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**Moose numbers stable...See /4B**

# The **TIMBERJAY**



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## TOWER CITY COUNCIL

# Altenburg fired following investigation

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**  
Managing Editor

Pattern of negligence, favoritism documented

TOWER — By a unanimous vote, the city council here terminated Steve Altenburg from his employment as the city's ambulance director and fire chief. The move came with relatively little discussion following the com-

pletion of a 40-page investigative report that highlighted a pattern of negligence, favoritism, and financial mismanagement. City attorney Mitch Brunfelt told city council that it also reflected Altenburg's unwillingness to

### EDITORIAL

Restoring confidence Page 4

accept the election of Orlyn Kringstad as mayor in 2018. Altenburg, a longtime polit-

ical ally of former Tower Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith, ran unsuccessfully for mayor that same year, losing to Kringstad by a wide margin. Altenburg then launched a campaign of defamation against Kringstad,

telling some in the community that he intended to run Kringstad out of town.

That's an unusual and unacceptable response city attorney Mitch Brunfelt told members of the council on Monday. "What happens in these small communi-

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## SCIENCE PROJECT

# A lesson in robotics

Young Grizzlies team tackles big time competition

by **DAVID COLBURN**  
Cook/Orr Editor

FIELD TWP — While the North Woods School basketball season is winding down, there's another team here scoring goals with balls — they just can't use their hands to do it.

It's the robotics team, an extracurricular group in its second year of competition under the direction of math teacher and coach Travis Leinonen.

Students from seventh to twelfth grades can participate, and last year's team was heavily laden with upperclassmen. This year's team, however, is decidedly younger.

"Most of our kids are seventh and eighth-graders," Leinonen said. "We have a couple of upperclassmen, but most of them already have jobs so they're only able to come periodically."

It's a different challenge for Leinonen as he works with a young team to participate in the FIRST Robotics Competition geared for freshmen through seniors.

"When it was seniors like I had last year, it's a lot easier to articulate their ideas and draw up a design," Leinonen said. "For seventh and eighth-graders it's a lot more difficult. They have



North Woods School eighth-grader Dylan Leinonen works on his school's robot in preparation for a recent FIRST Robotics Competition. photo by D. Colburn

fewer tools in their toolbox."

Their task is to design, build, and program a robot that can collect seven-inch foam balls and drop or shoot

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### More robotics

Ely's Wolfbotics team shines in rookie meet at Duluth event. Page 11

## HEALTH CARE

# Ely hospital parts ways with CEO

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**  
Ely Editor

ELY — The Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital last week ended its tumultuous relationship with Chief Executive Officer Michael Coyle.

A cryptic press release distributed by the EBCH board of directors on Thursday, March 5 indicated that the board took action "to move forward to finalize its formal separation with Mr. Coyle."

Because of the nature of the internal and private personnel matter, the board was unable to provide further details.

Patti Banks, current EBCH Chief Operations Officer, has been selected as Interim CEO. "We were faced with very difficult decisions; rest assured that we take this employment matter very seriously and have given thoughtful consideration to each decision made," the board said in the press release. "We have full faith and confidence in her. We remain very proud of the accomplishments of our staff and our hospital."

Coyle replaced long-time EBCH administrator John Fossum, who retired in early 2018 after a 20-year stint in charge of the

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Michael Coyle

## CITY OF ELY

# Council refuses to consider anti-boycott resolution

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**  
Ely Editor

Issue may be revisited March 17

ELY — The city council here, following the lead from Mayor Chuck Novak, again refused to consider a proposed resolution from a citizen asking city leaders to take a stand against boycotting businesses that oppose sulfide mining near the Boundary Waters.

The Ely City Council chambers could be packed again next Tuesday as environmental advocates push for city leaders to take a stand against boycotting businesses that don't support sulfide mining. photo by K. Vandervort

inaction, on Wednesday night, came before a standing room only crowd dominated by mining supporters. It was the second meeting in a row during

which the council declined to express opposition to Mayor Novak's call for a boycott

See...ELY pg. 10



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# COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

## SWOP Ham Dinner, March 19

MT. IRON- It's almost time for the 24th Annual SWOP Ham Dinner. The dinner will take place on Thursday, March 19 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Mt. Iron Community Center. Adults cost \$10, children age 10 and under cost \$6. There will be a cash raffle and split the pot drawing. Take outs will be available and there will be live music by the Quad City Fiddlers from 5 to 6 p.m.

## Mindfulness Practice, March 15

VIRGINIA- On Sunday, March 15, at 10:30 a.m. at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church, Mindfulness Practice will be discussed by Ericka LaMar. Mindfulness spans a continuum of practice. Today's service will focus on the informal practice of mindfulness and how it can be applied in your daily life to increase your ability to respond effectively to challenging situations, reduce worry, regulate emotions, and increase feelings of contentment. The church is located at 230 7th St. S in Virginia and the building is handicap accessible.

## Learn to Listen to Jazz, March 16

COOK- Learn to Listen to Jazz at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook will be held Monday, March 16 at 7 p.m. It's an exploration into the appreciation of a true American musical art form. This is the seventh session.

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

Learn to Listen to Jazz 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.

## Lehto and Wright to perform at Lyric on March 19

VIRGINIA- The Lyric Center for the Arts presents a house concert with Lehto and Wright on Thursday, March 19 at 7 p.m. Lehto and Wright is a Minnesota-based folk-rock and progressive rock band whose first live performance was in 1999 and has continued, non-stop, to this day. Lehto and Wright have a sound that is a unique blend of traditional and modern styles. By taking cues from the British Isles and American folk traditions and interpreting them with contemporary guitar-based arrangements, Lehto and Wright have taken a unique approach to the world of folk, folk rock and progressive rock.

John Wright has a long-standing dedication to traditional music. Wright's background spans many different musical styles including blues, fusion, pop Latin, and rock. By incorporating all these influences, Wright has his own unique approach to the folk and folk rock genres. This is evident in his tasteful acoustic guitar and bass work.

Steve Lehto has been influenced by musicians ranging from Miles Davis to Martin Carthy, from King Crimson to Richard Thompson. Steve Lehto's impressive versatility and range on the guitar is matched only by the emotion he puts into his playing. Equally at home playing an Irish jig or a jazz standard, he brings a unique and accomplished style to the folk and folk rock world.

As a duo, John Wright and Steve Lehto perform their material in an acoustic, "unplugged" setting. From American spirituals to Irish tune sets, their accomplished twin guitar/mandolin approach has all the intensity and power as the trio with half the volume.

## NORTHWOODS FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

# Pajari and Musto reception, March 20

Meet the artists of the "Sunlight and Shadow" show on display at NWFA



Kris Musto poses in front of her artwork. These quilts, along with other art by Musto and Laura Pajari, will be on display until Saturday, March 28. submitted photo

COOK- Enjoy good food and refreshments when you meet the artists of the month, Laura Pajari and Kris Musto, at their art exhibit reception on Friday, March 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Northwoods Friends of the Arts, 210 S River Street in Cook.

Pajari and Musto's exhibit, "Sunlight and Shadow" is an expression of unique sunlight and

shadows in life, the experiences of life each of us have. No two stories are alike but when we communicate people find the connections, the relationships that make life a joy. Pulling from both extraordinary and mundane experiences, Pajari and Musto explore the duality and metaphor of the moments of sunlight and shadow we all encounter moving through life. By

creating, three dimensionally, with jewelry, beads, quilts, dyes and fabric they are also creating tangible connections with exhibit viewers through objects infused with magic that can be taken home.

"Sunlight and Shadow" is exhibiting from March 6 to 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and from 9 a.m.

to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

NWFA, your local 501(c)3 arts organization, is celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2020. The non-profit is celebrating the volunteers who take charge initiating classes, programs, concerts, governing, staffing, teaching and outreach. Find more information at nwfam.org.

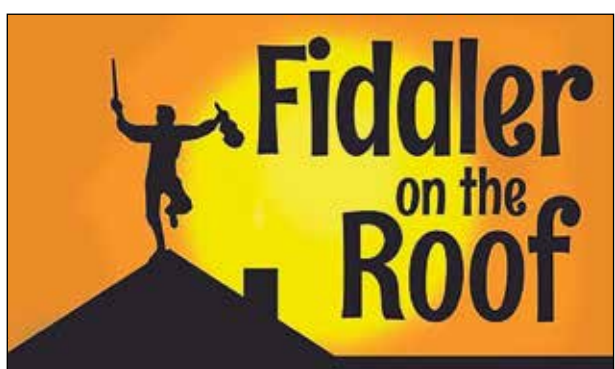
## NORTHERN LAKES ARTS ASSOCIATION

# Fiddler on the Roof coming to Ely

ELY - This year's Community Spring Musical, Fiddler on the Roof, opens on the Vermilion College Theater stage on Thursday, March 26 and runs through Saturday, April 4.

With music by Jerry Bock, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, and book by Joseph Stein, Fiddler is based on a collection of stories by Sholem Aleichem called "Tevye and His Daughters," according to director Sara Skelton.

In the original stories, Tevye the Dairyman came to life in Yiddish, first published in 1894 and set in pre-revolutionary Russia in 1905. The inspiration for the title of the musical



is from a painting by Marc Chagall, based on Chagall's childhood in a Russian shtetl, or village.

"With a backdrop of abject poverty of their shtetl, and pogroms, the wholesale violent persecution of Jews, which were a dreadful fact of life for Jews all across Russia, the struggle for survival was

bleak indeed," Skelton said. "Fiddler, as you'll see it in Northern Lakes Arts Association's community musical, acknowledges these grim elements of reality. But Tevye finds solace in his love for his family and his love for his God, and the resilience of the characters, the sheer joy they take in being alive, elevates the tale from bleak to inspiring."

Not the least of the characters' joys is their music. Bock incorporates Yiddish folk elements of klezmer-style music into the songs and dances. Klezmer music, indigenous to eastern European Jewry, can be traced all the way back to the second century A.D. "As time

moved forward, the people who played it, klezmerim, borrowed melodies, modes, and dance rhythms from their frequent gypsy neighbors," Skelton noted. "They adopted and adapted vocal techniques from their cantors into their playing; you might hear a clarinet "laugh," or a violin "weep" in this musical score."

Advance tickets are available at northernlakesarts.org (credit card only), in person at Crapola (cash or check), or at the door. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for NLAA members, and \$8 for students. Performances run March 26, 27, 28 at 7 p.m., March 29 at 2 p.m., March 31 at 7 p.m., and April 2, 3, 4 at 7 p.m.

"This Ely Community Spring Musical promises an afternoon or evening with hard-working, good-hearted peasants who just happen to sing their hearts out," Skelton said.

More details are available at Northern Lakes Arts Association's website at northernlakesarts.org.

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ELY SCHOOL BOARD

# Ely schools take caution on coronavirus

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY—With concern growing across the country over the rapid spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19, the Ely school district is maintaining a watchful eye on the situation as a community health issue.

ISD 696 board members were updated Monday night on steps being taken by the district's administration team to prepare for any possible outbreak of the highly infectious disease.

A letter sent to all families in the Ely School District last Friday indicating no known COVID-19 cases in the state was quickly out-of-date when Minnesota health officials in Ramsey County confirmed the state's first case later that day. A second case, in Carver County, was announced Sunday. Ramped-up testing this week is

likely to push that number higher. "We want our staff and families to know that we are in communication with the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Education about the situation," Superintendent Erik Erie said. "We have also had discussions with the (Ely Essentia) clinic and gotten their input. I talked with one of their doctors, too. They appreciated the update we sent out last Friday."

A community-wide COVID-19 update, by the Ely Community Health Clinic, will be provided Tuesday, March 17, at the Tuesday Group gathering held at the Grand Ely Lodge (see page 8).

K-5 Principal Anne Oelke told school board members that the state department of education is conducting weekly conference call updates on the situation. "One or all of us will be in on

those calls on Wednesdays," she said.

Oelke and 6-12 Principal Megan Anderson continue to monitor the state department of health website for up-to-the-minute updates and warnings. "We have talked with many regional principals to see what information they are sending out. We are keeping close track of this. And yes, we know there are confirmed cases in Minnesota. State officials tell us that we are not alone. MDE and MDH officials are guiding us in terms of any kind of school events or activities."

The ISD 696 update to families indicated that the best way to prevent the spread of the disease is through good hygiene like washing hands frequently, avoiding touching the face, avoiding close contact with those who are sick, covering the mouth when coughing, and

staying home when sick.

Board chair Ray Marsnik noted that hot water is available in all school campus bathrooms to aid in proper hand washing.

The update for families also provides internet sources for more information on COVID-19. "Please know, the school district is reviewing its protocols and implementation plans if at such a time normal school attendance by individual or larger number of students is adversely affected by COVID-19," the letter said.

## Facilities project

Representatives from Kraus Anderson, a construction management firm, addressed the school board on their proposal to supervise the \$20 million facilities construction project under discussion at ISD 696.

Tony Sjolander discussed their submitted proposal and highlighted distinctions between

a construction management firm, like Kraus Anderson, and a typical general contractor, in terms of construction project delivery options.

He pointed out the three options generally available for a construction project: a general contractor, a construction manager as agent, and a program manager.

"Most projects, 25-30 years ago, utilized a general contractor approach to deliver a project," Sjolander said. "The general contractor is hired based on their low bid. They are hired after a successful bond referendum, and after you have heard from IRRR and other funding sources that you have dollars to proceed."

He highlighted that the next steps would be for the general contractor to meet with architects, design a solution to the

See **SCHOOLS...**pg. 5

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

# Incumbents all retain seats in Greenwood election

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

## Option B fails by a 2-1 margin

GREENWOOD TWP—Voters here resoundingly defeated the idea of giving the town board the authority to hire the township's clerk and treasurer. With 291 votes cast at the March 10 election, 194 Greenwood residents voted against the Option B measure, with 97 voting in support of it.

The measure would have converted the clerk and treasurer to employees who were hired by and under the authority of

the town board. Town board members raised the issue last year as a way to give themselves more authority over the clerk, specifically. Both the clerk and treasurer, as elected officials, set their own work hours and have the authority to appoint their own deputies, who can step in as replacements if necessary.

In townships that hold elections, the clerk and treasurer each serve a two-year term.


Incumbent clerk Sue Drobac


polled the highest of all those running for seats on Tuesday. She outpolled challenger Deb Spicer by 186 votes to 102.

Incumbents Paul Skubic and Mike Ralston each were returned to office by a much tighter margin of 12 votes each. Skubic defeated former board chair John Bassing by a vote of 151-139, and Ralston defeated newcomer Barb Lofquist 149-137.



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# OPINION

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## Editorial

### Restoring confidence

Council had little choice but to act on ambulance and fire chief

The Tower City Council, on Monday, had little choice but to discharge Steve Altenburg from his duties as fire chief and ambulance director for the city. While Mr. Altenburg has been an asset to the community as an EMT and firefighter over the years, he, unfortunately, lacked the temperament and the organizational skills to serve as an effective leader of either of the city's emergency services.

That mismatch, particularly when it came to the Tower Area Ambulance Service, has been the focus of our reporting in recent years. While Mr. Altenburg portrayed our reporting as an attack on the TAAS itself, we focused our actual attention solely on Mr. Altenburg's decision-making and struggles to manage the finances of the service. The concerns we raised were widely shared among city and township officials, most of whom had lost confidence in Mr. Altenburg in recent months. They were also confirmed by the investigation of Mr. Altenburg, which we report on this week.

It wasn't so much Mr. Altenburg's failing as it was the fault of the previous city council, which chose to elevate him to these positions of leadership. It was a misjudgment which negatively impacted the TAAS.

Given the current council's decision, it's now best to turn our attention to the future of the ambulance service. What Mr. Altenburg seemed unwilling to acknowledge was clear to many—the shift to a 24-hour paid on-call service has been a huge financial burden. The TAAS, which regularly posted \$100,000 operating margins before implementation of the paid on-call program, has struggled to break even since. A major change is desperately needed to ensure that TAAS survives.

The city council plans to review the paid on-call program—which is certainly appropriate given the impact it has had on both TAAS's profitability and morale. While some paid on-call staffing may be warranted at times, the TAAS should consider models used in other small, neighboring communities, like Cook and Orr, where paid-per-call staff who already

live in town or within minutes of town, are offered hours during peak times and are paid much more modest wages for agreeing to be available, if needed, during those hours.

The TAAS also needs to immediately discontinue allowing paid on-call staff to rack up huge amounts of overtime. As recently as February, one of the paid on-call staff was allowed to work a 90-hour shift, which means 50 hours of accrued overtime. The fact that the city hasn't been paying the required overtime is no excuse to continue this practice. For the city, it's a financial ticking time bomb, as we've repeatedly warned in the past. The council should act on this issue as soon as possible.

The TAAS also needs to refocus on its core mission—emergency calls. Non-emergency inter-hospital transfers may appear to be lucrative at first glance, since they pay considerably more than emergency transports. Yet these transfers typically involve putting many more miles on costly ambulances, longer hours for staff, and time when key personnel and equipment are outside the service area. When all those costs are factored in, it's not clear that transfers are all that profitable or beneficial for TAAS. And it was never realistic to triple the TAAS payroll, as Mr. Altenburg did, believing that profits from transfers would pay for it all.

In the end, it was a breakdown in confidence that ultimately forced the city to act. The TAAS needs the contributions that the townships provide to the ambulance replacement fund. When area townships began asking questions and pressed for more financial information and business planning, Mr. Altenburg was unable to respond in a forthcoming manner. By all accounts he's a good EMT, but those skills don't necessarily make one qualified or appropriate to provide the administrative and personnel leadership that TAAS requires.

The TAAS has done well under prior leaders. There's no reason it can't rebuild and emerge stronger in the future under new leadership. That's certainly our hope moving forward.



## Letters from Readers

### Ole and Lena discuss civil rights

Ole and Lena were having coffee this weekend, talking about the news in the *Timberjay* when Ole says, “I was talkin’ to Sven yesterday.”

Lena asks, “What about?”

Ole says Sven was telling him about a whole bunch of Civil Rights laws passed after the 14th Amendment was adopted in the 1870s. “Sven said there was this one signed by President Grant making private citizens liable for a conspiracy to violate the rights guaranteed under U.S. law called the Ku Klux Klan Act,” said Ole.

“You don’t say,” says Lena; “Is that still a law?”

“You betcha,” says Ole, noting that if two or more people enter into an agreement to hurt the members of a class of people to deprive them of their federal rights, like the right to speak, petition the government, or engage in a lawful business, they can be sued. Ole said, “Let’s say a bunch of unions, politicians and entities stage a boycott of a Native American business to punish the tribe for petitioning their government, because they are angry with the tribe, for example.” “Oh my gosh,” Lena says. “What if a Mayor or State Senator was involved?”

“According to Sven, that might make it even worse,” says Ole. Lena asks, “What might happen to the boycotters?” Ole then told her about compensatory and punitive damages and having to pay attorneys’ fees. “You mean the boycotters might have to pay their attorneys and the other side’s attorneys?” Ole says, “If they lose, and you know that those buggers don’t come cheap.”

Ole and Lena sipped their coffee and mused for a moment. Lena says that she would be embarrassed to do something that might run afoul of a law originally targeting the Ku Klux Klan. Then Ole says, “I don’t know why someone would do that in the first

place. Everyone is entitled to their opinion and we all need to get along. But, as my mother once said, if you can’t bring yourself to do the right thing, at least do the smart thing and stay out of trouble.”

**Kelly Dahl  
Cook**

### Tribes have a right to defend clean water

A few years ago my wife and I went to a presentation on water and wild rice at the Bois Forte Reservation near our home in Soudan. At noon, the master of ceremonies announced that a buffet table had been set up and that elders should go to the head of the line. I told Pat that we were old enough to be elders, but being we weren’t tribal members we weren’t real elders.

While we were sitting there debating our status, a young tribal member came over and set down two plates filled with food in front of us. I suppose he sensed our confusion and wanted us to know that guests of Bois Forte were never second-class citizens.

That incident helps explain why I’m a little offended when anyone attacks our neighbors on the reservation and I’m greatly offended when the attack is by my fellow union members with the acceptance of Sen. Tom Bakk.

I remind my brothers and sisters in the union that the tribes have been pretty good about using union labor to build and expand their casinos. The tribes get rewarded with unions that support dirty oil pipelines, dirty coal power plants, and dirty water mining projects.

If we want to understand why Sen. Bakk lost his Senate leadership position, we have to look no farther than the positions he’s taken on mining and environmental protection.

The same failed policies that cost Bakk his support in the Democratic Party are going to cost our unions their support by the general public. We need the public to support collective bargaining, prevail-

ing wage, dues checkoff, and a host of other issues. We want to have a reputation for actions other than bashing Native Americans.

We’ve lost a lot of union membership because of vicious attacks by the right wing in America. We aren’t going to recover by joining that right wing.

I have another reason for supporting our tribal neighbors. I’m a Vietnam combat veteran. I occasionally visit the Bois Forte Heritage Center and pay my respects at their Veterans Wall. There are photos of hundreds of tribal members who served in our armed forces.

Our tribes defended America. Surely they should have the right to defend their clean water from Minnesota’s mining industry.

**Bob Tammen  
Soudan**

### No one is proposing mining sulfide

In reviewing several articles over the years in the *Timberjay*, the *Ely Echo*, the *Mesabi Daily News*, *Duluth News Tribune*, and even in the *Star Tribune*, the two proposed mining projects of PolyMet and Twin Metals have been referred to as copper-nickel mining or copper-nickel sulfide ore projects.

In Keith Vandervort’s recent article on the Ely City Council meeting, he never once mentioned copper-nickel mining. Five times, including in the caption below the picture of copper-nickel mining supporters, Vandervort used the words sulfide mining. Evidently this was to rev up the controversy between supporters of copper-nickel mining and the anti-mining faction.

The PolyMet and Twin Metals projects are not proposing mining for sulfide, and no one is supporting such mining. This is a very disappointing example of reporting.

**Nancy McReady  
CWCS President  
Fall Lake Twp.**

JOELLA BEPKO © 2020 THE TIMBERJAY



## We can become a better society if we try

I have to admit, I have been feeling just weary about our species' inability to get along, to evolve just the tiniest bit faster, and to figure out how we can do things better. In my heart of hearts, I do believe that there is goodness in all of us, that there is “that of God in everyone” as it is expressed by



**BETTY  
FIRTH**

several spiritual traditions. Then why is it so hard for us to appreciate each other, accept our flaws and differing points of view...and just chill?

Feeling the sense of déjà vu, I was drawn back to some of my previous columns, so I will plagiarize

myself some in this article. But very recently I read an article by David Brooks of the *New York Times*, discussing how Scandinavia got great. It was not, he contended, because they have a generous welfare state as progressives like to say; it was not because the Scandinavian countries score high on free market openness, as Libertarians believe; nor was it because they were ethnically homogeneous societies until recently, as those who believe in restricting immi-

gration argue.

Brooks explains that they were homogenous and dirt poor in 1800 and that their economies grew after 1870, well before their welfare states were established. So what happened? The privileged, educated, Nordic elite class realized that in order for their countries to thrive, education and lifelong learning needed to be available to everyone. They called these new schools “folk schools,” which went beyond teaching crafts or academic

skills.

“Bildung” is the German word they used to describe their educational philosophy. Brooks said, “It means the complete moral, emotional, intellectual and civic transformation of the person. It was based on the idea that if people were going to be able to handle and contribute to an emerging industrial society, they would need more complex inner lives.” In their book, “*The*

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## Letters from Readers

### Use critical thinking to navigate politics

Capitalism or socialism and all-or-nothing thinking offers either/or choices of two opposite things as with a binary on-off switch. “You’re with us or you’re against us,” is a classic illustration of binary thinking. Binary (either/or) thinking avoids complexity to preserve the status quo. Linear thinking sees degrees of difference on a one-dimensional scale between two opposites.

Light to dark with shades of gray or hot to cold in degrees forms a spectrum as in a rainbow of colors. Most advanced nations

have economies that share capitalist and socialist features. A liberal to conservative political spectrum has two opposing forces with moderates in between. A single dimension, with the center between polar opposites does not guarantee where the truth lies.

Interdependence is a third-force that forms a second dimension from a line vertical to a horizontal line between dependence and independence as opposites. Television talking-heads present an oversimplified political picture in linear fashion. Republican versus Democrat distorts real analysis by ignoring how a top-down two party system shuts out alternatives

known as third parties. Third parties are marginalized as spoiler nuisances.

Truth may lie within a third-force along a line vertical to a spectrum between two extremes. Right-wing Fox News on one end of a spectrum and Establishment Corporate Networks on the other doesn’t mean truth resides at the center. A third-force would be independent member-owned or public-funded media beholden only to their contributors, not dependent on advertisers as sponsors.

A continuum of corporate (private) to state-owned (public) interest suggests private-public enterprise of varying degree in between. Two-dimensional

thought offers a third-force alternative called member-owned or worker cooperative enterprise. Critical thinking stimulates the imagination to discover alternatives “outside the box” and beyond.

**Harold Honkola  
Tower**

### Get out to plant trees

As we know, one of the best ways to reduce climate change is to plant trees. In years past, schools used to celebrate Arbor Day by planting a handful of trees in their communities. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if each of our communities would take one day each year to plant trees on

school properties, church lands, in business zones where so many old stock trees were destroyed, fairgrounds, home properties and so on. If you agree with this idea, get serious and put together groups of people and begin planning now where you want to plant, and which trees would be best for your growing zones. Also order up those trees so they are ready when you are to plant. Let’s all do what we can to restore what we have lost over the years. Put pictures in the paper and online with your stories. We love to hear them.

**Brian M. Carlson  
Grand Rapids**

## COMMENTARY

# Attorney General Barr should resign

Along with over 2,400 other former federal prosecutors and other Department of Justice (DOJ) alumni, prompted by events surrounding the sentencing of Roger Stone, I recently signed a DOJ Alumni Statement. See <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/16/us/politics/barr-trump-justice-department.html>, calling on Attorney General William Barr to resign. Because this statement, written to “defend nonpartisan, apolitical justice,” will undoubtedly be dismissed by some as just another partisan attack or effort to foment rebellion in some imagined deep state, I felt it necessary to express my own reasons for deciding to sign the statement.

In January 1977, three weeks before Jimmy Carter was sworn in as President, I was sworn in as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Philadelphia. Before my retirement in 2017, I proudly served in that position for over 38 years, in four different U.S. Attorney’s offices, under every

President from Gerald Ford to Donald Trump. During that time, I served under 14 Senate-confirmed Attorneys General (including William Barr during his term in the George H.W. Bush administration) and 12 different U.S. Attorneys (including Rudy Giuliani in the Southern District of New York), both Democrats and Republicans. At no time during the hiring process or my service for any of the four U.S. Attorney’s Offices was I ever asked my party affiliation or given an assignment that was based on a political agenda. That was significant to me, in particular, because I spent a substantial part of my career prosecuting political corruption cases. It was clear to me and the people I worked with that, as expressed in the DOJ Alumni Statement, “political interference in the conduct of a criminal prosecution is anathema to the Department’s core mission and to its sacred obligation to ensure equal justice under the law.”

I was sensitized early in

my career to the threat of political interference in our justice system. During my first year in the Philadelphia office, working under Republican U.S. Attorney David Marston, I was part of a public corruption unit that successfully investigated and prosecuted serious crimes by a number of powerful public officials, mostly Democrats, in eastern Pennsylvania. President Carter came into office in 1977 pledging to select federal judges and U.S. Attorneys strictly on merit. Yet, in early 1978, Carter fired hold-over David Marston only after a complaint from a Democratic member of Congress, then under investigation by our office, that he needed to be removed and replaced by a Democrat. As the *New York Times* wrote:

“The Carter Administration fired the Federal prosecutor in Philadelphia, a Republican, after a Democratic Congressman—whom the prosecutor was investigating—called the President and asked him to expedite the prosecutor’s departure.

This damning circumstance [of political interference] . . . attest[s] to the Administration’s responsibility for the harm done to the Federal justice system: A President pledged to selection by merit has effected a political removal, potentially jeopardizing an important and highly visible investigation and hence provoking concern about Federal justice far beyond Philadelphia.”

See <https://www.nytimes.com/1978/01/26/archives/the-costs-of-the-marston-affair.html>. While this interference was ultimately to no avail for the Congressman, who was later prosecuted and convicted, it reinforced the concerns that had been raised about the effect on the rule of law only a few short years before by President Nixon’s interference with the Justice Department, culminating in the Saturday Night Massacre.

It is with that personal experience, and in light of the many subsequent years of respect shown by succeeding administrations for the princi-

ples noted in the DOJ Alumni Statement – that “the rule of law depends on the evenhanded administration of justice”; that the Department’s legal decisions “must be impartial and insulated from political influence”; and that the Department’s prosecutorial powers, in particular, must be “exercised free from partisan consideration” – that I found the recent conduct of Attorney General Barr in doing the President’s personal bidding to be such a threat to the reputation and integrity of the Department of Justice and to the rule of law. To acknowledge his own failures to stand up against improper Presidential influence and to restore public faith that the Department of Justice will not be used as a partisan tool of any President, Attorney General Barr should resign.

**Frank Sherman  
Former federal prosecutor  
Ely**

## SCHOOLS...Continued from page 3

construction problem, develop cost estimates, and competitively bid the project. “Some, but not all, general contractors self perform, or have their own forces provide carpentry, concrete, masonry demolition and other services,” he said. “Most of the work goes to sub-contractors and specialty trades, and the work goes to the lowest bidders.”

He said that while the lowest bid dictates who gets the work from a general contractor, the construction management approach is based on a qualifications-based selection process.

He noted that Kraus Anderson is one of the largest

construction management firms for school districts. “Frankly, we did most of the schools in the state of Minnesota,” he said. “We have an amazing data base of costs associated with projects similar to what you are looking at here. That’s important because the budget is the budget, and you only have so much money. What if we go over budget? We can’t.”

Sjolander asserted that a general contractor has no incentive to use local labor for a project. “We talk about using local labor. We start with the local community here and work our way out,” he said. “We feel strongly about this. It makes

a lot of sense that people who are paying for this should get a good opportunity (to work) on the project. When you have callbacks, you want those folks to be local, to come back and take care of it.”

Sjolander indicated that Kraus Anderson typically charges about \$1 million to act as the construction manager for a \$50 million project. The ISD 696 project is estimated to cost about \$19.8 million.

Later in the meeting, Erie told school board members that Kraus Anderson is being considered as a construction manager for the project, and he continues

to contact other potential construction managers. “At some point, our facilities committee will make a recommendation to the board on who to hire. These are professional contacts and we want to evaluate these companies to see who would work out best for Ely Schools,” he said. He indicated that a recommendation could be made for a special meeting this month or in April.

### Other business

In other business, the school board:

►Hired Lisa Eastman for a temporary paraprofession-

al position, and hired Chloe Kennedy for a permanent paraprofessional position.

►Hired Erik Holmstrom as a substitute teacher.

►Approved Tom Bennett as assistant boys track coach, and Evan Omerza and Joseph Kucera as volunteer assistant boys track coaches.

►Changed the April board meeting from Monday, April 13, to Monday, April 6, and changed the May study session to Tuesday, May 26.

## BETTER...Continued from page 4

*Nordic Secret*,” Lene Rachel Andersen and Tomas Bjorkman said, “Bildung is the way that the individual matures and takes upon him or herself ever bigger personal responsibility toward family, friends, fellow citizens, society, humanity, our globe, and the global heritage of our species, while enjoying ever bigger personal, moral, and existential freedoms.”

The schools focus on helping students understand complex systems and see their own relationship to society: their family, town and nation, hoping to instill an awareness of belonging to these wider circles and to cultivate an eagerness to share responsibility for the whole. Christopher Arndt Bruun wrote, “That which a person did not burn for in his young days, he will not easily work for as a man.”

I’ve heard echoes of this refrain, as in “Teach a kid to volunteer, and you have a volunteer for life.” Those who love and advocate to protect the wilderness are often people who had

opportunities as kids to canoe in the Boundary Waters, hike in the Rockies, or swim in undamaged ocean reefs, and they recognize that people won’t become guardians of natural treasures if they haven’t experienced and loved them.

How have we missed the boat on this? Social trust is low, cynicism about the political situation is high, the citizenry seems lethargic, and solutions aren’t evident. Some factors seem obvious. I understand that civics is barely given a passing notice in high schools and apparently not taught at all in some places, when it should be integrated with appropriate material and activities into all grades. I’m sure most elementary classroom teachers emphasize the need to get along, respect each other, and be kind and thoughtful, yet bullying goes on in the hallways, the playgrounds, and on social media. How are children to learn when they see the adults around them fighting and disrespecting each other? I’m sure children all over the country are taught

values in churches, synagogues, and mosques, but how are they to emulate loving kindness when the religious leaders castigate those with different views? How are they to trust and value their political system when they see endless ads of candidates attacking each other and ongoing stories about the head of our country blustering, contradicting himself, lying, and treating individuals and groups of people without respect?

I remember when Mother Teresa visited the U.S.; she said we suffered from a poverty of spirituality. “The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are many more dying for a little love. The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty, it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There’s

a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God.”

A Course in Miracles states that there are only two emotions, love and fear, that all other emotions emanate from one or the other. If love underlies the feelings and actions we think of as positive such as joy, happiness, caring and service, and fear begets anger, sadness, anxiety, bullying and greed, what then are we afraid of? Maybe a better question is, “What aren’t we afraid of?”

All of us have trotted through life having experiences and collecting bits of identity that coalesce into a self-concept, and woe to the person or group that challenges it. We spend time and energy supporting and defending our image that we have worked hard to create, often reluctant to change. If someone questions our values, criticizes our family, demeans the place we live or threatens any of those by their actions, including by introducing change, we may just react negatively.

I am an incurable optimist,

believing we can continue to evolve in our personal lives and community relations, learning how to carry on civil and even friendly conversations with each other even when we disagree, recognizing that we are more alike than different, and valuing the part that each and every one of us plays in our community.

Charles Darwin said, “It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.” If there’s one thing that folks up here know about, it’s surviving changing conditions. People here have a heritage of hard work and innovation in tough conditions. Many of us work multiple jobs for less money than we could earn elsewhere, slipping and sliding through the depth of winter in order to stay here. It’s not spring yet, but we can see it from here. We will most likely survive, and possibly even thrive, so let’s give each other thanks when we’re doing well and encourage each other to do even better.



## MINING HISTORY

# More information needed for new historical display at Soudan Mine Park



TOWER-SOUDAN- Recently the Tower-Soudan Historical Society asked for information on those who died in the Soudan Mine for a new display at the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park. While some information has been received, more is needed. Items needed are photos, newspaper articles, death records, cemetery records, etc. There is a three-page list of 144 miners who died in or near the mine posted on the Tower-Soudan Historical Society website at [www.tower-soudanhs.org](http://www.tower-soudanhs.org). Additional information is needed to make this list as accurate as possible.

Tower-Soudan Historical Society board member, Barb Burgess, submitted this photo of her grandfather, Swan H. Branwell, age 37, who died on April 16, 1940. She also submitted his obituary and an article called "Statement of Fatal Accidents, Mines of St. Louis County, Minnesota, Year 1940". According to the obituary, he died due to a fall of 50 feet down a raise. He left a widow and two daughters, one being Barb's mother, who has passed away, and Barb's aunt, Arlene Olson, who lives in Virginia.

If you have any information on a person who died in the mine or due to a

mine-related accident please send copies of documents to the Tower-Soudan Historical Society at PO Box 465, Tower, MN 55790 or scan your information and email it to [tshistory@accessmn.com](mailto:tshistory@accessmn.com). If you have questions, call the historical society at 218-753-5021 and leave a message; a board member will return your call. The historical society wishes to thank those who have submitted documents and looks forward to receiving more information.

**At left: Swan H. Branwell photo, submitted by his granddaughter Barb Burgess.**

## TOWER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

## Lamppa to submit proposal to use own workers to finish interior construction

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Lamppa Manufacturing manager Dale Horihan asked the Tower Economic Development Authority, at their meeting on March 5, for permission to submit an in-house bid to do the interior finishing work required for the second half of the Lamppa Building. TEDA had already received two bids from contractors for the work, which includes interior sheeting, and construction of two interior rooms.

"This is our slow time of year," said Horihan. "I have four employees who previously worked in construction. We can pay them prevailing wages and buy the materials locally."

Horihan said his estimates show they can complete the project for well under the lowest quote that TEDA had received. He said he will have

final cost estimates soon, and was just waiting for a local quote for the interior wall metal sheeting.

TEDA Executive Director Marshall Helmlinger said that he has contacted the IRRR to make sure this would be an acceptable option. The cost of the interior work will be added to the final construction loan for the building.

"Sounds like a good deal to me," said TEDA member Sheldon Majerle.

"This is good for Tower and good for our employees," said Horihan.

TEDA's Lamppa Building committee already has the authority to award the bid, and is expected to make a decision as soon as the final quote from Lamppa is received.

### Charter school renovations

Helmlinger met with VCS Director Frank Zobitz, retired engineer Dennis Peterson, and a designer from Cadline Design of Ely, to discuss options for renovating the charter school building to make it more energy-efficient, as well as fixing the leaking roof issue. He also met with Energy Insights, a firm that works with Minnesota Power on energy-efficiency projects to discuss options and possible funding and rebates that would be available.

TEDA members noted that it wouldn't be possible to begin construction this summer, but talked about the possibility of scheduling renovations during the school's winter break.

TEDA will still need to do at least a temporary fix on the roof. An insurance adjuster has made a site visit, but TEDA will

need to get a contractor in once the snow is off the roof to give a repair estimate. Helmlinger has talked to Range Cornice about possible short- and long-term repairs for the roof.

### Other business

In other business, the TEDA board:

► Sent a request to St. Louis County to purchase a foreclosed property on South Second St. The house will need to be demolished. TEDA is in discussions with Habitat for Humanity about making the lot available for a home project.

► Authorized Helmlinger and TEDA President Steve Peterson to continue discussions with Tower Harbor Shores on the possibility of having TEDA become an equity partner on the project, by converting the current loan into a partnership stake in the business. Helmlinger noted that TEDA still

needs to see more information on the financials of the project before continuing this discussion. The project is still waiting for the final plat to be completed. Developers still have interested buyers for the townhome project.

► Is submitting a letter of support for the Wagoner Trails Club funding request for a new snowmobile to be used for cross-country ski trail grooming. The club was able to purchase a new groomer unit this past year, but now needs a utility-grade snowmobile to properly use it.

► Heard that the director has applied for a \$1,500 trails grant through Operation Roundup for the Cedar Woods Trail project, and is also researching other potential grant options.

► Discussed top priorities for this year and beyond.



## Tick Talk

by GINA EMPEY  
Timberjay contributor

The temperatures are finally above 40 degrees. Spring is in the air and everyone is getting ready for their fun outdoor activities. It's important for people to know that these temps bring the ticks out of hibernation. They are active at 38 degrees.

A tick begins its life as an egg. When the egg hatches, a six-legged larva emerges. Aside from its missing set of legs, the larva looks a lot like an adult tick. Its first host

is usually a small mammal or a lizard, and it has to find a host in order to grow. After feeding, the larva drops to the ground to digest its food and begin to grow. After one to three weeks, the larva molts and becomes a nymph.

We picked up a nymph tick at the end of the driveway at our cabin near Lake Vermilion last April and brought it to our meeting at the Natural Harvest Coop Store in Virginia. We had taken a white sheet across the ground when there was

still snow and found it within one minute. This nymph has already had its first blood meal from a small rodent and could've already been infected. These rodents may drop the nymph tick anywhere they find food or shelter such as under a bird feeder or pet food dishes.

Prevention is critical as the temperatures rise and stay above 40 degrees. Ticks come from the ground up and are waiting on tall grass to latch on, so it is important to tuck your pants into your socks and use repellents such as permethrin on shoes and clothing. Tick checks are essential for your family and your pets.

People who were infected last summer could have started to have unexplained symptoms over

the winter such as flu-like symptoms and/or migrating joint pain. Symptoms do not always appear at the time of the bite. They may happen months later or after experiencing stress or trauma.

Babe Winkelman will be at Fortune Bay Resort Casino on Thursday, April 9 from 6 - 8 p.m.. He will be speaking on Lyme disease prevention and awareness and new products to protect yourself and your pets. Babe and his family have been infected multiple times since the late 80s.

Please join us on spreading the word about this debilitating disease. Please feel free to contact us with any questions at [LvLymegroup@gmail.com](mailto:LvLymegroup@gmail.com).

### Northern Red Hat Belles to meet Thursday, March 26

REGIONAL- The Northern Red Hats are going to a play in Virginia, "Catch Me if you Can," on Thursday, March 26 on opening night at the Goodman Auditorium. The Belles will first have dinner at Adventures starting at 5 p.m. If you plan on attending, call Pam at 218-753-3006. We have found two people to drive for those who can no longer drive at night. This event has always been fun and is the highlight to our spring events. Tickets are \$7 for the play. We encourage all our members, as well as potential members and guests, to attend this event. There will be wonderful music and the best musical voices in the area along with wonderful musicians.

### Jesse Dahl, HCC faculty, nominated as Outstanding Educator finalist

REGIONAL- Jesse Dahl, Hibbing Community College faculty, is a finalist for the Outstanding Educator Award from the Minnesota State Board of Trustees.

Dahl teaches in the Electrical Maintenance Program at Hibbing Community College and exemplifies great work ethic and team leadership. His student-generated nomination for this award demonstrates the amount of respect that students and colleagues have for his professionalism and support of the student learning experience. Dahl is always looking for ways to craft his electrical maintenance courses to simulate real-world experiences, giving students the chance to problem solve. He is great at recognizing and utilizing the talents of each student who walks into his lab.

The Board of Trustees Teaching Excellence Award provides recognition for consistently superior professional achievement and teaching excellence.

## BREITUNG POLICE DEPARTMENT



### January Police Report

**Breitung Police Chief Dan Nylund**

#### January 2020

**Calls:** 139  
**Citations/formal charges:** 3  
**Monthly mileage:** 1,407 (Tahoe: 956, Explorer: 451)  
**Squads:** Current end of the month mileage for the Gold 2012 Chevy Tahoe (Tower) is 92,798. Current end of the month mileage for the 2017 Ford Explorer is 26,438. The Tahoe had

the blower motor and resistor repaired.

**Additional shifts:** The Breitung Police did not work any extra shifts in the month of January.

**Training:** Chief Nylund attended a county attorney meeting.

**Citations/formal charges/arrests:**

- (1) Parking citation
- (1) Driving after revocation
- (1) Obscured license plate

Thank you to the St. Louis County Rescue Squad for their donation of a snowmobile trailer to the township. The trailer will be used to move the police/fire snowmobile.

#### Tobacco to 21 Act

Chief Nylund reminded businesses that the Tobacco to 21 Act has been in effect since it was signed into law by the President on Dec. 2, 2019. The law prohibits selling tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21 or selling a product to anyone under 30 without verification of age by means of photo identification.

**Cook VFW**  
Open Daily at Noon  
**CLOSED on TUESDAYS**

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

**Event Rentals**  
Welcome  
218-780-6709

**Pull-Tabs Sold Daily**  
Lic. 00390

**Sunday FREE Pool**

**Thursday Bingo**  
Early Bird 6 p.m.  
Progressive Prizes

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

**Take-Out 666-0500**

**PHOTO CONTEST**

**NORTHWOODS FRIENDS OF THE ARTS**

**"Take Your Best Shot" Students and Adults**  
Student Entries FREE; Entry deadline April 25, 2020

**PRIZES AWARDED!**

210 River St, Cook MN 55723 • [NWFFAMN.ORG](http://NWFFAMN.ORG)  
Open: Thur-Fri: 10 AM-4 PM, Sat: 9 AM-1 PM



SOUDAN

# More fun at the Soudan Skating Rink

Chimpy is hosting another Fun Day at the Soudan Skating Rink on Saturday, March 14 from 12 noon - 2 p.m. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza, and floats.

Stop by for some special end-of-season fun and games planned by Chimpy!

This party is being sponsored by Cherylyn and Daniel Eveleth.

At right: Last Saturday's party featured snowman building. submitted photo



# Tom Gorsma now on the job in Soudan

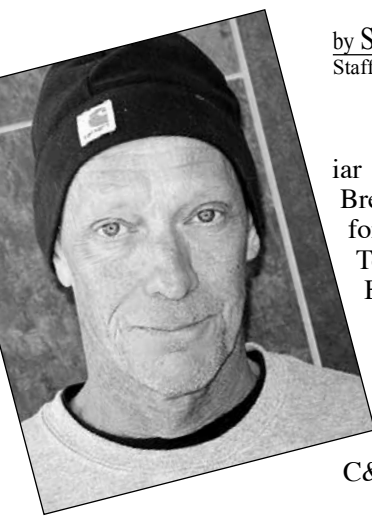
by STEPHANIE UKKOLA  
Staff Writer

BREITUNG TWP- A familiar face has taken the wheel of the Breitung plow truck. Tom Gorsma, former maintenance supervisor of Tower, just started his new job as Breitung's maintenance director, replacing the retiring Dale Swanson. Gorsma has lived in Soudan for the past 18 years. Before working in city maintenance, Gorsma worked for C&C Winger, Broten Construction,

and was a masonry instructor at Mesabi Range College.

"I'm looking forward to meeting more of my neighbors in Soudan, serving the community, and carrying on Dale's fine work," he said. He said he likes working to make everyone happy and keeping citizens safe.

Gorsma said he is also very proud of his two sons. Wyatt is a sophomore at Northeast Range and Dylan is a high school junior taking post-secondary classes at Mesabi Range College.



## CHURCH NEWS

### St. Paul's hosting movie nights on Sundays during Lent

SOUDAN- St. Paul's Lutheran and Soudan Baptist are jointly sponsoring Lenten Movie Night on Sundays at 6 p.m. at St. Paul's during Lent. All are welcome, refreshments will be served.

### Little Church meeting on Saturday, March 14

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church committee will meet on Saturday, March 14 at 10 a.m. We welcome anyone and are looking for people interested in keeping the Little Church preserved and maintained in our community. The group also hosts a Men's Group that meets every Thursday at 10 a.m. for coffee and conversation, and all are welcome.

The Little Church is located on Cty. Rd 26/Wahlsten Rd. Any questions, contact Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

### St. James weekly get-together begins March 18

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church of Tower is beginning a weekly get-together starting Wednesday, March 18 from 10 to 10:30 a.m. for community, coffee, fellowship and prayer. The group will meet on a weekly basis; please join us for a time of sharing with others from the church and community. Everyone is welcome.

### St. Martin's annual pasties sale, order by March 29

TOWER- It's that time of year again; the St. Martin youth are getting ready for their Annual Pasties Sale. Orders are now being taken; the last day to order is Sunday, March 29. You may place your order with any of our high school students, or by calling the rectory at 218-753-4310 or Jeanne's Card Shop at 218-753-2601.

You have the option of having rutabaga in your pasties or not; you will need to tell us at the time of your order. The cost of the pas-

ties is \$6 and they must be paid at the time of the order. Pasties will be available for delivery/pick up on Wednesday, April 15.

Proceeds from this project will go towards the Steubenville Conference trip in June. We have four students attending this year.

### St. James Movie Night on Sunday, March 15

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower will host a free movie night on Sunday, March 15 at 6 p.m. The movie is "6 Below." An adrenaline-seeking snowboarder gets lost in a massive winter storm in the back country of the High Sierras where he is pushed to the limits of human endurance and forced to battle his own personal demons as he fights for survival. The film is rated PG-13.

### St. James 2020 Lenten Worship Theme

TOWER- The theme for Lenten worship at St. James Presbyterian this year is "The Upside Down Teachings Of Jesus."

Sunday, March 15 - "Slave or Free", Romans 6:1-23. The world believes that if they can be free of God, they'll be free to do as they wish? The Bible teaches us that everyone is a slave to something, but does that really make sense?

Sunday, March 22 - "Strength Training", 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. How could my weakness be a good thing? Why would this truth be necessary for me to understand God's will for my life?

Sunday, March 29 - "Life From Death", Matthew 22:23-33. Modern day Sadducees still teach that a bodily resurrection is unbelievable. For what three reasons do they reject a teaching that is so obviously Biblical?

### St. James Presybyterian Holy Week and Easter schedule

Palm Sunday - "From Triumph To Tragedy", Matthew 21:1-11, Jesus went from triumph to tragedy in a week.

Maundy Thursday - The Lord's Supper and Potluck 6 p.m. "The Fifth Cup: Our Way Of Hope" from our series "The Path To The Cross."

Good Friday - Ecumenical Service at Immanuel Lutheran Church at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday - "A Living Hope For The Hopeless", Luke 24:10-35. When Jesus rose from the dead, Thomas got a five-minute show and tell. By contrast, the two men on the road to Emmaus received a three-hour dissertation. Why the difference? Perhaps Jesus spent more time with these hopeless men, to show us how to have a living Hope in a hopeless world. The service will be followed by a potluck Easter Brunch.

### Ecumenical Community Good Friday Service

TOWER- This year's Ecumenical Community Good Friday Service will be held on Friday, April 9 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower at 7 p.m.

### Community Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 11 at 11 a.m. Sharp!

TOWER- The annual Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 11 at 11 a.m. sharp. The event is for all children through sixth-grade and their families. Join us at the Tower Civic Center. The egg hunt begins at 11 a.m. sharp, so please arrive early. The egg hunt itself only takes a few minutes as the children race to collect the thousands of eggs scattered on the civic center grounds.

If you can help with preparing the eggs and prizes prior to the event, or can volunteer on the day of the event, please contact Pastor Doug Workman at St. James Presbyterian at 218-753-6005.

### 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 March 16

No School all week, Spring Break.

#### Week of March 23

Students away at Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center all week, no lunch served all week.

#### Week of March 30

Monday- Chicken Broccoli Alfredo, Green Beans, Garlic Bread Stick

Tuesday- Taco Salad, Cornbread

Wednesday- Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread Stick

Thursday- Meatballs w/Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Dinner Roll

## Week of March 16

### Monday

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

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

### Tuesday

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

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

### Wednesday

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

### Thursday

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

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at [vermilioncountry.org](http://vermilioncountry.org).

**Get Informed!**  
**Get the Timberjay!**



## the TIMBERJAY

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## Transfer station

### Soudan Canister

Expanded hours year-round  
Monday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Wed. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For info: 1-800-450-9278

### Hwy. 77 Canister

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

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

## Bookmobile Schedule

### Wednesday, March 18; April 8, 29

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

For further information, call the Arrowhead Library System at 218-741-3840 or [www.arrowhead.lib.mn.us](http://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.

**March 17** - Dr. Jon Erickson - The Coronavirus: Preparing for a Pandemic

**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.

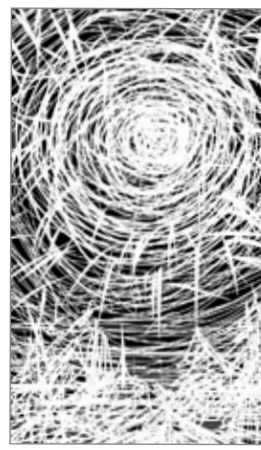
For more information, call 218-365-5678, or visit their website, www.elycommunityhealth.org.

**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



water in the streets  
ice and snow making retreat  
big fat burning sun



**Ely hosts high school choral festival**

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - The 2020 Boundary Waters Choral Festival was held last Friday at Ely Memorial High School. The 11th annual event, hosted by the Memorial High School choir included Grand Marais, North Woods and Mt. Iron-Buhl students for daylong workshops, and a community concert that evening.

Sleepy-eyed students arrived at the Washington Auditorium Friday morning and began their full schedule of workshops and rehearsals with a warm-up session by festival guest conductor Dr. Michael Fuchs.

"Singing is a full-body sport," he told the students as he explained the importance of breathing. "Breathing helps you to focus, almost yoga-like, and it helps clear your mind," he said. "Breathing should have a calming effect on you."

Fuchs presented various stretching exercises, starting with the muscles of the face and throat, and helped the students become aware of their posture as they completed various stretching routines. "Stand tall and proud," he added.

The goal of BWCF, according to Ely choral director Mike Rouse, is first and foremost to come together as neighboring communities and make music. "We also hope to foster a sense of cooperation and support, as



**Choral students from Ely, Grand Marais, North Woods and Mt. Iron-Buhl gathered at Memorial High School last Friday for the 11th annual Boundary Waters Choral Festival. Conductor Dr. Michael Fuchs started the group out with various stretching and breathing exercises. A community concert was held that evening.**  
photos by K. Vandervort

opposed to competition, between the communities involved," he said. "It is one of our aims to provide a high quality cultural experience highlighting choral music for all of our communities. We also hope to provide networking

opportunity for teachers." Workshops, round table discussions, voice lessons and several rehearsal sessions culminated with the community concert with performances by the individual schools and all participants.

The event also featured guest performances by students from University of Wisconsin-Superior, and special guest artist performances by University of Minnesota-Duluth vocal instructors Alice Pierce, Rachel Inselman and Elias Mokole.

Michael Fuchs is involved in an active career as a conductor, educator, and singer. He is currently the Director of Choral Activities at the University of Wisconsin-Superior where he conducts the UWS Singers, Chorale, and teaches courses in conducting, choral methods, aural skills, and music history.

Before coming to UW-Superior, Dr. Fuchs was the Director of Choral Activities at Clayton State University in Morrow, Ga. Choirs under Dr. Fuchs' direction have performed across the United States and internationally while receiving numerous honors and awards.

Dr. Fuchs is also the Director of Choral Activities at First Lutheran Church in Duluth, and has held church music positions in Georgia, Ohio, North Dakota, Virginia, and New Jersey.

Dr. Fuchs earned degrees in choral conducting from the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music and Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey as well as a degree in Music Education from Concordia College in Moorhead.

**OUR COMMUNITY**

**Ely marks Equal Pay Day with 'Unhappy Hour'**

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - Equal Pay Day is Tuesday, March 31. According to Bureau of Labor statistics, it takes until the last week of March for women to earn a salary comparable to their male counterpart's previous year's salary.

The day will be marked in Ely with an "Unhappy Hour" on March 31 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Northern Grounds. The event is sponsored by the Ely branch of American Association of University Women and the Ely Rotary Club in cooperation with Northern Grounds. The event is free and open to the public.

Caroline Owens, AAUW public policy chair, said, "It's an opportunity for community members to talk about the issues surrounding equal pay. At this year's event we have much to celebrate. In previous years, this event occurred in April. This year's March event reflects a slight

decrease in the national pay gap. Additionally, at this time last year 87 local businesses had signed the Equal Pay Affirmation supporting equal pay for their employees. Now, 114 businesses have signed the document."

Individuals who attend Unhappy Hour will receive a 21.5 percent discount on a selected menu. That discount reflects the difference in equal pay for equal work between men and women on the Iron Range. Snacks will be provided. Information will be available on practical actions to help ensure pay equity, as well as actions to advance passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

In addition, information and registration packets will be available about an upcoming June conference in Ely to celebrate 100 years of women's right to vote. The conference, titled "Women's Lives Transformed-the 19th Amendment to Today," will kick off with a free showing of the docu-

mentary "Equal Means Equal," on Friday, June 26 at Vermilion Community College that will be introduced by Linda Wharton, a political science professor and civil rights attorney.

Owens said, "Pay equity is not just a women's issue. It touches all our lives here in Ely because the pay inequity of 21.5 percent translates to lost income in families across the Iron Range, and, consequently, lower retirement income. The pay difference of 21.5 percent reflects that, on average, a woman working full-time, year-round is typically paid 78.5 percent of what a man earns. Even accounting for factors such as types of jobs, industry, experience and education, women take home less money than men."

The point is often made that it is illegal not to pay equitably. And, technically, that is true. The Equal Pay Act was signed into law by John F. Kennedy on June 10,

1963. The law mandates that men and women receive equal pay for "substantially equal" work at the same establishment. A year later the Civil Rights Act added protections against discrimination based on an individual's national origin, religion, race or sex.

Owens said, "The issue isn't so much that laws mandating pay equity don't exist, but that the mechanisms for monitoring and enforcement are not in place." The Paycheck Fairness Act would provide tools to successfully challenge pay discrimination and incentives to comply with existing laws. That act has been passed by the House of Representatives, but is waiting for consideration in the Senate. "Ultimately," Owens said, "when women are paid a fair salary, the whole community benefits from increased economic viability for our local families."



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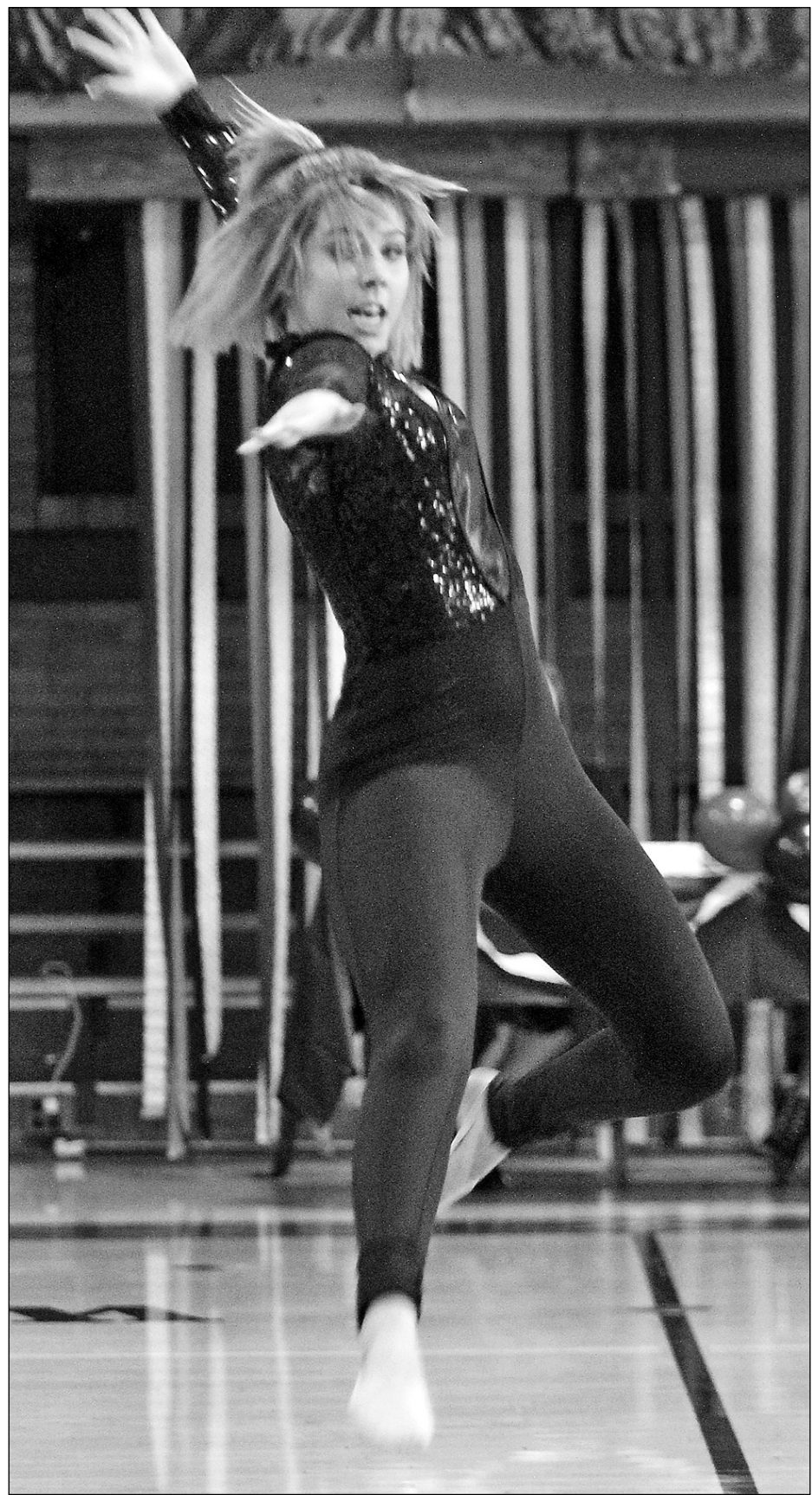
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ELY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL



The 2019-2020 Ely High School Dance Team, led by seniors McCartney Kaecher, above, Elissia Bennett, right, and Savannah Johnson, below, presented their spring show Sunday, including a performance by the "Frozen as Ice" dance clinic participants. photos by K. Vandervort



News in Brief

**School athletes meet Monday**

ELY – The Memorial High School spring sports meeting will be held on Monday, March 16 at 6 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. This meeting is for students, grades 7-12, and parents and will include individual sport meetings.

**The life and legacy of Luna**

ELY - A webinar on the life and legacy of an ambassador wolf at the International Wolf Center will be presented on Wednesday, March 25, beginning at 5 p.m. at the Ely IWF Interpretive Center. The webinar rate is \$15 for non-members and \$12 for members.

Luna was a representative of the Great Plains subspecies and had been living in the retirement area of the Ely facility since August 2016. Luna was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer in 2019 and was euthanized following complications from cancer last November.

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

The one-hour webinar will honor her life as an incredible ambassador for her species.

**Irish Dance set for March 20**

ELY - The Annual Irish Dance, sponsored by the Ely Folk School, will be held on Friday, March 20, 7-10 p.m. at the Senior Center, 27 South First Avenue East in Ely. Admission is \$10 for adults and children are free.

Wear "green" and be ready to have a great time dancing. Live music will be provided by FriendsOnTheRange (Carol Booth and Jim Ganahl) together with friends Joey Lee on flute, Susan Hoppe on fiddle and Joey Kenig on guitar. All dances are taught, no experience is necessary, and singles are welcome.

This dance is made possible in part by the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust.

**Fish Fry time at Ely Catholic Church**

ELY – A group of dedicated Knights of Columbus members from the Ely, Babbitt and Tower Council No. 3238 continues a popular Friday night fish fry for the next four weeks of Lent at St. Anthony Church here.

The pre-Easter tradition was held for the first two Fridays of Lent at the Babbitt Catholic Church, St. Pius X, and now moves to Ely's St. Anthony Catholic Church, for four more fish fry events, March 13, 20, 27, and April 3, finishing up on the Friday before Good Friday.

The price for the meal is \$9 for adults, ages 13 and up, \$5 for kids ages 5-12, and free for youngsters under 5. Take-out meals are available.

**Yesterday's news, this week**

from the archives of

**THE ELY MINER**

Courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society

**March 12, 1920**

**Sugar shortage**

There will be less sugar during 1920 than in any of the last three years, according to R. V. Keller, editor of "Sugar." While the crop in Cuba is abundant, other crops are total failures, and that Americans will be fortunate to have 3.7 million tons, or 79 pounds for each person for the entire year, he said.

"There will be shortages of all products, ranging from explosives to rollers for printing presses, as well as candies, jams and soft drinks," he said.

Mr. Keller calculates that the shortage of sugar during 1920 will amount to nearly 70,000 tons less than consumed in 1919. He observed that sugar is cheapest in April and most expensive in August and September, and advises that if five million families will each buy 40 pounds during March, April and May above actual requirements, and then use the 40 pounds from July to October without buying additional sugar at the time, the problem will be solved.



# Chili cook-off fundraiser was huge success

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- The former American Legion in Orr was packed to near overflowing Feb. 29 with people jostling to get a taste of traditional and exotic chilis, win something from tables jammed with donated gift baskets, but most of all to support the formation of a scholarship for former Orr resident Tony Cornelius.

Tony, 31, and his father, Tim, were on their way back from an elk hunt in Montana in October 2017 when a drunk driver going the wrong way on the interstate crashed into their truck in North Dakota. Tim suffered only minor injuries, but Tony was killed, as was the other driver.

"In the 31 years that we were blessed to have Tony he lived it adventurously," said his mother, Kay Cornelius. "He was

Irish to the core and loved life. Tony loved you whether you were zero or 90."

Chili tasters reflected that, ranging in age from 10-month-old Silas Matteson to 96-year-old Syvilla Shermer, Tony's grandmother.

The crowd was enthusiastic, loud, and occasionally raucous, which is just what Tony would have liked.

"Our son was adventurous and loved shenanigans and crazy stuff, so that's why we decided to do this," she said. "We came up with the idea because it's fun, you get the community involved."

Once word of the event got out, family, friends, and businesspeople quickly signed up to make 15 kinds of chili and donned crazy costumes while serving it. Cornelius couldn't offer an opinion on which chili was the best.

"I made two of them so I don't know that I can choose," she said. "I honestly haven't had time to try them."

Cornelius said she was floored by the turnout and support, which included 32 raffle items and five silent auction items.

"I'm amazingly, wonderfully, overwhelmed and blessed," she said. "We have a great community and surrounding area."

The scholarship will be awarded to a North Woods School graduate who intends to enroll in a trades program, Cornelius said.

"Tony did some two-year college stuff and actually worked for Canadian National as a thermite welder. He was a blue-collar kind of guy, paid his way, and made something of himself. We wanted to do something to honor his memory, and to pay it forward."



Proving that no one is too young, almost, to enjoy good chili, 10-month-old Silas Matteson opens wide as his 2-year-old brother Zephram offers up a tiny spoonful, while their father Phil holds on tight. As with many chili cook-off attendees, the trio are related to the late Tony Cornelius, who will have a scholarship named in his memory.

p>hoto by D. Colburn

## ORR CITY COUNCIL

# Council to pursue funds for bog walk repairs

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR-The Orr Bog Walk could be getting a much-needed facelift if grant applications discussed by the Orr City Council on Monday are approved, but faces an uncertain future if they aren't.

The wooden half-mile nature trail, constructed in 1991, has been a popular attraction for Orr visitors, but is showing significant signs of wear and tear. City Clerk Cheri Carter said a portion of the trail near the river had to be closed last year when it became submerged, and other portions of the trail have suffered storm damage from uprooted trees. Floats supporting other sections of the walk are showing signs of deterioration, decreasing their buoyancy.

A total replacement of the walk could cost up to \$650,000 according to an estimate provided by Benchmark Engineering, Carter said. Given the potential cost, the city will pursue restoration efforts in multiple stages.

An Outdoor Recreation Grant Program application to

the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, with a maximum award of \$250,000, is being developed, but it requires a 50-percent match from the city. The council on Monday approved pursuing a second grant from the IRRR Regional Trails Grant program to pay for a portion of the match. The city would have to come up with the remainder of the match from other sources.

Carter said the city is waiting on a revised estimate from Benchmark for the first stage of the project, at which point specific amounts for the grant applications and the city's potential match will be determined.

"They're both due this month," Carter said. "The Outdoor Recreation Grant wants the city's portion to be secured. If it's \$200,000, the city's portion would be \$200,000."

Councilor Bruce Black was matter-of-fact in asserting the need to obtain the IRRR grant to proceed with the project.

"We're not going to go without it," he said. "We sure as heck can't be on the hook for \$200,000."

Carter agreed.

"If we can't get either one of these grants we should re-evaluate," she said.

Carter also said that the city could accept donations which would have to go into a special project account. The donations would be tax deductible.

The council approved a request from the attorney of former Orr resident Eleanor Anshus that she not be held financially or criminally liable for any penalties related to resolution of the blighted condition of the former Orr General Store owned by Clint Diefenthaler.

Anshus and her late husband, Phil, operated the store from 1984 to 1999, when they sold the property to Clint and Ronni Diefenthaler. According to attorney John Cope, the purchase was made under a contract for deed, and the Diefenthalers received a warranty deed that was never recorded with the county. A property detail report from the county assessor lists Anshus as the title holder, but Clint Diefenthaler as the responsible taxpayer.

The council initiated action in February to have a ramshackle shed with a collapsing

roof located behind the store torn down for health and safety concerns. The shed is believed to be the last remnant of Billy Orr's Pelican Mercantile. Additional action could be taken to address the deteriorating condition of the store itself.

Carter reported that Voyageurs National Park will place a park ranger at the Tourist Information Center on weekends between July 15 through Aug. 11.

"Voyageurs will be paying for him to be here," Carter said.

Additionally, the ranger identified to fill the position is an EMT and will be on call for the Orr Ambulance service on Mondays and Tuesdays. The arrangement will allow the ranger to stay at Orr Carefree Living for free.

"They've let out-of-town EMT's stay there for free in the past," Carter said. "We very much appreciate them doing this."

In other business, the council:

► Approved the purchase of new modems for the ambulance service Stryker LifePak electrocardiogram/defibrillator units in the amount of \$1,466.

The current modems are incompatible with upcoming changes to AT&T's network.

► Approved a bid of \$14,410 from C&C Winger to replace three fire hydrants. The bid is a time and material quote that could end up being more or less depending on digging conditions. The work will be partially funded by \$3,138 from a previous Community Development Block Grant.

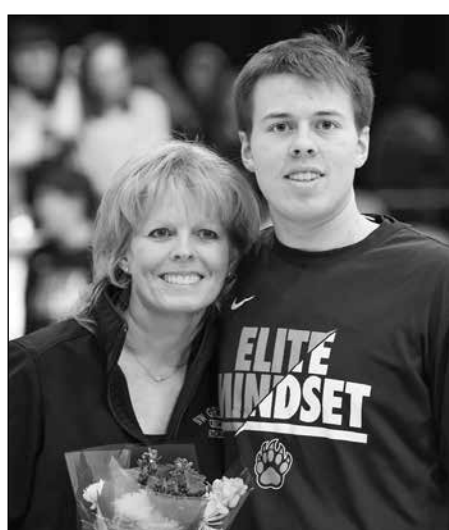
► Gave Fire Chief Dallas Johnson permission to use the library's laptop for online training for new personnel.

► Approved a travel request from an ambulance crew member to attend a trauma and emergency care training conference in Minneapolis.

► Approved disposal of a defective obsolete Rec Center snowblower.

► Received an ambulance report from Jim Gray indicating that almost \$17,000 in service charges had been received through the end of February. Gray said that through Thursday 34 runs had been billed out for approximately \$46,000.

## GRIZZLIES PARENTS NIGHT



The last regular season home game for the North Woods Grizzlies basketball team provided an opportunity to recognize the parents of varsity and junior varsity players. Some of those honored included:

Top left: Senior manager Kayla Towner with parents Tim and Lisa Towner.

Top center: Senior Alex Byram with mother Angela Byram.

Top right: Senior Brian Whiteman Jr. with grandfather Jerome Whiteman.

Left: Senior captain Trevor Morrison and Sean Morrison with parents Teri and Travis Morrison.

photos by C. Stone



# Arts and sports keep NW students busy



**JOHN VUKMANICH**

As we enter March, there have been many exciting things happening at North Woods.

Our band and choir recently participated in the Section 7A Music Contest and received Excellent ratings from the judges. Thanks to our music students, our band director Mr. Micholic, and choir director Ms. Roettger for all the hard work. It's very important that our young people have an appreciation for music as an art form, especially in an age of electronics when music can be produced at the tap of a button.

The North Woods Art Club hosted the annual Empty Bowl fundraiser on Feb. 28. For \$10, guests could purchase a

one-of-a-kind bowl made by a North Woods art student, and then fill it with as much soup as wanted. Many individuals contributed homemade soups in multiple varieties from the old standbys of chicken dumpling and vegetable beef to Nett Lake wild rice and Mexican hot pepper soup. Special guests were Miss Minnesota and Miss Minnesota Outstanding Teen. The event raised \$1,200 for the local food shelf. Thanks to art teacher Mrs. Betterley and all of the student and community volunteers for making this event a success once again.

Every two years North Woods hosts a Career and College Fair for ninth to twelfth graders. This event ties in with the state of Minnesota's "World's Best Workforce" plan and the push to help students pursue their post high-school goals. This year was again a huge success with 55 colleges, local businesses, recruiters, agencies, and vocational programs attending. Students also attended classes run by local businesses on personal branding (internet and social media), financial management,

resume writing, and interview skills. Thanks to all of the organizations for attending our event. Special thanks to Tim Johnson (business liaison), Jill Stark (North Woods counselor) and Joel Anderson (North Woods science teacher) for their work in organizing our day. Also, a special acknowledgement to Fortune Bay, Northeast MN Office of Job Training (NEMOJT), Cook Hospital, North Star Credit Union, and the Bois Forte Education Department. Lunches were also provided by Fortune Bay.

Best of luck to the Grizzlies boys basketball team as they enter the Section 7A playoffs. The Grizzlies go in as the No. 2 seed and have some tough competition this year. Congratulations to our Grizzlies girls basketball team on their season. Our girls worked hard this year and will come into next season with several players who now have lots of varsity experience. Thanks to all of our coaches for the time and commitment to our kids, communities, and programs. It's not easy being a coach and we appreciate you.



New owners Taryn Sandberg, far left, and Julia Maki, left, pose with former B.I.C. Realty owners Sally and Mark Ludlow.

## B.I.C. Realty in Cook has familiar new owners

COOK- When B.I.C. Realty owners Mark and Sally Ludlow decided it was finally time to transition from running the business to being just active realtors, they didn't have to look outside their realty family for someone to take over.

B.I.C. associate broker Julia Maki and realtor Taryn Sandberg have purchased the business that Sally Ludlow established in 1971. Sandberg joined the company in 1999 and has earned the reputation of a strong realtor in the region. Maki came on board as a realtor in 2015 and is now a respectable Associate Broker in the area.

Maki and Sandberg are confident that the sale will assure B.I.C. Realty will remain a premier real estate company in the area by continuing to provide exceptional service to their clients as the company focuses on building strong client relationships.

"We are excited at the opportunity to carry on the tradition of B.I.C. Realty being an established and successful local real estate company," Maki said. "We are looking forward to working

with clients and partners as we continue to grow the company and services."

Sandberg and Maki plan to augment the company's full-service "bricks and mortar" tradition with additional high-tech resources and marketing options clients now expect.

"Our goal is to provide great customer experiences by focusing on our clients and helping them make their dreams come true, whether they are buying or selling," Sandberg said.

Local expertise with knowledge of the diversity and challenges unique to the area is a key component the new owners said sets them apart to compete effectively against larger national companies with more resources. Whether it is a country home with well and septic, a water-access only parcel, recreational land, luxury lake home, or anything in between,

Sandberg and Maki believe they can accomplish the best of both worlds by combining local expertise and experience with up-to-date technology and market

information.

With the Ludlows staying on as realtors to complement associate brokers Vicki Schelde and Bill Tibbets, both with strong knowledge of the market, and office manager Beth Vidal, Sally Ludlow believes the family-oriented business is in good hands to remain one of Northern Minnesota's premier realtors.

"They all look forward to continuing to work in the community in a positive way with each other and service their customers," she said. "I am very excited about the future of B.I.C. Realty as Julia and Taryn take the company to new levels of customer service and professional real estate services. We are all excited with our new adventure and are looking forward to servicing your real estate needs with professionalism, experience and market expertise. Your dreams are our mission."

B.I.C. Realty specializes in lakeshore, vacant acreage, single family homes and commercial properties in the region.

## Nelson nabs double wins at Mt. Iron-Buhl archery meet

FIELD TWP- Grizzlies eighth-grader Cadence Nelson was double trouble for her competitors at Saturday's Mt. Iron-Buhl Grand Prix Archery Meet.

Nelson scored 288 points to win the girls middle school division in the bullseye competition. She also took first in the 3-D archery event with 278 points.

North Woods junior Jeremiah Voges added another first-place finish to his quiver, scoring 290 points in the bullseye event.

Other North Woods archers placing in bullseye were Cedar Holman, third among fourth-grade boys at 233, and Merilee Scofield, fourth in fifth-grade girls with 258.

North Woods placed third in the team standings for both middle and high school divisions.

Ely archer Abigail Johnson scored 270 points to finish fifth among middle school girls.

### COMMUNITY NEWS

#### Events at Cook Public Library

Thursday, March 19: Adult mystery event, "Death on the Little Fork." It's 1914 in Cook, and a newlywed couple boards a train bound for Duluth, but an unexpected discovery stalls their plans. Discover the crime, meet the suspects, find the clues and see if you can solve the mystery. Snacks and beverages provided by the Friends of the Cook Public Library. 6 p.m. at the library.

#### Events at Northwoods Friends of the Arts

Saturday, March 14: Winter Writers Group, 1 to 3 p.m.

Monday, March 16: "Jazz At the Gallery" with Bill Conger, 7 to 9 p.m.

Friday, March 20: Reception for "Sunlight and Shadows" exhibit artists Kris Musto and Laura Pajari, 5 to 7 p.m.

Take Your Best Shot photo contest is in progress and accepting photo entries until Saturday, April 25. Adults pay \$10 for each 5x7 or 8x10 photo entry and students may submit three photos without charge. Registration forms are available at the NWFA Gallery or online at [nwfamn.org](http://nwfamn.org).

Every Saturday is Open Studio Art from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Artists meet to enjoy working.

All artists and would-be-artists are welcome to share the time and space. All are welcome with no registration or membership required.

Woodcarving Group meets every Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. Call Howard at 218-741-7941 for more information. Beginners are welcome and encouraged to come.

The Winter Writers Group meets the second Saturday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m. at NWFA Gallery. Anyone interested in writing is welcome.

"Sunlight and Shadow" continues to March 28. The new exhibit features the three-dimensional art of Kris Musto and Laura Pajari.

Gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 210 S River St. in Cook. For more information, visit the website, [nwfamn.org](http://nwfamn.org), or email [nwfamn.org@gmail.com](mailto:nwfamn.org@gmail.com). The gallery will be open on Wednesdays beginning in April.

#### NWCT Radio Suspense Theater March 20, 22

North Woods Community Theater will turn back the entertainment clock 77 years when it presents two performances of Radio Suspense Theater, on March 20 and 22.

The performance, set in 1943 during World War II, will immerse attendees in a day and age when families would sit together around a radio to get news and listen to favorite shows.

Two episodes of Radio Suspense Theater, "Fear Between Floors" and "Lost and Found," will be filled with music, sound effects, commercials, humor, and suspense.

Performances at the Cook Community Center will be at 7 p.m. Friday, March 20 and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 22. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 10 and under.

#### Northern Red Hat Belles to meet Thursday, March 26

REGIONAL- The Northern Red Hats are going to a play in Virginia, "Catch Me if you Can," on Thursday, March 26 on opening night at the Goodman Auditorium. The Belles will first have dinner at Adventures starting at 5 p.m. If you plan on attending, call Pam at 218-753-3006. We have found two people to drive for those who can no longer drive at night. This event has always been fun and is the highlight to our spring events. Tickets are \$7 for the play. We encourage all our members, as well as potential members and guests, to attend this event. There will be wonderful music and the best musical voices in the area along with wonderful musicians.

## PHOTO CONTEST

**"Take Your Best Shot" Students and Adults**  
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## the TIMBERJAY

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

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ELY

# ECHC to provide updates on COVID-19

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – You’ve probably heard about the rapidly-spreading coronavirus on the news. This Tuesday, you can hear about it from local healthcare professionals. Ely’s Community Health Center will present an update on the disease, also known as COVID-19, on March 17 during a Tuesday Group gathering at the Grand Ely Lodge. The discussion begins at noon.

It’s part of a series of community programs that will be held over the next several weeks.

“I am sure most everyone has read something about the current coronavirus and how quickly this virus has been expanding throughout the world, including the United States,” said Ely Community Health Director Jon Erickson. “Although we currently do not have any reported cases of the disease [in the region], it is never too late to start our preparations,” he said.

During the community discussions, Erickson will cover:

► What is this outbreak and what does it mean to your family?

► How do you protect yourself and your family?

► Who is most at risk?

► What are the symptoms of COVID-19 and is it like a cold or the flu?

► How do you prepare for this outbreak as the experts say it is not a matter of if but when it will arrive?

► What should you do if you believe you may have some of the symptoms of COVID-19?

“Anyone with questions or concerns about the coronavirus and the COVID-19 illness should come to the meeting,” Erickson said. “We anticipate hosting additional discussions over the next several weeks.”

The Ely Community Health Center is creating an email newsletter to provide the residents of Ely and the surrounding areas with timely and frequent updates on the status of the outbreak.

Sign up for this newsletter at bit.ly/ECHCSignUp.

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

# Zamboni issue still not decided

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA  
Staff Writer

BREITUNG- The decision of whether or not the township will take ownership of a Zamboni was not made any clearer at Breitung’s annual meeting on Tuesday night. The majority of the room seemed in support of getting a Zamboni, provided the rink’s base was fixed up and the costs were reasonable. In the end, the board and community asked the pro-Zamboni group to come back for a fourth time to the board with a clear plan, detailing costs and options, which have yet to be provided.

Mary Beth Reller was first to voice her concerns, “I don’t think anybody here wants to take money away from what we perceive might be good for children, but I don’t get it. I don’t want to pay taxes for that thing. I don’t want to store it. I don’t want to have our people to have to maintain it, but because there is so much support in two towns for children, if there’s a safety issue, I’d like to hear more about it.”

A proposal that a private organization would be formed to purchase and operate the Zamboni did not clear up the confusion.

“Is there a plan to structure this LLC with a clear definition of what you’re going to be responsible for, what we [the township] are going to be responsible for, or is it just talk at this

point?” asked Chairman Tim Tomsich, who served as moderator for the annual meeting.

Nate Dostert asked, “Can we [the township] not give any money towards this, what’s the number? Does it have to be zero? We can buy blinds that are extremely expensive, but can’t we throw some money towards the kids, the rink?” Supervisor Chuck Tekautz said, “We do take care of the rink; we pay for the attendants there; we pay for basically everything connected to the rink.”

Treasurer Jorgine Gornick said that she had called the township’s insurance company to ask about adding a Zamboni to their insurance and learned that to add one wouldn’t raise their premiums at all. It would be added to their unscheduled mobile equipment, and their premium and liability would not go up.

Dave Rose said, “We [the proposed LLC] would own the machine, and we’d lease the machine to the township. It’s not your maintenance; if the thing blows up tomorrow it’s no different than leasing a car.”

Tomsich said he was expecting a document outlining how the LLC functions, naming the officers, expenses, revenues, who pays for what, how it’s leased, and how it’s stored.

“I still have questions in my own mind,” said Tomsich, “I don’t think it’s needed, but this other basic part [the business plan] it’s

not there, it’s all talk, it’s all here-say. I was expecting a business plan tonight, fully laid out on how you’re going to function, but there’s nothing there.”

Greg Dostert balked. “It’s going to take a few weeks to get this together.”

Nate Dostert said he wanted to know what the township would prefer, if the township would own and operate, if the township preferred the LLC idea, or if it would be best to build a mini ice-resurfer that would be pulled by a lawn tractor.

Though the people had been reiterating for nearly an hour that they want a plan and more information, and weren’t vehemently opposed, Greg Dostert said, “I guess what we’re asking is, is it worth our while to proceed? And, evidently, it isn’t, let’s move on.”

“I think you have enough support here, Greg, but you have to sell it,” said Fire Chief Steve Burgess, while the people agreed.

“All you have to do is give us information,” said Al Reller. “You’ve got my support too, we just need more information.”

“I guess what we’re hearing, Greg, is that it’s worthwhile for you to pursue it,” said Tomsich.

A motion was made and supported asking Supervisor Greg Dostert to “Have the recreation group come back with more data, based on the assumption that the rink’s base will be improved and the new boards will be up.”

## Tax levy

The board recommended that the tax levy remain the same as 2020 at \$616,000 and the voters at the annual meeting voted to approve without fuss. Chairman Tim Tomsich noted that the levy amount in 2009 was \$714,000, nearly \$100,000 more than what the levy is this year. He said the overall decrease in the levy over the years is due to a payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) from the new state park, about \$160,000, the end of a loan on a firetruck, and the assessor’s duties being taken over by the county. “We want to watch our expenses and remain on course,” he said.

Last year, the levy was increased by \$74,000 to pay for the town hall renovations and to account for training for the new maintenance director.

## Election results

Dianna Sunsdahl won the election for clerk with 61 votes. Nine votes were cast for Robin Bjorgo who had dropped out weeks earlier and one vote was cast for current clerk Polly McDonald.

Greg Dostert won his unopposed reelection bid with 52 votes. Several write-in votes were cast. Dan Wiirre got three votes, Andy Larson got two. Robert Pearson, Terry Sunsdahl, Jeff Johnson, Terry Anderson, and Bill Zamboni each got one write-in vote.

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This 3-hour workshop provides participants the opportunity to update their job descriptions, interview approach and guides and, onboarding plans. In addition, participants practice using their guides through role play. Working through the online course above is strongly encouraged for all participants. **DATE: Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 1:00 - 4:00**

**Managing Conflict**

Learn a conflict management framework that can help you solve complex problems more easily. Understanding the five different types of conflict styles, including your own “preferred” conflict style will enable you to lead more effectively. **DATE: Thursday, March 19, 2020, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

**Situational Leadership II—SLII Concepts**

This is a comprehensive, hands on workshop for the manager/supervisor to learn the language and practice of Situational Leadership (SLII®). Practicing SLII® in any leadership setting (including at home) is a life-long, powerful tool. It’ll increase your productivity when it comes to developing and coaching your teams. Objectives include: learn a new language of leadership, increase the quality and quantity of conversations, and develop others’ self-reliance. The completion of an online self-assessment is required. **DATE: Tuesday, March 24, 2020, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

All sessions are offered at no charge and include a free soup and sandwich lunch. Advanced registration is required due to limited seating. RSVP to fun@ely.org or 218-365-6123.

Lunch served: Noon - 12:45  
All sessions begin promptly at 1 p.m.

All sessions are lead by Cecilia Quattromani of CQ Squared, LLC. Cecilia has over twenty years of operations and human resource experience.



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## CITY OF TOWER

## Investigation showed negligence, favoritism, financial mismanagement

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER — The former fire chief and ambulance director here showed favoritism towards male members of his staff, made inaccurate claims to public officials, and appears to have put the city of Tower in financial jeopardy as a result of his actions. Those are just some of the findings from an investigation into Steve Altenburg that was made available to the *Timberjay* at the newspaper's request following Altenburg's dismissal from city employment on Monday.

Under Minnesota's public records law, known as the Government Data Practices Act, that report became public once the Tower City Council took action based on its findings. The city provided a copy with redactions to protect patient information.

Much of the report summarizes the testimony of the 21 witnesses that attorney Nancy Roe interviewed during the course of the two-week investigation, along with dozens of related documents.

The interviews included several members of the ambulance and fire services, local elected and appointed city and township officials, area residents, and this reporter and editor. Altenburg was interviewed for a total of nearly six hours and was allowed to provide documentation to support his position. Roe also interviewed several current and former fire or ambulance staff at Altenburg's suggestion who lauded his abilities and commitment to patient care.

Based on those interviews and her review of records, Roe assembled her factual findings in several categories, including:

### Gross negligence

One of the most troubling findings in the report is that Mr. Altenburg repeatedly showed favoritism toward Josh Villebrun, whose complicated medical condition, which includes a leg amputation, appears to have left him disqualified for employment from the ambulance service. Yet, Altenburg allowed Villebrun to continue to drive the ambulance, despite his physical limitations and the fact that he occasionally passes out due to his medical condition. "Mr. Altenburg's decision to allow Mr. Villebrun to drive an ambulance in his condition is gross negligence," wrote Roe. Had Mr. Villebrun passed out or caused an accident due to other medical limitations, "the resulting accident and in all likelihood more than one death would be devastating for the city from a liability standpoint," wrote Roe.

Roe also cited the fact that Altenburg allowed members of the fire department to take their children on rides on department snowmobiles as gross negligence.

### Financial mismanagement

Roe concluded that Altenburg's failure to recognize the true costs associated with the ambulance service and the paid on-call service may have placed the city in financial jeopardy. At the same time, Roe concluded that Altenburg "inadvertently

created a situation of excessive unpaid overtime," which remains an unfunded liability to the city. "It is difficult to judge the extent of the financial burden created by Mr. Altenburg because he refuses to provide the necessary information," wrote Roe. "After speaking with Mr. Altenburg, I have come to the conclusion that he does not have the educational background, expertise or knowledge on how to gather the necessary documents and data to provide this information. Mr. Altenburg does not grasp the concept of depreciation and its impact on actual expenses and costs of running the ambulance service and the paid-on-call service."

### False/reckless claims, statements

Roe noted that the city's code of ethics requires city employees to demonstrate integrity, honesty and ethical behavior in the conduct of city business. Yet, Roe cites statements made in 2019 at a Greenwood Town Board meeting during which Altenburg falsely stated that the city of Tower and Breitung Township had already approved the higher subsidy payment.

Roe also cited a newspaper article published in the *Tower News* under Altenburg's byline, which made allegations against Mayor Orlyn Kringstad, *Timberjay* publisher Marshall HelMBERGER, and the Tower Economic Development Authority. Roe described the article as "extremely reckless," which could have left the

city liable to a defamation lawsuit.

Roe said that Altenburg defended his reporting, claiming that the state auditor had confirmed to him that the auditor's office has an open and active investigation into his complaint. But when Roe asked Altenburg for proof, he provided an email that did not support his claim. "It is clearly evident from the email in question the State [Auditor] did not confirm any such thing," Roe wrote.

### Misuse of public funds

The report also cited the fact that Altenburg has been receiving extra pay for ambulance runs even though the job description for the ambulance director clearly states that serving as an EMT and doing ambulance runs are part of his duties, for which he is paid a salary. While Altenburg claimed the additional pay was past practice, and Roe did confirm that the previous ambulance director was paid additionally for ambulance runs, Roe concluded that "Mr. Altenburg should not be billing the city separately for his EMT runs when they are included in his salary."

### Questionable hiring practices

Roe found that Altenburg had improperly fired a female member of the ambulance service, allegedly for failing to make 18 EMT runs during 2017, when the member was pregnant.

Roe concluded this may have violated the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. At

the same time, she noted that Altenburg has treated male members of the staff differently. She stated that Villebrun has continued to be an ambulance staff member, and is paid a regular salary, despite having attended no EMT runs since September of 2018. "It should be noted that no written policy could be located about a minimum of 18 EMT runs per year to maintain your employment status," wrote Roe. "It is clear, however, that Mr. Altenburg applied a different standard to Mr. Villebrun that he did to [the female member]."

In addition, Roe found that shortly after Altenburg took over as ambulance director, he demoted Dena Suikhonen, who had been the first assistant director, and promoted Villebrun to the position. While Altenburg claimed Suikhonen lacked supervisory skills, Roe wrote that Altenburg appeared to have no documentation to suggest that Villebrun had superior supervisory experience. "On its face, this particular action by Mr. Altenburg appears to be gender discrimination," Roe concluded.

### Insubordination

Roe cites several instances where Mr. Altenburg has failed to provide financial documents requested by the city council. Altenburg also attended a recent ambulance commission meeting after he had been expressly told not to attend by Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua.

### Failure to perform duties

Roe cited two instances where Altenburg appeared to lack a basic

understanding of laws and rules pertaining to the ambulance service. That includes comments he made at a Vermilion Lake Town Board meeting during which he suggested that the ambulance service could discontinue service to the township's residents if township officials did not approve a higher contribution to the ambulance replacement fund. More recently, Altenburg insisted that Ranua conduct an investigation into an incident with an EMT who had responded to a snowmobile accident. Ranua initially agreed to investigate the procedures for such a review and subsequently found clear guidance that indicated the investigation must be handled by the service's medical director and that, as clerk-treasurer, she had no role to play in that investigation. "Not only does this incident demonstrate that Mr. Altenburg lacked the required knowledge for the position of ambulance director, it calls into question what has happened in the past," Roe concluded.

Among those advocating for Altenburg's qualities were former Tower Mayor Josh Carlson, former deputy clerk-treasurer Stephanie Carlson, and EMTs Steven Freshour, Hunter Gilbert, Lance Dougherty, and Kim Mattila. All rated Altenburg highly for his leadership skills, knowledge, and training ability, although some did note that he has a "strong personality." While Josh Carlson rated Altenburg a "ten" for his leadership ability, he described him "as subtle as a slap in the face."

## TOWER...Continued from page 1

ties, every couple of years, the leadership changes, right?" he said. "The voters go to the ballot box and they vote in a new mayor or new councilors. A new administration comes in. A professional department head will respect the will of the people... and work in good faith with that leadership team to advance the interests of city government."

Based on the findings of his law firm's investigator, Brunfelt said that hasn't been the case with Altenburg. "That's never going to happen here," he predicted. "I think that Mr. Altenburg is completely unwilling, and perhaps unable, to work constructively with you folks. In fact, not only is he not going to work with you in a constructive way, he, I think, has gone about his business to actually undermine and disrupt city government on a daily and weekly basis. As long as he is a presence in this government, it is going to hold you back considerably and he will continue to be an incredibly disruptive presence in your city government. And guess what, you as the elected officials here, do not have to tolerate that."

While Brunfelt offered few details about Altenburg's conduct towards other staff, he said the report is deeply troubling. "The pattern of retaliatory, intimidating, vindictive kind of behavior. I've never seen anything like it in local government."

Kringstad gave Altenburg the opportunity to speak to the report, but Altenburg declined.

Moments later, when prompted by Mayor Kringstad, councilor Rachel Beldo made the motion to terminate Altenburg's employment with the city, effective immediately. But as Beldo spelled out her motion, resident Karel Winkelaar jumped up to interrupt. "I call bulls\_\_\_ on that!" he said. Referring to Brunfelt, Winkelaar continued, "I think this guy here is giving his opinion, not a summary, but I call bulls\_\_\_ on that."

Kringstad twice tried to gavel Winkelaar out of order and some in the audience also attempted to end his disruption, but Winkelaar continued for a moment more, suggesting that Altenburg was indispensable, before turning and walking out of the council chamber. "I'm out of here," he said.

Beldo then repeated her motion at the request of clerk-treasurer Victoria Ranua. Councilor Sheldon Majerle seconded the motion for discussion, but later suggested that the matter be tabled until the council could discuss the investigation's findings in detail in closed session.

"You wouldn't be able to do that," said Brunfelt, citing the state's Open Meeting Law. "You're beyond the point in this process where you could have a closed meeting."

With little more discussion, Kringstad called the question and the vote was unanimous to discharge Altenburg from both of his paid city positions.

Kringstad then advised Altenburg that he was not to return to the

ambulance and fire hall without two city councilors present and that he should turn in his city equipment, including his radio, laptop computer, and keys.

The council then approved motions to elevate Dena Suikhonen as interim ambulance director and Lance Dougherty as interim fire chief.

Altenburg had no comment during the process and remained in the council chambers through the rest of the meeting.

In related business, the council approved the hiring of Christopher Gianlorenzi as a new paid on-call staff member for the ambulance service, although it remains unclear if Gianlorenzi will be accepting the offer. He had indicated he would need housing during his shifts and the city has since been informed that the ambulance crew would need to vacate the rental house they've utilized for the past two years.

Kringstad and councilor Mary Shedd had questioned whether it made sense to hire a new paid on-call staff person given that the council is planning a review of the program, which has sharply increased costs to the ambulance service. But Majerle suggested that the service is shorthanded and could use another EMT. Beldo said the potential new hire should be informed that the program is going to be reviewed.

The council also discussed, but took no action, on a proposal to hire an outside consulting firm to develop a business

plan for the ambulance service, which is something that area townships have repeatedly requested as part of discussions over a new agreement to help fund ambulance replacement. At the request of Ranua, two firms did provide detailed proposals to analyze the service's current operations and produce business plan alternatives. But Ranua acknowledged some sticker shock, with prices ranging from \$23,000-\$30,000.

Kringstad suggested the city might have the ability to develop a business plan in-house. "Otherwise, we need to determine where we can find the money to do this," he said.

The council did support a motion by Kringstad to have the clerk-treasurer, mayor, ambulance commission representative, and the ambulance director assess the current status of the paid on-call system and recommend how to proceed with a review.

In other ambulance-related business, the council approved a resolution clearly spelling out that the city's ambulance replacement account is designated as a restricted fund and that funds can only be drawn from the account with the support of the ambulance commission with subsequent approval by the city.

### Other business

The council also greenlighted the drafting of a long-term trail agreement with the Prospector Loop ATV trail group as well as the issuance

of a work permit for the project, to allow for a limited amount of tree clearing for a portion of the trail that crosses city property. Club volunteer Dan Broten noted that a route has already been identified and is acceptable to the Howard Wagoner trails club, which manages the city's cross-country ski trails.

Project Manager Ron Potter told the council that the tree removal work needs to be completed by May 1 in order to meet the requirements of new rules put in place to protect the threatened northern long-eared bat. The city and the trail group will need to work out the terms of a long-term trail agreement, but Potter said that the paperwork likely won't be done until after the May 1 deadline, which could prevent trail work from getting underway this year as planned.

The Prospector Trail has obtained \$3.3 million towards the work. "This was going to be a construction year," said Potter.

Ranua said the work permit made sense under the circumstances and noted that the trail was consistent with the city's comprehensive plan, which cites the desire to increase recreational opportunities.

In other action, the council:

► Heard an update from Richard Hanson about the Blandin broadband group's work. He noted that local funding, combined with matching dollars from Blandin, has generated \$112,320 for a feasibility study. Hanson noted that the committee has selected the consultant

NeoConnect to develop the study.

► Heard from prospective RV park developer Dave Rose requesting a letter of approval for a conditional use permit so he can begin to move forward with his proposal. Rose said he's been informed by legal counsel that based on the city's previous failure to process his requests in a timely fashion, state law automatically grants him his conditional use.

► Approved a quit claim deed to transfer a parcel of land from the city to the Tower Economic Development Authority. TEDA already owns the rest of the property in the newly-created harbor plat and Ranua said the mixed ownership is unusual and could complicate future real estate transactions within the harbor area.

► Approved a resolution to establish a separate bank account for the Hoodoo Point Campground's operations and a separate money market account for the campground's capital reserve account, which is financed by a camper surcharge.

► Approved a resolution defining the purposes of several existing money market accounts, including accounts for police car replacement, accumulated sick leave, and fire department capital purchases. Those monies were used in the past for other purposes, without council approval, but the resolution would help clarify that funds from those accounts can only be utilized for their intended purposes.



## MINNESOTA TOWNSHIP NIGHT

## Greenwood narrowly rejects raising levy to \$250,000

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- About 65 residents here narrowly voted to keep the township's 2021 levy at \$150,000, rejecting the town board's proposal to raise the amount to \$250,000.

The annual meeting began with a kerfuffle over the lack of a presented budget. While townships are not required to present a budget at the annual meeting, it has been past practice for the Greenwood board to present a detailed budget in February, which is then presented to the public at the annual meeting in March.

The agenda for the meeting did have a line item for the budget presentation. Clerk Sue Drobac noted she had used the template from previous years.

Treasurer Pam Rodgers said she would make a presentation on the levy request. "The budget will be based on the levy," she said, "so we will take that item off the agenda."

The lack of a proposed budget upset several in the audience, including Mike Indihar, who had been elected, unanimously, to be the evening's moder-

## Voters approve \$150,000 levy for 2021, same as 2020

ator. "I've always seen a budget presentation," Indihar said. "This is confusing."

A motion to take the budget presentation off the agenda failed on a voice vote.

Lee Peterson noted that the residents were going to be presented with information that hadn't been discussed in an open meeting.

Township Chair Carmen DeLuca said the township isn't required to have a budget, just a levy.

"How ridiculous to not have a budget," said Peterson. "This is unbelievable."

## Levy request

Rodgers made a presentation on the levy, explaining how she was using projections of actual township spending to come to the conclusion that an increase in the levy was needed.

"If what happened last year continues," she said, "we will run out of money."

The township ended 2019 with reserves of just over \$660,000, although \$52,194 is held in restricted accounts. Since 2009, township reserves have

grown from \$529,449 to a high of \$1,356,052 in 2014 and have been gradually falling as the township reduced its levy, at one point to near zero, in an effort to spend down the fund balance.

"The state recommends a township keep between one and two times their annual expenditures in reserve," Rodgers said. "I feel comfortable with having our fund balance in the one to two range."

Rodgers said if the township kept the levy at \$150,000 in 2021, her estimates show they would end that year with \$250,522 in unrestricted reserves, or only about three-quarters of their projected annual spending.

"It is important for us to plan ahead," she said. "This levy is for 2021."

Rodgers noted that the township's year-end balance looked higher than expected because some planned spending in 2019 that totaled about \$50,000 had been delayed.

"We can't support a \$330,000 budget with a \$150,000 levy," she told the residents. "If we don't increase it now, the next time it will go up by twice as much."

But residents were not convinced.

John Bassing said the ending balance in 2019 showed the township had only depleted \$40,000 of its reserves.

"I think we will end 2020 with a higher reserve [than projected]," he said.

Barb Lofquist attempted to give comments on the subject but was loudly gavelled out of order by moderator Indihar.

Jerry Lepper spoke in favor of the higher levy.

"Our expenditures are fairly consistent," he said. "The important thing is that a target reserve of 1.5 is probably a realistic place to be. '\$250,000 is not that expensive. It is balancing things out a little.'"

Jeff Maus argued that the township needed to have a "frank conversation" about the budget process.

"Not to insult anyone," he said, "but normally we have a budget process starting in January. Now we get six or seven sheets of paper and there is not time to digest it."

Maus noted that while the township had not spent the money that had been allocated to repave the parking lot in 2019,

they had spent money on several things not in the budget, including new lighting and a new public computer.

"We do get a right tonight to set the levy," Maus said. "Vermilion Lake Township gets by on a \$40,000 levy." He noted that other area townships with higher levies have roads, or water and sewer to maintain.

A motion to set the levy at \$250,000 failed on a 32-32 paper ballot.

Indihar asked to have people vote one more time on the \$250,000 request.

But John Bassing said that was for the residents to decide, not the moderator.

Kate Bassing said that a tie vote meant the motion had not passed.

"It failed because it didn't pass," said Sue Drobac. And Indihar agreed.

A quick motion was made for a \$150,000 levy.

Mike Ralston told the audience that he wasn't in favor of the \$150,000, and that he trusted the numbers from the treasurer.

The motion for the \$150,000 levy passed on a paper ballot vote 33 to 31, a balance of one voter tipping the scale.

## Other business

Peterson asked the board to pressure St. Louis County to make improvements at the Hwy. 77 Canister Site, noting the driveway around the canister area was too steep and often slippery in the winter.

Marcie Moe asked that the town board resume listening to public comments at the beginning, instead of the end, of their regular monthly meetings.

Mark Drobac said he had no comments because last year Chairman DeLuca had refused to read the suggestions given at last year's annual meeting, saying they were just suggestions.

Sue Drobac spoke to remind everyone that the annual meeting is for residents, and then, directing her comment at Indihar, said, "when you slam down the gavel down on someone who is speaking, or point the gavel at someone who is speaking, it is not right."

A discussion on the issue of who is responsible for the cost of brushing the roadway along Birch Point Extension, a township road, ended with residents asking the board to meet with the property owners involved and then bring the issue back to the town board.

## EBCH...Continued from page 1

community's hospital. Coyle was previously chief executive officer of Coteau des Prairies Healthcare System, in Sisseton, S.D.

Just over a year ago, Coyle lead the EBCH and the Ely Regional Community Complex to form a partnership with plans to build a 40,000 square-foot community facility comprised of wellness amenities and enhanced health programs and services.

The project had a price tag of about \$24 million and immediately

faced criticism in the Ely community as being too costly and perhaps overly ambitious. Coyle appeared to pull back on some aspects of the project this past year.

Coyle told the *Timberjays* in January 2019 that the hospital's goal was to partner with medical specialists and providers. "We have to give them a space that is convenient for them and makes them want to come here," he said.

The city of Ely's west end expansion project and EBCH's growth looked

like a perfect match. City officials are seeking state bonding funds for the project that includes a recreational trailhead facility and expansion of city streets to the south and west of the hospital.

When asked about investing so much money in a small hospital, Coyle told the *Timberjays* last year, "We are investing for the future. Even five years from now, we want this expansion project to set us up for many years. We want this to be a 20- to 25-year project. We want

a comfortable, multi-use space that is patient-centered."

"The Board is dedicated to the long-term health and wellbeing of our patients, employees, and members," the board said. "We are honored and dedicated to serving in the best interests of our community."

Banks, 52, who lives in Soudan, is married with three sons. She grew up in Tower and is a graduate of the University of Minnesota-Duluth. She previously worked in the

Ely nursing home when it was still part of the hospital. She has been the chief operations official at EBCH for the past six years.

"We will continue with the recent goals established here at the Ely hospital," she said. "While there is a change in leadership that seems rather sudden, we will continue to be patient-centered and our role in the community remains the same," she said.

As for the recent \$24 million expansion project

proposed at EBCH, Banks said she is looking forward to learning more about the project. "As COO, I wasn't part of the detailed planning for the project, and will need to learn more about it. We are waiting to hear on state bonding for the project. We will keep moving forward," she said.

She indicated that meetings were planned this week with officials from the proposed Ely Regional Community Center and the Ely Ambulance Service to discuss the status of the expansion project.

## ELY...Continued from page 1

against Fortune Bay Resort Casino over the decision by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe to support legislation that would effectively block development of the proposed Twin Metals mine near Ely. The MCT is comprised of six of the major Ojibwe (also known as Chippewa) Bands in northern Minnesota, including the Bois Forte Band, which owns and operates Fortune Bay.

Wilderness advocate Becky Rom addressed the council during the open forum portion of their Feb. 18 meeting and asked the council to make a public statement that it does not support the boycott of any business.

The issue arose last month as a result of Novak's Twitter comments supporting Sen. Tom Bak's decision to cancel a fundraising event at Fortune Bay over the issue.

At the end of the

Feb. 18 meeting, Novak told Rom that the council does not take action on anything presented in the "open forum" portion of the council agenda. He said the council would "ponder what was said" and adjourned the meeting.

Mining supporters filled the council chambers to overflowing Wednesday night, with dozens more in the hallway, apparently in support of Novak's business boycott stance, and stood ready to react to Rom's renewed request. They seemed to outnumber environmental advocates by a wide margin.

Novak attempted to take the wind out of Rom's sails by offering his own resolution during the "mayor's report" portion of the agenda, that reaffirmed the council's previous actions supporting the Twin Metals and PolyMet sulfide mining projects. The Ely City Council has approved as many as nine such sulfide-mining

support resolutions dating back to at least 2008.

As Rom rose to speak, council member Jerome Debeltz attempted to have her silenced because the Ely business owner and property taxpayer lives in nearby Morse Township.

Novak also tried to keep Rom from speaking by indicating that her request to appear was just to present the resolution. "We have your request to pass the resolution," he said. "That's all this issue is about."

Rom persisted. "We asked for and received 15 minutes to speak and we would like to explain why we are requesting the resolution," she said.

Ely resident Carol Orban formally made the request to the council to consider the resolution. "The city of Ely does not support a boycott of the Bois Forte Band's Fortune Bay Casino or any other business," she said.

"We have that resolution before us," Novak said. "Like I said before, we do not take action from requests to appear. I believe there is interest in looking at this, but we want to make sure there are no caveats or catch-22s, so this will be moved forward and brought up at a later meeting," he said. "We will consult with our counsel (city attorney).

Council member Paul Kess attempted to confirm that the intention of the council was to address the proposed resolution at the next council meeting.

"Possibly," Novak replied.

Orban asked why the council could approve a resolution re-affirming their support for sulfide mining, and not even consider Rom's resolution. "You already passed one resolution tonight and you had no issues with its possible legality, whereas this one you do?" she asked.

"The one that was in the packet was distributed last Friday," Novak said. "Council had a chance to review it."

Orban pointed out that the anti-boycott resolution was also distributed last week.

Novak retreated to "Robert's Rules of Order" and city ordinances, in asserting that the council only votes on resolutions presented in writing. "This is not a formal resolution and it was not prepared properly," he said. "There was no communication with the clerk's office. By Robert's Rules, we cannot vote on this resolution."

A motion to support the process Novak spelled out was unanimously approved. Novak attempted to continue with the meeting agenda but was

presented with more questions from Rom on why she was not granted her 15 minutes to speak on the issue. "You may get up to 15 minutes to speak. There is no guarantee," he said.

Rom continued her objections, pointing out that other speakers were allowed to speak about an unrelated Chamber of Commerce matter. "That seems discriminatory," she said.

A majority of the council chambers audience erupted in boos, yells and unintelligible comments directed at Rom and other environmental advocates in the room. Novak gavelled the room to order.

When asked to give her opinion on the council's procedure to allow people time to speak, City Attorney Kelly Klun responded, "There is a request to appear on the agenda. This is an equal opportunity event. Each party should be allowed to speak and the council may or may not take action. Granting time allowed to speak has always been at the discretion of the council. I won't weigh in on whether equal time has been given."

Ely business owner Peta Barrett, whose name was on the request to appear, asked why her group was not instructed

by the clerk's office about a particular resolution format in order to speak about the issue. "No one advised us about a particular form or particular number in order to have this discussed tonight. I'm looking for clarification," she said.

Novak said he did not have an answer to her question. "I don't know how much discussion you had with the staff. Every day is a learning lesson for us," he said.

Rom persisted. "We are here tonight. We are prepared to speak to this issue. We think this is a vital concern for this city. We respectfully ask for our equal opportunity, especially given that we followed the rules that we were given by the city," she said.

Novak responded, "Council has spoken. We will take this up at the next council meeting (March 17). We are moving on in the agenda."

Loud boos were heard in the council chambers and in the hallway. Somebody was heard to call the mayor a "chicken" as most of the audience left the room.

Look for more coverage of the business boycott issue following the March 17 council gathering.

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# Rookie team puts Ely in school robotics competition spotlight

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – The Memorial High School robotics team, dubbed “Wolfbotics,” competed for the first time ever in the Arrowhead Robotics Coalition competition last weekend and came away with the top awards for a rookie team.

In their first-ever attempt, “Wolfbotics” placed 18th among 64 teams from across the Midwest at the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science) Robotics regional competition in Duluth last weekend. And, as the top rookie finisher, they were invited to the World Championship next month in Detroit.

Memorial School science teacher Bo DeRemee took on the challenge of developing the new extra-curricular activity for Ely students. “Our robot-building season started in January, and we had very little time to prepare,” he said. But with the help of fellow math teacher Molly Olson and parent Paul Kemnitz



The Ely High School Robotics competition team includes advisors Bo DeRemee, Paul Kienetz and Molly Olson (not shown), and students Alexis Halberg, Gabriel Pointer, Dylan Ogburn, Harry Dammann, Raif Olson, Landon Keen-Smith, Dylan Kienetz and Cameron Kienetz. submitted photo

they fielded a team of enthusiastic students and got to work.

Donations from corporate sponsors from FIRST provided the \$5,000 entry fee and the cost of the rookie kit, plus some other fees for the second year. “After that, we are on our own, and it will cost thousands of dollars,”

DeRemee said. “This is one of the big hurdles we are up against. It’s a matter of funding.”

They faced other challenges in the competition. “We had three horrible first showings, not really knowing what we were doing, embarrassing ourselves with parts falling off our robot at one point,

and walking away with our heads down,” he said.

“We finally figured out what our robot could do, and that was defense,” DeRemee said. “We probably had the quickest robot out there being that it was so light. We weren’t even close to the maximum weight limit and that allowed us to be extreme-

strategy.”

While physics, strategy and teamwork were stressed, engineering played a big role in the competition. “They were engineering on the fly, literally fixing and repairing up to the last minute, and without testing because they were out of time,” he said. “It was quite amazing to watch them.”

Northeast Range School has had a robotics team for the last several years. “They really helped us out at the Duluth meet,” DeRemee said.

By being the top rookie team, Ely qualified for the Detroit competition event. “A lot of stars have to line up for that to happen,” he admitted. “The financial hurdles are significant.”

ISD 696 Superintendent Erik Erie praised the Wolfbotics team at the district school board meeting this week. “I don’t know if they can get to Detroit next month, but just qualifying for the World Championships is quite an honor for our school,” he said.

## ROBOTS...Continued from page 1

them into three goals of varying heights. The 131-page FIRST competition manual has 36 pages devoted just to rules for robot construction, yet it allows for a wide range of creative configurations.

The North Woods robot, built on a square, wheeled wooden frame, is designed to roll up to a ball and capture it using a motor-driven polycord conveyor that pulls the ball onto a slanted ramp. It can hold four balls and shoot them at higher goals or open a trap door to drop them in a lower one.

“We call it the McEatonson because it eats balls,” seventh-grader Ethan Ploof said. “We started working on this in January. Building the robot was a lot more fun than coding.”

Seventh-grader Jimi Dutton got interested in robotics when he tried racing against last year’s robot in gym.

“Just racing it is fun, but I found it could go 20 mph and there’s no way I could run that fast,” he said.

Like Ethan, Jimi has taken a keen interest in the robot’s construction, and clearly liked coming up with ideas and figuring out if they would work.

“The first thought was to have an arm that would reach out across the base to pick up the balls, but that wasn’t a good solution,”



North Woods School robotics student Jimi Dutton, and coach Travis Leinonen make adjustments to the robot. photo by D. Colburn

Jimi said.

The robot is remotely operated by students using a joystick controller that communicates with the robot via a Wi-Fi connection. All the code that directs the robot has been created by team members using a student version of LabVIEW, a graphical programming environment used by millions of scientists and engineers. Students make choices from hundreds of pre-coded simple commands that they decide how to connect and sequence in order to perform complex robotic operations.

With experience from last year’s team,

eighth-grader Dylan Leinonen has been the primary coder.

“It’s kind of fun to play around and see what the robot can do when you change the different variables,” he said. “We could shoot that ball much further because it’s set for only 80 percent speed.”

A recent scrimmage with 15 schools at Itasca Community College gave Dylan an opportunity to get some experienced assistance.

“I needed some help with the code, and we found a guy there to help me get it done and learn more,” Dylan said. “He graduated last year; he was

from Deer River’s team. He could do it in half an hour. It took me like 10 hours to do nothing.”

Such assistance is what sets robotics apart from activities like sports, Travis Leinonen said.

“FIRST stresses gracious professionalism in all that they do,” he said. “It’s more about cooperation and collaboration than competition. That’s a big mindset change for some of our kids because they have to learn that when you win that doesn’t mean you brag about it. It means you go over to the other team’s pit and say, ‘Hey it looks like you may need some help with your electronics, we can help you with that.’ That makes everybody better.”

There were two simultaneous FIRST regional competitions at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center last weekend with 123 teams. North Woods competed in the 63-team Lake Superior regional.

Contestants are grouped in teams of three robots that compete against three other robots. Teams are switched every round, so robots that competed

against each other in one round could be teammates in the next.

“The team came down with the flu, so we had to change drivers a few times which affected our final standing in a few of our matches,” Leinonen said. “Overall they were troopers and the robot performed well. We were blessed with great family support and saw representatives from some of our season sponsors in the pits at the event. We were 32nd out of 63 teams and are definitely the youngest team in the tournament.”

The team will have another shot at qualifying for the FIRST world championships in Detroit when they compete next week in a Milwaukee regional.

The lessons learned through robotics will serve students well when they eventually enter the workforce, Leinonen said.

“You can’t be the type of person who backs away from a challenge,” he said. “You’re going to have problems and you’re going to have to work them out. If you go towards problems you’re going to become a

leader.”

Leinonen has explored possibilities for incorporating robotics into the school’s curriculum, but for now he’s intent on finding ways to build interest in the activity, particularly among elementary students.

“You drive that robot down the hall during school and three-fourths of the heads are turning,” he said. “They want to know what that light flashing means, what this or that is doing, and why you put all those zip ties on there. They’re interested.”

He would also like to recruit volunteers to help with the team.

“I’d like to see another person or two from the community step forward who has expertise in mechanical engineering, or is just a good handyman,” Leinonen said. “There are a lot of people in the community who either work in the woods or work in the mines or elsewhere that have seen a ton of stuff that can bring amazing perspective.”

“If you know how to operate a screwdriver,

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## BOYS SECTION 7A PLAYOFFS

# Wolves down Rangers to advance to semis

Were set to face North Woods Wednesday night as the *Timberjay* went to press

by DAVID COLBURN  
Staff Writer

HIBBING- Dylan Fenske kept the Timberwolves rolling in the first half and Eric Omerza and company took over in the second as Ely defeated Mt. Iron-Buhl 73-58 in a Class A Section 7 tournament battle on Saturday in Hibbing.

Ely fans could be forgiven for believing early on that this game was going to be a rout. A Fenske bucket at the 10:38 mark put the Timberwolves up by a commanding 16-3 margin, as the hapless Rangers couldn't buy a bucket.

Yet in less than two minutes, an 11-0 Rangers run that included three three-pointers had everyone on the edge of their seats as the Rangers suddenly trailed by just two, 16-14.

Six different Ely players scored as the Timberwolves rebuilt a 16-point

**Right: Ely junior Emmett Falteseke intently eyes a Mt. Iron player during last week's playoff tilt in Hibbing.**

photo by D. Colburn

lead late in the first half, capped by a Harry Simons bucket that made the score 37-21. However, a late trey by Mt. Iron's Asher Zubich was a sign the Rangers were still dangerous.

That became apparent seven minutes into the second half when consecutive three-pointers by Jeffrey Kayfes pulled the Rangers back to within four, 48-44.

But that was as close as they would get. Omerza scored on consecutive possessions to ignite a 15-6 Timberwolves run over the next five minutes. Emmett Falteseke notched two baskets along the baseline and Brock Latourell nailed a

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



# Rare five-point play helps Grizz sink Carlton

Second-half rebound helps North Woods advance in playoffs

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

HIBBING- When the whistle blew after TJ Chiabotti launched a three-point shot with 7:44 remaining in the North Woods game against Carlton on Saturday, everyone in the gym expected the Grizzlies' sophomore guard to be stepping to the line to try to complete a rare four-point play.

But the foul was called underneath before the ball ripped through the cords, so it was a surprised Darius Goggleye, not Chiabotti, who found himself at the charity stripe. Goggleye casually canned both free throws to complete the freakish five-point play.

Coming on the heels of two free throws by Brenden Chiabotti and a layup by Jared Chiabotti, the Grizzlies suddenly found themselves ahead by a comfortable 17-point margin, 65-48. Just four minutes earlier Carlton trailed by only four, 50-46. The Grizzlies poured it on the rest of the way, winning 88-63 to advance to a Wednesday night sectional semifinal matchup against Ely.

Carlton gave the Grizzlies all they could handle right from the outset. The Bulldogs canned three consecutive treys to nab an early 13-8 lead, causing Grizzlies Head Coach Will Kleppe to call a quick time out.

North Woods regained the lead 21-19 when Trevor Morrison scored on an inbounds pass. The Grizzlies kept the pressure on, building an 11-point lead, 38-27, on two Levi Byram free throws with 3:50 left in the half. But North Woods went ice cold, allowing Carlton to get back to within 38-35 before TJ Chiabotti hit on a baseline drive with four seconds left for a 40-35 lead at the break.

Kleppe told his team that they needed to elevate their play in the second half. "We kind of put it on the

boys in the locker room that you're either going to pick it up or you're going to go home and put your uniforms away," Kleppe said. "They responded well. I thought the defensive effort in the second half was very good."

However, the 13-13 Bulldogs wouldn't budge until mounting foul problems sent two of their starters to the bench with four fouls with 9:06 remaining. The Grizzlies took advantage, outscoring the Bulldogs 30-15 down the stretch.

TJ Chiabotti scored 22 points from the field, including two three-pointers, and hit all four of his free throws to lead the team with 26 points. Brenden Chiabotti scored 17, Trevor Morrison counted two treys among his 14 points, and Goggleye scored 10.

**"I thought the defensive effort in the second half was very good."**

**Head Coach Will Kleppe**



**Above: North Woods freshman Brenden Chiabotti goes in for an uncontested lay-up during Section 7A playoff action last Wednesday against Carlton.**

**Right: Sophomore TJ Chiabotti concentrates on a Carlton ball handler.**

photos by D. Colburn





CITY OF TOWER

# Ranua to remain as city's clerk-treasurer

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER— Victoria Ranua will remain as city clerk-treasurer here after declining an offer from the Department of Natural Resources to become the new assistant manager at the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park. Ranua's decision to forgo the higher-paying position was a surprise that relieved many city officials.

"I'm relieved and pleased



**Victoria Ranua**  
Beldo. "I am grateful for the hard work she has done and I believe she will continue to help get the city on the right track."

that Victoria has decided to continue with the city," said council member and acting mayor R a c h e l Beldo. "I am grateful for the hard work she has done and I believe she will continue to help get the city on the right track."

Ranua was reluctant to talk about her decision but acknowledged that she feels her abilities can help build a better foundation for the city of Tower by continuing her efforts to incorporate best practices into city management. She said she was also moved by the disappointment that many at the city had expressed when they heard she was considering leaving her post for the state job.

Ranua assumed the clerk-treasurer position in October in the wake of the dis-

missal of former clerk-treasurer Linda Keith. She came aboard with the city in organizational chaos and just as project management errors by the former administration had put the city in a deep financial hole. She also faced personnel struggles, particularly with then-ambulance director and fire chief Steve Altenburg, who was frequently disruptive at city hall.

Despite the situation she inherited, Ranua has made considerable progress on improving

financial transparency, ensuring that the city council is better informed on the issues they need to address, and assuring legal compliance.

"I'm so happy she's staying. She's really helped us move toward greater efficiency, better relations with the public, and a stronger organization," said council member Mary Shedd.

"I would have really hated to lose her since she brings so many skills to the job."

TUESDAY GROUP

# Economist highlights study about Twin Metals impact

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY—A former World Bank economist helped residents here better understand a recent study that found that the region's economy would actually do better without the proposed Twin Metals copper-nickel mine.

Kris Hallberg, who moved to the Ely area about 15 years ago, presented her take on the 2018 study done by Harvard economics professor James H. Stock during a Tuesday Group session held here earlier this month.

The debate over the Twin Metals mine has taken an unpleasant turn in recent weeks with local politicians pushing for boycotts of local businesses that don't support the Twin Metals project. Yet the Stock study suggests that the fight may not be the jobs vs. the environment showdown that some believe.

idents and local investment from people wanting ready access to the Boundary Waters region.

Stock's study, completed along with his graduate student Jacob Bradt, examines the economic impact of the Twin Metals project over a 20-year period. "While it is true that Stock is very interested in the Boundary Waters, he did this study independently. It wasn't funded by either side of the debate," Hallberg said.

While some mining advocates in the audience questioned the validity of a study that looks out only two decades, Hallberg reminded everyone that it was Twin Metals themselves that estimated that the mining project would last just 20 years.

"This is the first study that looks at both sides of the picture, the side of what would happen if the Twin Metals project went ahead and would happen if it didn't, and compared those two alternatives," she said. "In other words, it looks at both the benefits and costs."

The study examined an economic future with the Twin Metals project, which would bring high-paying jobs to the region and would have positive effects on related industries (like mining equipment and construction), while boosting demand for local goods and services.

The other alternative, dubbed the "withdrawal" case because it involves the withdrawal of federal minerals from leasing, assumes that the Twin Metals project is rejected. That scenario would continue the ongoing amenity-based economy where growth is based on the recreation industry as well as "amenity migrants," or people moving to the area for its quality of life.

Stock assumes the area cannot have both development paths. "There is some trade-off between pursuing the Twin Metals development path and pursuing the withdrawal (of mineral right) path," Hallberg said.

As Hallberg explained, Stock's study finds a significant economic boost from the Twin Metals project, at least initially. Pursuit of the project would create jobs and those people would have earnings. "People hired by Twin Metals for construction, mine operation, community relations, would all directly contribute to the local community," Hallberg said. "There are also indirect effects that are along the supply chain for Twin Metals. They would be hiring other businesses for goods and services, and one of the largest indirect businesses are computer programmers."

Induced effects, where direct and indirect employees would spend money in the region on such things as daycare, restaur-

rants, retail, and other household expenditures, also impact the economy, according to Hallberg. "For every dollar that is earned directly or indirectly, 21 cents would be spent locally on those household goods and services," she said.

Similarly, a development path based on outdoor recreation and quality of life would also have direct and indirect effects on the region's economy, she explained. "The question that Stock was trying to answer is which of these paths is dominant," she said.

Hallberg noted that Stock gathered large amounts of data in making his projections, including historical data, existing studies, current and projected employment data directly from Twin Metals, wage rates in northeastern Minnesota, and studies of amenity-based economies in other areas of the United States.

"Still, there is a lot of uncertainty in these projections," Hallberg said. "We can't predict the future perfectly. In particular, there are questions about how many jobs Twin Metals is going to create, how much change in productivity is going to occur, mining's impact on recreational industries, and mining's possible in-migration and out-migration."

Using a variety of variables, as many as 72 different scenarios were examined by Stock in producing his conclusions.

"His main conclusion is that the Twin Metals project

would boost local employment and income in the short run," Hallberg said. "That is pretty much undeniable. But the boost would be short-lived and overtaken by negative impacts on the recreation industries and in-migration. In the long run, the region would be better served by continuing its current amenity-based model of economic development."

Hallberg said she was astonished by how short the economic boost of a Twin Metals project would be, at least according to Stock's study. "At about the 2.5-year mark, we start losing jobs because the jobs gained by Twin Metals are outweighed by the losses in recreation and jobs created by in-migration," she said. "In about 11 years the effect on the local economy turns negative."

In terms of income, the jobs created by Twin Metals might be around 500, where the jobs in recreation industries is 10 times that, she said. "When you look at total income, there is a lot that could be lost on the recreation side," she said.

Hallberg noted that 89 percent of the 72 scenarios that Stock examined indicated a more negative economic outcome from the mining alternative than from a continuation of the existing economic model in the region. "In other words, the Twin Metals project is not a good investment for the regional economy," Hallberg concluded.



**Kris Hallberg**

COUNTY SCHOOLS

# District receives windfall from bond sales

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- ISD2142 school board members received a double dose of good financial news Tuesday at a combined special and working meeting at the district office in Virginia.

Two sets of district bonds totaling \$9,043,000 were sold Tuesday morning at favorable interest rates that generated more than \$300,000 above what was anticipated.

"The market was very competitive this morning," Ehlers & Associates representative Matthew Hammer said. "People are wanting to get into municipal securities at this point in time with the uncertainty in the financial markets we're seeing. We received outstanding results."

Interest rates substantially lower than those

## Audit finds minor accountability issues

projected in a January pre-sale led to an overall windfall of \$340,000, to be applied to the projects specified in bond authorization resolutions.

A breakdown of the first set of \$3,888,000 of general obligation notes, capital facilities and tax abatement bonds indicates the following intended uses: \$515,000 for office, technological, and other capital equipment; \$1,495,000 for capital improvement projects at various school sites; and \$1,870,000 for parking lot reconstruction and improvement projects at various school sites.

Proceeds from an issue of \$5,155,000 of facilities maintenance bonds will be used for various drainage, deferred maintenance, indoor air quality, and health and safety projects.

The projects are part of the district's ten-year facility plan. An additional benefit of the sale was a reduction of \$418,000 in principal and interest.

Greg Knutson of accounting firm Walker, Giroux & Hahne was present to review findings from the district's annual financial audit for fiscal year 2019.

There were two findings from the audit which required specific action plans to address them, although neither were considered to be material findings, which are considered the most serious level of deficiency.

One concerned late payment of bills. Minnesota law requires that invoices be paid within 35 days of receipt, and auditors found numerous violations in the samples

they examined.

"Of the 25 disbursements we tested in this area, eight were not paid within 35 days," Knutson said.

Business manager Kim Johnson said some corrective actions were implemented within two weeks of the receipt of the audit findings in mid-December.

"We've already put some processes in place to help our accounts payable person who is overloaded," she said. "We've moved all of our purchase orders to our district secretary to free up some time for our accounts payable person. We're doing some procedural changes to help us reduce the amount of late payments."

Another change is in how invoices are logged and tracked. Formerly they

were logged according to when they would be paid. Now they're logged when they're received, Johnson said.

"That will allow me to run reports right in the system to see if those invoices have been paid," she said. "Now we have to monitor the system to make sure those changes are effective."

Johnson noted that while the goal is to reduce late payments, they can't be entirely eliminated.

"If (the accounts payable person) is investigating a payment, it could indeed be beyond 35 days," Johnson said. "We have some invoices we've already received that are not yet due, they're for next year. I'm not going to pay an invoice in March for fiscal year 2021."

A second finding was a familiar one related to cash handling at the schools

not being sufficiently segregated. Recommended practice is to have separate individuals receive, account for, disburse, and deposit funds.

"The condition is due to the limited number of personnel in school offices," Knutson said. "In the business office there is adequate segregation."

Johnson responded. "That's actually why we're kind of tough on processes and procedures for the schools as far as petty cash, student activities and community ed," she said.

Acknowledging that the only way to fix the issue would be to hire additional staff, Knutson reinforced the need for strong oversight.

"It is critical to follow up on them and be tough," he said, "because the default is to bypass controls. I'm not seeing that here."

## WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

three-pointer to complete the surge to a 13-point lead, 63-50, with just over four minutes to play. The Rangers responded with two more treys, but went scoreless in the game's final two minutes as Ely played keep-away with an

effective spread offense.

The Rangers stayed in the game by hitting 11 three-pointers, and Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald acknowledged their effort.

"They're a good young team and they shoot

the ball well," McDonald said. "We could never quite shake them. I think the difference was they were hitting a lot of threes and we went cold there for a while. I thought we took good shots. We just couldn't hit them."

As they've done all season, when things got tight, the Timberwolves used defensive pressure to generate the scoring opportunities they needed for the win.

"That's the one thing our kids do is work really

hard, and we have to because sometimes the other team has more talent than us," McDonald said. "I think we've had success this year because we really get after it on the defensive end."

Fenske scored 14 first-

half points on the way to 20 for the game to lead Ely offensively. Quiet in the first half, Omerza exploded for 14 in the second to finish with 16. Latourell dropped in 15 and Faltesek added 12.



ELY

# Council asked to resolve Chamber, nonprofits feud

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – A decision by the Ely Chamber of Commerce to prohibit local nonprofit organizations from maintaining informational booths at the city's two premier public festivals (Blueberry/Art and Harvest Moon) held in Whiteside Park, made its way to the Ely City Council last week.

At issue is the position taken by the Chamber that because of space limitations at Whiteside Park, they will limit booth space to vendors selling traditional arts and crafts. That's rubbed many area nonprofits the wrong way, since many say they rely on these festivals for fundraising and spreading information about their various missions.

Following comments at the council meeting last week by two representatives of local nonprofit organizations— Margaret Sweet of the Ely-Winton Historical Society and Jess Edberg of the Dorothy Molter Museum— along with Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Eve Sebesta, council members agreed to revisit the issue at an upcoming study session.

"This shouldn't be a council issue but it is," said Mayor Chuck Novak. The council is going to be involved with this at some point."

Council member Al Forsman indicated a willingness to facilitate a resolution between the nonprofit groups and the Chamber. "If we can get together and discuss this at our study session it would help to put this to rest," he said.

Sweet indicated the EWHS board discussed at length the impact the Chamber's decision would have on her organization. "The Chamber sent a letter last week, and we really

felt that we were slapped in the face," she said. She referenced the letter that indicated that the festivals are to showcase things that are uniquely Ely. "As a historical society, we feel that we have as good a right as anybody to be uniquely Ely in that we publish books and sell books."

Sweet referenced the Chamber's criteria that the person who created the product must be present in the booth for the duration of the festival. "Of the 36 books we have two living authors, David Kess and myself," she said. We thoroughly enjoy meeting these people and many of them come to our museum later. We feel that by being ousted the festivals are losing something important."

Edberg said she was "taken aback" last November by the severity of the change with little advance warning, the presentation of the change by way of the Chamber's newsletter, how the change "reduced the value of local nonprofits enhancing the diversity and culture of festivals to strictly a commercial presence," that the explanation "seemed insincere" given the empty booth spaces at the festival last summer, and the "very well-known strife between a handful of partisan nonprofits" that has escalated in recent years.

"The Chamber has expressed to me that it does not have the available resources or staff time to revisit its decision or work with member organizations such as mine to develop further options," Edberg said.

Sebesta indicated that the Chamber stands by its position. "Our decision was not an easy one... We are operating art and craft festivals that have a definite positive economic impact on our business community. We realize there will continue to be those who disagree with

our decision, and we respect their right to do so," she said.

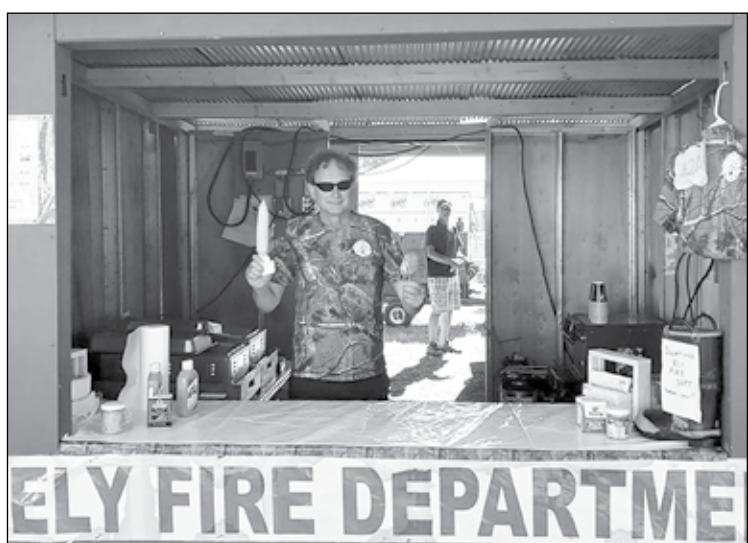
"In the time since the announcement, we have discussed concerns with some of those nonprofits and offered ideas for alternate opportunities," she said. "Most groups have sought other venues or are investigating alternate funding opportunities. Several groups continue to hope we will reverse our decision."

For the past fifteen years, the Blueberry/Art Festival allowed twelve spaces for nonprofits to participate in the festival, according to Sebesta. There were very few restrictions. The nonprofits were treated the same as regular vendors and were allowed to return year after year.

"The intention in allowing nonprofits in the festivals was to showcase things that are uniquely Ely," Sebesta said. An unintended consequence was the development of a funding stream by some nonprofits. Unfortunately, some groups put "all their eggs in one basket" and did not pursue additional funding sources, she said.

"A second unintended consequence is that only a handful of well-deserving nonprofits received the spotlight," she said. "There are more than a hundred well-deserving nonprofits in our area consisting of churches, service organizations, art groups, recreation groups, events, and first responders. As the Chamber, our folly was not rotating through all the area nonprofits so everyone could benefit. Each year we should have selected 12 new nonprofits for the upcoming year. Hindsight is always 20-20."

At the council meeting, Sebesta outlined the economic impact that the two festivals have in Ely, and the Chamber's continued support for the Ely



Nonprofits such as the Ely Fire Department depend on fundraising at the annual Blueberry/Art Festival. file photo

nonprofit community. "Last year, the Chamber provided advertising, sponsorships and donations in the amount of \$6,419 to 14 nonprofit organizations," she said. "Since 2015, the amount invested in our nonprofit community exceeds \$46,800. And since 2015 we have invested almost \$176,000 promoting the business community at area events. We do not receive lodging tax dollars for the promotion of the area or chamber operations, so the festival revenue provides the funding used to draw people to our community which in turn has a positive economic impact for our area businesses."

She reviewed the Chamber's mission and goals in conducting the festivals. She also highlighted the continuing challenges of finding room for the vendors in the park as trees and other structures are added.

Sebesta objected to the way the city's Park and Recreation Board recently handled the Chamber's permit application for the use of the park, and that city council member Heidi Omerza, also a nonprofit board member, should not have been

involved in the discussion because of an inherent conflict of interest. "It would appear that the Park and Rec Board opposes our permit and seeks to penalize us," she said.

Sebesta requested that the city council allow a representative of the Chamber of Commerce to fill one of the open positions on the Park and Rec Board. "That way we can have clear communication and input," she said.

Sebesta also sought to clear up misinformation perpetuated by an Ely-based newspaper that maintains the Chamber does not pay park fees. "Since 2015, the Chamber has paid \$15,700 in park fees and city services. We have always appreciated the city of Ely's support and have willingly paid those fees even though other events or organizations are not required to do so."

The issue will be discussed at the council's study session on Tuesday, March 31, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

# Food shelves depend on giving during March's Food Share Campaign

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- The Minnesota Food Share campaign is the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state. The campaign bring groups and individuals together to help with the fight against hunger by supporting 300 local food shelves across the state.

During the 2019 March Campaign, more than \$8 million and 5.1 million pounds of food were donated to food shelves in Minnesota.

In past years, local donations were matched by Minnesota Food Share. This larger match is no longer in place, but food shelves do get a partial match based on the total amount raised and pounds of food donated

during the month of March.

Food shelves in Tower, Ely, and Cook serve an estimated 1,000 people in the area.

Marge McPeak, who manages the Tower Food Shelf, said that while all types of donations are accepted at area food shelves, donating money is preferred because food shelves can spend it according to their needs as well as get deep discounts that extend a single dollar nearly five times when purchasing cases from the food bank in Duluth.

"We get very good deals on items purchased from the food bank," she said.

McPeak said that while they welcome all donations of non-perishable foods, some items just aren't popular with

food shelf users.

"We like to stock the foods that our clients are used to eating," she said.

Food pantries like to fill their shelves with the basics: rice, pasta, canned vegetables and fruits, beans, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti sauce, canned tuna, cereals, flour and sugar, soups, and easy-to-prepare meals.

### How to donate

Support your area food shelf during this March Campaign:

➤ In Ely, the food shelf is open the third Wednesday each month from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and can be reached at 218-235-8527. The food shelf is located at 15 W Conan St. Donations can be mailed to PO Box 786, Ely, MN 55731.

➤ In Tower, the food shelf is open the third Tuesday each month from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and can be reached at 218-753-3503. The food shelf is located in the basement (use back door entrance) of the

Timberjay, 414 Main St. Donations can be mailed to PO Box 355, Tower, MN 55790 or dropped off at the Timberjay office in Tower.

➤ In Cook, the food shelf is open the third Wednesday of the month from 9 a.m. – 12 noon and then 1 – 3 p.m. and can be reached at 218-666-2715. The food shelf is located behind St.

Mary's Church, 124 5th Street S.E. Donations can be mailed to PO Box 633, Cook, MN 55723.

Most Cook-area churches and the State Farm Insurance office-take drop-offs of non-perishable food items.

More information on the campaign can be found at <https://www.mnfoodshare.org/march-campaign>.

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# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

## TRAIL UPGRADE

# Vermilion Falls Trail improved for heavier use

Elevated boardwalk a highlight of six-mile trail project

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

CRANELAKE—Contractors have been busy in recent days installing one of the highlights of a six-mile trail reconstruction project designed to improve trail access between Crane Lake and the picnic area at Vermilion Falls.

The project, spearheaded by the Voyageur Country ATV Club, will harden the existing trail to reduce environmental impacts as people travel back and forth

to the falls, a popular destination for visitors for decades. Two years ago, the Voyageur Country ATV Club constructed new picnic sites at the falls.

“Now we are working on the multi-use snowmobile/ATV trail connecting to it, getting riders off the road and into the woods,” stated a recent club press statement.

A 260-foot long bridge, or elevated boardwalk, is the highlight of the trail project. The 12-foot wide boardwalk sits just over six feet above the surface of the wetland

area it crosses, ensuring minimal impact. Built of wood and designed to support the weight of a ten-ton groomer, the boardwalk should be largely completed by mid-March.

Most of the rest of the trail improvements are set to get underway later this spring.

**Right: A work crew installs portions of an elevated boardwalk as part of an upgrade to the Vermilion Falls Trail near Crane Lake.**

photo submitted



## AIS FIGHT

# County board OKs new funds to combat invasives

REGIONAL — A total of \$661,962 in state funds will contribute to the fight against aquatic invasive species, or AIS, in St. Louis County, based on action by the county board this week. The county board approved a total of seven projects, with \$398,600 earmarked for the North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District to manage watercraft inspections, decontaminations, and public education on the following lakes:

Bear Island, Birch, Burntside, Crane, Ely, Gilbert-Pit, Johnson, Kabetogama, One Pine, Pelican, Shagawa, and Vermilion.

Separately, the Vermilion Lake Association will receive \$62,537 for continued watercraft inspections and cleaning, public awareness, habitat evaluation, threat assessment, early detection and response.

“The AIS challenge at Vermilion is very large,” said Terry Grosshauser, president of the 2,600-member lake association. “About 16,000 boats launch at Vermilion’s 40 public and private accesses each year. With serious vegetation threats like hybrid water-milfoil and starry stone-wort expanding rapidly in Minnesota lakes, we must do all we can to protect Lake Vermilion and its business community.”

“We need to be extra vigilant with veligers (zebra mussel larvae) discovered last fall in Lake of the Woods,” continued Grosshauser. Lake of the Woods and Lake Vermilion are both low-calcium lakes believed to be inhospitable to adult zebra mussels.

Countering this growing threat takes an army of volunteers and significant funding. “Our AIS volunteers will donate over 2,000 hours in 2020,” said Jeff Lovgren, Lake Vermilion AIS program coordinator. “We cannot do this without their generous time commitment.”

Other projects approved



## WILDLIFE RESEARCH

# Moose numbers stable

But limited reproductive success continues to stall a population recovery

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Northeastern Minnesota’s moose population remains stable, even as low reproductive success has prevented an increase in the region’s moose herd.

Even so, the results of the latest aerial survey by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources suggest that the sharp decline in moose numbers experienced from 2006-2013, has not continued. The DNR’s latest population estimate pegged the region’s moose herd at 3,150. That’s down from the 4,180 estimated last year, but DNR biologists say that much variability is inherent in wildlife surveys and does not necessarily suggest a decline. The latest survey is the ninth straight year in which the population estimate has ranged within the normal variability expected in wildlife surveys. Such surveys are used primarily to detect long-term trends rather than provide accurate year-to-year population estimates.

The DNR’s annual survey provides an estimate of the number of moose living across a 6,000-square mile survey area focused in eastern St. Louis County and most of Lake and Cook counties. Biologists count moose within a pre-determined number of plots and extrapolate

**Above and right: A moose herd makes its way through the Pagami burn. A single bull walks through the snow.**

photos by M. Schrage

from those results to develop the final estimate. Both the Fond du Lac Band and the 1854 Treaty Authority also participate in the survey.

The survey has continued to show that moose numbers and reproductive success are lower along the western and southern edges of moose range, according to DNR Tower Area Wildlife Manager Tom Rusch. Meanwhile, in the heart of moose country, biologists are seeing more moose overall and better calf-cow ratios, suggesting better reproductive success in those areas.

Overall, calves comprised 18 percent of the moose sighted during this year’s survey, a somewhat hopeful sign. That was the largest percentage of calves seen in the annual moose survey since 2005, when calves comprised 19 percent of the population.

Areas that have seen recent fire are continuing to show strong numbers of moose. Rusch said moose numbers continue to be strong along the northeast shore of Trout Lake and around Pagami Creek, where fires in the past dozen years or so have sharply improved moose habitat. A related study from northeast-



ern Minnesota shows an almost magnetic attraction between recent forest fires and moose. Outside of those burns, moose numbers remain relatively low across much of the region.

“There’s like a night and day difference,” said Rusch.

Fires not only create a spike in quality browse, they eliminate or sharply reduce the populations of winter ticks that often plague moose. “And there are no deer there,” noted Rusch. Whitetail deer carry liver flukes as well as a parasitic brain worm that frequently kill moose outright or leave them more

vulnerable to predators.

While healthy moose can generally protect themselves from even the largest predators in Minnesota, such as gray wolves, the same is not true of calves, and the region’s high-density wolf population is likely contributing to the lack of recovery of the region’s moose population. A DNR study, since discontinued, suggested that gray wolves were far and away the leading cause of moose calf mortality in the region. That may be contributing to the sluggish rate of reproduction.





**Be aware of the presence of bald eagles near road-kills this time of year. This eagle was hit by a car this week near the junction of Pike Rd. and Hwy. 21.** photo by M. Vraa

# LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday								
35 21				47 27				42 12				26 2				27 4								
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
02/24	41	16	0.00		02/24	41	10	0.00		02/24	38	10	0.00		02/24	37	12	0.00		02/24	36	11	0.00	
02/25	40	5	0.00		02/25	41	-3	0.00		02/25	40	5	0.00		02/25	30	7	0.00		02/25	40	-3	0.00	
02/26	35	2	0.00		02/26	33	-4	0.00		02/26	35	1	0.00		02/26	18	-2	0.00		02/26	34	-4	0.00	
02/27	22	-5	0.00		02/27	20	-12	0.00		02/27	19	0	0.00		02/27	18	-6	0.00		02/27	19	-13	0.00	
02/28	19	-20	0.00		02/28	17	-23	0.00		02/28	19	-19	0.00		02/28	21	-18	0.00		02/28	23	-25	0.00	
02/29	23	-20	0.00		02/29	22	-26	0.00		02/29	21	-20	0.00		02/29	39	3	0.00		02/29	32	-25	0.00	
03/01	41	-6	0.00		03/01	40	-26	0.00		03/01	38	-8	0.00		03/01	41	25	0.00		03/01	40	-5	0.00	
Total			0.89	81.9"	YTD Total			1.13	54.1"	YTD Total			1.73	63.8"	YTD Total	NA		45.4"		YTD Total			1.34	57.0"

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

### DNR to host deer management open houses later this month

REGIONAL—The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has scheduled a series of spring open houses at 35 locations throughout the state to invite public conversation with local wildlife managers about deer and deer management. The open house at the Tower Area DNR Office is set for this Wednesday, March 18, from 6-8 p.m.

Open house attendees can discuss their general concerns about deer and learn about last year's harvest data for their individual deer permit area (DPA). They also can ask about chronic wasting disease and get information about managing private woodlands for quality deer habitat. In addition, printed information on wolf management and the process to update the DNR's wolf management plan will be available.

"The input provided from these open houses helps inform the deer season regulations for the upcoming fall and is a good opportunity for the local wildlife managers to meet the public they serve," said Angela Aarhus-Ward, acting northeastern regional wildlife manager. "The feedback from people who participated in past open houses has been valuable and we anticipate another round of good conversation and information sharing."

**Northeastern Minnesota open house details:**

Grand Rapids: 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, Grand Rapids Regional DNR Office, 1201 East Highway 2.

International Falls: 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, International Falls Area DNR Office, 392 East Highway 11.

Tower: 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, Tower Area DNR Office, 650 Highway 169.

Two Harbors: 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, Two Harbors Area DNR Office, 1568 Highway 2.

Meeting location details for other areas in the state can be found online on the deer open house webpage. A second series of open houses is being planned for August after season regulations are finalized.

The DNR began these local, open-house style meetings in 2018 with the release of its deer management plan. The department continues to use them as a way to encourage discussions about deer and deer management, enhance local relationships, and foster two-way communication between the DNR and the public.

No formal presentations are planned and people can arrive any time during the scheduled open

house times. Interested people who can't attend a scheduled meeting are encouraged to contact a local wildlife manager for additional information or to address any questions about deer management.

### AIS...Continued from page 4B

by the county board include:  
 ▶\$25,100 to Burnside Lake Association to continue training of boat inspectors, promote the use of boat cleaning stations, improve public awareness and education about AIS, build early detection capabilities, and partnership development.  
 ▶\$98,000 to Wildlife Forever for marketing efforts for their Clean Drain Dry Initiative campaign aimed at public awareness and education, and behavioral change.

▶\$32,625 to the city of Babbitt for the installation, maintenance, and partnership for a clean, drain, dry, dispose station at the Birch Lake public access.  
 Each year, through the AIS Prevention Aid Program, the Minnesota Legislature allocates funding to counties to be used to prevent the introduction or limit the spread of AIS. Through an application and proposal process, St. Louis County has sought out and supported projects that

address one or more of the seven categories and associated actions outlined in the St. Louis County AIS Prevention Plan. The amount of funding received from the state is based on a formula that factors each county's share of watercraft trailer launches and watercraft trailer parking spaces. Of Minnesota's 87 counties, St. Louis County has the second highest number of watercraft trailer launches, at 169, and the highest number of watercraft trailer parking spaces, at 1,429.

**JUST ANNOUNCED!! AUTO SHOW BONUS CASH STARTS NOW AT FORD OF HIBBING!!**

<p><b>2020 F150 XLT SPORT 4X4 CREW CAB</b> #24146</p> <p>\$52,170 MSRP                  -2,500 SPORT/NAV DISCOUNT                  -1,250 CUSTOMER CASH                  -750* FORD CREDIT CASH                  -750 BONUS CASH                  -1,000 AUTO SHOW CUSTOMER CASH                  -5,139 FOH DISCOUNT</p> <p><b>EVERYONE'S PRICE \$40,781</b> +Tax/Lic                  -1,000 TRADE IN ASSISTANCE-MUST TRADE IN A 1995 OR NEWER CAR, TRUCK, OR SUV                  \$39,781 +Tax/Lic CONDITIONAL PRICE</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #005596; color: white; padding: 2px;">SPORT PACKAGE, REMOTE START, FORD PASS</p>	<p><b>2019 F150 LARIAT 4X4 CREW CAB</b> #23941 6 1/2 FOOT BOX</p> <p>\$58,695 MSRP                  -1,500 CHROME/NAV DISCOUNT                  -3,750 CUSTOMER CASH                  -750 SELECT INVENTORY CASH                  -1,000 RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH                  -1,000 AUTO SHOW CUSTOMER CASH                  -6,696 FOH DISC</p> <p><b>EVERYONE'S PRICE \$43,999</b> +Tax/Lic                  -1,250 OWNER LOYALTY-MUST CURRENTLY OWN A 1995 OR NEWER FORD/LINCOLN/MERCUARY VEHICLE                  \$42,749 +Tax/Lic CONDITIONAL PRICE</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #005596; color: white; padding: 2px;">TWIN PANEL MOONROOF, REMOTE START, VOICE ACTIVE NAVIGATION</p>
<p><b>2020 F150 XLT SPORT SUPERCAB 4X4</b> #24151</p> <p>\$49,910 MSRP                  -2,500 SPORT / NAV DISCOUNT                  -1,250 CUSTOMER CASH                  -750* FORD CREDIT CASH                  -750 BONUS CASH                  -1,000 AUTO SHOW BONUS CASH                  -4,459 FOH DISC</p> <p><b>EVERYONE'S PRICE \$39,201</b> +Tax/Lic                  -1,000 TRADE IN ASSISTANCE-MUST TRADE IN A 1995 OR NEWER CAR, TRUCK, OR SUV                  \$38,201 +Tax/Lic CONDITIONAL PRICE</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #005596; color: white; padding: 2px;">SPORT PACKAGE, VOICE ACTIVE NAVIGATION, ECOBOOST</p>	<p><b>2020 ESCAPE S AWD</b> #24071</p> <p>\$27,675 MSRP                  -\$250 RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH                  -\$500 RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH                  -\$1,000 AUTO SHOW CUSTOMER CASH                  -\$1,950 FOH DISC</p> <p><b>EVERYONE'S PRICE \$23,975</b> +Tax/Lic</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #005596; color: white; padding: 2px;">ECOBOOST, REARVIEW CAMERA, FORD PASS W/SYNC</p>
<p><b>2020 EDGE SEL AWD</b> #24013</p> <p>\$40,065 MSRP                  -750 RETAIL BONUS CASH                  -750 CUSTOMER CASH                  -500* FORD CREDIT CASH                  -1,000 AUTO SHOW CUSTOMER CASH                  -2,136 FOH DISC                  -500 SELECT INVENTORY CASH</p> <p><b>EVERYONE'S PRICE \$34,429</b> +Tax/Lic</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #005596; color: white; padding: 2px;">COLD WEATHER PACKAGE, CO-PILOT 360 ASSIST, FORD PASS</p>	<p><b>2020 EXPLORER XLT 4WD</b> #23863 FCTP</p> <p>\$45,010 MSRP                  -1,000 SPECIAL DISCOUNT                  -2,500 CUSTOMER CASH                  -750 SELECT INVENTORY CASH                  -1,000 AUTO SHOW BONUS CASH                  -1,000 RETAIL BONUS CASH                  -5,974 FOH DISCOUNT</p> <p><b>EVERYONE'S PRICE \$32,786</b> +Tax/Lic                  -1,000 TRADE IN ASSISTANCE-MUST TRADE IN A 1995 OR NEWER CAR, TRUCK, OR SUV                  \$31,786 +Tax/Lic CONDITIONAL PRICE</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #005596; color: white; padding: 2px;">ECOBOOST, REMOTE START, FORD PASS</p>
<p><b>2020 ECOSPORT SE 4WD</b> #23794 FCTP</p> <p>\$26,045 MSRP                  -500 CUSTOMER CASH                  -500 SELECT INVENTORY CASH                  -2,046 FOH DISC</p> <p><b>EVERYONE'S PRICE \$22,999</b> +Tax/Lic</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #005596; color: white; padding: 2px;">AUTO CLIMATE, ALUMINUM WHEELS</p>	<p><b>2019 FUSION SE FWD</b> #12226 FCTP</p> <p>\$25,770 MSRP                  -500 CUSTOMER CASH                  -500 SELECT INVENTORY CASH                  -1,000* FORD CREDIT CASH                  -1,000 AUTO SHOW CUSTOMER CASH                  -4,964 FOH DISC</p> <p><b>EVERYONE'S PRICE \$17,806</b> +Tax/Lic</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #005596; color: white; padding: 2px;">ADAPTIVE CRUISE, VOICE ACTIVE NAVIGATION, BLIND SPOT SYSTEM</p>

\*Must Finance with Ford Motor Credit, APR's as low as 5.9% for Qualified Buyers, OAC. \*\*\*Prices May Vary Due to Optional Equipment/Model

**SPECIAL PURCHASE!**

<p><b>2016 FUSION SE SEDAN</b></p> <p>38K miles</p> <p><b>\$13,450</b> #7498</p>	<p><b>2017 JOURNEY AWD</b></p> <p>Only 12K miles</p> <p><b>\$17,900</b> #23656A</p>	<p><b>2016 EXPLORE XLT 4X4</b></p> <p>2nd Row Buckets Leather</p> <p><b>\$24,329</b> #9361C</p>	<p><b>2012 NISSAN ROGUE S</b></p> <p>AWD</p> <p><b>\$7,980</b> #7501A</p>
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**TONS & TONS OF PRE-OWNED TRUCKS!**

<p><b>2012 RAM 1500 BIGHORN</b></p> <p>6.5 Ft. Box</p> <p><b>\$16,980</b> #23702A</p>	<p><b>2008 F150 XLT S/C</b></p> <p><b>\$7,980</b> #23631A</p>	<p><b>2011 F150 LARIAT CREW</b></p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p><b>\$23,500</b> #23542A</p>	<p><b>2018 F150 XLT SPORT CREW</b></p> <p>30K miles</p> <p><b>\$31,900</b> #23475A</p>
<p><b>2016 F150 XLT CREW SPORT</b></p> <p>6.5 Ft. Box</p> <p><b>\$29,900</b> #7513A</p>	<p><b>2010 F150 LARIAT CREW</b></p> <p><b>\$13,980</b> #23962A</p>	<p><b>2017 F150 XLT CREW CAB</b></p> <p>Rem Start 68K miles</p> <p><b>\$24,900</b> #23948A</p>	<p><b>2005 F150 XLT EXT CAB</b></p> <p><b>\$5,900</b> #23895B</p>
<p><b>2011 SILVERADO 1500 CREW CAB</b></p> <p>Only 40K miles!</p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p><b>\$19,900</b> #23497A</p>	<p><b>2018 F250 XLT 4X4 SUPER CAB</b></p> <p>6 3/4 Box 32K miles</p> <p><b>\$35,900</b> #23997B</p>	<p><b>2013 F150 STX 5.0 L</b></p> <p><b>\$16,980</b> #7483A</p>	<p><b>2015 F150 CREW CAB XLT</b></p> <p>40K miles 1 owner</p> <p><b>\$28,900</b> #24046A</p>
<p><b>2015 F150 SUPER CAB 4X4</b></p> <p>18K miles</p> <p><b>\$25,900</b> #24195A</p>	<p><b>2014 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW</b></p> <p>4x4</p> <p><b>\$13,900</b> #23463A</p>	<p><b>2012 F150 XLT CREW</b></p> <p>6.5 Ft. Box</p> <p><b>\$18,683</b> #23463A</p>	<p><b>2011 F150 XLT CREW</b></p> <p>6.5 Ft. Box</p> <p><b>\$14,900</b> #23813A</p>

**SUVS!**

<p><b>2016 ESCAPE TITANIUM</b></p> <p>27K miles</p> <p><b>\$16,980</b> #24120A</p>	<p><b>2014 CR-V EX AWD Moonroof</b></p> <p><b>\$12,980</b> #23947B</p>	<p><b>2012 COMPASS LATITUDE</b></p> <p>4x4 SUN &amp; Sound</p> <p><b>\$10,900</b> #7451A</p>	<p><b>2011 ACADIA AWD</b></p> <p>100K miles</p> <p><b>\$8,907</b> #23575A</p>
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2627 Hwy 169  
fordofhibbing.com  
888-246-8616



## Obituaries and Death Notices

### Roger D. Week

Roger D. Week, 67, of Babbitt, passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020, at Essentia Health St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 14 at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Babbitt with Pastor Erik Roth officiating. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will be at a later date in Argo Cemetery in Babbitt. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Survivors include his wife, Delores "Dolly" Week

of Babbitt; dog, Booker; son, Brandon Week of Babbitt; four grandchildren; brother, Robert Week of Zimmerman; sisters, Mary (Donny) Ferdig of Blackduck and Karen (Sam) Long of Deer River; sister-in-law, Kathy Week of Eau Claire, Wis.; and nieces and nephews.

### Charlotte E. Rice

Charlotte E. "Char" Stockey Rice, 76, of Mt. Iron, passed away on Sunday, March 1, 2020, at her home. Funeral services were held on Thursday, March 5 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower with Pastor Liz Cheney

officiating. Arrangements were with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Survivors include her husband, Timothy Rice of Mt. Iron; children, Gary (Susan) Rice of Eveleth, Thomas Maki of Mt. Iron, Laura (Jon Ellegard) Maki of Mt. Iron and Lisa Wessman of Cumberland, Wis.; six grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; sister, Carol (Bruce) Kuhre of Athens, Ohio; brother, Walter "Butch" (Evie) Stockey of Virginia; and numerous nieces and nephews.

## EMPLOYMENT



### Tribal Liaison

**State Program Administrator Coordinator  
Permanent, Full-time Position  
Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation  
Eveleth, MN**


Serve as Tribal Liaison for IRRR to develop, support and promote effective working partnerships between IRRR and Native American tribal governments located within the Agency's service area. Coordinate and participate in Agency efforts that relate to and have an impact on Native American tribal governments located within the Agency's service area. Coordinate with Native American tribal governments and IRRR to develop, recommend and support state and regional policy and legislative proposals that impact Native American tribal governments' economic development and quality of life relative to services provided by IRRR. Undertake additional special work assignments as requested by the Commissioner.

Learn more and apply online at [mn.gov/careers](http://mn.gov/careers)  
Job ID # 39443

Contact Barbara Sanders with questions at [barbara.sanders@state.mn.us](mailto:barbara.sanders@state.mn.us)  
or 218-735-3027

**Application deadline: 3/20/2020**

*Equal Opportunity Employer 3/20*



### Building Maintenance Worker- Public Works

Apply by 3/18/20

[www.stlouiscountymn.gov](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov)  
or call 218-726-2422

*Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 3/13*

### HELP WANTED

Full time office assistant/bookkeeper. Must be well organized, efficient and upbeat. Knowledge of Quickbooks, Word and Excel a plus. Customer service experienced preferred. Call Docks on Wheels to schedule an interview- 218-365-6210. 4/10

### Experienced AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN

Full-time, M-F, benefits. Contact Lee Phillips. Waschke Family Chevrolet in Cook, 126 N Hwy 53, PO Box 549, Cook, MN 55723; 218-666-5901 or 800-238-4545. tfn

### LAWN MOWING SERVICE

Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital is seeking proposals for lawn mowing service for the 2020 season. Proposal shall include mowing, edging, trimming and cleanup of all campus lawns as needed throughout the summer. Efforts shall be made to mow after business hours to ensure the safety of customers, staff, and property. Certificate of Liability insurance will be required. Call Keith 365-8731 to review areas included. Proposals shall be submitted by April 25 to: EBCH, Attention: Keith Beal  
Lawn Care Proposals  
328 W Conan St., Ely, MN 55731. 3/20

### HELP WANTED

Motivated employees for established local business. Must be reliable and a team player. Must enjoy working outdoors and be able to lift 50 pounds for a majority of the day. Duties could be delivery and assembly of boat lifts and docks or welding, painting, and decking. Call in person to schedule an interview - 218-365-6210. This is an opportunity for a fun and enjoyable season at Docks on Wheels. Compensation based on qualifications. 4/10

### Local Delivery Driver

*If you live in the Tower-Babbitt area this may be a perfect opportunity for you!*

Deliver fuel oil and propane to residents and businesses in the Ely, Lake Vermillion, Virginia areas. We're growing, expanding and we need good help. Class B license at a minimum but we pay more for Class A CDL with experience and a willingness to drive other equipment. Perfect job for someone wanting to get off the over-the-road or those who prefer a more stay-local routine and more family time. Good pay with benefits. Consistent schedule. Consistent work. OT available. We're a local, family-run business with family values. So if you're tired of working for "the corporation", come see us.

**Applications at or resumes to:**  
Edwards Oil and Propane, 820 Hoover Rd.,  
Virginia, MN 55792  
[www.edwardsoilandpropane.com](http://www.edwardsoilandpropane.com) 4/10

### Pike River Hatchery - Hatchery Laborers

The Tower Fisheries Office of the MN Department of Natural Resources is seeking to fill night watch laborer positions at the walleye hatchery. These temporary positions are 40 hrs per week, include weekends and last up to 8 weeks. Experience in hatchery operations, fisheries, or outdoor work; minor repair of plumbing and mechanical systems; previous night watch work; record-keeping skills; attention to detail; and ability to communicate to the public is desirable. Must be able to follow instructions, withstand adverse environmental conditions, and lift up to 50 lbs. Apply online using keyword 39544 at <https://mn.gov/mmb/careers/> by March 20. For more information, contact Edie Evarts, Area Fisheries Supervisor, 218-300-7803 or [edie.evarts@state.mn.us](mailto:edie.evarts@state.mn.us). 3/13



### HELP WANTED

We are looking to fill the following positions. Age and experience levels can vary. Full-time and part-time available.

- ❖ Parts & Service Manager
- ❖ Rigger
- ❖ Service Tech
- ❖ Gas/Dock/Yard Person

**Aronson Boat Works, Pike Bay Dr., Tower  
Call, Text, or Stop In For Information  
218-753-4190 tfn**

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

The Nett Lake School District # 707 is seeking applications for a full-time Superintendent/Principal. A complete job description and application can be found at [www.nettlake-school.org](http://www.nettlake-school.org) or you may stop by the Nett Lake School. Compensation package will be based on qualifications and work experience. The district will begin reviewing applications on April 3, 2020.

**Questions:** Contact Superintendent James J. Varichak, 3090 Westley Drive, Nett Lake, MN 55772  
Email: [jvarichak@isd707.org](mailto:jvarichak@isd707.org)  
Phone: 218-757-3102

*Published in the Timberjay, March 13, 20, 27 & April 3, 2020*

## Subscribe Today

(218) 753-2950

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED DECOMMISSIONING ORR ORB Non-Directional Beacon (NDB)

**This notice is to serve of the announcement of MnDOT Aeronautics intends to decommission ORR ORB NDB and opens up a 30-day comment period for interested parties to comment on this decision.**

MnDOT Aeronautics owns, operates, and maintains the ORR ORB NDB as part of the national airspace system.

ORR ORB NDB serves: ORR REGIONAL AIRPORT ORB with an NDB approach to Runway 13. Decommissioning will cause the cancellation of the following approach NDB RWY 13.

NDB technology is older and is not included in the FAA Next-Gen plan for the future of aviation. NDB approaches are no longer required on any flight test for pilot certification. Most manufactures of NDB systems are not supporting the legacy systems and FAA is not supporting commissioning of new/replacement systems. By decommissioning this older and less used technology, it will open up the ability to support modern RNAV approaches. Given the direction the FAA has taken with Next-Gen and because of the declining use of this technology by pilots, MnDOT Office of Aeronautics has determined that the cost of maintaining the existing state owned NDB's is not a good use of public funds.

**OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT**

Interested parties who would like to comment on this subject should respond to this proposal by submitting written comments, or opinions to the address(s) indicated. Comments should address the overall aeronautical, economic, environmental, and energy-related aspects of the proposal. To ensure your comments are considered, please respond on or before the stated closing date. This proposal may change because of comments received.

Comment period closes: **APRIL 14, 2020**  
Send comments to: MnDOT - Aeronautics  
John Dalton,  
Aeronautics Navigation Systems Engineer  
222 Plato 222 East Plato Boulevard  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107-1618

For more information contact:  
AeronauticsNavigationSystems.DOT@state.mn.us and/or  
<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/aero/>

*The Minnesota Department of Transportation is committed to increasing transparency and collaboration and ensuring everyone has the opportunity to participate in public engagement.*

*Published in the Timberjay, March 13, 2020*

## EMPLOYMENT



### COOK HOSPITAL & CARE CENTER

Our Specialty is You

**OPEN POSITIONS** 10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

**Care Center**  
FT Director of Nursing- LTC (sign-on bonus)  
PT Nursing Assistant  
(sign-on bonus- wage starting at \$15.88/hr.)  
PT Restorative Nursing Assistant

**Medical Records**  
FT Health Information Manager

**Adult Day Services**  
Casual RN/LPN

**Rehabilitation**  
FT Physical Therapist (sign-on bonus)

**Imaging**  
Full Time Radiologic Tech (sign-on bonus)

**Dietary**  
Full and Part Time Dietary Aide/Cook  
(Wage starting at \$12.80/hr.)

**Environmental Services**  
Casual Housekeeper & Laundry Aide  
(Wage starting at \$12.80/hr.)

**Business Office**  
Casual Secretary/Receptionist

**TO APPLY:**  
[www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/](http://www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/)  
More Info? Contact Human Resources  
**218-666-6220**  
[humanresources@cookhospital.org](mailto:humanresources@cookhospital.org)

*The Cook Hospital & Care Center offers competitive pay and benefits including PERS retirement, Health and Dental coverage, Life and LTD.*

*Equal Opportunity Employer/Affirmative Action Employer*

# Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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### Super Crossword

Answers

H	E	B	R	E	W	A	L	A	B	A	M	A	H	E	P	C	A	T	
O	T	O	O	L	E	N	O	S	E	B	A	G	O	R	I	O	L	E	
D	A	Z	Z	L	E	R	A	T	H	B	O	N	E	N	I	T	R	I	C
S	L	O	A	L	E	Y	E	A	R	O	F	D	E	A	R	T	H		
			A	C	A	I	T	A	L	I	A	E	O	S					
J	A	M	E	S	D	O	N	N	E	D	Y	D	S	B	I	C			
A	T	O	N	E	N	O	S	T	R	A	F	O	R	T	E	S			
C	A	T	E	R	S	D	E	C	I	D	E	T	H	E	P	O	I	N	T
O	R	T	R	I	S	E	T	H	O	N	R	E	D	N	O	N	A		
B	I	O	D	A	T	A	T	R	I	E	R	H	O	N	E				
			I	T	S	F	O	R	T	H	E	D	E	B	T	O	R		
D	E	U	C	E	E	M	O	R	Y	A	R	R	E	A	R	S			
O	M	N	I	S	C	A	L	E	M	E	L	L	O	N	E	A			
F	I	R	E	I	N	O	N	E	S	D	E	L	I	D	M	A	J	O	R
F	R	E	S	C	O	S	O	N	O	M	A	A	G	O	R	A			
			S	T	U	P	O	E	C	U	P	I	D	S	D	O	U	G	H
I	C	E	A	B	U	T	S	E	T	O	N								
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# TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

## AUTOMOTIVE

**NAPA PARTS CENTER, INC.**  
45 E. Chapman Street  
ELY  
365-3132

**Langevin Auto & Truck Repair**  
Full Service Auto Repair & Garage  
Hours: 8 AM-5 PM M-F  
2 Miles South of Tower  
218-749-0751

## HAIR CARE

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

## HOSPICE

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

## FOR RENT

2 BR APARTMENT AVAIL. MARCH 1- Bay View Apartments in Orr. Call Dennis at 218-780-0200. tfn

## LICENSE BUREAU

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

## FOUND

LG CELL PHONE- found on Elbow Lake Forest Rd on Friday, March 6. Call 218-742-4356. 3/20nc

## DOG GROOMING

**Boundary Waters Dog Grooming**  
218-753-1228  
305 Birch St, Tower  
(behind Jeanne's Cards & Gifts)  
Owner Eileen Kronmiller  
Over 30 years experience!

## BUILDING SERVICES

**EAST DHU RIVER SAWMILL INC**  
"Put A Piece Of Northern Minnesota In Your Home"  
Superior Quality  
• Plank Paneling  
• Trim  
• One-Of-A-Kind Moldings  
• Industrial Lumber  
218-744-1788  
8825 Hwy 101, Iron, MN 55751

## WANTED

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

## SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

## HELP WANTED

SUMMER KITCHEN HELP WANTED- Now hiring cook/bakers/kitchen assistant and cleaners. Join our happy kitchen at Camp Voyageur on Farm Lake. We do from scratch cooking and baking. If you appreciate the outdoors, are a quick learner, an independent worker and enjoy working with youth, contact us at: cvspirit@campvoyageur.com or 218-235-1975. tfn

HELP WANTED- Seeking applicants for two Seasonal Part-Time Positions at McCarthy Beach State Park. For more information and to apply visit www.mn.gov/mmb/careers/. 3/20

## FUNERAL SERVICES

**Range Funeral Home**  
Virginia 741-1481  
Hibbing 263-3276  
"Friends Helping Friends"

2	8	4	9	6	3	7	5	1
5	9	7	8	2	1	6	3	4
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**Classifieds run in all 3 editions of the Timberjay.**  
Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum. Classified ads can be run a second time at half price (private parties only). We now accept payment by Visa, Mastercard and Discover. Call your ad in to 218-753-2950. Display (boxed) classifieds are billed by the "inch"- please call for prices and information on discounts. Call Today - 218-753-2950 or 218-365-3114

## MARINE

**SHAMROCK LANDING**  
Centrally Located On Lake Vermilion  
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Lease or Purchase Options  
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www.shamrocklanding.com

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• Boat launch, rental, store & repair  
• Cabins for a great, fun vacation  
See us at: www.grubens.com  
Call us at: 218.753.5000  
4296 Arrowhead Point Rd, Tower MN 55790

## SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

HIV/AIDS? For confidential compassionate local support call the Rural AIDS Action Network, toll-free 1-888-647-RAAN(7226).

CREDIT REPAIR SCAMS- "Credit problems? No problem!" No way. A poor credit history takes time to repair, no matter what anybody claims. The Federal Trade Commission says no company can remove accurate or timely information from your credit report. Learn more about managing credit and debt at ftc.gov/credit. A message from The Timberjay and the FTC.

**ARONSON BOAT WORKS**  
LAKE VERMILION, TOWER  
Located two miles southwest of Tower on Hwy. 169  
Winter Hours:  
Mon-Fri: 9 AM-5 PM  
Sat & Sun: By appointment  
Storage • Complete Service • Sales

**MOCCASIN POINT MARINE**  
4655 Moccasin Point Rd  
Lake Vermilion  
218-753-3319  
Storage, Boat Rental, Service/Repairs/Sales  
Mechanic on Duty  
moccasinpointmarine.com  
YAMAHA

**MARINE**  
Handberg's MARINA  
YAMAHA EVINRUDE  
218-993-2214  
Boats • Family • Fun!  
Marina Services  
Boat Sales & Repairs • Boat & Motor Rentals  
RV Sites • Marina Slips • Boat Storage  
Service Hours: M-Fri 8-5, Sat 8-4, Sun 9-3  
No Mechanics on Sunday  
Store  
Ice Cream Cones • Clothing & Gifts • Gas & Bait  
Store Open: 7 days a week 8 AM-7 PM

**TIMBUKTU MARINA**  
ON LAKE VERMILION  
218-666-2131  
7401 Oak Narrows Rd - Cook MN  
Cabin rentals  
Year round boat storage and dockage  
Boat and pontoon rental  
Convenience store  
Gas, bait & liquor  
timbuktumarina.com

**Read us online at timberjay.com**  
218-753-2950

## Super Crossword

- ACROSS**  
1 Bar mitzvah language  
7 Its capital is Montgomery  
14 Old jazz buff  
20 Henry II player Peter  
21 Horse feed supporter  
22 106-Down on Cal Ripken's cap  
23 Amaze a Sherlock Holmes portrayer?  
25 — acid (corrosive liquid)  
26 — -mo  
27 Brighton brew  
28 12-month famine?  
30 Trendy berry in juices  
33 Shire of film  
34 Goddess of the dawn  
35 Singer Brown got dressed?  
42 Gridiron gains: Abbr.  
43 Pen giant  
45 Make reparations  
46 Cosa — (Mafia's kin)  
48 Areas of expertise  
51 Provides party platters  
53 Determine which team scored?  
57 Supper scrap  
58 "Egypt — up like a flood": Jeremiah 46:8  
60 "NO TURN —" (traffic sign)  
61 Octa- plus one  
62 Relative of a résumé  
64 Judge on the bench, e.g.  
65 Bee creation  
66 Fact about a consolidation loan?  
71 Two-spot  
74 University in Atlanta  
75 In — (owing)  
79 Old science magazine  
80 Balance pan  
81 Pittsburgh's Carnegie — University  
84 Instructors' org.  
85 Sub-shop blaze?  
88 Relative key of B minor  
90 Michelangelo work  
91 California wine region  
93 Old Greek market  
94 Erwin of old films  
95 "The Tell-Tale Heart" tale teller  
98 Moola earned by a love god?  
100 Blocks from the freezer  
102 Is up against  
104 School in Berkshire  
105 Road named after singer Deanna?  
110 Seeded loaf  
112 — Alamitos, California  
115 Thinking the world of  
116 What to do to socks that tear every 24 hours?  
120 Appear  
121 Asinine  
122 Late actress Brennan  
123 Hot- — (drag racer)  
124 Turn from a straight line  
125 Say "no" to
- DOWN**  
1 Mortar trays  
2 List-ending abbr.  
3 TV clown  
4 "Frasier" woman  
5 Jazz singer Fitzgerald  
6 Li'l fellow  
7 Gasteyer of "Mean Girls"  
8 Truckload  
9 Deadly pale  
10 Newwirth of "Frasier"  
11 "If I Had —" (Lyle Lovett song)  
12 American avant-garde artist  
13 Antediluvian  
14 Toyota rival  
15 Iroquois foe  
16 Falafel bread  
17 Amendment  
18 Samuel of justice  
19 PC whizzes  
24 Intel mission  
29 Hi- — (stereos)  
31 Positive pole  
32 Atlas feature  
35 Son of Isaac  
36 Video game name  
37 Catchphrase  
38 Phenyl ender  
39 Saw-toothed  
40 Ingrain  
41 Soft & —  
43 Jazz genre  
44 Limonite, e.g.  
47 Worship  
48 Nursed, say  
49 Kin of -ess  
50 Don't depart  
52 Uses a stool  
54 Writer Blyton  
55 Grove plant  
56 Kind of tea  
59 — Field (Mariners' stadium)  
63 Most chancy  
64 "— will be done"  
65 Very irate  
67 Arabian Sea country  
68 Actor's part  
69 Long lock of hair  
70 Stomped  
71 Tip, as a hat  
72 Arab bigwig  
73 Frank and open  
76 Pear variety  
77 Corp. shuffling  
78 Mother of Isaac  
80 — -cone  
81 List of dishes  
82 Get hitched on the fly  
83 Maximum  
86 Post-OR area  
87 OR worker  
89 Before now  
92 Prettyfy  
95 "NerdTV" network  
96 Bested  
97 Online investing site  
99 Tom of "Tomorrow"  
100 Slacking sort  
101 Pataki's predecessor Mario  
102 Make furious William  
108 Organic compound  
109 Head, to Gigi  
111 Falco with four Emmys  
112 In — of (rather than)  
113 Jai-alai cries  
114 "Auld Lang —"  
117 Amp plug-in  
118 Masquerade  
119 Furry TV alien

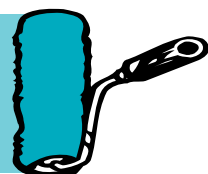
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The Timberjay classified ads reach readers of all three editions every week.  
Call 753-2950 to place yours now!





# HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



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Fax (218)365-6164  
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Office Manager/Closing Specialist

**VIRGINIA OFFICE**  
612 13 St S • Virginia MN 55792  
Phone (218)741-1515  
Fax (218)742-9383  
**Jodee Micheletti**  
Owner/Closing Specialist

**COOK OFFICE**  
P.O. Box 539 • Cook MN 55723  
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**Sharon Maronick**  
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[www.netitle.com](http://www.netitle.com)

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218-780-1124  
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ALL MATERIAL - ALL LABOR - ALL CONCRETE

**Deluxe Storage Building 32x40x10**  
EVERYTHING INCLUDED **\$29,900**  
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Tower: 218-753-8985

**RE/MAX Lake Country**  
218-757-3233  
[www.TheLakeCountry.com](http://www.TheLakeCountry.com)

Crane Lake-\$325,000 3 BR newer home with lower level family room and attached garage. MLS#136027

Orr-\$199,000 Cabin on your very own Pelican Lake island. MLS#137099

Lake Vermilion-\$119,000 900+ft of shoreline and 21.3 acres on Pine Island. MLS#137228

Long Lake-\$219,000 Remote lake cabin on 13+ acres with 700 ft of shoreline. MLS#137218

Biwabik-\$434,999 4 BR, 5 BA home near Giants Ridge with access to Wynne Lake. MLS#136331

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[INFO@BICREALTY.COM](mailto:INFO@BICREALTY.COM)  
[WWW.BICREALTY.COM](http://WWW.BICREALTY.COM)

**LAKE VERMILION** Wilderness setting on north side of Niles Bay/Lake Vermilion w/convenient mid-lake location making an ideal cabin retreat spot. Generous tree cover just off the big body of water. MLS# 139002 **NEW LISTING! \$68,000**

**LAKE VERMILION** 2.1 acre Pine Island homesite w/ 495 ft "actual" lksh. Approved for septic system, electric and phone nearby. Boat-access only. **\$167,200**

**ELBOW LAKE** Enjoy seclusion at this property w/approx. 770 ft of lksh, 6.9 acres and a cozy 2 BR cabin w/ generator, gas lights, appliances. 2 docks, 2 storage buildings and more. MLS #127227 **PRICE REDUCED! \$149,000**

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