she dubbed Cripple Critter Ranch (CCR).

The process behind opening this facility was not a simple one. Heather had to take a test to become licensed through the DNR and make sure she had at least one room that would serve solely as a rehabilitation area. She also had to find a mentor who would be willing to take her on, which, according to Heather, is a massive commitment requiring 24/7 availability. She said her mentor, Gail Buyle, who works at the Raptor Center in Roseville, was a huge help when she first started out. Now, she has built up a much bigger network of individuals who can answer her questions and offer her help.

This support group, as well as her own determination and experience, has helped Heather advance her license from

Above: Heather Griffith holds an adult bald eagle that she cared for at her rehabilitation facility near Babbitt.

Right: Heather's husband Mark with an immature swan with a mended wing. submitted photos

the novice level to the general level. With this new classification comes the ability to treat a larger variety of species and no limit on how many she may treat at a time.

“The limit is really what I can handle,” she says. “The most I’ve ever had at once was maybe fifteen to twenty.”

Higher numbers such as these generally occur during the spring or summer, which are the busiest seasons for CCR. Spring ushers in a number of orphaned babies, while summer tends to bring in more juveniles, or as Heather calls them, “dumb teenagers.” These are animals who couldn’t or didn’t quite figure out how to take care of themselves and whose parents have moved on.” As for the fall and winter, numbers are usually lower.

This doesn’t mean Heather isn’t busy during the winter. She often continues feeding the animals she has released back into the wild, especially those that would usually stock up on food during the fall months, such as squirrels. This is what she calls a “soft release.” She also takes care not to touch any baby animals that come



to her after they’ve been weaned, as this can negatively affect their ability to be reintroduced to the wild.

“It’s important to remember they’re still wild animals,” she says.

While some of the wild animals that end up at CCR are discovered by Heather herself, most of them come from the discoveries of others. People stumble across incapacitated animals and call the DNR, and then the DNR either calls Heather or gives out her number. According to Tom Rusch, the DNR Tower Area Wildlife Manager, being able to do so has been extremely helpful.

“She’s been a godsend,” he says.

See **WILDLIFE...pg. 2B**

BREITUNG

Town board hires Gorsma as new maintenance head

by **STEPHANIE UKKOLA**
Staff writer

SOUDAN - Breitung Township has found the near-perfect candidate to replace retiring Maintenance Director Dale Swanson.

The Breitung Town Board, on Nov. 19, offered the soon-to-be-open maintenance director position to Tom Gorsma. Gorsma, who lives in Soudan, is currently serving in the same position in the city of Tower. The board selected Gorsma from among four finalists, who board members all agreed were well-qualified.

Chairman Tim Tomsich said Gorsma, with his experience as a maintenance director, instructor, and a water/sewer background, was a step above the rest. Supervisor Greg Dostert argued in favor of another candidate and expressed his hesitancy to hire the director from their neighbor, but he ultimately seconded the motion to offer the position to Gorsma.

Pending his acceptance of the job and a background check, Gorsma will be replacing Dale Swanson who has served the township for 14 years and is set to retire this spring. The board previously planned to start the new hire in November or December, but because Gorsma was so qualified, the board decided the extensive training period would not be necessary and will have him start March 1, with 90-percent pay for three months before receiving full wages, and a 60-day probation period before the township pays for health insurance.

McKinley Park

McKinley Park Campground rates will remain the same in the 2020 camping season. New next year will be a 3.99-percent fee on credit card users, and a new \$5/day fee for campers who use excessive amounts of electricity. Campground Manager Susie Chiabotti estimates the park will be able to recoup \$1,500 in credit card fees by passing this charge along to users. As for the electricity surcharge, Chiabotti said it will mostly apply to campers who leave their air conditioning running while they are away. The township also renewed the contract with the Chiabottis for another year.

In other news, the board:

- Heard from a local parent who asked the township’s fire department to look into having one of its members certified to install and check children’s car seats. Fire departments commonly have a member who has been trained to do this, but no one in Tower or Soudan is currently certified.
- Approved the sale of some of their used office equipment.

See **BREITUNG...pg. 2B**

BREITUNG...Continued from page 1B

► Heard the police department sold an impounded truck for \$5,220.

► Heard that Ben Johnson of Heavy Metal Sports in Ely donated 25 pairs of skates and 30 sticks to the Breitung board to give away to kids in need of the equipment. Interested parties should call Dostert at 218-248-0648.

► Paid an invoice to JPJ Engineering for \$3,556.

► Will pay an invoice to Lenci Enterprises for \$50,345 after CDBG grant money comes in.

► Indicated the township will make an application for an IRRR grant for \$250,000 on behalf of the Tower Breitung Wastewater Board.

► Thanked Water Plant Supervisor Matt Tuchel for putting in many extra hours after the water tower and water treatment plant were damaged by lightning and had to be run manually for several weeks while repairs were completed. "You went above and beyond, Matt," said Supervisor Chuck Tekautz. "We are very for-

tunate to have an employee that cares."

► Approved the purchase of a desk for a public computer with broadband grant money from Blandin Foundation. Free public wifi is now available at the town hall for those who want to bring their own devices. Speed is 20 mbps upload and 20 mbps download and service is

available in the building and parking lot.

► Heard Tower Mayor Orlyn Kringstad answer questions the board had concerning the ambulance subsidy. "We've been working through issues," Kringstad said. "The ambulance director has been instructed to work with the city clerk-treasurer on a cash flow and

budget sheet." Kringstad said that they are now putting together a financial forecast spreadsheet that would cover from now through 2020 and he is confident that there won't be any lapse in ambulance coverage for the area.

► Next meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 1:30 p.m.

HOCKEY...Continued from page 1B

goalie Chase Sandberg with 15 shots in the first period, 22 more in the second period, and seven more in the final stanza for a total of 44 shots on goal.

The Bearcats added four more goals in the second period to take a 7-1 lead. Olson scored again for Ely late in the third period, again with assists by Zupancich and Skube,

and the Bearcats lit their lamp two more times for the 9-2 final.

Both teams were tagged with four minutes in the penalty box on two infractions. Kittson scored once on a power play.

On Saturday, Kittson County jumped out to a 6-0 first-period lead. Olson scored early in the second period, with an assist by

Sean Prigge, to give the Timberwolves their only score for the afternoon. The Bearcats scored once more in the second period and added two more in the third frame for a 9-1 final.

Ely had 12 shots on goal Saturday and Kittson County had 37 shots against freshman goalie Ben Cavalier.

Coach Johnson, who

will have the opportunity to help coach in Europe early next month, said he's seeing a great attitude and work ethic from his players this year. Johnson is assisted by Jake Myers and Stan Skelton.

Senior defenseman Dalton Schreffler, who is still recovering from an injury during the football season, played in the first

period Friday night, but re-injured his leg and did not suit up on Saturday. "I tried to play, but that didn't last long," he said before the game. "I hope to get back on the ice in a month or so."

Olson and Schreffler are joined by senior Skube, and junior Zupancich, from Northeast Range High School, to anchor the

team with the most playing experience.

The Timberwolves have a 20-game regular season schedule that includes nine home dates. They travel to Greenway on Friday, Nov. 29 and return home Saturday, Nov. 30, for a 2 p.m. game against Park Rapids.

WILDLIFE...Continued from page 1B

"Having her as a resource has been amazing."

Rusch and his staff of one are responsible for an enormous area of 4,770-square miles that includes several state forests and wildlife management areas. He says it wouldn't be possible to help nearly as many animals as they do without Heather's volunteerism. According to Rusch, Heather is a lot of fun to work with, and she's always more than willing to help no matter the time or day.

"You never know when an eagle is going to get hit, or when a loon is going to have something go bad," says Rusch. "Being able to call Heather is awesome."

Generally, when Heather gets a phone call from someone regarding an injured animal, she asks them to bring it to the Ely Veterinary Clinic. This is usually her first stop when she receives a new ward. She brings them there because of Dr. Kristine Woerheide, who is actively learning about wildlife care.

Dr. Kristine isn't the only vet at the clinic who is willing to help. According to Heather, there are several other vets who help if Dr. Kristine isn't available, or in the case of an emergency. And they do it all pro bono, a fact for which Heather is extremely grateful.

According to her, none of what she does would be possible without their help and the help she's received from many others over the years.

"It's all worked out really well," she says. "It's a whole bunch of people working together."

One of those people is her husband Mark, who not only supports her efforts but also builds the facilities for the healing animals. Heather spoke about how much she appreciates his help, giving him "huge kudos" for everything he does and puts up with.

He isn't the only one who helps her, though. She also gets assistance with transfers from time to time, both from people being willing to drive animals where they need to go and from other rehabilitation centers being willing to meet halfway. Another source of help comes from the owners of the houses she cleans, who are kind enough to allow her to bring along animals who require more constant care.

Another area where she has gotten help is in the financial realm, though not nearly as much as necessary. Other than a grant she received last year for incubators, all of the rehabilitation center's expenses have come out of her pocket. Heather does have plans to apply for another grant in the future, which would allow her, or rather Mark, to build an otter enclosure. If all goes as planned, it would be the only one in the state of Minnesota. It would also be the second specialized enclosure at CCR, with the

first being a 16x16 flight enclosure, and the fourth facility to be built overall.

Though CCR is currently growing, Heather wants to make sure it doesn't become too large, not because she doesn't want to help as many animals as possible, but because she doesn't want to lose the passion for what she does. A bigger center would mean constant paperwork, finding volunteers or staff members, and dealing with scheduling rather than spending her time doing what she loves: taking care of the animals. While she still may seek volunteer help in the future, for now, she'd rather focus on providing the highest quality care to a smaller number of creatures.

"It's about what's best for the animals," she says.

The animals are, after all, what CCR is all about, and Heather is willing to take on any species, as long as her license allows it. She has helped everything from baby mice, squirrels,

and swans, to a great-horned owl fledgling. Her favorite animal so far was a mink named Ernie. When Ernie first arrived, he could barely open his eyes. Heather raised him for several months before finally releasing him to the wild. Other than Ernie, she said it's hard for her to choose a favorite.

"They're all my new favorites," she says.

Ernie may have been her favorite, but an American Bittern she named "Bird" was the most unusual animal she's ever helped. She described him as a "shy bird" who made a "weird glunking noise." Bird had neurological issues, however, and he eventually had to be euthanized, which Heather said was one of the toughest decisions for her.

While that decision is always difficult, Heather acknowledges is not an uncommon outcome for many of the animals she cares for, particularly adults. In most cases, she said, an adult animal

must be severely injured to allow itself to be captured by a person.

Rusch said he appreciates that Heather is fully aware of the reality of what she does.

"She knows that a lot of animals don't survive," he says. "She's very realistic about things."

Heather herself says that as difficult as it is to make the call to euthanize them, it's better than allowing them to continue suffering. It's also gotten easier over time. The first year she ran CCR, she says she cried the entire time.

Despite the more difficult aspects of the job, Heather says running CCR makes her "unbelievably happy." If it were possible, it would be her sole focus. For her, it's right up there with her job.

"My whole world is wildlife," she says. "My mind is on the rehab 24/7."

Heather is also actively learning more about how to care for the animals. She is currently taking classes, such as medical math, at

Vermilion Community College in Ely. She's also in the process of applying for a federal license to work with migratory birds. On top of this, she is constantly seeking out information on her own, especially when she gets a new animal she isn't entirely familiar with. As she says, it's important to "know your animal," which she clearly does, considering she's only ever had one animal successfully attack her. She was bitten on the finger by a gray squirrel.

It's clear that Heather cares deeply for all creatures. She urges everyone to at least be kind to animals. Most importantly, she asks that people stop using poisons and glue traps, as they are especially cruel.

"Just because you don't see it," she says, "doesn't mean an animal isn't suffering horribly because of those things."

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HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Orr Snow City Festival gets underway on Saturday, Dec. 7

ORR - Don't miss out on the fun of this year's Snow City Festival in Orr. While the festival is held on Saturday, Dec. 7, the event begins with the Medallion Hunt. Clues will be posted starting on Sunday, Dec. 1 for the Snow City Medallion hunt, kicking off the annual holiday tradition.

Residents and visitors alike will be treated to the annual festival on Saturday, Dec. 7 at events in Orr, starting with breakfast bright and early from 7 - 10 a.m. at the Orr Community Center (Legion Building).

From 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., craft vendors will open their shops at the Orr Community Center. There will also be

pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Lunch will be available from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Don't forget to watch the parade at 1 p.m. in downtown Orr. Parade line-up is at Wally's parking lot. After the parade, bring the kids to the North Pole tent to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus. The day will conclude at 6 p.m. at the Orr Center with the Lights of Love tree lighting and refreshments.

The event is sponsored by the Orr Chamber of Commerce.

Santa visits Orr on Dec. 7. file photo



Obituaries and Death Notices



Alice O. Holkko

Alice Olga Holkko, 97, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019, at Essentia Health Virginia Care Center. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, Nov. 26 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Virginia with Pastor Erik Roth officiating. Donations are preferred to the VCC Activities Department. A special thanks to all the VCC staff and caregivers, especially to the activities staff and nurses' aides who were special to Alice. Arrangements were with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

Alice was born on Feb. 4, 1922, in Vermilion Lake Township, to Peter and Mary (Forsnappa) Hujanen. She graduated from Embarrass High School in 1940. On Aug. 4, 1945, she was united in marriage to William E. Holkko in Virginia. Alice worked various jobs, including Ketola's Department Store, cook/waitress at Holkko's Café and Confectionary, K&H Self Service Laundromat, office worker at the License Bureau, and Assistant Postmaster at the Britt Post Office, part-time, for 22 years.

Alice enjoyed bingo at the Elks Club and Fortune Bay. She cared for her grandchildren often and would drive for her friends whenever they needed assistance.

Alice was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, a past Moose Club Member, a Virginia Senior Citizens Member, and a life member of the Virginia Historical Society.

Saunas were every Wednesday and Saturday night at Grandma Holkko's. Everyone was always welcome; coffee and goodies were always served.

Alice is survived by her daughters, Connie (Jack) Lia Braaten of

Hermantown, Carol (Dale) Mell of Albion and Sharon (Butch) Panula of Britt; sons, Gordon Holkko, Gerry (Debi) Holkko, Scott (Becky) Holkko and Kenneth (Maggie) Holkko, all of Britt; 14 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren with one on the way; numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, William in 1994; son, Keith Alan in 1966; five sisters; ten brothers; and daughter-in-law, "Happy" (Carolyn) in 2018.



Linda S. Rankila

Linda S. Rankila, 99, of Tower, formerly of Embarrass and Virginia, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019, at Vermilion Senior Living in Tower. Per Linda's request, there will be no formal services. Burial will be at Greenwood Cemetery in Virginia. The family would like to thank East Range Hospice and the staff at Vermilion Senior Living in Tower for the wonderful care that was given to their aunt. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Linda was born on Aug. 14, 1920, in Virginia, to Anselm and Ilina Elizabeth (Haikio) Huhta. She left school to help the family and later received her GED at age 50. She worked as a nursing assistant at the Virginia Regional Hospital.

Linda, always known as "Auntie Dada", never forgot a birthday of her nieces and nephews. She loved her sauna, knitting, baking, making quilts, family gatherings, picking berries at age 90, and going on a girls-only outing to Arizona with her nieces at age 80.

Linda had "sisu". Some people live long and live well and sad is the day we have to say goodbye. Nakemiin, Auntie Dada.

Survivors include nieces and nephews, Sarah (Charles) Young of Duluth, Faye Sundeen of Sun City West, Ariz., Amy Berglund of Lake Vermilion-Soudan, Lori (Tim) Tomsich of Soudan, Thomas (Jayne) Sundeen of Soudan and Linda "Mindy" Sandstrom of Virginia; several great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Reuben Rankila; two brothers, Reino and Arvo Huhta; sister, Lila Sundeen; Reuben's family; and many friends.

Gayle D. Lilya

Gayle D. Lilya, 82, of Virginia, formerly of Tower, died peacefully on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019, at Essentia Health St. Mary's in Duluth with family at her side. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. memorial service on Saturday, Dec. 7 at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower. Pastor Doug Workman will officiate. Inurnment will be at a later date in Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Memorials are preferred to the donor's choice. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Gayle was born on Sept. 6, 1937, in Tower, the daughter of Roy and Irene (Mickelson) Sjoberg. She was a graduate of Tower-Soudan High School. Gayle was united in marriage to William J. Lilya on June 2, 1962, at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower.

Gayle worked as a homemaker. She also worked at the Tower Dress Shop and at Fingerhut. She was a member of St. James Presbyterian Church. Gayle enjoyed spending time with her family and always had a tasty home-cooked meal waiting for them. She also enjoyed spending time at their cabin on Lake Vermilion.

Gayle is survived by her husband, Bill; sons, Scott (Amy) Lilya of Chaska and Michael (Stacy) Lilya of Blaine; sister, Joy Raudio of Mound; grandchildren, Molly, Andrea, Joseph, Lindsay and Landon Lilya; and numerous extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Roy and Terry; and special friends, Sandy Moraski and Mary Kilpila.

Jean Schottmuller

Jean Stettner Schottmuller, 77, of Virginia, died on Friday, Nov. 22, 2019, at home. Visitation will be from 12 noon until the 1 p.m. memorial service on Saturday, Nov. 30 at the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Midway. Pastor Jerry Deppa will officiate. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her children, Wade (Jena) Schottmuller of Eveleth, Wendy (Bruce) Sweney of Embarrass, Wannette (Jay) Miller of Gilbert, Dana (Daryl) Banttari of Burnsville and Dawn (David) Crandall of Britt; siblings, Shirley Jackson, Mary Jo Holzschuh, Joseph Karp II, Elizabeth (Robert) Hill and Anthony Karp; 16 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Mary Ann Pulis

Mary Ann Gotchnik Pulis, 92, of Ely, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019, at the Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, Nov. 25 at

St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely with Father Dennis Hoffman officiating. Burial was in the Ely Cemetery. Memorials are preferred to St. Anthony's for the parish musical liturgy. Family arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her son, Terrance (Betty) Pulis of Mt. Iron; daughters, Vanessa (Leon) Schanlaub of Eveleth and Justine (Dennis Burns) Carlson of Ely; grandchildren, Michelle (Jim) Sereno of Virginia, Dan (Temy) Pulis of Oak Grove, Ky., Steph (Tim) Kniefel of Bemidji, Emilie Pulis (Amanda Lippincott) of Hibbing, Bryan Schanlaub of Santa Rosa, Calif., Kimberly (Chris) Mosher of Virginia, Garrett Carlson (Melissa Portinen) of Elk River and Marissa Carlson (Jeff Gapp) of Milbank, S.D.; nine great-grandchildren; three step-great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson; and sisters-in-law, Margaret Pulis Anderson and Mary Ellen Gotchnik.

Impie M. Luukkonen

Impie Marie Maki Luukkonen, 94, of Britt, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019, at Essentia Health St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth surrounded by her family. Funeral services were held on Saturday, Nov. 23 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Virginia with Judy Peliska officiating. Burial will be in the Sand Lake Chapel Cemetery in Britt at a later date. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Survivors include four children, Diane (Jim) Miller of McGregor, Albert Luukkonen of Britt, Darlene Lossing of Cook and Cynthia Bozicevich of Britt; numerous grandchildren and great-grand-

children; sister, Esther Heinonen of Britt; son-in-law, Dennis Wessman of Tower; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Lawrence D. Irving

Lawrence Dale Irving, 75, of Ely, died unexpectedly in his home on Monday, Nov. 18, 2019. A memorial service was held on Monday, Nov. 25 at Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely.

He is survived by his sons, Lawrence 'Chic' Irving of Ely and Lawrence 'Bouncer' Irving; daughters, Frances 'Nikki' Irving of Nett Lake and Winona 'Baby Girl' Smith of Isle; sister, Josette Irving of Ft. Thompson, S.D.; and brother, Randy Shields of Ft. Thompson, S.D.

Jeanette M. Altobell

Jeanette Marie "Mickey" Masucci Altobell, 88, of Eveleth, died on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019, at Waterview Woods in Eveleth. A celebration of life and service of remembrance were held on Sunday, Nov. 24 at Cron-Sheehy Funeral Home in Eveleth with Deacon Mark Skala as the officiant. Burial was in the Eveleth Cemetery.

She is survived by her children, Bonnie Altobell and John (Linda) Altobell, both of Eveleth, Terri (Scott) Jarvi of Hutchinson, Kathy (Joe) Celley of Cook and Cory (Katie) Altobell of Virginia; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson; siblings, Joan Masucci, Mary Margaret Little, Patsy (Cyril) Beaudette, Christine Lang, Peter Masucci and Polly Hall; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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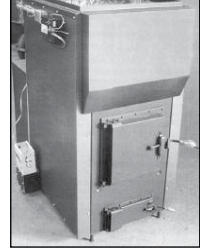
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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

COMMENTARY

Why do I hunt? To feed my kids

by KATE PERKINS
Contributing writer

Last year, after my divorce, I became a single mother of two young children. I am working a part-time job but the budget can get tight. A friend asked me if I was going to deer hunt. He knew the sight of blood makes me queasy so I promptly said NO! Killing something furry and cute was highly unappealing.

After some careful con-

sideration, I realized hunting would be a good way to ensure my kids and I had food for winter. A hunting license would cost me about the same as ten pounds of hamburger from the grocery store.

Right then I decided to become a hunter. I took the online hunting safety course, got my hunting license, spent time at the range and was ready to try hunting.

When rifle season opened, I was ready. I found the perfect spot in the woods and waited and waited...and

waited. I saw lots of birds and was visited by an adorable pine marten. Several days later I was lucky enough to see a buck. He had three points on his one remaining antler. I didn't take the shot because, prior to hunting, I resolved to only shoot if I knew it would be a good shot. I couldn't bear the idea of an animal in pain. Finally, two days before rifle season ended, I saw him. The buck I had patiently waited for. He was a three-pointer. As I waited for him to line up for

Right: Writer Kate Perkins is all smiles after shooting her first deer last year- a three point buck. This year, she shot a nice seven-pointer and her kids were excited at the prospect of more venison Polish.

submitted

a good shot, I remembered the best hunting advice I'd received. "Don't think about

See **VENISON...**pg. 5B



NORTH COUNTRY BIRDS

Feeding the gray jays

It's about things to do while waiting in the deer stand

After 40 years of deer hunting, I've grown used to sitting or standing quietly for hours on end waiting for the right deer to walk by. If I had my way, of course, deer hunting would involve wandering through the woods, which is one of my favorite activities at any time of year. I've tried that approach on occasion and have exactly zero deer to show for the effort.

As most hunters in our area know, if you want venison in the freezer (which I always do), it means putting in hours on the stand.

While time in the stand can be a bit dull at times, there are the occasional diversions—like when the gray jays show up

for a handout. Out here on the edge of the Lost Lake Swamp, we've never had a shortage of gray jays, but this year we have a bumper crop. Unlike blue

jays, which routinely associate in large, loose flocks, gray jays remain in relatively small family groups for most of the year, typically flocks of two-to-four individuals. This year, I have seven gray jays that come and feed at the house every morning, often in a single flock, which is something I've never seen before

in 35 years out here on our ridge.

At least four of them are now hand tamed, and every one of them is persistent and insistent whenever they spot me out in the yard or the woods. When I was clearing my shooting lanes

by my stands earlier this fall, there they'd be, floating in from above like silent gray ghosts. They'd land in the branch nearest my head and stare at me intently. After disappointing them the first few times, I made a habit of throwing a piece of bread in my pocket, so I'd have something to offer them even when I wasn't near the house. I know some folks advise against feeding bread to birds, but I've been offering it to the gray jays for years. I feed them good bread, of course—whole grain just like I eat. They love it and I've never seen the slightest evidence that it's harmful. I wouldn't recommend feeding them plain old white bread, but then I wouldn't recommend that for anyone.

Jays like bread because it's easy to turn it into the little pre-packaged meals they cache all throughout their home range

Above: A gray jay comes inside the deer stand for a quick bite.

photos by M. Helmbarger

during the fall in preparation for winter. They mix bits of food with their sticky saliva and attach it to tree branches or under loose bark—particularly peeling birch bark.

While our local gray jays are used to taking food from my hand outside, I was curious to see if they would come inside the ground blind I used for opening day of deer season this year. It's a little house that sits on the edge of our rocky ridge and overlooks a fairly broad area. I built it years ago for my father who hunted with me every fall up until he was 90. It was easy to get in and out of and he could use a little heater to make it a bit more comfortable.

See **GRAY JAYS...**pg. 5B



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

Outdoors in brief

Visit a Minnesota state park for free this Friday

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— If you'd like to work off some of those Thanksgiving Day calories, consider a visit to a Minnesota state park the day after your big feast. The Department of Natural Resources is waiving entrance fees to all Minnesota state parks and recreation areas this Friday, Nov. 29.

Rather than facing the crowds at a Black Friday sale, try a visit to Bear Head Lake or Lake Vermilion state parks for hiking or snowshoeing on some of the many trails.

"I wish everyone in Minnesota a peaceful and happy Thanksgiving," said DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen. "And on the day after the holiday, I can't think of anything better than visiting one of Minnesota's spectacular state parks, with free admission."

Research shows that spending time outdoors benefits children and adults, including improving mood, enhancing creative thinking and problem solving, promoting a conservation ethic, and improving physical fitness.

On Thanksgiving Day, the average American consumes around 4,500 calories. A brisk walk can burn about 300 calories in one hour. Snowshoeing can burn about 500 calories an hour.

TRADITIONS

Send us your hunting stories

REGIONAL— Deer season is a time of tradition, family and fun. It's also a time for great outdoors stories and we'd like to hear yours—so we can share the best with our readers.

We're looking for stories and photos from this year's hunt. Whether it's an interesting encounter in the woods, a monster buck, a funny story about life at deer camp, or a young person's first deer, we want to hear about it. Or email us with a few details, and we'll take it from there. And don't forget—nothing highlights the story better than some photos, so send them along as well.

Contact Marshall Helmbarger at 218-753-2950 with your stories or email them to marshall@timberjay.com.

GRAY JAYS...Continued from page 4B



With the fresh snow making some foods inaccessible, the gray jays are more eager than ever for a quick morning snack.

I keep the two shooting windows open when I'm in the stand, which made it possible for the gray jays to come inside. While they were a little reluctant at first, they quickly warmed to the idea and were soon coming in and out, taking bread from my knee or my hand.

It was fun to watch them because from my stand I could usually see where they were taking the food. They usually don't bother to eat it right then. They fly off and stash it. These birds were either attaching their little pea-sized meals, called boli, to balsam boughs or behind birch bark. Scientists have long wondered how gray jays can successfully recover all of the food they put up each fall and studies have largely confirmed

it's mostly by memory — which suggests that calling someone a "bird-brain" might not be the epithet we once thought it was.

Gray jays are actually pretty darn smart and they are quick to take advantage of food opportunities, which is undoubtedly how they view me. As my wife Jodi notes, they've got me pretty well trained.

I'm interested in seeing how far I can train them. Now that I know they'll come into my little deer shack, next I'll have to try inviting them into the house. Who knows, maybe someday we'll be able to invite all of them inside for dinner.

With gray jays, you just never know...

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Wednesday					Thursday					Friday					Saturday					Sunday				
24 12					25 20					29 23					28 16					21 14				
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.
11/18	34	27	0.00		11/18	34	26	0.00		11/18	36	26	0.04		11/18	28	25	0.03	0.1"	11/18	41	25	0.00	
11/19	29	27	0.00		11/19	29	28	0.00		11/19	31	26	0.01		11/19	34	28	0.03	0.1"	11/19	29	26	0.00	
11/20	35	29	0.00		11/20	34	32	0.01		11/20	33	28	0.01		11/20	36	30	0.00		11/20	34	28	0.00	
11/21	37	28	0.70	7.7"	11/21	36	27	0.72	4.6"	11/21	34	27	0.62	6.8"	11/21	30	16	1.06	11.0"	11/21	35	27	0.81	7.0"
11/22	27	14	0.03	0.2"	11/22	27	13	0.00		11/22	27	13	0.03	0.5"	11/22	30	12	0.03	0.2"	11/22	27	13	0.00	
11/23	28	14	0.00		11/23	28	21	0.00		11/23	28	13	0.00		11/23	36	19	0.00		11/23	29	13	0.00	
11/24	38	23	0.00		11/24	36	29	0.00		11/24	36	22	0.00		11/24	43	30	0.00		11/24	37	20	0.00	
YTD Total				21.13 18.8"	YTD Total				26.72 9.8"	YTD Total				24.17 10.9"	YTD Total				NA 13.9"	YTD Total				27.99 3.4"

2019 FIREARMS DEER SEASON

Area registrations continue to run well behind last year's pace

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Minnesota hunters had registered a total of 165,124 whitetail deer as of 7 a.m. on the day after the end of the regular firearms deer season. The final total is likely to be a bit higher, as additional registrations trickle in over the next few days.

A few special hunts, including the muzzleloader season, will bring additional harvest, but it appears that

the total take will come in well under 200,000 deer, which was the target set by the Department of Natural Resources in 2018. It appears the harvest may also be down slightly from the 188,706 deer that hunters registered last year, and possibly much lower in parts of the North Country.

Hunters in northern St. Louis, northern Lake, and Koochiching counties continue to run below last year's tally. As of Monday morning,

just ahead of the *Timberjay's* early holiday deadline, hunters had registered the following numbers by permit area, according to the DNR:

- 108: 1,046 (1,085 in 2018)
- 117: 28 (23)
- 118: 722 (796)
- 119: 351 (457)
- 130: 221 (420)
- 176: 960 (1,709)
- 177: 1,081 (1,459)
- 178: 1,624 (2,777).

DEER HUNT...Continued from page 4B

it as killing a furry animal, think of it as food for your kids." I took aim and pulled the trigger. One bullet through the heart. I was thankful he died quickly and didn't suffer.

Some of the venison got turned into Polish sausages. Which we all enjoyed greatly.

This year, I got my seven-point buck on opening morning. This deer didn't suffer either. Again, it was just one bullet through the heart.

When my four-year old heard I got this deer, he jumped up and down yelling, "Polish!"

I discussed with my children

that yes, it is sad the buck had to die, but it had to if we want to eat during the winter. Both of my children look forward to the day when they will be able to hunt. To help feed our family.

Kate Perkins lives in Ely.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**CITY OF ORR
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HEARING
NOTICE OF FINAL 2019
PROPERTY TAXES**

Orr Residents/Property Owners are invited to attend the Public Hearing to express their opinions of the final 2020 Budget and 2019 property taxes collected to pay for the costs of services the City will provide in 2020.

**Monday, December 9, 2019
at 5:00 PM
Orr City Hall
4429 Hwy 53, Orr, MN 55771
218-757-3288**

Cheri Carter, City Clerk-Treasurer

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 22 & 29, 2019

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ST. LOUIS COUNTY PLANNING

County seeks public input on community development priorities

REGIONAL – The St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Department is looking for community input on local priorities from county residents who live outside of Duluth. These services include housing, services for senior citizens, parks, removal of blighted buildings, and technology connections. Collected information will be used in the county’s Community Development Consolidated Plan. This five-year plan guides applications to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for funds that address housing and community development needs. Public input regarding needs and priorities will guide the Citizen Advisory Committee as they review project applications and make recommendations on the award of community development funds. While the county is interested in all community development needs, HUD funding is restricted on what types of projects may be funded. A link to the survey is available on the county’s website at www.stlouiscountymn.gov/communitydevelopment. Please complete the survey by Tuesday, Dec. 31. Anyone with questions or who would like to request a paper copy of the survey, can email communitydevelopmentinfo@stlouiscountymn.gov or call 218-749-7103.

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EMPLOYMENT

— Super Crossword —

Answers

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O	V	E	R	T		B	E	L	A	R	U	S		C	H	I	M	E	R	A	
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

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HAIR CARE

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

HOSPICE

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

LICENSE BUREAU

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

REAL ESTATE

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

RENTAL

FOR LEASE: Country apartment, nice location. \$790/month plus deposit, utilities included. Call 218-966-7699. 12/6

SNOW REMOVAL

VERMILION SNOW MANAGEMENT- Serving the entire Lake Vermilion area. Roads, Driveways & Sidewalks. Free estimates, insured. tj@vermilionsnowmanagement.com or 218-290-0966. Online at vermilionsnowmanagement.com. tfn

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WANTED

SELIGA CANOES WANTED: We'll buy old Seligas in Good Shape. Turn your classic canoe into cash. Call Steve at 365-6745. tfn

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

HELP WANTED

VOLUNTEER TREASURER WANTED: Experienced financial volunteer to become treasurer for the non-profit arts organization, Northwoods Friends of the Arts in Cook. Call Shawna at 218-780-6510 or Lisa at 218-780-1151. 12/13

CONSTRUCTION HELPER WANTED- Light construction and painting. Great job for a college student. Part-time. Text 218-290-5370. 12/6

FOR SALE

WILD RICE FOR SALE- Locally harvested. Cass Lake Processed. \$10/pound. 218-235-9084. Babbitt. 12/6

LADIES LL BEAN DOWN WINTER COAT- water repellent, stain resistant, detachable faux fur-trimmed hood. Women's medium, forest green color. New condition! Sells for \$279, yours for \$100. 218-753-3549. 12/6p

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"Friends Helping Friends"

Answer

2	7	9	1	4	5	3	6	8
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Classifieds run in all 3 editions of the Timberjay.

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

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SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Super Crossword

WOMEN WITH A CONNECTION

ACROSS

1 Emanates (from)
6 Get — on (ace)
9 Diner fave
12 False show
15 Girl coming out in society
18 Plain to see
19 Its capital is Minsk
21 Lion-headed monster
23 ANNE
25 Department in eastern France
26 Munic. statute
27 Juan's emphatic assent
28 1,501, to Caesar
29 Grad's "with honor"
30 Begin a PC session
32 DIANA
34 Monastery garments
35 French fauvist Dufy
37 Favorable vote
38 Vegas stake
39 "Ooh" or "tra" follower
40 Actor MacLeod

41 — -Z (completely)
42 Actress Henner
45 AMY
49 Recycling holder
50 Stimp's cartoon pal
51 Exclude
52 — Aviv
53 Small songbird
54 Cordon — (veal dish)
55 Stuck in
57 Ill-bred fellow
59 "Rambo" site, in brief
61 Tiny biting midge
63 EMMA
67 Sun block?
70 Mel whose "4" was retired
71 Make a face
72 Sternward
76 De-wrinkle
77 Suffix with Motor
79 Huge bird of legend
81 One + two, in German
83 No, in Ayr
84 Amer. soldiers
85 JANE
89 Walk showily
91 Feast on

92 It may be stainless
93 Soothe
94 Tiny charged bit
95 Oktoberfest "Oh!"
96 Driver's 180
97 Gillis in an old sitcom
98 KATE
102 Amaze the audience
103 NATO, e.g.
104 Sleep acronym
105 Bric-a- —
107 Ignited, as a match
109 Would have, given the chance
110 GRACE
113 Stable troughs
114 Sidestepped
115 Information tech mag
116 What "+" may mean
117 Grain staple
118 Rainy
119 Mag workers
120 Pee Wee whose "1" was retired

DOWN

1 Vocalist Perry
2 Burdened excessively

3 Lea
4 Make a goof
5 Balanced condition
6 Simple skills
7 Old brand of grape soda
8 Stein filler
9 Wedding-related
10 Clearheaded
11 Chinese philosopher Lao- —
12 Charge with an offense
13 Munch (on)
14 Area at the top of a PC window
15 Amount the insured must first pay
16 Abrade
17 Less adorned
20 Military division
22 More spiteful
24 — Tin Tin (TV dog)
29 Shout
31 Queen's onetime rock genre
32 Crime film genre
33 Inauguration Day highlight
34 Actress Bow

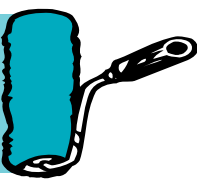
35 How an extremist acts
36 Online user's self-image
40 Emerald, e.g.
41 Happy as —
42 "So am I"
43 In — of (rather than)
44 "One" on a U.S. penny
46 Ice cream drinks
47 One with a six-year term
48 Color related to emerald or pistachio
54 Telly network, with "the"
56 Oomph
58 Indigo Girls, e.g.
60 "So tasty!"
62 Sluggish type
64 Actress Deschanel
65 Parade walk
66 Soap opera, informally
67 Boars, e.g.
68 Opera highlight
69 Locale of Mount Erebus
73 Title girl of a Poe poem

74 Exact copies
75 Little laugh
78 Comic actor Don
80 Client
82 Pipe fitter's elbow
85 City in west California
86 Locale of Waikiki
87 Flabbergast
88 "That hurts!"
90 Swindling, slangily
95 For neither profit nor loss
96 System of online newsgroups
97 Stevedore
98 "— mial!"
99 Brand of fat substitute
100 Prefix with cellular
101 Was behind the wheel
102 Female WWII server
105 Needed suturing, say
106 Frees oneself (of)
108 Little fella
110 Mandible or maxilla
111 Honored Fr. woman
112 Female with a fleece

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#138635 LAKE VERMILION Frazer Bay 2.75 acre lot w/ 220 ft lksh. Driveway to proposed building site, drilled well, electricity, survey outhouse/storage bldg, dock and survey. **\$382,500**

#137046 ORR 2 BR, 1 BA cabin within 1 mile of public access on Myrtle Lake. Cabin is 700 sq ft w/interior finishing in pine. Includes garage and storage shed. Cabin being sold furnished. **\$62,500**

#137258 LAKE VERMILION 3 BR, 2 BA home on west end of lake w/125 ft lksh. Parking space w/ hook-ups for your RV, on-shore boathouse (w/rail system), lift-out dock and 2-stall garage. **\$398,000**

#137852 WEST ELBOW LAKE Bldg. lot has 720 ft of actual shoreline and 4.5 acres just off of Elbow Lake. Accessed via boat from public landings or marina on Elbow Lake. Adjoins public lands. **\$48,000**

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