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CITY OF ELY

Mayor accused of fanning the flames

Chuck Novak in the hot seat for backing boycott of Fortune Bay

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Twitter comments have embroiled another politician in controversy. This time, it was Ely Mayor Chuck Novak in the hot seat at Tuesday’s city council meeting as several

residents and local business owners chastised the mayor over comments he recently posted in support of a boycott against Fortune Bay Resort Casino. Novak had lauded Sen. Tom Bakk’s decision to cancel his annual political fundraiser, tra-

ditionally held at Fortune Bay, because the Bois Forte Band has joined the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe in support of a federal bill to ban copper-nickel mining in a portion of the Superior National Forest located within the watershed of the Boundary Waters Canoe

Area Wilderness. That bill, which does not prohibit iron mining in the affected area, would effectively end prospects for the proposed Twin Metals copper-nickel mine near Ely. Novak, who has been a vocal supporter of the Twin Metals proposal, had also

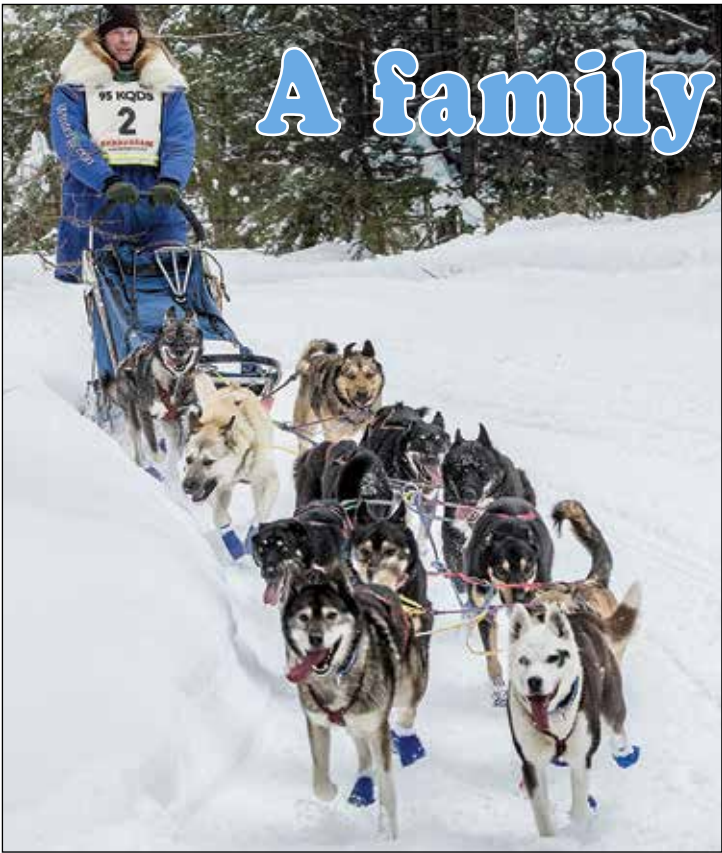
suggested that the organizers of other area events, like the popular snowmobile Fun Run, should consider following Bakk’s lead. Other supporters of the Twin Metals mine have also weighed in in support

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Chuck Novak

WOLFTRACK CLASSIC



A family affair



Blake and Jennifer Freking both competed in the 2020 Beargrease. photos by Pam Wattering

Sled dog racers at home in Ely area

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Blake and Jennifer Freking order 1,500 pairs of booties every year. They have just two daughters who have long outgrown their need for little footwear. But, add 60-plus canines the family raises for sled racing, and



that many booties doesn’t seem like enough. The Frekings are truly a sled dog racing family. They own Manitou Crossing Kennels, located

near Isabella, where they raise and train Siberian Huskies for long distance sled dog races. They are veterans of the Beargrease Marathon, Iditarod, UP

200, Hudson Bay Quest and other races. Blake and Jennifer will be “competing” against each other this weekend in the WolfTrack Classic here but they admit that the 50-mile run in the Superior National Forest is more like training than racing. They

See...FAMILY pg. 11

COOK

Sparks fly at housing authority

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK – Allegations of disrespectful treatment and harassment, from Cook Housing and Redevelopment Authority residents about management, created a contentious atmosphere during a Feb. 12 board meeting.

Executive director Reed Erickson was the primary target of complaints lodged by five residents of the Pioneer building, one of two apartment buildings operated by CHRA. “Can we talk here and say what we have to say without retaliation?” resident John Bergman asked at the outset of an open comment period.

“Absolutely, it’s an open comment period,” Erickson said.

Although board rules specify individuals are limited to three minutes for comment, Bergman spent the next 15 minutes detailing several examples of interactions with Erickson in which he felt intimidated.

One instance occurred when Bergman was playing cards with other residents when some workers arrived to address a plumbing issue. When told who one of the workers was, Bergman said he responded by saying, “He’s a good carpenter, but not a licensed plumber.”

Bergman said Erickson came to his apartment about an hour later and told

See...COOK pg. 10

EDUCATION

Community reaps rewards from its local charter school

Vermilion Country School opened in 2013 in renovated manufacturing plant

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— The city of Tower took a risk in 2013 when it invested approximately \$530,000 to renovate the former manufacturing plant for Powerain into the Vermilion Country School, or VCS, a new charter school serving grades 7-12.

Seven years later, it’s clear that the city’s gamble has paid off— in educational opportunity, community service, good-paying jobs with benefits, and in financial returns to the city. While enrollment has never reached the initial estimates developed by the school’s founders, the small school environment has clearly benefited that students who have made

Vermilion Country School student Todd Zierowski works in the computer lab at the Tower-based charter school. photo by J. Summit

the school their educational home. “It provides a safe place,” said

See...VCS pg. 12



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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Empower Meeting, Feb. 24

ELY- Empower, a progressive women's organization, will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24 at The Ely Folk School. Six women will speak about their eight-week canoe trip in the Quetico. Newcomers are welcome to attend this women-only event.

Adventures in Learning from Nature at Mesabi Unitarian

VIRGINIA- On Sunday, Feb. 23 at 10:30 a.m. at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church, the topic will be "Adventures in Learning from Nature: Minnesota to Africa and Back". Presenter Sue Okerstrom had been a materials scientist at a medical device manufacturer for over 25 years when she discovered "biomimicry" at an innovation conference. She knew "biomimicry" was what she wanted to do for the rest of her life. This presentation will take you on her journey of learning how to learn from nature and applying it in the human world. You will travel with her to Earth's major ecosystem and back to her lab in Minneapolis. The church is located at 230 7th St. S in Virginia and the building is handicap accessible.

Learning to Listen to Jazz at NWFA

COOK- A jazz event at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook will be held Monday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. It's an exploration into the appreciation of a true American musical art form. This sixth session of "Learning to Listen" will highlight the divergence in combo jazz after the radical change from swing to bebop had run its course.

These sessions aim to equip the listener with tools that will unlock an understanding and appreciation of jazz and other music types and lead to an enhanced listening experience. Sessions will be based on listening and discussion, with information about resources available for self-directed exploration of jazz.

Jazz at the Gallery is presented by NWFA volunteer Bill Conger, who once led a jazz appreciation class at Coe College. Conger has remained a fan of jazz music for decades. This is not a learn how to play session, so anyone interested is qualified and welcome to attend.

This year NWFA is celebrating its volunteers and its tenth anniversary of inspiring, nurturing and celebrating the arts in the Cook area. The gallery, located at 210 S River St., is open in winter on Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. February's exhibit is Sarah Maki's "Surface Work". For more information, go to nwfamn.org.

Vermilion Dream Quilters to meet March 5

TOWER- Vermilion Dream Quilters will meet Thursday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Martin's Church social hall in Tower.

The program for the evening will be on antique quilts. Please bring an antique quilt to share. Presenters will be Maggie Manion and Marcia Bergquist. Please bring your Show and Tell. Hostesses for the night will be Corrine Hill, Deb Filander and Kathy Lovgren.

Members are from throughout the Iron Range. We encourage, instruct and share tips with each other. Guests and visitors who are interested in quilting and creative sewing are welcome. For more information, please contact Corrine Hill at 218-753-4600.

Ely Community Health Center

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

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Volunteer opportunities also available

BROADBAND

Non-profits awarded technology grants

Blandin's Community Broadband program gives several \$1,500 grants



The Seitaniemi Housebarn in Embarrass is owned by Sisi Heritage, which was a recipient of a Blandin Broadband Community grant. file photo

REGIONAL- With a portion of its Blandin Broadband Community grant, the Iron Range Tourism Bureau has awarded technology mini-grants of \$1,500 each to regional nonprofits that serve visitors. Grants were given to Club Mesabi, Embarrass Township/ Finnish Homestead Tours, Eveleth Heritage Society, Hibbing Historical Society Museum, Hibbing Tourist Center, Iron Range Historical Society, Camp Vermilion, Lyric Center for the Arts, Minnesota Museum of Mining, Minnesota Discovery Center, Sisu Heritage/ Nelimark Museum, and Virginia Area Historical Society.

"Through the Blandin Broadband grant, we've been able to assist our valued partners in tourism, namely organizations that serve visitors and help preserve our area's history,"

said Beth Pierce, executive director of the Iron Range Tourism Bureau. "Ultimately, these grants will impact the visitor experience—whether tourists or locals—in a positive way, and help these nonprofits achieve their own goals."

As part of the grant process each organization received a technology audit through the Northeast Minnesota Small Business Development Center. The audits helped identify technology needs within each organization and provided recommendations for how best to use the grants.

Projects recommended for grant funding include the implementation of e-commerce, donation and membership sales to organizations' websites, the purchase of scanners and software to assist with record-keeping and document storage, purchase of cloud storage and training,

enhancing photo assets, and website updates.

"The Iron Range Historical Society is excited to be a recipient of a Blandin Broadband technology grant," said Mike Sterk, president of the Iron Range Historical Society board of directors. "The grant will be used to purchase a scanner and upgrade our social media and website so that we can make more of our vast photograph, document and newspaper collections available to a wider audience."

The Blandin Broadband Communities Program is a two-year, intensive partnership with the Blandin Foundation to advance local broadband initiatives. The Iron Range Tourism Bureau is part of the 2019-2020 Iron Range Broadband Communities cohort and is a nonprofit destination marketing organization

that serves the communities of Aurora, Biwabik, Chisholm, Embarrass, Eveleth, Gilbert, Hibbing, Hoyt Lakes, Mt. Iron, Virginia and surrounding townships.

The Northeast Minnesota Small Business Development Center conducted the technology audits as part of ongoing services to the Iron Range and all northern Minnesota communities.

Other Blandin Broadband Communities Program initiatives being undertaken by the Iron Range Tourism Bureau include the creation of a virtual reality mine tour, a talent attraction website, a digital map of arts and artists, and a local 'good news' campaign. For more information, contact Pierce at beth@ironrange.org or 218-749-8161.

Becky Schlegel Duo will perform at Ely, Cook and Babbitt libraries



Becky Schlegel will perform March 11 and 16.

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present the Becky Schlegel Duo, a free musical program being offered for all ages at the Ely, Cook and Babbitt public libraries.

The program will be held at the Ely Library on Wednesday, March 11 at 1 p.m.; at the Cook Library on Wednesday, March 11 at 6 p.m.; and at the Babbitt Library on Monday, March 16, at 1 p.m.

Take a musical journey with the Becky Schlegel Duo. Becky's music is original, drawing on the influence of classic country, bluegrass, folk, and

her own thoughtful spirit. Her voice floats, whispers, then soars above music of the highest quality. This free hour-long program is for all ages. For more information, please visit <http://www.beckyschlegel.com/>.

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at www.alslib.info, follow us on Twitter @ALSLibraryNews, or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo.

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POLITICS

Quinn Nystrom stumps for votes in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Looks to challenge Stauber in 8th District

ELY – Quinn Nystrom, a candidate for the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party endorsement for U.S. Representative for Minnesota’s 8th Congressional District, spoke to a large Tuesday Group audience last week. She was also the featured speaker at a gathering of the Northern Progressives group in Cook later that day.

Nystrom, 28, is challenging first-term incumbent Pete Stauber for the expansive Eighth District seat in northern Minnesota. While she is a fourth-generation resident of Crow Wing County and the youngest (and first) woman to serve on the Baxter City Council, she is very familiar with the Ely area, having spent most of her childhood summers on Burntside Lake at her grandparents’ cabin.

“I just found out she graduated summa cum laude from (YMCA) Camp Widjiwagan,” said Steve Piragis in his intro-

ductory remarks, “so she knows her knots and how to paddle into the wind.”

While Nystrom has been advocating since grade school on healthcare issues, especially affordable prescription drug coverage, she has become well known more recently as an advocate for persons living with diabetes, and lobbied last year for a bill in the state Legislature to make insulin more affordable and accessible to everyone.

When that bill died in the Republican-controlled Senate, Nystrom helped organize a series of car and bus caravans to purchase insulin in Canada, where the drug is cheaper and available over the counter.

Nystrom said her motivation to run for Congress was born out of those efforts to bring affordable and accessible health care to everyone. “Last spring, I went to Washington, D.C. and met with (Rep.) Stauber, who was elected

to represent every single one of us. That is his job. I asked him three things, one was to sign onto legislation to help with the insulin affordability crisis. I asked him to keep his campaign promise not to attack pre-existing conditions. And I asked him to host a diabetes roundtable back here in the Eighth District.”

She said Stauber agreed to do the three things she asked of him. “I thought we had a real ally in Congress,” Nystrom said. She said she had no intention of running for Congress.

“I never got any follow-up from him or his staff,” she said. “I found out later that he never signed on to any legislation to lower the cost of insulin. He also voted against people with pre-existing conditions. And he didn’t have any intention of having a diabetes roundtable.”

Her frustration with having ineffective representation in Congress prompted her to take

action. “Just like I have been taught for my entire life, instead of sitting around and complaining I made the decision to run for Congress,” Nystrom said. “I feel we need a strong voice who represents all people.”

Mining and the environment

Nystrom told the crowd of about 80 Ely-area residents that in preparing her campaign for Congress, she sought to be pragmatic in researching the proposed sulfide mining projects in northern Minnesota.

“As a member of Congress, I would really not have any jurisdiction over PolyMet,” she said. “There is not really anything I could do in regards to PolyMet, so I am sticking with Twin Metals here.”

She disclosed that she met with PolyMet and Twin Metals officials, environmental advo-



cates and area business owners and stakeholders. “Anyone who contacted our campaign, on any side of the issue, I wanted to listen to them. I did not come in with any assumptions one way or the other. That was important to me. It was also important to me not to later waver on the issue.”

With a taconite mining background pervasive in her fiancé’s family, Nystrom stressed the importance of being proud of

See **NYSTROM...**pg. 5

Ecklund seeks reelection to Legislature

REGIONAL — State Rep. Rob Ecklund will seek two more years in the Minnesota Legislature. The International Falls DFLer made that announcement this week, saying he looks forward to continuing his efforts on expanding access to healthcare, affordable childcare, and broadband to all parts of Minnesota.

“When we work together, we can accomplish some great things for Minnesotans. I’m proud of the work we’ve done to build a better state for everyone, but there’s a great deal of work left in front of us,” Rep. Ecklund said. “I’m incredibly honored by the support I’ve received over the years from folks in our region, and I’ll work

hard to earn it again this November.”

Ecklund is currently serving his third term representing District 3A in the Minnesota House, which includes all or part of Cook, Koochiching, Lake and St. Louis counties.

A veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Rep. Ecklund serves as chair of the House Veterans

and Military Affairs Division. In a statement announcing his intent to seek re-election, Ecklund said he has supported initiatives to improve the lives of military veterans, service members, and their families. His priorities include the Veterans Restorative Justice Act which would expand Minnesota’s veterans courts.

Ecklund is also an advocate for northern Minnesota’s outdoor heritage and has supported improving game and fish habitat, expanding parks and trails, and ensuring economic opportunity through mining, forestry, and tourism.



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Keynote speaker: Gary Norgren, ArcelorMittal

Gary Norgren was recently named general manager, mining, ArcelorMittal USA. In his new role, Gary will have overall responsibility of the mining operations at ArcelorMittal Minorca, ArcelorMittal Princeton, and Hibbing Taconite Company, a joint venture between ArcelorMittal, Cliffs, and U.S. Steel. Gary began his career at the legacy company, Inland Steel Company, as an associate electrical engineer in 1986 and held positions of increasing responsibility within engineering. Gary then joined Acme Steel Company in 1994 and held positions of process coordinator, hot mill manager, ArcelorMittal Riverdale in 2006. Gary was named division manager, USA raw materials, in 2012. Gary has a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical and computer engineering from Clarkson University and an MBA in finance and operations management from the University of Chicago.

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OPINION

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Editorial

Sulfide mining

It's time to have a more rational discussion on the merits

According to critics, legislation recently introduced in Washington by Congresswoman Betty McCollum that would create a sulfide mining exclusion zone around a portion of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, represents a threat to the region's "way of life".

Such claims, unfortunately, are as predictable as they are inaccurate.

First, let's be clear. Iron mining has been underway in one form or another in our region for nearly 140 years. While today it represents a relatively small piece of the region's employment picture, it certainly is a way of life for many Iron Range families. Fortunately, McCollum's legislation would not change that fact. McCollum's bill specifically permits iron or taconite mining in the roughly 234,000 acres of the Rainy River watershed covered by the measure.

In other words, the Iron Range's "way of life" remains fully intact under this legislation.

What's more, the way of life that has increasingly come to dominate in places like Ely would continue as well, free from the threat of disruption posed by a sulfide-based copper-nickel mine. While Ely was once a mining town, it's been more than half a century since the last mine closed. While many in Ely are justifiably proud of the community's mining history, it is history, nonetheless. Mining communities ultimately have two choices — become a ghost town when the mine closes, or transition to something else. In the case of Ely, that transition has been years in the making but has made tremendous progress, despite the reluctance of some in the community to acknowledge a future reliant on anything but basic resource extraction.

We certainly understand that many supporters of copper-nickel mining near Ely envision a kind of economic renaissance from the proposed Twin Metals mine. But copper is an extremely common commodity, found throughout the world, which makes its price continually tied to the vagaries of global supply and demand. As a proposed underground operation tapping a low-grade deposit in a developed country, any future copper-nickel mine near Ely will be among the highest-cost operations anywhere in the world. Which is another way of saying it will be the first to shut down every time there's so much as a hiccup in copper prices. Even if the Twin Metals mine were in existence today, it likely would have been closed for the past several years

as a result of low metal prices.

Relatively brief periods of employment, followed by years-long layoffs, is the most likely "way of life" we can expect for workers at any such mine near Ely. Add to that the risk that the mine's presence will discourage the modest but steady influx of new residents and investment to the area, and you have the making of recession rather than renaissance.

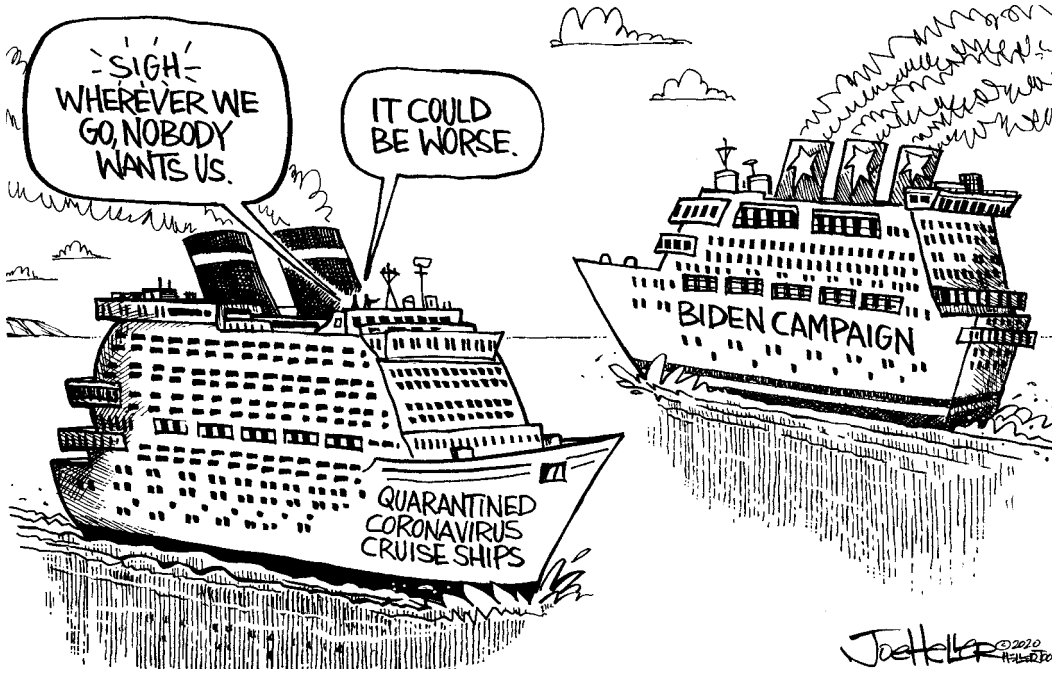
That's why the region needs more rational and fact-based discussion of both the environmental and economic merits of copper-nickel mining just upstream of the BWCAW.

While some in the area refuse to acknowledge it, there is lasting and sustainable economic value in protecting the Boundary Waters watershed from a most dangerous form of mining. In communities along the edge of the Boundary Waters and the Superior National Forest, we have seen noticeably higher rates of in-migration of residents from other areas than most other non-metro counties in Minnesota. High percentages of those migrants are professional and well-educated, and bring relatively high incomes, either through ongoing earnings or investments, that are spent in the regional economy.

We're not talking about relatively low-paying tourism jobs versus mining employment. Tourism jobs are a nice bonus, but we've never viewed them as the basis for a vibrant, year-round economy. The jobs lost from short-circuiting amenity-based economic activity include the often high-paying professions that these new residents bring with them, along with jobs that provide support services for these new residents, including sectors like construction, real estate, finance, insurance, building supplies, and home furnishings.

These are solidly middle-class jobs we're talking about here. This isn't a question of mining jobs versus tourism jobs. That's a false argument.

Unfortunately, as long as some continue to portray any effort to protect the progress that places like Ely have made as a fundamental threat to a perceived Iron Range "way of life," or issue senseless calls for boycotts against valuable regional businesses that might have a somewhat different view on the subject, it will be difficult to have a meaningful discussion about what kind of future truly provides for the long-term economic health of the region. It's time to change the conversation, or we risk being ruled by our emotions rather than our intellect.



Letters from Readers

Council should oppose boycotts of local businesses

We request that the Ely City Council adopt a resolution stating that it does not support the boycott of Fortune Bay or any business.

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, which includes the six bands of Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and White Earth, recently delivered a letter to the U.S. House in support of HR 5598, a bill that would ban sulfide-ore copper mining in the headwaters of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The United States has a government-to-government relationship with the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and each of the six bands.

The letter says "As former U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell stated, sulfide-ore copper mining has the potential to permanently destroy the pure waters and intact forests in the area of the proposed Twin Metals mine. The fish in adjacent waters - Birch Lake, the South Kawishiwi River, and downstream water bodies - are subject to consumption advisories designated by the Minnesota Department of Health because of mercury in their flesh. Sulfide-ore copper mining will increase the amount of mercury in fish, a toxin of great concern to our members who depend on wild caught fish for their sustenance. Wild rice and terrestrial species will also be at risk, as pollution and habitat destruction will have wide reaching impacts. We are currently blessed with a healthy environment, a healthy economy, and a public resource that offers sustenance and solace. All of this is at risk if any mining proposal in the watershed moves forward. It is unacceptable to trade this precious landscape and our way of life to enrich foreign mining companies that will leave a legacy of degradation that will last forever."

According to the *Hibbing Daily Tribune* (Feb. 15, 2020),

Senator Tom Bakk moved his annual fundraiser from Fortune Bay in response to a demand by the trades unions that Fortune Bay be boycotted.

Unfortunately, Ely Mayor Chuck Novak added to the call for a boycott by tweeting "Thank you Senator Bakk for cancelling your annual event at Fortune Bay and moving it to Giants Ridge. IRRRB and the trades should follow suit. The Fun Run should follow suit."

According to the news story, when asked by the Hibbing reporter if he believed it to be fair to boycott the business because the Bois Forte Band is part of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Mayor Novak responded: "If they are going to support Betty McCollum on this bill, that means they are against Twin Metals for sure. We want people to get good jobs and spend their money. Why would they go and spend their money to profit an organization that doesn't support their way of life."

We believe it is wrong for the Mayor, as the representative of the City of Ely, to encourage the boycott of the Bois Forte Band for any reason, but especially for exercising its government-to-government relationship established by federal law. The Bois Forte Band employs local people and is a major contributor to our community in many ways. The Ely Folk School and the Bois Forte Band have developed a strong and respectful partnership in sharing and teaching indigenous skills, history, and culture. We are grateful for all of this.

Moreover, Mayor Novak seeks to punish the Bois Forte Band for expressing a position that is shared by the vast majority of Minnesotans.

The appropriate response is for the Ely City Council to adopt a resolution that states strongly that it does not support the boycott of any business - especially the Bois Forte Band's Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

Peta Barrett, Betty Firth, Carol Orban, Steve Piragis, Becky Rom
Ely

The politics of fear will not defeat Trumpism

Politicians and pundits who make electability the sole criteria in nominating a Democrat to defeat Trump are allowing fear of this bully to dictate the goals of their campaign. Simply defeating Trump alone will not provide Democrats a mandate for meaningful change. Meaningful change requires defeating the "Trumpism" that has captured the entire Republican Party.

Trump is just the symptom of the economic disparity that corrupts all our political life. It is the entire Republican Party that enables him to do that and has just acquitted him of the abuse of power that will encourage him to continue doing it. Assuming the fetal position of the Democratic "middle-of-the-roaders" will not inspire the turnout of the 18 to 29 year-old millennial demographic that votes 2 to 1 Democratic. It is those young demographic voters, who have so much on the line, that can defeat not only Trump but also the Republican senators, representatives and governors whose policies keep poor and middle-class workers down.

A meaningful victory for change requires a bold progressive campaign such as the ones Senators Sanders and Warren are running. This will bring out decisive numbers of millennials, nor should it detour any real Democrats. For, contrary to the opinions of Wall Street Democrats, Bernie and Elizabeth are not radical leftists. They are what used to be called FDR New Deal Democrats, the real mainstream Democrats. Real Democrats must not allow fear of Trump to become fear of real change. Middle-of-the-road "Politics of Goldilocks" is a fairy tale. Moderation in the cause of economic and political justice is not a virtue.

Larry A. Johnson
Duluth

Writing outside the box at Writers' Night Out

Recently, I participated in the Writers' Night Out, an event orchestrated by people and for people who enjoy words in a multiplicity of ways: hearing them, discussing them, trying out new ones, reading them out loud, hearing others read them out loud, putting them down on paper, and



BETTY FIRTH

rearranging them to become poetry, essays, short stories, letters, books, articles, and even opinion columns. We gathered on a bitterly cold night to share delicious homemade appetizers (thank you, Johnnie!), an imaginative array of pizza choices and beverages, which were

followed by decadently rich cupcakes.

When we walked in, we were given a card and told to find a table that had a rhyming word on it, and so we found our first writing partners. Everyone tossed their cards in the middle, and while enjoying appetizers, we were asked to write for five minutes on a topic of our choice using all the words on the table.

Lacey Squire, Vince O'Connor, and a visiting Hamline professor Terry Horstman, each

spoke about aspects of writing along with a bit about their personal relationship with the written word. Terry, who hosts the Brewery Writing Series in St. Paul, brought a storytelling game called Storymatic® which has 510 cards used as prompts divided between descriptions of characters and actions. Writing prompts are words or phrases used to trigger our imaginations, to tease or nudge or jolt us or out of our usual mode of thinking and writing. The cards can be

used in a variety of ways for oral or written storytelling, working alone or in a group, and mixing it up in as many ways as you can imagine. We wrote for one five-minute period using words from two character cards and two action cards we had each chosen, and then we passed a couple of our cards to the person on our right and continued the stories. In another exercise, everybody at the table wrote using the same

See **WRITING...**pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Setting the record straight

In regards to the recent article ‘Polar documentary to be filmed near Ely’ published in the *Timberjay* and the *Ely Echo* I feel the need to comment. First, I think it’s significant to have this event happening here in Ely and I hope it gives everyone including my grandchildren a glimpse into the history of polar exploration.

The issue with the article is that a part of the information is inaccurate. Paul Schurke, who was a member of the The Steger International North Pole Expedition, was interviewed for the article. He appears to have provided information that indicates that I made footwear for the expedition. This is not true. The footwear worn on the The Steger International North Pole Expedition by Will Steger and his team were native-made mukluks generously donated by the government of the then Northwest Territories. The overall performance of those gifted native mukluks was mixed at best. In fact, team member Bob Mantel suffered frost bitten toes and had to be evacuated by air.

Of note though is that since The Steger International North Pole Expedition, my company Steger Mukluks has made mukluks and gear for all of Will Steger’s other major expeditions and training expeditions. These include The Greenland Crossing Expedition in 1988, The International TransAntarctica Expedition in 1989/90, The International Arctic Project 1996, Arctic Transect in 2004, Baffin Island Global Warming 101 Expedition with Richard Branson and Ed Viesturs in 2007, and The Steger 2008 Ellesmere

Island Expedition

My company Steger Mukluks has sponsored these and all subsequent expeditions up to and including Will’s last Solo Expedition in 2019. Overall I have sponsored Will for over 30 years. I’m happy to report there have been no frozen toes or other feet parts since. Now you know, happy muklukiing!

**Patti Steger
Steger Mukluks
Ely**

It’s nonsense to raise Greenwood levy

The Greenwood Town Board has been making no sense for awhile now and the thought of approving a levy increase of 67 percent is just plain nonsense. In June, the board turned away a grant of \$5,000 to replace an old computer with a new high-end computer to serve as a public work station for citizens should they lose their internet connection at home. Then in April, the board decided to replace the door to the clerk’s office with a double door at a cost of \$2,500. This was done to supposedly keep the public out of the clerk’s office where they have done their business for years. Most recently (February), the board had security cameras installed in the clerk’s office at a cost of \$2,500. This foolish spending and refusal to accept grant dollars demonstrates a lack of fiduciary responsibility that should be expected from our elected officials. Giving them more of our tax dollars is nonsense and will only make it worse.

**JoAnn Bassing
Greenwood Twp**

Nonprofits and volunteers play a big role in Ely

Ely has a strong culture of volunteering: from a fifth-grader who organized a campaign to get donations of books for every child in the elementary school; to retirees who make our Food Shelf a success; to volunteers who monitor water quality in area lakes; to the crowd of people who make the Ely Winter Festival a success, bringing us lots of fun and visitors; to sports supporters and coaches, who encourage Ely kids to build skills, confidence and have healthy fun; to the many people who made the incredible “Quiltmaker’s Gift” musical and related events possible, again, bringing lots of visitors to enjoy themselves in Ely.

Volunteers make Ely a richer place where people want to live. As a mayoral candidate said a few years ago, “Ely runs on volunteers!” The Blueberry/Arts Festival and the Harvest Moon Festival benefit from volunteer/nonprofit organizations which encourage the myriad of talented people who make Ely their home. So, Chamber of Commerce, please don’t throw out the baby with the bathwater. Don’t cut off your nose to spite our face. At our festivals, people from far and near stop by nonprofits’ booths, get interested in what they represent and get involved. Some decide to move here when they find out more about us through those nonprofits. This is one of the ways that Ely and the townships become “wealthy” in people power—which benefits all of us.

**Emily Brown
Ely**

Bloomberg has relevant experience

Which presidential candidate has the best qualifications to be President of the United States? Consider the experience of the former mayor of New York City, with its population of 8.5 million, geographic area of 468 square miles and 300,000 employees. It has the largest foreign population of any city in the world and a \$1.9 trillion economy, ranking 12th among the world’s 195 sovereign countries. More than a million students go to NYC’s 1,700 schools and the hospitals handle 1.4 million patients. The city has 35,000 police, 14,380 firefighters and EMTs, to name only a few of the monumental statistics.

The mayor of NYC is constantly on the “firing line” with face-to-face management issues, the city’s many different unions, public outcries, severe weather conditions, economic developments, building codes, city transportation, dealing with UN participants, heads of departments, state legislators, 51 city council members (over which he has veto powers), Port Authority, 28,000 acres of parks, 9,555 acres of wildlife refuges, health issues, and the people below the poverty level, plus a host of other issues.

Bloomberg, as mayor of the city, had a reputation of working 14-hour days and seeking the very best qualified people he could find for his administration. Among his many accomplishments, he brought down crime rates, raised the academic level of the schools, improved the commuting time for employees, raised the air quality of the city, and attracted

corporations and hi-tech schools to the city. He aided the creation of nearly a half-million new jobs in NYC and supported more than 10,000 small businesses. He also increased the number of minority and women-owned businesses that could do business with New York government by 450 percent.

As an indicator of his popular success, the people of New York City reelected him Mayor for an exceptional third four-year term.

He earned his wealth by developing a computerized news and financial information system on individual terminals that were sold throughout the world. The proprietary terminals had an outstanding reputation for accuracy, relevance, and ease of operation.

He poured his earnings into Bloomberg Philanthropies. The organization funds programs in 510 cities in 129 countries focusing on five areas: education, environment, governmental innovation, public health and the arts. Bloomberg has a saying “the man who dies rich, dies disgraced.”

Bloomberg has the capabilities and experiences to manage and work with large and small organizations, not just in the U.S., but throughout the world. His previous experiences with international relationships will facilitate his ability to structure environmental, trade and military alliances.

**Gerry Snyder
Ely**

WRITING...Continued from page 4

cards, generating divergent stories.

People may find themselves writing more loosely than they usually do, freed of the constraints of having to be logical or reasonable, but in order to do that, they have to silence their inner critics and let the words and ideas flow unhampered. Surrounded by conspirators in the imagination game, no one is going to be judged for silliness, non sequiturs, or outrageous conclusions. Quite the opposite. Mild-mannered Minnesotans grin with glee and scribble about gay cowboys singing in cemeteries or frozen Finns who lock themselves in the sauna and refuse to come out until spring.

The empty white page seldom causes writers’ block because we have agreed to be under the direction of the benevolent dictators, and we write at their command for the designated time period. We write without editing and little punctuation, to keep the ink flowing. Sometimes we can trick our

fingers into writing things that our mind wasn’t aware it was wanting to say. It is unlikely that any pieces of polished writing come out of these exercises, but they may result in some juicy starters for continued work and can also light the way to more innovate writing. Although I think most writers would say that they feel compelled to write, that they express themselves better and more easily in writing, and that it may help them process whatever is going on in their lives, I’m quite certain that the majority would also agree that it can be agonizing facing an initial blank page, searching for just the right word without sounding pretentious, or trying to weave disparate threads together for a brilliant conclusion, followed by editing out the superfluous, even your favorite parts that you’re convinced are truly inspired.

Natalie Goldberg, well-known author of *Writing Down the Bones*, uses prompts and timed writings regularly, not just in workshops she teaches,

but also in her own writing. She might give herself an hour, for example, to work on the next piece for her book, decide where she wants her character(s) to be when she finishes, and choose some words at random from her personal word box to include. How do you introduce sardines into a trip across North Dakota?

It occurred to me that the process could be very useful in other aspects of our lives. Of course, I’m not the first one to think of that. Billions of dollars are spent on workshops and self-help books and online seminars by willing participants who want to learn how to do their lives differently, better, with more direction, creativity, and success. But, if we take this Storymatic® technique and apply it, we might save ourselves a lot of money and time... and even have more fun doing it.

For example, instead of whining and procrastinating about having to clean the house, what if you invited a friend over, each drew a character and an

action card, and tackled the task at hand in character? You might want a set of cards with your friends’ names on them to make the asking more random and another set with services you’re willing to barter. Dinner for two? Mop the floors? Take care of the kids or dogs for a night?

Or, what if, when you’re facing a chore you’re dreading, like doing your taxes, you take a break to pick two cards that might say, “Sing the Star-Bangled Banner” “robustly” or “read the weather forecast” “like a rapper.” Derailing your usual mode may just make you laugh or decide you’ll do your taxes differently, perhaps work on them for 45 minutes and take a break to call a friend. Then another 45 minutes, another friend. Figure out your deductions to get your favorite take-out meal. Is there someone in your life who pushes your buttons? Try choosing an attitude card or an action card that might help shift the energy. Warning: this could take a few draws.

George Lakoff, who wrote “Don’t Think of an Elephant”, predicted Donald Trump’s election win within one percent. He repeatedly has said that people vote their values, not their self-interest. He explains that “ideas don’t float in the air, they live in your neuro-circuitry” and activating the neural circuits imbeds the ideas deeper, as I have written about before. He tried to warn the Hillary Clinton campaign that focusing on rationality, facts, and policies wouldn’t stand up against the Republicans’ targeting voters’ subconscious worldview, but they wouldn’t listen, wrapped in their own worldview and imbedded ideas.

I’ve read other political pundits warning progressives not to do things in the same old way, expecting different results. What action cards can we draw to change up the dialogue and jumpstart a different outcome? Bring your ideas and resolutions to a caucus near you on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m.

NYSTROM...Continued from page 3

the mining history of the region. “I think we have to do everything possible to keep HibTac open,” she said.

“In reviewing Twin Metals and the way it has been proposed, in its current form, I believe that it poses too much of a threat to the BWCA as it sits right now, and I can’t support it as it is because of the environmental threat that it poses to the BWCA,” Nystrom said.

She asserted that she is “not opposed to copper-nickel mining across the board,” but believes in the “not this mine, not

this location” philosophy of the current form of the Twin Metals proposal.

She welcomed more conversations on the divisive issue. “I don’t feel comfortable being a rubber stamp on the project,” Nystrom said. “Sometimes, I have felt that Rep. Stauber is just a rubber stamp. I believe my job is to look at every single project that would come in front of me and look at the safety and environmental issues, and a plethora of different things. That’s how I have always been, and that’s what I will do for the

Eighth District.”

Other issues

Nystrom stressed the importance of public education funding. “Back in the 1970s when the federal government mandated that public school districts must support special education students, they also agreed to fund public schools for that,” she said.

“Unfortunately, the federal government has never fully funded the program, and over the years, school districts have seen an increase in special education needs and must now use their general fund

to offset those costs. That hurts our schools even more,” she added.

The issue of dark money in politics is another issue Nystrom said she feels strongly about. “There is a huge underlying issue in the Citizens United decision made 10 years ago,” she said. “I would implore all of you to look at what corporations give money to what candidates. I have taken a pledge that I am not going to take a penny from any health insurance organization or PAC, nor pharmaceutical company, because I believe if I am

saying I want to fix our healthcare system, I don’t want my hands tied behind my back.”

She maintained her attack on Rep. Stauber. “I find it personally an issue that (the congressman) takes so much money from corporations,” she said. “You can all go online and see how much that is. It is a lot, in my opinion, and I think that is a conflict of interest.”

Nystrom added that diversifying economic opportunities includes expanding rural broadband internet. “There are so many people who want to

open small businesses or want to be consultants,” she said. “There are many businesses who want to give employees telecommuting opportunities to work from home. Many people would love to live here in Ely and still do their work online, and need equitable access around the Eighth District.”

Affordable housing and access to childcare are also part of Nystrom’s economic development triangle in northern Minnesota. “Both parents have to go to work to afford their home, but they can’t get childcare in our area,” she said.

GENERATIONS

A love of reading runs in the family

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

New school librarian following in the footsteps of her grandmother

TOWER-SOUDAN- The name of this year’s library assistant at Tower-Soudan Elementary may seem a little familiar, and for good reason.

Sabrina Larson is the granddaughter of long-time school library aide Fran Larson, who retired from the position last year.

“The first librarian I worked for was Mr. Hach,” Fran said.

Fran was not a librarian by training but was one by passion.

“I liked everything about working in the library,” Fran said. “The first thing is that I’ve always loved books. But the best part of the job was connecting with the children.”

Fran has loved libraries since she was a young child and has fond memories of the librarian in her hometown of Buhl. Fran said she usually won the summer library reading contest, where children needed to read books and then give a description to the librarian to earn stickers.

“I just about beat everybody,” Fran said, but the librarian eventually got tired of hearing the summaries of every single book she had waded through.

“Francine,” she told me, “I don’t have to hear the book from cover to cover. I believe that you’ve read them!”

That librarian eventually moved to Tower, after marrying a local Burgess boy, and the two remained friends.

Sabrina also has loved libraries, and reading, since she was little.

She recently graduated from University of Wisconsin-Superior, with a degree in history, but last year worked as a paraprofessional at TS Elementary. She also was hired as a library clerk at the Gilbert Public Library, and this year is splitting her time between the Gilbert Library and Tower-Soudan Elementary.

Sabrina got her first taste of working in a library when she helped her grandmother out during her high school study hall time. That experience, coupled with advice as needed from Fran, is serving her well as she tackles the elementary library duties.

This year Sabrina has been working to update the school’s collection, taking advantage of programs that donate books to school libraries. She has also weeded out outdated and worn-out books, added to the collection’s easy readers and non-fiction sections, and started some new reward and recognition programs for student readers.

Sabrina said some of the best moments on the job are when she can connect a young reader to books on a subject that interests them. Last week she worked with a student who wanted to learn more about space, and then patiently listened to all he had learned, when he returned his books the following week.

Christmas-themed books are still on the top of the list for her youngest readers in Kindergarten and first grade. Third-graders all seem to be working their way through the many books in the “The Secrets of Droon” series, she said.

One of her goals is to find the perfect fit for students who are more reluctant readers.

“They just haven’t found the right book yet,” Sabrina said, “and often the reading level of a book is a fit for a student, but the subject matter is not.”

Finding a book that fits isn’t that hard for Sabrina herself.

“I like a little bit of everything,” she said, citing, fiction, historical fiction, mysteries, adventures, and of course history, since that is what she chose to study in college.

One of Sabrina’s all-time favorite books is the young adult novel “The Invention of



Above: Fran Larson stopped in the library to visit with Sabrina. Left: Sabrina hands out books to first-graders. photos by J. Summit



Hugo Cabret,” by writer/illustrator Brian Selznick, who also wrote the young adult novel “Wonderstruck,” which is partially set on Minnesota’s north shore. Another favorite author from her childhood is Mildred Taylor, who wrote “Roll of Thunder, Hear Me Cry,” along with many other titles.

Sabrina is also a great fan of audiobooks, and the Overdrive service provided by the Arrowhead Library System, which offers free access to audio titles. Right now, she is listening to a John Sandford book,

“Saturn Run,” which is a sci-fi thriller set almost 50 years in the future.

Sabrina said the school library isn’t just a place to find a book but is also a safe space to just sit and relax and read. “It really calms kids down,” she said. “It’s the best kind of a quiet space.”

Sabrina has rearranged the back corner of the library into a reading nook, with a small round table and chairs, and posters on the wall at the eye height of her students. “It’s like the one I remember

from the school I went to when I was young,” she said.

February is “I Love to Read” month, and students are logging their reading minutes and participating in special reading-related activities all month long. On Friday, Feb. 14, which was the 100th day of school, multi-grade teams of students were out in the hallways, reading through 100 books and then writing the titles on posters on the hallway wall. Once they hit that goal, they were treated to pancakes, a Tower-Soudan Elementary 100th day of school tradition.

Students also have reading goals through the Accelerated Reader program, and a new incentive programs lets students earn raffle tickets (redeemed for prizes).

MAIN STREET

City removes Main Street waste bins

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

Business and household trash becomes a burden for the city’s tight budget

that most of the trash appeared to be coming from local businesses and private residents who were putting their household trash in the bins rather than utilizing the Soudan Canister Site.

Ranua debated whether or not the council should decide the issue in an open meeting, but because MnDOT had just removed all the sidewalk snow, she said it was an ideal time for the maintenance department to remove the bins and so city staff decided to go ahead.

Ranua questioned

whether it was worth the time of the maintenance department to collect, haul, and pay for the disposal of trash if it was primarily generated by Main Street businesses. She said that bar patrons would often throw away their food and beverage containers in the city’s waste bins and that such trash would more appropriately be the responsibility of the individual businesses. Adding to the concern is the cost to the cash-strapped city of disposing of a considerable amount of trash on a regular basis.

“Talking with maintenance staff, it wasn’t trash from passersby,” said Ranua. “We don’t have the resources to be disposing of the trash of businesses and individuals, so by removing the trash cans it saves our staff time to focus on other aspects and it saves money on trash disposal costs,” she said.

Ranua mentioned Vermilion Fuel and Food as an example of a business that does have its own waste bins. “They have been paying for their own trash and the other businesses haven’t

since the city has been providing the service,” she said.

The disappearance of the public waste bins hasn’t been without consequence. It appears to have prompted a local resident to stuff rotten food into a paper recycling bin at the Tower Post Office, which prompted post office officials to remove that bin until further notice.

Similarly, Good Ol’ Days owner Randy Semo found that some residents began throwing their trash in the waste basket at the laundromat, which

Semo owns and operates. After speaking with Mayor Orlyn Kringstad, the two decided the city would return the waste bin that used to sit in front of Good Ol’ Days, and that Semo will assume responsibility for emptying and bringing the trash to the dump each week.

Ranua said that the rest of the public waste bins will stay off the streets for the foreseeable future, but if people are concerned or if litter increases, the city will likely reexamine the issue.

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Pasty fundraiser on Sunday at Immanuel Lutheran

TOWER- Pastor Liz Cheney is leading her seventh team to Guatemala at the end of March. There have been six teams that have traveled through Recycled Lives since Cheney started as pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in 2014. This small team of three is looking forward to making a big difference as they work to complete projects such as construct bunk beds and cook

stoves, lead Bible study and children’s activities, make social visits, and check in on previous families from past trips.

There will be a fundraiser on Sunday, Feb. 23 at Immanuel Lutheran to help raise funds for these projects. A pasty meal will be served from 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Frozen pasties will be available for sale that day as well.

To learn more about the upcoming trip or future mission team opportunities you can contact Pastor Liz at 218-780-8907.

Chimpy’s Skating Parties on Saturday and Sunday

SOUDAN-Chimpy’s Skating Parties are now underway. Stop by the Soudan Skating Rink on Saturday, Feb. 22 from 12 noon - 2 p.m., and on Sunday, Feb. 23 from 12 noon - 2 p.m. This week’s parties are sponsored by Matt and Mindy Tichel and family, Pastor Greg Anderson, and A & W Pop Company.

These community family-friendly events

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

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

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY

100th day pancakes

Tower-Soudan Elementary celebrated the 100th day of school on Feb. 14 with a school-wide reading blitz, reading 100 books, and then by eating many hundreds of pancakes cooked to order by their teachers! Pictured at right: Kindergarten students each had a personalized 100th day t-shirt. Pictured are Alayah and Kaleelah. Bottom: (from left) Gus, Blake and Dylan are asked if they want any more pancakes. Below: Luca (at left) still has plenty of pancake eating to go, while Jayden has already finished up his plate. photos by J. Summit



LENTEN TRADITIONS

St. Martin's Mardi Gras celebration on Feb. 21

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower will once again be hosting a Mardi Gras celebration on Friday, Feb. 21. Fun for the whole family begins at 5 p.m. and goes until 8 p.m. It's an open house style event – come when you want and stay as long as you want.

Drawings will be held throughout the evening – 6:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 7:15 p.m., and 7:45 p.m. You must be present to win one of the door prizes. A prize will be given for the best costume. Kids each receive one free drawing ticket,

adults pay \$1 for each ticket.

There will be a kids' activity area to keep them busy and occupied. An art project for all children will be done at 6:30 p.m., followed with a Cupcake Walk at 6:50 p.m. The piñata will be back again this year – breaking of the piñata is scheduled for 7 p.m. Each child receives a treat bag at the door.

Bingo will return again – beginning at 6:45 p.m. Cost for bingo is \$5 for 10 games. New this year is a Cribbage Tournament. Cribbage will be played in teams of two; each player pays \$10 to enter,

winning team takes home half of the pot. For this event we ask that you sign up with Maryann (753-4310).

There will be a cash bar for adult beverages and lots of food. Some of the items you will find on the menu: jambalaya, chili, a variety of meatballs and wings, Mardi Gras meringues, meat cheese tray with crackers, and more.

The cost is a freewill offering. We hope that you will join us for this feast before Lent.

Shrove Tuesday meal on Feb. 25 at St. James

Pancake meal dates back to 1445, an English Lenten tradition

TOWER- In September 1992, Rev. Richard Blood accepted the call to minister at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower. In 1994, Rev. Blood and St. James Session agreed that Vacation Bible School was badly needed in the area, and that it would take a sizeable amount of money to accomplish the project. A fundraiser was needed. The idea was brought up to have a pancake and sausage meal, and that it would fit well to have the first one be on Shrove Tuesday in 1995.

That first meal was very well received by the local Tower-Sou-

dan community, and it has been served every year since. This year is the 25th anniversary and St. James thanks everyone who has made the project such a success.

Traditionally, on Shrove Tuesday, families clear the refrigerator of fats, butter, and eggs– foods that were forbidden during the austere time of Lent. The first known Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day was in 1445 in Buckinghamshire, England. The day is commemorated with a Pancake Day Race. The race came about when a woman cooking pancakes heard the shriving bell summoning her to confession.

She ran to church wearing her apron and still carrying her frying pan, and thus without knowing it, started a tradition that has lasted for over 500 years.

This year's Shrove Tuesday meal will be served on Tuesday, Feb. 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. James, for a freewill donation. Take-outs are available. Proceeds will be divided equally between Chimpy's Skating Parties and the VBS sponsored jointly by St. James and Immanuel Lutheran.

AEOA Senior Dining Menu

TOWER- Vermilion Country School and AEOA sponsor a senior dining site at the charter school in Tower. All meals include salad bar, fruit, choice of beverage, and dessert.

Reservations are appreciated the day before, or morning of, but walk-ins are always welcome. Take-outs are available. Seniors age 60 and older who have registered for the program and their partners qualify for special pricing of \$4 per meal, but all ages are welcome at the regular rate of \$5.75. There are no income guidelines.

Meals are served from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. on days when the charter school is open. Call the school at 218-300-1447 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 Feb. 24	
Monday-	Chicken Noodle Soup, Bread Stick
Tuesday-	Breaded Pollock, Baked Potato, Bread Stick
Wednesday-	Hamburger Gravy over Mashed Potatoes, Dinner Roll, Corn
Thursday-	Pulled Pork Sandwich, Tater Tots
Friday-	Pigs in a Blanket, Baked Beans

Week of Feb. 24

Monday

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

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

Tuesday

Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is March 17.

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

Breitung Town Board- 12 noon on Feb. 25 at the town hall.

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- Annual meeting on Feb. 27 at 5 p.m., following the regular board meeting at 4 p.m.

Call to Subscribe

(218) 753-2950

www.timberjay.com

the **TIMBERJAY**

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Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, Feb. 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.

Transfer station

Soudan Canister

Expanded hours year-round

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

For info: 1-800-450-9278

Hwy. 77 Canister

Winter hours now in effect

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

Recycling canisters available at the canister site when open.

For info: 1-800-450-9278

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

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
AA - 7 p.m. Mondays, and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely
WOMEN'S AA - Noon Mondays, St. Anthony Church basement, Ely
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church
AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely.
For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.
BABBITT AL-ANON Thursdays, 7 p.m. at Woodland Presbyterian Church.
CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely.
ELY FOOD SHELF - Third Wednesday each month, 15 W. Conan St.
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED - Study materials and pre-test available. Tower by appointment.
Call 365-3359, 827-3232, or 1-800-662-5711.

Tuesday Group schedule

ELY - The upcoming Tuesday Group schedule is listed below. All talks are at 12 noon on Tuesday at the Grand Ely Lodge.
Feb. 25 - Pam Brunfelt - Iron Range Historian

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



a theme around snow winter festival fun ends
big build toward spring



the **TIMBERJAY**

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ELECTION 2020

Caucus night is Tuesday

Presidential primary set for March 3; townships meet March 10

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – While early voting is underway here for the March 3 Minnesota presidential primary, local precinct caucuses are still on and set for Tuesday, Feb. 25 at Vermilion Community College.
As in past election years, Democrats and Republicans will gather to elect delegates to their respective county convention, consider resolutions ,and address other issues.
Both parties will gather at 7 p.m. Tuesday at VCC. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. The DFL will select delegates to send to the county convention, slated for April 18 in Hermantown.
More information about caucus locations can be accessed at the Minnesota Secretary of State website, www.caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us.
Early voting at Ely City Hall continues Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Early voting will also be available on Saturday, Feb. 29 from 10 a.m., to 3 p.m. and on Monday, March 2 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Regular balloting will be held on Tuesday March 3, at the Ely Senior Center, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Only city residents can participate in early voting at City Hall. Residents of the surrounding townships must contact the county auditor's office to obtain absentee ballots.
According to Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski, voters must first fill out an absentee ballot application. "Once we receive that, the ballot will be given to the voter," he said. For more information, call City Hall, 218-365-3224, or email deputyclerk@ely.mn.us.
Voters can also apply for a ballot or register for the primary on the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.mn.us.
Morse and Fall Lake townships will hold elections and their respective annual meetings on Tuesday, March 10. Annual meetings are held for residents to decide on budget, property tax levy, and other issues.
In Morse Township, supervisor Bob Berrini is running unopposed for another three-year term.
In Fall Lake Township, incumbent Rod Gruba is not seeking re-election. Three candidates, Dean Barrett, Chad Davis, and Eric Hart. are running for a three-year term on the board.





Above:
Young snowmobile racers zoomed around an oval track and headed toward the checkered flag on Shagawa Lake in Ely recently during an event sponsored by the Kids Championship Power Racing Organization.

Left:
Kayla Larsen took a break on her brother's sled while Logan wasn't looking. photos by K. Vandervort

Ely Public Library Events

►Friday, Feb. 21 at 11 a.m. - Preschool Storytime - A regular preschool storytime featuring stories, early literacy activities, and lots of fun We end with an optional craft that ties into the week's theme. This week will be Dr. Seuss.
►Friday, Feb. 28 at 3:30 p.m. - NASA@My Library Rover Races for grades 2-4 - Find out how NASA scientists program robots to explore the surface of a new world. We'll talk about basic concepts and then divide into teams for participants to try "exploring" a surface in a couple of different ways. Must pre-register for this program. This program is part of our NASA@My Library partnership. The NASA@My Library project is led by the National Center for Interactive Learning at the Space Science Institute. Partners include the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office, Pacific Science Center, Cornerstones of Science, and Education Development Center. NASA@My Library is made possible through the support of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Science Mission Directorate as part of its STEM Activation program.
►Tuesday, March 3, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. - Book Tasting - What's your favorite flavor of literature? Stop in during the library's open hours and try a sample of one or more literary flavors/genres. You might discover that you have a taste for new types of reading! This is a Read Across America event!
►Thursday, March 5 at 1 p.m. - Film Fiesta for teens and adults - Watch one of the library's films projected onto a larger screen. We'll have popcorn ready for you, and you are welcome to bring your own non-alcoholic beverage to enjoy. (And, if the movie doesn't hold your interest, we won't tell if you take a little siesta in the middle.) Our title for this month is "Back to the Future." This program is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

SEASONAL CELEBRATION



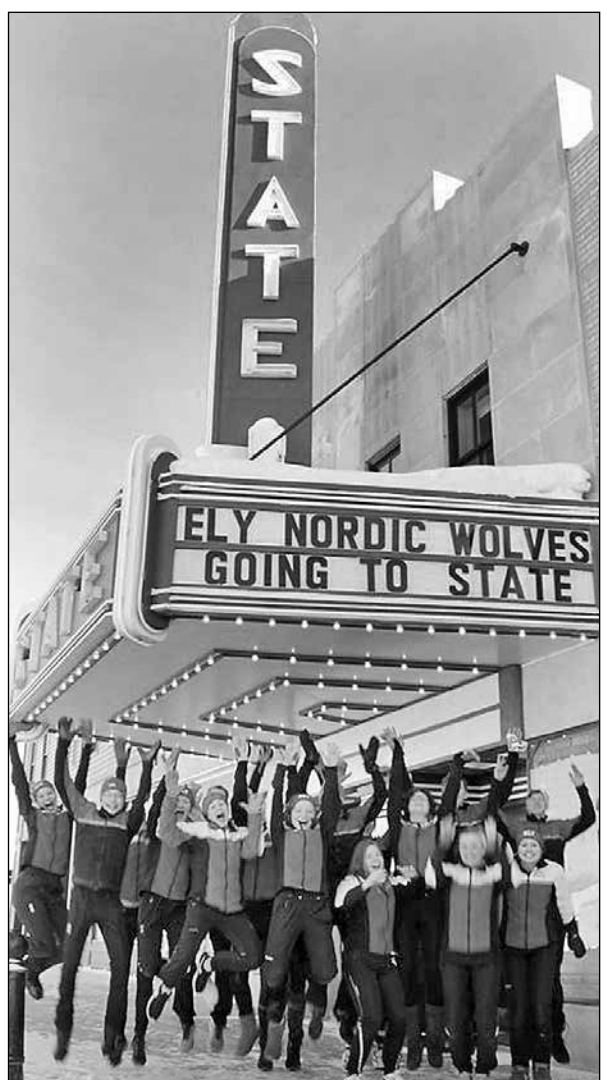
Ely Winter Festival 2020



The 2020 Ely Winter Festival wrapped up last Sunday. A skinny ski/fat tire race, top, was held last weekend at the Hidden Valley Ski Area. Former Ely resident Nancy Scheibe, left, helped create a snow sculpture marking 100 years of women's suffrage efforts. Van and the Free Candies entertained at the LumberJack and LumberJill party at Piragis Northwoods Co. The Ely ArtWalk featured window displays all over the downtown area. photos by K. Vandervort



High School Nordic Team



The Ely High School Nordic ski team was forced to wait an extra day last week to compete at the State Ski Meet at Giants Ridge. With temperatures forecast to hover around zero or below on Thursday, the meet was pushed to Friday. The boys took fourth overall, and the girls team was ninth. Competitors included Ana Bercher, Ethan Bremner, Zoe Devine, Kalyssa Eilrich, Jon Hakala, Phoebe Helms, Jasper Johnston, Micah Larson, Nate Nettifee, Raif Olson, Brooke Pasmick, Gabriel Pointer, Julia Schwinghamer, Cedar Ohlhauser, and alternates Sidney Durkin and Cora Olson. submitted photo

OUR COMMUNITY

Gardner Trust: What is the process to review a grant?

ELY - The Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust will have two grant rounds again this year for local artists and arts organizations.

Part of the job of board members and the executive director is to review each grant based on the Trust's review criteria.

"What's so hard it that Ely is a small community where most of us know each other," said Keiko Williams, executive director. "So while we try to be objective and look at just what is written or proposed in a grant narrative, it is sometimes hard not to bring up personal feelings or knowledge about an artist or project during a discussion."

The Trust's review process is being updated this year to help board members assess applications more consistently and fairly. This updated process is part of the Trust's ongoing work to keep its grant program as current and effective as possible.

The Trust's review criteria have been adapted

to fit into three categories that will be weighted by importance, Williams said. "For instance, how well an artist or project provides Community Impact will now be worth 40 percent of the total grant rating. Artistic Quality, Merit and Need are worth 30 percent of the total grant rating, and Ability/Feasibility of the project is also worth 30 percent," she said.

Grant review criteria

COMMUNITY IMPACT (40 percent)

►Project brings new opportunities or events to the community.

►Project provides a measurable benefit to the community.

►Project has Educational Quality—expands knowledge/appreciation of the fine arts.

►The Trust encourages projects that impact or engage children and families.

►The Trust encourages collaboration between artists and organizations.

ARTISTIC QUALITY, MERIT, NEED (30 percent)

►Artistic quality is based on the quality of the artists involved in the project.

►A project demonstrates merit by being closely aligned to the artistic/organization goals and current abilities, or the anticipated impact of the opportunity on the artist's/organization's work or career.

►Artist/organization must demonstrate/clearly outline how this project will enhance development of artists or that of the audience it serves.

ABILITY/FEASIBILITY (30 percent)

►The artist/organization must demonstrate an ability to accomplish the project or program as described.

►Ability is demonstrated by providing evidence of a planning process, the qualifications of the artistic personnel (resumes), publicity efforts and previous successful efforts carried out by the artist/organization.

►Is the budget feasible?

►Does the artist/organization describe adequate plans to let the public know about the project.

"Individual artists should note that their application guidelines lists examples of how an artist might provide community impact or give back to the community as part of their grant award," Williams said.

Youth interested in the Youth Grant program must contact the Trust office by Friday, Feb. 21 to set up a grant review meeting. "This is a chance for the youth applicant to get helpful feedback in writing their application narrative," she said.

The deadline for final grant applications to be submitted is 12 noon on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

Any questions or concerns about the grant program or the Trust can be directed to Williams at 218-365-2639 or info@gardnertrust.org. Office hours are generally on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Foreign policy series continues Feb. 27

ELY - Session three of the Great Decisions foreign policy discussion will be held Thursday, Feb. 27, from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

The meeting, which takes place in Room CL 124 at Vermillion Community College, is free and open to the public.

Study guides are available to purchase at the Front Porch for \$35 each. There are also copies available to read at the public library.

The topic for discussion will be Red Sea Security.

Learn to drive defensively

ELY - Ely State Farm Insurance agent Lindsey Keen is hosting a defensive driving class on Saturday, Feb. 29, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Grand Ely Lodge.

Cost for the class is \$10, and completion of the course saves participants 10 percent on auto insurance for three years at a time.

You do not need to be a State Farm Customer to partake or to receive the discount. Tell a friend. Free coffee and doughnuts will be available.

Call 218-365-5104 to register, and pay at the door.

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Donald G.
**Gardner
Humanities
Trust**

We are now accepting
**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.*

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

Halftime extravaganzas at North Woods



Little hoopsters

North Woods Elementary girls enthusiastically took to the court to show off their basketball skills during halftime of the Grizzlies home game on Thursday against Ely.

Top left: Second-grader Lauren Hampson dribbles up the court flanked by teammates Sarah Koch, second grade, and Josey Pascuzzi, first grade, as defender Olivia Baumgartner, third grade, gives pursuit.

Top right: Third-grader River Deatherage prepares to launch a shot over a nearby defender.

Middle right: Josey Pascuzzi cradles the ball as she looks for an open teammate.

Bottom right: Second-grader Kady Scofield applies defensive pressure against Josey Pascuzzi.



Shaking it up

Left: Macy Viita, a senior at North Woods High School, takes center stage with her competition dance team from Stephanie's Dance in Hibbing as they perform at halftime of the Grizzly boys basketball game on Friday.

photos by C. Stone

GRIZZLIES PARENTS NIGHT



Parents Night at Thursday's game against Ely included special recognition of team co-captains. Pictured are, upper left, junior Brynn Simpson and parents Dawn and Troy Simpson; upper right, senior Kennedy Wardas and parents Sandy and Jason Wardas; and, lower right, senior Sasha Strong and parents Corey Strong and Teresa Knifechief.

photos by C. Stone



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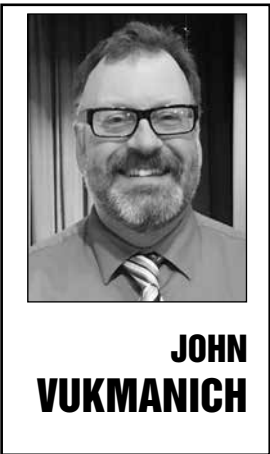
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JOHN
VUKMANICH

Last week you may have read about “I Love to Read” month at North Woods Elementary. One component of our reading festivities was a special visit from a local children’s author, Dana Sanders. We were very fortunate to have this special treat right here at North Woods School!

I myself always fantasized about being a writer. As a student, I had excellent writing instructors. The two that stand out are my Junior and Senior year English teachers at Virginia High School. As an eleventh grader, I had Tom Moeller for English. Mr. Moeller was not only a big influence as an English teacher, but also was a person who would do well on the game show “Jeopardy.” He knew a LOT about many different topics: music, sports, and history, along with writing and literature. We read classic novels such as “The Grapes of Wrath” and “Exodus.” He used extraordinary words, large words that

needed to be looked up. All along, he was simply trying to expand our vocabulary. He had an added “cool factor” as a guitar player in a classic rock band, “Doc and the Surgeons.” Imagine your English teacher playing guitar at the homecoming dance!

My senior English teacher was Tony Turk. The class was actually called Senior Writing, and we wrote a paper every week, all year long. We had to choose a topic and make an outline one day, submit rough drafts another day, and the paper was due at the end of the week. We kept all of our papers in a folder that I still have. Mr. Turk was a character, to say the least, but I truly thank him for the gift he gave us: The ability to communicate and express ourselves in writing. He has long since passed away, but I think he knew the impression that he made. I was fortunate enough to be on the same high school faculty with him at Virginia for a couple years.

When I was contacted by Dana Sanders regarding a possible visit, I thought right away, “What a great opportunity for our students!” So, we set up a book reading to our second and third grade classes in the library at North Woods. The kids truly seemed to love the experience. They were attentive and

inquisitive. They asked questions about the characters and the storyline and commented on many intricate details of the book, proof that they were indeed listening and soaking up the experience.

Dana’s book, “The Hidden Treasure of the Sax-Zim Bog,” is an adventure-based story set in the Zim area, home of the Sax-Zim Bog. Children Leo and Lucy, accompanied by their Grandmother, go hiking in the bog. During the course of a game of “I-Spy,” they become involved in an incredible adventure to find the treasure, meeting sea creatures and pirates along the way.

Sanders grew up in the Side Lake area of Little Sturgeon Lake. She is a Hibbing High School graduate and has roots in the Cook area as owner and operator of the Comet Theatre for several years. I asked Dana a few questions, and I am very appreciative of the opportunity to get to know her.

What started your interest in writing?

Ever since I was a child, I have always had a passion for writing. As a young girl, I would write poems and short stories. As a teen and adult, I excelled in reading and creative writing and spent a lot of time journaling thoughts, feelings, and experiences which led to many human-interest

articles and my first published children’s book.

Were there teachers along the way who were an inspiration for you?

My second-grade teacher, Mrs. White, at Jefferson Elementary School in Hibbing played an instrumental role in my growth and development in reading and writing. She made learning fun. She orchestrated a soft and friendly approach to teaching with the understanding that children learned at different levels. She instilled compassion, self-confidence, and innovation in her students.

What was the inspiration for your book?

My grandchildren, Leo and Lucy, were the inspiration to writing and publishing my first children’s book. It all started with a treasure map, a whimsical tale, and an adventure of a lifetime seeking out the Hidden Treasure of the Sax-Zim Bog. Many people, events, and places in the story were based on true-to-life experiences and special places that are near and dear to my heart.

What is the most rewarding part of writing children’s books?

The most rewarding part of writing a children’s book is being able to share with readers of all ages. I am a strong advocate for supporting and encouraging strong reading, writing, and vo-



Dana Sanders listens to a student’s question about her book. Submitted photo

cabulary skills, as communication is key in all aspects of life. What better way to learn, develop, and grow? Through reading, one can dream, aspire, and broaden their imagination.

What were some of the highlights of your visit to North Woods Elementary?

Having the opportunity to share my book with the second and third-graders at North Woods School has been one of the most rewarding and gratifying experiences thus far. While reading (to the students), I was able to observe their level

of captivation and excitement. They were SO into the story. Upon finishing the story, I was very impressed with the many questions they asked regarding the characters in the story, how old I was when I started writing, and when my next book would be published. I was thrilled when students asked if I would come back next year (to share my next book)! Sharing my story with others enhances my own personal and professional growth and inspires me to continue with my passion for writing.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Original drama, “Piercing the Snow,” showing Feb. 22-23 at Cook, Feb. 29 at Gilbert

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.

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 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.

Free Community Meal on Feb. 27

COOK- Come join us for a hot meal on Thursday, Feb. 27 from 4-6:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 231 2nd St. E in Cook. Roast pork, sides, and dessert will be served. The free meal is open to the public. There will be no program, just great food!

Take Your Best Shot photo contest now open

REGIONAL- Grab your camera, your phone, your favorite photos and compete in the 2020 photo contest, “Take Your Best Shot,” which begins now in Cook at Northwoods Friends of the Arts. Contestants may enter their best original photos until Saturday, April 25.

There are only two participant categories, adult and student. Students may enter three of their own original photos at no cost. A student is defined as anyone attending elementary or high school or a home school equivalent. Each original photo entry must be either 5x7 or 8x10 inches. The entry fee is \$10 per photo for adults, and students who want to enter more than three photos.

At a special reception on Friday, May 29 from 5 to 7 p.m. this fundraiser will celebrate with awards for contest winners in three categories, Student (\$25),

Adult (\$75) and People's Choice (\$50). A panel of judges will anonymously judge the photos for adult and student. Each contestant is given a white mat/sleeve for each photo entry so the whole exhibit matches for anonymous evaluation by judges.

For the People's Choice Award, the people of the community will vote for their favorite photo when they visit the photo contest exhibit at NWFA Gallery in Cook between May 6 and 29. The gallery is located at 210 S River St.

Entry forms are available now at the gallery, and online at nwfamn.org and by email to nwfamn.org@gmail.com.

The contest is a fundraiser for the arts center which provides arts education, exhibition, sales, performances and community outreach.

Women's Day of Recollection is March 7

COOK- St. Mary’s Council of Catholic Women from St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Cook will be hosting a Day of Recollection during Lent on Saturday, March 7 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Guest speaker will be Mary Wanhala, Director of Outreach Ministry at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Hibbing. Wanhala will speak on “Spiritual Motherhood: Uplifting Our Priests.”

The program sched-

ule will include registration with coffee and goodies, two presentations (one in the morning and one in the afternoon), Mass with Father Nick Nelson, a free luncheon, and closing comments and prayer.

This Day of Recollection is open to all women. There is no cost to attend.

For more information or to register, please contact St. Mary’s Catholic Church at 218-666-5334 or Tammy Palmer at 218-780-8445. Registration deadline is Wednesday, March 5.

Events at Cook Library

►Thursday, Feb. 20: Movie: Death on the Nile, 6 p.m. Watch the 2004 movie of Agatha Christie’s Death on the Nile, 98 minutes. Popcorn and water provided by Friends of the Cook Public Library.

►Friday, Feb. 21: Preschool Story Time begins at 10:30 a.m. This week’s selection is Little Monsters.

►Friday, Feb. 21: Teen Escape Room, 6 p.m. All teens are welcome to “escape” from the library. Food provided by Friends of the Cook Public Library.

►Friday, Feb. 28: Preschool story time at 10:30 a.m. this week’s selection is Let’s Do Magic.

►Thursday, March 5: One Book, One Community: “Death on the Nile” by Agatha Christie.

There is plenty of time to read the book and join us at the library for a book discussion at 5 p.m.

NWFA art 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.org or email at nwfamn.org@gmail.com.

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

The Woodcarving Group meets on Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. All skill levels are welcome to attend and participate. No registration required. Some tools are available to practice with. Call Howard at 218-741-7941 to verify.

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POLITICS

Political party caucuses set for Tuesday

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Wondering how to get involved in the political process here in Minnesota? Then you'll want to attend the political party caucus of your choice this coming Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Both the DFL and Republican parties will hold caucuses again this year, even though the selec-

tion of presidential delegates will now be done through the state's presidential primary, set for Tuesday, March 3.

But the political caucuses remain your best opportunity to actually engage with others who share your political beliefs to consider potential resolutions that could become part of your party's platform.

The Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party caucuses will

also provide an opportunity to send delegates in support of candidates for the Eighth District Congressional seat. The three announced candidates, to date, include Quinn Nystrom, Soren Sorenson, and Gaylene Spolarich.

"The local caucus is where the grassroots begin," said Leah Rogne, a District 3 DFL official who is helping to organize next Tuesday's caucuses for

Democrats. "To have a voice in selecting your elected officials, to bring forward the issues that matter the most to you, and to play a role in the structure of your party, join your neighbors at your local caucus," said Rogne.

While caucuses in presidential election years in Minnesota have traditionally included the opportunity to elect delegates who favor various presidential candidates, that won't happen

this year. Instead, delegates for the various candidates will be determined by the primary election results.

The Feb. 25 caucuses start at 7 p.m., with registration starting at 6:30 p.m. To find out where your local caucus is happening, go to <https://caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us/> and type in your address.

GREENWOOD

Concerns expressed on ambulance contract

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOODTWP- The town board here agreed last week to forward a long list of comments and suggestions regarding the Tower Area Ambulance Service subsidy contract to the city of Tower. The town board developed its comments with assistance from their township attorney, Mike Couri.

As with other area townships, Greenwood has yet to agree to a new subsidy contract with the TAAS covering 2020. While the ambulance service is owned and operated by the city of Tower, area townships and Fortune Bay Resort Casino have paid into a fund that helps cover the cost of replacing ambulances.

"I'm not opposed to continuing at the \$15 rate for the first half of the year," said Supervisor Mike Ralston, noting this would give the township more time to conduct "due diligence."

TAAS is asking the townships to double the per-capita subsidy rate from the current \$15 per person to almost \$30 per person by 2022.

Attorney Couri, in a letter to the town board, said that such an increase is very unusual in this type of emergency service contract.

"I would suggest that the township ask for the revenue and expenditure report for the ambulance service over the prior three years in an effort to figure out why the costs are increasing so dramatically, and what, if anything, can be done to lower the costs in the proposed contract."

Couri had plenty of questions about the language in the draft contract the city had sent to the township. He said the township should have information on what percentage of runs originate in which township, along with Fortune Bay, and should have some mechanism to assess proportionally more costs to the areas with the highest ambulance usage.

"Nothing in this agreement ties the fees to the city's actual costs," he wrote, "nor does it require the city to pay anything towards this service."

Couri said the \$18.75 that the city pledges to the subsidy

fund for each transfer "is way too little to cover this service and essentially will require the townships, casino, and city to heavily subsidize each run." Couri said the ambulance service should be charging a high enough rate for these transfers to cover ambulance maintenance, fuel, and staffing.

Greenwood resident Lee Peterson, who has been following the ambulance issue carefully, said that the TAAS representative from Eagles Nest, Larry McCray, estimated that \$4 per mile should be put back into the ambulance subsidy fund for all transfer miles.

"The average mileage per transfer is 300 miles," Peterson said.

Couri also told the township they need to see a ten-year capital improvement plan which details future ambulance purchases, expected costs, and how they will be funded.

Ralston also agreed with the note from Couri that the contract should include language holding the townships harmless in case of any negligence by the ambulance service.

The Tower Area Ambulance Commission, which usually meets quarterly, is holding a special meeting on Monday, March 2, where they will review a new contract that is being drawn up by the city. The Tower City Council will then review feedback on the revised contract at their March 9 meeting.

2020 levy

The town board spent no time discussing a preliminary 2021 budget, which historically the town board has done before going to township voters with a levy request at the annual meeting. This year's annual meeting is on March 10 at 8:15 p.m. Township elections will be held that day, with polls open from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

The board did spend a little time discussing their levy request, noting the township still has a healthy fund balance (\$633,241 at the end of January), but is looking at some additional expenses in the upcoming year. The township, during their annual meeting last year, set the levy at \$150,000 for 2020.

"I think we should increase the levy," said

township board chair Carmen DeLuca. "We want broadband. It is going to cost money."

Both John and Joanne Bassing, who are on the local broadband committee, said it wasn't certain that the township would be required to put up local money, and if needed, the township could bond in the future.

"I don't agree to putting it in the levy and just having it sit there," John Bassing said.

"People want broadband and are willing to do it," said DeLuca.

Ralston said he felt the township should ask for a \$250,000 levy for 2021.

"We have a big township," Ralston said, "I think we are going to have to fund as much as half a project."

DeLuca noted that Morse Township, outside of Ely, is putting in \$100,000 in local funding for their broadband project.

Joanne Bassing said the feasibility study, which will get underway this spring, will give more information on potential costs of installing broadband services through the area.

The board unanimously passed a motion to recommend setting the levy for 2021 at \$250,000.

Open meeting law

The board did pass a motion, in response to an advisory opinion issued by state Department of Administration, stating that the township's minutes and records of votes were available for public viewing during regular office hours to all. The town board had previously enacted a motion limiting access to such records to township resident Jeff Maus, but the Commissioner of Administration determined that action violated the state's Open Meeting Law. Maus had requested the advisory opinion late last year after the town board moved to restrict his access to records.

Security cameras

Township Clerk Sue Drobac expressed her concern over the surveillance cameras that the town board had recently

had installed inside her office.

"I don't think it needs to be on all the time," she said. "I don't like being spied on. The security should be for when I am not here."

Drobac also noted that township officials do not currently have any access to what is being recorded on the cameras both inside the office and outside the building.

"We need to determine who gets access," said Ralston. "Right now, only the installer has access."

Attorney-client privilege

DeLuca had the clerk read a letter by Couri, sent at the request of the board, regarding attorney-client privilege as it relates to board members' private discussions with the attorney on ongoing litigation.

There is no statute that prohibits town board members from publicly discussing attorney-client privileged communications, but it is accepted as a common law doctrine.

Couri said that individual town board members can put the township at financial or legal risk by relating privileged information to a private party. He noted that these confidential discussions are not admissible in court. But if a town board member chooses to share such information, it is no longer considered privileged. If the town board as a whole is meeting, the ability to exclude the public from discussion is governed by the state's open meeting law.

Other business

In other business, the board:

► Voted to post the open fire chief position for 30 days at the town hall, per fire department policies.

► Approved spending about \$1,000 to have Fisher Printing create and mail out postcards to all township property owners with information on completing the two online surveys about potential interest in broadband services.

Short-term rentals to be discussed, Tuesday, Feb. 25

REGIONAL- What's the best way to allow property owners to rent out their property on a short-term basis if they so choose, while also protecting the safety of visitors and rights of neighboring property owners, as well as preserving the character of residential areas? This question has been discussed in St. Louis County for nearly 10 years, on how to best balance these interests while supporting the tourism industry. Public input received during development of the county's adopted 2019 Comprehensive Land Use Plan strongly supported this review to improve the regulation of short-term rentals.

The County Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 9:30 a.m. during its regular board meeting at the Hibbing City Council Chambers, 401 East 21st Street in Hibbing.

The proposed amendments to St. Louis County Zoning Ordinance 62 would allow for short-term rental of properties through the issuance of performance standard permits. A draft of the proposed ordinance changes can be found online at stlouiscountymn.gov/planning. The zoning ordinance and proposed amendments apply to any areas where St. Louis County is the zoning authority. The county's proposed amendments would not impact short-term rental properties within cities because these municipalities administer their own zoning ordinance.

With the continued growth in popularity of vacation rental options like Airbnb and VRBO, St. Louis County has been working to ensure these short-term rentals are managed in the best possible way. By requiring appropriate permitting with performance standards, and setting requirements for septic, parking and posting of rules, the goal is to ensure a safe experience for guests, and minimal disruption to neighbors and the environment.

Anyone who wishes to provide comment on the proposed changes prior to, instead of at, the public hearing can contact Planning Manager Jenny Bourbonais by email at bourbonaisj@stlouiscountymn.gov or by mail to Planning and Community Development Department, Government Services Center, 201 South 3rd Avenue West, Virginia, MN 55792.

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WORLD TRAVEL

Lessons from lives lived abroad

Cook-area couple share experiences from living in Yemen

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK- When Sharon Beatty and David Stanton suggest that international travelers should try to immerse themselves in local cultures for a more authentic experience, they speak from a unique and well-informed perspective.

“Each of us has lived about 30 years or more in other cultures outside the United States,” Beatty said.

Beatty and Stanton shared experiences from more than 25 years of living in Yemen at a Feb. 5 meeting of Northern Progressives at the Crescent Bar & Grill in Cook.

The Republic of Yemen is a country on the south end of the Arabian Peninsula, home to 28 million people living in an area more than twice the size of Wyoming. It is the poorest country in the Middle East, Stanton said. Contrary to common beliefs about the Arabian Peninsula being a flat desert land, Yemen has numerous mountains over 10,000 feet and has days chilly enough for ice to form on standing water.

“Where we lived was 2,000 feet higher than Denver,” Stanton said.

Beatty, an RN and pediatric nurse practitioner with a master’s degree in International Health, went to Yemen as a Peace Corps volunteer in 1977 after becoming involved in a boycott of multinational foods giant Nestle. The corporation was heavily pushing sales of baby formula in impoverished countries, and poor mothers were unknowingly and tragically diluting the formula and often using contaminated water to mix it.

“In the end millions of babies died because of this,” Beatty said. “I wanted to see if what I was saying was happening was actually happening.”

Stanton also used the Peace Corps as a ticket overseas, volunteering in Botswana before moving to Yemen in 1991 to teach in an international school.

“Sharon’s and my entries into the country were completely different,” Stanton said. “She went in her 20s in 1977 and worked in total immersion in the culture in a village that was very isolated from the capital. I went 14 years later to a big city as a dependent of a teacher in an international school. I had time to get used to things.”

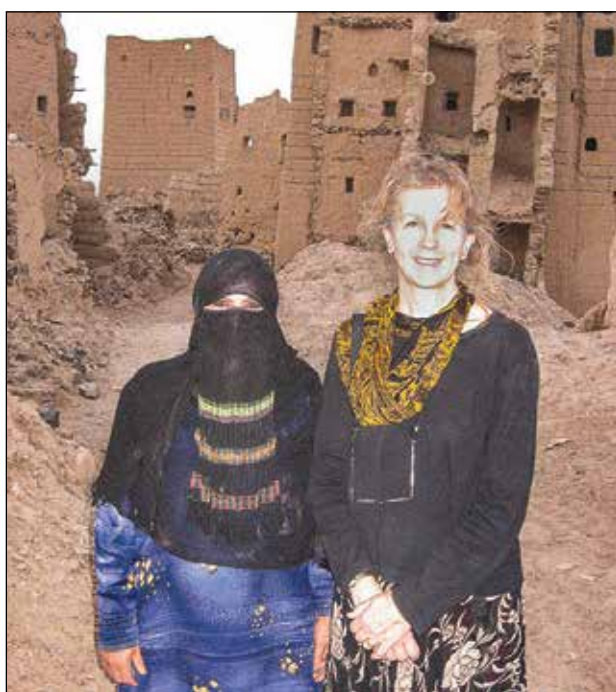
Beatty was mesmerized by her introduction to rural Yemen and life in a mountaintop village.

“My first impressions were chaos, romance, dust, and entering into the pivotal pages of history,” she said. “You would see everyone walking around in long robes and headaddresses, there would be shepherds with their sheep and goats, women spinning wool by hand. The architecture was mud brick. It looked exactly like an illustrated Bible. It was charming.”

She also was somewhat surprised by how safe she felt.



Left: David Stanton, stands between the doors of a mud brick “skyscraper” in Shebam, a town in the Hadramaut region of Yemen. Sharon Beatty, at right, and a Yemeni woman pose for the camera at the ruins of the abandoned city of Marib.



“As a foreign woman I could walk in the streets in the middle of the night and feel completely safe,” Beatty said.

Stanton’s experience was similar.

“My first impression of Yemen beyond the airport was basically that I’d landed on another planet,” he said. “I couldn’t understand anything anyone said. The men were wearing skirts and dresses. I hadn’t been to a place where they wore futas (wrap-around men’s skirts). All the men were wearing daggers on an embroidered belt. It was dusty, it was chaotic, it was noisy, it was bizarre. I didn’t find any of this threatening. I found it fascinating.”

Adjusting to daily life was challenging for Beatty and her Peace Corps group. Fifty percent of the women who came with her left before the end of their assignments.

“Everything is so different you have a hard time grasping on to anything that you truly understand,” Beatty said. “You have very little language, you can’t say much, you can’t understand much, and you don’t know the rules.”

Beatty took cues from local women in adapting to the modest, drab standards of dress for women, discarding all her brightly colored clothing and adopting the practice of wearing pants underneath her skirt. She learned that when men looked down as she tried to smile at them, it wasn’t because they were being unfriendly.

“This is a sign of respect,” she said. “To be friendly to a woman meant you did not respect her.”

Stanton’s early life in the port city of Aden, formerly controlled by the British, was a bit more familiar and quite different from Beatty’s village life. For one, it was more friendly. Other men would frequently call out “sadiq” to him as he walked down the street.

“It means friend,” Stanton said. “That was their way of greeting me.”

Getting used to cultural norms was just the first step in transitioning to living in Yemen, Beatty said. Next came a life-changing decision.

“You can choose to live situated in the culture, or as an expatriate,” she said.

Expatriates were foreigners who essentially lived separately from

Yemenis, living in compounds with their own food and furniture and associating mostly with colleagues and other foreigners.

“On the other end were the people that they called ‘going native,’” Beatty said. “They wanted to be Yemeni, they loved the culture so much they lived a totally Yemeni life.”

“I saw myself as different,” she said. “I felt an affinity for them, but I didn’t feel a bond where we were like each other. I wasn’t initially able to cross that barrier.”

The difference for Beatty was in changing how she perceived herself. She left Yemen for a number of years to pursue her education, but eventually returned in a professional role and as the wife of a Yemeni man.

“When I went back to Yemen the second time, I quickly became integrated and I felt we were people just living in the same country,” she said. “You stop noticing the externals and you start noticing the internals. You start to recognize who has a good character, who has intellectual curiosity, who you can trust, even though the manifestations outwardly are very different. It’s no longer us and them at all, that just falls away”

Stanton said he never felt a desire to “go native,” but he still developed a strong connection to the country and its people.

“I think I was hard-wired to fit in with Yemeni

culture,” he said. “A lot of the characteristics of the people I saw and met there and befriended were in many ways like me.”

That was reinforced by an encounter Stanton had with a taxi driver.

“I got into a taxi once and I looked at the driver and he was the textbook caricature of a terrorist,” he said. “He had a beard that made mine look like a 5 o’clock shadow. I thought, ‘OK, here it goes, he’s going to berate me for being an American.’”

What came next was unexpected.

“He just smiled at me,” Stanton said. “He looked more like a garden gnome than a terrorist.”

“He said, ‘It’s simple. You live, you die, you look in the book, and whatever is in that book determines the hereafter.’ Basically, what he was saying is that everything that you do matters.”

“He was just the kindest, gentlest soul I could imagine in spite of the stereotypes.”

Beatty and Stanton met in 1996 when she separated from her husband and moved to Sana’a, where she enrolled her children in the international school where Stanton was teaching. After Stanton and his wife separated three years later, he and Beatty became friends, and then a couple.

They weren’t full-year residents of Yemen. Beginning in 2002, they made annual summer trips to Beatty’s childhood home in Cook, where they

worked on renovating a historic barn that is now their home. But they always looked forward to returning in the fall to their second home, Yemen.

Beatty and Stanton left Yemen for Vietnam in 2014, and after five years there traveled to China for two months before moving back to Cook to stay. In some ways, Beatty said, it’s not all that different from Yemen.

“Small town America feels very much like Yemen in terms of the feel of how people interact with each other,” Beatty said. “In Yemen, when you go to a shop to buy something, the shopkeeper will first engage you as a human being, and then as a customer. They’re just friendly, they want to talk and hear what you have to say. I find Cook, which I left when I was 18, very much like that, very different from being in a big city. For me, this is what I want right now.”

Stanton said that people planning international trips should first consider their comfort levels with experiencing different cultures.

“We haven’t shared

a lot of anecdotes, but I could share some anecdotes that would make your hair curl in terms of what we would expose ourselves to because of our comfort zones,” he said.

Both Beatty and Stanton encouraged travelers to stay away from tours and major tourist attractions in favor of experiences that bring them into contact with people and their daily lives. Simple activities to accomplish that include eating at local restaurants, staying in hostels, and using public transportation. Online resources such as Lonely Planet and Trip Advisor can provide tips for less-visited areas.

“Look at the way local people live and try to do some of those things,” Beatty said. “People are generally very, very nice. You might feel like you’re taking a bit of a risk, but it’s unlikely you are.”

“Learn a few words of whatever the local language is and talk to people,” Stanton said. “Don’t be afraid of them. By interacting with local people you’ll have a much richer experience.”



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ELY...Continued from page 1

of a boycott on pro-mining Facebook sites.

But at least a few Ely residents took exception to Novak's comments.

Carol Orban read from a recent news story on the controversy in the *Hibbing Daily Tribune* that quoted Novak in support of a boycott. Novak initially tried to blame the reporter of the story, who is relatively new to the region, for misquoting him.

But Orban pressed him. "Did you say that people shouldn't spend their money to profit an organization that doesn't support their way of life?" she asked.

"Maybe something like that," Novak answered. "I'll stand behind a statement like that. If I'm working in the mines and you don't support the mine, I'm not spending my money there. It's as simple as that."

Orban continued, "These are our neighbors. And they have their way of life. They want their water and hunting, fishing and wild rice grounds protected. They have every right to advocate for their point of view, and I feel (your comments) were unnecessary. Why create more conflict and bad feelings up here? I am disappointed."

Becky Rom asked the city of Ely to make a public statement that says it does not support the boycott of any business." She contended that with the mayor's quoted Twitter comments, the city of Ely is now involved in a "government to government" decision. "I don't think that is where our city wants to be," she said. "I don't think we want the head of our city government promoting and advocating for the boycotting of any

business, in particular, with a tribe that has a government-to-government relationship and is exercising its treaty rights. Canada also objected to Twin Metals."

Betty Firth concurred with Rom's request. "I have to say that I was appalled on hearing our mayor speak on this issue. I think it is outside the domain of the city council and outside of the mayor, specifically," she said.

Peta Barrett said she felt the mayor made a "racist move" to suggest supporting a boycott of the Bois Forte Band. "They have a right to state their opinion, too. They have lands to protect, too. They were local people long before any of us came here," she said. "I am not a fan of anyone representing our city, to cherry pick businesses to be boycotted. To advocate that the

rest of us as a city should jump on board with this, is not right. I'm a business owner, one who opposes copper-nickel mining. Am I next? Not 100 percent of this community agrees with you, Mayor Novak, on copper-nickel mining."

Steve Piragis thanked the mayor for the free advertising in mentioning his business in the *HDT* article, but doubted he would receive any benefit in the context that it was made. "Anytime you mention the idea of boycotting anything, it's kind of a dirty word. It hurts," he said. "Whether you are a casino, run by an Indian tribe or a small business run by a family, that is not a thing that politicians should be involved in. When you start talking about boycotts, it becomes a whole different level of vitriol. Talking about boycotts should be off the

agenda for anyone who represents the people of this city."

Before adjourning the meeting, Novak said the council would ponder what was said. "This is an open forum and we don't take action on anything presented (this way) to the council," he said. "That tends to get councils in trouble."

Orban offered to forward the newspaper article containing Novak's comments to the city clerk's office for review by council members.

Other business

In other business, the council:

► Appointed David O'Donnell to the Ely Public Library Board on a 5-1 vote. Jerome Debeltz was absent from the meeting. Angela Campbell voted against the motion. O'Donnell has served on

the board two previous times, 2004-2007 and 2009-2012.

► Approved the mortgage satisfaction document for Nancy and Richard Petrzilka.

► Appointed election judges for the Presidential Nomination Primary on March 3.

► Changed the meeting date of the city council to Wednesday, March 4, at 5:30 p.m.

► Approved the 2021 Ely Utility Rates recommendation following a public hearing on the matter.

► Received for review, from the Police Commission, a revised Ely Police Chief job description. Among the changes to qualifications are 12 years of experience as a full-time police officer, rather than six years.

COOK...Continued from page 1

him he had been telling people he was using an unlicensed plumber and it "had to stop." Bergman said Erickson refused to leave his apartment until Bergman said he was going to call the sheriff.

Another incident occurred after he asked maintenance workers what they were doing as they were moving items out of a deceased individual's apartment, Bergman said. He said Erickson came to him and said it was "none of my business asking."

"I am finding myself sick to my stomach with anxiety, fear, and stress," Bergman said.

Bergman also read a letter he received from Erickson inviting him to a meeting to resolve any issues.

"The HRA would like to hear your side to see if all parties can come to a mutual agreement moving forward as you have been a longtime resident of the HRA," Bergman read. "You are welcome to bring someone with you if you do not feel comfortable coming to this meeting by yourself, with the understanding this person is there for your support."

The letter went on to say, in Bergman's words, that if he did not respond

"the HRA might consider taking more formal action as this behavior toward staff and so forth cannot continue."

Erickson did not respond to Bergman at the recent board meeting, but confirmed in a Friday meeting with the *Timberjay* that Bergman did not seek to arrange a meeting.

"We welcome people coming into the office," Erickson said. "We have an open door; come in and discuss it to try and resolve it. We work with people as much as we possibly can, but it's a two-way street." Resident Patty DeRusha said that after a conversation she had with someone about a vacant apartment she was told, "There are just some things that occur in HRA business that residents don't need to know."

Additional complaints about interactions with Erickson were aired by resident Jim Obidowski, who said Erickson was "in my face" the day after he sent a text message last fall about several rooms in the Pioneer building that were without heat.

Resident Teri Lindsoe said the residents were taking steps to be heard.

"We are starting a residents commit-

tee," she said. "We're going through HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development). It's coming."

Erickson responded. "We welcome that group being started," he said. "They have to understand what their role is according to the rules. Not our rules, HUD's rules. When people start speaking and give the indication that they know them, they're only telling half the story. I'll leave it at that."

After resident Karen Neuman aired complaints about problems she encountered dealing with Erickson over the door lock to her apartment, Bergman weighed in one final time.

"I'm looking at someplace to move because I can't take it here no more," he said.

After almost 40 minutes, during which no board member chose to enforce the three-minute comment limit, the barrage from residents prompted a response from housing manager Paula Erickson. She said CHRA's legal responsibility to protect residents' confidentiality restricted what could be shared when residents asked questions of staff.

"Every unit is private," she said. "I can't share that information with anybody else. I can't tell you when they passed away, who moved out, who's moving in until that stuff actually happens. When we're trying to do HRA business to actually keep the building safe from someone that's breaking in, that's going through units, unfortunately, we can't tell you that information. But yet you feel it's your business."

Erickson gave examples where information restrictions led to unfounded rumors started by residents.

"None of those things are even happening," she said. "But yet all the rumors that start create havoc in the office, which is what we assume you're trying to do, but yet I don't know why it's being done, because I can't tell you anything about the other units in the building."

Reed Erickson attempted to bring the comments to an end. "It's going to be," he said, she said, "so guess what - it's done," he said. However, former maintenance worker Tom Kennebeck, who resigned in 2015 but was in attendance, was allowed a final comment.

"All that I hope and pray for is that you can get along, respect one another," he said. "I think any indications of harassment need to be stopped. Okay, fine. I think administration should be setting the example."

Board member Karen Lind responded.

"Tom, can you believe we've come to this?" she asked. "All I want you to know is that I left this place because I dealt with it," Kennebeck said. "There was a lot of joy here and that's the thing that's being killed in this place."

A tense exchange between Erickson and Kennebeck ensued.

"Could you reiterate just for the record, Mr. Kennebeck, the reason why you left, and did you get fired or did you resign?" Erickson said.

"I left here because..." Kennebeck began.

"It's a simple question," Erickson said, cutting him off. "This really is a simple question. Did you get fired or did you resign?"

"I will not answer that because that will not clarify it," Kennebeck said.

"I have the letter right here, thank you," Erickson said.

"I left because I was not happy," Kennebeck said. "The board knows that."

Erickson expressed frustration Friday with the open session.

"The residents have a right to speak, which they did," he said. "At the same time, the HRA has a right to address those issues, but I don't think a public meeting is the time and place to address personal resident issues. Some of them are very dated, some have actually been

addressed by the board, just not addressed the way they liked."

Erickson said his commitment to enforcing rules regarding confidentiality and noninterference with HRA staff while they are working was a likely source of the residents' discontent.

"We hold every tenant responsible for their own actions or inactions, where I don't believe that was done in the past," he said. "Now the rules apply to everybody, and it's the same rules no matter who they are. We just enforce them."

As for the allegations that Erickson has intimidated residents?

"I don't know how I can respond to that, because that's never really been brought to my attention by them directly," Erickson said. "If they have that perception, I'm sorry about that. I can't control people's feelings. Just to reiterate, we treat people the same, in accordance with the rules. If they don't like it, I'm assuming they might feel intimidated. If they follow the rules, I don't see a problem."

In other business, the board,

► Approved changes to the grievance, facility use, emergency call, and tenant charges policies.

► Directed Erickson to investigate changing several light switches to motion detector switches to address concerns about lights in common areas being left on.

► Discussed the bidding procedure and instructed Erickson to research the possibility of setting lower limits for board approval of expenditures.

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\$500 REWARD

FAMILY...Continued from page 1

visited a recent Tuesday Group gathering to tell their story.

For Blake, his love of dogs started on his family's farm in southwest Minnesota. "We had dogs around, but I always had an affinity for sled dogs," he said. In grade school, he continually read a book, "Winterdance," by Gary Paulson, that fueled his passion.

At age 17, Blake said he had the idea of having a Siberian Husky pull him on skis. "I learned about skijoring and added another dog to the team, then another, then another," he said.

In 1998, Blake met Jennifer when he moved to Alaska to handle the sled dog team for Earl and Natalie Norris in Willow, Alaska. Jennifer was also staying with the couple and preparing to run the Junior Iditarod. Blake ran the Norrises' Anadyr Siberian Huskies in the 2000 Iditarod.

Since then, sled dogs and sled dog racing have been the focus of their lives together.

In 2002, Blake and Jennifer established Manitou Crossing Kennels where they raise and train their sled dogs with their daughters, Elena and Nicole.

Blake and his Manitou Crossing Siberians won the 400-mile Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon in 2004. In 2005, they finished 11th in the Yukon Quest, a 1,000-mile marathon. In 2006, Blake finished second in the John Beargrease Marathon and fifth in the Can-Am 250, held in Maine.

"I started mushing when I was eight years old and I always had a love of sled dogs, winter, and the outdoors," Jennifer said.

She finished 50th of 80 teams in the 2008 Iditarod, "nine seconds ahead of Blake." Jennifer was also awarded the



Blake Freking kisses his daughter for good luck at the start of a past WolfTrack Classic race in Ely. Both Blake and Jennifer will compete in the eight-dog race this year. photo by K. Vandervort

WolfTrack Classic 2020

ELY - The WolfTrack Classic Sled Dog Race is a mid-distance race with two classes, a six-dog, 30-mile race and an eight-dog, 50-mile race. Both races leave from the Ely Softball Complex on Sunday morning Feb. 23, starting at 9 a.m.

Twelve teams are registered for the eight-dog race and 18 teams are signed up to participate in the six-dog race.

The race runs on the Taconite Trail through the Superior National Forest, a portion of Bear Head State Park, and crosses Bear Head Lake.

The dog team area and spectator area at the start line are full of color, pageantry and a mix of excited, barks, howls and yips mixed with the announcing of the teams coming to the start line. The Ely Softball Complex is located on the east side of town off

Highway 1.

When the teams are all on the trail, there are spectator opportunities along the racecourse, on the Highway 1 and Highway 21 crossings, both outbound and inbound.

"A wonderful opportunity to see the eight-dog teams in action is the warming shelter in Bear Head State Park, which is positioned as the teams step on land after a potentially challenging lake crossing," said Race Director Ellen Cashman.

The race finish line is also at the Ely Softball Complex. "Finish times are dependent on trail conditions and the weather, and we could see teams back in Ely as early as 12:30 p.m.," Cashman said.

For more information, including biographies of the racers, go to www.wolftrackclassic.com.

Most Inspirational Musher Award, an honor nominated and voted on by the other Iditarod competitors after overcoming serious setbacks before and during the race.

"Raising sled dogs is a lifestyle and a passion," Jennifer said. "Some may even call it an addiction. I would say it is a healthier addiction than a lot of them. It makes us feel grounded when we spend time with our dogs."

Jennifer's interest in caring for their dogs became her livelihood as well when she graduated

from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine in 2004. Since then, she has practiced large and small animal medicine at the Ely Veterinary Clinic.

"For those who have ever been to the start of a sled dog race, you know that motivation is not a problem for these dogs," Blake said. "They are pretty fired up at the start, and are that way all year long. We run 3,500 miles a year, generally, and our dogs are always ready to go and give 100 percent. You can try that

with your co-workers and see how that works out. That motivation keeps us fired up as well."

He noted that much of their training goes into teaching the dogs that they can pace themselves. "They don't have to give a hundred percent all the time. We help them to be happy with running at just 10 miles per hour. Look for racers at the start who are dragging somewhat to slow the dogs and get them into a slower pace."

Blake and Jennifer started their homestead in the Isabella area by

first living in a teepee, then a small cabin, and then built a larger home. They live off-the-grid and produce their own power. "We didn't really think ahead that far in terms of having kids out there in the bush, but it has worked out very well," Blake said.

Elena was born in 2010 and Nicole followed in 2012. "Having children with the dogs has been amazing," he said. "Our socialization program has grown by leaps and bounds since before kids. When we

have puppies, especially, when we come home, the kids bail out of the car and climb into the doghouse with the puppies and we don't see them until we drag them out to feed them and put them to bed."

Jennifer said their racing dogs are at their best when temperatures are around zero. "Even at 20 degrees, they are fairly hot, especially when we have to put booties on to protect their feet," she said. "That hinders their ability to cool down."

The Frekings work hard at building their racing teams. "It starts out when they are puppies. We work with them and bond with them. But we are aware that we are outsiders. Mom is the nucleus of their world," Blake said.

During those first weeks and months, they slowly interject themselves into their puppies' world. "Later we do little puppy adventures and introduce them to the big wide world," he said. "Then we are the ones they look to for familiarity. We also are helping them build confidence. We coax them along, and they realize that when we ask something of them, they can do it. Eventually we're bounding across the Alaskan range, and they feel invincible."

A full-grown Siberian husky can consume up to 10,000 calories per day, Jennifer said. "We feed them a very high-performance Kibble with about 37-percent protein and 25-percent fat. Nutrition is critical."

Blake and Jennifer sometimes wonder if their daughters will stay in the sport of sled dog racing. "I hope they will grow up to be smarter than us," Jennifer said. "What we want for them is to have a passion for whatever they do."

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Sunday, February 23: Two Premier Mid Distance Races, 30 mile - 6 dog race, 50 mile - 8 dog race. Awards Ceremony after the race at Grand Ely Lodge

Photos by Les Conrad

FOR COMPLETE DETAILS VISIT: WWW.WOLFTRACKCLASSIC.COM

Community service is also an important part of the VCS curriculum and students are frequently out in the community as a result. They regularly assist with the monthly senior bingo operated by Friends of the Vermilion Country School, they help unload the truck at the Tower Food Shelf every month, and they rake leaves for older residents in the community in the fall. They've painted fire hydrants around town, brushed and cleaned up a long-ignored portion of the local cemetery, and regularly sing Christmas carols at area businesses ahead of the holidays.



Former Tower Mayor Steve Abrahamson said he always felt confident that the school was a good bet for the community. "I'm a 70-percenter," he said. "If I feel that the chance of success is

The financial and economic benefits to the city have also been significant. Back in 2011, when the school's founders began seriously eyeing the former Powerain building as the most likely location for the new school, it had fallen into disrepair following the demise of the car wash manufacturer in the wake of the 2008 financial collapse. That left the city without a tenant in the building or a means to

To do so, the city issued a \$400,000 revenue bond, payable over ten years, that paid for the bulk of the renovations. The city paid for approximately \$130,000 in additional renovation costs above and beyond the bond proceeds out of its general fund reserves.

Despite limited enrollment, currently in the high 30s, the school has managed to maintain a so-far comfortable financial cushion. Its most recent audit shows the

“Our school is providing a great education and social experience for our students,” said Summit, who has been the board’s chair since the school opened in 2013. “Our staff goes above and beyond to make sure our students have the skills they’ll need as adults to succeed in the world.”

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies split but show grit

TJ Chiabotti tops 1,000th career point, as a sophomore

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP – The first three-pointer from the Grizzlies' TJ Chiabotti in Friday night's matchup against Mesabi East spelled doom for the visiting Giants.

Anonchalant Chiabotti buried a jumper from the top of the key to cross the

career 1,000-point threshold, breaking a 4-4 tie and igniting a 13-0 run that set North Woods on track for a dominating 113-64 win.

The victory took the edge off an 82-74 loss Thursday at Virginia in which the Grizzlies came back from a 17-point deficit to tie the game before fading in the final minutes.

Mesabi East had no answers for a Grizzlies defense that forced 28 Giants turnovers, including 22 steals, that North Woods converted into 50 points. Most of those points came off fast breaks.

"We've practiced those breakout drills," head coach Will Kleppe said. "I thought for eight to ten minutes in

Right: Grizzlies sophomore TJ Chiabotti goes up in heavy pressure for a jump shot. photo by C. Stone

stretches we moved the ball very well, just very unselfish."

The Grizzlies were up 65-31 at halftime, allowing

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



HOCKEY

Ely season ends with loss to Proctor

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

PROCTOR – Ely's hockey team ended its season here on Saturday with a 12-2 loss to Proctor in a Minnesota State High School League Section 7A play-in game. The Timberwolves team, "the youngest in the state," according to the ISD 696 athletic director, posted a 3-16 record for the season.

The Wolves were seeded tenth in the post season and faced off against the Rails (10-14) who were seeded seventh.

Ely managed just 16 shots on goal in the contest, while Proctor pelted sophomore goalie Chase Sandberg with 46 pucks to the net.

The Rails scored early in the first period to take a 1-0 lead. Junior Jimmy Zupancich answered with an even-strength goal, assisted by senior standout Luke Olson, at 7:26 to tie the score at 1-1. Proctor answered in quick fashion, with goals at 8:15 and 8:44, to regain the lead. Another goal at 13:58 gave the Rails a 4-1 lead after the opening frame. Ely had two power play opportunities in the first period, but could not take advantage of the extra skater on the ice.

The Wolves were allowed just three shots to

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



NORDIC SKI STATE TOURNAMENT

Hopes achieved

Ely's Johnston finishes fourth overall; boys team finishes fourth while girls take ninth

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

GIANTS RIDGE— As they hoped.

That, in short, describes how Ely Nordic skiers performed at last Friday's state ski meet— and it's a sign of just how strong the Timberwolves have been all season. The fourth-ranked Ely boys team proved they were up to their top-five billing.

"The boys were happy with fourth place," said Ely Head Coach Paula Anderson, noting that it represented an improvement on their sixth-place finish in 2019.

It helps, of course, to have one of the state's strongest Nordic skiers on your team in junior Jasper Johnston, who qualified as of Monday for the Olympic Junior Nationals, set for March 7-14 in Truckee, Calif.

"Jasper's goal was top five as an individual and he was fourth, which was fantastic," said Anderson. "He skied two great races." His combined time of 29:02.1 was less than 40 seconds off the first-place mark posted by Henry Snider of Mounds Park Academy.

The girls team, who finished ninth overall, had their own standout in ninth-grader Zoe Devine, who has been surging all season, and finished a remarkable 12th overall as an individual with a time of

Above: Ely senior Raif Olson and sophomore Gabriel Pointer work their way up a hill during state competition last Friday at Giants Ridge.

Right: Ely ninth-grader Zoe Devine powers up a hill on her way to an impressive 12th overall finish in the state meet.

Lower right: Ely senior Ana Bercher strokes her way up a hill.

photos courtesy Soren Hedegaard

35:04.7. "Finishing 12th as a ninth grader is a pretty awesome result," noted Anderson, who said Devine's time was not really a surprise given the progress she's made all season. "Over these last few weeks I've felt like she doesn't really know what she can do. She's still young and obviously responds very well to the training and taper at the end," said Anderson. With plenty of time to improve, Devine seems likely to be another top contender in state competition for the next three years. She's likely to face continued competition, however, since two other ninth-graders finished in the top 15. "That's unusual in Nordic skiing," said Anderson. "This sport doesn't favor the younger athlete. You

See **SKIERS...**pg. 2B



Sports week

BOYS B-BALL

Friday, Feb. 21

North Woods at Chisholm, 7:15 p.m.
Ely hosts South Ridge, 7:15 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 24

North Woods hosts Carlton, 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 25

Ely hosts Silver Bay, 7:15 p.m.

GIRLS B-BALL

Friday, Feb. 21

Ely at South Ridge, 5:45 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Ely topples Grizzlies with second-half surge

In defensive battle, Timberwolves end up on top

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP – Knotted up at halftime, the Ely Timberwolves girls came out of the locker room loaded for bear as Erika Mattson, Grace Latourell, and Madeline Perry combined for 26 second-half points to score a 44-29 road win Thursday over the North Woods Grizzlies.

Sasha Strong, Kennedy Wardas, and Hannah Kinsey kept the Grizzlies in the game in the first half offensively, scoring 13 of the team's 15 points, all from the field. North Woods defenders protected the basket well, allowing just five Ely field goals, but

the Timberwolves went five-of-12 from the free-throw line to match the Grizzlies' output going into intermission.

A key to Ely's success in the second half was lockdown defense. They held Wardas and Kinsey scoreless, and Grizzlies go-to scoring threat Brynn Simpson managed just four free throws and six overall points. No other Grizzly scored from the charity stripe.

Held to two points in the first half, Latourell got on track and hit for nine in the second. Combined with Perry's eight points, the Timberwolves steadily pulled away from the Grizzlies. Any hopes North Woods

had for a comeback were squashed by Mattson, who drained seven free throws down the stretch. The Timberwolves drew 21 fouls and went 14-of-27 from the line.

Perry was the game's high scorer with 15, followed by Mattson with 12 and Latourell with 11. Strong led the Grizzlies with eight.

Right: Ely freshman Madeline Perry takes aim at the basket as she gets tangled up with the Grizzlies' Brynn Simpson and Hannah Kinsey.

photos by C. Stone



SKIERS...Continued from page 1B

need to be strong and powerful with lots of training base."

According to Anderson, the state meet can often be overwhelming, particularly for younger members of the team who haven't been there before. "The first-timers were pretty overwhelmed by it all and tried to ski their best, but it's very hard the first time because everyone is FAST and you get passed a lot." While still young, Anderson said Devine showed real poise as a returning racer in state competition. "She was quite composed and handled herself as a seasoned, much older racer. I was

very proud of her," said Anderson.

Returning Ely skiers all improved on their previous times from last year's state competition. And some Ely skiers saw dramatic improvement even during last week's competition. Senior Nate Netifee, for example, was in 52nd place at the end of the first round of skiing. "But Nate had an exciting second race," said Anderson. "He moved 12 places, to 40th place." His finish, at a time of 31:01.2, proved the second-best Ely boys finish. Fellow senior Raif Olson was about thirty seconds behind, with a final time of 31:36.9, good for 60th.

Sophomore Gabriel Pointer was right behind, finishing 65th with a time of 31:46.0. Other Ely boys competing included Jon Hakala, with a time of 33:55.4, and Micah Larson at 34:24.0.

Among the girls, senior Brooke Pasmick finished second among Ely skiers, with a time of 37:53.2, good for 64th place. Cedar Ohlhauser notched a time of 39:09.8, Phoebe Helms finished at 39:28.7, Kalyssa Eilrich finished at 39:41.6, Julia Schwinghamer finished at 40:06.9, and Ana Bercher finished at 40:52.4.

GRIZZ...Continued from page 1B

Kleppe to experiment with different combinations of starters and bench players in the second half while still extending their lead.

"It was a fun game," Kleppe said. "We're coming off six games in two weeks, so it was nice to see them bring the energy and play well."

Trevor Morrison dominated the lane, scoring 43 points and grabbing 15 rebounds in only 26 minutes of play. Chiabotti tallied 27 points, followed by Jared Chiabotti with 13. Darius Goggleye and Brenden Chiabotti each scored 10.

Virginia's height presented

some matchup problems, but the Grizzlies kept it close, trailing 42-35 at the half. After a couple of quick North Woods baskets to open the second, the Blue Devils went on a tear, opening a 60-43 lead.

"It was looking pretty grim," Kleppe said. "But even with foul trouble we battled, got some shots, got to the free-throw line."

The Grizzlies came all the way back, tying the game 69-69 on a TJ Chiabotti three-pointer, and had the ball with the opportunity to take the lead. But North Woods came up empty in consecutive trips while Virginia scored twice. Fouls caught

up with Goggleye and Morrison, leaving the Grizzlies without them in the game's decisive final minutes.

"We played the last four minutes pretty slim," Kleppe said. "We just had some untimely turnovers and unfortunately that kept us from closing at the end."

TJ Chiabotti had a game high 32 points, and Morrison added 18.

A rare late season break gives the Grizzlies a chance to recharge before hitting the road Friday for a game at Chisholm. North Woods will be back at home Monday against Carlton.

HOCKEY...Continued from page 1B

the net in the second period. Proctor peppered Sandberg with 20 scoring chances, coming away with five more goals to take a 9-1 lead.

Ely opened the third period with a goal by senior Jason Skube at 3:52, assisted by eighth graders Sam Leeson and Tyler Walker, to cut the lead to 9-2. The Rails kept the pressure on with three more goals, at 6:32, 9:10 and 14:20, for the 12-2 victory. They advanced to play second-seeded Duluth Denfeld Tuesday in a 7A quarterfinal.

Ely loses to Mora

In their final regular-season game last Thursday the

Timberwolves lost to Mora/Milaca, 8-2, at Mora Civic Center. Ely had 13 scoring chances and Mora/Milaca hit freshman goalie Ben Cavalier with 41 shots on goal.

The Timberwolves scored on two power play goals, the first one at 13:08 in the second period, by eighth grader Wes Sandy with an assist by Olson. Jimmy Zupancich scored at 4:01 in the third period with an assist by senior Dalton Schreffler.

In an update to the Ely school board last week, Tom Coombe defended the team's low victory total by noting that the Timberwolves

were outmatched in most every contest this year due to the lack of upper classmen on the varsity team. "I feel very safe in saying that we have the youngest hockey team in the state," he said.

The 2019-2020 team fielded just a handful of juniors and seniors, along with eight eighth graders, four freshman, and two sophomores.

The Wolves won two out of three games against Bagley-Fosston this year, and took a long road trip into Wisconsin to notch their third win of the season against Siren High School.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Wolves notch two more wins

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

E L Y — T h e Timberwolves grabbed a big lead early and coasted in the second half to an 80-59 win here over Mt. Iron-Buhl. "We were up 49-26 at the half," said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. "We shot the ball really well in the first half, connecting on 70 percent."

Ely posted big nights from three of its players, all of whom notched double-doubles. Ely junior Brock Latourell had a big night, pouring in 20 points and grabbing 18 rebounds, while senior Dylan Fenske added 20 points of his own, along with 11 boards. Fellow senior Eric Omerza added 18 points and 13 assists to notch Ely's third double-double.

Junior Emmett

Faltesek contributed as well, with 11 points.

Playing in Chisholm last Friday, five players hit double figures as the Wolves racked up a 99-72 victory over the Bluestreaks. "We played well offensively and shot the ball well," said McDonald. "And we defended well enough to get the win."

Fenske and Latourell led the way in scoring, with 22 points apiece, while Fenske added six steals and nine rebounds to his totals for the night. Omerza nearly notched a rare triple-double, adding 18 points, 11 assists, and eight rebounds in addition to five steals. Faltesek tallied 17 points, while junior Will Davies added 12.

With the regular season winding down, the Wolves host South Ridge on Friday and Silver Bay on Tuesday.

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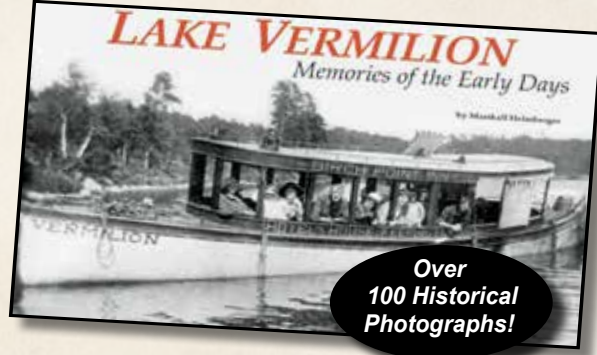
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Memories of the Early Days

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

Written by Marshall Helmsberger • Published by the Timberjay



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Obituaries and Death Notices



Barbara L. Zimmerman

Barbara Lee Zimmerman, 76, of Virginia, passed away on Friday, Feb. 7, 2020, at home with her loving husband by her side. A Celebration of

Life will be held at a later date. Memorials are preferred to The Humane Society. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Barbara was born to Walter and Ethel (Bursch) Dodds on Dec. 11, 1943, in Minneapolis. She was a graduate of Osseo High School in Osseo. Barbara grew up on the family farm in Maple Grove. It was there that she met her future husband, Todd Zimmerman. They were united in marriage on Feb. 29, 1963. The couple lived for a

time near the cities and then ventured north to Lake Vermilion where they spent five years building a home together on Wolf Bay. The couple spent the next 40 years enjoying time both on the lake and at their home in Virginia.

Barbara enjoyed working as a beautician. She also volunteered at the Virginia Hospital Gift Shop and spent many hours volunteering to help anyone who might be in need. Barbara loved the adventures that she and her husband embarked on; they

loved to fish together and also traveled the world together. They trekked all over the United States including Honolulu, Hawaii and Anchorage, Alaska. They also traveled abroad to Australia and New Zealand.

Barbara cherished time spent with family and friends. She loved sitting many hours just visiting with her neighbors. Barbara had a kind heart and everyone who was close to her knew that she had an immense love for her dogs. Barbara was

a person who was always joyful, forever kind, and endlessly giving.

Barbara is survived by her beloved husband of 57 years, Todd Zimmerman; brothers, Bob, John, Jim, David and Ray Dodds; sister, Mary Ann Refshaw; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Ethel; and brothers, Darryl, William and Paul Dodds.

Sidney N. Wovcha

Sidney Norman "Sid" Wovcha, 85, of Virginia and Lake Vermilion-Tower, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020, at Diamond Willow Assisted Living in Mt. Iron. Funeral services were held on Monday, Feb. 17 at Range Funeral Home in Virginia with Pastor Erik Roth officiating. Interment was at Greenwood Cemetery in Virginia.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Loretta (Alto) Wovcha

of Virginia; brothers, Merle and James Wovcha; daughter, Laurie (Wovcha) Erkkila; grandchildren, Matthew and James Molinaro, Rosalie and Aliina Erkkila, Gerald Wovcha and Eleanor (Wovcha) Goode; and great-grandchildren, Peter, Marie, Thomas and Joseph Goode and Mia Mahoney Wovcha.

PUBLIC NOTICES

MORCOM TOWNSHIP ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

MORCOM TOWNSHIP ANNUAL TOWN MEETING will be held on Tuesday, March 10 at 8:30 pm following the closing of the Township Elections at 8:00 pm. Location: Bear River School, Hwy 22, Cook, MN 55723.

Sasha Lehto, Morcom Township Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 14 & 21, 2020

FIELD TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Field Township, County of St. Louis, and State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

The election poll hours will be from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at which time the voters will elect by ballot: One Supervisor for a term of 3 years One Clerk for a term of 2 years

The Board of Canvass will meet following the Election.

The Annual Meeting will commence following the Board of Canvass to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. The meeting will include a presentation on broadband internet.

The Annual Election and Meetings will be held at the Field Town Hall.

The Reorganization Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 17 at 7 p.m. (in case of inclement weather will be on March 24).

Pat Chapman, Town Clerk, Field Township

Published in the Timberjay, February 21, 2020

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ELECTION

MN 205.16, subd 4

THE GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP ANNUAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020.

POLLS WILL BE OPEN 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. AT THE GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP HALL

OFFICES TO BE ELECTED: This March election will be for the election of: Supervisor Position 1---3-year term Supervisor Position 2---3-year term Clerk Position-----2-year term

Question #1 -----whether to adopt Option B – providing for the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer positions to be appointed by the Town Board, pursuant to the authority of Minn. Stat. 367.31, Subd.1 Yes _____ No _____

The election will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 with polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Greenwood Town Hall, 3000 County Road 77, Tower MN. In case of inclement weather, the election will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, with the same place and times. MS365.51 subd1

ANNUAL MEETING

The Greenwood Township Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at the Greenwood Town Hall at 8:15 p.m.

The Greenwood Town Board will meet immediately following adjournment of the Annual Meeting to pay bills and canvass election results.

Sue Drobac, Greenwood Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 21, 28 & March 6, 2020

MORCOM TOWNSHIP St. Louis County, MN NOTICE OF PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION PRIMARY ELECTION

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 207A.11, a Presidential Nomination Primary will be held on March 3, 2020, in the State of Minnesota, the County of St. Louis.

Presidential nomination primary voters must be registered to vote pursuant to Minnesota Statute 201.054, subd. 1. Nomination primary voters must also request the ballot of the major political party for whose candidate the individual wishes to vote. Polling place election judges must record in the polling place roster the name of the major political party whose ballot the voter requested. The county auditor must include the name of the major political party whose ballot the voter requested with the voting history of the nomination primary election. The major political party ballot selected by a nomination primary voter is private data, except that it will be shared with the chairs of the major political parties in the State of Minnesota.

POLLING HOURS: 8 am - 8 pm POLLING LOCATION: Bear River School

Sasha Lehto, Township Clerk, 218-969-5812

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 14 & 21, 2020

BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP Annual Town Meeting Tuesday, March 10, 2020

The Annual Town Meeting for Bearville Township will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, beginning at 6:30 pm at the Bearville Town Hall, to set the levies, and to conduct any and all other business proper to be conducted when the Annual Meeting is convened. Residents of Bearville Township who are eligible to vote may vote at the Annual Meeting. All meetings are open to the public.

In case of inclement weather, the Annual Town Meeting will be held one week later on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at the time and place stated.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Town Clerk 218-376-4495 bearvl@frontiernet.net

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Township Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 21, 2020

VERMILION LAKE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Vermilion Lake Township, County of St. Louis and State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

The election poll hours will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at which time the voters will elect by ballot:

One Supervisor for a term of 3 years One Clerk for a term of 2 years

The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:15 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The Annual Election and Meeting will be held at the following location:

VERMILION LAKE TOWN HALL 6703 WAHLSTEN ROAD

NOTE: Board of Canvass will meet following the Annual Meeting.

Crystal Alaspa, Vermilion Lake Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 21 & 28, 2020

TOWN OF EMBARRASS Annual Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Embarrass Township, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Township Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. In case of inclement weather, the meeting may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March (3/17).

The Annual Meeting will commence at 7:00 pm to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. This meeting will be held at:

Embarrass Town Hall, 7503 Levander Rd., Embarrass, MN 55732

Jennifer Boese, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 21, 2020

FIELD TOWNSHIP

The Public Accuracy Testing of the Auto Mark voting machine for Field Township will take place Thursday, February 27, 7 p.m. at the Field Town Hall.

Pat Chapman/Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 21, 2020

Feb. 14 puzzle answer

Super Crossword

Answers

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

The Timberjay classified ads reach readers of all three editions every week.



Call 753-2950 to place yours now!

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

puzzle from Feb. 14 answers on 8B

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

MOTORIZED RECREATION

Local ATV club to host ATVAM state convention

REGIONAL - The All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota (ATVAM) will hold its 2020 state Convention Sept. 18-20 in the Ely, Babbitt, Embarrass and Tower area. The event will be hosted by the locally-based Prospector ATV Club.

The convention, held during the slower autumn season and one week prior to the Ely Marathon, promises to be an economic boost for area businesses. The event is open to everyone who wishes to participate.

Activities planned in Tower, Embarrass and Ely

A flyer for the event, posted on the Prospector Loop ATV Club Facebook page, details the activities for the convention. The Ride and Rally event will kick-off the convention on Friday, Sept. 18, when registration opens at 8 a.m. at the same time as a pancake breakfast at Timber Hall in Embarrass.

A VIP ride will follow, starting at 10 a.m., and will include a VIP lunch on Lake Vermilion. Other Friday

events include an ATV Big Air Tour in Babbitt, and dinner specials at local restaurants starting at 5 p.m.

On Saturday, Sept. 19, the Morse-Fall Lake Volunteer Fire Dept. will host a pancake breakfast at its fire hall from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Registration will run all day (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) at Grand Ely Lodge, and starting at 10 a.m. there will be guided ATV rides offered at various locations.

That night there will be

a silent auction from 4 to 8 p.m., a banquet from 5 to 7:30 p.m., and the general membership meeting and election at 7 p.m. at Historic Pioneer Mine in Ely.

People can register for the Ride and Rally at ATVAM.org. The price for Friday's guided ride and VIP Lunch is \$10. Cost for guided rides and the banquet on Saturday is \$35. Kids under 12 can participate in everything for free.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Snowmobiler dies near Tower

TOWER — A snowmobile crash last Thursday evening on the Arrowhead Trail, approximately 10 miles southwest of Tower, claimed the life of a suburban Minneapolis man.

Daniel James Cottew, 51, of Coon Rapids, was traveling northbound at 4:35 p.m. when his snowmobile veered off the trail and struck a tree, according to St. Louis Sheriff's Department Sgt. Kevin Friebe. Despite the response from Tower Area Ambulance, Vermilion Lake First Responders, St. Louis County Rescue Squad, the U.S. Forest Service, and North Memorial Air Care, Cottew died at the scene.

Snowmobilers injured in fall from cliff

ORR — A Valentine's Day accident approximately 15 miles north of Orr sent two injured central Minnesota snowmobilers to a Duluth hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Howard John Hedin, 69, of Swanville, and Victoria Lynn Spandl, 52, of Randall, were both operating snowmobiles in a group of eight traveling northbound in the ditch along Hwy. 53. At about 10:45 p.m., near Forest Rd. 614, both Hedin and Spandl went over a 30-foot rock cliff and landed at the bottom of a ravine.

First responders used a combination of rescue toboggans, ropes, and an ATV winch to extract the pair from the ravine. They were taken by Orr Ambulance to Essentia Health — St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth.

Additional responding units included Kabetogama Fire and First Responders, St. Louis County Rescue Squad, the State Patrol, and the National Park Service.



LEARNING IS FUN

Students try their hand at ice fishing

LAKE VERMILION — Here's a test question that almost any area student is likely to get right: "What's more fun, a day at school or a day out ice-fishing?"

For about 70 elementary age students from Nett Lake, Tower-Soudan, and North Woods, the answer was obvious, thanks to the Lake Vermilion Guides League and Fortune Bay Resort Casino, who teamed up last week to offer a day out on the ice to the area students.

"We just want to introduce the kids to ice fishing and give them a little winter break," said local fishing guide Cliff Wagenbach, who volunteered for the event. Students from Nett Lake and Tower-Soudan enjoyed their day of fishing on Tuesday, Feb. 11, while the North Woods students took their turn the following day.

The event is part of a continuing

effort by both the guides league and Fortune Bay to introduce more young people to fishing. Resource managers have become increasingly concerned in recent years over the trend of declining participation by young people in traditional outdoor activities, like hunting and fishing. Events like Take a Kid Fishing, or Take a Kid Deer Hunting, have become important ways of introducing young people to these types of activities, in hopes that these traditions will carry on to future generations.

Above: Guide Rob Bryers holds a nice whitefish caught by fifth-grade angler Elizabeth Udovich.

Right: Plenty of smiles with another group of young anglers.
submitted photos



LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
35 12					37 14					35 14					33 15					30 9				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
02/10	19	-12	0.00		02/10	16	-17	0.00		02/10	14	-12	0.01	0.2"	02/10	28	0	0.01	0.2"	02/10	22	0	0.00	
02/11	27	10	0.02	0.6"	02/11	28	-17	0.01	0.3"	02/11	28	7	0.02	0.4"	02/11	28	14	0.02	0.4"	02/11	22	0	0.00	
02/12	25	15	0.03	0.6"	02/12	25	14	0.02	0.3"	02/12	26	14	0.05	1.0"	02/12	23	-20	0.05	1.0"	02/12	No readings			
02/13	23	-23	0.00		02/13	21	-31	0.00		02/13	22	-26	0.00		02/13	0	-27	0.00		02/13	No readings			
02/14	1	-28	0.00		02/14	1	-34	0.00		02/14	0	-27	0.00		02/14	19	-18	0.00		02/14	No readings			
02/15	18	-28	0.01	0.3"	02/15	17	-35	0.03	0.4"	02/15	19	-24	0.02	0.3"	02/15	27	1	0.02	0.3"	02/15	No readings			
02/16	12	-15	0.01	0.1"	02/16	27	-21	0.00		02/16	27	-12	0.00		02/16	10	-17	0.00		02/16	No readings			
Total			0.75	78.6"	YTD Total			0.92	51.1"	YTD Total			1.56	61.1"	YTD Total			NA	44.9"	YTD Total			1.00	53.3"

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answers to Feb. 14
Sudoku from page 3B

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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at 218-827-8327.

ORR AA meets Tuesdays at
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ELY CO-DEPENDENTS
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3-Use west side entrance. For
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Please call Peggy at 218-306-6095.

answers to Feb. 21 puzzle

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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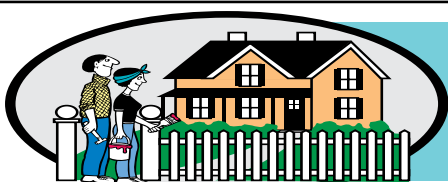
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Super Crossword

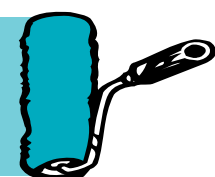
- ACROSS**
- 1 Scared
7 Side of a cut
gem
12 Fighting junk
e-mail
20 GMC truck
21 Sunni's god
22 "Mona Lisa"
painter
23 Danes
wearing
more frills?
25 Easily caught
baseball hits
26 TV reception
enhancers
27 Tend the soil
29 Court
mallets
30 SSgt., e.g.
31 Steel city in
the Ruhr
33 Feldman
acting more
bashfully?
36 Time spent
in office
38 Rubbish
41 Angry with
42 "Modern
Family" aier
45 Certain
quadrilateral
47 One who's
worshiped
51 Griffin
suffering
more pain?
- 56 Vacuum tube
variety
58 Pastoral tract
wise
59 Spanish for
"houses"
60 Prefix with
mobile
63 Charles of
chair design
64 Founding
father
Franklin
66 Hemingway
feeling more
uptight?
69 Noblewoman
70 Flowers from
Mexico
72 Med. scans
73 Fisher using
more off-
color
language?
76 Believing in
one God
80 "Remember
the —!"
81 "Splendor in
the Grass"
director
Kazan
82 John of lawn
tractors
83 I, to Klaus
84 Import
taxes
86 Allen being
more sly?
90 Venue
- 91 Big
company,
investment-
wise
94 Swirly letter
95 Around, as a
year
96 Warble
99 "I — film
today ..."
(Beatles
lyric)
103 Buck looking
more sickly?
108 Nobelist
Bohr
111 Fleur-de- —
(iris)
112 Andean pack
animals
113 Light
collision
116 Minnow,
e.g.
118 Weird things
121 Duchamp
showing
more
serenity?
123 Chastised
loudly
124 Kowtow,
say
125 Brown slowly
126 Grinning
villains, often
127 Nobelist Irish
poet
128 Rococo
- DOWN**
- 1 Leaning
2 Engaged
man
3 Parish leader
4 Singer
India.—
5 Papas of "Z"
6 Mends, as
holey socks
7 Less true
8 — carte
menu
9 Film teaser
10 British noble
11 2003-07 Fox
drama series
12 High mount
13 Revived:
Prefix
14 First-rate
15 "Actually ..."
16 Gunfire burst
17 Nosy sort
18 "Someone
Like You"
singer
19 Lichen-filled
24 Film's actors
28 Uterus
32 Drug busters
34 Hoopster
Ming
35 Newspaper
employee
37 — tai
39 "Button it!"
40 — polloi
43 Happened to
- 44 "Mad Money"
host Jim
46 Bad guy
47 Pakistanis'
neighbors
48 Not foreign,
as policy
49 Lyric works
50 "Judge not,
— ye be
judged"
51 Tirana's land:
Abbr.
52 Dee lead-in
53 Vendor's
pushable
vehicle
54 "Do — say,
not ..."
55 "Grease"
director
Kleiser
57 Hunting dogs
61 Old Glory's
country
62 One being
examined
65 "Thor"
actress
Alexander
66 Old Balkan
region
67 Lilly of
drugs
68 Come to light
71 Jackie's #2
73 "Curses!"
74 Jai —
75 Basso Siepi
- 77 That girl's
78 Here, to Fifi
79 Fidel's friend
82 Immerse
85 Opposite
87 Pretend
88 Long-jawed
fish
89 Biblical beast
92 Philips rival
93 Attire
95 Lunar
feature
97 Defames in
writing
98 — jet
100 Keys of R&B
101 Least naive
102 Singer
Simpson
103 Ruses
104 John on the
Mayflower
105 Chili server
106 Boxer
Griffith
107 Fortuitous
109 Pole dance?
110 "Oh My My"
singer Ringo
114 Lion's locks
115 "SOS!,"
e.g.
117 Drescher or
Tarkenton
119 Gift for music
120 Many GPS
lines: Abbr.
122 Gathered

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