

**Inside:** Ely looks at tiny houses...See /3 Winter sports roundup... See /1B Public access to data...See /3B

LCCMR accepts amendment to harbor grant that went awry



**CITY FINANCES** 

# Tower dodges major financial bullet

Managing Editor

TOWER - City officials here have managed to avoid a potential financial calamity. This past Thursday, members of the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources, or LCCMR, voted unanimously to accept an unprec-

edented retroactive amendment to a 2016 trails grant to the city of Tower, which will allow the city to receive \$324,236 in grant funds that would have otherwise been forfeited.

An additional \$19,467 from a 2017 grant proposal may be

EDITORIAL

Tower's turn-around Page 4

forthcoming depending on legislative action later this year. The city still has to submit a final grant report that aligns with the

language in the amendment, but that should be done shortly.

The city already expended the funds for work for a walkway, lighting and a floating dock installed at the harbor in the spring of 2019. But because that work was not done according to the work plan that the LCCMR had originally approved, state officials had blocked reimbursement of the funds. Former clerk-treasurer Linda Keith had failed to submit the required

See...TOWER pg. 9

### **FUNDING**

### **Broadband** grants awarded

Morcom Township, Nett Lake, Vermilion Reservation projects to move forward

by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editorw

REGIONAL- Two area broadband projects, one serving the Bois Forte Reservation, and another serving Morcom Township as part of a broader initiative involving Paul Bunyan Communications, were among 30 projects awarded state funding from the Border-to-Border grant program.

Both projects have also received grant funding from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation. Fewer than half the projects that submitted funding requests were successful in this round.

"This is big news for a small township today," said Morcom Township Clerk Sasha Lehto. "This means our project can move ahead. We are very excited." Lehto was instrumental to getting their township's application for funding completed. The township has a \$10,000 local match for the project, a big commitment from a rural township, she said.

See...GRANTS pg. 8

### TRADITIONAL FUN



# by JODI SUMMIT

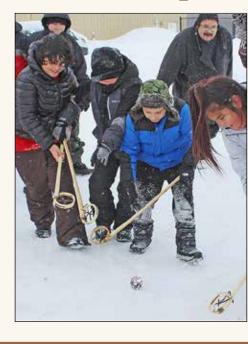
VERMILION RESERVATION-Excited voices echoed across the snowy landscape last Sunday as both young and old gathered here for the "Winter Indigenous Games."

Led by ISD 706 Indian Ed Director Teresa Knife Chief and other adult volunteers from both Bois Forte and the Virginia Schools Indian Education Program, children and adults alike learned a variety of outdoor games that were traditionally played during the

winter months.

See...GAMES pg. 9

Area children and adults learned a variety of outdoor activities last Sunday at the Winter Indigenous Games held on the Vermilion Reservation. photos by J. Summit



**ELECTION 2020** 

### Early voting under way across state

Presidential primary set for March 3

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

REGIONAL — While much of the focus of the Democratic presidential campaign remains on the early contests in Iowa and New Hampshire, the first votes of this presidential race have already been cast - right here in Minnesota.

Early voting in Minnesota's new presidential primary opened on Jan. 17, and thousands of ballots were cast in the opening hours, weeks ahead of the March 3 presidential primary. It's the first time that Minnesotans have the opportunity to vote in a presidential primary since 1992.

Residents of area cities can take advantage of early voting Monday through Friday at their city hall, during regular office hours right up until the March 3 primary election. Most rural residents will need to complete an absentee ballot application to vote early, which they can obtain online at mnvotes.org, which connects you with the correct page on the website of the Minnesota Secretary of State. Rural residents can also cast ballots in person at the county auditor's office in Virginia or at the county courthouse in

Unlike past elections in Minnesota, participants in this year's presidential primary will need to declare their party preference. Instead of one ballot that contains all of the candidates, each party participating in the presidential primary will have their own

See...ELECTION pg. 9

POLYMET PROJECT

### Former official: Regulators wanted to avoid 'press' over critiques

by WALKER ORENSTEIN

MINNPOST

REGIONAL- A former federal official testified in court on Tuesday that state regulators asked his office to shield criti-

cism of a key water permit for

the PolyMet copper-nickel mine

in part to avoid news coverage. Kevin Pierard, who

oversaw the permit at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, said state officials asked him to submit concerns after a public comment period because those critiques would MORE COVERAGE

PolyMet appeals Page 8

duplicate issues raised by environmental groups — but also because they would "create a good deal of press."

Pierard was the first witness at a hearing in Ramsey County District Court over whether the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency broke with standard practice to keep EPA criticism on a draft permit governing water pollution out of public

record. It's one of several ongoing legal challenges to PolyMet Mining's \$1 billion project near Hoyt Lakes.

In this case, the MPCA has said it was operating nor-

See...POLYMET pg. 8



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**2** January 24, 2020 TIMBERJAY Newspapers

### COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

### Kristen Vake to speak at Sisu Heritage annual meeting, Feb. 23

EMBARRASS- Sisu Heritage, Inc. will hold its annual meeting at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23 at Embarrass Town Hall. The featured speaker is Kristen Vake, anchor, reporter and producer at CBS 3 News in Duluth. Vake will speak about her experience growing up on the Iron Range, the importance of mining in her life, and her Eye on Mining report

In addition to this wonderful speaker, the annual meeting is an opportunity to hear the president's report and financial report, approve new board members, learn about 2020's upcoming events and projects, socialize with fellow Sisu members over coffee an' - and even win a door prize.

Sisu members are encouraged to attend. All community members are invited to join them for the afternoon. The meeting is a chance to learn about the historical preservation work Sisu Heritage is doing and how to support it. Memberships are just

Embarrass Town Hall is located at 7503 Levander Rd. Call 218-984-3024 with any ques-

#### Called to Our Better Selves, Jan. 26

VIRGINIA- On Sunday, Jan. 26, at 10:30 a.m. Rev. Karen Gustafson will discuss "Called to Our Better Selves" at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church. As the 2020 election looms large we are faced with the ever-increasing temptation to jump into the rhetorical quagmire that presents itself at every turn. What does our Unitarian Universalist tradition teach us that might inform a measured and constructive response? Rev. Gustafson is Minister Emeritus of the UU Congregation in Duluth. The church is located at 230 7th St. S in Virginia and the building is handicap accessible.

#### Ruby's Pantry, Jan. 25

BABBITT- Ruby's Pantry food distribution will be held at the Babbitt Municipal Center, 71 South Drive in Babbitt, on Saturday, Jan. 25 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Registration begins at 9 a.m. A \$20 cash donation buys an abundance of food. There are no income or residency guidelines. Please bring two large boxes or baskets. Ruby's Pantry is sponsored by St. Pius X Catholic Church. Volunteers are always welcome.

### Vermilion Dream Quilters meet on Thursday, Feb. 6

TOWER- Vermilion Dream Quilters meet on Thursday, Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m at St. Martin's Catholic Church Social Hall in Tower. At this meeting our program will be "One Block Wonder" Quilt design. Please bring any "One Block Wonder" quilts to share. The program will be presented by Diane Frerichs.

In addition, we look forward to seeing every-

one's Show and Tell items.

Hostesses are Dede Yapel and Joyce Swanson. Our members are from throughout the Iron Range. We encourage, instruct and share tips with each other. Guests and visitors interested in quilting and creative sewing are welcome. For more information, please contact Corrine Hill in Tower at 218-753-4600.



### **Laskiainen set for Jan. 31 – Feb. 2**

Monroe Crossing to perform on Sunday, Feb. 2



PALO- Head out for some classic Finlander fun at the 83rd annual Laskiainen at the Loon Lake Community Center in Palo. The Finnish sliding festival begins Friday, Jan. 31 with the Queen Coronation at 6:30 p.m. with cake and coffee an' to follow. Sledding will be both days. Please bring your own toboggan-style (plastic or wood) sleds. No saucers or sleds with runners are allowed. Slide at your own risk. The Loon Lake Community Center address is 3816 Hwy. 100 in Aurora.

Saturday begins early with a kropsu (baked pancake) breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Artisans, demonstrators, tori (marketplace), bakery, museum, fry bread, and the old co-op theatre will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sleigh/carriage rides and dog sled rides will be free and available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A moijakka (beef stew) lunch or taco in a bag will be served from 12-4 p.m. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., the gym will hold girls and boys basketball games. The "Old Timers" basketball game will be at 6 p.m. At 7:30 p.m., watch the Laskiainen Lakers basketball game – there will be door prizes!

On Sunday, a piggies and pancake breakfast will be served from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. An Ecumenical Church Service will be held at 10 a.m. Artisans, demonstrators, tori (marketplace), bakery, museum, fry bread, and the old co-op theatre will be open from 9

a.m. to 4 p.m. Sleigh/carriage rides and dog sled rides will be free and available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pea soup dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Introduction of the Royal Court will be at 1:15 p.m. and Monroe Crossing will play at 1:30 p.m. Tickets for the band are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

Monroe Crossing is a worldclass bluegrass band that dazzles audiences with an electrifying blend of classic bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, and heartfelt originals. Their airtight harmonies, razor sharp arrangements, and on-stage rapport make them audience favorites across the United States and Canada.

COOK

### Sarah Maki exhibit opens Feb. 7 at NWFA

COOK-Visit and view the colorful images beneath the sheer surface at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery from Feb. 6 to Feb. 28, when Sarah Maki will have her artwork on display in an exhibit called "Surface Work". A public reception with refreshments will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 7.

Sarah Maki is originally from Cook where she took an interest in art at an early age. The daughter of now-retired Cook High School art teacher Ron Maki and Michele Maki, she went on to pursue a bachelor's degree in studio art and history and an MFA degree in painting. She is an associate dean of students at Gallatin College at Montana State University.

In the featured paintings in this

exhibit, Sarah continues to explore her interest in translucency and surfaces as found in the natural world, including the ice and snow of northern Minnesota. The large paintings are composed of mixed media on acrylic paint.

The NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook is open Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. NWFA offers support for the arts and artists in all forms and displays and sells art for forty artists year-round. Visit the website at nwfamn.org, look the gallery up on Facebook or Instagram, or email nwfamn.org@gmail.com for more information.



Sarah Maki

### Ely Winter Festival Medallion Hunt begins on Feb. 7

ELY- As part of the 2020 Ely Winter Festival, the Ely Chamber of Commerce Events and Promotions Committee will host the fourth annual Ely Northwoods Medallion Hunt. This is an annual event with a different Northwoods theme each year.

There will be a total of ten clues to lead hunters to the medallion. They will be released at 10 a.m. each day, starting on Friday, Feb. 7, with the final clue posted on Sunday, Feb. 16. The clues will be posted at the Chamber of Commerce building at 1600 E Sheridan St., on our website page at www.ely.org/medallionhunt, on the Ely Chamber of Commerce Facebook page, and at participating Ely businesses. WELY will also read the clue during their morning show.

The first one to find the medallion will win \$500 in Chamber Bucks, but there are even more chances to win.

Each participating Ely business will also have Northwoods Medallion Hunt commemorative wooden nickels. For every ten wooden nickels turned in at the Chamber of Commerce, you will receive an entry form for a drawing for four prizes: first place - \$100 Chamber Bucks, second place - \$75 Chamber

Bucks, third place - \$50 Chamber Bucks, and fourth place - \$25 Chamber

Bucks. No purchase is necessary. Visit participating merchants often to collect a coin; one coin per person at each business per day. There is no limit to the number of days you can visit each store, so you can collect wooden nickels galore to turn in for an entry form for the drawings. Just remember it takes ten wooden nickels to get an entry for the drawing. Why not collect eleven wooden nickels, keep one for the start of your collection and turn in the other ten for an entry into the drawing?

All wooden nickels must be redeemed at the Chamber office by 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 17.

For more information about this event, please visit www.ely.org/medallionhunt.

"I'm proud to be part of this excellent program," said Martin Lepak. "It provides absolutely essential transportation for a whole lot of people in Northeast Minnesota."



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ST. LOUIS COUNTY

### **Snowplow drivers settle with Saint Louis County**

REGIONAL - County snowplow drivers were back on the job on Wednesday after members of the 168-member union representing drivers voted unanimously to accept a new offer from St. Louis County. The decision ended a week-long strike by Teamsters Local 320 that came just in advance of a major snowfall and left many county roads unplowed in the aftermath of the storm.

The county did use supervisors and other county employees to partially fill in for the striking workers, but the number of replacement drivers was only about a third as many as were needed in the wake of the weekend snowstorm.

"We are thankful to have reached this agreement and to welcome our employees back to work," said Kevin Gray, St. Louis County administrator.

"Both sides worked very hard to get to this point. This has been a challenging time for all of us. We have always recognized the hard work and important contributions of these employees, and our focus now is to move forward again as a team."

According to a St. Louis County statement, the tentative agreement is similar to previous offers, including a three-year contract through 2022, with base wage increases of 2 percent plus an additional \$0.55 cents per hour in 2020, 2.25 percent in 2021, and 2.25 percent in 2022. Also included is a higher starting wage rate (nearly 4 percent higher) for new equipment operators, plus other revisions to wage schedules that allow employees to accelerate through the salary ranges faster. This means most employees, over the three-year period, will receive

wage increases of 10.5 to 12.5 percent, as well as any scheduled step increases, which average 3.8 percent.

County negotiators also agreed to the union's request to allow the bargaining unit to choose to leave the county's self-insured health plan in the future with an employer contribution up to the amount provided to employees covered by the county plan.

While the proposed agreement does not include any changes to the sick leave accrual cap, as originally requested by the union, it does include enhanced funding with a health savings account option, for the Teamsters health insurance plan, should they elect to leave the county plan. The total cost for this provision will not exceed what the county contributes for employees in its own plan but



provides additional flexibility for the union.

In addition, drivers will receive one additional permanent personal leave day per year beginning in 2021, as a result of the new contract.

The labor impasse was resolved after about 15 hours of mediation between county and union representatives, with assistance from the state Bureau of Mediation Services.

Upon completion of legal review by both parties, the county board is expected to ratify the contract by the end of February. The contract will be retroactive to January 1, 2020.

#### CITY OF ELY

# Ely city council considers 'tiny houses' in the city

by KEITH VANDERVORT

ELY - Council members here are reluctant to authorize the sale of a vacant city lot for the purpose of allowing a "tiny house" to be installed on the site. Because current city zoning does not allow a house smaller than 760 square feet in the city limits, council members Tuesday night forwarded the request to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review and a possible change in the ordinance.

City resident Amanda

Block is interested in purchasing the vacant lot at 1041 East Washington Street and wants to install a tiny house that is approximately 200-300-squarefeet in size.

"This property is ideal since it is in close proximity to my job location, as well as in close proximity to friends, Whiteside Park and downtown Ely," she wrote in a letter to the council. "I have looked at other properties, but this property seems to be the best fit for my family needs and aspirations."

Block listed several motives for her "drastic down-sizing" decision, including the desire to simplify her family's life."I am a single mom and work full time, and because we love the community experience here, we spend very little time enjoying our home," she said. "Weekends are spent playing catch-up to all the chores that didn't get completed during the week. Simply put, we have too much stuff."

The example of the tiny house she is looking to buy and move onto the city lot is 26 feet in length with 210 square feet on the main floor and 145 square feet of sleeping loft above. The structure weighs approximately 12,000 pounds and would be towed from a manufacturer in Colorado Springs, Colo.

"I would like to be clear that in no way am I looking to evade our civic duty of paying our fair share of property taxes," she said. Block said she has one child in the Ely school system and a second child will soon be in school. "We want to spend more time and money in our community having experiences. Freeing up my finances would allow me to spread the wealth in our local eateries, shops,

church, school and shared community amenities."

Council member Paul Kess noted that the city's current zoning does not allow such a small structure. "With the trends in housing going to that size, I move that we send this to P and Z and ask them to examine this issue," he said. "Hopefully we can come to some support for this tiny house, rather than dismiss this (request) out of hand."

Kess added that while the city's zoning law allows for structures as small as 760 square feet, many existing structures

are not that size. "This zoning was put in place at a time when there was a concern that we would have trailer houses in town," he said. "With the changing market, we should re-examine the zoning code."

Council member Ryan Callen said P and Z Commission members have already had discussions about tiny houses. "We are still working on it," he said.

Council member Jerome Debeltz suggested the property owner build a

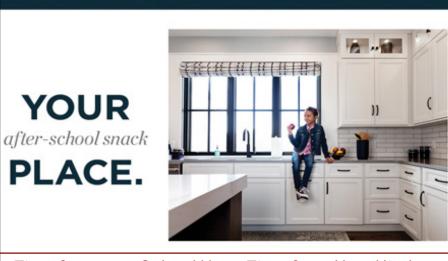
See COUNCIL...pg. 5



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**January 24, 2020** TIMBERJAY Newspapers

# OPINION

OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;"

"CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW... ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

### Editorial

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

### **Tower's turnaround**

Approval of the LCCMR funding a sign that city hall is recovering

Residents of the city of Tower owe a debt of gratitude to a number of individuals whose hard work saved the city from an unprecedented financial crisis. As we report this week, the mismanagement of the harbor trails grant by the former city clerk-treasurer and the complete lack of oversight of her activities by the former city council, had left the city facing a catastrophic situation as early as March when existing city funds would have likely run dry, leaving the city unable to fund basic operations.

At risk was not just the \$120,000 in engineering costs that the city was forced to pay from its own funds after the former clerk-treasurer failed to account for those costs when bidding the project, but yet another \$343,000 in grant funds that officials with the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources, or LCCMR, had withheld once they understood the extent of the mismanagement and outright dishonesty surrounding the city's prior handling of the project. Thankfully, a number of individuals took the steps necessary to restore the LCCMR's confidence in the city. Nancy Larson, in particular, spent countless hours gathering information and laying out in great detail for state officials exactly how this project went awry and determining how best the city could still meet the goals of the project. In doing so, Larson made it possible for the LCCMR to get to "yes" and release \$324,000 in state funds that they had previously suspended. An additional \$19,000 is slated to be released pending additional legislative approval.

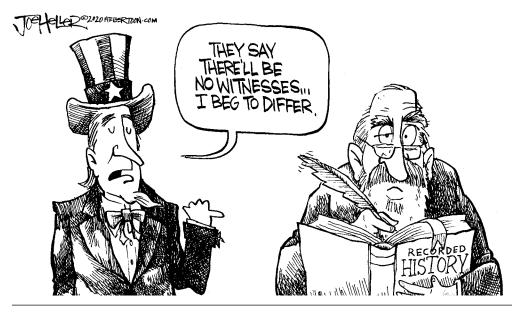
The current city council also deserves credit. Had they not taken action back in June to suspend the former clerk-treasurer, there is no chance that the LCCMR would have approved the release of these funds. The former clerk-treasurer had not only made major alterations to the project without seeking prior LCCMR authorization, as required, she had repeatedly misled state officials by submitting false reports about the status and nature of the work being done at the harbor. LCCMR officials cited those inconsistencies, which they had confirmed through their own investigation, during last week's LCCMR board meeting.

Interim city clerk Ann Lamppa also spent considerable time tracking down the documents Larson used to make her report to the state, while new city clerk-treasurer Victoria Ranua made the case in person to the LCCMR board when they met recently in St. Paul. Ranua's prior experience managing major LCCMR grants undoubtedly helped increase the board's confidence that the city is now in capable hands and that future grants will be managed with transparency and professionalism.

None of this Herculean effort should have been necessary. Had the former city council engaged in proper oversight on this project, they would have known well in advance that the project had run off the tracks. That's because the Timberjay reported on the exact discrepancies between the work plan approved by the LCCMR and the project that the council put out on bid, as well as the need for the city to do a project amendment to obtain authorization for the changes.

Our initial story, titled "Questions remain over handling of harbor trail bid", was published on Oct. 4, 2018, in plenty of time for city officials to act. Former city officials either didn't read the story or chose to dismiss it as "fake news" as they did with much of the critical— and accurate - reporting that the Timberjay undertook during the troubled prior administration. Rather than attacking the messenger, as city officials did almost continuously for more than two years, they should have attacked the problem. Instead, they ignored it.

The latest action by the LCCMR is encouraging, not only because it provides a critically-important financial lifeline, but because it points to the progress that's been made in getting the city itself back on track. While there's still plenty of work to do after five years of mismanagement, city officials have finally turned the corner and are heading in the right direction.



### Letters from Readers

### MAGA is costly for the environment and taxpayers

BoththePolyMetandTwin Metals mines are really about their location - at the top of the headwaters for two watersheds. One direction leads to Hudson Bay, the other through the Great Lakes. Both plants promise to pollute both watersheds with hydrochloric and sulfuric acid.

Neither has any likelihood of being economically viable over the long term. The actual ore concentration is less than one-half of one percent. What they are really doing is buying the right to pollute everything downstream. Once the value of that right is realized, it will have to be bought back. That's where the real value of these 'mines" lies.

Meanwhile, Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump are living in a mansion in Washington, D.C. owned by one of the mining company

This MAGA business is really expensive - for the rest

**David Porter** Minneapolis

### Why no Tower Area **Ambulance Service** Business Plan?

Timberjay coverage of the Tower Area Ambulance Service at last week's City Council meeting went like

"Others on the council argued for a more comprehensive analysis, such as a business plan, but clerk-treasurer Ranua said that city hall currently lacks the capacity to develop a more comprehensive look at the status of the ambulance service unless a third-party reviewer is brought in to conduct the analysis. She also questioned the value of conducting a forensic audit of the ambulance spending, to determine where surplus ambulance funds from prior years were spent. 'We pretty much know that the community spent it on something else,

so in the end, what does it get you to have that information?' Mayor Kringstad appeared to agree, noting that the fund was unlikely to be rebuilt in either case given the city's current financial straits."

This kind of decisionmaking isn't much of a trust builder. First, note that the city's auditor stated at the April 12, 2019, council meeting that the Ambulance account contained \$883,000. That's not chicken feed that's missing. And if the city is incapable of coming up with a TAAS business plan, that's probably because their new pie-in-the-sky non-emergency hospital-to-hospital transfer business is just that: pie-in-the-sky. If this new business is to be so lucrative, why is the city asking the townships to double the ambulance purchase subsidy to pay for new ambulances that will be prematurely worn out crisscrossing the state, not involved in service area emergency care, but supposedly rolling in the dough for the city?

Townships need to beware. My guess is that the first new TAAS agreement offered by the city won't be much. We need to keep in mind that a comprehensive, strongly written agreement is what's needed to move forward and to rebuild squandered trust. And it wouldn't hurt to at least get a "thank you" for the money that the city transferred out of the ambulance fund for unrelated city projects.

> Lee Peterson **Greenwood Township**

### Power and money have long dominated Minnesota resources

Many thanks for re-publishing the recent piece by William Millikan entitled "How Turn-of-the-Century Lumber Speculation Destroyed the Bois Forte Ojibwe Homeland," taken from MINNPOST and MNopedia. Some of us know Mr. Millikan as the author of works on Minnesota labor history, including his book, "A Union Against Unions: The Minneapolis Citizens Alliance and its Fight Against Organized Labor, 1903-1947". Minnesota Historical Society, 2001. It's safe to say that his style of history breaks a bit more ground and lets in more light and oxygen than more conventional accounts of early Minnesota, e.g., William Watts Folwell's well-known four-volume work from 1930.

The current article about timberland acquisition by timber speculators and the consequent destruction of land upon which Bois Forte still retained resource rights after giving up rights of ownership, hints at the potential flavor of another Minnesota history book that Mr. Millikan is currently working on: "Stealing a State, the American Way.'

In Minnesota it was fairly easy during the 19th and early 20th century for the flour, lumber, and mineral magnates, among others, to have their way, resource-wise, with the native peoples, homesteaders, and federal/state agencies – such as they were. Those with money, power, and persistence usually prevailed with no small assistance from Congress and the state legislative bodies. A reflection of this was the many iterations over time of the Homestead Act, the Timber & Stone Act, and the mineral laws of the 1870s and beyond. When the powerful didn't like unfavorable laws, they got them changed by their cohorts in the legislature or simply ignored them. e.g., hiring young city folks known as entrymen, entrywomen, false homesteaders, or timber-squatters to make a pretense of homesteading in order to secure favorable pine-lands and then convey their patent (deed) to the lumber outfit so they could commence logging.

The rush for white pine is long over, but it's still difficult to overcome money, power, and persistence wherever there are valuable resources to grab from public lands, along with politicians as accessories to the heist. It is well that some historians add a horse or two and set their plowshares deep.

Ron Brodigan Sand Lake

### Relishing the high-energy adventures of boyhood

"Watch out window, watch out coffee. I shot you, fan! Pew, pew, pew, pew. Oh, I crashed. I died." No, this isn't a spy movie. This excitement is happening in my living room and my two-yearold, Edwin, is in the thicket of some wild shoot out. He's brandishing a RC car controller as his weapon.



I'd be the parent of a gun-slinging toddler. I didn't know what to expect when I learned I would be the mother of a boy. "What am I going to do with a boy?!" I asked my husband. Well, I guess here's my answer. I just have to watch him shoot

I never thought

things and bounce off the fur-

niture. Don't ask me where he learned all this, I certainly didn't teach him. We don't even own guns! I think it started about six months ago when he would point his finger at people and zap them. I thought he was casting spells Sabrina-Spellman style and that was pretty cute, but I think I misinterpreted. This is all probably a result of his dad watching James Bond and whatever else weirdo Mystery Science Theatre movies

while Ed's around. Not only does Ed rival John Wick's assassin skills, Ed is a hard worker, too. His favorite activity in the world is shoveling. "Shovel, shovel," though when he says it, it sounds more like "shabul." He only just recently learned how to shovel the right way, that is, taking the snow from the paths and putting it into the snowbanks. Before, he would just kind of throw any snow around. He's getting really good at it now though. He even

shoveled the whole path from our back door to the woodshed. Idon't think he even understands that snow is for playing in. I've tried to build him a snowman, I've tried to throw snowballs, I'll pull him around on a sled, but more than anything he just loves his shovel. I guess I'll be thankful and hope his work ethic sticks. When I was pregnant, a

woman asked me whether I was having a boy or girl, when

See EDWIN...pg. 5

### Trump is playing on people's fears

Our President is playing on the fears of people in this country. He continues to play the immigrant and refugee card to supporters to gain votes. I have always believed he took his instructions from a playbook written by a man who did the same thing back in the thirties. This man was Hitler and he convinced millions of people that the problems of the world were caused by the Jews. Look where that went. Trump's executive order requiring states and counties to vote on allowing refugees is just another tool of creating unfounded fear and hate. He's taking his cue from Hitler's playbook. One online commenter on the *Timberjay's* recent editorial stated: "Trump's executive order gives county residents more of a voice in the decision-making process. That is what America is about." That is true but aren't we a country of refugees? Another commenter posted "One of Trump's divorced wives always said Trump's favorite book by his bedside was not the Bible but a book written by Hitler on how to give speeches and influence people." To the supporters of Trump, you wouldn't be here if your ancestors were turned away when they came to this country because they wanted a better life away from tyranny.

came to America from another country to better themselves. His current wife came here to better herself! Trump helped her to get citizenship! Remember what is inscribed on Lady Liberty. "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore, Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Brian LaFrenier **Embarrass** 

### Impeach Trump or dictatorship could be our future

The Impeachment Process of the U.S. President is supposed to proceed in this manner. First, the House of Representatives generates, votes and then delivers one or more Articles of Impeachment to the Senate for a Trial. (Hopefully fair.) If twothirds of the Senators agree to accept one or more as guilt, the President is removed from office.

The key word here is that the Senate conducts a Trial. Please tell that to Mitch McConnell! Have you ever heard of a Trial that has "no witnesses"? Mitch and his cohorts are planning to do this, if they possibly can. How ridiculous and unfair would that be? All law scholars appearing on TV recently have emphatically stated that there has never been a fair trial in our nation's

history (democracy) that has "no witnesses" to offer testimony before a judgment is rendered.

Ask yourself these questions. If you were charged with some wrongdoing, criminal or not, wouldn't you provide witnesses who could exonerate you to dismiss the charges, if you knew you were innocent? Why doesn't President Trump bring forth Mulvaney, Guiliani, Bolton, and Secretary of State Pompeo to testify under oath in the Senate to prove his innocence? Why did the President lock up important documents, transcripts, phone call conversation tapes, and emails that show exactly what took place with the Ukrainian President, unless of course they were incriminating? Most of us would agree that when you block witnesses and conceal pertinent information it's a sure sign of guilt.

My big worry now is whether or not a dictatorship is right around the corner. When our elected officials take oaths of office to conduct a fair and impartial Trial and then don't do it, being blindly misled, we're in big trouble. The swamp has turned into quicks and and Trump is holding the rope. I don't want my kids and grandkids or anyone else to have to live under a dictatorship like they do in Russia, North Korea, China, and back in Hitler's Germany.

I'm willing to speak out now, not worrying about what it may do to the bottom line in my business. This is more important! Also, a great economy means "squat" to me if our democracy has to suffer for it. Our nation is at the tipping point now so it's up to our Senators to do what's right, adhering to their oaths of office by not being unjustly influenced in doing the jobs they were elected to do.

**Daryl Lamppa Tower** 

### Corporate investors are changing focus

Wall Street investment advisors traditionally seek the highest monetary return on investments. It is a highly competitive market. Their clients consist of individuals, trusts, endowments, pensions, insurance portfolios and other institutions.

Public opinion is questioning the potential damage to our planet if corporations consider only their stockholders' financial returns. In a major shift in policy, Larry Fink, CEO of BlackRock, recently wrote, "Climate change has become a defining factor in companies' long-term prospects. Awareness is rapidly changing, and I believe we are on the edge of a fundamental reshaping of finance."

This is an extraordinary pronouncement in the financial world by an executive of a company that manages more than seven trillion dollars of investments, the planet's largest asset manager. Because fund managers purchase stocks, they

have voting power on corporate issues and can, and do, make their views known to corporate directors and executive officers. They are listened to for the reason who the investors are the people that own and sustain the company.

Many funds are operated by managers who have full discretion for buying and selling all the stocks in the portfolio. A number of "green funds" already exist that only make investments in stocks that represent environmental, social and governance-optimized funds in place of funds solely focused on return on investment.

BlackRock is a member of Climate Action 100+, a group of more than 370 investment managers with a total combined 41 trillion dollars in assets that can pressure greenhouse gas emitters to reform. More and more large corporations are supporting the transition to a carbon-free economy and have committed to obtaining energy of 100percent renewable origin. This change is being led by a group of companies that includes Apple, Facebook, Google and Ikea.

This shift in focus of Wall Street values represents its biggest change since its inception 228 years ago (other than finally allowing women on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange 151 years after its founding).

**Gerry Snyder** Ely

### **EDWIN** ... Continued from page 4

I responded it was a boy she said, "Oh, you'll make a great boy mom!" For a long time, I didn't understand what she meant and I thought it was a funny thing to say. But now that I get to watch my son, who is the epitome of a boy, I see what she means. It's go-go-go, it's a lot of helping, a lot of trucks, a

President Trump's ancestors

lot of dinosaurs, a lot of climbing, running, learning, reading, and playing. It's frogs and snails and puppy dog tails, because that's what little boys are

Four months ago I also became the mother of a little girl who my husband and I named Dot. We have yet to see what her

personality will be (aside from laid-back, squeaky, and smiley) but whatever she brings to the table, I feel like Ed's high energy routines have built my parenting endurance and have helped me be prepared for whatever comes next. I hope it's girly things like hair braiding, tea parties, and clapping games but

honestly I'm looking forward to the Nerf wars and squirt guns, too.

**Edwin poses with his** handy shovel after shuffling the snow around.

photo by S.Ukkola



### **COUNCIL...**Continued from page 3

garage that is big enough to fulfill the minimum square-foot requirement.

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski said that addressing the new living trend has come up in the past and it can be difficult to manage within the existing city zoning code. "Obviously, you can apply for a variance, but to allow for a variance you need a specific reason," he said. He added that side-wall dimensions of 22 feet and minimum square footage of 760 feet are "hard and fast rules" that don't allow variances.

"This issue is beyond just allowing a variance," Langowski said. "I think it is appropriate for the council to give some direction and to have Planning and Zoning look at the code.'

Any changes to the city's building code would come through the city attorney and the council and would include public hearings.

Mayor Chuck Novak said the issue was discussed in the Projects

Committee. "There were no negative comments about this from that committee, just questions,"

Council member Al Forsman said he looks at zoning from the perspective, "What do I want next to my house?" he asked. "It would be nice to know what people think about this. I have no reason to be against this."

### Plow truck

purchase Council members reluctantly agreed to purchase a new city plow truck from an out-of-town auto dealer. Two bids were received for the public works department purchase that was budgeted for \$65,000. The lowest bid was recommended for approval.

Ely's lone auto dealer, Mike Motors, offered a 2019 Dodge 5500 for \$69,878. Lundgren's, of Eveleth, offered a 2020 FordF-550 for \$63,193.52. The 10-percent price difference convinced council members to spend taxpayers' money out of town for the purchase.

Forsman injected a bit of humor into the discussion. "The local bid was 10.6 percent higher but, of course, a Dodge is 20

times better than a Ford." service," she said.

Novak reminded her that public works employees service all the city's vehicles. "We have our own mechanics," he said.

chase the Ford from Lundgren's was passed

Novak put the price difference into perspective. "That much money is a city block of sidewalk on both sides," he said. "This is taxpayer money."

Debeltz said, "If the bids were closer, we could buy local." Callen agreed.

Council member Angela Campbell said that service and repairs to the truck would require two drivers and the extra expense of traveling to the out-of-town dealer. "Maybe we could save over the long run by having our local dealer do the

The motion to pur-



An example of a tiny house that could end up in Ely. submitted photo

unanimously.

#### Other business In other action, the

➤ Approved council and staff to attend the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Legislative Action Day on March 11 in St. Paul.

➤ Approved a refund check to Kuehl's Logging for \$5,232.25 for the completed 2015 timber sale contract due to poor market conditions and less-than estimated harvest.

➤ Awarded the archeological study for the Hidden Valley federal grant requirement to Duluth Archeological Center for \$1,906.40.

➤ Approved a maple syrup tapping request from

Cody Perking for trees on his James Street property.

Approved a Commercial Renovation Loan for E Sheridan Properties for \$17,500 for insulation, wiring and rough-in plumbing.

### lai Ji Quan



Moving for Better Balance Class offered by Northwoods Partners

### Class Begins On

Tuesday, February 4th 10 - 11 am Ely Recreational Center - 1034 Main Street Classes are Tuesday & Thursday for 12 weeks



to REGISTER

### **Ely Community Health Center**

Open Every Thursday 5:30-7 p.m.

Providing NO COST basic healthcare and referrals 111 S 4th Ave E, Ely Volunteer opportunities also available

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### TOWER-SOUDAN LAKE VERMILION EVENTS BOARD



### Eight teams squared off in this year's Finlander Bocce Ball Tournament

<u>by Stephanie</u> Ukkola

SOUDAN- On Saturday, the bocce ball players of Tower-Soudan again showed their sisu, coming out to play in the middle of a snowstorm. Tower reported eight inches of snowfall over the weekend, though by the time the games got started the storm had slowed to flurries. The heavy snow that covered the skating rink proved handy, making nice tall banks for the icy lanes.

Last year, players braved sub-zero temperatures.

The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board hosts the event, now in its third year. Many of the players have played in years past, but a few new faces showed up as well. Good Ol' Days served sloppy Joes and beverages inside the warming shack.

Eight teams, each with two men and two women, played out a full day of Finlander Bocce Ball at the Soudan Skating Rink. Despite event organizers' original hopes to play on the Tower harbor, the games were held at the skating rink, due to the poor condition of ice at the

"It was a fun day," said organizer Julie Johnson, "something for people to do. Ideally, we'd like to play at the harbor,

but the Soudan rink was nice." The prizes are a 100-percent payout from registration





fees. This year's champs were Scott Marwick, Nick Bjorgo, Tiana Rusczak, and Sarah (no last name given) splitting

\$105. Second place went to Clayton Pratt, Julie Johnson, Detton Koski, and Kassie Bjorgo, winning \$90. Third-place

Letters from Readers





team was Jim and Jill Berg, Bo Sandstrom, and Paige Miller, winning \$75, and fourth place was Ross and Maureen Swan-

son, Fred and Jill (no last name given), winning \$50.

## Cook **VFW**

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Lic. 00390

Sunday FREE Pool

Thursday Bingo Early Bird 6 p.m.

Progressive Prizes

Friday 4:30-7 p.m.

Hamburger Special

Take-Out 666-0500

### What will the city do with all the snow?

Kudos to our City of Tower Maintenance staff for their dedicated efforts in keeping our city streets plowed and passable and for the most part clear of snow. I do not have data at hand that shows this winter's snowfall to date compared historically to years past, but I suspect that we are well ahead of normal snowfall levels through mid-January.

This poses a dilemma for the coming weeks and months - our snowiest months are still ahead of us. What will the city do with the current piles of snow on our

street corners, and where will the

probable substantial snow yet

to come go? There are various

city-owned locations traditional-

ly used to deposit snow cleared from our streets but hauling cleared snow to most of these sites takes substantial time to load, drive, and dump. Several city residents who have vacant lots next to their homes have offered to allow snow to be plowed onto their property, eliminating the extra time needed for transport. I encourage anyone who has space available to notify city hall that their vacant lots may be used. There are other ways in which citizens can help to keep our streets safe while also showing consideration to neighbors. A few are listed below:

➤ Do not plow, shovel or blow snow from your property onto streets or alleys. ➤ Do not deposit snow from your property onto the property

of your neighbors. This in par-

ticular includes in alleyways

where cleared snow can block passage to propane tanks, garbage/recycling containers, and pathways.

➤ When possible, assist the city maintenance workers by clearing a three-foot area around fire hydrants if you have one on your property.

➤ Assist neighbors who may have difficulty with snow removal

#### Winter driving tips ➤ Drive below posted speed

- limits.
- ➤ Watch closely for cars exiting alleys, parking places, and other potential blind spots where
- snow piles accumulate. ➤ Creep slowly ahead when crossing/entering streets, espe-

cially at controlled intersections.

This is where oftentimes snow is

piled above driver sightlines.

> Watch especially for

snowmobiles! The city plow-drivers, Tom and Ben, have excellent knowledge of where and when critical plowed snow accumulates to dangerous levels and will clear such areas as soon as possible and whenever possible. They appreciate your understanding and appreciation for their winter tasks. Please be as courteous to Tom and Ben as they are to all of you, citizens of, and visitors to, our city. They are working long hours to keep us safe so that we can enjoy our winter-wonderland in, and surrounding Tower.

> Thank you, **Orlyn Kringstad** Mayor, City of Tower

Read us online at www.timberjay.com

#### LOCAL HISTORY

### Information needed for a new display at the Soudan Underground Mine

Exhibit to highlight those who died in mining accidents

SOUDAN- James Pointer, Interpretative Supervisor at the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park, and Doug Workman, President of the Tower-Soudan Historical Society, are pleased to announce a collaborative project to create a new display at the Soudan Underground Mine. The purpose of the display is to honor the memory of those who died in the mine, or as a result of injuries sustained in a mine-related accident. Help is being sought from the public to verify the names and other details about those who died.

Andy Larson, former president of the Tower-Soudan Historical Society and retired Soudan Mine tour guide of 27 years, has created a list of 144 names of those who died from 1884 to 1957. He spent hours painstakingly going through death records, newspaper articles, cemetery records, and other primary source materials to make this list. Larson acknowledges there are inaccuracies in the list due to names being changed, names misspelled, details reported incorrectly, etc. The goal is to update and correct the list as much as possible before it becomes part of the display. While volunteers from historical society will work on updating the list, information from the public

is needed. If you know of someone who died in the mine or in a mine-related accident and have information, please send copies of documents to the Tower-Soudan Historical Society at PO Box 465, Tower, MN 55790 or scan your information and email it to tshistory@accessmn.com. Documents needed include death records, newspaper articles, cemetery records, photos of the deceased, details regarding the cause of death and any other record or memorabilia you may have.



The three-page list has been posted on the Tower-Soudan Historical Society website (towersoudanhs.org). In addition to names, the list includes the date of death, marital status, age of the deceased, country of origin and in some cases details regarding the accident. If you have questions, call the Tower-Soudan Historical Society at 218-753-5021 and leave a message. A board member will return your call. Thank you for helping to make this display as accurate and informative as possible.



### Booyah fundraiser on Sunday, Feb. 2 at St. Martin's

Souper Bowl of Caring raises funds for the local food shelf

again be making and serving their famous booyah dinner on Super Bowl weekend. The booyah, along with a variety of desserts, will be prepared on Saturday. The meal

TOWER- Mark your calen- will be served on Sunday, Feb. 2 as a senior high youth fellowship dars, the St. Martin's youth will from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church social hall. Take-outs will be available. The cost is a freewill offering- all proceeds go to the Tower Area Food Shelf.

'Souper Bowl of Caring' began

ables young people to see that by moving beyond themselves and working together, they can make a difference in their community.

### **Joint Powers Recreation** Board meets Friday, **Jan. 31**

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board will meet Friday, Jan. 31 at 8:30 a.m. at Good Ol' Days. Requests for funding must be made in writing and should go to Teri Joki-Martin at Tower City Hall or to Julie Suihkonen. The board is funded with donations from the city and townships in the Tower-Soudan School attendance area, and helps to fund athletics, arts, and recreational programs for area youth.

#### Chimpy's Skating Parties this weekend

SOUDAN- Chimpy's Skating Parties are now underway. Stop by the Soudan Skating Rink on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 25 and 26, from 12 noon - 2 p.m.

This week's parties are sponsored by Joanne Connell, Vince and Robin Vesel, and Greg and Joan Dostert.

These community familyfriendly events welcome skaters of all ages. The warming shack has loaner skates in most sizes and boot skaters are also welcome. Adult volunteers are also needed to help supervise skaters outdoors as well as to help serve the hot food The skating rink warming

shack is open daily, weekdays from 4 p.m. until closing, and weekends from 11 a.m. - closing. The rink will be closed due to inclement weather, and will be posted in such

### **Vermilion Lake Township** board of audit

VERMILION LAKE TWP-

The Vermilion Lake Town Board will hold their annual audit of the books of the treasurer and clerk during their regular monthly meeting on Monday, Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. at the Vermilion Lake Town Hall.

### Area students named to College of St. Scholastica Fall 2019 Dean's List

DULUTH- The following local students have been named to the Fall 2019 Dean's List at The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth.

Bria Chiabotti of Soudan, Brandon Mackai of Embarrass, Victoria Zupancich of Tower.

Dean's List members have achieved a 3.75 grade point average or above on a 4.0 scale. The College of St. Scholastica would like to commend these students for their honorable academic achievements. Keep up the good work!

### Transfer station

#### Soudan Canister Expanded hours year-round Monday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

For info: 1-800-450-9278

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

Hwy. 77 Canister

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

### Bookmobile Schedule

### Wednesday,Feb. 5 and 26; March 18

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

### **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 ap-

preciated the day before, or morning of, but walkins 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 218-300-1447 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 Jan. 27

Monday- Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Bread Tuesday-Breaded

Pollock, Baked Potato, **Bread Stick** Wednesday-Hamburger Gravy over

Roll, Corn Thursday-Pulled Pork Sandwich, Onion

Mashed Potatoes, Dinner

Friday- Pigs in a Blanket (Hot Dogs), **Baked Beans** 

**Monday** TOPS - Immanuel

**Week of Jan. 27** 

Lutheran Church, Tower,

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

Tower City Council, 5:30 p.m. at City Hall on Jan. 27.

### **Tuesday**

at 9 a.m.

Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Feb. 18.

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

#### Wednesday

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

#### Thursday

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

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

### **Call to Subscribe** (218) 753-2950

### the TIMBERJAY The Tower-Soudan Timberjay and Cook-Orr Timberjay are published weekly on Friday by The Timberjay,

Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 [218-753-2950], and PO Box 718, Ely, MN 55731 [218-365-3114]. Fax number is 218-753-2916. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Visit our web-

Inc. Offices are at 414 Main St.,

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

Publisher General Manager Staff Writers

Cook/Orr, and Ely.

Ely Editor Office Manager Graphics/Ad Sales Ad Sales/Sports Ad Sales

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### Libraries

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

### Babbitt library

Noon-6 pm Monday Noon-6 pm Tuesday Wednesday Noon-6 pm Thursday Noon-6 pm Noon-5 pm Friday 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.

ter alcoholism in a relative or friend. BABBITT AL-ANON

For persons who encoun-

Thursdays, 7 p.m. at Woodland Presbyterian Church.

**CO-DEPENDENTS'** 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely. **ELY FOOD SHELF -**

Third Wednesday each month, 15 W. Conan St. ADULT BASIC **EDUCATION** 

GED - Study materials and pre-test available. Tower by appointment. Call 365-3359, 827-3232, or 1-800-662-5711.

### **Tuesday Group**

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

Jan. 28 - David Kess and Margaret Sweet - Ely-Winton **Historical Society** 

### **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.

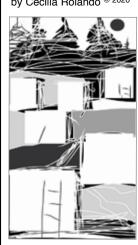
For more information, call 218-365-5678, or visit their website, www.elycommunityhealth.org.

#### 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.

### **Breathing Out**

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



january days every form of weather

snow blocks appearing

#### OUR COMMUNITY



# **SNOWMAGEDDON!**

### City of Ely clarifies snow removal policy

by KEITH VANDERVORT Elv Editor

ELY-This town at the end of the road is nearing its decades-long snowfall average for this season and it is not even the end of January. Last weekend's six-plus inch dump pushed Ely's total season snowfall over the 60-inch mark for the 2019-2020 season.

According to weather statistics recorded by Vermilion Community College, snowfall has averaged 70.3 inches in this city in the last 42 years. As of Dec. 31, 2019, Ely received 54.9 inches of snow. Since New Year's Day, a couple of snowfalls, including the sixinch dump last weekend, have pushed the seasonal total close to the annual average.

With the probability of at least three more months of measurable snowfall to be recorded, Ely could be in line for a record-breaking snowfall this winter.

This week, the city of Ely clarified its snow removal policy for city residents.

City of Ely Public Works employees work on an on-call basis, 24 hours a day, seven days per week, including holidays and weekends, according to Clerk-Treasurer HArold Langowski. "In general, after snow accumulation of three inches, plowing



Snow is piling up around town this winter and residents face the challenge of what to do with it. photos by K. Vandervort

begins," he said.

city ordi-Under nance, it is illegal to:

➤ Deposit or move snow onto any street or

➤Deposit snow on a

➤ Deposit snow on a fire hydrant;

➤ Ignore calendar parking ordinances. "To aid in snow

removal, law enforcement personnel will strictly enforce calendar parking and abandoned vehicle ordinances," Langowski said. "They can impose fines for any or all illegal snow removal activities, and your vehicles may be towed."

He added, "If you hire a contractor to remove snow from your property,

public works policy. You are responsible for their actions while they are working for you."

As a public service to residents and the business community, banks of snow left after plowing will be removed from the downtown area and public parking in a timely manner as budget and staffing allow.

"In the interest of public safety and as a courtesy to pedestrians, we will make every effort to assist with snow removal from sidewalks as budget and staffing levels permit," Langowski said. "We are unable to clear sidewalks where parked cars, light poles, awnings or other obstructions limit access for our equipment."

City ordinance it is your responsibility requires the property to inform them of our owner to clear snow and

ice from public sidewalks, at a minimum width of three feet, at least 24 hours after the snow or ice has ceased to be deposited. "Enforcement of this ordinance may include a fine and a fee for the city of Ely to remove the snow and ice, according to Langowski.

"Any items placed onto the city of Ely rightof-way must be removed immediately, so as not to impede our snow removal processes," he said. "The city of Ely is not responsible for any damage to any items illegally on the city right-of-way. It is the city of Ely's goal to remove snow in the safest, mostefficient manner possible, and your assistance is appreciated."

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Marshall Helmberger

Jodi Summit Keith Vandervort Stephanie Ukkola E.M. Schultz

M. M. White Scarlet Lynn Stone Jay Greeney

### FACIAL HAIR BALL

### Beardfest returns to Ely on Feb. 7

ELY - After a oneyear break, the Great Nordic Beardfest will return to the Boathouse Brewpub and Restaurant next month.

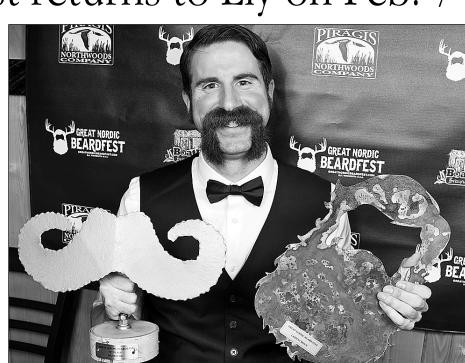
The facial hair spectacle is slated to take place on Friday, Feb. 7. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and competition gets underway at 7 p.m., according to organizer Shawn Chosa.

Live music, featuring Black River Revue and Charlie Parr, begins at 8:30 p.m. The cost of \$35 to

compete includes a drink ticket, commemorative T-shirt and a lanyard. "There will be dancing, prizes and some special surprises along the way," Chosa said. Competition catego-

ries this year include first, second and third places in Full Beard Natural six-minus, Full Beard Natural six-plus, Freestyle, Mustache, and Bearded Ladies.

Individual awards will



Tyler Bauer is a previous Great Nordic Beardfest winner of both the Best Mustache and Ladies Choice awards. Timberjay file photo

be presented in several categories, including: Best Beard in Town and Best Mustache in Town (locals only); Best in Show; Greybeard; Farthest Traveler; Ladies Choice; Best Costume; and Judges Choice.

Admission to the event is \$10, or \$5 for those with an Ely Winter Festival 2020 pin. "We will pass the top

hat twice during the night for the Boundary Waters Care Center as this year's

ated for games and art supplies for our elderly. Funds raised will augment this loss due to theft." Register at The

funds were misappropri-

Boathouse (see bartender), or online at greatnordiccharity," Chosa said, "as beardfest.com.

#### ELY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL



Ely Memorial High School art teacher Kelly Chick displayed her student's first semester work at a recent show in the Media Center. photos by K. Vandervort



### SUPPORTING THE ARTS

### Gardner Trust announces spring grants contact Keiko by early

ELY - The Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust's first grant cycle of 2020 has a grant application deadline on Tuesday, March 17.

"The board is looking forward to another competitive grant round," said Keiko Williams, the Trust's executive director. "The Trust is updating its review process to try and be more subjective about grants. More information will be published soon."

Artists and groups can apply for grants in the following categories:

➤ Individual Artist Grants encourage developing and established artists with funding of up to \$1,000 to take advantage of an impending, concrete opportunity.

Organization

Project Grants support activities in the fine arts and for the Ely Public Library. Grant support is intended to make it possible for organizations to present or produce a fine arts activity.

➤ Youth Grants are awarded to Ely school students in grades 6-12 who have an interest in and demonstrate high motivation in the fine arts. The youth grants of up to \$750 can be used for workshops, classes, lessons or mentorships. Youth Grant applicants are reminded that they need to schedule a Grant Review Meeting with Keiko in order to go over their draft application. This meeting is intended to help the individual youth make their applications as compelling and well

written as possible. Youth Grant applicants must call or email Keiko by Friday, Feb. 21 to schedule their Grant Review Meeting.

➤ Scholarships are available for graduates of Ely Memorial High School who are in their third or fourth year of college studies or in graduate school. Trust scholarships are awarded to students majoring in one of the disciplines of fine arts or library science.

> Operational Funding Grants fund high-quality, established Ely area organizations that produce or present fine arts activities, or provide services to artists. Individuals and orga-

nizations that would like

to have a draft application

reviewed should try to

March. The office is open for any who would like to stop by, usually 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday or by appointment. Grant forms and eli-

gibility requirements are available on the Gardner Humanities Trust website at www.gardnertrust.org. Those without internet access can contact Keiko by phone at 365-2639 or email at info@gardnertrust.org to have an application mailed to them.

The deadline for applications is noon Tuesday, March 17. Completed applications can be mailed to the Trust office at P.O. Box 720, Ely, MN 55731 or dropped off at the Ely City Hall, Clerk's Office, at 209 E. Chapman Street.

### **Higher Education**

### **Hasz honored at UW-Stout**

MENOMONIE, Wis. - Ely student Ethan Haszhas been named to the University of Wisconsin-Stout Dean's List for the fall 2019 semester.

Hasz, a junior, is studying industrial design. UW-Stout is Wisconsin's Polytechnic University, with a focus on applied learning, collaboration with business and industry, and career outcomes.

The award, formerly known as the Chancellor's Award, is presented to students who have a grade point average of 3.5 or above.

### **Babbitt students named to Dean's List**

GRAND RAPIDS-Two local students have been named to the Dean's List at Itasca Community College in Grand Rapids. Jacob Bjork of Babbitt earned High Honors for his 3.5 – 3.99 GPA and Chloe Aase of Babbitt earned Honors for a 3.25-3.49 GPA. They are among 230 students who were named to the Dean's List. To qualify for this honor, students must complete a minimum of twelve credits.

### In Brief

### Have coffee with a policeman

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 provides a way to meet a police officer from the Ely Police Department in an informal and relaxed setting," said Chief John Lahtonen.

### AROUND TOWN

### Ely Chamber corrects inaccurate information

Editor's note:

The Ely Chamber of Commerce sent a letter of clarification this week to the Ely Timberjay and other Chamber members regarding the group's new festival policy concerning non-profits.

On Jan. 18, 2020, the Ely Echo issued an editorial regarding the Chamber. Unfortunately, the Ely Echo did not contact the Chamber to verify information within the editorial; consequently, they disseminated a large amount of inaccurate information. Misstatements are in

italics, followed by the 1. The Chamber does

not pay for city services or park rental. The Chamber pays

for both park electricity and city services in addition to Whiteside Park rental fees for both festivals. Across the last three years, the Chamber has paid an average of \$3,700.00 per year in fees and services. We also provide

compensation to the Ely Hoop Club that provides cleanup during each fes-2. The Blueberry/Art

Festival is a community The Blueberry/ Art and Harvest Moon Festivals are art and craft

festivals. Both festivals

are promoted, advertised, and branded as art and craft events. Our focus is on creating exciting and engaging art and craft festivals.

3. There is room in Whiteside Park for our community organiza-As noted in our

prior informational letter, changes in the park have significantly reduced the usable space. We received the initial map of the new festival layout. At best, we will have 291 spaces with 283 as the minimum number of usable booth spaces, so we have lost between 12 to 20 spaces in the Blueberry/Art Festival.

4. Art and craft vendors are more important than local organizations and remove money from our community.

Again, both festivals are focused on arts and crafts. The participating art and craft vendors come into town for three to four days, stay in our lodging facilities, eat in our restaurants, visit our attractions and shop in our retail businesses. Their presence generates revenue for our community throughout the festival weekend. In addition, these same art and craft vendors draw tens of thousands of

people to Ely over the

course of each three-day

festival. These festival

goers not only support the art and craft vendors, they stay in lodging, eat in our restaurants, snop in our retail businesses, etc. Many retail businesses report that the Blueberry/Art Festival weekend provides their highest retail sales of the year. It is estimated the Blueberry/Art Festival generates hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue for our area.

5. The Ely Chamber of Commerce does not support nonprofit clubs and organizations.

The Ely Chamber of Commerce is a business association. We serve the area as a chamber of commerce and visitor and information center. Our mission and purpose is to "lead a thriving, sustainable economic community through leadership and advocacy, strategic partnerships, career development of its workforce and, business diversity and leadership." As part of our philanthropic outreach, we support nonprofit clubs, organizations and events through the funding generated from our festivals. We do not question the importance of nonprofit clubs and organizations, and we have a long

age you to contact us history of providing them with any questions or with a variety of supconcerns. We are grateful to

have provided nonprofit

clubs and organizations

the opportunity to participate in the festivals, but change was required due to the existing park footprint. During the last two-and-a-half months, the Chamber director has discussed concerns and opportunities with nonprofit directors and representatives as they have reached out.

We continue to support and encourage nonprofits to consider the Blue Line Hockey Arena event, which is truly a community event filled with a diverse group of vendors. It is a positive way for nonprofit clubs and organizations to support a fellow nonprofit. Several groups expressed they did not wish to participate in the Blue Line event and felt starting a new event would be the best option. We have extended our services for providing guidance on how to organize a new event. Due to limitations with staff and funding, the Chamber does not have the capacity to create, organize, and execute a new event during either festival weekend.

We will continue to provide our membership with accurate, fact-based information. We encour-

Best wishes,

Eva Sebesta

**Executive Director** 

director@ely.org

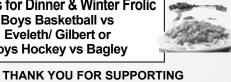
### WASHINGTON D.C. SENIORS Spaghetti Dinner F+U+N+D+R+A+I+S+E+R

ALL-U-CAN-EAT Spaghetti Dinner Friday, January 31 • 4-7 pm Ely High School Cafeteria Spaghetti w/Meat or Veggie Sauce

Tossed Salad/Dressings/Bread Sticks Cookies/Beverage Adults \$7 • Students (with school ID) \$6 Seniors \$6 • Children Grades K-6 \$4

Age 4 And Under FREE

Join us for Dinner & Winter Frolic **Boys Basketball vs Eveleth/ Gilbert or Boys Hockey vs Bagley** 



2020 WASHINGTON DC SENIORS



2020 Arts Grant **Applications** 

for Individual Artists, Project & Youth Grants, Scholarships & Operational Funding

Updated grant applications and guidelines are available online at www.gardnertrust.org

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS: 12:00 noon on Tues., March 17

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Keiko Williams, Executive Director, by early March for help and review of their applications.

Call 365-2639 or email info@gardnertrust.org Youth Grant applicants must call Keiko by Friday, Feb. 21 to schedule a grant review meeting.

LIFE LESSONS

### **Reality sets in for North Woods students**



by E. M. SCHULTZ Staff Writer

FIELD TWP— Students at the North Woods School got a taste of life as adults during a "Reality Check" event put on by North Star Credit Union at the school last Wednesday. Designed to teach students about household finance and related issues, students were given the kind of household budget choices that they'll face in the future in hopes they'll better appreciate the consequences of their

Each of the students was given a scenario that included a description of their job, whether or not they had a spouse and children, the amount of credit card debt they faced, and other life-related details. They then had to decide how much they wanted to spend on tems such as clothing, utilities, food, and entertainment.

decisions.

Displays on a number of tables represented necessities, such as clothing, shelter, and food, as well as some fun items, like travel, reading, and video games. Each table had a unique name that summed up what the students would find there, like Home Stuff, which included furniture items. Kid Care focused on diapers, daycare, and other child-related items, while Big Wheels focused on transportation.

One table, the Mad City Mall, included a treasure chest filled with surprise gains and a bucket filled with unexpected expenses. Students showed visible frustration when receiving the "Oops, I Didn't Plan for That" items, which included costly unanticipated events that ranged from a last-minute Father's Day gift to breaking a tooth on a piece of ice, to an unplanned pregnancy. Students were much happier to receive the tickets with surprise gains on them, which all resulted in extra money. These included scenarios that ranged from winning the grocery store giveaway to selling old college furniture to hand-making presents rather than buying them.

The further students got into the exercise, the more they started to realize how difficult it was to balance their monthly budgets. Several even went back to edit decisions they'd made at previous tables, which, of course, wouldn't be possible in real life. But for the sake of learning, it was an effective way to show the students the importance of critical thinking and strategic decision-making. It was also a great way to remind them of the importance of earning at least a high school diploma, which generally leads to higher-paying jobs and more opportunities for advancement.

Overall, the students seemed to think the exercise was beneficial. It gave them an idea of how much items actually cost and just how many of those costs exist in the world of adulthood. It also gave them a chance to better understand interest costs associated with credit cards and loans. At the Credit Union table, the students had to decide how much of a monthly payment they wanted to make toward their debts. This showed them that it's not the best choice to simply pay the minimum amount due. They also had to decide how much money they wanted to put aside each month, if they even had enough to do so, in order to build up their savings.

While most of the students treated the exercise as a learning opportunity, some took it more lightly. At the Gotta Eat table, one student announced that he was going to live on bread and water, which is possible to do but by no means healthy. Another exclaimed "no one would pay that much" when looking at the price for an elegant dinner, which was



Students learned about common expenses in adulthood and tried to manage a budget in a simulation of life. photos by R. Schultz

roughly \$50 per person.

The event, which included representatives from North Star Credit Union, Waschke Family Chevrolet, and BIC Re-

alty, was made possible by a grant from the Credit Union National Associa-



VUKMANICH

Educators are stuck in a hard place when it comes to teaching students accountability, yet remaining very flexible, at the same time. We have an innate desire to give students the tools that they need to find success during their school years, while preparing them for the reality of life after high school, which may not be quite as flexible.

North Woods recently developed an idea for a student program called "Reality Check." This week, we look at this program and the people who helped make it happen. North Woods School

With that in mind,

has weekly PLCs for teachers. This stands for Professional Learning Communities. Basically, it is an opportunity for teachers to talk about teaching and student learning. We have five PLCs at North Woods.

### Thanks to those who made Reality Check a success

There are two in the elementary, divided by upper and lower grades, and three in the high school divided by subject. Math/Science, Social/Language Arts, and Electives. The goal of our Elective PLC is to work on school culture and how it leads to increased academic achievement. Last year, Spanish teacher Carrie Carstens saw an article on a program called "Reality Check." The program gave students an opportunity to experience scenarios similar to real life, sort of like "Monopoly" for managing expenses. She proposed it to the Elective PLC, and they were in favor of it.

In speaking with Jody Feist from North Star Credit Union, the PLC was informed that North Star had an existing curriculum that covered the exact things that were being proposed. Jody runs a student financial group at North Woods, along with assisting in the school store. So, in order to avoid reinventing the wheel, they adopted the Mad City Money Curric-

ulum by CUNA, provid-

ed by North Star Credit

format that would bring resources in from the community and also utilize teachers. They decided there would be different stations representing different expenses that adults need to be responsible for: rent/mortgage, insurance, buying/ maintaining a car, living expenses such as gas, groceries, and furniture, child care, personal care, and recreation. There was also a "fate" booth where students would draw a card that might include a speeding ticket, a refund from a purchase, an unexpected health issue, or other unplanned financial event that would affect the amount of money each student had. Each student was assigned a specific salary that they needed to work

Each station was set up in the gym, and students rotated through them in small groups. At each station, students made decisions about finances and kept track of their budgets on paper. The purpose of the event was to give students a glimpse into real life and the expenses associated

with it. North Woods ninth-

They decided on a and tenth-graders at-

Plans to expand to additional grades are already in the works. Many community members volunteered their time and expertise to assist, including Lorne Koski from Waschke Chevrolet, Tim Johnson from State Farm, Taryn Sandberg and Vicky Schelde from BIC Realty, and several employees from North Star Credit Union (Jody Feist, Julia DeVries, Lori Astleford, Susan Stone). Overall, stu-

dents seemed to enjoy the program. Students were surprised to see how much money things cost. They were

not happy if they received a surprise expense. Some students really struggled with the reality of living

that were conservative, in

within a budget, particularly expenses that they didn't expect or agree with. like this give our kids a The majority of stutaste of responsibility and dents did make choices



cans struggle with. A big "thank you" to make ends meet. Students were encouraged our local volunteers and to save for the future the staff at North Woods and had the option of who made this opportuniplanning in advance for ty happen. events such as vacations. Even though it was just a simulation, programs

financial management,

something many Ameri-

John Vukmanich Principal

#### FOOD SHELF FUNDRAISER

### Students will give back to community at Empty Bowl, Feb. 28



COOK- The North Woods School will be holding its Empty Bowl Fundraiser on Friday, Feb. 28 from 4:30-7 p.m. in the North Woods School Commons.

In the past eight years of holding the event, over \$10,000 has been raised for the Cook and Orr Food Shelves. Art students create custom bowls to be sold for \$10 apiece. When you purchase a handmade bowl, you receive a soup meal that has been donated by local volunteers and businesses. We have everything from chili to chicken noodle and even

delicious spicy ones. It's a team effort to put on such a big event, but worth it in the end.

There will be roughly ten different soup selections as well as an assortment of desserts. As always, we are also very thankful for McDonald's who has continuously do-



On Friday, Feb. 28, the public is invited to Empty Bowl, held by North Woods students. Funds raised go to area food shelves. submitted photos

nated the beverages. This year, we are attempting to create a record number of bowls and vases. There will also be a variety of larger items to purchase, along with \$1 raffle baskets to help raise money for the Art Club. Arrive early in order to have the best selection. In addition, Miss Minnesota Kathryn Kueppers and Miss Minnesota's Outstanding Teen Rachel Luschinger will be attending. They will be doing a jazz vocal performance and piano performance for free, as well as providing autographs. Performances will take

place around 5:30 p.m. This event continues to be a success because of our community's support. We are greatly appreciative and look forward to seeing everyone there.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

### **January Events at** the Cook Public Library

COOK-Everyone is invited to read "Death on the Nile" by Agatha Christie. Stop by the library during January and February to pick up the book or learn about other ways to read it. Those who read the book are welcome to join a discussion of it on Thursday, March 5 at 5 p.m. at the library.

Turn tablecloths, T-shirts, and thrift shop treasures into contemporary heirlooms and useful accessories at Recycle, Repurpose, and Restyle with Mary Mulari on Thursday, Jan. 30 at 6 p.m. Learn Mary's laundering/whitening tips and how, with basic sewing skills or fabric glue, to create special gifts with priceless memories attached. This program is free to the public.

Preschool Story Time takes place every Friday at 10:30 a.m. Jan. 24 will be G is for Giraffe, and Jan. 31 will be School Days.

#### **NWFA Board of Directors to meet,** Feb. 18

COOK- The NWFA Board of Directors will meet at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at the gal-

#### **NWFA** arts groups

COOK- The NWFA Gallery is open Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is located at 210 S River St. in Cook. Stop in to view the gallery or attend one of our regular art groups listed below. For more information, visit the website at nwfamn.

Open Studio Art takes place every Saturday at the NWFA gallery from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. All artists and wouldbe artists are welcome to share the time and space. All are welcome with no registration or membership required.

Woodcarving The Group meets on Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. All skill levels are welcome to attend and partici-No registration pate. required. Some tools are available to practice with. Call Howard

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The NWFA Winter Writers Group will meet on Saturday, Feb. 8 from 1 to 3 p.m. The group meets on the second Saturdays at the NWFA Gallery with volunteer educator Dr. Ellie Larmouth. All interested persons may attend. Just drop in.

### Sarah Maki's "Surface Work" opening reception, Feb. 7

COOK- Sarah Maki, February's exhibiting artist, will open her showcase, "Surface Work," with a public reception on Friday, Feb. 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. Maki, who grew up in Cook, will have her art on display at NWFA from Thursday, Feb. 6 to Friday, Feb. 28.

### **Claire Beaudry** receives Dean's **List honors at Iowa State**

AMES, IOWA-Claire P. Beaudry of Cook has been named to the Dean's List at Iowa State University. Students named to the Dean's List must have earned a

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grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

#### Original drama, "Piercing Snow," showing Feb. 22-23

COOK- First Baptist Church of Cook's "Bleak Mid-Winter Players" have discovered a cure for the long Cook winter - preparing a feast and drama for the community. In the pursuit of memorizing lines, sewing costumes, drumming up 10th-century recipes, and pounding out a new stage set, toe-biting cold or cap-stealing winds become mere petty nuisances. It is a huge blessing for the team to once again be able to present a drama event to the community.

There will be three performances of the original drama, "Piercing the Snow," which is a tale of two brothers. The first will be a dinner theatre at the Cook Community Center beginning at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22. The second will also be at the Cook Community Center, but it will

Cook Optical

HOURS: 9-4:30 Mon.-Fri.

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be just the drama performance with a snack intermission on Sunday, Feb. 23 at 3 p.m. The snack performance will again be performed at the Gilbert Community Center on Saturday, Feb. 29 at 4 p.m.

This year, the play is a historical biography from 10th-century Bohemia. You will be the King's guests at the Prague Castle. We invite guests to attend in period attire, but costumes are not necessary to attend.

Tickets for the dinner theatre are \$10 per

person or \$30 per family. Tickets for the other two performances are \$3 per person. We recommend buying or reserving your tickets ahead of time as performances, especially the dinner theatre, could sell out. Please stop by or call the First Baptist Church office at 218-666-5979 for any further details and to reserve or buy your tickets.



### the TIMBERJAY

The Cook-Orr Timberjay is published weekly on Friday by The Timberjay, Inc. Offices are at 414 Main St., Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 [218-753-2950] and Box 718, Ely, MN 55731

[218-365-3114]. Fax number is 218-753-2916. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Visit our website: www.timberjay.com.

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

Publisher General Manager Staff Writers

Ely Editor Office Manager Graphics/Ad Sales Ad Sales/Sports Ad Sales

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Crane Lake Ranger Station Orr Lake Country ReMax Bldg Kabetogama Town Hall

11:15 - 12:00 1:45 - 2:30 3:15 - 3:45

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

# online at www.timberjay.com

#### SULFIDE MINING

### PolyMet seeks appeal of decision that reversed three permits

REGIONAL— The Minnesota Supreme Court may well have its own opportunity to weigh in on the controversy over permits for PolyMet's NorthMet copper-nickel mine project near Hoyt

PolyMet President and CEO Jon Cherry announced Thursday that his company will seek review of this week's

by Marshall Helmberger Court of Appeals decision by the state's highest court. That court decision reversed three key permits for the project, including two dam safety permits and the all-important permit

The Department of Natural Resources had issued the permits in late 2018, but a long list of environmental groups and the Fond Du Lac Band had challenged those permits, arguing that the DNR should have conducted a

contested case hearing to allow an administrative law judge to review conflicting expert testimony and other evidence related to those permits.

The Court of Appeals agreed, in a major blow to

"The issues raised by the court of appeals' decision are, of course, important to our project, but equally, they have far reaching impact to the state of Minnesota and to any future project that

seeks permits from the state," said Cherry in a Jan. 16 statement. "The potential negative consequences of the decision to any industry or business in the state, and the many Iron Range communities and workers who stand to benefit economically from responsible copper-nickel mining, warrant the Minnesota Supreme Court's attention." The appeal is no guar-

antee that the Supreme Court will take up the

matter. Unlike the Court of Appeals, which must hear all cases brought before it, the state's Supreme Court rejects the vast majority of appeal requests that it receives. But given the high-profile nature of the PolyMet case, it is likely to get serious consideration by the court for a possible hearing.

PolyMet's decision to appeal could further delay the start of its planned mining operation. Should the high court agree to hear the case, it could months before oral arguments could be scheduled and several months more before the court renders a verdict. Were the Supreme Court to concur with the Court of Appeals on all or most of the recent ruling, PolyMet and the DNR would still need to finish a contested case process which, by itself, could take more than a year.

The DNR could yet decide to join PolyMet in an appeal.

### **POLYMET...**Continued from page 1

mally when it issued the permit — aimed at preventing or limiting toxic discharge to nearby waters — in December 2018. For months, the agency argued it intended to change its draft permit after the public comments and preferred the EPA feedback after those alterations. The EPA's concerns were addressed, according to the MPCA, and the feds did not veto the final product.

But the Minnesota Court of Appeals in June said there was "substantial evidence of procedural irregularities" in how the MPCA handled the case and asked the district court to investigate. Environmental groups and the Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa are suing the MPCA over the permit, known as a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES).

If built, PolyMet would be the first copper-nickel mine in the state, but the project has long been controversial. Opponents contend such mining will pollute water with acidic runoff and heavy metals. PolyMet argues it can prevent that damage with new water treatment technology and other protections. Answering questions

from mine opponents under oath Tuesday via a live video from Santa Fe, N.M., Pierard said he disagreed with the MPCA's request for the EPA to issue criticism after the public comment period. Pierard said it was "standard practice" to provide written comments on draft permits in order to document his agency's action in an official record. Of the roughly 700 permits he has reviewed, Pierard said the EPA issued written comments on "most" of them.

"The process is what it is," he said. "We don't make it up site by site, or where you might get press or you might not. Our process was to provide comments to the state in writing."

Pierard spent 36

years at the EPA, all in the Chicago-based Region 5 branch. For nine years, he was chief of the NPDES program branch, and oversaw permitting in a cluster of Great Lakes states. He currently works at New Mexico's Environment Department.

The EPA's comments were read over the phone to MPCA staff after the public comment period in March of 2018 had ended. But they were not submitted in writing and did not become part of the administrative record that details how an agency issued a permit.

EPA notes of those critiques were eventually publicly released in writing earlier this year after a Freedom of Information Act request by the environmental group WaterLegacy. They outlined concerns the NPDES would violate the Clean Water Act and allow PolyMet to pollute.

Pierard did not say why the EPA agreed not to issue comments in writing on the draft permit. His testimony is set to resume Wednesday. But he said the MPCA preferred verbal communication, and that Minnesota regulators reviewing mining projects had a "hesitancy at the state level to memorialize things in writing."

Former MPCA commissioner John Linc Stine and former assistant commissioner Shannon Lotthammer are expected to testify later this week. Pierard said Lotthammer had told him their decision was in part motivated by avoiding media coverage. MPCA spokeswoman Cori Rude-Young did not respond to Pierard's comments but said the agency would "respond through our cross examination and presentation of evidence" later in the hearings. In earlier court declarations, the MPCA said the EPA comments were one part of a lengthy collaboration between the governments.

The EPA and others had raised identical questions through the permit-development process that were detailed in the administrative record, MPCA attorney Richard Schwartz said in a June statement submitted to the Court of Appeals. Schwartz said the MPCA objected to the timing of EPA comments, not the agency's ability to make comments. Plus, top officials at the MPCA said many concerns raised by others in the public comment period overlapped with the EPA's

"Rather than have EPA send us written comments on the version of the permit that we knew we were going to change, we believed that it would be more efficient — both for us and for EPA - ifEPA waited to give us any written comments based on the next draft, in which we had the opportunity to address concerns shared by the public," Lotthammer said in a June to the Court of Appeals. Lotthammer is now at the Minnesota Department of Natural

Resources.

Pierard said that while some criticisms made by environmental groups can be similar to EPA comments, they are not equivalent. "Many times, we can speak more authoritatively than most commenters,"

Earlier in Tuesday's hearing, environmental groups and the Fond Du Lac Band accused the MPCA of intentionally deleting records to avoid scrutiny, including wiping Linc Stine's computer after he left office in 2019. The mine opponents argued the MPCA should be sanctioned and asked Judge John H. Guthmann to presume the agency destroyed information that reflected poorly on it. Lawyers for the MPCA said the agency has kept to reasonable record-keeping practice and adhered to public records laws.

Guthmann said he wouldn't make a determination until more evidence was presented at the hearings.

### **GRANTS...**Continued from page 1 -

The project will extend broadband service to 126 unserved and underserved households in Morcom and the unorganized township to the north. Morcom Township is located about 13 miles southwest of Cook.

The combined project, which involves Paul roughly \$10 million fiber-Bunyan Communications,

will provide one gigabyte-per-second service, both upload and download, to 914 unserved and 439 underserved locations in parts of the Leech Lake Indian Reservation and rural portions of Cass, Itasca, Koochiching, and St. Louis counties. The to-the premise project is

a response to consumer demand and will provide relief in economically distressed communities that need new alternatives to diversify and strengthen. Border-to-Border grant funding for the effort will total \$6.27 million with matches from local units of government and the IRRR expected to total \$3.7 million.

Meanwhile, the \$3.75 million project on the Bois Forte Reservation will provide 100 megabyte-per-second download and 20 mps upload service to ten unserved and 468 underserved locations in four of the reservation's sectors, including Vermilion, Nett Lake, Palmquist, and Indian Point. Border-to-Border funds will total \$2.497 million while other funding partners, including the IRRR, Bois Forte, and the Mdewankanton Sioux community, will provide \$1.25 million.

At a press conference at the Capitol on Tuesday, Gov. Tim Walz announced the first round of Border-to-Border grant recipients. The Legislature allocated \$40 million last year as part of a two-year

in hard to reach areas. The Office of Broadband Development received 70 applications for grants and funded 30 projects from across the state this year with the \$20 million that was available. These funds are matched by \$35,935,870 in local funds, for a total investment in broadband infrastructure of \$59,206,803. "Fast, reliable broadband access is a critical economic development tool that improves quality of life and makes businesses in Greater Minnesota more competitive," said Governor Walz. "These

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grants help us get closer to ourgoaltoensurethatevery Minnesotan has high speed internet access by 2022."

"There's no reason our students need to go to the nearest fast food restaurant or public library or coffee shop to get connected to public Wi-Fi to get their homework done," said Rep. Rob Ecklund (DFL-Int'l Falls), chief author of the broadband funding bill in the MN House. "We need this investment in rural Minnesota to keep our communities vibrant and thriving. "The Border-to-Border Grant Program has a direct and immediate positive impact on people's lives across rural Minnesota," said Nancy Hoffman, Chair of the Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition. "The grants will help students with their education, patients access healthcare, businesses reach customers, and job seekers find work. On behalf of the Coalition's more than 90 members, I thank Governor Walz, Commissioner Steve Grove, Rep. Rob Ecklund, Sen. Mark Koran, and all the other legislative leaders who have made this funding possible."

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### **GAMES**...Continued from page 1 –

Children got to hone their arrow-throwing skills during Hoops and Arrows, a game that simulated hunting for rabbit, as children aimed their "arrows" into a hoop that was rolled in front of them. When the participants got the hang of aiming at the larger hoop, a smaller hoop took its place, make the game even more challenging.

Afterward, the group split into two teams for a spirited game of lacrosse.

Lacrosse is played with a stick with a net at the end, just large enough to cradle a small ball. Teams rally to score goals, while trying to keep the ball away from the opposing team. Traditionally games were played as a prelude for preparing men for battle, and the playing field could stretch for miles, with games lasting over a day. Lacrosse has been played



Participants at the Winter Indigenous Games listen to instructions. photo by J. Summit

by native tribes since as early as 1100 and was adapted into an American team sport in the 1800s.

Jaylen Strong, director of the Bois Forte Heritage Center, gave a brief history of the game, its significance in Native American culture, and the fact that women, as well as men, were now welcome to play.

Players, none of whom

had played before, got a brief introduction on the rules, were shown how to keep the small ball safely in their net, how to toss the ball into the goal, and then the games began.

has sponsored the indigenous games. This year the event was expanded to include a day of games

This is the second year

that the Virginia Schools

Indian Education Program

at Vermilion in addition to events held in Virginia.

'We wanted to get more children involved," Knife Chief said. The event brought together many area families, and Knife Chief said they plan to do it again next year.

Other games played included the moccasin game and snow snakes. Some children just spent the afternoon playing and sliding on the huge piles of snow lining the parking lot. Lunch was served inside the Vermilion Wellness Center. After the outdoor games, families got the chance to make homemade ice cream, and then feast on ice cream sundaes.

The program was sponsored by ISD 706 Indian Education Program, Bois Forte Maternal Child Health, Bois Forte Heritage Center, and Bois Forte Native Hearts.

### **TOWER**...Continued from page 1

amendment for the significant changes that she and the city's engineer had made in the project. She also failed to submit timely or accurate progress reports as required. Her actions had put the grant funds at risk of cancellation, and that prospect could well have left the city short of funds to pay for operations and payroll later this winter.

"This was essential for the city for the LCCMR to approve these amendments," said Tower Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua, who predicted the city would have faced a "pretty

dire situation" by March or April of this year. The city was forced to undertake emergency borrowing last fall to make good on financial commitments, including completing payment for the harbor work. The city has since repaid nearly \$500,000 of those borrowed funds, but still owes \$250,000 to the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust.

The decision by the LCCMR took months of work by city grant manager Nancy Larson to achieve. In addition, Ranua, who has managed major LCCMR grants for a nonprofit organization in the recent past, made the case for the city in person at last week's hearing in

While members of the commission expressed concern about setting a precedent for such allowances on future projects, Larson had built a strong case that the city could still achieve the goals of the project assuming that a \$600,000 grant for the second phase of the project is approved by the Legislature this session. The LCCMR had already approved the second phase funding but the mismanagement of the first phase prompted state officials to put those funds on hold, at least temporarily.

In making the city's case, Ranua told LCCMR board members that the financial implications would be severe for the city if they rejected the amendment, which would have cost the city nearly \$350,000. "I told them the [grant funding] was nearly as much as the city's entire property tax levy, most of which ended up being spent on a floating dock in the harbor," said Ranua. The floating dock was never part of the original LCCMR proposal.

"I'm glad we could pull this together," said state Rep. Rob Ecklund, DFL, International Falls, a member of the LCCMR board who advocated for allowing the amendment. "The city kind of got itself in a jackpot," said Ecklund. "The new mayor and city staff, and volunteers like Nancy Larson, have been working hard to get things turned around."

Approval of the amendment also means the city should now be able to finish the project, including adding a trail connection to Hoodoo

Point, a trail kiosk, and installation of signage for a kayak route. Work on that second phase of the project will be reimbursable up to \$600,000 assuming that the Legislature approves the adjustment, as is expected. The city won't be expending any additional funds for the project, however, until the legislative language is approved.

The amendment also extends the date for completion of that second phase of the work from June 30 of this year to Sept. 30, 2021.

### **ELECTIONS...**Continued from page 1

ballot, so voters will have to indicate which party's ballot they want to use, which has been a source of controversy with some voters. If a voter refuses to select a party, they will not be able to participate in the presidential primary. A voter's choice of party ballot will be recorded and is private data under state law, however a list of who voted in the presidential primary and the party ballot each voter selected will be provided to the chair of each major political party by the Secretary of State, as is required under state law. How a voter voted on their ballot will still remain a secret. If you are an unregistered voter, you can preregister to vote in the election

prior to Feb. 11 or you can register at your polling place on Election Day. According to the Secretary of State, the March 3 primary will cost approximately \$11.9 million to administer statewide. Costs associated with the election are reimbursed to counties and municipalities. One final and important

note – while the presidential primary replaces preferential polls that previously were conducted at precinct caucus meetings, those caucus meetings will still be held on Tuesday

Feb. 25 to allow members of the political parties to weigh in on other races or to advance resolutions for the party platforms.

Regular balloting in Minnesota's presidential

primary is set for Tuesday, March 3. Hours of polling may vary but most polling places are typically open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### News In Brief

### Ely Winter Festival seeks sponsors

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

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

Despite support from all sectors of the Ely community town, 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/.

On the website you can also apply to bring a snow carving team to Ely and to

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.

### Mankato man, Tower woman injured in snowmobile-vehicle accident on Hwy. 77

VERMILION LAKE TWP- A Mankato man was seriously injured when he was struck by a car while attempting to cross County Rd. 77 on his snowmobile.

Fifty-eight-year-oldLarryKrmpotich was struck by a Chevy Equinox, driven by Michael Schultz, of Tower, at approximately 7:37 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 18.

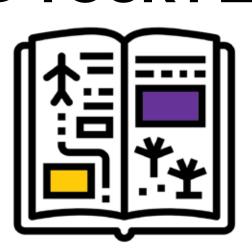
Krmpotich was in a group of five snowmobilers attempting to cross Hwy. 77 to reach a snowmobile trail on the other side of the highway, when he collided with the vehicle, traveling along the bridge over the Pike River, near the

intersection of St. Odilia Beach Road.

Krmpotich was transported by the Tower Area Ambulance to Essentia Health-Virginia Hospital, and was later transported to a Duluth-area hospital with serious injuries. Schultz was not injured, but his wife reportedly suffered injuries from the crash.

The accident remains under investigation by the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office. Tower Ambulance, Vermilion Lake Fire and First Responders, Breitung Police, and the Bois Forte Police all assisted at the scene.

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SUPPORTING THE ARTS

# The Quiltmaker's Gift opens Friday

# First production in Ely's renovated Historic State Theater

Ely Editor

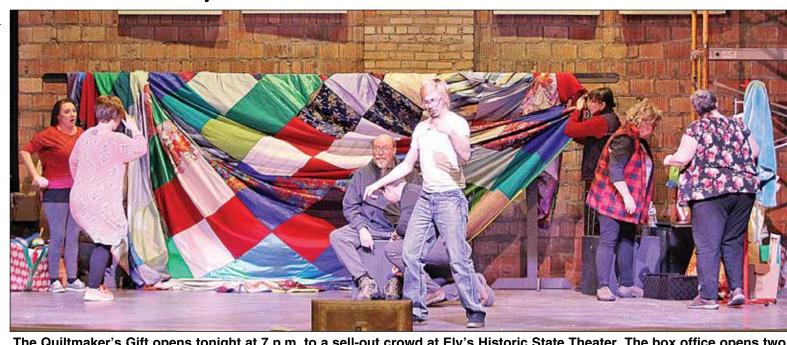
ELY - Following months of preparation and community-wide fundraising efforts, The Quiltmaker's Gift is set to open Friday, Jan. 24 at Ely's newly-renovated Historic State Theater. Shows are scheduled for Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. A special dress rehearsal was set for Thursday, Jan. 23 for students.

Tickets for all the performances are sold out. "This is a fable for our

times that celebrates the joy of giving," according to Director Laurie Kess. "It is the story of a generous quilt maker with magic in her fingers who sews the most beautiful quilts in the world, then gives them away, she said. "A greedy king, his storehouse stuffed with treasures, yearns for something that will make him happy. When the quiltmaker finally agrees to make a quilt for the king, but only under certain conditions, she causes him to undergo a change of heart."

"At times mystical, hilarious, gently provocative and touching, this intimate musical, performed throughout the United States, has delighted parents and children alike," Kess added.

The Quiltmaker's Gift



The Quiltmaker's Gift opens tonight at 7 p.m. to a sell-out crowd at Ely's Historic State Theater. The box office opens two hours earlier and doors open at 6:15 p.m. A few folding chairs are being set up, but advance tickets are not available. Books, available for autograph by the author and illustrator, will be sold, as will posters and note cards. A drawing will be held for two donated quilts. photo by K. Vandervort

won the Book Sense Book of the Year Award in 2000 for best children's picture book, and 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of its publication.

To date, roughly 725,000 copies of The Quiltmaker's Gift have been sold worldwide and it has been translated into Chinese, Korean, Greek and German. It inspired a sequel, The Quiltmaker's Journey, two books on quilting, and a number of theatrical productions including a ballet with the University of Utah's Children's Dance Theater at Marshall School in Duluth.

The Quiltmaker's Gift cast includes:

Pat Zupancich as the Quiltmaker, Tom Bennett as the Chorus King, Vince O'Connor as the Old Man, Brennan Reed as The Boy, and Karin Schmidt as The

The community production is supported in part by the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust, the Ely Rotary, the Ely Chamber of Commerce, Lake Country Power and the Ely Kiwanis.

#### **Author and** artist events

Jeff Brumbeau, author of The Quiltmaker's Gift, will visit Ely with his wife during the production. He will meet with Megan Heiman's English class at Vermilion Community College on Friday.

Meanwhile, Crapola is hosting a display of original (Ely resident) Gail deMarcken paintings for The Quiltmaker's Journey, written and illustrated after the Quiltmaker's Gift's success telling the story of her childhood and what led her to become The Quiltmaker.

### Ely Folk School events

The Ely Folk School is hosting special events to celebrate the production.

A quilt show, hosted by the Ely Heart of the Woods quilters guild, will be held Thursday, Jan. 23 through Sunday, Jan. 26, noon-4 p.m. Their work will also be on display during the Art Walk during the Ely Winter Festival, Feb. 6-16.

A special quilting class with Susan Covey will be held on Friday, Jan. 24, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Ely Folk

Covey has owned and operated Cabin Quilting in Cook, for eight years. She is originally from southern Minnesota, where she had a long arm quilting business. She has been quilting for 27 years. She currently teaches at Northwoods Friends of the Arts (NWFA) in Cook.

Her classes include purses, bags, wallets, rugs, table runners, quilts, applique, and more.

She will begin with a demonstration of the essential first steps and an introduction to terminology that will help participants get started in the quilting world. During the class, students will make a table runner and, if time permits, a microwave cozy. There are sewing machines available, but it is preferable that students bring their own machine.

For more information, go to www.elyfolkschool.





Queen's Cake and Coffee an' to follow

Students - \$3,00

### Sat, February 1 & Sun, February 2



Community Center Palo, MN

### Saturday, February 1

7:30 am-11:00 am Kropsu Breakfast

9:00 am-4:00 pm Artisans & Demonstrators in Laskiainen Tradition

Tori (Marketplace)

Bakery (Finnish breads)

Fry Bread Booth Old Co-op Theatre

10:00 am-4:00 pm Sleigh/Carriage Rides (FREE) Dog Sled Rides (FREE)

12:00-4:00 pm Moijakka (Finnish stew) or Taco in a bag

10:00 am-6:00 pm Girls' and Boys' Youth **Basketball Games** 

7:30 pm

6:00 pm "Old Timers" Basketball Game

> Laskiainen Lakers Basketball Game Door Prizes!

### Sunday, February 2

of classic bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, and heartfelt originals. Their airtight harmonies,

razor sharp arrangements, and on-stage rapport

make them audience favorites across the

United States and Canada.

7:30 am-9:30 am Piggies & Pancake Breakfast

SUNDAY -1:30 PM TICKETS

(Pancakes, sausage, juice & coffee) 10:00 am **Ecumenical Church Service** 

9:00 am-4:00 pm Artisans & Demonstrators

In Laskiainen Tradition

Tori (Marketplace) Bakery (Finnish breads)

Museum Fry Bread Booth

Old Co-op Theatre 10:00 am-4:00 pm Sleigh/Carriage Rides (FREE)

Dog Sled Rides (FREE) 11:00 am-4:00 pm Pea Soup Dinner

Introduction of the Royal Court 1:30 pm "Monroe Crossing"



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# SPORTS

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**HOCKEY** 

# Ely downed 10-4 by Red Lake Falls



by KEITH VANDERVORT Elv Editor

ELY - Playing on home ice Friday night, the Timberwolves lost 10-4 to Red Lake Falls. A quick start helped the Eagles as they peppered sophomore goalie Chase Sandberg with 17 shots, scoring back-to-back goals, at the 3:15 and 4:02 marks.

Left: Ely goalie Chase Sandberg faces down a Red Lake Falls forward during action on home ice last Friday.

photo by K. Vandervort

The Timberwolves managed six shots on goal in the first period and Dalton Schreffler, with assists by Jimmy Zupancich and Jackson From, scored Ely's first goal at 11:01 into the frame.

Red Lake Falls scored two more goals in the second period, at 1:35 and 4:21 into the period to take a 5-1 lead, before Ely found the back of the net again. Luke Olson scored unassisted at 4:59, while Schreffler scored on a power play, with assists by Seann Prigge and Olson, at 6:53 to close the gap to 5-3. The Eagles came right back with goals at 6:05 and 11:47 to take a 7-3 lead after two periods. The Eagles had nine shots on goal and Ely had eight shots to the net in the second period.

In the third period, the Eagles scored at 3:32 and 7:20 to pad their lead at 9-3. Olson scored for Ely, with an assist by Prigge, at 13:53, and Red Lake Falls scored their final goal of the night at 16:15 in the period for the 10-4 win.

Ely ended up with 16 shots on goal, while the Eagles tallied 38

See HOCKEY...pg. 2B

BOYS BASKETBALL

# Timberwolves rally to top Ojibwe

Lose home heartbreaker at the buzzer after leading Duluth-Marshall into the final seconds

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

FOND DU LAC-The Timberwolves rebounded from a first half deficit to edge Fond Du Lac 75-67 in a tough and physical contest. "We played better on both ends of the floor in the second half," said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald after the game. The Ojibwe have proven to be a tough competitor and have given some of the stronger teams in the section a run for their money this year.

Senior Eric Omerza led the way in Ely's rally, connecting for 29 points and eight assists, while senior Bryce Longwell added 15 points and senior Dylan Fenske added 12 points and seven rebounds.

Playing in Ely on Saturday, the Wolves lost a heartbreaker to Duluth-Marshall, 71-69, on a buzzer beater by Marshall standout Jasper Timm. The Wolves had led much of the game and were up by as much as seven points in the final minutes but couldn't contain a final surge by the Hilltoppers.



Left: Ely junior Brock LaTourell cuts up the middle past a Duluth-Marshall defender. Ely, after leading much of the game, lost in the final seconds to the Hilltoppers.

photo by J. Greeney

# Grizzlies dominate Cherry in easy win



by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

FIELD TWP— A rare loss last week appeared to refocus the Grizzlies here on Tuesday as they cruised to an easy 95-26 win over Cherry.

"We played a much more intense game," said North Woods Head Coach Will Kleppe. "We picked up our defensive intensity and rebounding which spurred a number of transition buckets

**Left: Senior Trevor Morrison** goes in for a layup.

photo by B. Smith

for us."

The tenth-ranked Grizzlies had little trouble penetrating the Cherry defense and shot 70 of their points from the paint. A total of 55 rebounds also helped the Grizzlies' cause.

Junior Darius Goggleye and sophomore TJ Chiabotti led the way in scoring with 21 points apiece, while Goggleye added nine rebounds. Senior Trevor Morrison notched a double-double with 19 points and 11 boards. Senior Levi Byram added 12 points while freshman Brendan Chiabotti added nine.

"When we get five guys rebounding we are going to increase our chances for success," said Kleppe. "It is an ongoing process to get players to play to their strengths. We've seen glimpses of it this season. We need to do it on a consistent basis as we enter the second half of the season."

In action last Thursday at Cass Lake, the Panthers simply outshot the Grizzlies enroute to a 75-52 win. A quick start made all the difference for the Panthers,

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

### Ely keeps Huskies on short leash

### Struggle against sixth-ranked Duluth-Marshall

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

ELY — The Timberwolves kept the Huskies on a tight leash on Tuesday as they cruised to a 68-40 win. A strong first-half performance gave the Wolves a 37-20 lead and they never looked back as they outpaced Bigfork in the second half as

"It was a game where we were able to get a quality lead and be able to give everyone some decent minutes of play," said Ely Head Coach Darren

Senior Brielle Kallberg led the way for Ely with 24 points and ten rebounds for a double-double. Eighth-grader Grace LaTourell scored 15 points and freshman Rachel Coughlin added ten. Senior Erika Mattson added seven points and six rebounds while

freshman Madeline Kallberg

added four points to the cause.

Right: Ely senior Erika **Mattson shoots from** under the basket during Monday's contest with **Duluth-Marshall.** 

photo by J. Greeney

"Overall, we are starting to see more and more of our younger players who are greatly improving and showing that they can help in certain

See ELY...pg. 2B



**BOYS B-BALL** 

Friday, Jan. 24 North Woods at Eveleth-Gilbert, 7:15 p.m. Ely hosts Littlefork/Big Falls, 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 28 North Woods hosts Floodwood, 7:15 p.m.

Ely at Carlton, 7:15 p.m.

### **GIRLS B-BALL**

Friday, Jan. 24 Ely at Duluth Denfeld, 7:15 p.m. Northeast Range at Northland-Remer, 7:15 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 27 North Woods hosts Fond Du Lac, 5:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 28 Ely hosts Nash/Kee, 7:15 p.m. Northeast Range at Littlefork/Big Falls, 7:15 p.m.

### HOCKEY

Saturday, Jan. 25 Ely at May-Port, 1 p.m.

### **NORDIC SKIING**

Friday, Jan. 24 Ely at Duluth East invite,

### f WOLVES...Continued from page 1B -

"We played well enough and built a seven-point lead with about four minutes to go but missed shots and a couple of bad turnovers allowed them to take the lead and win," said McDonald.

Ely junior Brock

LaTourell had a big night despite the loss, pouring in 30 points, including eight treys. Omerza and Fenske both added 12 points, while junior Will Davies added six points.

In action on the road on Friday, Fenske poured

in a career-high 35 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to lead Ely to an 84-66 win over Mt. Iron-Buhl. Fenske was among three Ely players to notch a double-double in the contest. The Wolves mounted a quick start, taking a 12-0

lead in the early going to set the pace. The Rangers did rally to take a brief lead before the Wolves kicked it back into gear. Ely took a 47-36 lead into the break and outpaced the Rangers in the second half to clinch the deal.

Adding to Ely's effort were Omerza with 17 points and 10 assists, Longwell with 12 points and 13 boards, Emmett Faltesek and Will Davies, each with seven points, and freshman Joey Bianco, with six points.

The Wolves were set to host Littlefork-Big Falls on Friday. They'll visit Carlton on Tuesday. Both varsity games get underway at 7:15 p.m.

### **HOCKEY...**Continued from page 1B

shots to the net. Red Lake Falls was one-for-one on power plays and Ely was one-for-three.

In hockey action on Tuesday night, the Wolves slipped 10-1 to Proctor. No more details on the game were available at presstime.

The Timberwolves' game against Mora last Saturday was postponed due to weather and will be made up on Feb. 13. Ely travels to Bagley on Friday and May-Port on Saturday.

Right: Ely's Luke Olson prepares to check a Red Lake Falls player.

photo by K. Vandervort



### **ELY...**Continued from page 1B-

situations in the varsity games," said Visser. "It is fun to see the development of not only our younger players but our team as a whole."

It wasn't all victories

on the week, however. Short-handed and up against the sixth-ranked Class AA Hilltoppers, the Wolves struggled to keep pace here on Monday night, ultimately falling 72-38 in girls basketball action. The Hilltoppers jumped to a quick lead and never looked back. They took a 50-22 lead into the break and only added to their margin in the second half.

"We had several key players out and were

playing one of the top 10 AA schools in the state," said Visser. "I thought our young players stepped up well and contributed in a difficult situation. Erika, being our only senior, did a great job of leading the younger players to keep working hard and playing together."

Bright spots were few for Ely in the lopsided loss although Mattson connected on 14 points, including three treys. LaTourell added seven points and freshman Madeline Perry added six. Rachel Coughlin scored five points and Taylor Gibney added four points.

### **GRIZZLIES...**Continued from page 1B

who led 22-3 at one point in the first half. The Grizzlies played even much of the rest of the game but could never close the gap. They trailed by 24 points at the break and ended up losing by 23.

"We didn't come out with the energy and intensity to compete," said Kleppe. "We had an uncharacteristically high number of turnovers which led to too many easy buckets for them."

Shooting percentage made all the difference, as the Grizzlies shot just 34 percent from the field, compared to 47.6 percent for the Panthers.

TJ Chiabotti led in scoring for

the Grizzlies with 23 points and seven rebounds, while Morrison connected for 16 points and an even dozen rebounds for a double-double. Freshman Jared Chiabotti added five points for the Grizzlies, while junior Darius Goggleye grabbed seven rebounds and notched three assists.

Despite the loss, Kleppe said the contest was a valuable one for his tenth-ranked Grizzlies. "Playing some of the top teams in Section 8 hopefully better prepares us for our own section opponents. We certainly learned from the experience and I felt we applied some of that knowledge in Tuesday's

game with Cherry."

The Grizzlies head to Eveleth on Friday to take on the Golden Bears. They'll be back home on Tuesday to host Floodwood. Jump ball is set for 7:15 p.m.

Right: North Woods sophomore TJ Chiabotti dribbles past a Cherry defender in Tuesday night boys high school basketball action at the North Woods School. Chiabotti scored 21 points in the contest.

photo by B. Smith



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Pick Up

## Memories of the Early Days

A fascinating look back at the early history of the Lake Vermilion area

Written by Marshall Helmberger • Published by the Timberjay

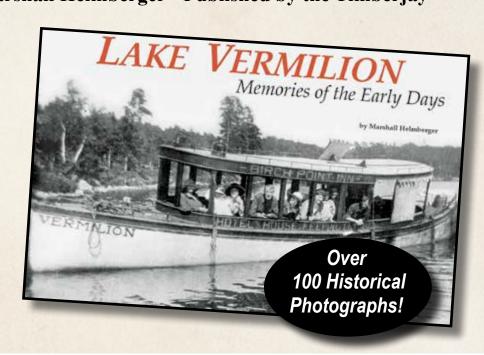
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#### **GREENWOOD**

### Greenwood to commit local funding to future broadband project

Γower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- In a preliminary discussion about the 2021 levy, Greenwood Township Chair Carmen De Luca told board members they should consider setting up a dedicated fund to use for future broadband

"It shouldn't be less than \$50,000," he said.

Supervisor Mike Ralston agreed, noting such a project is likely to cost at least a million dollars, and is probably several years in the future.

A motion to add a new

broadband fund, and budget \$50,000 for 2021, passed unanimously. The board will do a formal

review of next year's budget at their February meeting. Township residents will approve the 2021 levy at the March 10 annual meeting.

In other broadband-related news, the township will be asking property owners to participate in online surveys with two different possible broadband providers, Paul Bunyan and CTC. The surveys will determine the potential interest in getting broadband quality service as well as the cost residents would be willing to pay for the service. The township plans to mail out postcards to approximately 1,000 property owners with information on how to complete both online surveys.

In other business, the board approved a new policy regarding assigning duty hours for the deputy clerk and treasurer. Previously, the clerk or treasurer would assign hours to their deputy. The new policy states that

the clerk or treasurer should contact the board chair or vicechair if they need to be gone during their regular office hours, and then the chair/vice-chair would determine if they want to have the deputy in the office. In cases of emergency, the clerk or treasurer can simply post a sign on the office door that they will

The board reviewed a letter from township attorney Mike Couri that said the board did have the authority to set the deputy clerk and deputy treasurer hours and wages. Previously, DeLuca had expressed concerns about the expense of having the deputy clerk in the office when the clerk needed to be out of the office. While the board does not have the authority to set hours for the clerk or treasurer. Couri wrote that the deputy clerk and deputy treasurer are considered employees, not elected, and thus are under the purview of the town board.

The clerk and treasurer each select their own deputy. The township treasurer Pam Rodgers is out of the area over the winter months, and deputy treasurer Janelle Swenson has been filling in as needed, though Rodgers is doing as much of her job remotely as possible.

The deputy clerk is former township supervisor John Bassing, who had filled in when Drobac was at a clerk's training — which upset DeLuca.

But not everyone was on board with the new policy. "It's going to start getting busy with the upcoming elections," noted Supervisor Mike Ralston. "It's a tough call. There are times when it [the office] should be open when she is not here." Ralston was the sole vote opposed to the motion.

### Other business

In other business, the board: ➤ Accepted the retirement of Fire Chief Dave Fazio. Assistant Chief Mike Indihar was appointed as interim chief and he gave the monthly fire department report. He said the township's EMRs all need to be recertified so they were looking at scheduling the required recertification classes. The town board approved purchasing two jump kits for two new EMR members who had almost completed their training at a cost of approximately \$1,000. The board also approved paying the cost of hepatitis shots for any EMRs that request them.

➤ Heard from resident Marcie Moe who asked the board to publish the letter they had received from their attorney that detailed the pros and cons of having an elected versus hired clerk and treasurer. The question of whether to move from an elected clerk and treasurer, to a hired (employee) clerk/treasurer will be on the township ballot in March.

➤ Approved sending the clerk to a MATIT training class

➤ Approved a donation of \$100 to the Cook Library.

> Accepted a quote from Reichel Electric to upgrade 27 lights in the town hall and on the grounds to LED for a cost of \$2,565.

➤ Approved joining RAMS at a cost of \$300 for the year.

➤ Noted the township needed to provide information to the Department of Labor and Industry regarding a complaint filed by Jeff Maus.

### State rules that Greenwood must supply public information

by Jodi Summit

Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP-Every resident, even a critical one, is allowed access to public records. That's the upshot of a ruling issued earlier this month by the Minnesota Department of Administration that found in favor of Greenwood resident Jeff Maus in his dispute with the township over access to township minutes and other records. Last fall, the town board approved a motion instructing the town clerk to deny Maus, and only Maus, access to the record of each board member's votes on appropriation of township funds during meetings held in August and September 2019. After town clerk Sue Drobac denied Maus the records he was seeking, he

The board, last fall, cited an unresolved complaint by Maus

asked for an advisory opinion on

the matter from the Department

to the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry as justification for their decision to deny him access to public records. The board noted that Maus had access to the meeting minutes that were available as part of that meeting's public packet. Maus, in his complaint to DOLI, stated he was attempting to review his own personnel records as a fire department member to confirm compliance with pension requirements.

At their most recent meeting, held Jan. 14, the Greenwood board discussed the state ruling and learned that the township's attorney was recommending the board amend its earlier motion, to state that the public has access to such information, and to have the clerk implement the motion.

The board did not take their attorney's advice, however, opting to do nothing to alter their earlier motion.

When Maus asked Drobac for the information the day after the January meeting, Drobac again cited the motion from last fall in denying him access to the

"This motion has not been formally amended or clarified per attorney recommendation, and stands as is," she wrote on the information request form.

State law requires that such records be available to the public during normal business hours of the place such records are stored.

The town board's continued denial of access could be grounds for a lawsuit, should Maus opt to go that route. Courts are required to give deference to rulings by the Department of Administration as they pertain to the Open Meeting Law and the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, and given the nature of the town board's motion, Maus's case would seem to be a strong one.

Township attorney Michael Couri, in a letter responding to Maus's complaint, tried to

put the blame for the apparent violation on clerk Drobac. Couri acknowledged that the board had made the motion to deny Maus access to the records, but noted that it was Drobac who actually carried out the board's instructions, violating the law

"To the extent that Mr. Maus may have been denied the ability to review the minutes of Greenwood Township's August and September meetings as required by Minn. Stat. 13D.01, the town board's actions are not the cause of the denial," Couri wrote. "Instead, the responsibility of that denial rests with the township clerk."

Commissioner Alice Roberts-Davis disagreed. "The Board has an obligation to maintain a journal of votes and to provide access to the journal of votes, during all normal business hours where the journal is kept," she wrote. "The result of the board's action is to restrict access to the journal of votes to meeting times for Mr. Maus, specifically. This is contrary to the plain language of section 13D.01....The board cannot restrict, via motion, something that is guaranteed in statute."

Roberts-Davis noted that the motion to preclude access to "emails and stuff" did not provide sufficient direction to township staff members who implement the decisions of the board. She added that it was outside the scope of her authority to interpret whether it was the board members' actions or the township clerk's that had created the violation.

In closing the opinion, Roberts-Davis stated "The Greenwood Township Board of Supervisors did not provide appropriate access to the votes of members, in response to an October 1, 2019, request."

### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

**CITY OF ELY** Council Minutes January 7, 2020 **Regular Meeting Ely** City Council - City Hall, **Council Chambers** 

of Administration.

1. CALL TO ORDER Mayor Novak called the Ely City Council meeting to order at 5:30pm.

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

Callen

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve minutes from the December 17, 2019 Regular

Council Meeting, and TIF District Public Hearing Minutes from December 17 2019. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent. 4.ADDITIONS

OMISSIONS TO AGENDA: A. Addition 6.E. Approve the Ely Jaycees Temporary Liquor Licenses for the Piragis Lumberjack Party on February 15, 2020 at 105 N Central Ave, Crapola Block Party on 1st Ave East, Chamber Sponsored Music in the Park June 25, July 9, and August 13, 2020 at Whiteside Park, Blueberry Arts Festival July 24, 25, 26, 2020 at Whiteside Park, and the Ely Marathon on September 20, 2020 at Whiteside Park. B. Addition 8.A. Lodging Tax

Board

Addition 9.E. East ulding Reversionary Spaulding Reversionary Interest Kirk Solum and Sale to Linda Solum. Approval of Quit Claim Deed, removing the City's right of re-entry to the property legally described as follows Lot 3, Block 3 in East Spaulding.
D. Addition 11.D. Pay
Request for the Quad Cities

ATV Virginia to Laurentian Trail Improvements for \$4200 to Soil & Water -Environmental Consulting Thomas A. Fait for the Wetland Delineation Report. E. Addition 13.L. In kind services for the Ely Winter Festival February 6-16, 2020.

Snowmobile Group and the Annul Fun Run at the Grand Ely Lodge on January 22-26, 2020, to plow both Pioneer Mine parking lots for additional parking. Additions A-F were added without objection.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT Mayor Novak stated that at the next council meeting the council will go through the Council Member Committees list for 2020. If council members are interested in a particular committee let the Deputy Clerk know. Mayor Novak indicated that

the public works crew has been using the new snow blower to widen the streets and it has worked great. Debeltz indicated that the city crews are doing a great job with the amount of snow we have received this year.

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

B. Approve to call for sealed bids for 2020 legal newspaper C. Approve advertising for

open committee seats
D. Approve 2020 Council Meeting Calendar

E. Approve the Ely Jaycees Temporary Liquor Licenses for the Piragis Lumberjack Party on February 15, 2020 at 105 N Central Ave, Crapola Block Party on 1st Ave East. Chamber Sponsored Music in the Park June 25, July 9, and August 13, 2020 at Whiteside Park, Blueberry Arts Festival July 24, 25, 26, 2020 at Whiteside Park, and the Ely Marathon on September 20, 2020 at

approve the consent agenda items A-E. Campbell asked why the bid

Omerza/Debeltz moved to

Whiteside Park.

packet for the 2020 legal newspaper bids was not in the agenda packet.

Mayor Novak indicated that the Council approves going Langowski stated that it is

Campbell indicated that she

similar to last years.

F. Addition 13.M. In kind ser- would like to include the stat- Public Works will be remov- Dues of \$700.00

Langowski indicated that we can include the appropriate statutes in the bid packet. Omerza thanked the Deputy Clerk for putting together the 2020 Council Meeting Calendar with the 2020 Election dates and meeting

changes in it. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent.

7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR: Muffin Nelson – State Theater/Quiltmaker's Gift Proclamation – Mayor Novak indicated that he will sign the proclamation.

8.COMMITTEE REPORTS: A. Standing/Special Planning and Zoning Commission

Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve the recommendation to discuss the Short-Term Rental Recommendations from Planning and Zoning at the January 28, 2020 Study Session. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent.

Lodging Tax Board Kess indicated that major changes to the board are coming. Cindy Beans is the new director. The Ely Tourism Bureau is now an independent entity: they have a separate 501(c)6, Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, they are no lon-ger using the Chamber of Commerce as a fiscal agent. Through the rebranding process of the Ely Area Tourism Bureau or Visit Elv. MN we will have a defined logo, slogan, and design elements. Establish brand requirements to ensure ongoing area rec-

Omerza stated that the outdoor skating rink is open at the Rec Center; check the City of Ely website for the hours.

Langowski indicated that the hours are Monday – Friday 3pm-8pm, Saturday 12pm-8pm and Sunday 1pm-6pm.

9.DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS: A. Clerk-Treasurer

Langowski indicated that

town area on Thursday and will be working with MnDot to remove the snow on Sheridan Street on Friday. If you are a or have a contracted snow plower please work with your neighbors, do not push the snow into your neighbor's driveway, the city right of ways, the sidewalk, etc. We are aware that there is a lot of snow, we are doing

the best we can to remove

it and appreciate everyone's

patience. B. Fire Chief

C. Library Director Library Director Heinrich gave an update on the upcoming events at the library and the holiday hours which can be located on the Library website.

D. Police Chief

E. City Attorney Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve the Note and Mortgage for the Commercial renovation loan for 141 N Central Ave to replace floors, replace windows, and apply 1" of foam insulation and fiberglass for \$17,500. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent

Omerza/Campbell moved to approve the East Spaulding Reversionary Interest Kirk Solum and Sale to Linda Solum. Approval of Quit Claim Deed, removing the City's right of re-entry to the property legally described as follows Lot 3, Block 3 in East Spaulding. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

ISO Rating for Ely and Ely Fire Department Public Protection Classification: 05/5X, 10 - Matter of Information

11.CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT: A. City and EUC claims for January 7, 2020 -\$383,378.11 B. Range Association of Municipalities and Schools

Invoice 2020-010 for 2020

1st Quarter Payment of

\$5125.00 D.Pay Request for the Quad Cities ATV Virginia to Laurentian Trail Improvements for \$4200 to Soil & Water – Environmental Consulting – Thomas A. Fait for the Wetland Delineation

Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the Claims for Payment A-D. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent

12. OLD BUSINESS: None

13. NEW BUSINESS: A. Debeltz/A.Forsman moved to approve the 2020 official city depositories: Frandsen Bank & Trust, Boundary Waters Bank and 4M Fund. Motion Carried 5-0-1-1 with Callen Absent and Omerza abstaining since spouse works for Frandsen.

B.Omerza/A.Forsman moved to designate the Assistant Treasurer as the designated person to oversee, monitor, accept responsibility and evaluate the "nonattest/nonaudit services, which include the preparation of the notes to the financial statements to be included in the audit of the City of Ely for the year ending December 31, 2020. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent.

C.A.Forsman/Omerza moved to approve Change Order #3 – Final to decrease the contract amount by \$3,296 for the Vermilion River Bridge Construction Project, Voyageur Country ATV. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent

D.Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve Pay Estimate #8 for the Vermilion River Bridge Construction Project for \$254,173.38 to George Bougalis and Sons. Motion

Carried 6-0-1 with Callen E. Omerza/Campbell moved to approve the Miscellaneous Invoices for the Vermilion

River Bridge Construction

Mesabi

Project:

ShelDon - Invoice #21253 for \$1044.00 Voyageur Country ATV – Invoice #1399940 for \$6,717.22

Lowe's - Transaction #4336062 for \$30.04 Anderson Canoe Outfitters – Invoice #3414 for

Seppi Bros – Ticket #7240 for \$936.52 Radko Iron & Supply

Invoice #553535 for \$450.98 Melgeorge's Elephant Lake Lodge - Invoice #1325 for \$1,184.00

Tom Baumchen

Invoice #102 for \$5,198.00 Northwoods True Value Home Center – Transaction #A57128 for \$294.21 Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent

F.Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve Resolution #2020-001 authorizing City officials and staff to attend meetings outside of Ely. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman-Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Absent, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent.

moved to approve the City of Ely Fee Schedule dated January 1, 2020. Langowski indicated that the

G.Omerza/A.Forsman

Winter Cemetery Burial Fees are going to be looked at in the future. A.Forsman asked if there

were any changes to the Fee Schedule. There were not any changes to the fee schedule at this time. Motion Carried 6-0-1with Callen Absent.

H.Campbell/Omerza moved to approve the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant Agreement for the Pioneer Mine Retaining Wall Construction Drawings for \$10,000. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen Absent.

2020 - May 18, 2022. Motion

I. Debeltz/Kess moved to approve the Golf Course Land Lease for May 18,

Company - Invoice #46069 Carried 6-0-1with Callen

J. Campbell/Omerza moved to approve the Commercial Renovation Loan for E Sheridan Street Properties, LLC for 228 E Sheridan St for insulation, wiring, and to rough in plumbing on 2nd theater space in Salerno building for \$17,500, pending

proper paperwork and fees and to direct Attorney Klun to work with the applicant and to proceed with loan processing. Motion Carried 6-0-1with Callen Absent. K.A.Forsman/Omerza moved to approve Resolution 2020-002 authorizing the Knights of Columbus to Council 3238

to conduct Bingo. Roll Called: Council Member A.Forsman-Yes, Kess-Yes, Debeltz-Yes, Omerza-Yes, Callen-Absent, Campbell – Yes, and Mayor Novak-Yes. Motion Carried 6-0-1with Callen Absent.

L.Debeltz/Omerza moved to approve the in kind services for the Ely Winter Festival February 6-16, 2020. Langowski indicated that the cities priority is the streets and public safety and they will help the Winter Festival

when they can.

Motion Carried 6-0-1with Callen Absent. M.Debeltz/Omerza moved

to approve the in kind services for the Northland 300 Snowmobile Group and the Annul Fun Run at the Grand Ely Lodge on January 22-26, 2020, to plow both Pioneer Mine parking lots for additional parking. Motion Carried 6-0-1with Callen Absent.

15. ADJOURN

Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting without objection at Casey Velcheff, Deputy Clerk

14. OPEN FORUM - None

Published in the Ely

Timberjay, Jan. 24, 2020

**4B** January 24, 2020 TIMBERJAY Newspapers

# Our lives in the Northwoods

**LEGISLATION** 

# McCollum bill would enact copper-nickel withdrawal

by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

REGIONAL - Minnesota's Fourth District Congresswoman Betty McCollum has introduced legislation in Washington that would prohibit sulfide-based copper-nickel mining in portions of the Superior National Forest located upstream of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

"Visitors from all over the world, all Americans, and especially Minnesotans who are proud to have it in our backyard know the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is a special place," Rep. McCollum said in a statement issued Jan. 15. "The BWCAW is intact today because of more than a century of protections. We have an obligation to continue this legacy.'

The bill, identified as H.R. 5598, would permanently withdraw approximately 234,000 acres of federal land within the Rainy River watershed from the federal mineral leasing program for sulfide-based minerals. The measure would not impact mineral leasing or mining for taconite, iron ore, granite, or gravel, which would still be allowed under the bill.

The measure faces long odds of passage in the current Congress and would almost certainly face a presidential veto under the Trump administration, which restored mineral leases for the proposed Twin Metals copper-nickel mine that would be located in the area affected by McCollum's legislation. That decision is currently under legal challenge, with a decision expected soon. The Twin Metals project is primarily owned by the Chilean mining giant Antofagasta, whose lobbyists have proven influential with the Trump Interior Department, which oversees federal mineral

"This administration has signed off on some of the most destructive polluter giveaways in our nation's history, and it obviously has no intention of stopping," said House Natural Resources Committee Chair Raul Grijalva, a co-sponsor of McCollum's measure.

McCollum's legislation also drew support from a long list of conservation groups, including Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, the Ruffed Grouse Society, and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, the National Wildlife Federation, and the American Sportfishing Association.

While McCollum's measure has support from several members of Congress, Eighth District Rep. Pete Stauber is not among them. Stauber blasted McCollum's measure as an intentional effort to "kill jobs" in northern Minnesota. "It is unfortunate that some of my colleagues continue to treat northern Minnesota as a playground to spend their weekends, rather than an area where people actually live, work, and raise their families," said Stauber.



**OUTDOORS** 

# Thinking spring?

### Reservations for Boundary Waters trips open Wednesday, Jan. 29 Forest Service discontinued that to obtain a quota permit. Group the group leader and alternate

by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

REGIONAL— There may be nearly three feet of snow on the ground in North Country, but it's not too early to start thinking about warmer weather and a visit to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Reservations for entry permits into the 1.1 million-acre wilderness can be made beginning at 9 a.m. central time on Wednesday, Jan. 29. Reservations for trips between May 1 through September 30 can be booked using Recreation. gov, the online reservation and trip planning service for all federal recreation opportunities, or by calling 1-877-444-6777.

All reservations will be issued on a first-come, firstserved basis — and that includes the limited number of motor permits available for travel to several BWCAW lakes. In the past, the intensely-sought motor permits were issued through a lottery system, but the U.S.

01/14

01/15 24

01/16

01/18

01/19 2

8 -17

4 22 -27

23 10

01/15 01/16

01/18

01/19 26 YTD Total

24

11 -15 0.04

5 23

0.02

0.16

2.1

6.3"

1.8" 72.6"

who contend the change has reduced their ability to obtain motor permits for their potential clients.

The issue proved contentious one year ago and it sparked legislation by Eighth District Rep. Pete Stauber, intended to restore the lottery system. That legislation never advanced in Congress, however, and the Forest Service has opted not to reinstate the lottery. Ely area outfitter Jason Zabokrtysky said he's heard little or nothing about the issue in recent months.

The BWCAW is a unique area located in the northern third of the Superior National Forest, containing over 1,200 miles of canoe routes, 12 hiking trails and over 2,000 designated campsites. Visitors taking an overnight paddle, motor or hiking trip, or a motorized day trip into the BWCAW between May 1 and Sept. 30 are required

system last year. That decision sizes are limited to nine people group leaders specified at the upset many Ely area outfitters, and these smaller group sizes time of reservation can pick up enhance the wilderness experience, increase chances of seeing wildlife, and decrease resource impacts.

Here are a few tips to assist those interested in reserving these popular permits:

Visitors are encouraged to have at least three travel options (dates and entry points) in mind and to ensure they have a current Recreation.gov account before reserving a permit.

The reservation system allows visitors to immediately see how many permit reservations are available at each BWCAW entry point.

Streamline your permit reservation and prevent delays at pick-up by adding all group members to your permit. Although group members may be changed using the "My Reservations" link in Recreation.gov after the permit reservation is created, only

the permit. Prior to making reservations, carefully review all information in the "Need to Know" section of the BWCAW Permit on Recreation.gov. The permit holder and all group members must comply with all BWCAW rules and regulations. Permit reservations may be canceled for a full or partial refund, minus the six-dollar non-refundable reservation fee. Canceling your reservation allows others the opportunity to visit the

BWCAW. The Forest Service encourages visitors to explore their wilderness area and to remember that a permit is required yearround to enter the BWCAW. Self-issued permits are required for non-motorized day use visitors year-round and for all overnight visitors entering the BWCAW from Oct. 1 through April 30.

### Fishing reports

#### Kab-Nam area

Almost two feet of snow over the past week or so has left the snowmobile. snowshoe and cross-country ski trails in premier condition.

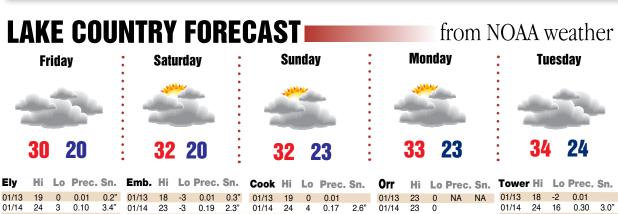
Unfortunately, off the trails, Kab is experiencing significant slush and deep snow with 4-5 foot drifts scattered throughout. This has made fishing tough for most, if not all, who don't have machines that can handle the extreme conditions. Fishing has been consistent for those who make it to their destination as the bite seems to be picking up. Deeper soft bottom structure is producing best. Recently, downsizing your bait with a less aggressive approach has worked well but with the weather turning that could change as fish become more active. Tipping your favorite lure with a waxworm has been extremely productive.

The National Park Service is presently trying to get the ice road in shape for travel but as of this week it is still closed as road users are preventing the slush from freezing up after park crews plowed the road earlier this month. Heavier machines that have been out there have broken up these areas which has delayed their progress in getting the ice road in. Please check the most recent updates on Voyageurs National Park website as well as their Facebook page. You can also give Gateway a call as we are in contact with them on a regular basis.

Switching gears, the area will be hosting the famed Arrowhead 135 Ultramarathon next Monday, Jan. 27. This race is one of the hardest in the world as athletes from around the world will attempt to start from International Falls and make it 135 miles by trail to Fortune Bay Resort. With trails in great shape and the weather taking a turn for the better, this could be a record-breaking year!

Here at Gateway, we are excited to be a sponsor of the race and will be ready for the brave athletes when they arrive, as well as spectators. We will have warm soups, hot beverages and plenty of other goodies, as well as a warm place for all to hang out and chat while waiting for their athlete to check in.

Courtesy Gateway Store, Lake Kabetogama



01/14

01/17 01/18 -2 22 -24 -2 0.00 0.42

01/19 2 YTD Total

24

2.0"

7.0"

0.06

 HYDRO-FRACKING 23 23 01/13 01/13 18 -2 3.0" 01/14 01/15 01/16 -2 -21 0.2" 2.8" 01/15 0.00 1.6" 0.05 8.8" 19 5.8" 01/18 01/18 -21 0.44 01/19 1 YTD Total Mt. Iron, MN 55768 37.0"

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**6B** January 24, 2020

#### TIMBERJAY Newspapers

### **CITY OF ELY** NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

The City of Ely is calling for interested applicants to fill the following vacancies on the

Airport Commission
1- three year term
\*resident or non-resident

Cemetery Committee 1- one year term 1- two vear term

Heritage Preservation Commission

1- one three year term resident or non-resident

resident or non-resident

<u>Library Commission</u> 1- three year term resident or non-resident

Park and Recreation Board 2- three year terms resident or non-resident

Planning & Zoning Commission 1- two year term resident or non-resident

Police Commission

1- three year term resident or non-resident

Telecommunications Advisory Board 1- three year term subscriber/resident

For more information on the committees go to www.ely.mn.us - City Government -Commissions, Committees, Boards. If you are interested in serving on a committee please remit a letter of interest or fill out the 'Application to serve on city commission' and remit to the Ely City Clerk's Office, 209 E. Chapman Street, Ely, MN 55731 or email casey.velcheff@ely.mn.us by January 30, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. Questions, please contact the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at 218-226-5474 or 218-226-5449.

Casey Velcheff, Deputy Clerk

Published in the Ely Timberjay, Jan. 17 & 24, 2020

### **EMPLOYMENT**

### FRANDSEN BANK & TRUST



Real people. Real results. **Customer Service Representative** 

Frandsen Bank & Trust is a growing company looking for a Full-time Customer

Service Representative for our Tower, MN office. Responsibilities will include handling routine financial transactions while ensuring a positive interaction with customers/ non-customers; handling customer inquiries and research; FB&T product knowledge and cross selling product as appropriate.

The qualified individuals will provide professional, superior customer service to both internal and external customers. A pleasant disposition and ability to communicate clearly and effectively to new and existing customers is a must. Candidates must have an eye for detail, work efficiently and cooperatively, and be flexible. Teller experience is preferred.

Frandsen Bank & Trust is owned by Frandsen bank holding company with \$1.7 billion in assets and over 30 offices. To learn more about our company please visit www.frandsenfinancial.com.

### Office Manager

Flexible hours. Competitive pay. Experience using QuickBooks, **Excel and Microsoft Word.** Bookkeeping experience required.

To apply: Send resume to **Immanuel Lutheran Church** PO Box 466, Tower, MN 55790 1/24



**Engineering Aide** Trainee

(Temporary) Apply by 2/14/20

**Highway Laborer (Temporary)** Apply by 2/14/20

www.stlouiscountymn.gov or call 218-726-2422

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#### SAFETY AND TRAINING SUPERVISOR

Full benefits - Pay starts at 20.97/hour

Full benefits including health and dental Office is in Gilbert

For details and to make application, go to: AEOA.org/careers/professionals Job closes Jan 26

**Arrowhead Transit** 

Good jobs for good people

### CITY OF ELY - NOTICE OF **Absentee Voting for the Presidential Primary Election**

To the Electors of the City of Ely in the County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: residential Primary Election will be held at 27 South 1st. Avenue East (the Senior Center) on TUESDAY, March 3, 2020, at which time the polls will be open from the hours of 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M

Anyone who wishes to vote by ABSENTEE BALLOT can obtain an Absentee Ballot Application by: Call - City Hall, Clerk's Office - 218-226-5449

In person - Clerk's Office, 209 E Chapman

St, Ely MN.

Hours: Monday –Friday 8am-4:30pm,
Saturday, February 29 10am-3pm
Monday, March 2 8am-5pm Email - deputyclerk@ely.mn.us

Online - www.mnvotes.org - Elections and Voting - Other Ways to Vote Once an Absentee Ballot Application is

received, a ballot will be available to you. Harold R Langowski, City Clerk/Treasurer

Published in the Ely Timberjay, Jan. 17 & 24, 2020

### **EMPLOYMENT**

#### LOOKING FOR A CAREER & TO **BECOME PART OF A GROWING TEAM?**

G-Men ES, Inc. is looking for drivers in the Ely & Virginia areas for full time positions. Qualified candidates will have the ability to follow directions, possess a valid Class Á or B CDL Driver's License, the ability to pass DOT physical & drug test, and lift 50 to 75 lbs. G-Men ES, Inc. offers State of the Art Equipment, Union Wages with Union Benefits including Health Insurance, Retirement Plan, Paid Holidays and Vacation.

> Email your resume to info@gmenes.com today. Come be a part of our team! 1/31

#### Superintendent/Principal Search **Nett Lake Public Schools ISD 707**

The Nett Lake School District 707 is seeking applications for a full-time Superintendent/ rincipal. A complete job description and application can be found at www.nettlakeschool.org or you may stop by the Nett Lake School. Compensation package will be based on qualifications and work experience. The district will begin reviewing applications on January 31, 2020.

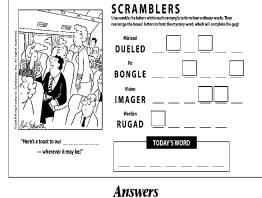
Contact Superintendent James J. Varichak, 13090 Westley Drive, Nett Lake, MN 55772. Email: jvarichak@isd707.org Phone: 218-757-3102.

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2020

### Looking for steady employment

Edwards has openings for good driving candidates that have at least a Class B license and 20,000 miles in a larger straight truck/dump truck or 50,000 miles in a tractor trailer and a Class A license. We offer 40+ hrs. each week with some OT available, year-round job on a regular schedule. Steady paycheck, full insurances, maintained\_equipment. 4 positions to fill close to Ely, Babbitt, Tower area.

Apply soon to: Edwards Oil and Propane, 820 Hoover Road North, Virginia MN 55792 OR Edwards Oil and Propane, 620 E Sheridan, Ely, MN 55731. 1/31



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### **Obituaries and Death Notices**

### **Nancy Diane Baermann**

Diane (as she was always called) Baermann, 76, of Dade City, Fla., went to be with the Lord on Monday, Jan. 13, 2020. Funeral arrangements are with Whitfield Funeral Home of Zephyrhills, Fla.

Diane was born on April 23, 1943, in Chicago, Ill., to Pierce A. and Bertha (Wallis) Holstine. She grew up in Chicago, graduated from high school and enlisted in the U.S. Army.

Diane is survived by three children, Stephen Tekautz, Dena (Tom) Suihkonen and Anthony (Ann) Tekautz; ten grandchildren, Callie (Chris Jensen) Tekautz, Charlie Tekautz, Tucker Tekautz, Andrea Suihkonen, Ariana (Jason) Picard, Gabriella Suihkonen, Olivia Suihkonen, Stefanie Tekautz, Brent Tekautz and Nathan Tekautz; five great-grandchildren, Madelynn, Brooklyn and Ashlynn Jensen, Odin and Barrett Picard; sisters, Delores Absher and Judy Bond; niece, Deanna (Mike) Withers; nephews, Gary (Mary Lou) Absher, David (Mary) Absher and Greg (Jennie) Bond; and a special friend, Carol Villemure. She was preceded in death by

her son, Brian Tekautz; husband, Richard Baermann; parents, Pierce and Bertha Holstine; and brother-inlaw, Bill Bond.

### Carol A. Kronfuss

Carol Ann Schneider Kronfuss, 91, of Aurora, formerly of Babbitt, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020. A service will be held the weekend of June 20, 2020, in Ely. Details are forthcoming. Arrangements are pending with the Duluth Cremation Society.

She is survived by ten of her twelve children, Nancy (Richard) Collyard, Kristen Johnson, Mary

Witte, Roscoe (Ruth) Kronfuss Karl Kronfuss, Eric Kronfuss, Kurt (Jill) Kronfuss, Nick Kronfuss Carol (Mike) Armstrong and Edward (Shauna Werth) Kronfuss; and a brood of sixty-plus grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

### Terese J. Moraski

Terese Jean Zollar Moraski, 84 of Hoyt Lakes, originally of Soudan passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family, on Monday Jan. 20, 2020, in Forest Lake. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church in Hoyt Lakes at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25. Visitation will be held at 9 a.m. at the church before Mass. Inurnment will be at a later date at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery-Little Falls at Camp Ripley on the Mississippi River, next to her husband, John "Jack" Moraski, U.S Navy, retired. In lieu of flowers memorial donations can be made to the family for the Matthew Dahl Memorial Field, named after her grandson. Arrangements are with Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Aurora.

She is survived by her daughters Lizette (Gari) Moscatelli of Forest Lake, Marge Dahl and husband LTC Michael Dahl, U.S. Marine Corps retired, of Madison, Ala., CDR Jane Moraski Matson, U.S. Navy retired, and LCDR Peter Matson U.S. Navy, retired, of Mahtomedi and Jean Ann (Mike) Hastings of Elysian; sister, Marcella Rooney of Duluth; brother-in-law, Bill (Virginia) Moraski; grandchildren Tia and Tess Moscatelli, Ryan and Lise Dahl, John "Jack", Nicholas and Isabella Matson, Hannah and Hudson Hastings; her best friend for over 60 years, Julie Osborne; and many dear nieces, nephews, and godchildren.

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(sign-on bonus- wage starting at \$15.88/hr.)

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FT Physical Therapist (sign-on bonus)

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### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆ ◆ ◆



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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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#### **HOSPICE**

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

#### **LICENSE BUREAU**

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

### REAL ESTATE

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#### **SUPPORT GROUPS**

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

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

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 any-one 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

### **HELP WANTED**

HIRING PART-TIME HELP- Get the application at The Great Outdoors, 419 E Sheridan St., Ely. 1/24

### RETIREMENT

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**SUPPORT** 

**GROUPS** 

AA

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Tuesdays at 12 noon. Peace

United Methodist Church, 303

S 9th Ave, please use side door

Thursdays at 7 p.m. at Woodland Presbyterian Church,

Acacia Blvd. and Central Drive

MEETING in Ely! "New Ideas" WOMEN IN RECOVERY: 12

Steps. For women seeking help

and hope to recover from any

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MEETING-

/IRGINIA

and parking.

in Babbitt.

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1 Shred

12 Buster

article

Katie

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Chastain

32 Body of work

33 "Harrumph!"

35 "Oh wow!"

**36** Off course

38 Birthplace of

40 Desertion of

one's faith

41 Highway

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themed

lounges

43 Quad bike,

44 Classic car

46 Turndowns

51 "Of course!"

53 1996 role for

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54 Steeping

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55 Snacker on

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Unser

60 Plus more:

Abbr.

61 Reef stuff

**59** Dupe

57 Capone and

45 Actress Blyth

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34 Rage

### **Super** Crossword

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**126** "— girl!" ("All

right!")

127 Unboastful

128 Pastoral

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2 "Three

**3** 61-Down

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4 Open, as a

5 Luau paste

8 Long to undo

9 NHL's Bobby

10 "- for Alibi"

11 1983 Mr. T

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13 Bays, e.g.

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16 Hedy of film

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**75** Daring

79 Tree with

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80 Up to, in ads

81 Young male,

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91 React to, as

**93** Moray, e.g.

**94** "Norma —

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**96** Fried quickly

97 Glides on ice

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100 Most adept

104 Gaucho rope

105 Mali's cont.

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109 Atelier tripod

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50 Slaughter

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20 News anchor 58 Deputy of 21 Arduous task

22 Not be idle 23 Discoverer of Uranus

... and "The Office" co-star

26 Spoil 27 "Orinoco Flow" singer

28 Sea, to Luc 29 Buenos — 30 Commanded

31 PCs on planes, often

33 Long-range German gun of WWI ... and "Apollo 13" Oscar

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38 Bern's river **39** To the extent

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#### 47 German article

I.M.

with a bat

with a list

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**64** Explorer Hernando de -

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65 Rose color 66 Klee output **67** Bistro bills

68 Olay product . and "My Cup Runneth

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**78** Officer played by Phil Silvers

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Arafat 86 Celine of song

87 Many a repo 89 Poetic form

90 Holiday drink DOWN 92 Left-leaning slant ... and "Lou Grant"

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107 Cited as evidence 111 Ship sailing

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Ordinary" 113 Suffix with Parseghian

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122 Jib holder 123 "No clue"

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110 Reflect (on) 113 Rural hotels 117 Tokyo, once 70 Martin Luther 118 Fizzling thing 119 Opal finish?

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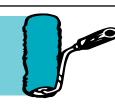
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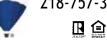
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