

Birds and wind turbines...See /4B

Holiday Deadlines

Dec. 20 issue... Dec. 18 at 10 a.m.

Dec. 27 issue... Dec. 20 at 10 a.m.

No paper published on Jan. 3

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TACONITE MINING

Court reverses Minntac water permit

Ruling a win for U.S. Steel, environmental advocates

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

The Minntac processing plant looms high over Virginia. Timberjay file photo

REGIONAL — A three-judge panel of the Minnesota Court of Appeals has overturned the Minntac tailings basin permit issued by the state's Pollution Control Agency late last year, in the process handing a legal victory to both environmental advocates and U.S. Steel.

The ruling, issued Monday, agreed with the Fond du Lac band and the group Water Legacy, that the MPCA had acted improperly by issuing a permit for the Minntac facility that

See...MINNTAC pg. 9



SOUNDS OF THE SEASON



A Christmas Cantata

Holiday tradition in Ely

ELY — A full house of music lovers enjoyed an afternoon of holiday melodies here on Sunday. "Night of the Father's Love" was presented by the 50-voice choir, and 10-piece chamber orchestra of the Ely Area Christmas Cantata.

The music selection, arranged by Pepper Choplin, of Raleigh, N.C., was conducted by Patti Stoddard from the University of Minnesota.

See...MUSIC pg. 11

Michael Larson, left, and Lynn Evenson, right, were part of the Cantata Chamber Orchestra that accompanied a 50-voice choir at Washington Auditorium.

story and photos by Keith Vandervort



CITY OF TOWER

Council studies new approaches to emergency medical services

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — Virginia Fire Chief Allen Lewis offered a closer look at operations, finances, and the demand for emergency medical services (EMS) across northern St. Louis County during a presentation at the Tower Civic Center last Wednesday.

The Tower City Council had invited Lewis to present data he has developed and to talk about new approaches to providing emergency medical services in the Tower-Lake Vermilion area in particular.

Lewis did not offer a proposal, but he did suggest that change would be needed soon in order to ensure that patients will have prompt and well-trained responders in the future.

"The system in northern St. Louis County is broken," said Lewis. "I hear it everyday. You're lucky here in Tower because you've got a good group of people who aren't missing calls. But other services [that are missing calls today] were in that same place not that long ago."

Lewis's presentation comes at a time of questions about the future direction of the Tower Area Ambulance Service. The city of Tower, which operates the TAAS, has also been seeking to renew an ambulance subsidy contract with area townships, but has been facing pushback from township officials who have wanted more financial

See...TOWER pg. 9

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Bakk: DNR review can't stop Twin Metals

Comments part of wide-ranging area Joint Powers meeting

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — A wide-ranging community-attended Community Economic Development Joint Powers Board here last week ultimately turned to the issue of sulfide mining. State Sen. Tom Bakk responded

to fear from local mining advocates, saying that Minnesota's own environmental impact study of the Twin Metals project by the state's Department of Natural Resources won't stop once a mine plan is submitted.

"Once Twin Metals submits a mine plan (perhaps

State Sen. Thomas Bakk assured sulfide mining advocates in Ely last week that an environmental study by the Minnesota Department of Resources won't stop the Twin Metals project once a mine plan is submitted. photo by K. Vandervort

by the end of the year), we can actually have some impact to make sure that PCA and DNR starts the permitting doesn't start,

See...ELY pg. 10



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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Writers workshop to meet in Tower

TOWER - A new writers workshop is coming to Tower in January. An informal meeting will take place on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 9 a.m. at Sulu's Espresso Café to discuss the goals and potential meeting schedule of the group. The hope is to meet once or twice a month while working toward a long-term goal. If you are unable to attend but would still like to participate in the monthly workshops, please call Emily at 218-750-2995 or send an email to curiouslyenticing@gmail.com.

Merry Tuba Christmas concert on Saturday, Dec. 14

EVELETH- It's beginning to look a lot like TubaChristmas! Tubas and euphoniums are all lined up and ready for the seventh consecutive TubaChristmas. Merry TubaChristmas will be held at the Eveleth City Auditorium, on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 1 p.m. The Mesabi Community Band will perform several Christmas music selections prior to the TubaChristmas concert. The event is free, however in the spirit of holiday giving, a free will donation or non-perishable food item for the Quad City Food Shelf would be appreciated.

The Gifts We Give

VIRGINIA – Sarah Packa will help everyone look at “The Gifts We Give” on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 10:30 a.m. at the Mesabi Unitarian Church in Virginia. Today, we think outside the gift-wrapped box as we reflect on the gifts that we give to others and to ourselves. All are welcome to attend.

Winter Solstice Dance on Saturday

ELY – An Old Time Winter Solstice Dance will be held on Saturday, Dec. 14 at McKenzie's Wolf Lake Dance Hall, 2140 Wolf Creek Pass, in Ely. A potluck starts at 5:30 p.m., and dancing starts at 7 p.m. The Mesabi Ward and Sugar on the Roof will be performing. Donations will be accepted at the door to cover expenses. All are welcome!

Open auditions for “Almost Maine”

VIRGINIA – Open auditions for “Almost Maine” will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 17, Wednesday, Dec. 18, and Thursday, Dec. 19 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Lyric Annex in Virginia. Come prepared to read from the script. This play is being put on by the Northern Stage Works community theater company. Performances will take place on Feb. 13-16. Rehearsals will start the first week of January with days and times subject to the selected cast. For more information, e-mail lyriccenterforthearts@gmail.com or call 218-741-5577.

Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital introduces newly designed website

ELY – The Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital is pleased to unveil its brand new website that features a refreshed look and expanded functionality. The new site enhances the user experience and makes searching EBCH healthcare information easier.

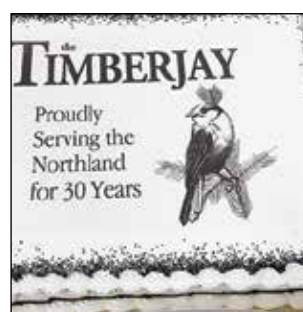
“If you have the previous site bookmarked, it will automatically point to the new website,” said Michael Coyle, EBCH Chief Executive Officer. “This new website comes on the heels of the recent EBCH rebranding efforts that began last January. We unveiled a new logo and now our website more fully reflects these changes by incorporating the new look and feel across the entire site.”

Found at www.ebch.org, the improved website features an easier-to-navigate homepage with links where visitors can find important information, access medical records, refill prescriptions, utilize online bill payment, and find the latest career postings. Other notable features include enhanced provider and service listings, eCards for inpatients, the latest EBCH news, and a virtual tour of the hospital's many facilities.

TIMBERJAY'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY



Well over 100 of our readers stopped by to say hello during our 30th Anniversary Open House on Friday, Dec. 6. Willard Potila (left) of Tower, was the lucky winner of the 39-inch television. Pictured (clockwise from top left): Willard Potila with his new television set. Timberjay staff writer Stephanie Ukkola brought her three-month old daughter Dot to visit. George Stefanich enjoyed a cup of coffee. Former Orr editor Leah Rogne and current staff writer Melissa Roach looked back at the Timberjay from 30 years ago. Visitors enjoyed lots of good food along with a Timberjay-themed cake. Timberjay staff photos



EMBARRASS

Ice Candle and Holiday Gathering on Saturday, Dec. 14 in Embarrass



EMBARRASS- Come and enjoy the holiday spirit in Embarrass on Saturday, Dec. 14. The Embarrass Cemetery will be lit with ice candles starting at dusk. Come and drive through the cemetery, where all the pathways are lit with candles along with many of the gravestones, in memory of loved ones. If possible, please drive through the cemetery with just your parking lights on, so the ice candles can glow more brightly in the darkness.

The community is also invited to gather at Embarrass Town Hall, where there will be Christmas goodies, coffee, and crafts and treats for the children from 4 – 6 p.m.

The Embarrass Cemetery is located at 7506 Hwy. 135 N, just north of Four Corners. Embarrass Town Hall is located at 7503 Levander Rd.

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CITY OF TOWER

City financial woes slow budget process

Funding gap, questions on city books, keep council from approving 2020 budget

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — The city of Tower's budget woes continue to plague the council here. At their regular meeting on Monday, the council was unable to approve a 2020 budget. "You need to have a balanced budget and this one is off by \$60,000," City Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua told the council as they reviewed revenue and expenditure reports she presented. "There's \$60,000 more in expenditures than money we'll have coming in," she said. "We need to figure out where that error is."

According to Ranua, the format of the city's accounting program makes it difficult to determine where the discrepancies might lie, but she said she hoped to have a budget ready

for approval well ahead of the deadline on Dec. 31.

"Does this mean that we have to have another meeting this month?" asked Mayor Orlyn Kringstad.

Ranua indicated yes. "So what time would work for all of you? When that meeting comes, all of this will be sussed out. If you have concerns as you're looking at these documents, about what's in here, come and talk to me."

The council decided to hold a special meeting at 3 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 16, to take up and approve their 2020 budget.

Adding to the budget problem is the city's need to begin repayment of the \$250,000 loan it accepted from the League of Minnesota Cities earlier this year in order to weather a severe cash flow crisis brought on by the poor

fiscal management of the prior clerk-treasurer. The city will have to pay at least \$50,000 on that debt in the coming year. The city is also budgeting a substantial increase for sidewalk repair, from \$15,000 in the current year, to \$42,000 next year. The city has faced an increasing number of complaints about the condition of the city's sidewalks and there have been a number of injuries from falls due to uneven surfaces.

In addition, the proposed budget adds \$20,000 to the budget reserve for repairs and maintenance to reflect the fact that the city is dealing with aging equipment.

The budget situation is further complicated by the fact that Ranua assumed her duties as clerk-treasurer late in the budget process. The condition

of the city's books has also made the work more difficult.

In other action, the council accepted the resignation of council member Steve Abrahamson, who announced he is leaving due to a sizable new real estate workload he is taking on in a neighboring county (see related story at right) that will make his continued service on the council and other city commissions difficult.

In related action, the council declared a vacancy and agreed to advertise for a replacement. Councilors agreed they would like to make a selection for the seat by the first meeting in January.

The council also weighed in on whether and when to provide holiday pay for ambu-

See COUNCIL... pg. 5

Abrahamson resigns from city council

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — A major business opportunity outside the area has prompted Steve Abrahamson to resign from the city council here. Abrahamson, a broker, said he recently was selected for a major appraisal project in a neighboring county and that the work would be too involved for him to continue in his current position with the city. Abrahamson previously served as mayor in Tower for nearly four terms.

"I did a similar project in 2014 when I was still mayor and it was one of the most miserable years of my life," he said.

The timing of the announcement was unfortunate, he said, given that it came less than a week after he had clashed briefly with Mayor Orlyn Kringstad at a council meeting over the selection of a city engineering firm. But Abrahamson said his decision was unrelated to that incident. "This has nothing to do with anything at the city. You have a great council group right now and an excellent new city clerk. It would have been fun to continue to work with them."

Abrahamson said he'd been considering resigning for the last couple months but decided to wait until he knew he'd been selected for the new job, which involves a substantial amount of appraisal work. In the end, he said, he had to make the decision for his own well-being, given the amount of work he'll be undertaking as part of the new assignment. "I just couldn't do it with the extra burden of the city council position," he said.

ELY SCHOOLS

School board adopts lower levy for 2020

Monday study session to focus on facility project

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — School Board members here Monday night adopted a final 2020 levy that is nearly one percent lower than last year. The payable 2020 levy is \$1,797,064, a \$14,395 decrease from the 2019 levy of \$1,811,459.

At the Truth in Taxation hearing held at the beginning of the regular school board meeting, ISD 696 Superintendent Erik Erie noted that the levy funds collected

from property taxpayers are just 20 percent of the district's total revenue for 2019-2020 of \$8,694,165.

Erie told board members and the handful of school staff present at the hearing that adjustments to the levy are required when changes are made to state and federal aid. "Student enrollment was lower than anticipated on previous levies and the state adjusts the levy to reflect the actual enrollment," he said. "We

don't qualify for Career Tech levy dollars this year, and the state equalization calculations change the aid/levy split on an annual basis."

Erie listed health benefits increases, especially the increases to retiree health insurance, and a lease levy increase for the ice arena and the Northland Learning Center as the main factors pushing the levy higher. Those were offset by a levy decrease for re-employment insurance.

Taconite production credits, based on state mines' prior three years of production, reduces the property taxpayers' obligation. For the 2020 levy, taconite credits of \$70,593 are \$23,035 more than the 2019 levy of \$47,558.

"If we didn't have any taconite production credits, our levy would actually be higher," Erie said. He noted that the credit is not actually additional

See SCHOOLS... pg. 5

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OPINION

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Editorial

Rethinking EMS?

Discussion is warranted but change will have to have broad local support

Last week's presentation in Tower on the state of emergency medical services in the region by Virginia Fire and Ambulance Chief Allen Lewis was informative without offering a clear path forward—and that was by design.

Chief Lewis is well aware that area EMS services are rightfully proud of the work they do and that any push for a new approach will take time and will have to come from within. In most cases, area ambulance services will need to think hard about mission, limited financial resources, and the ongoing struggle to attract and keep staff as they contemplate the next five-to-ten years. If Chief Lewis's presentation starts that conversation, it will have been a success.

While much of the information presented last week was useful for that longer-term discussion, portions of his presentation helped inform the ongoing discussion in Tower over whether and how to provide advanced life support service on a part-time basis. Providing the best care possible should be the goal of any ambulance service, but some of the information presented this past week raises serious doubts about the prospect for a Tower-based, part-time ALS service.

Consider these points made last week:

► Tower currently calls on Virginia or Ely for ALS service about 15 percent of the time, based on medical need. But as Chief Lewis noted in his presentation, there is no discernible pattern to that need. "You don't schedule your heart attack," Lewis said, and he's right. If you could identify a period when demand for ALS service is the highest, you could potentially staff for those periods to maximize benefit for patients and financial efficiency for the TAAS. But if you're as likely to need ALS intervention at 10 a.m. as you are at 10 p.m., any staffing decision would be purely random. That expends resources that very well might not be utilized effectively.

► Staffing part-time ALS would be challenging. As David Rogers, of the Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board stated at last week's presentation, the state faces an acute shortage of para-

medics as it is. He said Hennepin County has at least 50 unfilled paramedic positions and those are for full-time positions with benefits. A full-time paramedic in Virginia runs just over \$100,000 annually, including salary and benefits package. If Tower pays to train paramedics, what do they plan to pay them in order to keep them? That's a question that's never been answered. A contract requiring them to stay in Tower if the city pays for their training would likely be unenforceable.

► While Chief Lewis didn't make the point during his presentation last week, he did note in an interview later in the week that any staffing plan for the TAAS or any other neighboring ambulance service should not be relying on an expectation of increased revenue from inter-hospital patient transfers. He said he intends to continue to ramp up his own department's capacity to handle the demand for transfers from Essential-Virginia, and that's likely to limit growth in revenue to neighboring departments. Virginia, after all, has the right of first refusal for transfers emanating from within its coverage area.

While the Tower City Council had encouraged cooperation between Tower and Virginia as a means of expanding ALS capacity, that approach quickly fell by the wayside as TAAS Supervisor Steve Altenburg opted for a Tower-based solution. The city council told Altenburg back in August to go slow on that approach until he could provide much more information on how such a service would work and whether it was financially sustainable.

Since then, Mr. Altenburg has again asked the council to approve spending tens of thousands of dollars to start training paramedics, even though he's answered none of the questions that the council posed back in August about whether his plan is even feasible.

The information presented last week confirms that the council was wise to take a go-slow approach.

One thing is almost certain... we are in a period of change for emergency medical services in the region. We all need to move thoughtfully to ensure that it's change for the better.



Letters from Readers

Trump backer misses the irony

A recent "dust up" in your opinion pages reminded me of some facts about government employee benefits vs. receiving social service support due to lack of benefit coverage by private employers.

An acquaintance of mine works for a Minnesota state agency. He not only gets great wages, but also the following benefits, due to the fact that he is a member of a public employees union:

1. Liberal paid vacations.
2. Medical and dental insurance.
3. Life insurance.
4. Disability and long term care coverage.
5. Pre-tax wage benefits.
6. Health and wellness plans.
7. Tuition waivers.

And last, but not least, (thanks to DFL Gov. Mark Dayton as of November of 2016) he gets paid paternity leave for six weeks for every child he has. His wife also gets paid maternity leave from her job.

The irony of this situation is that this individual is an ardent Trump supporter and is very ready to go on a tirade on the evils of socialist "entitlements" like food assistance (SNAP), winter fuel assistance, AEOA help, Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, Disability Coverage, the Affordable Care Act, and any other program he thinks is born of the "socialist agenda". Yet, he heartily laps up whatever gravy his state occupation proffers.

Even more ironic is the fact that those who use the social safety nets mentioned above are often the working poor who work long hours for minimum wage and yet still pay taxes into the pot to pay for the generous benefits given to the guy who works for the state. My experience is that unfortunately most hard-right Trump supporters are ignorant of history, don't read educational books or watch documentaries. Instead

of balanced news sources, they go to Breitbart, Twitter, and Facebook, avoiding newspapers altogether. Also, from what I understand, Civics/Government classes are a thing of the past in many schools, the effects of which we are reaping now.

Mark Roalson
Hoyt Lakes

Here's to another thirty years...

Congratulations to everyone at the *Timberjay*. Thirty years is a milestone for you and a lot of memories for my family and me. We met Marshall before he was the owner of the newspaper. In the 1980s, our family ran Little Sweden Resort on the west end of Lake Vermilion. Marshall came to our resort and led our guests on a "bird walk." He brought binoculars and taught us how to spot the many summer residents we never knew were there. I was his biggest fan and still favor his column on all sorts of nature topics.

Now, our lives have changed, but I will never forget those fond memories of our beginnings in the north. Making a living here is a challenge. Our family survived fifteen years at the resort and now enjoys retirement and grandchildren. The spirit of the small town lives on and you all at the *Timberjay* make it possible to read the truth from the blue side. Keep it up.

Sue Wolfe
Cook

Clean air is nothing to sneeze at

Air quality, "good." Ely consistently gets a rating of "good." That means microscopic particulate pollution is less than 12 micrograms per cubic meter.

Those of us living in the Ely area may not be aware of how fortunate we are to have favorable air quality. There are more than 88,000 premature deaths a year in the United States and 4.2 million deaths world-wide attributed to toxic air pollution.

The microscopic matter comes from burning materials such as coal, gasoline, forest fires. The particulates are too small for the eye to see. They are about 35 times smaller than a grain of sand.

The tiny pollution particles penetrate our lungs and bloodstreams, increasing the risk of heart attack, stroke and cognitive impairment. According to Alexandra Karambelas, a scientist at Columbia University, "under high levels of particulate pollution, you can't function, you can't thrive."

Pollution does not limit itself to governmental boundaries, it can spread to extremely wide areas over hundreds of miles, even thousands of miles. Consequently, air pollution may come to Ely due to shifting wind patterns without the ability of any possible local control.

Air pollution is a national problem, indeed a world-wide problem. The present Administration does not appear to be overly concerned about air pollution or greenhouse gas emissions. Last week, the United States formally withdrew from the Paris climate accord.

This week former Senator and Secretary of State, John Kerry, initiated a new climate alliance that includes politicians, business leaders and celebrities among the sixty founding members. It is expected that the coalition will be well funded. The goal is to reach millions of people and mobilize them to campaign vigorously against global warming. The name of the new organization is World War Zero.

The United Nation's Environmental Program said in a formidable report last week that prompt and drastic action will need to be taken if human beings want to avert the worst impacts of climate change. An even more pointed forecast is David Attenborough's outlook, "climate change will cause civil unrest."

Gerry Snyder
Ely

What the mainstream media doesn't want you to know

The poohbahs currently populating the establishment media landscape these days have one consistent message about the state of the race for the Democratic nomination—be very afraid of anyone with a bold idea. If Democrats really want to win, they



MARSHALL
HELMBERGER

say, the party needs to nominate an inoffensive moderate (think Pete Buttigieg or Joe Biden) who will garner the votes of the suburban housewives who the Wall Street wing of the Democratic party see as their key to defeating Donald Trump.

It's the same predictable thinking that gave us Presidents

Mike Dukakis, Al Gore, John Kerry, and Hillary Clinton.

Here's the reality of our politics today. The electorate is in constant change and it's becoming more diverse and more progressive all the time. And that's not just me saying that—it's the American people themselves, who regularly express broad support for very progressive economic policies. Numerous recent polls show approximately two-thirds of Americans, including even a

plurality of Republicans, support higher taxes on both the income and the overall wealth of the top One Percent. Any thinking American knows that the vast hoarding of the nation's wealth, by a handful of individuals, hurts our economy and our political process.

Similar percentages of Americans say they support making public colleges, universities, or vocational schools tuition-free. Most of us recognize that the educational level that

might have allowed a typical American to successfully pursue the American Dream in the 1950s or 1960s is no longer enough and that society benefits when we make it possible for as many of our people to achieve their best in life.

New polling by the *New York Times* found that 58 percent of Americans, including nearly 70 percent of independents, favor a Medicare for All approach to

Letters from Readers

There will be a morning after for Ely

There will be a morning again in Ely long after the mining crushers and pumps have gone silent when the local mining community, seemingly reborn and swelled beyond capacity with travelers of all occupations,

will shrivel as jobs and money evaporate.

Ely, home to the BWCA and gateway to a wilderness adventure of pristine lakes and streams like no other will also be no longer, for the indisputable truth is hard rock sulfur-targeted mining has never been environmentally sound and has without exception left irrevers-

ible environmental and crippling fiscal liabilities in its wake. For sadly, the real "golden goose" of a sustainable, vibrant ecosystem that could only become more valuable with time will be gone forever as millions of metric tons of pulverized sulfur becomes sulfuric acid with every rain, leaching for eternity heavy metals into the

susceptible ground. And, just as inevitable, the processing brew of millions of gallons of toxic water will relentlessly leach into the surrounding water table until the earthen dam finally collapses.

So, Ely and surrounding communities, beware of what you wish for. Put aside your deep-rooted anger of the past and seriously examine the promises

of these foreign national mining "carpet baggers". For truly, it is the darkest before the dawn and yours could be so bright. Your local congressmen and Governor Tim Walz (1-800-657-3717) need to hear your concerns now.

**Dan Iverson
Mound**

ISSUES...Continued from page 4

health insurance. That's because Americans recognize that our current system costs too much and leaves too many people behind.

While so-called "moderates" in the media or the Democratic party complain that candidates like Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren are espousing policies outside the mainstream, the data suggest exactly the opposite. Americans don't just want change, they're desperate for it, which is why the candidate who promises change is most often the winner. Just ask Donald Trump.

Recent public polling consistently demonstrates that six-in-ten Americans believe the country is on the wrong track. Barely one-third say they're satisfied. How so many in the media and the Democratic Party can translate all these data into a nationwide desire for the continuation of the status quo is beyond me. To them, the only issue is President Trump's fitness for office, as if they're prepared to run Hillary Clinton's failed 2016 campaign all over again.

I would tell Democrats to forget about the suburban house-

wives. Many of them are going to vote Democrat no matter who is the nominee. What Democrats need to worry about is turnout, particularly among those groups of voters who stayed home in 2016—mostly the young and minorities. Donald Trump didn't win in 2016. Hillary Clinton lost, because too many likely Democratic voters simply stayed home. And that didn't just impact the presidential race. It affected races up and down the ballot.

Democratic-leaning Americans form the majority of the electorate, and when they turn out, Democrats win and win big. In 2008 and 2012, Barack Obama, who ran on hope and change, won by wide margins thanks to higher-than-average turnout among that segment of the electorate that is traditionally the most difficult to motivate—the young. Post-election analyses found that voters age 18-29, who broke for Obama 67-30 over Romney in 2012, made the difference in Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. And those young voters went on to elect Democrats elsewhere on the ballot.

Among the Democratic

candidates currently vying for the nomination, Sanders and Warren have consistently drawn not only the most support among the 18-29 year-old demographic, but also the most enthusiastic support. By contrast, a recent poll from Iowa had Joe Biden drawing support from just two percent of voters under age 30. Take away the senior citizens and Joe Biden isn't even in the race.

One thing we know about older voters is that they'll turn out to vote regardless of who is on the ballot. They might need a ride to the polls, but they don't need to be inspired. It's not the same with young voters, or with some minority groups, who often need a little extra incentive.

And there's one other factor that plays to the enormous advantage of the most progressive candidates, particularly Sanders—and that's the financial resources to run their campaigns. While the status quo candidates, like Biden and Buttigieg, have been forced to rely on big money contributors, Sanders has assembled a base of small dollar donors unlike anything seen before in politics. Sure, the average donation to

Sanders may be less than twenty bucks, but when the Sanders campaign recently announced they had topped four million individual donations, it marked a milestone that few thought could ever be achieved, much less months before primary voting had even gotten underway. Earlier this year, when the *New York Times* produced a color-coded map (Sanders was given the color blue) showing the breadth of financial support candidates were receiving from across the country, they had to produce a second map without Sanders, because the first one was almost entirely blue, as Sander's broad base of support nationwide simply overwhelmed every other candidate.

You don't hear much about Sanders these days, at least from the establishment media. And that's because he's actually doing very well in the race since he recovered from his minor heart attack at the end of September. The latest polling has him leading in New Hampshire and in California, which votes this year on Super Tuesday in early March. Sander's financial resources are unmatched by any

of the candidates in the race.

And in head-to-head matchups with Trump, Sanders invariably finishes within a point or two of Biden. The latest national poll, from Nov. 27, had Sanders leading Trump nationally by 12 points, with Biden leading by 13. None of the other Democrats tops a seven-point margin over Trump.

And while Biden, the human gaffe machine, scares most Democrats every time he opens his mouth, there has never been a candidate in my memory with the message discipline of Bernie Sanders. He may not be as eloquent as some, but Americans like what he has to say.

In the end, it comes down to an enthusiasm gap for Biden. When Sanders held a rally before Thanksgiving in Council Bluffs, Iowa, he had 2,400 people turn out. Biden attracted 150 to his rally in the same town just over a week later. The same trends heralded disappointing Democratic turnout in 2016. Democrats should not fail to heed those same omens heading into 2020.

COUNCIL...Continued from page 3

lance staff. Ranua brought the issue to the council since she said she could find no written guidance on the recent practice of paying double overtime on certain major holidays.

Ambulance director Steve Altenburg told the council that the prior council had approved the holiday pay sometime in the late summer or fall of 2018. Ranua recommended that the city continue to pay the premium, but some on the council weren't ready to go along with the idea and they had questions about whether the extra pay had ever been approved. Council member Sheldon Majerle said he'd like to see a review of the practice in other neighboring departments to see if Tower's pay premium is typical.

Kringstad asked Altenburg if the pay

premium was ever approved by the city council. "It was, and I can't remember when, it would have been in the late summer or early fall... of 2018."

He said the former clerk-treasurer had asked the council to approve the holiday pay at the request of employees.

"I believe that statement is incorrect," said Majerle. "It was never documented. It was never in the minutes, so evidently somebody didn't do their job and just gave them this deal. I'm all for them if this was passed by the council and someone can prove that to me, all well and good."

Kringstad said the council should determine what, if anything, was actually approved by the past council. "Well, Orlyn, I looked," said Majerle. "I

went back to the day they started the on-call service and there's nothing in any of the minutes in that whole time period."

A review of minutes by the *Timberjay* from May of 2018 through the end of that year, could locate no reference to approval of the holiday pay in any minutes or council agendas.

"All I can tell you is that the council okayed it," claimed Altenburg.

Kringstad said he'd be willing to volunteer to look into the matter.

Council member Mary Shedd, who made the motion to award holiday pay for six major holidays, said the council had the authority to approve the pay now and did not have to delve into whether prior bonus pay was authorized in the past or not.

Kringstad suggested tabling the question

until the Dec. 16 special meeting.

But Shedd pushed forward and the council deadlocked 2-2 on her motion to approve the premium pay, with Beldo joining Shedd in support. The council then voted unanimously to take the matter up again at its Dec. 16 special meeting.

In other business, the council:

► Approved the establishment of a separate bank account for the Tower Ambulance Service in order to end the co-mingling of funds from the ambulance and other general fund sources. The standard city signing policy would apply to checks or other disbursements from the account.

► Approved a city hall holiday schedule for 2020.

► Approved discontinuing holding council

meetings at the civic center due to the limited attendance in recent months. Kringstad said he would still like to hold the annual audit presentation at the civic center given that it might have higher public interest.

► Approved a motion to decline to use city funds to pay for holiday greeting ads. The city has recently run as many as three holiday greeting ads in the *Tower News* at a total cost of \$105. The city has, in the past, also run a single \$35 greeting ad in the *Timberjay*, using art from local students. The council then approved a motion to use council members' personal funds at their own discretion to purchase holiday greetings.

► Acknowledged the resignation letter from ambulance staff person Lucas Morgan.

► Heard accusations from Robert Pratt, of Vermilion Lake Township, who said he found some information online related to the Tower Harbor Shores project that still has Orlyn Kringstad's name on it. Pratt also accused Kringstad of illegally selling town homes that had not yet been built. But Ranua, who has an extensive background in real estate, told Pratt, who is the father of former clerk-treasurer Linda Keith, that his accusation was baseless and that real estate law does allow for the marketing of property on a "spec" basis. After Pratt continued with his accusations, others on the council finally shut him down, noting he had gone well over his three minutes allowed under the city's public input policy.

SCHOOLS...Continued from page 3

revenue for the district. "That revenue replaces the revenue that would have been collected from property owners."

ISD 696's portion of the taconite production credit is the lowest, by far, of other districts on the Iron Range. The next highest district that qualifies for the credits is Aitkin at \$154,864 for 2020. Most districts qualify for an average of \$500,000 in taconite credits. Hibbing tops the list next year with \$1,438,832 in taconite production credits. "I notice the disparity between Ely and nearby districts, even Aitkin and Cook County get significantly more property tax reduction from mining," he said.

No taxpayers addressed the board at the public hearing.

Facilities project

Erie's update to the

board on the progress of the facilities renovation project highlighted the next steps anticipated in the process. "As you know, we have grown from looking at the original \$1.9 million building connection to looking at something more substantial," he said.

In a conference call last week with school finance consultants, Ehlers, Inc., Erie said he reviewed the district's outstanding bonds and discussed potential financing options. A meeting last week with Architectural Resources Inc. and the Costin Group, the district's lobbying firm, included a discussion of ARI's anticipated presentation to the school board at a study session on Monday, Dec. 16, "We are beginning to look at options on where we go from here," he said. "We don't want to lose our

momentum on this."

He highlighted the increased emphasis on 21st century learning programs. "We are looking at the spaces we might need to support that," Erie said. "Our principals are surveying students and staff for feedback on educational opportunities."

Later in the meeting school board member Rochelle Sjoberg commented on what she referred to as a "simple statement" made last month by lobbyist Gary Cerkvenik when he offered other options for district officials to consider, including an "off-the-cuff thought" of tearing down the Industrial Arts building.

"I want to make sure that we are being cognizant and respectful of the survey results, and that we are all very clear of where the community supports us and those

amounts," Sjoberg said. "As we look at larger-scale plans, the intent behind that dialogue is not to 100-percent impact taxpayers. We are looking to other means above and beyond the taxpayers, like IRRR (Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation) or other opportunities."

Erie agreed. "We hope to get some other options from ARI on what we can do with certain levels of funding." He added that Cerkvenik is "working behind the scenes" with IRRR, and "nothing has been nailed down."

The idea of razing of the Industrial Arts building resonated through the Ely community with varying degrees of pushback and concern and Erie asserted, "That was just one option thrown out there."

Erie said he asked ARI to present informa-

tion on the cost of completely renovating the Industrial Arts building for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) educational uses versus the cost to erect a new building.

"Gary (Cerkvenik) will probably be able to give us a better indication of what he thinks we will be able to do with IRRR support," Erie said. "We are also talking with the principals about (educational) programs and what spaces we need for that."

Other business

In other action, the board:

► Approved a new contract with the district's AFSCME employees that calls for a two-percent raise in the first year and a one-percent raise in the second year of the two-year agreement.

► Approved, on a 4-1

We're your best source for local news...

Tower-Soudan Elementary holiday concert on Thursday, Dec. 19

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Elementary holiday concert will be held on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 1 p.m. The concert will include a performance by the Tower-Soudan and Northeast Range elementary band students. The theme of this year's concert is "How the Penguins Saved Christmas." The public is cordially invited to attend.

Little Church meeting on Saturday, Dec. 14; new members needed

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church committee will meet on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 10 a.m. The committee welcomes anyone, and they are looking for people interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained in our community. The Little Church Men's Group meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation. All are welcome. The Little Church is located in Vermilion Lake Township on Cty. Rd. 26/Wahlsten Rd. For more information, contact Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

Christmas at the Movies at St. James every Sunday in December

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church of Tower's Advent series continues each Sunday at 10 a.m. All are welcome. The Advent theme this year is "Christmas at the Movies."

Sunday, Dec. 15: The Santa Clause – Scott Calvin (Tim Allen) "put on" the Santa suit and it changed his life forever. The Bible tells us that we "put on" something as well that changes our lives.

Sunday, Dec. 22: It's A Wonderful Life – What would it have been like if Jesus had never been born?

Women's Christmas Luncheon at St. James on Tuesday, Dec. 17

TOWER- Put on your Christmas sweaters and get ready for fun at St. James Presbyterian Church's annual Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 17 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. This free, outreach opportunity has been held for over 20 years at the church and is a way to celebrate the season with good food, good conversations, singing, and enjoying a program of meaningful fun. The luncheon will feature Christmas music by local artists and a skit. Be sure to mark this holiday event on your calendar. Contact Kathy Siskar at 218-753-4521 with any questions.

Watch "The Nativity Story" at St. James on Sunday, Dec. 15

TOWER- Enjoy a movie night on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower. "The Nativity Story" is a powerful, timeless and visually magnificent telling of one of the world's most familiar stories. It was the cruelest of times. Under Herod's torturous reign, families struggled to survive, and yet, in the midst of utter turmoil, a young woman's faith was put to the test. Join Mary and Joseph on an incredible journey of hope and discovery. Epic in its scope, yet intimate in its portrayal of this historical family, this film, rated PG, is suitable for the entire family.

Writers Group meets on Saturday

COOK- Are you interested in writing? The Northwoods Friends of the Arts Winter Writers Group meets in Cook on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 1 - 3 p.m. at NWFA Gallery on the main street of Cook, 210 S River St. No pre-registration or membership is required to attend this group that meets every second Saturday this winter.

This group is open to anyone who enjoys writing and spending time with others who share an interest and passion for putting words together to tell a story. Individuals share personal writing as well as writing together as a group on an assigned topic during the meeting and in-between meetings...if you like.

Free hockey skates and sticks

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. Chimp Tuominen hosts weekend skating parties at the rink throughout the winter.

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VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE

Lights of Love tree-lighting service

The Tower-Soudan community gathered together on Sunday, Dec. 8 as part of Virgie Hegg's Lights of Love fundraiser. Lights of Love raises funds for Virgie Hegg's work throughout the year, supporting area individuals who are in hospice, and helping fund needs and special requests for things not covered by insurance. Learn more at www.vhhp.org.



Above: Otto Gornick attended with his grandmother Brenda. Right: Mayor Orlyn Kringstad lit the tree outside the Herb Lamppa Civic Center. Below: Shawn Gawboy holds her daughter Emma, who clapped for the music.



Above: LuAnne Zaudtke read a story for the children. Left: Ari Banks enjoyed a well-frosted cookie.



Left: Benjamin Miller and Nixon Levens tried out some of the delicious treats. Above: A bell choir, under the direction of Jane Johns, performed Christmas favorites.



Rolf Anderson led a group from the Tower-Soudan Area Singers in songs both outside at the tree-lighting, and indoors afterwards. photos by J. Summit

online at www.timberjay.com

Last chance to donate to Operation Santa

Donations needed by Dec. 16: 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.

The effort is organized by the *Timberjay* and the Tower Soudan Civic Club, with help from many area groups, churches, organizations, and individuals.

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).

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



SCENIC RIVERS HEALTH SERVICES

Free hats and mittens available at Tower Scenic Rivers Health Services

TOWER- Free hats and mittens are now available for those who need them at Scenic Rivers Medical and Dental Clinic in Tower. Shawna Allegrezza, a nurse in the medical clinic, came up with the idea after seeing many patients who weren't dressed for the weather. "We see so many kids who don't have hats and mittens in this cold weather," said nurse Kendra Stella. The employees pooled their resources to purchase the tree, decorations, hats, and mittens. They plan to keep the tree up until the New Year. Anyone in need is welcome to take from the tree, both children and adults.

Pictured (from left): Deb Siverhus, Kendra Stella, Jurnee Wilson, and Shawna Allegrezza. photo by S. Ukkola



TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



Contest winners received their cash prizes at school on Tuesday. Not pictured are Dylan, Lucy, Sophia, and Raeanna. photo by J. Summit

Timberjay Christmas card contest winners

TOWER- The results are in for the 2019 Timberjay Christmas Card Contest. Children in Kindergarten through sixth grade at Tower-Soudan Elementary participated in the contest this year. In addition, the children in Learning Readiness also completed drawings but these were not judged. First, second, and third-place winners are selected for each grade and are given cash prizes for their artistic efforts. This

year was a tight contest, with ties occurring in several instances. The winners can be found below, listed in order of first, second, third (ties as noted).

- Kindergarten – Silas Snyder, Sherrie Peters, Lorenzo Stella
- First grade – Cora Goodbird, Dylan Crego, Ivy Russell
- Second grade – Nolan Lenci, Deniko Dupree, Kayla Drift
- Third grade – Lucy Pecchia

and Jayden Villebrun, Katie Larson and Ava Redetzke, Jade Drift

- Fourth grade – Claire Jonas, Shaye Ishan, Sophia Medicine
- Fifth grade – Thomas Aldrich, Raeanna Medicine, David Weisinger
- Sixth grade – Rena Buckanaga, Elsie Larson and Rogelio Noyes, Jada Medicine

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. 16**
- Monday- Breaded Pollock, Baked Potato, Bread Stick
 - Tuesday- Orange Chicken over Fried Rice, Bread Stick
 - Wednesday- Lasagna, Dinner Roll
 - Thursday- Turkey Holiday Dinner
 - Friday- Pizza

Week of Dec. 16

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.

Breitung Town Board- 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 17

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

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

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

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the *TIMBERJAY*

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

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Sunday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For info: 1-800-450-9278

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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, Jan. 15; Feb. 5 and 26

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

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 encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.

BABBITT AL-ANON
Thursdays, 7 p.m. at Woodland Presbyterian Church.
CO-DEPENDENTS'
12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely.

ELY FOOD SHELF - Third Wednesday each month, 15 W. Conan St.
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION
GED - Study materials and pre-test available. Tower by appointment. Call 365-3359, 827-3232, or 1-800-662-5711.

Game night

ELY - Smear tournaments are held the first and third Mondays, and cribbage tournaments are held the second and fourth Mondays at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S First Ave E, starting at 6 p.m. There is a \$5 entry fee, plus 25 cents per set.

Senior lunch offered daily

ELY - The Ely Senior Lunch program is held daily at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S First Ave E, from noon to 1 p.m. Must be at least 60 years of age to participate.

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 information, call 218-365-5678, or visit their website, www.ely-communityhealth.org.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2019



big heavy snow piles create a christmas atmosphere time to decorate

INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER
Ambassador wolf euthanized
Luna's battle with cancer ended peacefully

ELY - Luna, an ambassador wolf at the International Wolf Center here, was euthanized Tuesday, Nov. 26.

The seven-year-old wolf had undergone surgery in March to remove a mass on her left neck area, according to IWC Administrator Chad Richardson. "The biopsy report at that time was inconclusive, but the return of the growth in July led to a second biopsy with a diagnosis of an aggressive spindle cell sarcoma," he said.

The July surgery revealed several deep masses embedded in the muscle behind her shoulder blade. "Extracting those masses was not advised by the Wolf Center's longtime veterinarians. Staff prepared to manage Luna to the best quality of life possible despite the terminal diagnosis," Richardson said.

"Care staff closely monitored her and watched in awe as Luna continued to be an active member of the retirement pack at the



Luna, an ambassador wolf at the International Wolf Center in Ely, was recently euthanized. photo courtesy of Root River Photography

Wolf Center. When staff assessed Luna last week, she had a good appetite and took her medication, but the mass had begun to rupture, and her pain

response was significantly increased. The decision was made to euthanize her based on a recommendation from the veterinarian," he said.

According to Wolf Center curator Lori Schmidt, when Luna was adopted, she had some underlying health conditions that resulted in surgical intervention to provide a plate for a fractured femur. "At the time, surgeons didn't think she would make it, but she proved them wrong," Schmidt said. "She was resilient and showed us the tenacity of wildlife that leads to animals' survival in the natural world."

Luna joined the Wolf Center's ambassador pack in 2012. She was representative of the Great Plains subspecies of wolves and is a black color phase, believed to be found in less than five percent of the population in Minnesota. "Luna and her packmates have educated tens of thousands of visitors at the Ely Interpretative Center's exhibit in Ely, and thousands more around the world through regular YouTube videos, wolflogs and webcams," Schmidt said.

OUR COMMUNITY

Workshop focuses on keeping the family cabin

ELY - In considering passing on the family cabin to the next generation, planning ahead is crucial. Ely attorney Kelly Klun is presenting a workshop early next year to discuss this important real estate transaction.

Klun practices primarily in the areas of real estate, estate planning, business law, and probate. As for estate planning, she works with families and individuals to ensure that their wishes are achieved and that the estate plan, whether it be a will or trust, is properly carried out.

In addition, Kelly routinely prepares health care directives, financial powers of attorney, and beneficiary designations for life insurance and retirement plans for her clients.

The workshops will be held on

Thursday, Feb. 13, and Thursday, March 26, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the media center at Ely Memorial High School. The cost is free

"Together we can determine how the cabin will best fit into the family's future," Klun said. "A cabin trust is just one estate planning tool that can be utilized to help maintain and pass on the family hideaway."

Learn about the specific trust provisions that could provide future instruction to the family on important issues such as taxes, maintenance, insurance, ownership, and a potential sale. Learn about the preparation of an estate plan and how it should be thought of as a priceless preventative tool. Learn the process of taking the next step of developing an estate plan

that protects both the family and their private hideaway.

Kelly Klun is the Business Program Coordinator at Vermilion College where she teaches a number of courses. Kelly owns and manages her own local businesses with her husband, including Klun Law and Ely Dairy Queen Grill and Chill. Kelly has a Bachelor's Degree from the College of St. Scholastica, a Juris Doctorate from Mitchell-Hamline School of Law and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota.

For more information, contact Klun Law Firm, 218-365-3221.

the TIMBERJAY

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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.

Drop and Shop donation aids Northern Light Clubhouse



Ely Drop and Shop's Amanda Stevens presented the Northern Lights Clubhouse staff with a check for \$240.63 that was collected during November's Community Chest Event. They were also able to donate Christmas decorations for the clubhouse as well as other things needed for the clubhouse kitchen and program activities. submitted photo

EBCH honors board member

CEO Michael Coyle recognized outgoing Board Vice President Butch Diesslin last week during the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital annual member meeting. submitted photo



WINTER WORK



City of Ely public works crews spent most of the last week removing snowbanks along city streets, including near the Boathouse Brew Pub and Restaurant at the corner of Sheridan Street and 1st Ave E. photo by K. Vandervort

AROUND TOWN



Roberta Tauer, Kathy Brennan, and Paulette Gilbert, from left, served soup at St. Anthony's Holiday Bake Sale and Lunch last Saturday. Wild rice, cheese and beef vegetable soup was available along with loads of homemade baked goods. Photo by K. Vandervort



Quinn Bjorgo, 5, dressed in her best princess dress for the Disney Party at Studio North last weekend. photo by K. Vandervort



A Home-made Holiday Gifts show was held last weekend at the Grand Ely Lodge featuring a variety of one-of-a-kind gifts. photo by K. Vandervort

Senior Center seeks donations

ELY - The Ely Senior Citizen Center is seeking donations to remodel their 40-year-old kitchen and dining area.

They are a nonprofit organization, and many community organizations and groups use the building. AEOA meals are served Monday through Friday and meals are delivered to the home-bound by the AEOA bus.

Donations can be sent to the Ely Area Senior Center, 27 S 1st Ave E, Ely, MN 55731 or to Ely Senior Citizen Building Fund C/O Frandsen Bank, 102 E Sheridan St., Ely, MN 55731.

Contact Terri Muhvich at 218-365-4305 for more information.

Longest Night Service

Many people feel sad or deeply thoughtful at Christmas, especially if they are dealing with grief, job loss, divorce or other life issues.

We offer a quiet service about finding light in the darkness. Everyone is welcome. You don't have to be Christian to come.

Thursday, December 19
6 PM

First Presbyterian Church
226 East Harvey St, Ely MN 55731



News in Brief

Christmas Cookie sale is Saturday

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.

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.

Yesterday's news, this week

from the archives of

THE ELY MINER

Courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society

December 12, 1919

Police chief's house dynamited

Saturday night at about 12 o'clock an explosion in the rear of the residence of Chief of Police Coffey tumbled the family out of bed. It was found that windows in the rear of the house had been shattered and the building shaken sufficiently to knock pictures and bric-a-brac from the walls of adjoining rooms.

None of the family were injured although Mrs. Coffey suffered with nervous shock for several days afterward. Mr. and Mrs. Coffey and a son and daughter were asleep at the time and two other sons were away from the home. Outside of the damage done, no serious affects of the explosion are reported.

Indications showed that someone had thrown a stick of dynamite at the building from the alley. The throw was short and the explosive fell about two feet from the wall. Several feet of burned fuse was found near the scene and the length of the fuse indicated that plenty of time was given the party to make a get-away.

In addition to the dynamite outrage, the windows of the business places about town were liberally plastered with I.W.W. stickers Sunday morning and the homes of two of the special police officers were papered with red dope.

Several leaders of the Reds arrested during the strike here a month ago were before the district court in Virginia last week and after pleading guilty to the charge of carrying concealed weapons were sentenced. The sentences were suspended.

Christmas Tree

The municipal Christmas Tree will grace the grounds in front of the Community Center next week and be handsomely illuminated every night for a week. It was decided to place the tree outside as the Auditorium will be in use for most of the week.

The program for the children of the city will take place in the auditorium Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Santa Claus will be there and distribute gifts to every child. In addition, a Christmas program will be given. The program is being arranged by the committee consisting of W.E. Englund, F.B. Mokros, and Misses Van Blacom and Hedloff.



Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

Northwoods Transfer Station
9384 Hwy 21 N. Ely/Babbitt
Winter Hours
Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm
Tue: 9:30am-3pm
Wed: 11am-5pm

Aurora Transfer Station
5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora
Hours
Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm
Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm
Sat: 8am-noon

Embarrass Canister Site
7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass
Hours
Sat: 12:30-4:30pm
Thu: 10am-5pm

Soudan Canister Site
5160 Hwy 169, Soudan
Hours
Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun:
8am-5pm

Household Hazardous Waste Facility
5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia
Hours
Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm

Regional Landfill
5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia
Hours
Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm
Sat: 8am-3:30pm

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

St. Louis County Environmental Services Department
1-800-450-9278
Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday
www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



North Woods National Honor Society inducted new members last week.

Front row: New members Brandie Walker, Brielle Anderson, Abby Koch, Olivia Udovich, Michaela Luecken, Morgan Burnett, Alex Hartway

Middle row: Trevor Morrison, Kylie Parson, Lauren Arvila, Cole Thiel, Bethany Cotten, Hailey Hakkila

Back row: Cecilia Martinez, Olivia Fultz, Brynn Simpson, Sasha Strong, Clay Janssen, Neiva Smith, Nicole Olson, Kayla Towner, Karlyn Pierce, Nicole Roy, Olivia Niska

photos by B. Smith

ORR PARADE AND CRAFT FAIR



Clockwise from top: Santa and Mrs. Claus rode through the parade in a pony-drawn carriage.

Gabrielson Heating took first prize.

Carrie Carstens stands behind her display of paintings.

The Orr Muni won second-place for their float.
photos by E. M. Schultz



Cook-Orr Calendar

Hanging of the Greens service at Bear River Lutheran, Dec. 13

BEAR RIVER- When the hardy pioneers of the newly formed Bear River Lutheran Church gathered to celebrate the birth of Jesus over 100 years ago they worshipped at the old Bear River Log Schoolhouse. One of the traditions was to pull the tree out of the corner of the room, light all the little candles attached to its boughs (with one person standing nearby with a pail of water, of course...), hold hands with each other and sing Christmas Carols as they walked around the tree. Although we no longer sing around the tree, favorite Christmas traditions continue. Along with the Christmas Eve Worship Service on Tues-

day, Dec. 24 at 4:30 p.m., another tradition has become a favorite Christmas event at Bear River for over 20 years.

On Friday, Dec. 13, at 7 p.m. the community will gather at the little white church on the banks of the Bear River for the 24th annual Hanging of the Greens worship service. As we get ready for Christmas we often find ourselves getting caught up in all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Sometimes we lose sight of why we are celebrating in the first place. The Hanging of the Greens worship service provides a way to stop and prepare ourselves for the real reason for the season - the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

As we progress through the season of Advent, the season of preparing for Christmas, we find ourselves embracing customs and traditions that have come down to us through the ages. It is true that some of our celebrations have their origins in pagan customs and have little to do with the birth of Christ. These traditions have been brought to Christmas by converts to Christianity. We don't need to have any qualms about using these customs, for they, along with the people who celebrated them, were converted to Christianity. Their traditions

were laid at Jesus' feet as gifts. What is significant for us is not what they may once have meant but rather what they mean for us today.

During the Hanging of the Greens, the Bear River Lutheran Church will begin to wear its Christmas apparel. We will make the Sanctuary ready for the birthday of the King much as we would make it ready for a banquet with a royal host, by dressing it with its best apparel. We are mindful that, though it is not Christmas yet, it will be here very soon. Preparation for this beautiful season is not something that should be done for us. It is something that we should do ourselves. On this night of the Hanging of the Greens, each individual and family will share in the furnishing of the Bear River Church for the celebration of the birth of Christ.

While we sing together and decorate the church, not only will we explain the history of the symbols of these special seasons, but we will dedicate these symbols to the glory of God. Come and join with us as we prepare our church and ourselves for the wondrous celebration of the birth of our Savior. Following the service, coffee an' will be shared.

Celebrating Jesus' birth will continue

throughout the Advent Season during our weekly 10 a.m. Sunday worship times. Christmas Eve Candlelight Services will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 4:30 p.m. Christmas Day will be a day for you to celebrate at home with friends and family.

Hanging of the Greens, Sunday morning worship, Christmas Eve Worship, we have many wonderful things happening to celebrate the birth of our Savior at Bear River Church and we invite you to take part in any or all of them.

Bear River Church is located at 11141 Hwy. 22 in Bear River, three miles west of the intersection of Hwy. 5 and Hwy. 22, or four miles east of Hwy. 65. If you have any questions, please contact Gloria Hegg at 218-376-4673.

Good Vibrations for Winter Wellness by Christina Cotruvo at Cook library, Dec. 19

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present Good Vibrations for Winter Wellness at 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/alslibinfo.

alslibinfo.

Writers Group to meet Dec. 14

COOK- Are you interested in writing? The Northwoods Friends of the Arts Winter Writers Group will meet in Cook on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 1 to 3 p.m. at NWFA Gallery on the main street of Cook, 210 S River St. No pre-registration or membership is required to attend this group that meets every second Saturday over winter.

This group is open to anyone who enjoys writing and spending time with others who share an interest and passion for putting words together to tell a story. Individuals share personal writing as well as writing together as a group on an assigned topic during the meeting and in-between meetings... if you like.

NWFA Gallery is located in a nook set back from Dream Weaver Spa and Salon not far from Hwy. 53. The gallery is open Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Arrive early to shop and enjoy the work of forty other artists as well as the current exhibit of Buyck artist Chris Lange. For more information, search for the Facebook page or visit the website at www.nwfamn.org.

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NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

A revisit of snow days and school closings



JOHN VUKMANICH

The decision to close school for weather is not taken lightly. Although schools on rare occasions close due to extreme cold or windchill, I will focus on snow for this article. Depending on a family's employment situation and the age of their children, closing school can make for a challenging day for families. Daycare can be an issue. Adults need to go to work, even in poor weather, depending on your job. Families do not all own a four-wheel drive vehicle, so I need to look at the conditions from the standpoint of a car's capability. When the weather forecast is showing the potential for heavy snowfall, I pay close attention to the upcoming weather forecast on TV and using the different weather apps on my phone and computer. I look at three different weather apps to compare what they are forecasting. In the case of last week, all three had a completely different forecast. I also look at the radar closely. While I am not a meteorologist, the size and direction of the incoming weather front is visible on the radar screen.

The potential for snow results in an early alarm in the morning, too. Typically I am on the roads by 5 a.m., and I drive a section of county roads near my house in my front-wheel drive car, as well as a few miles of Highway 53 to get a feel for the current conditions. I live in Britt, about twenty miles from North Woods, so I am aware that conditions can vary somewhat based on location. Our busses travel as far north as Kabetogama/Ash River, south to Virginia, east to Crane Lake, and west past Highway 5 in the Togo/Bear River area. I would guess that very few schools send their busses as far as ours. I will consult with our transportation director from the Orr area, our head bus driver, speak to another Principal who drives from Duluth to the Iron Range, and also speak to the Superintendent. Another call I make

is to the St. Louis County garage Superintendent to get a feel from the plow drivers regarding conditions and a general timeline of when they will get roads cleared.

After all these contacts are made, I will communicate with the Superintendent from Nett Lake School, Jim Varichak. If one of us is closed due to weather, typically we both will be closed.

At this point, Superintendent Engebritson and I will make the decision. The decision is always made with student safety in mind. After the decision is made, I will contact the head secretary who will then send out an alert message to our families and employees, and post it on the website. I will contact the local television stations from Duluth so they can list North Woods in the school closings. I will also contact the radio station from Nett Lake, KBFT.

All of these decisions take place prior to 6 a.m. Many of our busses start

leaving for their long routes shortly afterward, so time is of the essence. This also gives families time to plan accordingly.

I am aware that not everyone will agree with the decision, and that is part of the job. Families have the right to decide if they feel it is not safe to send their kids to school. I personally own two 4x4 vehicles and a car with good snow tires. I am not afraid to drive through all but the worst conditions. Having no visibility is my biggest concern.

One of the comments that I hear on occasion from adults is, "We never closed school this many times when I was a kid." I do not have any statistics to show trends in school closings, but I do know that the level of liability that schools have now is perceived differently by the legal system than it was thirty years ago, too. Regardless of opinion, we certainly don't want anyone getting hurt or any busses going in the ditch.

A newer trend in

education being used when school is closed due to weather is called "e-learning." In summary, e-learning is a school using technology so that students are able to access their classes online and do some schoolwork. Some schools in Minnesota are using this new strategy. This Principal feels that as long as students take some time to sled, ski, snowshoe, build a snowman, or a mammoth snow fort on a snow day, just being outside is education enough!

I'd like to also thank our school bus drivers for the work they do. Our drivers transport our kids day in and day out for long distances, sometimes in difficult conditions. It is not an easy task driving a 12-ton vehicle with fifty students on it. Thanks to our drivers for doing what you do!

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Santa, crafts, and cookies at the Cook Community Center

by E. M. SCHULTZ
Staff Writer

COOK – The community center here was buzzing with activity on Sunday, Dec. 8 when Santa and a handful of his elves stopped by to hear children's wish lists and take photographs with them. Before sitting down to meet them, however, he welcomed them all to the event and led them in a handful of Christmas carols. After kids met the jolly man, one of his elves gave each a gift bag to bring home.

For those who had already met Santa or preferred to stay busy while waiting, a variety of crafts were available to work on, from Rudolph faces to tree bark snowmen. Children were also able to participate in

the "snack walk," where winners could select a prize from a table full of different snacks and drinks. Free pizza, chips, and holiday goodies were provided to all who attended, and a cookie decorating station was set up for anyone who was feeling both hungry and creative.

The Santa's Workshop event was made possible by the Friends of the Parks, Bernatello's Pizza, Old Dutch, Cook VFW Post 1757, VFW Auxiliary, Lions Club, the Cook Fire Department, and The Timberwolves Snowmobile Club. Becky Smith was on hand to take photos of Santa with each of the children and will be mailing them to the participating families.

Top: Lila and Chloe Kajala tell Santa what they want for Christmas

Below: Diane Culbert helps Audrey Liefing with a craft.

photos by E. M. Schultz



NORTHWOODS FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

Watercolors by Chris Lange on display

by E. M. SCHULTZ
Staff Writer

COOK – An opening reception for Chris Lange's watercolor artwork drew a steady stream of visitors to the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery here on Friday, Dec. 6. Beautiful works of art lined the walls in the back room of the gallery, many of which had already been claimed, while an abundance of food and drinks kept people coming back for more.

Lange is a longtime resident who grew up in Chicago, where he also attended the Art Institute. His grandmother is a well-respected artist there, and he credits her with involving him in the art world. He travels extensively throughout the north, including Alaska and Canada, where he finds the inspiration for his art.



Chris Lange poses in front of his displayed watercolor paintings.
photo by E.M. Schultz

The enthusiasm for Lange's artwork was palpable throughout the evening. Lange himself was there to thank everyone for coming and to share stories or reflections about his pieces.

"I'd like to thank everyone who showed up to support me and made the event such a success," said Lange.

His work will be on

display and available for purchase throughout the month of December. The gallery is open Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Stop in to check out his art and maybe even do some holiday shopping.

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North Woods School PTO seeking donations for teachers' classroom wish lists

FIELD TWP- The North Woods School Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) has created a teachers' wish tree. The tree is decorated with ornaments with ideas of what each classroom teacher would want or need. These are items such as markers, books, and craft supplies.

If parents or other community members would like to participate, they can stop by the school and pick an ornament off the tree which is located in the commons area. Teachers ask that gifts be brought back to school no later than Jan. 10. Please tape the ornament to the gift, and send it back to school with your student or bring it to the school office.

Free Welding "Boot Camp" for high school seniors, Dec. 26 and 27

EVELETH- High school seniors are invited to a welding boot camp to be held Thursday and Friday, Dec. 26 and 27, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Mesabi Range College, Eveleth campus. The class is open to high school seniors only, with a maximum of 20 students. Participants may bring their own equipment, but it is not mandatory. Equipment will be provided if needed. The class includes introduction to GMAW, SMAW, and shop safety. There will be no charge for these classes, but space is limited so register today. Lunch will be provided.

For questions, contact instructor Randy Washenesky at 218-744-7532 or r.washenesky@mesabirange.edu.

Free Pest Management Workshop at the Olcott Greenhouse

VIRGINIA – Kathy Cyriacks will be speaking at the Olcott Greenhouse in Virginia on Sunday, Dec. 15 from 1-2 p.m. about Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies. IPM is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of practices. It aims to manage pest damage economically with the least possible hazards to property, people, and the environment.

Cyriacks is a master gardener who frequently speaks to groups on topics such as chemical-free gardening, controlling insect infestations with an IPM strategy, container planting and design, and creating habitats for pollinators. She is the owner of Gracie's Plant Works in Ely, which offers a full-service greenhouse for hanging baskets and flowering annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees, a garden-centric gift shop, and landscape design and install.

Registration is not required for the event, which is free and open to the public. Please contact Becca Reiss at becca@nslswcd.org or 218-288-6143 with any questions.

This program is put on through a partnership with the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District, North St. Louis County Extension 4-H, the Friends of the Greenhouse, the City of Virginia, and the National Association of Conservation Districts.

SONGS OF THE SEASON

"A Classic Christmas" concert set for Sunday, Dec. 15 at the Tower Elementary

TOWER- Put Sunday, Dec. 15 on your calendar for the Tower-Soudan Area Singers' concert, "A Classic Christmas." The performance will take place in the Tower-Soudan Elementary School gymnasium at 2 p.m. Join us in enjoying the music of Christmas. The singers are putting together a program featuring Christmas classics of many kinds: old and new, sacred and secular. All of them are full of hope and joy. The group is directed by Rolf Anderson and accompanied by Julie Horihan and Ellie Larmouth. Kathy Siskar, Jay Mackie, Deb Tuominen, and Joani Mueller will perform solos. A quartet from St. James Presbyterian will share a special selection. Members of the Trinity Lutheran Bell Choir from



The Tower-Soudan Area Singers lent their voices to the Virgie Hegg Lights of Love tree-lighting ceremony in Tower on Dec. 8. The group of over 30 voices holds their concert on Sunday. photo by J. Summit

Cook will join the singers on Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." The singers will perform classics like "White Christmas," "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light," "Jolly Old St. Nicholas" (which will include choreog-

raphy), "Away in a Manger," and many more. Santa and Mrs. Claus will also make a stop on their way to the toy shop. Holiday treats will be served immediately following the program. A free-will donation will

be collected to help defer concert expenses.

So, be sure to set the afternoon of Dec. 15 aside to enjoy the glow of beautiful holiday music in Tower.

Embracing Finnish America

New books available from Finnish American Heritage Center Press

HANCOCK, Mich. — Finnish immigrants Johannes and Hilka Juntunen walked into a Copper Country bank in the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan in 1962 with \$50 in their pockets, hoping to get a loan to improve their lives by starting their own restaurant in the place they'd come to consider as their new homeland. They received the credit, and their nisu recipe earned them a place in the history of Copper Country, which is an area well-known for its deep Finnish roots.

The Juntunens' daughter, Marja Salani, still prepares the tasty Finnish sweet bread the way her parents did when operating the Finlandia Bakery and Kaleva Café in Hancock, among other culinary businesses. That family recipe, and the story behind it, is one of a dozen featured in the recently published book "Tastes of Finnish America: Foods That Make Us Smile" produced by Finlandia University's Finnish American Heritage Center (FAHC), which opened in 1990.

Finlandia University (formerly Suomi College) is the only existing higher education institution in the U.S. founded by Finns. It is nestled in a five-county region that, according to recent census data, is the only part of the nation where Finnish is the most prevalent ancestry. Nearly 40-percent of area residents claim at least some Finnish roots.

"The contents of 'Tastes of Finnish America' celebrate the summer food traditions of the Finnish Americans who call the Copper Country their home," FAHC Director Jim Kurtti writes in the introduction. "Although our roots are in Finland, Finnish-American culture is very distinct from the homeland. At times we've retained archaic words, such as nisu, and other times it would almost seem we've created our own, such as the uniquely Copper Country Finnish word ankka juoma. In this book we explain the differences, as well as sharing some anecdotes and classic recipes."

Along with the cookbook, the Center has published "Finns of Michigan's Upper Peninsula" through Arcadia Publishing. This 127-page paperback includes dozens of historic photos reflecting on how significant and lasting the Finnish immigrants' impact has been in the U.P.

FAHC has also been busy with its recent video productions, including the feature-length documentary "Co-operatively Yours," which was produced in 2017. It tells the story of the Finnish-American cooperative movement, using the Settlers Co-op in Bruce Crossing as the example for the scores of Finnish-founded cooperatives that emerged in immigrant



communities across the U.S.

The most recent film production by the FAHC is the hour-long documentary "Sirkka: Past and Present," a biographical film that chronicles the exceptional life of Sirkka Tuomi Holm, a 99-year-old daughter of Finnish immigrants who is well-known in Finnish-American circles for her work as a columnist for the newspaper "The Finnish American Reporter."

Anyone with a Finnish-American life, or some Finnish Americans in their life, can find some excellent Christmas gift ideas by exploring the FAHC's new products. All items are available at North Wind Books on the Finlandia University campus or can be ordered online at bookstore.finlandia.edu. For more information about the FAHC's product line, or its programming, call 906-487-7549 or 906-487-7347.

LCP members to benefit from \$4.4 million credit retirement

REGIONAL – Lake Country Power members will see a credit printed on their December billing statement this month after Lake Country Power's board of directors authorized a retirement of \$4.4 million in member equity. Capital credits are a core benefit of co-op membership.

"Unlike for-profit companies, co-ops don't operate to build shareholder wealth," said Greg Randa, LCP general manager. "Our goal

is to provide member-owners with electricity at a price that is as close to cost as possible. Over time and when financial conditions allow, co-op margins are returned to members in the form of capital credits."

In a co-op capital credits build over time. The credits represent member ownership in a co-op. The equity from members is used to help fund system improvements and reduce the co-op's financing needs and debt burden.

Between Lake Country Power and its three predecessor cooperatives, more than \$51 million in capital credits has been returned to members through the years.

Active members will see a credit on their December 2019 billing statement. Inactive members (those who've moved off the co-op system) will be mailed a check to their last known mailing address if the amount is \$10 or greater.

Obituaries and Death Notices

Franklin Preshiren

Franklin "Frank" Preshiren, 72, of Hoyt Lakes, originally of Ely, died on Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019, at his home. A Memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 13 at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church in Hoyt Lakes with Fr. Peter Lambert celebrating. Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 9, including a rosary service at 6:45 p.m., at Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Aurora. Visitation will continue for one hour prior to Mass at the church on Friday. Inurnment will be in the Hoyt Lakes Memorial Cemetery at a later date. Memorials are preferred in lieu of

flowers.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Deborah Alaspa Preshiren; children, Derek (Emily) Preshiren of Maple Grove and Jaime Preshiren of Hoyt Lakes; granddaughters, Lyla, Edie and Laurie; sister, Darlene Nemanich of Ely; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Elizabeth Trenti

Elizabeth "Betty" Huhtala Trenti, 91, of Virginia and Sand Lake-Britt, died peacefully in her sleep at Carefree Living in Virginia on Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019. A celebration of life was held on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at Bauman-Cron Funeral

Home in Virginia. Memorials may be directed to the Sand Lake Shuffle or Essentia East Range Hospice.

She is survived by her children, Sally Trenti (John) Turk of Lake Vermilion-Tower and John M. (Sandra) Trenti of Wyoming, Minn.; grandchildren, Rebecca (Michael) Kimbell of Cottage Grove, Daniel (Stephanie) Frosaker of Mt. Iron and Courtney (Paul) Haseltine of Shoreview; great-grandchildren, Mason, Owen and Noah; sister and brother-in-law, Rita (Carl) Pineo; special cousin, Margaret Philipovich; and many extended family and friends.

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TOWER..Continued from page 1

information than the city has been able to provide to date.

TAAS director Steve Altenburg is also attempting to advance a part-time advanced life support (ALS) system, although the costs and benefits of that approach aren't yet clear. Lewis noted that a shift to ALS would generate a modest amount of additional revenue, depending on how frequently the ALS service was needed. What remains unclear is how the TAAS could afford to train and maintain paramedics on staff.

Breitung Board Chair Tim Tomsich questioned the financial viability of ALS. "We'd be losing more money under ALS," said Tomsich. "Despite the need, there's still a financial equation that doesn't add up."

Lewis said such decisions can't always come down to money and that patient care has to be part of the equation. Altenburg agreed. "ALS is not about making more money," he said. "What it would provide, is a higher level of care faster. It won't generate tons of extra revenue, but as long as it doesn't cost us money."

Whether implementing ALS service could be implemented without impacting TAAS financially remains unclear. While Altenburg has been pursuing a part-time ALS service for several months, he has yet to provide the council with an actual proposal that includes projected revenues or the anticipated expenses of training and then paying



Virginia Fire Chief Allen Lewis spoke about operations, finances, and the demand for emergency medical services (EMS) across northern St. Louis County during a presentation at the Tower Civic Center last Wednesday. photo by M. Helmberger

paramedics and providing any additional equipment required for ALS-level care.

David Rogers, with the Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board, who attended the presentation, suggested that it would be a challenge for the TAAS to find and keep paramedics. He noted that EMS services around the state are struggling to maintain qualified staff. He said even Hennepin County's EMS service has 50 unfilled paramedic positions, highlighting the existing shortage.

Lewis, when interviewed after his presentation, said it will be a challenge for any area service to maintain paramedics unless they have full-time wages and benefits to offer. The approximate base cost of a full-time paramedic in Virginia, including benefits, is just over \$100,000 according to Lewis.

And Lewis said none of the area ambulance services should be basing staffing or level of care decisions with the expectation that they can use

non-emergency transfers to pay the cost. He said Virginia is continuing with its plans to ramp up its capacity to handle an increasing share of the transfer demand coming out of the Essentia system in Virginia. The Virginia EMS has right of first refusal for all of those transfers.

Lewis said either Virginia or Ely is currently providing ALS service to the Tower-Soudan area when it's needed, which is about 15 percent of the time. He said Virginia provides ALS level care in about 65 percent of the runs that it handles in its coverage area, although he said much of that is provided for the convenience and comfort of the patient rather than medical necessity.

Lewis noted that emergency calls for ALS service in the TAAS service territory show no discernible pattern in terms of time of day. That could make it difficult to determine an appropriate staffing pattern for a part-time ALS service. Lewis suggested more coordination with neighboring ALS

services could be part of a solution, and he predicted that some consolidation of services may be in the offing. "We will probably see a regional approach," he said. "Like school consolidation, you're stronger when you work together."

Whether consolidation is the answer to the ongoing shortage of available staff is less certain.

Like most area services, the TAAS has struggled at times to maintain the staffing for its basic life support (BLS) service, much less a possible ALS service.

"It's a problem that's not unique to St. Louis County," said Fourth District Commissioner Paul McDonald, who noted that as the older generation of emergency responders retire, there are fewer young people to take their place. "We need to have some kind of an incentive system to entice young people," he said. "We're at a stage now, where sooner or later will hit every one of us." McDonald said the county board is aware of the problem and is discussing ways that the county could

do more to assist EMS services in the county.

While the outline of a regional approach to EMS in the region remains in the formative stage, county commissioners are actively talking about how to provide a more reliable and broad-based funding stream to implement a regional system of EMS, including both fire and medical services. "The other commissioners outside of Duluth are very aware of this problem," said McDonald. "It is definitely on our radar. We've got to find a carrot out there somewhere to get that generation to come in and take over."

TAAS by the numbers

Lewis provided an abundance of data on the TAAS, including information that some township officials have sought previously. Lewis noted that TAAS put approximately 43,000 miles on its three ambulances combined in the past year, with 28,507 (or two-thirds) of those miles for non-emergency transports between regional hospitals. Some township officials have been critical of the increased number of transfers, due to the extra wear and tear on ambulances, which Altenburg has not factored into the financial calculations on the paid staffing model he introduced in 2017.

While the average transfer involves 245 miles of driving for a TAAS ambulance, the reimbursement rate is also significantly higher. According

to Lewis, the TAAS receives \$1,468 for a typical transfer, compared to \$609 for an average emergency medical call. The TAAS has accepted more transfers than in the past since switching to paid staffing, which has boosted revenue, but the service's expenditures have nearly doubled in less than two years, which has reduced operating margins for the TAAS.

Lewis did note that the switch to paid staffing has shortened response times. "That's not rocket science," said Lewis. "That seems pretty obvious." Based on his analysis, the switch to paid staffing has cut the average response time for calls outside of the Tower city limits from 16 minutes, 45 seconds to 14 minutes, 50 seconds and from six minutes, six seconds to three minutes, 37 seconds within the city.

Lewis also highlighted the hot spots for ambulance calls. The most calls, (66 in the past year) originate at Fortune Bay Resort Casino, while the Bois Forte Health Clinic, Vermilion Senior Living, and the Scenic Rivers Health Services are also frequent destinations for ambulance calls. Including the reservation calls, Greenwood Township accounted for 46 percent of the call volume for TAAS in the past year. The city of Tower accounted for 28 percent, Breitung Township comprised ten percent, with Eagles Nest accounting for eight percent, Vermilion Lake six percent and Embarrass two percent.

MINNTAC...Continued from page 1

did not include water quality-based effluent limits.

At the same time, the court rejected the MPCA's decision to require Minntac to meet a federal drinking water standard for sulfate as it applies to groundwater underneath the company's 8,000-acre tailings basin north of Virginia.

The court ordered that the permit be remanded back to the agency for further proceedings.

While courts are required to defer to agency decisions when those decisions are based on reasonable evidence, the three-judge panel found that the MPCA's decision making lacked a firm grounding in facts.

"Rather, it seems to have simply ignored or overlooked evidence in the record that could suggest a contrary conclusion," stated Judge Jeanne Cochran, who wrote the opinion. Cochran was referring to a decision by the MPCA not to require effluent limits in its Minntac permit for discharges from the company's tailings basin into both the Sand and Dark rivers. The MPCA and U.S. Steel had argued that those limits were unnecessary since Minntac had already eliminated discharges from the Sand River through the installation of a seepage collection system and would

eventually be eliminating discharges into the Dark River through a similar system.

While the MPCA and U.S. Steel had cited evidence showing that discharges from one outlet into the Sand River had been halted, the court cited substantial other evidence that suggested that the tailings facility continues to discharge into the Sand River from other points along the tailings basin dam. The Sand River is a tributary to the Pike River and ultimately to Lake Vermilion. "On this record, we can only conclude that the MPCA has failed to take the requisite 'hard look' at the issue of whether water quality-based effluent limits are required in the [water discharge] permit, and, accordingly, we must intervene."

Water Legacy attorney Paula Maccabee called the ruling an important step forward. "This tailings basin has been contaminating the surface water for decades," she said. "This decision is the first time that U.S. Steel may actually be required to clean up their pollution. That's a really important change."

At the same time, the court rejected a claim by environmental groups that groundwater contaminated by the tailings basin should be subject

to the same standards as surface water if they are "hydrologically-connected." The question of whether groundwater is subject to the provisions of the Clean Water Act has been a controversial one in the courts for decades and a landmark case out of Hawaii, which the U.S. Supreme Court heard last month, is expected to clarify that issue sometime next year. For now, it appeared the Minnesota appellate judges were content to err on the side of caution and determined that the federal clean water law does not apply to groundwater.

At the same time, the court found that the MPCA erred when it required U.S. Steel to comply with a 250 milligram per liter federal drinking water standard for sulfate. While such rules do apply in state rules to surface water, the court found that groundwater is governed by a separate set of state rules and that the federal standard does not apply and was therefore applied by the MPCA in error. That decision was a clear victory for U.S. Steel.

On the separate issue of the wild rice standard,

the court determined that the question was not yet ripe since the court was remanding the lack of effluent limits back to the MPCA for further deliberations. But the court signaled that the wild rice standard would likely be applied should the MPCA ultimately opt to enforce water quality standards on Minntac. "...if the MPCA determines that [effluent limits] are required on remand, it would seem to follow that the MPCA would apply the wild rice rule in determining conditions for the [water discharge] portion of the permit," wrote the judges.

MPCA spokesperson Darin Broton said the agency is continuing to review the court's decision and had not yet determined its next

steps. "The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is dedicated to protecting Minnesota's most valuable resource - its water," he stated. "While the agency continues to review today's appeal court's decision and assess its next steps, the MPCA will continue engaging with stakeholders to ensure the state's groundwater and surface water are protected."

Environmental groups aren't convinced of that.

"The mining industry takes advantage of unclear standards and loopholes to gut our ability to protect Minnesota's water," said Aaron Klemz with the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. "With even more dangerous sulfide mines proposed for Minnesota,

today's decision shows the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency either cannot or will not effectively protect Minnesotans from mining pollution."

The MCEA had filed suit against the MPCA back in 2017 over the agency's failure to propose a new permit for the Minntac facility. At the time, the company was operating with a water discharge permit that had expired 25 years ago. The MPCA responded to the MCEA lawsuit by issuing a permit within a matter of days, and it's that permit that the MPCA will now have to take up once again after the court's reversal and remand.

Any of the parties in the case have 30 days to request review from the state's Supreme Court.

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UTILITIES

State OK's interim rate increase for Minnesota Power

REGIONAL- The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) has approved interim rates for Minnesota Power customers in the first step of a longer process to evaluate the company's most recent request for a rate review. The decision will increase rates by 5.8-percent for all customer classes, effective Jan. 1, 2020. Under the change,

the average residential customer will pay an additional \$4.50 per month. Interim rates will remain in effect until final rates are decided by the MPUC. In northern St. Louis County, the rate increase will primarily affect ratepayers in the Tower-Soudan area and a portion of Lake Vermilion. Most rural customers in the region are served by Lake

Country Power, which is not a party to the proposed rate increase. Minnesota Power, a utility division of ALLETE filed a rate review on Nov. 1 with state regulators seeking to increase its annual operating revenue by \$65.9 million. The company contends that the additional revenues are necessary to continue its commitment to deliver

safe, reliable energy from increasingly cleaner sources of energy. As part of an ongoing initiative known as *EnergyForward*, Minnesota Power has significantly changed the way it produces and delivers energy to its customers. The company has closed seven of its nine coal units and has grown its current energy mix to 30 percent renewables

with plans to increase it to 50 percent by 2021 through the addition of hydro and wind resources. Minnesota Power also has undertaken significant cost-management steps, reducing operations and maintenance costs by nearly 20 percent since 2014. As a regulated electric utility, Minnesota Power must receive approval from the MPUC

whenever changes in revenue and expenses require adjusting its rates. The process also includes public hearings. If the MPUC decides on a final rate that is below the interim rate, Minnesota Power customers will receive refunds based on the difference between the final and interim rates, plus interest.

ELY...Continued from page 1

environmental review process when the plan is submitted," Bakk said during the annual meeting at the Grand Ely Lodge.

"There is a tremendous amount of pressure on the governor to not let Twin Metals get started on the environmental review. The truth is, the environmental review process is not intended to stop projects," he said. "It's intended to mitigate impacts, so once they start down that road of applying for those permits it's pretty hard to stop."

Bakk continued, "Now it might take a decade or more, but the process isn't intended to stop projects, so the challenge is going to be making sure the (Gov. Tim) Walz Administration gets his departments working on the permits once we have a mine plan because that's where we can have some influence."

Bakk's remarkably candid comments caught the attention of opponents of Twin Metals. Opponents have been fighting to halt the mine before it ever begins the environmental review and permitting process for the exact reasons that Bakk laid out. "Sen. Bakk's comments clearly show why the state's environmental review process should be put on hold until the full federal environmental review of this project is completed and current litigation challenging the Trump Administration's illegal actions is finished," said



State Rep. Rob Ecklund spoke at the Ely Area Economic Development Joint Powers Board annual legislative session last week. photo by K. Vandervort

Tom Landwehr, former DNR Commissioner and current Save the Boundary Waters Executive Director, last week.

"The federal review, which killed this project once, is an essential part of the review process and should not be subverted. The Boundary Waters is Minnesota's crown jewel and it will take leadership from Governor Walz and other state leaders to take action to permanently protect this national treasure," Landwehr said.

Bakk's comments were in response to a plea from Conservationists with Common Sense leader Nancy McReady for the (state) Legislature to put forward a resolution opposing continuation of the two-year study of the

federal land withdrawal. "Our senators, Smith and Klobuchar, are both pushing for this, and we don't even have a mine plan," McReady said.

"There was no additional science after 22 months of study and that's why the Trump administration stopped it. Having something from the state would be really good because there was no input from the cities, the state, the county, anyone, as far as continuing this two-year study. And this is going to be a job killer if the two-year study has to be continued again," she said.

State Rep. Rob Ecklund welcomed a resolution, but predicted that it would never get out of the state House. "It would be a waste of time for me to introduce it, it's as simple as that," he said. "We are fighting the anti-mining folks, and you know who they are, every day down there. I don't know what would happen in the state Senate if something like that got introduced or not. In the House it wouldn't pass. So if it doesn't pass one body it's not going to mean anything."

Bakk continued, "Nancy, I've started not even voting on resolutions being sent to Congress. It's a big joke. When we send one to Washington, D.C., there's a big circular file it goes into. They have no effect. It helps people to feel good for a while, but Congress doesn't listen to the 50 Legislatures around the country."

McReady continued, "Maybe what we need is for the northern delegation of our Legislature to really start speaking out against this two-year study continuation."

2020 Legislative session

Ecklund said the Legislature's 2020 session, which begins on Feb. 11, will be mostly a policy and capital investment year. "Both the House and Senate made tours, even up here in Ely, and that's good to see," he said.

Ecklund wasn't too keen on talk about a special legislative session to tackle the insulin-cost issue, because of the split majorities. "We need to do something about this," he said, "but the reports I've read says there is no kind of agreement out there. Time will tell."

It's not a budget-setting session next year, but lawmakers can decide to spend the surplus on anything from new or existing state programs and tax breaks to financing of construction projects. The state typically borrows for public works projects but sometimes pays cash when there is available money.

Ecklund was more optimistic about broadband funding. "Last year I was the chief author on that bill that brought \$40 million into the state for broadband investment," he said. "That's \$20 million each year of the biennium, but we had about \$89 million worth of project requests. Those groups

that put in requests and didn't get funding, can resubmit for next year. Don't get discouraged if you didn't get chosen. Sharpen up your pencils and see if you can make your proposal better the next time around."

He noted that there are as many as 12 bonding bills across District 3A. "We'll work hard to push each community's interest and see what we can get done."

Minnesota has a \$1.3 billion projected budget surplus, according to the latest economic forecast just released on Dec. 5, setting up a potential conflict between a divided Legislature and Gov. Walz over how to use the extra money.

"Our budget passed last spring was based on forecasted revenue," Bakk said. "We know what we are going to spend. The Governor will propose a supplemental budget based on that newest revenue forecast."

In terms of upcoming bonding bills, Bakk lamented the "totally arbitrary cap" of \$1 billion for capital projects. "The legislature has not been able to break through that. We seem to be stuck on that figure."

He proposed taking all deferred maintenance needs, like water and wastewater infrastructure and other things, "that are not very sexy for the Legislature, and get kicked to the side," and addressing those needs separately in a \$500 million basic core bonding bill. "We can then do a more traditional \$1 billion bonding bill and maybe bust through that cap," he said.

Ballot initiatives will also be considered in the upcoming session. "There are a number of cost-solution amendments out there but I think it is unlikely that any of them will get on the (November) ballot," Bakk said. "Sometimes amendments get one side or the other really energized with the hope is that it turns out the vote. But legislators have gotten a little bit more skeptical (since two amendment defeats in 2012) about putting things on the ballot."

One amendment floating out there that Bakk said he would like to see put on the ballot is for judicial selection. "It says that judges are originally appointed by the governor, but instead of automatically going to the ballot for election, they would go

to a peer review panel of other judges. Those judges would decide if somebody faces the voters or just get another judge. There is a lot of support for it," he said.

He predicted campaign literature claiming voters losing their right to vote. "The potential fall out, and what it could do to a campaign is holding the Legislature back from doing something that really seems sensible," Bakk said.

All 201 legislative seats will be on the ballot next November, and the upcoming election will loom large in whatever action the Legislature takes.

Rental cabins reclassified

Bakk also revealed that letters went out last week from county assessors from recent direction of the State Department of Revenue, to reclassify rental cabins from seasonal/recreational to commercial.

"The taxes on those cabins would probably double and (property owners) are going to be pretty upset," Bakk said. He said he met with Gov. Walz and Revenue Department officials last month. "This has created a firestorm up on the North Shore, let me tell you."

He said the state is following the law correctly when cabins are being rented out to create revenue, but he said he is working to soften the tax increase for those cabins that are rented out for just two or four weeks out of the season. "There needs to be some guidance to assessors in how to determine the primary use of the property," he said.

"This is not as big a deal around here as it is on the North Shore and down around Walker," Bakk said.

As many as 600 such properties are rented along the North Shore, according to Bakk. He's looking at the creation of another classification for those cabins that are rented. "Instead of straight-up commercial, is there something in between there?"

He added, "Cabins are very important to Minnesotans, and the carrying cost of them is expensive. People are trying to offset some of those costs to keep them in the family. It is going to be an emotional subject around the Capitol."

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CITY OF ORR

Orr City Council approves five-percent levy increase

by E. M. SCHULTZ Staff Writer

ORR – Inflation costs and lost revenue are largely to blame for the city's upcoming five-percent levy increase, which will impact property taxes payable in 2020.

The council voted unanimously to approve the increase, as well as the final budget for fiscal year 2020, at a meeting here on Monday, Dec 9. Some of the lost revenue is due to the loss of taxes from Wally's Auto, which was destroyed by a fire back in late September. The city will also be losing revenue from the St. Louis County Assessor's office when it moves from its current offices in the old Orr City Hall building to its new building in Cook.

Along with the levy increase comes an increase in property taxes. Depending on the market

value of a property, an individual's taxes could increase by as little as \$4.59 or as much as \$33.39. This is not the first time the city has increased the levy by five percent. In fact, the increase comes on the heels of a similar increase in 2018, which affected taxes payable in 2019. The council approved a three-percent increase in 2017.

The council held its Truth-in-Taxation public hearing prior to the regular meeting on Monday evening for citizens who wished to express their opinions regarding the 2020 budget and the potential levy increase, but no residents opted to attend.

In order to balance the 2019 budget, the council had to approve a fund transfer of \$4,000 from the liquor store to the community center. The council also agreed to forgive a \$60,000 loan

from the Sewer Fund to the Airport Fund, as the airport is not in a position to pay back the loan at this time. The Sewer Fund has loaned money to the airport in the past to prevent it from operating in the red. The 2020 budget also saw a handful of transfers, largely to or from the General Fund, though a total of \$31,100 will be transferred from the liquor store to a number of other departments.

The council also discussed what to do regarding maturing CDs it holds with North Star Credit Union (NSCU). Over a period of nine months, the water and wastewater CDs earned \$3,087.60 in interest, while the ambulance CD earned \$5,037.73. The council voted unanimously to deposit the money from the water and wastewater CDs in equal amounts to the water and sewer checking accounts

to help cover costs during 2020. NSCU told the city they are currently offering a nine-month CD at 2.25% with no cap on the amount that may be deposited.

The council will meet next on Monday, Jan. 13 at 5 p.m.

In other business, the council:

► Approved the purchase of a used tender truck for the Fire Department.

► Introduced new city attorney Kelly Klun, who will be handling all civil matters for the city. Klun will be working on updating the city's blight ordinances per the council's request.

► Introduced new city attorney Amber Peterson, who will be handling all criminal matters for the city.

► Approved a 2020 renewal of Oveson's Pelican Lake Resort & Inn's liquor, wine, club, or 3.2% license.

► Approved cigarette and 3.2% licenses for 2020 for Norman's One Stop and Pelican Bay Foods.

► Approved city expenditures in the amount of \$97,857.31.

► Approved a three-month extension of the St. Louis County Assessor's Office lease at old City Hall. The extension will allow the county to remain in their offices within the building until March 31.

► Accepted the option from the League of Minnesota Cities to not waive monetary limits on tort liability claims per Minn. statute 466.04. Waiving these limits would allow an individual to recover up to \$2,000,000 on a single tort liability claim. Setting statutory tort limits prevents this and sets the highest amount a claimant can recover per claim at \$500,000.

► Approved the renewal of Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance for full-time city employees.

Monthly premiums are predicted to increase by just under \$150 dollars.

► Approved a request to move forward with a grant application through MnDOT-Aeronautics to replace the beacon at the Orr Regional Airport. The city would cover twenty percent of the cost for the new beacon, which would cost between \$10,000 and \$11,000.

► Gave an update on how things are going for Neighborhood Crime Watch. The signs have arrived and will be installed as soon as possible. Community leaders were set to meet on Tuesday, Dec. 10 to further discuss the initiative.

MUSIC...Continued from page 1

The program opened with a prelude, Aria from "How Beauteous Beams the Morning Star," by J. S. Bach, performed by Ely's own Accidental Ensemble, Keiko Williams, Karen McManus and Nina VanGelder.

A processional, "In the Bleak Mid-Winter," was then performed by Michael Larson on the French Horn.

Other selections includes "The Coming of the Lord," "Waiting," "Angels are Making their Rounds," "Gospel Magnificat," "Night of the Father's Love," "The Shepard's Song," "Joy to the World," "Seeking the King," "Fall on Your Knees," "I Will be a Child of Peace," and "Christ is Born."

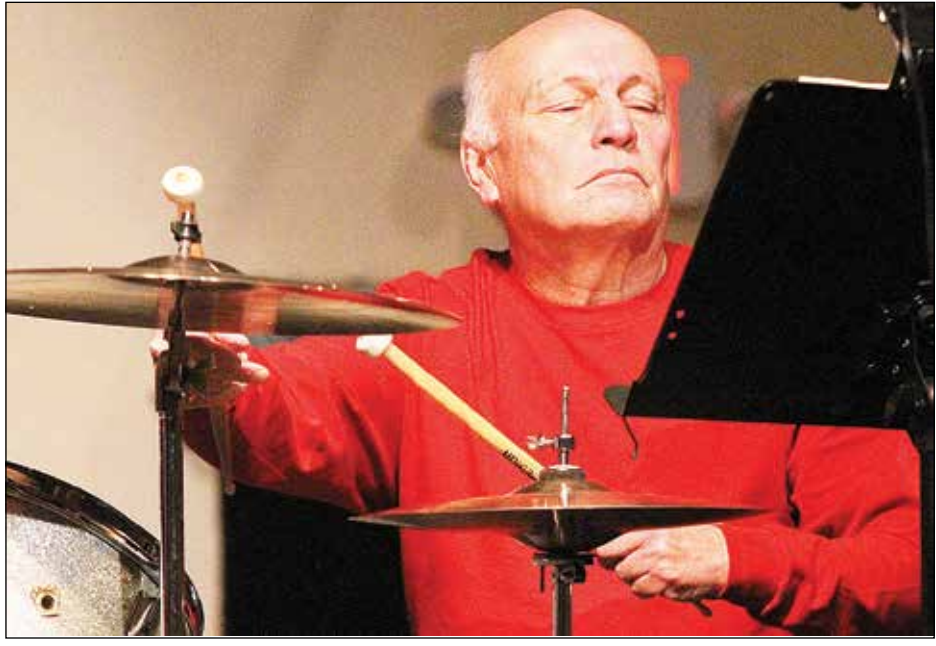
The program included solo performances by Jennifer Merhar, Irene Hartfield, Dr. Erin Bremner and Peter Anderson. Chris Ellerbroek, Kristi Marshall and John Schiefelbein provided narration.

"I was overjoyed to be asked to conduct this year's Ely Area Christmas Cantata," Stoddard said in her program biography. She and her husband, Pete, live on Lake Vermilion and are members of the Grace Lutheran Church here. She grew up in Tower-Soudan and her father worked at the Pioneer mine.

Stoddard was formerly the Hibbing High School Choir director and Our Savior's Lutheran Church choir director there. She has served on the board of directors for the Minnesota Music Educators Association and American Choral Director's Association in repertoire and standards. Her choirs have performed worldwide, including Italy, Germany, Normandy, Ireland, Hawaii and New York City. In 2013, Stoddard received the Yale Distinguished Music Educator Award.



Irene Hartfield, above played keyboard and was one of several soloists at the Ely Christmas Cantata. Rich Dunstan, above right, played percussion. photos by K. Vandervort



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A collage of newspaper clippings from the Timberjay, including articles about Thanksgiving, a Christmas Carol performance, and a fire at Greenwood residence.

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NORDIC SKIING

Ely skiers take first, second

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

DULUTH— It may be a new season, but Ely athletes were right back at the front of the pack as the Nordic ski season got underway under chilly conditions on Tuesday. The Ely boys claimed the top spot at the Proctor/Hermantown Freestyle Invite at the Snowflake Nordic Center in Duluth, while the girls team finished

in second. Jasper Johnston paced the Ely boys in the four-kilometer race with a time of 15:08.2 for second-place overall. He was right on the heels of Grand Rapids skier Sam Stertz who finished first in 14:58.6. Cloquet's Benjamin Bauer was third with a time of 15:37.5.

The Timberwolves' Gabriel Pointer was fourth, 16:35.6, followed closely by Raif Olson, 16:45.4, for

Right: Ely's Jasper Johnston finished second overall as an individual, helping lead the Ely boys team to a first-place finish.

photo by L. Anderson

fifth place.

"We try not to focus on early season results as they aren't predictive and their purpose is to just get

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



Right: TJ Chiabotti takes it to the basket under heavy pressure from Spartan defenders during Tuesday night's match-up at North Woods School. Chiabotti led all scorers in the contest with 31 points.

Below: North Woods fans erupt in cheers during Tuesday's thriller which went into overtime.

photos by C. Stone



BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies top N-K in OT

Seventh-ranked North Woods rallies late to overcome powerful Spartan offense

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

FIELD TWP— In a match-up that could herald the section title tilt later this season, the seventh-ranked Grizzlies edged Nashauk-Keewatin in overtime to improve to 3-0 on the season. "Our three most experienced players led the way and gave us an opportunity to put the game into overtime and then come away with a win," said North Woods Head Coach Will Kleppe.

The Spartans hit the court fast in the early-going

and shot well to build an early lead. "We were behind early, battled back and exchanged the lead a few times the rest of the game," said Kleppe.

Key shooting from sophomore guard TJ Chiabotti, who connected on five treys in the second half, helped lift the Grizzlies when they needed it most. Kleppe said key plays from post players Darius Goggeley, Trevor Morrison, and Levi Byram also made the difference. In the end, it was the Grizzlies on top, 86-83.

Chiabotti led all scorers with 31 points, while

Goggeley poured in 26. Morrison posted 15 points, while Brendan Chiabotti added six and Jared Chiabotti had five.

"N-K is a section favorite with all their returning starters from last year so for us to get a win with some younger players rounding out our lineup was nice to see," said Kleppe.

The Grizzlies had little trouble at South Ridge this past Thursday, as they tamed the Panthers, 85-48. Jared

See **GRIZZ...**pg. 2B

Defense rules as Ely dumps Mariners

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

SILVER BAY— The Timberwolves improved to 4-0 on the young basketball season after emerging from an otherwise tight defensive contest with the Mariners with a 53-37 win here on Tuesday night.

A slow start for Ely kept the game close. "It was a struggle in the first half as our shooting was poor, but we did enough to get

the win on the road," said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald.

Junior guard Brock Latourell provided a spark at key moments, according to McDonald. "He hit five threes, including some big shots when we were struggling," he said. Senior forward Dylan Fenske posted another strong performance, posting 15 points and grabbing 10 rebounds for a double-double. Senior guard Eric Omerza tallied ten points and seven rebounds, while

Right: Ely senior Bryce Longwell shoots during last Friday's game with International Falls.

photo by J. Greeney

Longwell tallied nine rebounds.

The Wolves ran over Hill City on Saturday, downing the Hornets 67-24. After a slow start, Ely caught fire and picked up their offensive pace in the second

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



BASKETBALL

Ely girls swamp Mariners

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

SILVER BAY— Defense did the job for the Timberwolves on Tuesday as Ely dominated the Mariners enroute to a 60-24 win. "Our defense held Silver Bay to very few shots and created a number of turnovers that led to fast-break points for us on the other end," said Wolves Head Coach Darren Visser.

Seniors Erika Mattson and Brielle Kallberg each had a big night, pouring in 20 points apiece. Senior center Winter Sainio added ten points in the contest, while freshman Rachel Coughlin added four.

"We had great contributions from many different players and were able to go deep into our bench, which allowed for quality breaks for all players," said Visser. "It was a good win to have after coming off of our

See **GIRLS...**pg. 2B

Sports week

BOYS B-BALL

Friday, Dec. 13
Ely at North Woods, 7:15 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 16
Ely hosts Cherry, 7:15 p.m.
North Woods at Esko, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 19
North Woods hosts LCA, 7:15 p.m.

GIRLS B-BALL

Monday, Dec. 16
Ely hosts Chisholm 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 17
North Woods at Barnum, 7:15 p.m.

HOCKEY

Friday, Dec. 13
Ely hosts Moose Lake, 6 p.m. p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 26
Ely at North Shore Tourney, TBD

NORDIC SKIING

Saturday, Dec. 14
Ely at Grand Rapids, 11 a.m.

Thursday, Dec. 19
Ely at Cloquet, 11 a.m.

RECOGNITION

Morrison, Chiabotti named to Top 50 list

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Two of the region's hardest working high school basketball players have been named among the Top 50 Class A standouts for the 2019-2020 season by Minnesota Basketball News.

Senior center Trevor Morrison and sophomore guard TJ Chiabotti are among the leaders on the seventh-ranked North Woods basketball squad.

"TJ and Trevor exemplify hard work," said North Woods Head

Coach Will Kleppe. "They spend many hours working on their skills while balancing their other school responsibilities. They are both good students and lead by example in the classroom and on the court."

The two Grizzlies standouts were among only five athletes from northeastern Minnesota named to the Top 50 list. Others from the region include Asher Zubich from Mt. Iron-Buhl, Jack Lorenz of Nashwauk-Keewatin and Micah Pocemich, from Cromwell-Wright.

According to Kleppe, it's attitude that helps make the difference

for the two North Woods teammates. "They show up to practice and work hard without complaint. They are humble, competitive, and driven to not only be their best but to get the most out of their teammates as well."

Minnesota Basketball News is published weekly each Friday during the season and is available free online at www.pacesetter-sports.net.

Senior Trevor Morrison (l) and sophomore TJ Chiabotti play for the North Woods Grizzlies.

photo by E. Schultz



WOLVES...Continued from page 1B—

half. "Again we played very well defensively," said McDonald.

Fenske led the way with 16 points and eight rebounds, while Omerza put up 15 points and seven assists. Junior Will Davies posted 13 points and ninth-grade guard Joey Bianco had nine points and six assists.

The boys notched their second win of the season last Friday, as they topped visiting International Falls 56-31. Ely helped their cause with a quick start and took a 31-18 lead into

the break. A strong second half defensive performance held the Broncos to just 13 points in the second frame. Eric Omerza scored 16 points and posted seven assists, while Dylan Fenske scored 12 and notched eight boards. Senior Bryce Longwell scored a career-high 12 points and took in eight rebounds.

The Wolves were set to visit North Woods on Friday in a battle of the unbeaten. Tip-off is set for 7:15 p.m.

GRIZZ...Continued from page 1B—

Chiabotti and Morrison each scored 25 points, while Goggleye and TJ Chiabotti both reached double digits. "Defense is the trademark of our team and we did a good job of limiting South Ridge's opportunities even though they have excellent team height and good post play," said Kleppe. "Jared's defensive effort triggered a

number of transition opportunities and Trevor runs the floor as good as any big man so they capitalized."

The Grizzlies were set to host Ely on Friday, with tip-off at 7:15 p.m. They'll travel to Esko on Monday to take on the Eskomos.

GIRLS...Continued from page 1B—

tough loss on Saturday." That tough loss came at home in overtime against

Two Harbors, in a game that Ely led right up until the final second of regulation. "We played this game short-handed but our girls worked extremely hard all game and weren't able to hang on in the end," said Visser. "Poor free-throw shooting and a very aggres-

sive Two Harbors defense just proved to be too much in the end."

Mattson led for Ely with 14 points, while Madeline Perry added ten. Rachel Coughlin was on fire on the boards, pulling down 15 rebounds while scoring six. Grace Latourell and Winter Sainio added five points apiece, while Sainio grabbed 11 rebounds.

NORDIC...Continued from page 1B

back into race mode," said Ely Nordic Coach Paula Anderson. "Ely skiers aren't race ready yet and some of the other skiers are."

Other Ely finishers including place and time, were: Ethan Bremner, 7th, 17:09.0; Jon Hakala, 11th, 17:51.0; Nate Nettifee, 15th, 18:25.7; and Micah Larson, 20, 19:10.8

The Timberwolves boys finished with 386 points, followed by Grand Rapids with 368 points and Cloquet-Esko-Carlton with 363 points for the top three finishes. Dukuth East, Mesabi East, Proctor/Hermantown and Marshall School also competed.

In the varsity girls 4K race, Zoe Devine paced the Timberwolves with a time of 21:24.9 for 7th place, followed by Julia Schwinghamer, 21:39.6, in 8th place. Duluth East's Clara Kramer led all girls

racers with a time of 19:20.3.

Other Ely girls racers, with place and time, included: Cora Olson, 12th, 21:49.0; Phoebe Helms, 15th, 22:03.3; Ana Bercher, 24th, 24:00.2; Kalyssa Eilrich, 27th, 24:37.4; Gracie Pointer, 35th, 28:10.5; and Abigail Thompson, 36th, 28:49.8.

The Timberwolves girls team scored 360 points for second place, behind Duluth East with 390 points. "We weren't full strength with the girls, but I don't think we would have beat East even if we had been," said Anderson.

The Timberwolves will compete Saturday, Dec. 14, at Grand Rapids, and Thursday, Dec. 19 at the Cloquet Invite. Ely hosts a time trials meet at Giants Ridge on Saturday, Dec. 28.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies mauled by Tigers

by E. M. SCHULTZ
Staff Writer

FIELD TWP – The Grizzlies had a tough time keeping up with the Tigers during Monday night's matchup against Cherry, falling 77-30. The Tigers jumped to a quick lead and never looked back as they built a 48-16 margin by the half.

Seven of the Grizzlies first-half points came from freshman Hannah Kinsey. Senior Sasha Strong also had a good showing, landing a three-pointer and two free throws to help keep the team afloat. Eighth-grader Helen Koch and senior Kennedy Wardas each added two points.

The Grizzlies managed to keep the gap somewhat smaller during the second half, but the Tigers never let them back in the game.

Kinsey led the way once again, putting up an additional six points in the second frame to bring her total to thirteen. Strong stayed true to her name, racking up four more points for a total of nine. Wardas tacked on two points, ending with a four-point total, and junior Brynn Simpson sank two free throws to help close the gap.

The Grizzlies had a much better night against South Ridge last Thursday, edging the Panthers 51-49. The Grizz led the first half 38-31, but South Ridge held tough in the second half, nearly rallying for the win.

Simpson dropped a total of eight free throws and five two-point shots, racking up eighteen points



overall. Senior Coley Olson tallied a total of twelve points, and Kinsey tacked on an additional ten. Strong, Koch, and Wardas supplemented the total with six, three, and two points respectively.

The Grizzlies were headed to Fond du Lac for a matchup on

Above: North Woods' Brynn Simpson driving in under the hoop around Cherry's Jessa Schoretter. photo by C. Stone

Thursday. They hit the road on Tuesday to face Barnum.



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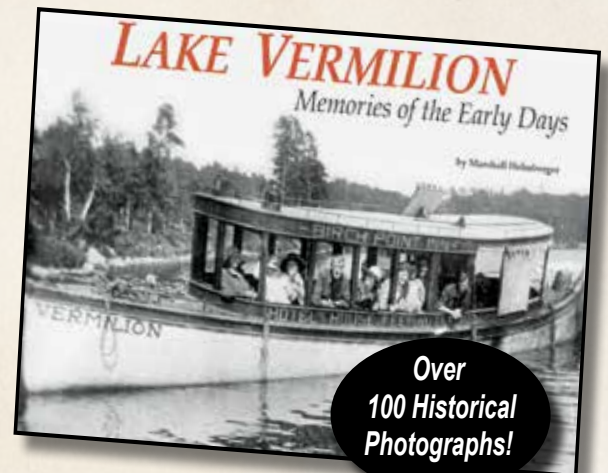
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SUICIDE PREVENTION

Thrive Range project, new website, seeks to bring suicide prevention support to the Iron Range

by E. M. SCHULTZ
Staff Writer

REGIONAL – Since the fall of 2018, Ely native and St. Louis County Public Health Program Coordinator Joshua Gorham and several other individuals, including Ursula Whiteside, national leader for suicide prevention and Hibbing native, have been working to bring awareness to mental health issues faced by people in northern St. Louis County. According to numbers from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Data & Statistics Fatal Injury Report for 2017, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) from 2017, and the St. Louis County Annual Average report from 2011-2017, the suicide rates in three districts across northern St. Louis County are two to three times higher than in the rest of the county, as well as throughout the state of Minnesota.

“That’s a huge problem,” says Gorham. “We need to do something about that.”

Gorham is not alone in this line of thinking. Through his job in public health, he’s come into contact with a number of community members who are also concerned about mental health and substance use on the Iron Range and throughout northern St. Louis County. Many of these concerned citizens wanted to do something to address this issue. Gorham, Whiteside, and the rest of their newly-formed team found a grant opportunity, quickly

took action and wrote a grant proposal focused on comprehensive, community-based suicide prevention. Last May, they found out they’d been awarded the grant and have since been working to bring tools and resources into northern communities.

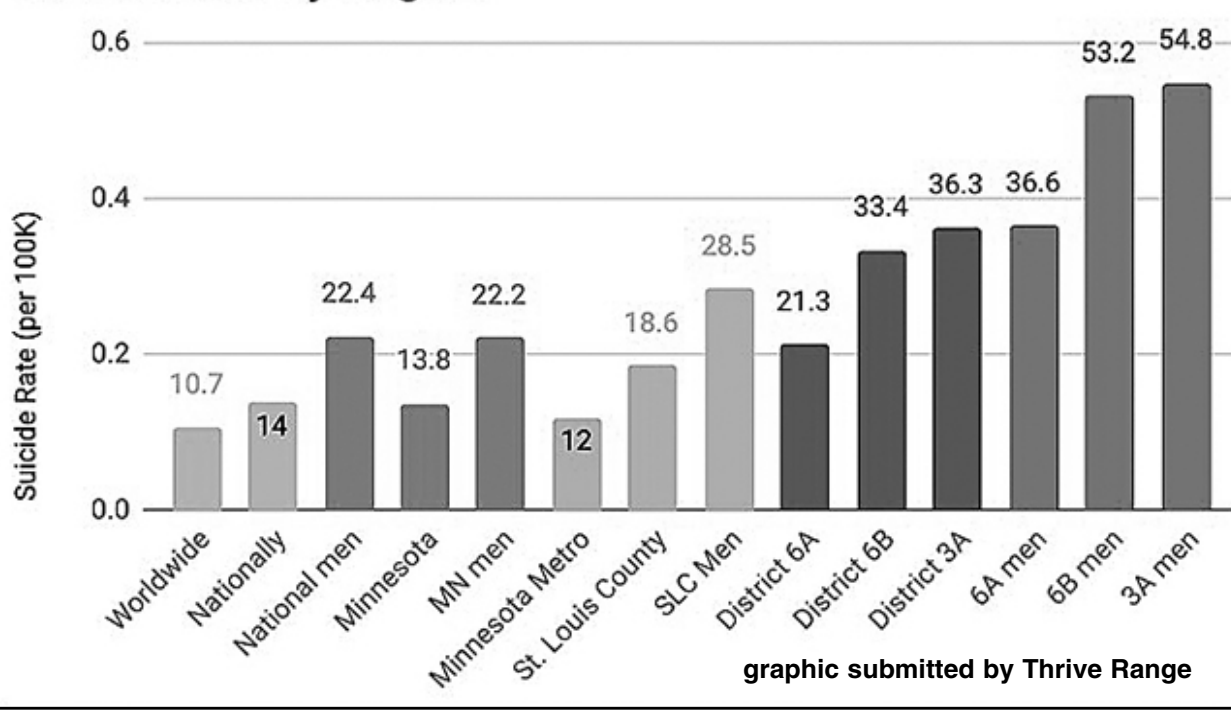
Four year project

The overall goal of this four-year project, known as Thrive Range, is to bring support to Northern St. Louis County for suicide prevention, mental health, and substance use. This consists of three arms: online help, healthcare, and schools.

The first arm of the project, online help, includes a public health website where you will find numerous free resources for managing stress, coping with depression, facing alcohol and drug problems, and dealing with suicidal thoughts. These resources are not only helpful to those who are currently struggling but can also benefit anyone who wants to help a friend or family member. The website currently includes a link to a stress, addiction, and suicide toolbox, as well as links to Thrive and Mahogany, both of which are free online therapy resources, and a link to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) website. It also includes three immediate ways to connect for those who are currently in distress, as well as a plethora of other free resources. To learn more, visit www.thrivrangerange.org.

The project’s second arm is called Zero Suicide

Suicide Rate by Region



graphic submitted by Thrive Range

and revolves around healthcare. With help from multiple rural counties, Thrive Range has created a series of online, on-demand courses that provide a significant amount of Continuing Medical Education credits. These courses cover topics such as crisis planning, micro-interventions for mental health and substance use, and strategies from Dialectical Behavior Therapy. Classes range in length from 1.5 hours to 26 hours and will include over forty hours of training options by June 2020 for anyone who acts as a health care service delivery provider. This free training could potentially save community members working in healthcare \$1,000 or more per person and can be found on thrivrangerange.org at the bottom of the page.

The third and final

arm of the project involves local school districts. Thrive Range has already begun meeting with the leadership and staff of these local districts to gain a better understanding of what they believe are the strengths and challenges of their students, as well as an understanding of the tools they currently have and the primary obstacles staff believe they face in their role as educators. Ultimately, Thrive Range would like to bring the national program, Hope Squad, to local schools. To learn more about this program, visit www.hopesquad.com. If you work in a school setting and would like to help organize, lend support to, or learn more about bringing the Hope Squad to local schools, please contact Joshua Gorham at GorhamJ@stlouiscounty-mn.gov.

While it is not one of the arms of the project, another important requirement for its success is a community readiness assessment. Lack of information and a widespread stigma around mental health often prevents community members from becoming more involved. It also keeps people from seeking the help they may need. According to Gorham, this is one of the biggest challenges of the project: bringing awareness to the fact that mental health concerns are not uncommon. When it comes to the Iron Range, the numbers speak for themselves. According to a Bridge to Health survey from 2015, twenty-seven percent of adults in the area had been diagnosed with depression and twenty-two percent had been diagnosed with anxiety. The survey also found that

men are three times more likely to kill themselves than women. This data is one of the driving forces behind Thrive Range.

“It’s a topic I’m passionate about,” says Gorham. “There’s so much hope, and so many great tools and resources we can use to help people.”

Gorham encourages people to use the online tools provided by Thrive. He hopes these free resources will help people to overcome the stigma, and sometimes fear, that surrounds seeking help, particularly in rural areas. While they are not a replacement for a doctor, they will hopefully act as a first step toward recovery for many people. And there is nothing wrong with seeking help when you need it.

FIGHTING HUNGER

Sen. Tom Bakk’s Stock the Shelves event raises \$100,000 for Arrowhead food shelves

REGIONAL – Senate DFL Leader Tom Bakk, DFL-Cook, hosted the 13th annual Stock the Shelves event on Monday, Dec. 9 at Lake Monster Brewing in Saint Paul. Attendees raised more than \$100,000 for food shelves in the Arrowhead region. The event has raised more than \$1.25 million since its inception in 2007.

“Minnesotans across the state face hunger and food insecurity,” said Bakk. “I’m grateful so many

sponsors, friends, and colleagues came out on a snowy night to help stock the shelves in my home region. This is what the holiday season has always meant to me—a chance to give back to my community.”

Unemployment in the Arrowhead region is still higher than elsewhere in Minnesota, which means many families are relying on food shelves to eat. The Stock the Shelves event began when Iron Range food shelves were facing a shortage of

donations and having trouble keeping their shelves stocked into the holiday season. In the Arrowhead region, nearly 25 people visit a food shelf for help every hour.

“Hunger is solvable if we all work together,” said Colleen Moriarty, Executive Director of Hunger Solutions Minnesota. “Thanks to the generous sponsors of this event, we are able to help food shelves in the Arrowhead region serve their neighbors year round.”

One in 12

Minnesota families struggles with hunger because of poverty, difficulties accessing food, and a lack of education about nutrition assistance benefits. Minnesota is on pace to exceed three million visits to food shelves for the ninth year in a row, and 9,000 Minnesotans rely on help from food shelves every day.

Event sponsors include the following: Founding sponsors: Thomson Reuters and Ameriprise Financial Presenting spon-

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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MODIFICATION OF THE TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN FOR TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT NO. 3

DISTRICT NO. 3

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Ely, St. Louis County, Minnesota, will conduct a public hearing in the Council Chambers in the City Hall in the City of Ely, Minnesota, on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, at 5p.m. CDT, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be considered to consider a modification of the Tax Increment Financing Plan for Tax Increment Financing District No. 3 (the “Modification”). The adoption of the Modification is proposed to be accomplished pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 469.

The areas of Tax Increment Financing District No. 3 and Development District No. 1 are indicated on the maps accompanying this notice. Tax increments may be collected from Tax Increment Financing District No. 3 and expended within Development District No. 1 pursuant to applicable Minnesota law.

Draft copies of the Modification are available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk-Treasurer, during normal business hours. Any person wishing to be heard with respect to the adoption of the Modification will be heard orally or may submit written comments at the public hearing.

Harold R Langowski, Clerk-Treasurer

Published in the Ely, Timberjay, Dec. 6 & 13, 2019



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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

STORM IMPACTS

Iconic Tettegouche sea stack vanishes in gale

by EMILY BRIGHT
Minnesota Public Radio News

REGIONAL— A beloved and often-photographed sea stack along the Lake Superior shoreline of northeastern Minnesota's Tettegouche State Park has been toppled by the intense winter storm that struck the area earlier this month.

The sea stack was all that remained of a naturally formed stone arch, which had once connected the stack with a nearby

cliff. The surviving stack was about 15-20 feet high and about 8 feet in diameter, estimated Kurt Mead, interpretive naturalist at Tettegouche State Park.

In the wake of the gales, the sea stack was gone, washed away in the storm that dumped an estimated 15 inches of snow in the park and 21.7 inches in Duluth. East winds gusting in excess of 50 mph kicked up mammoth waves on Lake Superior.

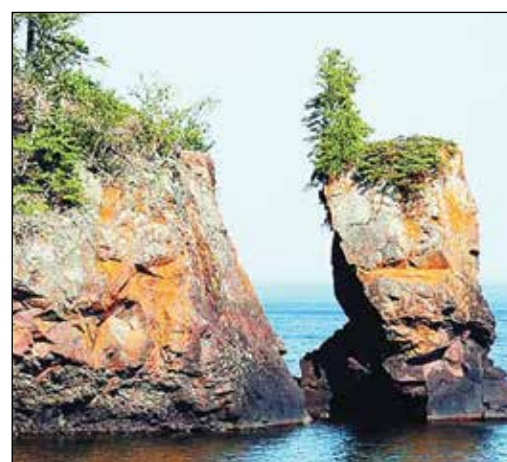
Mead said Tettegouche is a

popular spot for photographers who want to capture the dramatic winds, waves, and ice from a storm on Lake Superior.

During the recent storm, Mead said "the park was crawling with photographers, most of whom were getting wet by the spray. It was that big of a storm, and they couldn't have been any happier, just shooting the big waves."

Mead predicted "some good

See **STORM...**pg. 5B



Left:
The much-photographed sea stack at Tettegouche State Park fell recently due to high surf from a recent winter storm.

photo courtesy
MNDNR

FISHING

Don't forget new pike regulations

REGIONAL— With ice anglers and spearers heading out on area lakes, the Department of Natural Resources is reminding everyone that new northern pike zone regulations apply. The regulations went into effect in May 2018 and created three distinct zones in the north-central, north-eastern and southern parts of the state.

The northern pike regulations apply to inland waters but do not affect border waters or individual lakes, rivers and streams that have their own special regulations for northern pike. Special pike regulations are in place on about 95 waters and always take precedence over state-wide regulations.

Specific regulation details can be found on the DNR website at mndnr.gov/pike or in the Minnesota Fishing Regulations booklet online at mndnr.gov/regulations/fishing.

Fishing reports

Kab-Nam area

As the snow keeps missing the border country to the south, cold temps have taken hold and we are now making good ice throughout the area. Fish houses are popping up in the more popular areas with some decent reports coming in. Spear fishing is still going strong with numerous reports of fish in the 15-20 lb. range. Common sense is still a priority as ice thickness varies greatly. Most are reporting 6-10 inches but there have been a few cracks opening up so check ice as you make your way out. Travel has been limited to snowmobiles and four-wheelers. Call ahead for the most recent ice conditions and areas to avoid surprises.

The snowmobile trails are a work in progress as there are still wet areas throughout the trail system. The cold temps should help considerably to freeze these spots up. You can see the most current trail conditions at www.snowmobilevacation.com/ and with Voyageurs National Park at www.nps.gov/voya/index.htm.

We will keep updating as conditions change or give us a call for the most up to date reports.

As always, be safe and have fun!

Courtesy Gateway Store, Lake Kabetogama



BIRDS AND WIND TURBINES

Research seeks solutions

U of M researchers seek to learn more about how birds hear as part of quest to reduce deaths from impacts

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Researchers at the University of Minnesota are hoping that understanding how raptors hear sounds may one day lead to solutions to reduce the frequency of their impacts with wind turbines. While wind turbines offer a sustainable energy source, they can pose a threat to raptors, including federally-protected species like bald and golden eagles.

Scientists at the U of M's Raptor Center and the College of Veterinary Medicine recently combined their efforts to get a better understanding of the frequency and sensitivity of hearing in bald eagles and red-tailed hawks. The research was funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, which is looking for ways to reduce bird deaths from wind turbines, particularly of eagles.

Dr. Julia Ponder, executive director of the Raptor Center, said the \$300,000 research project is just the first step towards developing methods to effectively deter raptors from flying into the vicinity of wind turbines. Birds can fly into both the enormous towers as well as blades that operate the turbines. Bird strikes into windows, build-

Top: The wind turbines that operate atop Taconite Ridge north of Virginia. While they pose a risk to birds, such turbines represent a relatively small risk factor compared to dangers like windows and domestic cats, which kill thousands of times more birds than wind turbines.

Right: Bald eagles are among the raptors researchers have studied.

ings, and towers of all kinds are a leading cause of bird deaths around the world.

Ponder said the dangers posed by wind turbines vary substantially, depending on the kind of turbine and their location.

Until just recently, researchers have known very little about how birds hear sounds. Raptors are known for exceptional eyesight, but their hearing appears to be underdeveloped compared to many mammals. Ponder said the testing conducted at the Raptor Center as part of the study has expanded the understanding of raptor physiology and confirmed that the hearing ability of red-tailed hawks and bald eagles is similar, although the hawks tend to be slightly more sensitive to sound than eagles.

That's just the first step in determining whether sounds can



be used to deter raptors from approaching wind turbines, notes Ponder. Further research will be required to understand what sounds might be effective in either discouraging raptors from approaching turbines or that might help attract them somewhere else. The researchers are hoping to garner additional funding to explore which sounds influence direction of movement and flight paths for red-tailed hawks, bald eagles and golden eagles.

But even if sound can be used to discourage raptor deaths around wind turbines, deploying sounds loud enough for raptors to hear could pose new problems for the developers of wind farms. According to Ponder, birds hear in the same frequencies as humans, which means any sound used to influence the behavior of birds is likely to be audible to humans.

Noise from wind turbines has already been a major issue in some cases, which has made them controversial in more populated areas. That's likely to

be less of a problem, however, when turbines are utilized in more remote locations.

It's unclear, as well, whether noise could be used to discourage other types of birds from flying near wind turbines. Ponder said while birds tend to hear similarly, they have widely varying sensitivities, which makes it difficult to extrapolate from one species of bird to another, at least without further research.

How big a problem?

There are about 54,000 wind turbines currently operating in the U.S. and the estimates of the number of birds killed through impact with the towers or blades vary considerably. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, collisions with wind turbines currently kill between 140,000 and 500,000 birds annually in the U.S. although recent modeling suggests that number could rise to as many as 1.4 million as a

See **TURBINES...**pg. 5B

“The dangers posed by wind turbines vary substantially, depending on the kind of turbine and their location.”

Dr. Julia Ponder

MINING

Teck to resume mineral exploration near Babbitt

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

BABBITT— Teck American Inc. has proposed to restart mineral exploration not far from the proposed NorthMet mine, located about five miles south-southeast of Babbitt.

Teck has filed plans with the Department of Natural Resources to resume exploration for metallic mineral deposits just east of the NorthMet deposit. Teck has drilled in this area since 2007 on an intermittent basis.

PolyMet Mining is still seeking financing to develop the NorthMet deposit, which contains low-grade copper, nickel and platinum group metals. Permits for that mine remain suspended due to unresolved court action.

Teck plans to drill exploratory borings in bedrock on nine sites using the diamond core drilling method. The borings will

be drilled and then temporarily or permanently sealed following regulations set by the Department of Health. Teck also proposes to drill holes for environmental purposes on eight sites. Drilling methods for these holes may include sonic, reverse circulation and diamond core.

All exploration work in wetlands, including much of the drilling, will occur in winter when the ground is adequately frozen. New temporary access trails are proposed to reach some drill sites. These trails will be brushed and built on snow and ice.

Work may occur other times of the year on an intermittent basis when soil conditions permit.

Find a summary report and associated map of the proposed exploration activities at the DNR's exploration plan webpage.

TURBINES...Continued from page 4B

result of continued growth in the wind energy sector.

That's one reason that the Department of Energy is seeking to learn more about how to protect birds from the dangers posed by turbines. A number of possible solutions are being explored, from altering habitat around turbines to reduce bird activity, to modifications to turbines themselves that reduce their reach into the flight paths of migrating birds.

While turbines pose a risk to birds, the risk is actually far less than many

other risks that birds face, particularly in migration. The Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that cell towers, for example, kill between five and fifteen million birds annually. Annual bird deaths from window strikes are estimated at between 365 to 988 million birds annually, or many hundreds of times more than are killed by turbines. Domestic cats pose perhaps the biggest risk to birds, killing an estimated 1.4-3.7 billion birds a year in the U.S.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday					
20 7					11 -10					4 -6					10 -3					9 -4					
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	
12/02	24	-14	0.00		12/02	31	-18	0.00		12/02	20	-9	0.00		12/02	27	-13	0.00		12/02	24	-17	0.00		
12/03	26	-15	0.00		12/03	31	-18	0.00		12/03	23	-12	0.00		12/03	27	-13	0.00		12/03	26	-14	0.00		
12/04	29	-20	0.00		12/04	29	-19	0.00		12/04	27	-20	0.00		12/04	30	-21	0.00		12/04	29	-20	0.00		
12/05	31	-20	0.00		12/05	32	-21	0.00		12/05	31	-20	0.00		12/05	27	-19	0.00		12/05	32	-20	0.00		
12/06	28	-11	0.02	0.7"	12/06	27	-9	0.02	0.7"	12/06	27	-9	0.03	0.6"	12/06	18	-7	0.00		12/06	29	-9	0.06	1.6"	
12/07	18	-9	0.01	0.1"	12/07	27	-7	0.00		12/07	17	-8	0.01	0.1"	12/07	30	-16	0.00		12/07	18	-8	0.00		
12/08	33	-17	0.00		12/08	33	-16	0.00		12/08	32	-16	0.00		12/08	32	-7	0.00		12/08	33	-17	0.00		
YTD Total			22.17	33.4"	YTD Total			26.72	18.2"	YTD Total			24.21	18.2"	YTD Total			NA	20.5"	YTD Total				28.05	15.6"

ENVIRONMENT

MPCA opposes Trump push to weaken states' abilities to protect water quality

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The state's Pollution Control Agency is voicing opposition to a proposal by the Trump administration that state officials believe could weaken their ability to regulate some major development projects, including mines and pipelines.

The Trump administration's Environmental Protection Agency is proposing sweeping changes to what's known as Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act in order to significantly speed up the approval timelines for major projects. Under the proposed changes, permitting decisions would have to be approved within 12 months, even on major projects.

Section 401 certification is a part of the federal Clean Water Act that allows states to have a role in ensuring that projects within their borders will meet state water

quality standards as well as federal. "In some cases, Minnesota's water quality standards are more stringent than federal standards, so it's critical that we have input on federal permitting that affects Minnesota waters," said Katrina Kessler, MPCA Assistant Commissioner.

The EPA is now proposing sweeping changes to 401 certification. "Some of the provisions that are proposed would significantly undermine the state's ability to [protect] water quality within the state," says Kessler.

Because the timeline proposed in the change is so compressed, Kessler said states could be forced to make permitting determinations on projects even before environmental reviews are completed.

"EPA's proposed change would require a state to make a decision within a very short timeline that may not align well with state's needs," said Kessler.

Kessler said the agency is also concerned that the changes would eliminate the state's ability to consider other factors, like public health concerns or rules set by the Department of Health, in considering project permitting. The Trump administration would limit the permitting analysis solely to questions of water quality.

The American Petroleum Institute has lauded the changes, calling it a "well-defined timeline and review process."

The MPCA is concerned that the proposed changes "really undermine the state's ability to be in the driver's seat and be the leader in terms of protecting local resources," Kessler said. "These major projects sometimes take more time. It's really important that the state and the federal government work together in those instances to have a schedule that makes sense and can be protective."

STORM...Continued from page 4B

ice formations along the shore" following the storm.

But he added that photographers and other visitors should use

caution on icy trails. "If people are going to go check them out, they should really be careful and wear Yaktrax and let people know where

they're going."

You can hear Minnesota Public Radio News at 89.3 FM in Ely and at 92.5 FM on the Iron Range.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**Vermilion Lake Township
Notice of Filings**

Filings for the following offices will open on Tuesday, December 31, 2019 and close on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

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

Candidates: File Affidavit of Candidacy at the CLERK'S OFFICE, 6703 Wahlsten Rd. Election will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 Crystal Alaspa, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 13 & 27, 2019

**MORCOM TOWNSHIP
Notice of Filing for Town
Offices to be Elected**

Notice is hereby given that a town election will be held in the Township of Morcom, St. Louis County, Minnesota, on Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

The first day for filing affidavits of candidacy will be Tuesday, December 31, 2019. The last day will be Tuesday, the 14th of January, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

Filings may be made with the Clerk, Sasha Lehto. You can either make an appointment by calling Sasha Lehto at 218-969-5812 or by email to morcomtownshipmn@gmail.com. You may file without an appointment by coming to the home of the clerk located at 12059 Hwy. 22, Cook, MN, 55723 on Tuesday, January 14th between the hours of 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

The following terms will be expiring:
1 Supervisor Seat – for a term of 3 years
1 Clerk -for a term of 2 years
The filing fee is \$2.00

**The office of the Clerk will be closed Wednesday, January 1, 2020 in observance of the New Year's Day Holiday.

Sasha Lehto, Clerk, 218-969-5812

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 13 & 27, 2019

CITY OF ELY – NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The City of Ely is calling for interested applicants to fill two (2) Resident Citizens at Large positions on the newly-formed Sanitation Committee. The ordinance on the newly-formed Sanitation Committee can be found on the City of Ely website under City Government- Ordinances.

Please remit a letter of interest and qualifications by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, December 16, 2019 to the Ely City Clerk's Office, 209 E. Chapman Street, Ely, MN 55731 or email casey.velcheff@ely.mn.us. Questions, please contact the Clerk-Treasurer's Office 218-226-5449.

Casey Velcheff, Deputy Clerk

Published in the Ely Timberjay, Dec. 6 & 13, 2019

FILING NOTICE

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Affidavits of candidacy may be filed with the Town Clerk during regular office hours at the Town Hall from December 31, 2019 to January 14, 2020. Filing fee is \$2.00

This March election will be for the election of:
Supervisor Position 1– 3-year term
Supervisor Position 2– 3-year term
Clerk Position– 2-year term

The Greenwood Town Hall office will have extended hours during filing days – December 31, 2019 and January 14, 2020 to 5:00 pm. The dates are the first day and the last day to file. Greenwood Town Hall office will be closed Wednesday, January 1, 2020 in observance of New Year's Day.

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY POLLS OPEN

Primary Date is Tuesday, March 3, 2020
Greenwood Township polls are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm
Township Election Day is Tuesday, March 10

Sue Drobac, Clerk, Greenwood Township

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 13 & 20, 2019

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every week.*



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yours now!*

**FIELD TOWNSHIP
FILING NOTICE**

Affidavits of candidacy may be filed with the Field Town Clerk at 9998 East Lind Rd., Angora from Tuesday, December 31, 2019, through Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 5 p.m. for the offices of:

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

Please call the clerk to make an appointment to file your application, 218-780-7012. Clerk's office is closed New Year's Day, January 1, 2020.

The clerk's office will be also be open Jan. 14 from 1-5 p.m.

Pat Chapman, Clerk, Field Township

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 13, 2019

**LEIDING TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF FILINGS**

Filings for the following offices open on Tuesday, December 31, 2019, through Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 5 p.m. for the offices of:

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

Filing fee is \$2.
File the Affidavit of Candidacy at Clerk's Office. Please call 218-355-0163 (cell) for the clerk's office hours. The clerk's office will be closed on New Year's Day, January 1.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 13 & 27, 2019

EMPLOYMENT



**Information
Receptionist
Position**

The Ely Chamber of Commerce has an opportunity for an individual seeking full-time work (37.5 hours per week). The position involves data entry, filing, stocking and assisting the public with business and area information, along with other office tasks. Knowledge of Microsoft Office programs is necessary. Lifting up to 35 pounds is required. For more details, please contact the Chamber office at 218-365-6123 or at director@ely.org. Office located at 1600 E. Sheridan Street, Ely. 12/27

**POSITION OPENING - ELY PUBLIC
SCHOOLS, ISD No. 696
PARAPROFESSIONAL**

PLACE OF WORK: District; RATE OF PAY: \$16.08/hr.; HOURS: 6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week, student contact days; QUALIFICATIONS: AA Degree or two years of college required. Include district application and transcripts; background check required. Application (non-licensed) available at www.ely.k12.mn.us or in the District Office. Send materials to: ISD #696, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731. Deadline for application: Tuesday, December 17, 2019.

Published in the Ely Timberjay, Dec. 6 & 13, 2019

**POSITION OPENING - ELY PUBLIC
SCHOOLS, ISD No. 696
Long Term Substitute 1.0 FTE
Elementary Teacher**

Starting approximately January 31, 2020 through March 27, 2020. Salary and fringes as per Master Agreement between ISD #696 and the Ely Education Association and School Board policy. Include district application, resume, transcripts, letters of recommendation and current Minnesota teaching license; background check required. Application available at www.ely.k12.mn.us, or at the District Office, 2nd floor of the Memorial Building; return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731. Application review to begin January 3, 2020; open until filled.

Published in the Ely Timberjay, Dec. 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2019

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Look _____
CHEARS _____
Provide _____
STEVIN _____
Snag _____
GENTAL _____
Duty _____
OCHRE _____

"How many more days of the boss's do we have left?"

TODAY'S WORD

EMPLOYMENT



OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Maintenance

Full-Time Maintenance/Plant Operations (Monday-Friday, on-call rotation) Possess, at a minimum, specialist boiler license and must become Second Class C Certified within 6 months of hire.

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PT Nursing Assistant

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PT Restorative Nursing Assistant

Imaging

Full Time Radiologic Tech (sign-on bonus)

Full Time Imaging Manager (sign-on bonus)

Rehabilitation

FT Physical Therapist (sign-on bonus)

Dietary

Casual Dietary Aide/Cook

(Wage starting at \$12.43/hr.)

Environmental Services

Casual Housekeeper & Laundry Aide

(Wage starting at \$12.43/hr.)

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More Info? Contact Human Resources

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humanresources@cookhospital.org

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

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REAL ESTATE

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

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COOK: 4 BR/2.5 bath, on double lot with detached double garage. Nice neighborhood, walking distance to anywhere in town. Wooded backyard view. Spacious kitchen with new double oven in 2018. New roof in 2017. \$180,000. 218-750-1247. Reasonable offers considered. 12/27V

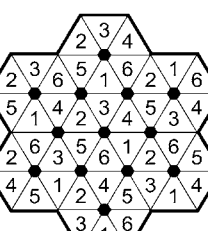
RENTAL

MOBILE HOME IN TOWER-with garage. Available immediately. \$300/month plus utilities. Call 'Good Ol' Days' at 218-753-6097 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.

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.

HELP WANTED

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS interested in Public Relations. Become acquainted with publicizing events online, newspapers and radio for the non-profit arts organization, Northwoods Friends of the Arts, in Cook. Call Judith at 218-750-4304. 1/10

SCRAMBLERS

solution
1. Search; 2. Invest;
3. Tangle; 4. Chore
Today's Word
VACATION

FUNERAL SERVICES

Range Funeral Home



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Answer

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

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

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.

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FAMOUS FOODIES

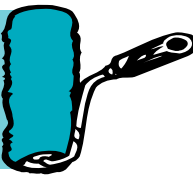
Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
1 Withdraw
7 Second-rate
13 Mexican meat dishes
20 Pro speaker
21 Start of a pirate chant
22 Minimal cash
23 Actor Kevin from Quebec?
25 Marsh gas, mainly
26 William who created Shrek
27 Lettuce type
28 Fierce wind
30 At any point
31 Willed gift
33 Astronaut Alan clearing hurdles?
36 It's scanned in a store, for short
39 "Blasted!"
40 Discontinued iPods
41 Restitution
42 "The Taking of — One Two Three" (1974 film)
44 Tie-ons for messy food
45 See 64-Across
46 Irate novelist Anne?
- 49** Lull comedian John to sleep?
55 Vast span
56 Per piece
57 City on Interstate 80
58 Original "Star Trek" captain
59 French artist Jean
60 Rye husk
62 Kagan on the Supreme Court
64 With 45-Across, politically
66 Gene stuff
67 Bewilder justice Warren?
70 Med. service
71 Sniff out
73 French artist Dufy
74 Healing balm
75 Fancy shooting marble
76 Slips a cog
77 Outfielder Ty
78 Author Sarah — Jewett
80 Key on a PC
81 Honor essayist Charles with jesting insults?
- 84** Singer Fiona behaving very badly?
88 Pilfer from
89 Fruit such as a pear
90 Enthusiastic French assent
91 Long, thin cigar
95 Even trades
97 Blast noise
99 Aier of "Conan"
100 Newswoman Ann being a coward?
102 Special Arctic light
104 One-named "Smooth Operator" singer
105 Met highlight
106 "It's —!" ("That's evil!")
107 Take on the role of
111 Thick-skinned fruits
114 Baseballer Mike with chicken pox?
117 Turned-up facial feature
118 United, with "up"
119 South Dakota city
- 120** Form-fitting swimwear
121 Litters about
122 Pants part
- DOWN**
1 Birds of fable
2 Part of QED
3 Support stick
4 Virtual sales
5 Longtime pickup model
6 "— tu" (Verdi 105-Across)
7 Jaded sorts
8 Foyer
9 Moby Dick's hunter
10 Pt. of SPCA
11 Japanese chiefs of old
12 Longtime cleanser brand
13 Actress Marisa
14 Hex ender?
15 Ran into
16 "Arrow of God" novelist Chinua —
17 Yeast, e.g.
18 Set of nine
19 Boat backs
24 Blind as —
29 Old hi-fi buys
32 Tennis unit
33 Be in sync
34 Stoolie, to Brits
35 Former car-financing co.
- 36** Happy times
37 Grammy-winning jazz/pop pianist
38 Nile queen
40 Heineken alternative
43 Solo in sci-fi
44 Paper Mate alternative
45 Prefix with chic
47 Heedless
48 Fled
49 Contact lens care brand
50 Sounding off
51 Alias letters
52 Disco, e.g.
53 School theater group
54 "Catch my drift?"
57 Flowers again
59 Deadly viper
60 U.K. media giant
61 Tire catcher
63 "— Grant"
64 Classic auto
65 Fore
68 Common rhyme scheme
69 Exultant joy
72 -ette relative
77 Hack's auto
79 Blvd., e.g.
80 Prefix with dermis
- 82** Small band
83 MGM mogul Marcus
84 Long, strong and fibrous
85 Taboo
86 Baked with a cheese topping
87 "— for Evidence" (Sue Grafton book)
89 Rampart part
91 PC admin people
92 Get misty-eyed
93 "Ripe" period
94 Actress Heady
95 South, in Lima
96 Bracelet holders
97 Assembles
98 Composer Thomas
101 Cartons
102 Cockeyed
103 Ranch units
106 Tiptop
108 Ripped
109 Halo, for one
110 Flower part
112 Ares, for one
113 That, in Lima
115 Spike of corn
116 Print quality abbr.

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Super Crossword

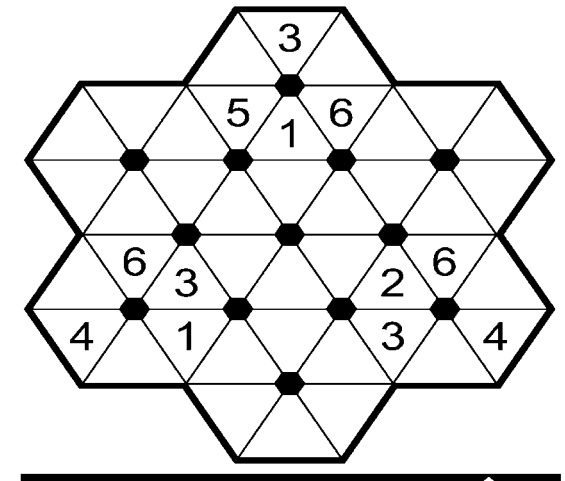
Answers

R	E	C	E	D	E	C	L	A	S	S	B	T	A	M	A	L	E	S	
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D	E	T	E	C	T	R	A	O	U	L	A	L	O	E	T	A	W		
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S	P	E	E	D	O	S	S	T	R	E	W	S	I	N	S	E	A	M	

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆
◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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#134629 LAKE VERMILION 3 BR, 2 BA cabin on 36 Island, Frazer Bay. 3 acres, 650 ft lksh w/ stunning point peninsula. Capture southern breezes and Vermilion sunsets. Swimming area, sold furnished. **PRICE REDUCED! \$339,000**

#138670 TOGO 2 BR, 3/4 BA cabin on 22.5 acres. Wood interior, open kit/LR w/ vaulted ceiling and small loft. Property is a mix of open and wooded areas. Includes driveway, electric holding tank and storage shed. **\$59,500**

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