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ELECTION 2018

Walz seeks northern support for state's top job

U.S. Rep. Tim Walz spoke in Cook Tuesday night on a campaign swing to northern Minnesota.

photo by M. Roach



Makes gubernatorial campaign stop in Cook

by MELISSA ROACH
Staff Writer

COOK — Minnesota's First District Congressman Tim Walz, fresh off the plane from Washington, D.C., traveled north to Cook Tuesday, hoping to garner support for his bid for governor.

He spoke to a packed

room at the Crescent Supper Club, with state Sen. Tom Bakk, Rep. Jason Metsa, and Rep. Rob Ecklund all in attendance.

The event was organized by the Northern Progressives group, which is attempting to host all the prospective gubernatorial candidates.

"After these past few

days, I couldn't wait to get here," said Walz. Representing a district that voted for President Trump, he argued that he is the only candidate who can bring the DFL together.

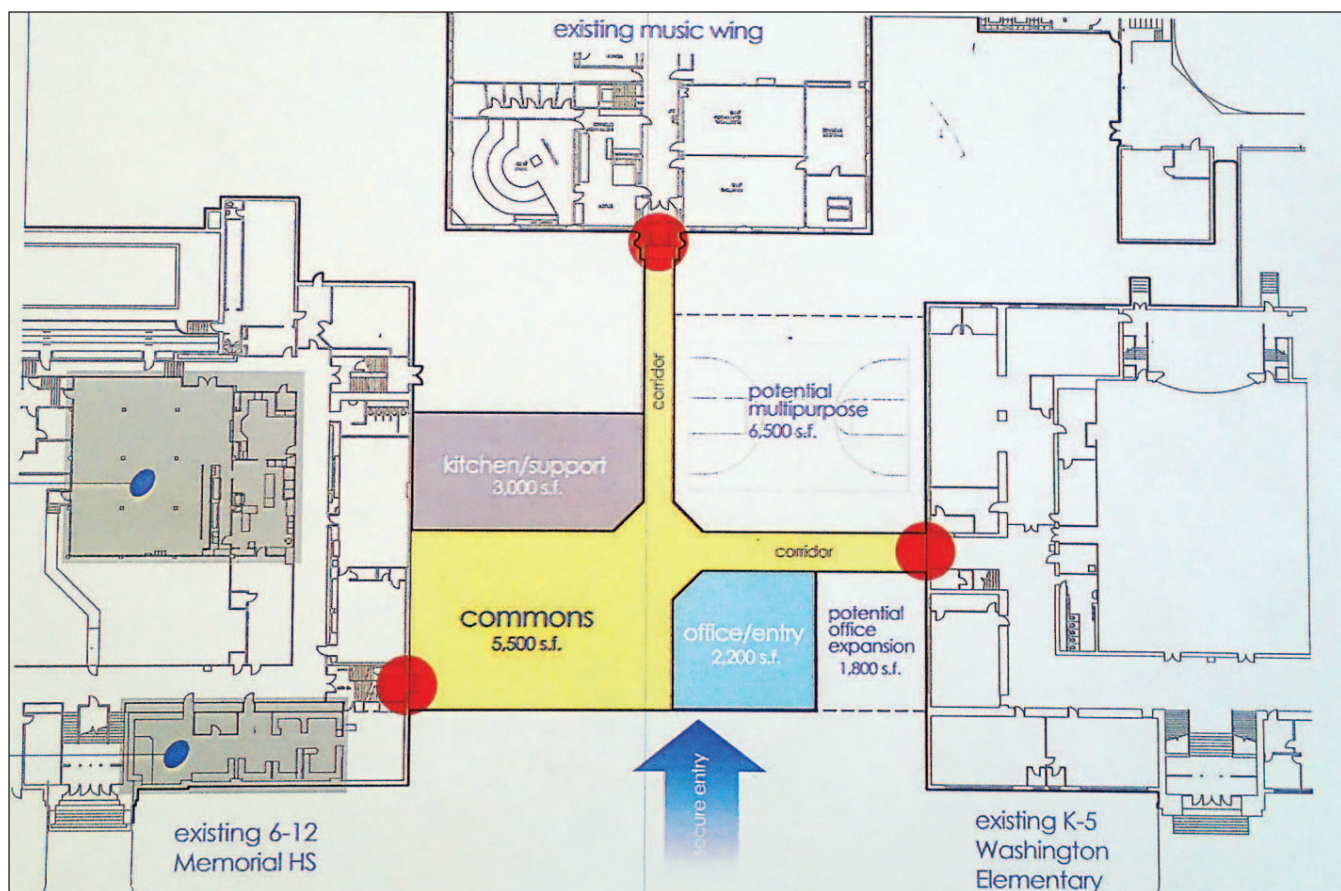
Walz wasted no time listing off his credentials as a six-term congressman, a ranking member on the Agriculture Committee and

the Veterans Affairs Committee, a 24-year veteran of the Army and National Guard, in addition to being a teacher. He spoke of his running mate Rep. Peggy Flanagan and her credentials as the former executive director of the Children's Defense Fund for

See...WALZ pg. 11

ELY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Under one roof



Connecting buildings, adding gym, under consideration

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — With the Regional Community Complex proposal off the table, the Ely School Board began a con-

versation this week about renovating and improving the campus courtyard and connecting the three school buildings.

For more than a year, the school board considered a

public-private recreational complex idea on the west side of campus that was abruptly rescinded late last month.

Superintendent Kevin Abrahamson presented a con-

ceptual drawing to board members showing a proposed shared student commons and secure entrance to use as a catalyst for discussion at a

See...ELY pg. 10

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Nylund named new Breitung police chief

by SCARLET STONE
Staff Writer

SUDAN — Dan Nylund is the new Breitung Police Chief. At Tuesday's meeting, the Breitung Town Board decided not to interview outside candidates, and instead promoted full-time officer Nylund into the chief spot on a permanent basis. Nylund has been serving as interim chief, after former chief Jesse Anderson recently took a job with the Minnesota State Patrol. Nylund has been working full-time for the department since 2014.



Dan Nylund

The Breitung Police Department provides services to both Tower and Breitung Township. The department has been operating with four part-time and two full-time officers.

Nylund lives in Sudan and has been active with community youth, teaching D.A.R.E. at the elementary school and a drug education program at the charter high school.

The board will be advertising to fill the open full-time position in the department. The position will be advertised on the Minnesota Agency post board and also on the Breitung Township website. The goal is to select three to five applicants to interview within the next two months.

See...BREITUNG pg. 12

POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

MPCA hears range of views on Minntac variance

U.S. Steel seeks relief from proposed new permit for tailings basin

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Officials from the state's Pollution Control Agency heard varied perspectives from an Iron Range audience that turned out Tuesday for a public hearing on the agency's

proposed denial of U.S. Steel's variance request for the Minntac tailings basin.

Members of the public spoke mostly in support of the agency's decision, or urged tougher action to clean up the longstanding pollution problems emanating from Minntac's 8,000-acre tailings basin.

Iron Rangers attended a public hearing Tuesday night to sound off about a variance request for the Minntac tailings basin. photo by M. HelMBERGER

Representatives of U.S. Steel and affiliated associations urged approval of the company's request, mostly citing the high cost of compliance.

But MPCA officials

argued that the variance was largely unnecessary because the company had already agreed to established timetables for compliance.

See.. MPCA pg. 10



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CITY OF TOWER

Council ousts Helmberger from TEDA board

Retaliatory action follows in the wake of critical news reporting and editorial comment on recent city actions

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— The city council here used its annual reorganization as a chance for apparent retaliation against *Timberjay* Publisher Marshall Helmberger over his recent news and editorial coverage critical of city actions.

Mayor Josh Carlson told the council that he wanted Helmberger removed from the Tower Economic Development Authority, for which he has served as president for the past year. Carlson had asked Helmberger and other members of the Tower-Soudan Community Development Corporation to

serve on TEDA one year ago, as part of a city effort to reinvigorate the authority, which had been inactive for years under city council control.

Helmberger remains president of the community development corporation which local business owners and residents formed two years ago out of frustration with the sluggish pace of city-led economic development efforts.

It had been a productive year for TEDA, which worked closely with Orlyn Kringstad's Tower Vision 2025 to facilitate the purchase and renovation of the former Standing Bear Marina. TEDA, with backing of the

IRRRB, had also advanced a proposal, now in the design phase, to build a 9,000 square-foot light industrial building in the city's business park to accommodate the expansion of Lamppa Manufacturing. TEDA also obtained a \$125,000 grant from the IRRRB to fund initial engineering and other development costs associated with Kringstad's town home project on the city's harbor and had begun talks to develop a U.S. franchise of a Norwegian glass printing company, known as Glami-tec, in Tower.

Carlson proposed to appoint Steve Peterson Jr. to the board in place of Helmberger.

Peterson currently serves on the Vermilion Lake Town Board and works for Northern Minnesota Consulting. He is the son of Steve Peterson Sr., who is also on the TEDA board.

"You spoke to Steve Peterson on that?" asked Councilor Lance Dougherty after Carlson stated his selection. "I have," responded Carlson. "And other people on the board, too?" Dougherty inquired. "Yes," said Carlson.

In fact, the news came as a surprise to the majority of the members of the TEDA board, who were never contacted by Carlson. The *Timberjay* emailed Carlson following the meeting to find out who on the board he

had contacted. Carlson did not respond as of presstime.

While Carlson never stated a reason for dismissing Helmberger, the move came in the wake of reporting by Helmberger on questionable city actions, including a decision to consume a significant portion of the community's remaining sewage treatment capacity by connecting the Hoodoo Point Campground, which is now likely to hamper prospects for economic development in Tower for at least the next few years. Helmberger has also urged the city to reconfigure a plan to shift

See COUNCIL...pg. 5

TOWER-BREITUNG WASTEWATER BOARD

Boosting wastewater capacity will take time

New MPCA rules and the need for more due diligence will likely delay funding application for at least a year

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER-SOUDAN— Expanding wastewater treatment capacity in Tower and

Soudan may be more complicated than initially thought, and that's likely to delay an application for funding for the project by at least a year.

The news came at the

most recent meeting of the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board as system manager Matt Tuchel gave a report on his recent discussion with Steve Weiss, effluent per-

mitting manager for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Tuchel said the rules have changed and that any increase in capacity could bring the wastewater district under

stricter regulations and monitoring requirements than in the past, including the potential for mercury testing and discharge limits. "We're going to be scrutinized, especially because it's Lake Vermilion," said Tuchel, referring to the destination of the system's treated wastewater.

He said Weiss first recommended that the wastewater board commission an MPCA study that will assess the system's needs, look at the amount of inflow and infiltration, and the impact of new emissions limits and how they might affect the requirements of any expansion. "We're going to have to justify it," he said.

Tuchel said the MPCA may require a cap on the system's phosphorus discharge, which could require the wastewater district to incorporate mechanical treatment into its operations. Tuchel said he had no idea how much that might cost, but added, "It would probably be millions."

The complexity of developing a plan for expanded capacity is almost certain to set the timeline back at least a year. The state's Public Facilities Authority, which provides funding for most community water and wastewater treatment systems in Minnesota, only accepts applications once a year, in early March.

Tuchel said there's no practical way to meet the 2018 deadline, given that the MPCA effluent study could take at least two months to complete. He

said the study, which costs \$1,550, isn't required, it does provide valuable information that can bolster an application and ensure a better project.

Capacity at issue

Discussion of the need for expansion of the Tower-Breitung wastewater system moved from the back to the front burner recently, after the city of Tower opted to connect the Hoodoo Point Campground to the system. While the impact of the campground sewer extension won't be known for sure until the end of next summer, the city's engineer estimates the additional flow at about 6,000 gallons per day. Based on that number, it would leave the system about 9,000 gallons per day of capacity before hitting the 146,000 gallons per day limit preferred by state regulators. While the system is actually designed for 172,000 gallons per day, the MPCA generally limits wastewater treatment systems to 85 percent of their design capacity to curb violations of discharge standards.

With new development proposed for Tower, including town homes, a hotel, a new RV park, and additional housing and commercial development in future phases, the system's remaining capacity won't be adequate to meet the need. The first phase of harbor town homes is expected to consume 4,800 gallons of the remaining 9,000 gallons

See CAPACITY...pg. 5

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Saturday, February 3	
7:30 am-11:00 am	Kropsu Breakfast
9:00 am-4:00 pm	Girls' and Boys' Pony League Basketball Games
9:00 am-4:00 pm	Old Co-op Theatre Strolling Musicians Artisans & Demonstrators in Laskiainen Tradition
	Tori (Marketplace)
	Bakery (Finnish breads)
	Museum
	Fry Bread Booth
10:00 am-4:00 pm	Sleigh/Carriage Rides (Free)
12:00-4:00 pm	Mojikka (beef stew) or Sloppy Joes or Taco in a bag
6:00 pm	"Old Timers" Basketball Game
7:30 pm	Laskiainen Lakers Basketball Game
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Sunday, February 4	
7:30 am-9:30 am	Piggies & Pancake Breakfast (Pancakes, sausage, juice & coffee)
9:00 am-10:00 am	Ecumenical Church Service
9:00 am-4:00 pm	"Suomi 100" Reflections Strolling Musicians
	Artisans & Demonstrators In Laskiainen Tradition
	Tori (Marketplace)
	Bakery (Finnish breads)
	Museum
	Fry Bread Booth
10:00 am-4:00 pm	Sleigh/Carriage Rides (Free)
11:00 am-4:00 pm	Pea Soup Dinner
1:15 pm	Introduction of the Royal Court
1:30 pm	"The Eelpout Stringers"

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PREJUDICE

Pro-KKK fliers found across the region

North Carolina-based group behind the incident; city of Virginia takes strong stand in opposition

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — An unknown number of residents from Ely to Virginia and other communities on the east end of the Iron Range found racist literature, distributed by a group calling itself the Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, placed near their mailboxes or doorsteps on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The literature appears to have been an effort to recruit new members, and referred people to a website and urged them to call two different phone numbers, one based in North Carolina, the other located in or around Richmond, Virginia.

The North Carolina number reached only a recorded message that repeatedly referred to the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. as “Martin Luther Coon” and advocated that the country should celebrate Confederate general

Robert E. Lee instead of King.

The bags were distributed across a wide area, including the communities of Ely, Tower, Embarrass, Virginia, and Britt, although it’s not clear how many residences were actually targeted. Law enforcement officials received scattered reports of the literature, although it’s not clear whether the literature drop violated any laws. St. Louis County Sheriff Ross Litman said the only report he had came from Ely and that the matter is not something he plans to investigate.

While whoever distributed the literature might have intended to attract new members for the KKK, it appears they succeeded mostly in angering those who received the material.

“We’ve never had to deal with stuff like this,” said an Embarrass resident, who asked that her name not be used. She had found the literature inside a sandwich-sized plastic bag placed

in the snow near the base of a set of mailboxes for her family and neighbors along Wahlsten Road. The bag had small blue rocks inside, most likely to keep the bag from blowing away. She said her husband, who is Native American, found a second baggie near the mailboxes the following day. The literature described Rev. King as a communist and a sexual pervert, repeating unsubstantiated smears that have circulated in white supremacist circles for years. A second piece of literature encouraged whites to celebrate their white heritage.

“This isn’t something I see any good coming from,” the Wahlsten Road resident added. “We’re very Christian people and I don’t like anything like that said about anybody, no matter what race or religion they might belong to.”

City officials in Virginia have also reacted to the literature showing up in their community. The city’s Human Rights



These fliers were placed inside a plastic bag weighted down with small rocks and were apparently randomly distributed in communities and rural areas across the region. photo by M. HelMBERGER

Commission held a meeting on Monday to draft a statement expressing the city’s displeasure with the action.

“It’s just intolerable,” said

Virginia Mayor Larry Cuffe. “This is nothing but hatred, and it spews disrespect. It’s just

See **KKK...pg. 5**

THE LEGISLATURE

Bakk: Bonding plan light on Arrowhead projects

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — State Sen. Tom Bakk, DFL-Cook, said he likes Gov. Mark Dayton’s bonding bill for its focus on addressing the state’s growing backlog of deferred maintenance. At the same time, he said, the package is light on funding for the Arrowhead, and is unlikely

to ultimately be as large as the \$1.5 billion package that the governor released last week.

“I’d expect something in the range of a billion dollars,” said Bakk. The Legislature is expected to focus primarily on the state’s capital investment needs when it convenes on Feb. 20.

Bakk noted that Dayton’s bill is more of a meat and potatoes proposal. “It’s not very sexy,”

Bakk said. “He’s spending a lot of money on deferred maintenance in the university system and on wastewater infrastructure.” While Bakk said that legislators often prefer to invest in new buildings, which draw bigger headlines, he said the need to address maintenance of existing facilities is enormous. “I hope we can hang on to a significant portion of the bill for that reason,”

he said.

But even as Republican legislators are likely to lop significant projects off of the governor’s proposal, Bakk is hoping to bring more dollars back home. “I had a number of projects on the North Shore that aren’t in the governor’s proposal,” said Bakk. “And there’s nothing for Lake Vermilion park. We need about \$14 million there for camper

cabins.”

Actually, the \$14 million is the amount the DNR is currently seeking for planning and design for a new lake lodge for the park, as well as planning for a second park campground and related infrastructure. The request also includes installation of a solar array for the production of electricity.

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OPINION

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e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Ely Airport

USFS should maintain stationing of air tankers at a critical facility

The U.S. Forest Service has an obligation to maintain effective wildland firefighting capability in northeastern Minnesota. The region is home to the 2.1 million-acre Superior National Forest, the largest national forest in the U.S., east of the Rockies.

It's also one of the most fire-prone regions outside the West. Located on the southern edge of the boreal forest, it's subject to an often-intense spring fire season and has increasingly experienced severe fire conditions in late summer and fall. With shallow soils, the region is prone to flash droughts that can quickly ramp up fire danger, as we experienced most recently with the Pagami Creek fire, which burned nearly 100,000 acres in September 2011. With climate change portending continued warming and increasingly erratic weather patterns, the prospect for catastrophic fire in this region is almost certain to increase in the years ahead.

That's why the prospect that the Forest Service may discontinue the stationing of large air tankers at the Ely Airport is such a concern. At this point, we only know for certain that the Forest Service is undertaking a review of its aerial firefighting resources. Yet an internal Forest Service email obtained by the *Timberjay* suggests that a decision has already been made at the regional and national levels within the agency to discontinue stationing of large tankers at both Ely and Hibbing.

This would be a stunning decision, one that Kawishiwi District Ranger Gus Smith described as “horrible, if true.”

That's because Smith recognizes the key strategic importance of the Ely Airport, which is located in the heart of the Superior National Forest and just outside the particularly fire-prone Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Without the ability to station large aircraft at either Hibbing

or Ely, air tankers would need to come from Brainerd or Bemidji. These facilities are located too far away to provide for effective fire control.

The importance of the Ely Airport as a base of operations is well understood within the Forest Service. That's one of the reasons that the airport has received millions of dollars in state and federal funding in recent years—specifically to upgrade the facility to meet the needs of large air tankers. For the Trump administration to now reverse course on the use of the Ely Airport would effectively flush that prior public investment and leave the region increasingly vulnerable to catastrophic fire.

It's well known within the fire service that a quick response by large tankers can be incredibly effective in bringing wildland fires under control, with the ability to deploy large volumes of fire retardant with computer precision. They are deployed most often to protect the flanks of advancing fires, and in many cases, can even halt the advance of fires in their early stages. But such aircraft can only be effective when they are staged near enough to the action to ensure a prompt turnaround. When it comes to catastrophic fire, Ely's airport is the operational base of choice for some of the most inaccessible and fire-prone territory east of the Rockies. Indeed, three of the largest wildland fires in the eastern U.S. in recent memory have occurred in the region in just the past dozen years, and the Ely Airport was key to the fight in every case.

For the millions of acres of forest in northern St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties, the Ely Airport is mission critical and any decision to terminate the use of the facility by large tankers would be nothing short of reckless. Any sensible federal review would reach the same conclusion.



Letters from Readers

DFL voters have a choice in the 8th

After reading this week's newsletter from Congressman Rick Nolan, I am struck by its “hyper-politicking” tone. It feels like a message from a candidate who is “on the run”. The November 2018 elections are not far away and with February caucuses right around the corner, his panic might be amping up, as I suppose it should be!

For the first time in my nearly four decades of voting in Minnesota's Eighth District, the DFL incumbent has a challenger from his own party. This year, his constituents can hold him truly accountable for recent actions on critical issues. This year, we have a choice. His challenger is Leah Phifer, an intelligent, passionate woman with the experience and credentials to successfully represent us in the House of Representatives.

People of the Eighth District are concerned about our national security (we are an international border state), environmental protections (we are surrounded by vast amounts of fresh water), the economy, and justice. Phifer's education and ten years of national service with the Department of Homeland Security have equipped her with the knowledge and background needed to address these and other important topics. She spent 80 days last summer touring the Eighth District, talking with people to get a firm grasp on their opinions and priorities. She understands the concerns we share in common and also what divides us. Her genuine interest and respect for our varied viewpoints is not only refreshing, but fosters greater trust in her leadership style. She also clearly understands how party divisions may pose a real threat to our DFL-held seat in the Congress. A central goal of her campaign is to unite DFLers and hold onto that seat!

In Nolan's last bid for

Congress, he won by a mere half a percentage point, not much of a margin considering the qualifications, or lack thereof, of the previous Republican contender. This year it will be different. It looks like Nolan will be facing a far more formidable opponent. And, we can't ignore the impact of Nolan's co-sponsorship of Republican bills that have weakened protections for our national parks, forests, and water resources. His support for these bills have left a lot of his constituents so upset and disenfranchised with him that many are likely to cast protest votes for Independent and Green Party candidates, or worse, refrain from voting altogether. That would surely whittle away even more of that tiny margin. I ask you to consider the horror we Democrats will experience if the Eighth District goes to a Republican this November.

This is why we need to show up at our precinct caucuses on Feb. 6. I once heard someone say, “If you don't like the news, go out and make a little of your own.” Here's our big chance! Historically, only five percent of registered voters show up for caucuses. A statistic like this makes it very clear how important each and every individual vote can be!

Leah Phifer may be a new face, but I am confident she's the best candidate to represent the Eighth District in Congress. She can unite us, reignite us, and win in November 2018. But only if we show up! Help Leah Phifer keep moving forward on the road to Washington, D.C. It begins with our support on Feb. 6. (For Cook, Orr and surrounding townships, caucuses meet at the North Woods School beginning at 6:30 p.m. Go to www.PhiferforCongress.com to learn more.) It's time we make some news!

**Kathleen McQuillan
Cook**

An open letter to Jeff Bezos

Dear Mr. Bezos,

So, Amazon has narrowed the list of cities competing for your second headquarters, and I see that Ely, Minnesota did not make the cut. Did you even read my proposal? At first I thought we might have suffered this rejection because we are practically in Canada — but TORONTO is on the list of twenty finalists! How is building in Canada going to help our nation's economy (or do you put profits ahead of patriotism)?

I don't fault you for not taking my proposal seriously, but an acknowledgement that you received it would have been nice!

Actually, the one guy who apparently took my tongue-in-cheek proposal seriously is a former Elyite, a retired doctor. He pointed out in a recent letter to the editor that, in this small rural community, there is not nearly enough housing for all the thousands of Amazon employees. Exactly my satirical point! You see, Mr. Bezos, the Ely City Council desperately wants the boom-and-bust mining industry to dig up our forest for copper and nickel (a type of mining that will put our pristine waters at serious risk). Why do they want this? Because of the

See **LETTER...page 5**

Editor's Note: It was brought to our attention this week that our description of inter-hospital transfers as akin to a taxi service in last week's editorial, was inappropriate. We highly respect the work of all emergency responders and did not mean to diminish, in any way, the work that they do.



I'm out herding cattle on the north range

I feel I can honestly say that creativity and madness are linked. I just know it is true...because I've lived it and am not afraid to say I'm both creative and exhibit measured levels of madness! There are millions of articles about this topic, but it's dry material to read, let alone to remember, and doesn't matter anyway because I'll still be carrying on with writing, painting, gardening, cooking and costumes on the pine-covered hillside in Soudan.



**SCARLET LYNN
STONE**

or so, had the opportunity to develop our imaginations at great length beginning when we were small children. I'm grateful my dad monopolized the one RCA Victor black and white television we had in the house I grew up in back in Hoyt Lakes. Needing something to occupy us, we'd retreat to our bedrooms or to the basement to play. My younger brother, Kurt, and I enjoyed Western movies and TV shows so we brought them into our

basement playtime. By combining our Lionel train set with clever ranch houses

made of Legos and using marbles for the characters, we recreated John Wayne stories like the classic “McLintock.” The smaller marbles were the women and children and the big marbles were used for characters like “The Duke” (John Wayne)! We passed many cold winter Saturdays merging our creative minds like this.

In the more temperate months, we took our love of Westerns outside. While bike riding one day, we made a discovery. Just north of our house, on the road that led past the cemetery, we came across an area in the woods that we decided we'd use for our imaginary “Big Valley” house. Perhaps you remember that show from the 1960's. The wooded area had smaller trees with natural

clearings that we used for the parlor and ballroom. On a hillside was a rock formation that became the Barkleys' wide staircase leading to the second floor. For this larger cast we added a few neighbor kids into the mix. I always played the part of Nick Barkley. I liked his shiny black hair, leather vest and quick temper. The female characters wore those tight dresses in gaudy colors and didn't interest me. They didn't share in the camaraderie that the Barkley brothers had. Over the hill from this location and across the paved road was the cemetery, but to us it became the sweeping vastness of

See **CATTLE...pg. 5**

TOWER-SOUDAN-LAKE VERMILION EVENTS



fun on ice

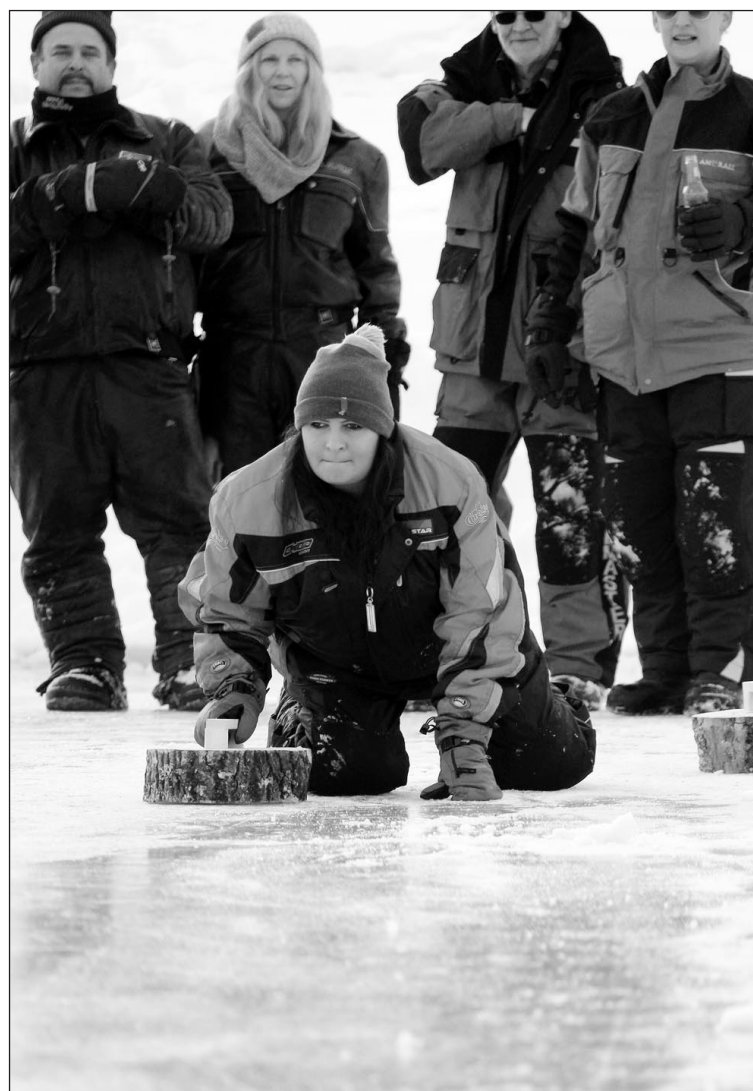
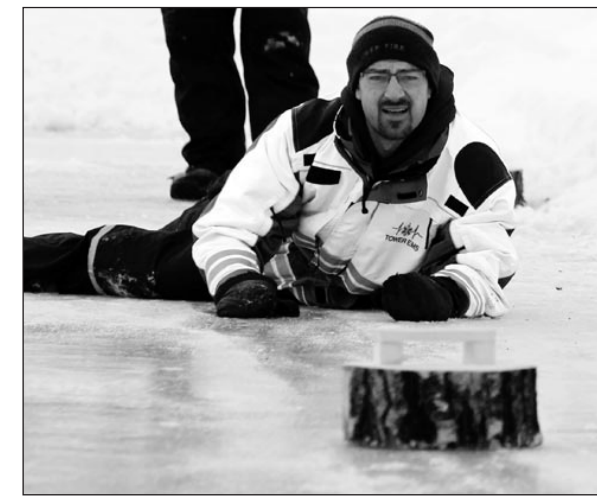
TOWER- Finnlander bocce ball. It's like bocce ball, but on ice, using flat-bottomed wooden disks with handles. There is not nearly the precision seen in curling, another ice sport that involves pushing things down on a slippery lane. And it is not nearly as elegant as regular bocce ball, played on sand or grass courts. Players need to push the disks, which involves a combination of a bowling stance that turns into a belly flop. And since the Tower Fire Department did such an exceptional job icing down the four plowed lanes on the Tower Harbor, there were actually a lot of unintentional belly (and back-side) flops throughout the day.

The Tower-Soudan-Lake Vermilion Events Board's first annual Finnlander Bocce Ball event attracted 15 teams of four players each. Play started at 9 a.m. and continued well into the afternoon, with cash prizes for the top four teams. Food and drinks were provided on site by Good Ol' Days.

Winning teams

Josh and Nikki Carlson, Justin Semke, and Kay Collier took the grand prize of \$225. In second place for \$175 were Aaron and Stef Gornick and Josh and Jenny Nevala. Walter Bristol, Mickey Ferguson, Holly Bristol Novak, and Scott Phillips took third place for \$125. Lance and Annie Dougherty, and Lee and Steph Carlson took fourth for \$75.

The Events Board would like to thank everyone who came out to play and watch the games. The day was a success. They also wish to thank those teams that donated their winnings back to the events board, to be used to help fund future events!



Pictured (clockwise from top) taking their turn on the ice: Cindy Precht, Johnny Eloranta, Shannon Kelly, Josh Carlson. Event board members Amber Zak and Julie Johnson. photos by J. Summit

Cook VFW

Open Daily at Noon
CLOSED on TUESDAYS

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

Event Rentals
Welcome
218-780-6709

Pull-Tabs Sold Daily
Lic. 00390

Sunday FREE Pool

Thursday Bingo
Early Bird 6 p.m.
Progressive Prizes

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

Take-Out 666-0500

Tower-Soudan Athletic Association reports on annual giving

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Athletic Association held their annual meeting on Thursday, Jan. 18 at the Vermilion Country School. The non-profit group raises funds for athletics and activities for Vermilion Country School and Tower-Soudan Elementary, as well as for summer youth baseball programs. The group hosts one fundraiser each

year, the TSAA Fall Auction. This year's auction once again met its fundraising goal of approximately \$4,000.

In 2017, TSAA donated a total of \$4,950, including \$2,640 for athletics and activities at Vermilion Country School, \$1,218 for youth baseball, \$292 for Tower-Soudan Elementary programs, plus helped fund the VCS Community Carnival last August.

Tower Soudan Athletic Association, a non-profit organization, is organized to support and assist in any way the athletic and/or art

programs in the Vermilion Country Charter School and Tower-Soudan Elementary School.

The 2018 officers are Marshall Helmlinger, president; Joan Dostert, vice-president; and Jodi Summit, treasurer. Anyone wishing to learn more about the group, or to request funding, can contact Jodi Summit at vcs.charter@gmail.com.

Friends of VCS reports on a successful year

TOWER- Friends of Vermilion Country School held their annual meeting on Thursday, Jan. 18 at the Vermilion Country School. The group is a booster club for the school, and all money raised goes to support school activities and other needs that are not funded through the regular budget.

School activities supported in 2017 included VCS yearbook, BW Choral Festival, purchase of art

and other project supplies, NLAA play trip, environmental education/greenhouse construction, graduation expenses, field trips, mileage for volunteer math tutor, student council expenses, advertising for carnival/open house, computer/server equipment, assorted expenses reimbursed for teachers for materials/supplies, and matching funds for the student council's holiday gifts for staff.

The 2018 officers are Muriel Scott, president; and Jodi Summit, treasurer.

ST. MARTIN'S



“Souper Bowl” fundraiser at St. Martin’s

Stop by for booya on Sunday, Feb. 4 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

TOWER- Are you ready for the “Souper Bowl”? The St. Martin’s Catholic Youth Group will again be preparing a Booya Dinner for “Souper Bowl” Sunday, on Feb. 4, from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.; carry outs are available. For the past 14 years, the youth have been donat-

ing the ingredients, preparing the booya and desserts, and accepting freewill donations for the Tower Soudan Food Shelf. The “Souper Bowl of Caring” is a nationwide ecumenical movement that embodies Jesus’ teaching to “love thy neighbor.”

Please support the youth and bring a healthy appetite on Sunday, Feb. 4, at St. Martin’s Catholic Church. All proceeds go towards the Tower Soudan Food Shelf.

NORTHEAST RANGE



NER students attend Honor Band workshop

DULUTH- Four Northeast Range students were chosen to attend an all-day Honors Band workshop and concert on Monday, Jan. 15 at the College of St. Scholastica. Students from 17 different high schools played with members of the St. Scholastica Concert Band under the direction of Dr. Michael Buck. Pictured in the front row from Northeast Range are (from left) Jimmy Zupancich, Anne Barich, Ethan Zaitz, and Marshall Backe. Back row is Dr. Buck and St. Scholastica student and band member Brandon Mackai. Brandon is a 2017 graduate of Northeast Range.

Senior Bingo in Tower Monday, Feb. 5

TOWER- Senior Bingo will be held in Tower on Monday, Feb. 5 at the Tower Civic Center from 11:45 a.m. – 3 p.m. There is a \$10 charge for the bingo party, which includes lunch. All ages are welcome to attend this community event. Lunch is served starting at 11:45 a.m., and bingo begins at 12:45 p.m.

Bingo is cancelled if school is closed due to winter weather. Call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950 with any questions.

Skie Chavez named to Fond du Lac TCC Dean’s List

REGIONAL- Skie Chavez, of Tower, has been named to the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College Fall Semester 2017 Dean’s List.

Requirements for earning Dean’s List honors at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College include maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or higher while completing 12 or more course credits during the semester.

Chimpy Skating Parties on Jan. 27 and 28

SOUDAN- Everyone is invited to Chimpy’s Skating Parties on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 27-28 from 12 noon to 3 p.m. There will be food and fun. Loaner skates are available. Boot skaters welcome. This week’s

party is sponsored by Vermilion Park Inn and the Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board.

Mardi Gras at St. Martin’s Church on Feb. 9

TOWER- Can’t make it to Mardi Gras in New Orleans this year? Let’s try Plan B— come to the Mardi Gras celebration on Friday, Feb. 9 at St. Martin’s.

Fun for the whole family begins at 5:30 p.m. and goes until 8:30. It’s an open house-style event— come when you want and stay as long as you want.

There will be lots of food (and yes we will be serving some traditional Mardi Gras foods), cash bar for adult beverages, games for the kids, piñata breaking at 7 p.m., and a Mardi Gras photo booth.

The cost is a freewill offering. Hope you’ll join us—let’s feast together before the start of Lent.

Grief support group in Tower starts in February

TOWER- Experiencing the death of a loved one can be a very difficult experience. Learning about the grief process and having support from others can help a great deal. Please consider reserving your spot to participate in this new monthly grief support group in Tower. The group is open to anyone in our area who has experienced the death of a loved one.

The Monthly Grief Education and Support Group meets from 2 –

4 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month, beginning Feb. 1 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 304 Spruce St. There is no cost for this group

The group will be led by Catherine Burt, East Range Hospice Family Grief Support staff. Please call to register , 1-877-851-2213 or 218-749-7975. The group is being sponsored by Essentia Health St. Mary’s East Range Hospice.

Vermilion Lake Township Board of Audit

VERMILION LAKETWP- The Vermilion Lake Town Board will conduct their annual audit of books of the treasurer and clerk during their regular monthly meeting on Monday, Feb. 5 at 5 p.m. at the Vermilion Lake Town Hall.

Shrove Tuesday pancake meal at St. James on Feb. 13

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower is hosting their annual Shrove Tuesday pancake meal on Tuesday, Feb. 13 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. There will be pancakes, sausages, fruit and drink. Cost is by donations. All proceeds will be used to fund the free Vacation Bible School, set for July 9-13.

Any questions, call 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 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 p.m. on days when the charter school is open. Call the school at 218-753-1246 ext. 1003 for reservations, or call AEOA at 1-800-662-5711 ext. 7323 for the one-time registration process.

Week of Jan. 29

- Monday- Grilled Cheese, Tomato Soup
- Tuesday- Chicken Chop Suey over Brown Rice, Chow Mein Noodles
- Wednesday- Hamburger Gravy over Mashed Potatoes, Dinner Roll, Green Beans
- Thursday- Lasagna, Dinner Roll
- Friday- Pigs in a Blanket, Baked Beans.

Week of Jan. 29

- 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 Feb. 20.

Greenwood Fire Dept.- Meetings on the first (drill) and third (business meeting) Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.
- Wednesday**
Tower AA- Open Basics- 7 p.m. at St. James Presbyterian Church. Questions, call 753-2332.
- Thursday**
Vermilion Country School Board- Fourth Thursday (except near holidays). Meetings posted online at vermilioncountry.org. Next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 22 at 5 p.m. (third Thursday).
- AA Meeting- Lake Vermilion 12x12 (Open).** 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower, use the rear side door entrance.



Read the news from all three Timberjay editions each week

www.timberjay.com

Timberjay subscribers get free access to the online e-edition

the **TIMBERJAY**

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Publisher General Manager Staff Writers Ely Editor Office Manager Graphics/Ad Sales/ Staff Writer Ad Sales/Sports	Marshall Helmlinger Jodi Summit Melissa Roach Stephanie Ukkola Keith Vandervort M. M. White Scarlet Lynn Stone Jay Greeney
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Transfer station

Soudan Canister	Hwy. 77 Canister
<i>Expanded hours year-round</i>	<i>Winter hours now in effect</i>
Monday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Thursday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Wed. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Sunday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	
Sunday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Recycling canisters available daily at the Greenwood Town Hall. For info: 1-800-450-9278
For info: 1-800-450-9278	

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, Jan. 31; Feb. 21; March 14	
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

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Concert features 'fun for the family'

ELY - A "Fun for the Family" Mesabi Symphony concert will be held the second weekend in February in conjunction with the International Wolf Center.

The 2:30 p.m. matinee concerts will be on Saturday, Feb. 10 in Ely's Washington Auditorium, and on Sunday, Feb. 11 in Virginia's Goodman Auditorium.

Only 500 kids (18 and under) will be admitted for free, so get there early. Students can get tickets from their music teachers. Tickets can also be downloaded at www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org.

Conductor Ben Nilles,



Conductor Ben Nilles will participate in the "Fun for the Family" concert in Ely on Feb. 10. submitted photo

and musicians from the orchestra have visited numerous music class-

rooms from Ely to Cherry to introduce children, up close and personal, to orchestral music and the people who play it.

Sergey Prokofiev's beloved "Peter and the Wolf" is at the center of things. Ely's jack-of-all-artistic-trades Peter Kess will narrate, act and generally carry on. Prokofiev was pretty political with his portrayal of all the characters, including the wolf as bad guy. But in fact, the wolf is just hungry. In the interest of fairness (and fun), the International Wolf Center will provide objective, accurate information out in the lobby. They'll have artifacts like pelts

and bones and antlers that you can actually touch, and discount admission tickets to the IWC.

Benjamin Britten's "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra," which he wrote in 1945, will accompany a short movie.

In addition, the Sleeping Beauty Waltz, one of Tchaikovsky's masterpieces, will have imaginations twirling and swooping around the hall, carried on his gorgeous melodies. Rounding out the program is Otto Nicolai's greatest hit, the overture to his opera, "The Merry Wives of Windsor." He based it on a lightly-esteemed Shakespeare

play, and neither one is performed very often. Happily, this overture describes Italian comic opera in ten delightfully energetic minutes.

This concert is made possible in part by a grant from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust.

Additional funding for this concert is provided by Minnesota Power. Free student tickets are made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature's general and arts and cultural heritage funds.

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, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St.

WOMEN'S AA - Noon

Mondays, Ledgerock Community Church, Ely - use 15th Street entrance

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 AREA FOOD SHELF - third

Wednesday each month. 15 W. Conan St.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

GED Study materials and pre-test available. Ely Community Center Thursday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tower by appointment.

Call 365-3359, 827-3232, or 1-800-662-5711.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT

GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living

Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital

Conference Room B

Skinny/Fat Relay is Feb. 10

ELY - Grab your "skinny skis" and your "fat bike" and come out to Hidden Valley in on Saturday, Feb. 10 for the inaugural Skinny/Fat Relay.

The event features a 10K freestyle ski and a 10K fat bike ride (solo both or relay with a partner). We'll try to set up solo relay athletes with partners if possible on race day. If you just want to fat bike and need a ski partner, we'll try to group folks up.

Same-day registration runs from 8-9:30 a.m. There is a \$20 entry fee per person on race day at Hidden Valley.

There's also a "Tour de Valley" ski race on Sunday, Feb. 11.

KINDERGARTEN SKI PARTY



Megan Devine's Kindergarten students at Ely Elementary School recently enjoyed using the school's new Nordic Rocks skis. Retired teacher Susan Ferguson was on hand, volunteering to help. submitted photos



WINTER FISHING



Steve Foss of Ely took a day off from guiding to put a couple of lake trout from Burntside Lake on the table. submitted photo



the TIMBERJAY

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In Brief

Ely Free Clinic open Mondays

ELY - The Ely Community Health Center is Ely's Free Clinic. They are open every Monday evening from 5:30-7 p.m. in the lower level of the Frandsen Bank building on 1st Ave. in downtown Ely.

They are available to see anyone who does not have health insurance. They are also available for anyone who has health insurance but has unaffordable co-pays or deductibles (underinsured).

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

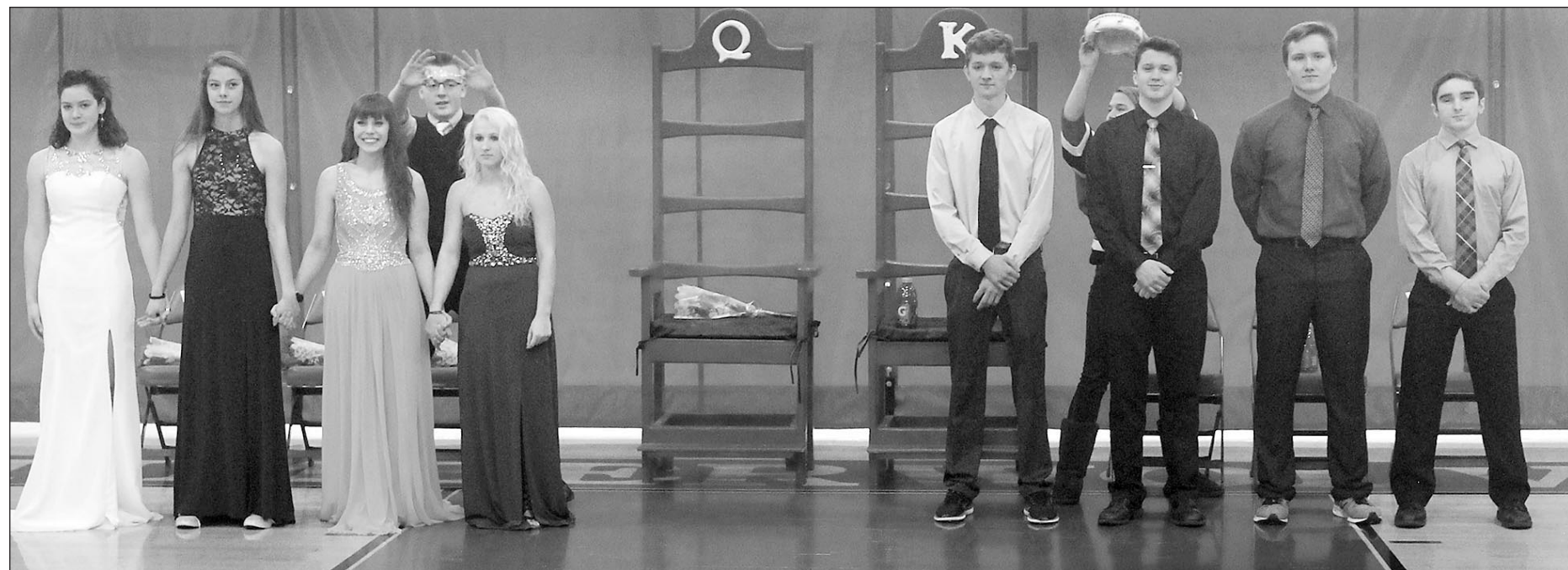
Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2018

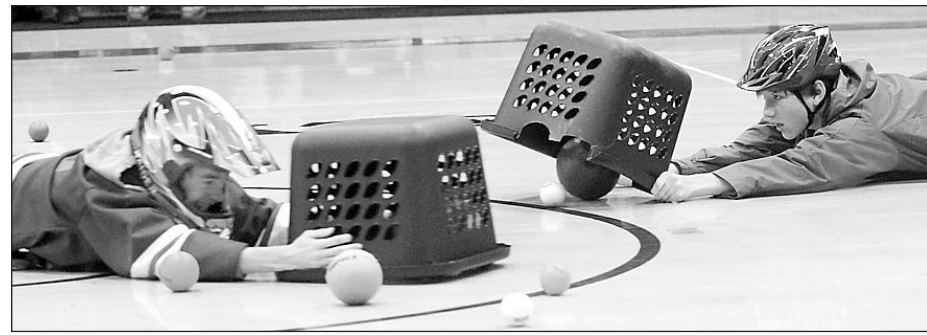


rainbow on a line comes flopping from a dark hole worth the quiet wait

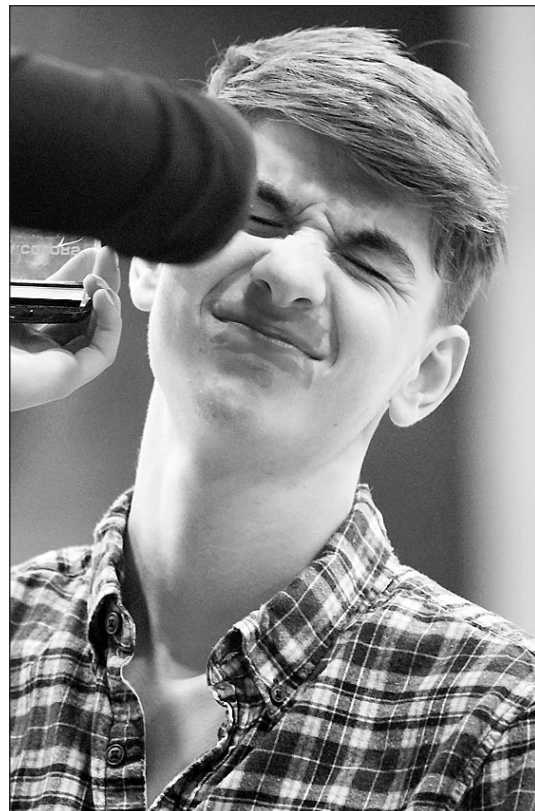
ELY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL WINTER FROLIC



The 2018 Ely Memorial High School Winter Frolic court, above, includes, from left, Laura Pasmick, Emma Terwilliger, Emma Larson, Kelley Fischer, Austin Kallberg, Adam McDonald, Dylan Kienitz and Thomas Montana. The king and queen, right, crowned by the Homecoming royalty, are Fischer and Montana. photos by K. Vandervort



During a Winter Frolic Pep Rally Tuesday morning, students participated in various feats of skill, including Human Hungry Hippo, above, and stilts races, below left. Sophomore James Schwinghamer, below right, grimaced his way through a blindfolded make-up competition.



High school band members, above, put the pep in the Pep Rally. Members of the freshman class, below, struggled through the Tug of War competition, beating the seniors in the first round.



News Briefs

No opposition for Morse, Fall Lake incumbents

REGIONAL — Residents in Fall Lake and Morse townships around Ely will have a quiet election day on Tuesday, March 13, because the two supervisors up for re-election are running unopposed.

Terry Soderberg of Morse Township, and Mary Tome of Fall Lake Township, both filed their re-election papers last week and are the only candidates on their respective ballots.

The townships will also hold their annual meetings on election day, after the polls close, to set their property tax levy and to decide on any other issues that may be on the agenda.

In Stony River Township, three people are running unopposed, including Clerk Patricia Thoms, and Supervisors Chad Shober and Ryan Breden. No candidate filed to run for township treasurer.

Tuesday Group

ELY - The upcoming Tuesday Group schedule (subject to change) is listed below. All talks are at 12 noon on Tuesday at Grand Ely Lodge, unless noted.

Jan. 30 - Meet new Elyites

Feb. 6 - Russ Vanderboom - Author of "The Good Guy List"

Yesterday's news, this week

from the archives of

THE ELY MINER

Courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society

January 25, 1918

Mayor's resignation not accepted

A special meeting of the city council was held Saturday night to act on the resignation of Mayor Geo. L. Brozich. The full council was present and many citizens were also at the meeting.

Geo. T. Ayers, on behalf of the business men of Ely, made an address in which he brought forth the excellent manner in which Mayor Brozich conducted the affairs of the city on behalf of those citizens who had signed a petition asking the mayor to reconsider.

Mr. Brozich stated to those present his inability to handle the affairs of the mayor's office owing to press of other business. He also brought up the fact that he had been censured by certain elements in the city on account of his loyalty to the United States and that he was continually being bothered at his place of business by people having grievances against the city council and the government of the city.

Council members spoke in behalf of Mr. Brozich reconsidering the step he had taken and after a motion passed unanimously laid the resignation on the table in the hopes that he would recall the same.

The newspaper and many citizens of Ely hope the mayor will reconsider and remain in office to serve out the term to which he was elected. We know that there is much worry and work connected with the office. It seems that everyone with a grievance, instead of going to the head of the department against which he has the peeve, at once rushes to the mayor with his grouch.

We would remedy the situation by making the department heads responsible for the conduct of their offices. Grievances should be taken to the council. The mayor should not be pestered with minor details and squabbling.

We hope Mayor Brozich will reconsider his action to resign and decide to stay in his position as head of the city. He has been the most progressive mayor the city has ever had. Besides, he is an American, first, last, and all the time.

Archery season underway

REGIONAL- The following North Woods students earned honors at the Greenway Grand Prix held on Saturday, Jan. 20:

Fourth Grade- Anna Nelson placed fifth with a score of 196.

Middle School- Carter Holman placed second with a score of 283.

High School- Jeremiah Voges placed first with a score of 289.

The next archery meet is Saturday, Jan.27 at Mesabi East in Aurora.

Jaylin Crain named to Fond du Lac TCC Dean's List

REGIONAL- Jaylin Crain, of Cook, has been named to the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College Fall Semester Dean's 2017 List.

Requirements for earning Dean's List honors at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College include maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or higher while completing 12 or more course credits during the semester. Students may take daytime classes, evening classes, weekend classes, online classes, or a combination of the above classes. A total of 1,954 fulltime and parttime students were enrolled at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College during Fall Semester 2017.

Voyageurs National Park announces "Winter at Voyageurs Event Series"

INT'L FALLS- Voyageurs National Park's staff is proud to announce the 2018 Winter at Voyageurs Event Series. The events will be held Jan. 19 through March 25. Most programs are held at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center unless otherwise noted.

The 2018 Winter at Voyageurs Event Series offers something for everyone. From painting on canvas to bird watching, sledding to storytelling, most events are designed for all ages and skill levels. Everyone is welcome to come to the park and explore something new—or something already known and loved—this winter. For more information, please visit Voyageurs.org/calendar or www.nps.gov/voya.

"Part of Voyageurs National Park Association's mission is to connect people to Voyageurs National Park. We're proud to co-sponsor this series helping people of all ages embrace the winter, play, and learn in their park," said Christina Hausman, VNPA Executive Director.

Metal tooling class offered at Cook Library on Friday, Jan. 26

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present Duluth Art Institute's Metal Tooling, a free interactive program being offered for ages 10 to adult at the Cook Library on Friday, Jan. 26 at 3:30 p.m.

Create a unique, colorful and textured artwork by tracing designs onto thin metal sheeting before coloring with permanent markers. Watch your design emerge through your inner artist.

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at www.alslib.info, find us on Twitter www.twitter.com/ArrowheadLegacy, on Pinterest at <https://www.pinterest.com/alexisleitgeb/legacy-events>, or like us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/alslibinfo>.

Services at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist

VIRGINIA- On Sunday, Jan. 28, "The Sixth Sense" will be presented by Siyanda Elizabeth, a service containing reflections on how human abilities that extend beyond the physical body can influence the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all. Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 230 7th St. S in Virginia. Usual services are Sundays at 10:30 a.m. For more information, visit www.mesabiuu.org. A parent/infant area is provided, as is toddler care, and religious education is provided for the over fives. All are welcome and we are handicap accessible.

Bookmobile schedule

Visit your library on wheels, the Arrowhead Library System Bookmobile. **NOTE NEW STOPS AND TIMES!**

Thursday, Feb. 8; March 1, 22.

Nett Lake – Community Center 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Crane Lake – Ranger Station 11:15 a.m. - 12noon

Orr – Lake Country ReMax building 1:45 - 2:30 p.m.

Kabetogama – Town Hall 3:15 - 3:45 p.m.



For further information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, write or call the Arrowhead Library System, 5528 Emerald Ave., Mt. Iron, MN 55768 218-741-3840, or check our website at www.alslib.info.

FOOD SHELF FUNDRAISER

North Woods students preparing for Empty Bowl event on March 2

by MELISSA ROACH
Staff Writer

FIELD TWP- Preparations are underway for the sixth annual North Woods School Empty Bowl event. This year the event will honor veterans. North Woods ceramic students are working to meet the goal of making 250 bowls for the event. The high school students also pitched in, assisting the third grade elementary students in glazing the bowls. North Woods Art teacher Rachel Betterley said, "A lot of my experience as Miss Minnesota was going to veterans' homes. I really was inspired by them and wanted to give back in a different way." She added, "We really want to welcome veterans and their families, so we are planning a big celebration this year." Veterans and military service members will receive a free meal and a complimentary bowl.

Making bowls for the event, senior Tim Pierce said, "It feels good to give back, and it's a therapeutic process on the wheel." He added, "It's nice to give back to an event that benefits our country." As students make the bowls, the event has expanded to include participation beyond the school, and into the community. "This really is a community-supported event. Local area churches and volunteers make the soup. Our sponsors, McDonalds and Zup's Grocery, have been good in supporting the event," Betterley said. Last year the event raised over \$2,000 for the Cook and Orr Food Shelves, as well as the Nett Lake Boys and Girls Club. The Empty Bowls event will take place on Friday, March 2 from 4:30-7 p.m. The one-of-a-kind ceramic bowls will be available for \$10; included in the price is a soup dinner with dessert and beverage.



Above: Karina Bristol creates bowls during ceramics class.

Right: Tim Pierce shows off some finished bowls, which are waiting to be glazed.

The community can purchase a bowl and soup for \$10 on Friday, March 2. This year, veterans and military service members can eat for free at the event.



CRANE LAKE

Crane Lake News by the Singing Teapot Dames



Life in the North Country

Temperature: 21 degrees with a high predicted of 24 degrees. Wind—none.

It is a beautiful morning in the North Country! Every tree and bush is covered with hoarfrost, a grayish-white, crystalline deposit of frozen water vapor formed in clear, still weather on trees, bushes, and fences. It will often look like snow. It appears we are enjoying our January thaw. The trails are in very good condition for the snowmobilers and the milder temperatures bring out the fishermen.

And there is talk of football! Oh, how our Vikings bubble burst. But we all give thanks to the Vikings for a great year of football! We may wish it could have gone on a bit longer; however, what started out at the beginning to look like another disap-

pointing year, we ended up with a much higher satisfaction quotient. As we have come to say, better luck next year!

Also, thanks to the Vikings fans for responding so generously to the charity supported by the Saints' kicker. And even greater thanks to him for donating the contributions back to a children's hospital here in Minnesota. A great big bushful of raspberries to the Philly fans who threw beer cans and shouted "get out of our town" to Vikings fans at the game last Sunday. Win or lose, class is class—and if you don't have it, you can't fake it! We are proud of "Minnesota Nice".

Mark the dates of March 3 and 4 on your calendar for the Crane Lake Challenge. It is always a super time for all the snowmobilers and spectators. It is amazing to see the sleds fly by in the speeds they are capable of. The final day, Sunday, the awards ceremony is conducted at Voyagaire Lodge. If you have a speedy sled enter the race and see what your vehicle can really do.

The winter season of bingo has started at Voyagaire Lodge. The games begin at 6 p.m. with a dinner special always available.

Life in the Land of Sun and Sand

Even here in sunny Florida, there is a touch of home. In the same condo complex where a Dame resides, you can also find Dennis and Donna Carlson from Cook. Another couple, Anthony and Beverly Krall, also reside in the complex. Tony is originally from Eveleth, and Beverly was formerly a Godich from Gilbert. Former classmates of Jim Sanborn, originally from Hibbing, are scattered about the area as well. Bob and Terri Kaiser are familiar with Destin, though they have abandoned this area for Arizona in the past couple of years. "Ranger" is spoken all over!

It has been noted that Minnesota has had a warming trend—although not as warm as has been experienced in other parts of the country. Destin had a gorgeous weekend with temps in the 70s and sun, sun, sun. Sitting on the patio with a "cool" drink was a pleasure. White skin is turning pink—and as John Denver used to say, "Sunshine on my shoulders makes me happy!" Rain is predicted for later today—a little different from the snow (8" or more) and 40-mile an hour winds predicted for

some parts of Minnesota. Schools in the southern part of the state have already closed in anticipation of bad weather. Texas has warmed up, and no further mudslides have occurred in California. The Pacific Northwest is wet! Whatever your weather, stay safe and well-fed.

Let us hear from you. If you are a snowbird, tell us what life is like in your area. Snowbirds like to hear the news of what is going on in Crane Lake; we like to know about you. Send news by e-mail to info@thelakecountry.com, by fax at 218-757-3533, or by phone to Sandy at 218-757-3233 and it will be added. Remember any funds received for this column are added to the Crane Lake Scholarship Fund. This scholarship is given to our local students who graduate and will receive further education. The committee for the Scholarship Fund is Sandra Bodkin, Linda Lang and Tracey Francke. Contact any member of the committee should you wish to make a donation.

Until next week, the Dames are singing off.

Subscribe Today (218) 753-2950

GRIZZLY SPORTS



Grizzly school spirit

Fans packed the bleachers at last week's Grizzlies vs. Blue Devils nail-biter. Cheerleaders kept the crowd going, and the Grizzlies took the win! photos by C. Stone

GRIZZLY UPDATES

Keep your family internet safe...



JOHN VUKMANICH

filter system known as a "firewall." This is meant to filter out inappropriate content and is indeed set up to do so. Is it perfect? Nope. On occasion we find that students are able to navigate to locations they should not go to. This is against school rules and school policy, and can lead to disciplinary consequences. It also leads to an investigation on our end to determine what steps we can take at school to prevent these situations. Ultimately, it comes down to student responsibility. Our kids learn to make appropriate choices in many areas of their lives,

and this is another area where we are looking to teach our kids good decision-making.

Have I mentioned that ,unless your career is in the computer technology field, your children likely have way more ability than you when it comes to being "computer savvy"? They also have way more spare time than we do. As a parent, do your best to monitor what your kids are doing on their devices. Ask for help if needed. If you are suspicious of something that may have happened at school, please let us know and we will investigate.

In terms of safety, we need to remind our kids to never share personal information online or in emails. Never post inappropriate content on social media, even if you think it will "disappear." Can you say "Snapchat"? Kids have a tendency to take a screenshot of the content, which can preserve it forever. We

also need to keep in mind that if posts or email are considered harassing or criminal, law enforcement can investigate in order to find the source of the information. Kids sometimes do not realize that they are leaving the evidence of their behavior for all to see.

If you use email, you are likely aware of "phishing" attempts, or people who are posing as someone else in order to obtain your information. This happens to kids, too. Again, this is a good time to remind our kids to never reply to an unknown post or email, even if it seems legitimate. Always remind your kids to save the message or post and talk to a trusted adult at home or at school. This is the best way to keep our kids and our information safe.

Have a great weekend!
**Your Principal,
John Vukmanich**

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the **TIMBERJAY**

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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Community forum on Heroin and Opiates set for Tuesday, Jan. 30 at Fortune Bay

VERMILION RESERVATION- Bois Forte is sponsoring a community forum on Heroin and Opiates on Tuesday, Jan. 30 at the Woodlands Ballroom at Fortune Bay.

A resource fair begins at 5 p.m., followed by a welcome by Tribal Chairwoman Cathy Chavers at 5:10 p.m., an opening prayer by Virgil Sohm at 5:30 p.m., and then a free community dinner from 5:30 - 6:15 p.m. A presentation on the topic, along with naloxone training will begin at 6:15 p.m. Speakers will include James Cross, from Natives Against Heroin.

Free childcare will be available; please contact Pam Hughes at 218-753-2347 to arrange for child care.

Brunfelt to speak on the area's cooperative movement on Feb. 6

HIBBING- The well-known Iron Range historian Pam Brunfelt will speak on "The Cooperative Movement," a topic that will resonate with persons of Finnish descent, at a new meeting site— the Grace Lutheran Church across from Lowes in Hibbing, at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 6. The new meeting site is handicap accessible and offers ample parking. Everyone is invited! Coffee is provided and light refreshments to be shared are brought by attendees.

Vermilion Penguins planning upcoming rides and trips

REGIONAL- The Vermilion Penguins Snowmobile Club hosts regular rides for members and other interested snowmobilers. On Saturday, Jan. 27, everyone is invited to participate in this year's Fun Run. You can participate by sled or by car. All proceeds go to support trails in the Tower, Babbitt, and Ely areas.

The club will host a ride to the Junction Bar and Grill in Babbitt on Saturday, Feb. 3. Riders should meet at Benchwarmer's in Tower at 10 a.m.

The club will hold their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 7p .m. at Fortune Bay. All members and interested parties are welcome to attend.

The club will host an overnight trip to the Thunderbird Lodge on Rainy Lake, Int'l Falls on Saturday, Feb. 10, returning on Sunday. Please call the hotel for reservations at 1-800-351-5133.

Ruby's Pantry in Babbitt on Jan. 27

BABBITT- Ruby's Pantry will be distributing food at the Babbitt Municipal Center (71 South Drive) on Saturday, Jan. 27 (always on the fourth Saturday of each month) from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. A \$20 cash (no checks) donation buys an abundance of food. No income or residency guidelines. Bring two large boxes or baskets. Sponsored by St. Pius X Catholic Church. Volunteers always welcome. Young children must be supervised by an adult.

Peter and the Wolf performance in Ely and Virginia, Feb. 10 and 11

REGIONAL- The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra and the International Wolf Center invite you to our "Fun for the Family" matinee concerts. Along with other pieces, we'll perform Peter and the Wolf, with narration by Peter Kess, on Saturday, Feb. 10, in Ely's Washington Auditorium, and again on Sunday, Feb. 11, in Virginia's Goodman Auditorium. Both concerts begin at 2:30 p.m. The International Wolf Center will be in the lobby both days with information that Prokofiev didn't have on wolves. Tickets are available at the door, and students get in free with a ticket from their music teacher. Get lots more information at www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org.

Annual fish fry and raffle at Veterans on the Lake on Feb. 3

ELY- An "All You Can Eat" fish fry will be held at Veterans on the Lake, at 161 Fernberg Road in Ely, on Saturday, Feb. 3 from noon - 4 p.m. The cost is \$10 per adult, or \$9 with a Winterfest button. Kids 4 to 12 years old get in for \$6, and kids under 4 eat free. Raffle tickets will also be sold at the fish fry until 3 p.m. for drawings at 3:30 p.m. for over \$3,700 in prizes. Tickets available through any board member or at Front Porch and Sam's.

Vermilion Dream Quilters meet Feb. 1

TOWER- Vermilion Dream Quilters will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 1 in the social hall at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower. Be sure to bring your snowball blocks with your address label on the back if you would like to be included in the Snowball Lottery. You might be the lucky winner of all the blocks. Colleen Lepper will share tips on border construction—how the direction you cut a border strip might make it more or less stretchy, how to compensate for sides that aren't quite the same length, and if she gets really brave, mitered corners! Then, we all enjoy show and tell, so bring yours to share. Coffee an' will be served during the intermission. Hostesses are Cathy Burt, Nancy Pajunen and Jill Wagoner. The Vermilion Dream Quilters is a guild with members from throughout the Iron Range and Arrowhead Region and is open to anyone interested in quilting and creative sewing. Members encourage and instruct each other and share tips. For more information, please contact Corrine Hill at 218-753-4600.

LAKE COUNTRY POWER

Into the Brush wins Community Award

REGIONAL - Lake Country Power selected Into The Brush, Inc., art program of Ely, as the winner of its annual Touchstone Energy Community Award. The co-op chose this fairly new grassroots organization for the fine art stones they paint and give as a special memento to comfort individuals who become terminally ill.

"I almost cried reading their application," said Misty Ryan of Lake Country Power. "You've got to love the volunteer work they're doing to touch people's lives in such a special and meaningful way."

As winner of the Touchstone Energy Community Award, Into The Brush, Inc., was awarded a plaque and \$500 that will go toward supplies to create the fine art stones.

"Thank you so much; it's so awesome to be recognized for this year's Touchstone Energy Community Award," said Jackie Hartleben, who submitted the application to Lake Country Power.

Joe Baltich has painted 30 Lake Superior stones so far since February 2017. He's the program director and lead artist for the Into The Brush art and learning to paint programs, which are headquartered at the Red Rock Wilderness Store near Ely.

The Stones of Uplifting Light (SOUL) project is an ongoing endeavor. When individuals become terminally ill, Into The Brush paints and ships a fine art stone to the person to remind them of a more joyous time in their life for therapeutic comfort.

"We research the individual



Accepting the Touchstone Energy Community Award from Lake Country Power for Into The Brush, Inc., is Jackie Hartleben and Joe Baltich. submitted photo

through a family member, friend or acquaintance to learn more about them before painting the stone," said Baltich. "SOUL stone recipients often have families who get to keep the stones after their passing, and the comments have been heart-tugging and moving. We know we're making a difference in people's lives."

Lake Country Power is one of the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives

AREA WRITERS

Ely's Story Portage to hold essay contest

ELY- Story Portage received a grant from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community to fund an essay contest in partnership with the Boundary Waters Journal. The theme for 2018 is Minnesota's Wooden Canoe Heritage. Selected essays will receive \$250 and will be considered for publication in the Boundary Waters Journal. The contest is open to writers in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Guidelines are available at storyportage.com. "This is a great way for writers to think about Minnesota's history in a unique way," says Anthony Wright, Story Portage Board Chair. "Unpublished writers are invited to submit. There are new voices out there, which we want to

hear." Representatives from Listening Point Foundation, the Minnesota Canoe Museum, and Story Portage will select winning essays. The editor of the Boundary Waters Journal will select the final essays for publication.

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community is a federally recognized, sovereign Indian tribe located southwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul. With a focus on being a good neighbor, good steward of the earth, and good employer, the SMSC is committed to charitable donations, community partnerships, a healthy environment, and a strong economy. The SMSC and the SMSC Gaming Enterprise (Mystic Lake Casino

Hotel and Little Six Casino) are the largest employers in Scott County. Out of a Dakota tradition to help others, the SMSC has donated nearly \$300 million to organizations and causes since opening the Gaming Enterprise in the 1990's and has contributed millions more to regional governments and infrastructure such as roads, water and sewer systems, and emergency services.

Story Portage is a new non-profit, centered in Ely, created to foster the art of personal narrative and to promote literacy and reading here in the Northwoods.

Information sessions offered for prospective foster parents on Monday, Feb. 5

REGIONAL- St. Louis County continues to need loving foster parents to provide a temporary, stable environment for children in out-of-home placement. To make it easier for people who are considering opening their home to learn what it takes to serve as a foster parent, county social workers are hosting two open house-style information sessions. The first will be on Monday, Feb. 5, from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Northland Office Center, 307 S 1st St. in Virginia. The second will be on Friday, Feb. 9, from noon - 1:30 p.m. at the Government Services Center, 320 W 2nd St. in Duluth.

Foster home licensors will be

available to meet one-on-one with people to answer questions about foster care options and the requirements. There will be no formal presentation, so people can stay for whatever length of time fits their schedule. The county is in constant need of temporary foster homes, short term/emergency homes, and foster/adopt homes for infants, children and youth. An average of 700 children are in out-of-home placement on any given day in St. Louis County. That number, while high, has at last leveled off after several years of dramatic increase. However, the complexity of the situations, often due to parents' drug addictions and/or

mental illness, has resulted in children having to remain in foster care for longer periods before they can be safely reunited with their families.

Anyone over the age of 21 can serve as a foster parent. Marital status, income level, culture or religion do not matter. For questions about the open house, or about requirements to be licensed as a foster parent, visit stlouiscountymn.gov/childfostercare or call 218-726-2168 in the Duluth area or 218-404-5330 for north St. Louis County (north of Cotton).

Community Notices

Fiberart Guild to meet Thursday, Feb. 1

VIRGINIA- The Range Fiberart Guild will meet Thursday, Feb. 1, at 6:30 p.m. at the Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 901 4th St. S, Virginia. Bruce Engbretson will talk about his interest in flax preparation, spinning and weaving. Bruce has a weaving, spinning and dyeing studio near Detroit Lakes.

Roller derby fitness class

MT. IRON- Roller derby fitness classes will be held in the multi-purpose room at Merritt Elementary School on Thursdays

through March 15 from 6 - 8 p.m., with no class held Feb. 22. The cost is \$20 per person, paid at the door for the entire session.

The class is off-skates, meant to reawaken muscles needed for roller derby. All ages and genders are welcome. Bring a water bottle and yoga mat (for floor exercises).

NAMI support group for families in Virginia

VIRGINIA- NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) sponsors free support groups for families and friends of individuals living with a mental

illness. Led by trained facilitators who also have a family member with mental illness, the support groups help families develop better coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. A family support group meets in Virginia on the second Tuesday of each month, from 6 - 7 p.m., at Essentia-Health Medical Arts Clinic, 901 9th St. N., in McMillan Room B. For information, call Dan at 218-290-5461.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL



Vermilion Country School celebrates School Choice Week

Vision: Developing successful adults with the skills to enrich their communities and environment.

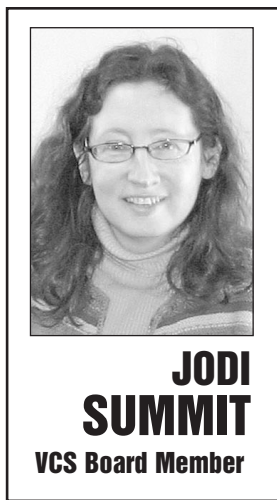
Mission: To create a small, safe, nurturing learning environment where students become productive and engaged citizens.

TOWER- It is National School Choice Week. This is a time to celebrate the options available for K-12 education across the country. It is also a time to look more closely at Tower's local charter school, Vermilion Country School (VCS), a free public school that serves students in grades 7-12 from the Tower-Soudan and surrounding areas. Now in its fifth year of operation, the school is looking to build on its trend of increasing the academic achievement of its students, along with a curriculum that also focuses on environmental education,

project-based learning, community service, the arts, and building leadership skills.

In a small school setting, with multi-age classrooms, the school also offers significant academic support to all students in both reading and math, as well as providing special education services to all students who are identified with special educational needs. The school's ADSIS program offers targeted tutoring for students who test below grade level but do not require special education.

Why come to Vermilion Country School? The VCS school newspaper staff recently put this



question to their classmates, and what the students said was an accurate reflection of the school's philosophy.

The VCS website, on its home page, states:

Why come to Vermilion Country? "Because our goal is to light the fire in each student. To help them find their passion for learning, give them the multitude of skills they'll need to be successful, and most importantly, to be a valued member of society in the 21st Century. If you're tired of an outdated status quo in education, you won't find a better alternative in the North Country than the Vermilion Country School."

And what did VCS students say:

- ☛ "VCS is a fresh start for me."
- ☛ "I was bullied at my previous school. I didn't have any friends and felt invisible. Now I'm talking more, being social, and making friends."
- ☛ "VCS is a good setting because of the fresh air, and I can speak my mind."
- ☛ "I can finally be myself."
- ☛ "VCS is a good setting for me because the teachers explain things well, and the people here are really nice."
- ☛ "I came to this school because I thought it was a cool place to be and an interesting way of learning."
- ☛ "My parents thought I would do better here, because I was not doing well at my previous school."
- ☛ "VCS is a small school so you can get to know people better than at a traditional school."
- ☛ "I honestly just...I prefer

working alone. And here I can do that without being yelled at."

- ☛ "I came to VCS because it was a change from being bullied at the absolute worst, to coming here and starting completely over and getting friends that care."
- ☛ "I like this school because if you need help with work, there is almost always a teacher to help."
- ☛ "I get help with what I need, and it's a good school."
- ☛ "VCS is close to where I live."
- ☛ "This school is a lot better than my old school."
- ☛ "I wanted to advance my academic skills, so I felt this was the best choice for me."

VCS is a small school, but does have openings at all grade levels, and is also taking enrollments for the 2018-19 school year. More information is available online at vermilioncountry.org, or by calling the school at 218-753-1246.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sons of Norway to meet in Virginia

VIRGINIA- Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge 40 will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 1, in the Virginia City Hall Club Room. Wayne and Bernie Christiansen will present the program "Prague and the Imperial Cities of the Danube River," sharing their experiences on a recent river cruise. The serving committee consists of Stephanie and Nathan Lutzka, Nancy Birkeland, and Bernie and Wayne Christiansen. Anyone interested in Norwegian culture and heritage is welcome to attend.

Meet local authors at Laskiainen

AURORA- A gathering of local area authors will be in the Old Co-op Theater Room on Sunday, Feb. 4 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. as part of the Laskiainen festivities at the Loon Lake Community Center. Bea Ojakangas, nationally-known cookbook author, will be selling her new book "Homemade", which tells of her growing-up years on a farm in northern Minnesota and of being

a home economist on a national level. Her tales bring to life the Finnish culture of northern Minnesota as well as international culinary traditions. Her husband, Dr. Richard Ojakangas, will be present with his book "Roadside Geology". Aurora author and photographer Carol Bowman will have her book on Minnesota loons as well as puzzles and ornaments for sale. Michael Socha will have his book entitled "Vera", a story of his mother growing up in the Ukraine and emigrating to Duluth, for sale. A frequent Laskiainen visiting author, Mark Munger, will be present with his books based on local history and locale. Add to these Dennis Esler, a popular Palo author, Donna Rahkola from Embarrass with her first book—a mystery, Joan Lewandowski, a Range author of inspirational books, and Sandra Buttala from Virginia with her book "Man Who Fell From the Sky: A WWII True Story". Former Dean of Salolampi (a Concordia language camp) Larry Saukko's book "Learning the Finnish Language" will be available for purchase.

able for purchase.

Extension Office gardening program, Feb. 15

REGIONAL- The ground will be frozen for months and more snowstorms are a sure thing. But that doesn't stop gardeners from dreaming of working in the dirt and the eventual harvest. That includes the gardeners at St. Louis County Extension who are making plans for their first gardening program of the year.

"Growing North" will be held on Thursday, Feb. 15, from 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. at the Mt. Iron Community Center, 8586 Enterprise Dr. in Mt. Iron. Registration begins at noon.

The program will feature presentations on growing great tomatoes in northern Minnesota; successfully growing onions; Honeyberries - a new fruit for Minnesota; and how to combat a new fruit pest, the Spotted Winged Drosophila.

The cost of the program is \$23, which includes handout materials, refreshments, and the 2018 vegetable variety list developed by the Extension Office. For more information about the program or to register, call the Extension Office at 218-749-7120 or visit stlouiscountymn.gov/ext.

Parenting classes starting Feb. 7 in Ely

ELY- Have you ever felt lost or wondered what your child needs from you? Learn how to support and strengthen your relationship with your child by attending the Circle of Security Parenting Series. This eight-week series starts on Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the First Lutheran Church of Ely. This workshop emphasizes examples specific to birth through preschool-aged children, but the parenting tools and concepts apply to all ages. This free parenting series is being offered by the Ely Behavioral Health Network. Onsite childcare will be available. For more information and to register, please visit Ely Circle of Security Parenting Series on Facebook, or call Riana Hegman at 218-235-6104.

Virginia Area Historical Society meets on Feb. 6

VIRGINIA- Betty Pond will relate some highlights of a 20-year career as the museum manager for the Virginia Area Historical Society on Friday, Feb. 6, at 2 p.m. at the Columbia Apartments meeting room, 600 N 3rd Ave. in Virginia. A reception will be held

from 12:30 - 3 p.m. The announcement of Betty's retirement has resulted in an outpouring of appreciation and gratitude for her work! Everyone is invited to share in this overview of her career, and wish her well as she embarks upon an adventurous retirement. Coffee, fruit punch, cake and light refreshments will be provided.

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ELY...Continued from page 1

study session Monday night.

"I think it is important to start a discussion," Abrahamson said. "I have been thinking about this connection of buildings for a couple of years, primarily from a safety standpoint."

He said students must endure many transfers between the buildings during the school day, particularly the elementary students going to the Memorial building cafeteria for lunch, and art, music and physical education classes. "There are also ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) concerns there. I would propose we start a discussion of the possibility of connecting our buildings," Abrahamson said.

The architectural drawing shows a commons area of 5,500 square feet connected to west side of the Memorial building that could be used as a cafeteria space when needed, a kitchen/support area of 3,000 square feet directly behind the commons, a main office and security entrance with potential for expanded office space of approximately 3,000

square feet connected to the east side of the Washington building, and a 6,500 potential multi-purpose or gymnasium space of 6,500 square feet behind the office. Indoor corridors would connect the Industrial Arts and Washington buildings.

Abrahamson said he has particularly struggled with coming up with ways to improve the school cafeteria. The kitchen area would have access to truck delivery traffic between the Memorial and Industrial Arts buildings.

"This is why the discussion between needs, as opposed to wants, needs to happen," Abrahamson told the school board and a small audience of community members. "I think we perceive this differently. For instance, there could be a multi-purpose space that is different than a gym. There are no mountains I am willing to die on. This is just for discussion."

The corridor concept between the buildings is not new and school board members would not need to re-invent the wheel. Almost a decade ago a plan was presented to that

encompasses the entire courtyard and included a cafeteria, gymnasium, commons and office space. The plan also called for eliminating the Industrial Arts building. "This was a much larger plan and hugely expensive," Abrahamson said. "I can't even begin to tell you how much that would cost." Other projects included in that plan involved enlarging the bus garage and renovating the student drop-off and parking area, and moving the football stadium and installing a running track.

"In our recent discussions, I don't know if you would want to take something on that large," Abrahamson said. "I'm using this example to show what has been discussed. These are not new ideas or my ideas. We need to have a discussion about the possibilities because I think we will be facing safety issues, ADA concerns and the travel back and forth, particularly in the winter months."

As the school board considered the idea, Abrahamson noted that all or some of the proposal

could be possible. He said that either three or four building connection points would be possible; the office areas in the two buildings could stay where they are; rear access to the auditorium needs to be considered; an entire new gym, with seating and locker rooms would need as much as 12,000 square feet.

School board member Heidi Mann said she hears from community conversations that ADA and safety concerns and gymnasium space are what people talk about. "Also, middle school teachers say their kids just don't have enough time and space to move around as much as kids that age need," she said. She also inquired about putting the existing swimming pool space in the Memorial building to better use.

School board chair Ray Marsnik added that a district priority is to provide pre-Kindergarten education opportunities for the community. "One way is to provide some capital revenue to build additional space for that pre-K facility, and we may be able to include that

in this (discussion)."

Board member Rochelle Sjoberg stressed that she would like to see additional gymnasium space on the school campus, "not only for additional practice space but also for the ability to draw tournaments for basketball and volleyball where more than one (gym) is required."

Mann added that in the course of the ERCC proposal discussion, "many in the community support a new gym at school."

Abrahamson said the areas of the renovation that include the commons, kitchen area, office space, entry and corridors to the buildings "would be in the very rough ballpark of \$3 million."

Adding the additional space, the potential multi-use or additional gymnasium space, would "put us in the neighborhood of \$6 million or \$6.5 million," he said.

He based his estimates on a minimum cost of \$260 per square foot for any construction project.

Other considerations discussed included: the cost of demolishing the

old boiler building could be aided by grant money from the Iron Range Rehabilitation and Resources Board; the large propane tank in the front yard of the school campus would need to be moved; and providing windows and natural lighting for connected buildings would need to be accounted for.

Bonding and funding was also briefly touched upon. ISD 696 has \$2.8 million in bond debt scheduled to be due in 2026. "We could borrow \$1.5 million, and add length to the debt with no increase in taxes, out to about 2032," Abrahamson said. "It depends on what the public would bear, and how much you are willing to ask them for," he said. "And there may be other sources of revenue out there."

Abrahamson also added, "with additional facility space comes additional ongoing expense, like personnel for maintenance, utility and heating costs."

The school board will continue the courtyard renovation discussion at their Feb. 12 regular meeting.

MPCA...Continued from page 1

pliance, and the agency's proposed new permit did not impose new standards in many cases.

While the MPCA is working to issue a new water discharge permit for Minntac, the MPCA's Erik Smith told the audience on Tuesday that his agency understands that

the company won't be in compliance with the water quality standards established in the permit, at least not for years. That permit includes what's known as a Schedule of Compliance, which provides the company a timetable, often involving many years, to bring its

discharges into compliance with the limits set in the permit. In addition, those schedules of compliance are frequently extended if the company can show that it can't meet the established timetables.

In effect, said Smith, the MPCA believes a variance is unnecessary since

the new permit they seek to issue imposes few new limits on the Minntac facility anytime in the near future.

Smith outlined three primary issues associated with the Minntac facility, including:

- Contamination of adjacent groundwater as the contaminated basin water slowly leaks into the surrounding aquifer. MPCA's Smith said U.S. Steel has already indicated that it believes it can comply with the groundwater clean-up by 2025, but the company is now seeking to push clean-up decades into the future. The company's variance request, which the MPCA intends to deny, would allow the company to merely monitor its groundwater pollution for the next 20 years, without having to clean it up.

- Discharge station: The facility is also discharging a large volume of contaminated water into the Dark River on an ongoing basis from a discharge point on the west side of the basin. The company used to discharge water into the Sandy River, on the basin's east side, as well, but the MPCA required the company to install a collection system at that outlet several years ago, which pumps outflowing water back into the tailings basin. The MPCA wants the company to install a similar system to stem the flow into the Dark River and the new permit would set pollution limits at the Dark River outflow until the collection system is in place. Once that system is built, the company would no longer have to monitor pollution levels in the downstream waters and the pollution standards would be lifted. U.S. Steel is seeking less strict limits on its outflow to the Dark River during the interim period while it is installing its collection system.

- Contamination of other surface water. The basin continues to seep large volumes of contaminated water into other

surface streams and lakes near the facility. The company is seeking a variance that would allow Minntac to simply monitor its pollution discharges for about five years, then re-evaluate if the company can reduce its pollution levels. Their request also seeks a variance from water quality standards for the next 20 years.

Public comment

The prospect of years of continued violations of pollution standards didn't sit well with some of the audience. Herb Sellars, who built a home on Dark Lake 24 years ago, said he was distressed to learn of the contamination levels in the Dark River, which feeds into Dark Lake. "What are you going to do to mitigate the problems for the people of Dark Lake?" he asked.

Robert Bassing, a retiree from U.S. Steel, suggested that the state should ask the Environmental Protection Agency to declare the facility a Superfund site. Bassing said the government has as much responsibility as U.S. Steel for the situation at the tailings basin. "The government allowed US Steel to build a tailings basin that allowed seepage," he said.

Bassing was referring to an explanation of MPCA's Smith, who had noted in his presentation before the comment period that the 11-mile-long dike system that surrounds Minntac's massive tailings basin is unlined and allows seepage from underneath the dikes.

Bob Tammen, of Soudan, said the tailings basin has been in existence for fifty years and that cleanup would likely take decades more. "One lifetime should be enough time to clean it up," said Tammen, who urged that the MPCA take a tougher approach to the issue.

But Larry Sutherland, who manages US Steel's Minnesota ore operations, noted Minntac's large workforce and its sizable

contributions to the state's school trust fund through royalty payments. "Our company accounts for 90-percent of income to the fund," said Sutherland, "and this puts the future of the school trust at risk."

Sutherland said the steel industry is being hit hard by foreign competition. "We have to reduce costs," he said. "That's the only way to remain competitive." He said the MPCA's proposed permit fails to consider what he called the high-cost of meeting the sulfate standard for groundwater, of 250 milligrams per liter.

Two groundwater test wells near the east edge of the Minntac property show sulfate levels of between 300 and 500 mg/l, according to MPCA's Smith, which would have to be reduced to the current federal drinking standard by 2025, or sometime after that.

The proposed permit does not impose the state's longstanding wild rice standard of 10 mg/l, which is currently under review.

Steve Giorgi, director of the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools, called the process "unfair," and said the proposal to deny the variance suggests that communities may have a difficult time receiving variances to meet the wild rice standard for sulfates, if the MPCA eventually begins to enforce it.

Mike Banovetz, of Ely, questioned how the MPCA can enforce a permit when it lacks evidence that the environment is being harmed. The MPCA's Smith had, in answer to an earlier question, indicated that the agency hadn't really evaluated the degree to which seepage from the tailings basin was harming the environment.

The public comment period of the agency's proposed denial wrapped up on Wednesday, Jan. 24. Agency officials gave no indication when they might issue a final decision on the variance request.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ely Broadband Coalition hits the new year running

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY—As 2018 begins, a business tech center that offers assistance to upstart entrepreneurs, a new website showing off Ely's attributes, the "PCs to People" program that provides computers to those who need them, and a digital marketing consulting initiative are all part of the ongoing efforts to connect Ely to the rest of the world.

The Ely Area Broadband Coalition met last week to review their efforts as they continue to work toward bringing high-speed fiber Internet service to both the business community and residents of Ely.

The Ely area was named one of several Blandin Broadband Communities late last year, and is part of a program that provides planning,

technical and financial support to communities that demonstrate the determination to bring home the benefits of a broadband-enabled economy.

Ely and nine other communities have access to a special \$750,000 grant fund for projects that meet Blandin Foundation standards. The city of Ely is utilizing the grant funding from Blandin Foundation and the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board and continues to work on various projects to highlight the use of broadband to spur economic growth.

Bernadine Joselyn, director of public policy and engagement for Blandin Foundation, asked Ely coalition members last Thursday, what else her organization can do to help with the local goals.

A survey by Design Nine, of Blacksburg, Va.,

part of a broadband feasibility study, was recently completed in the Ely area to find out how satisfied businesses and residents were with the existing Internet service and what is needed in the community to fulfill the communication technology needs in the future.

Andrew Cohill of Design Nine recently presented a draft summary to the Ely City Council. The completed study will be presented to the Ely Economic Development Authority on Tuesday, Feb. 13.

"We have shared all of our (utility) pole ownership issues with them," said Ely Clerk Treasurer Harold Langowski, "That will be part of what they will be looking at to help us. I think it will be all encompassing. We have pre-engineering work on the downtown fiber ring, and that looks promising. They

are also looking at possible wireless areas in the more remote areas."

He said dialogue is beginning to move from feasibility study to project construction. "We continue to work with other providers. "Frontier Communications is coming in to talk next week," he said. "There are new managers coming to Ely and I think they are starting to hear us. After a big article in the Timberjay last month, they were on the phone the next week."

Ely Community Resource Director Julie Hignell said that as many as 50 refurbished personal computers were distributed to Ely-area families just before Christmas. "This project has helped our school further their discussion about improving our capability with technology at the school," she said. "I know a lot of

parents are happy about that."

The technology improvement discussion within the Ely School District coincides with the current strategic and long-term planning discussion taking place. That plan is expected to begin this spring.

Coalition members are working on a new website, www.elyite.com, that will be rolled out this spring. "There are a lot of people that come to Ely to visit, said Tanner Ott. "This is an opportunity to tell them more about Ely, in all seasons, what this community is truly all about, like, living here, working here, healthcare here, our history and heritage, and many other things," he said.

The website will feature many videos and first-person description about the many aspects of

the community, he said.

Ely Economic advisor John Fedo implemented a contract last month with Incredible Ely for the development of a business tech center where small business entrepreneurs can utilize existing high-speed fiber in establishing growth in individual projects. "The Northeast Entrepreneur Fund staff will help market and facilitate the program in cooperation with the EEDA," he said. "We are looking to launch this in the spring."

Langowski noted that the Ely Digital Marketing Consulting initiative brought in 31 applications for seven candidates to gain access to expertise and assistance in establishing a digital marketing presence. "We need to review the applications, and I know it is going to be difficult to pick just seven of them," he said.

WALZ...Continued from page 1

Minnesota, her work with Wellstone Action, as well as the first director and founder of the Native American Leadership program. Flanagan is also a member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe. He asserted that their range of leadership, values, and credentials makes them the team most qualified to represent Minnesotans. "Together we can bring people together and reflect the values we all care about."

Walz wasted little time in addressing a controversial topic in the DFL. "I know that the mining issue is deeply dividing up here, but we can't let it destroy us, and I'm going to address it head on," he said. "I recognize the Boundary Waters as a unique area." He continued, "If science is the solution, we should not close those doors. We have to follow the science but we must be open and transparent. We have to assume our common goals and then work backwards bringing all people to the table."

Walz said it's important to move toward a low carbon, sustainable economy, and said mining has to be a part of that. "At the same time, he took issue with Trump Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, calling him "dangerous," and said it's important to think long-term on issues related to mining. "But this issue is ripping us apart and we need to keep communication open about this."

Walz also addressed the Enbridge pipeline. Again, he looped through the need to move toward a low carbon-based economy, reiterating the need to have safeguards and parameters in place. "We need to look beyond this administration and beyond this generation."

Addressing healthcare, he said, "I have farmers in my district that say health insurance is burying them, yet they voted for Trump...go figure!" He noted that 3.1 million people have left the insurance market since Trump's election. "As a state we can expand the public option and buy-in. We need to invest in preventive care as well. With the state and the U of M, we can invest in studies for cures, for chronic issues and diseases. We need to still figure out how to bring those provider networks into rural Minnesota."

Walz also talked about the lack of transparency in health care pricing and the increasing consolidation of services. He also addressed end-of-life care, "It's something nobody wants to talk about, but we need to. We spend more money in the last six months of life on health care than at any other time. It's astounding. We need to talk about end of life care."

When asked why he was leaving Congress, risking his district to a

Republican replacement, he said was prompted because of gerrymandering. He said he thinks the districts in Minnesota are up for a shuffle and the state could lose a congressional district in 2020 with redistricting. Besides, he said, the real political action is increasingly happening in the states. "All the major decisions will be made at the state level, and we don't need another Scott Walker. We also need to be smarter

about how we message, how we push renewable energy, education, healthcare... We need to be clear and steely eyed about what we need to protect, and what we value. It's not about compromising our values, it's about making the case for our values and for invest-

ments that improve peoples' lives. I will not normalize this administration, and I refuse to let them dictate how we see our state, and Peggy and I are who Minnesota looks like. We reflect the values that we all care about."

Correction

The star trails photograph on the front page of the Jan. 19 issue of the Timberjay was reprinted courtesy of the photographer Les Conrad. We are sorry for the oversight.

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LOTTERY

Ely resident, Hibbing group, win Powerball prizes

REGIONAL - Gregory Adkisson of Ely claimed a \$250,000 Powerball prize at Lottery headquarters in Roseville on Jan. 16.

Adkisson's ticket was one of two tickets sold for the Jan. 10 drawing to win \$250,000. He purchased his winning ticket at Voyageur Short Stop, located at 1815 E Sheridan St. in Ely. His quick-pick ticket matched four of the first five numbers plus the Powerball number, which is normally worth \$50,000. Because he added the Power Play multiplier option for an extra dollar, his prize was multiplied by five (the Power Play number drawn) to win \$250,000.

The Hibbing Courthouse Annex Pool also claimed a \$250,000 Powerball prize. The group of 22 all work in either the St. Louis County Courthouse in Hibbing or

in the annex. Grant Ellis, of Hibbing, purchased the ticket and was the first person to discover the win. "We do it once a week," he explained. This week has "been a bit more exciting" than usual, he added with a smile. The group's ticket matched four of the first five Powerball numbers drawn on Jan. 10, plus the Powerball. That would normally be worth \$50,000, but since they had added the Power Play option to the ticket, their prize increased to \$250,000. "All of the numbers kept matching," said Ellis. At first, he thought their ticket was worth \$50,000. "When I found out that it was worth five times that amount, that's when I got really excited!" The news "went around the courthouse like wildfire." Hibbing Courthouse Annex Pool members are Angela

Baumchen of Hibbing, Michael Danks of Hibbing, Stephen Dolinich of Hibbing, Grant Ellis of Hibbing, Tom Gentilini Jr. of Hibbing, Erica Gray of Hibbing, Terri Holmbeck

of Nashwauk, Kathleen Lorenz of Nashwauk, Charlene Meinzer of Mountain Iron, Trudi Mellak of Virginia, Marla Padgett of Eveleth, Jeffrey Passeri of Hibbing, Jennifer Reyes of

Hibbing, Tyler Schwerzler of Hibbing, Alison Scofield of Hibbing, Jean Seline of Chisholm, Jason Specht of Hibbing, Crystal Suhonen of Hibbing, David Toldo of Chisholm, Jeffrey Vlatkovich of

Hibbing, Kenneth Weis of Cohasset and Mandy Zaitz of Hibbing. Hibbing Short Stop II, located at 1121 E Howard St. in Hibbing, sold the winning ticket.

BREITUNG... From page 1

Nylund reported that the Breitung Police Department has now relocated to the former Minos Surface Building, and the public is invited to stop in and see the facility. A permanent name has not yet been chosen for the building, however suggestions will be accepted prior to the next council meeting. An ad will be appearing in one of the local newspapers.

The three empty stalls of the former headquarters will be considered for various purposes. Fire Chief Steve Burgess stated a small committee will look at alternatives for repurposing the space. A suggestion to use some of the space for a Town Hall was mentioned by Greg Dostert.

The council decided that renovations to the Soudan Post Office will proceed at a gradual pace. The new mailboxes are currently being stored in Chisholm, though an official date to install the mailboxes in Soudan has not been set. The council also plans to replace the old wall paneling in the post office.

The council noted other plans for renovations within the McKinley Park Campground building. Plans include updating the bathrooms, replacing floor tile, shower dividers and walls. The date of the last renovation to the facility was in 1994. A motion was passed to accept a bid for renovations by Kultala Construction at a cost of \$46,000. The funding for this project will come from McKinley Park and will not cost the township any money.

Vermilion Park Inn owners, Mary Batinich and Jane Turner, along with maintenance carpenter, Pete Jauhola, were in attendance. Jane Turner, spokesperson for the group, addressed the council and requested clarification about possible land to erect signs that will direct cus-

tomers to the Inn. Currently there are no signs in place. Chairman, Tim Tomsich reminded the group that prior to the state granting approval for signs to be placed on state property, they must first be placed within the parameters of the township. A recommendation to seek approval from a local resident to post a sign on his property was suggested.

In other business, the council:

- Approved the Treasurer's Report for December with disbursements including checks and debit cards for \$264,519.58.

- Approved sending a letter to be hand-delivered by the police to the home of a renter in Soudan who has excessive amounts of garbage on his front porch.

- Approved the DSWG Post Office project invoice of \$2,168.36.

- Approved the recommendation that the current \$6 per run paid to EMTs pension funds by Breitung Township for local EMTs be discontinued, since the volunteers are now considered paid and the ambulance service is contributing to their PERA pension.

- Announced the "HD Soudan #4", otherwise known as Hockey Day in Soudan, is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 11, and Breitung Township will be an event sponsor. The public is invited to stop by for food, hockey games, and skills contests.

- Heard that Breitung is waiting to hear on the final approval of a CDBG grant for infrastructure work in Soudan. Vermilion Housing is also waiting for final approval of a grant.

- Passed a motion to set township election hours from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13. The annual meeting will be held after the close of the polls. The next council meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 1 p.m.

Ely Winter Festival


February 1 - 11, 2018 Schedule of Events



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<i>Throughout the Festival</i>		
Ely ArtWalk elyartwalk.org	Winton Roadhouse 4th Annual Ice Bar	Ely Flower & Seed Ice Skating Rink Open to the public / Whiteside Park

<p>Ely Folk School Info and Registration 218-235-0138 www.elyfolkschool.org Make Walnut or Coconut Potica Rosemaling in the Valdres Style Sour Cream Strudel Sewing Beaver Hides Beginning Rug Hooking Intro to Pisanki</p>	 <p>Wool Needle Felting Intro to Wood Carving Milk Jug Pollinator Planter Learn to Make Pasties Homemade Bitters 101 Lidded Birch Bark Basket</p>
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<p>Thurs, Feb. 1</p> <p>Snow Carvers' Jam 7pm - 11pm, Ely Steak House</p> <p>Fri, Feb. 1</p> <p>Hands-On Herbal Facials 1pm - 7pm, Tranquility Wellness Center</p> <p>Spaghetti Feed 4pm - 7pm, St. Anthony's Church</p> <p>Third Annual Winter Festival Kickoff 6pm, Whiteside Park</p> <p>Fri, Feb. 2 & Sat, Feb. 3</p> <p>Great Nordic Beardfest 6pm Fri and Sat, BoatHouse Brewpub</p> <p>Fri, Feb. 2</p> <p>Twins of Franklin 7pm - 9pm, Ely Folk School</p> <p>Sat, Feb. 3</p> <p>VCC Ice Fishing Tournament 8am - 2pm, Semers Beach</p> <p>VCC Open House 10am-1pm, vcc.edu</p> <p>Jim Rock Native American Star Stories 10am - 12pm, VCC, elydarksky.org</p>	<p>Sat, Feb. 3</p> <p>Fat Bike Demos & Ride 10am - 4pm, Whiteside Park</p> <p>Fish Fry 12 Noon - 4pm Veterans on the Lake Resort</p> <p>Snowshoe to Sigurd Olson's Listening Point on Burntside Lake 1pm and 4pm, 218-365-8889</p> <p>Dorothy Molter "Whirlwind" 11am - 2pm, 2002 East Sheridan St.</p> <p>Basic Herbal Preparations 11am - 12pm, Tranquility Wellness Center</p> <p>Artwalk Meet & Greet 1pm - 3pm, The Art Corner</p> <p>Blend Your Own Herbal Tea 2pm - 4pm, Tranquility Wellness Center</p> <p>Ski by Candlelight 5:30pm, Hidden Valley</p> <p>What's for Dinner 7pm, International Wolf Center</p> <p>Sat, Feb 3 & Sun, Feb 4</p> <p>Mike Lynch and the Stars 7pm - 9pm, North American Bear Center elydarksky.org</p>
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<p>Sun, Feb 4</p> <p>Snowshoe to Listening Point 9am & 1pm, 218-365-8889</p> <p>Acoustic Brunch & Bloody Mary Bar 10am - 2pm, Northern Grounds</p> <p>The Sebastian Project 2pm - 4pm, VCC Theater</p> <p>Tues, Feb 6</p> <p>Snowshoe to Listening Point 3pm, 218-365-8889</p> <p>Brew It Yourself Root Beer 6pm-8pm, Dorothy Molter Museum</p> <p>Feb 6th & 8th</p> <p>Micro Art Classes 6pm-8pm, Northwind Lodge</p> <p>Wed, Feb 7</p> <p>Writers' Crawl 5:30pm - 9:30pm, 218-365-3375</p> <p>Fri, Feb 9</p> <p>Snowshoe to Listening Point 1pm, 218-365-8889</p> <p>Dorothy Molter Fundraising Dinner 5pm - 8pm, Grand Ely Lodge</p> <p>Jaycee's Broomball Tournament 9am - 4pm, Ely Rec Center</p> <p>Aurora Borealis Photography 101 9:30am - 11am, Grand Ely Lodge</p>	<p>Sat, Feb 10</p> <p>Kubb Tournament 10am - 4pm, Whiteside Park</p> <p>Hidden Valley Skinny/Fat Relay 10am, Hidden Valley</p> <p>NLAA Downtown Arts Market 10am - 4pm, 101 E Chapman St.</p> <p>Star Trail Photography 101 11am - 12:30pm, Grand Ely Lodge</p> <p>Snowshoe to Hegman Pictographs 1pm - 3pm, 218-491-6789</p> <p>Meet a Sled Dog Race Team 12pm - 3pm, Whiteside Park</p> <p>Mesabi Symphony Orchestra Concert 2:30pm, Washington Auditorium</p> <p>Night Sky With the Naked Eye 1:30pm, Grand Ely Lodge</p> <p>Christopher David Hanson Band 6pm - 9pm, Northern Grounds</p> <p>What's for Dinner 7pm, International Wolf Center</p> <p>Jammin' Joe 8pm - 12am, Dee's Bar</p> <p>Sun, Feb 11</p> <p>Intro to Digital Photography 9am - 2pm, International Wolf Center</p> <p>Acoustic Brunch 10am - 2pm, Northern Grounds</p> <p>Tour de Valley 10am, Hidden Valley</p>
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BOYS BASKETBALL

Ely extends win streak to six

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

CLOQUET – Ely used a second half rally to extend their win streak to six games after topping Fond du Lac 64-52. The Wolves had trailed 29-23 at half-time, but used a big night at the charity stripe to pull out the victory.

Ely trailed for most of the game and at one point trailed in the second half by 11 points. The Wolves connected on ten three-pointers, most of those coming down the stretch in the second half.

“After trailing 39-28 at one point in the second half we started to come back,” said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. “We got some good possessions defensively and started to hit some

three to cut into their lead.”

The momentum changed with some lockdown defense and some key shots outside the arc. “We took the lead and made free throws in the last couple minutes to get the win,” said McDonald. “We were 18-23 in the second half and 20-26 for the game.”

Carter Gaulke and Patrick Vanderbeek led the way for the Wolves, with 20 points apiece.

Adam McDonald was right behind with 18 points, while Blaise Lah led the team on the boards with nine rebounds.

The come-from-behind win was a reprise of their Saturday matchup with Duluth Marshall. After falling behind 23-13 in the game’s early going, Ely got its

See **WOLVES...pg 5B**

Sports week

Boys bball

Friday, Jan. 26
NW at Evel-Gil, 7:15 p.m.
Ely hosts L-BF, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 2
NW at Greenway, 7:15 p.m.
Ely hosts Evel-Gil, 7:15 p.m.

Girls bball

Monday, Jan. 29
Ely hosts NER, 7:15 p.m.
NW at Fond du Lac, 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 30
NW hosts Bigfork, 7:15 p.m.
NER at L-BF, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 1
NER hosts Fond du Lac, 7:15 p.m.
NW hosts Deer River, 7:15 p.m.
Ely at Ev-Gil, 7:15 p.m.

Hockey

Saturday, Jan. 27
Ely at Pine City, noon

Friday, Feb. 2
Ely hosts Bagley, 6 p.m.

Nordic ski

Friday, Jan. 26
Duluth East Invite, 11 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 1
Ely Pursuits, 11 a.m.



Unstoppable?

Grizz hold off Class 2A powerhouse Virginia, devastate Cherry 130-12

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

FIELD TWP— It was a blowout of near historic proportions here on Tuesday night as North Woods crushed a struggling Cherry squad 130-12, despite the fact that the Grizzlies’ bench played much of the game. The Grizzlies led 72-7 by the half.

Cherry’s young and shorthanded team has had a tough go this season, but hadn’t yet allowed a team to hit triple digits. But the top-ranked Grizzlies have proved they aren’t an ordinary high school basketball team, as the latest win, which improved their record to 14-0, attests.

Cade Goggleye poured in 21 points to lead scoring for North

Left: The Grizzlies’ Tanner Barto comes down with a rebound during Tuesday night’s game with Cherry.

photo by C. Stone

Woods, although he had plenty of help as 14 Grizzlies players put points on the board and five hit double figures. Tate Olson added 18 for the Grizzlies, followed by Chase Kleppe and Darius Goggleye, with 15 apiece. Dylan Chiabotti added an even dozen, while Trevor Morrison tallied eight points, Brendan Parson added seven, and Tanner Lokken and Blake Scofield added six apiece.

Grizzlies top Virginia

In action last Thursday, the top-ranked Class A Grizzlies faced their biggest test of the season as they hosted Class 2A powerhouse Virginia in a jam-packed auditorium. They emerged with their perfect record still intact, but just barely, as they won 58-55 in a game that proved a nail-biter right down to the final seconds.

The Grizzlies had to play a little catch-up to get there, as they spotted the Blue Devils the first

See **GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B**

NORDIC SKIING

Ely places well in Sprints



Left: Ely’s Lucy Stouffer competed in the Marshall Sprints in Duluth over the weekend. photo by D. Dahlberg

a time of 3:33.6 and Raif Olson took second with a time of 3:03.4. Prigge went on to finish third overall while Olson fell in his quarterfinal race and was edged by a teammate and didn’t make it to the finals.

Ely had five girls and three boys make it to the final round. A list of finish places are listed below.

Next up for the Ely ski teams will be the Duluth East Invite at the Snowflake course on Friday with the meet starting at 11 a.m.

GIRLS VARSITY FINAL RESULTS

1. Emma Stertz, Grand Rapids
2. Clara Kramer, Duluth East
3. Ryne Prigge, Ely
4. Elsa Viren, Grand Rapids
5. Emma Terwilliger, Ely
6. Annika Viren, Grand Rapids
7. Laura Pasmick, Ely
8. Sophie Farrow, Duluth East
9. Evelyn Bercher, Ely
10. Moriah Johnson, Duluth East
11. Kalyssa Eilrich, Ely
12. Lucy Campbell, Marshall School

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

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

DULUTH—The Wolves again had a strong performance, claiming a third of the 24 finalists in the Duluth Marshall Sprints.

The sprints are an unusual race setup that requires skiers to be both fast and consistent on a short course of only 1.2 kilometers. After the initial race, skiers are placed into smaller heats and need to continue to qualify to keep

racing. Reaching the finals requires four races, including the qualifying round, quarterfinals, semis, then the finals.

“The Sprints went really well,” said Ely Head Coach Paula Anderson. “Nine boys qualified for the quarter final rounds and eight girls made it to the quarter finals.” Most of those skiers went on to reach the finals.

Both teams had strong performances in the qualifier race as Ryne Prigge led all the girls with

GIRLS BASKETBALL



Grizzlies struggle with a strong Cherry squad

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

FIELD TWP— A young, but impressive, Cherry girls basketball team dominated the Grizzlies Monday night, winning 77-40.

It was the Tigers all the way, as they ran up an early lead, taking a 45-19 margin into halftime. Bria Chiabotti had a strong night for the

Above: The Grizzlies’ sophomore forward Sasha Strong holds on tight to the ball while under pressure from Cherry’s Carlee Grondahl. photo by C. Stone

Grizzlies, racking up 15 points. Kate Stone tallied seven points, while Alanna Rutchasky added five and

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

HOCKEY

Wolves keeping it close on the rink



by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

ELY - At home, the Wolves were looking for a second straight win on Tuesday, but two third-period goals left Proctor on top 4-3 as the buzzer sounded.

“We played really well with good effort,” said Ely Head Coach Ben Johnson. “Good moral victory.”

Ely played another solid game but just didn't have enough punch at the end to stay up with the Rails. The Wolves fought

Left: Ely's Luke Olson advances the puck.

photo by J. Greeney

back in the opening two periods to tie the score. Down 1-0 and just 30 seconds left in the first, Austin Meskill took a pass from Gage Merhar and found the back of the net to even the score at 1-1. In the second, the Wolves found themselves trailing by a goal again. This time Gage Merhar found Thomas Montana who punched one in to tie the score 2-2 going into the final period.

Proctor scored the first two goals of the third before Thomas Montana scored his second goal of the game on an assist from Luke Olson. That would be all the scoring for the game and another close loss for the Wolves.

Montana had two goals in the game, while Austin Meskill notched one. Gage Merhar had two assists while Luke Olson

added one.

In goal, freshman Chase Sandberg had a great night while getting pounded with 47 shots on goal. “Chase is developing and gaining some confidence,” said Johnson. “He is young and I look forward to watching him grow over the next few years.”

Ely managed to even their two-game series with Red Lake Falls on Saturday, after losing a Friday night matchup to the Rebels.

Ely jumped out to a first period lead of 2-0. After allowing the Rebels to score the first goal of the second period it was all Wolves the rest of the way as they found the net three times to end the period ahead 5-1. Red Lake Falls wasn't done and they made it a game in the third, scoring the next three goals to trim Ely's lead to 5-4 with less than six minutes to play. Ely notched a final goal to give them a little breathing room and the

6-4 win.

On Friday night Ely lost the opening game by the same 6-4 margin.

It wasn't from lack of effort by Ely, as they outshot the Rebels 45-13. The Wolves even held a first period lead of 3-2. Red Lake Falls made the best of their limited opportunities as they scored on almost half their shots on goal.

Ely had another big night from Nick Mattila, who got the Wolves out to a fast start, scoring three of the game's opening four goals. The hat trick gave Ely a 3-2 first-period lead. Luke Olson added the first goal of the second period for Ely, giving them a 4-2 lead. But it was all Red Lake Falls after that as they scored the game's final four goals for the win.

Next up for Ely is a visit to Pine City on Saturday with a noon start.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

eight points of the game. They slowly worked themselves back into the match, managing to knot it up at 26 apiece by the half. It was back and forth the rest of the way as the two teams traded leads more than once.

“A win over Virginia is always a big one,” said Coach Kleppe. “They are an extremely well-coached team and their size creates a serious match-up issue for a team of our size. Fortunately we were able to use our speed in bursts to attack the basket in the second half and make a few free throws to keep the margin in our favor.”

Junior guard Cade

Goggeye had a big game for the Grizzlies, notching a double-double, with ten points and 12 assists. Brendan Parson tallied 12 points to lead the Grizzlies' scoring attack, while Tate Olson notched ten points. Travis Lokken and Chase Kleppe each tallied nine points, while Travis Morrison notched eight to round out scoring for the Grizzlies.

Jayden Bernard and Ethan Youso dominated scoring for the Blue Devils, with 17 and 16 points respectively.

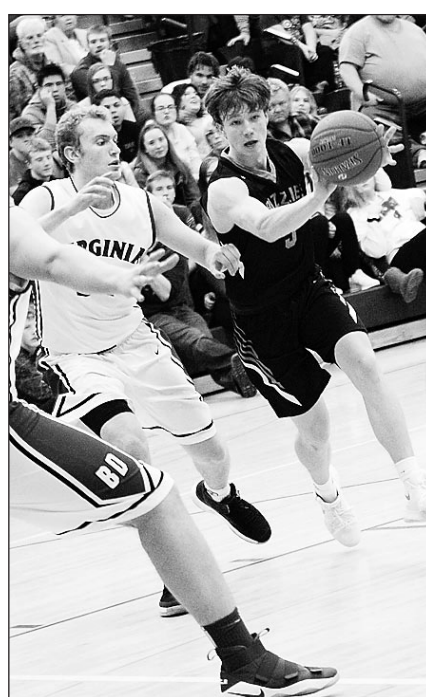
“Going into the second half of the season, I think this game was a reminder that there is still work to be

done and we must keep our focus as we make the run towards tournaments,” said Kleppe. “I anticipate another good battle when we see Virginia again next month.” That game will be played in Virginia and is likely to be another big draw for basketball fans. The game at North Woods was standing room only.

Meanwhile, the Grizzlies hit the road on Friday to play Eveleth-Gilbert. Game time is 7:15 p.m.

Right: Brendan Parson looks to pass as he is chased by a Virginia defender.

photo by C. Stone



WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

defense in gear and starting hitting its shots. They regained the lead by halftime and claimed a commanding 58-42 win over the Hilltoppers.

Vanderbeek kept the Wolves in the game early as he connected on nine of 11 three-pointers en route to a game-leading 33 points.

“We did a nice job of running offense for him and

getting it to him when he was open,” said McDonald.

Adam McDonald had a good all-around game as well, with ten points, nine assists, five rebounds, and seven steals. Carter Gaulke tallied ten points and seven assists while Blaise Lah led the team with 11 rebounds.

Ely had a poor night shooting from outside the arc on

Friday night. Still, a stout defense was enough for the road win at Mt. Iron-Buhl 50-43.

“We shot the ball well enough to win but I think the difference was our ability to defend them,” said McDonald. “It was nice to be able to hold them to 43 even when we weren't shooting well.”

Ely was led by Carter

Gaulke who had 22 points, six rebounds, and five assists. Vanderbeek added 21 points while Adam McDonald led the team with nine rebounds to go with five assists.

Ely hosts Littlefork-Big Falls on Friday night. Varsity game time is 7:15 p.m.

NORDIC...Continued from page 1B

BOYS VARSITY FINAL RESULTS
1. Sam Stertz, Grand Rapids
2. Baird Lochlan, Hibbing
3. Same Chandler, Duluth

East
4. Ian Derauf, Duluth East
5. Elijah Olson, Ely
6. Tyler Northey, Cloquet-Esko-Carlton

7. Henry Campbell, Marshall School
8. Benjamin Wallerstein, Marshall School
9. Jonas Hutchinson,

Marshall School
10. Jasper Johnston, Ely
11. Nate Nettifee, Ely
12. Rude Adam, Hibbing

GRIZZ GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

Hanna Sandberg notched four.

Cherry sophomore guard Kaelynn Kudis led all scoring with 24 points, while four other Cherry players managed to hit double digits. The Tigers, now 11-4, are having an excellent season, despite having no juniors or seniors on the team.

Monday's loss dropped the Grizzlies record to 6-6 on the season.

The Grizzlies had better success last

Friday, as they downed Nashauk-Keewatin 54-42. The game was tight in the early going and the Grizzlies hung to a slim 22-21 lead as of halftime. But a big second half by Bria Chiabotti helped the Grizzlies put it away. Chiabotti dominated on the court, scoring 26 of the Grizzlies' points to lead all scorers. Brynn Simpson added nine points for the Grizzlies, while Sasha Strong and Hanna Sandberg each

added five. Kate Stone notched four points on the night.

The Grizzlies hit the road later in the week. They were set to face Red Lake on Thursday, Jan. 25, and travel to Fond du Lac to face the Ojibwe on Monday. They'll be back home to host Bigfork on Tuesday, Jan. 29. Game time is set for 7:15 p.m.

Briefly

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Nighthawks come close

HILL CITY – Northeast Range had a lead in the second half of Friday's game with Hill City, but the Lady Hornets played stronger at the end to win 44-41.

After trailing early 10-2 the Nighthawks rallied to close the gap to two at halftime. Northeast Range had a brief second-half lead for the first time all season, but Hill City rebounded after the Nighthawks' Shayler Lislegard left the game due to injury with under nine minutes to go.

“We are developing and improving every game,” said Northeast Range Head Coach Paxton Goodsky. “It was a back and forth game and either team could have won.”

The Nighthawks head to Northland for a Friday night tilt, with a 5:45 p.m. start. They'll be in Ely on Monday. Varsity game time is 7:15 p.m.

COLLEGE

Two wins for Ironmen

CLOQUET – Vermilion played Fond du Lac Tribal on Saturday and jumped out to a big halftime lead. Solid shooting allowed them to cruise to a 105-86 win.

For the game Vermilion spread the wealth as they had six players score in double figures.

VCC and Central Lakes played a crowd pleasing overtime game on Wednesday night. The Ironmen pulled out the close win 111-108. The Ironmen had five players score in double figures and were led by Devontaye Spates and Demetrice Mitchell with 22 points apiece.

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Lawsuit could decide control of MN Senate

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The outcome of a lawsuit that will be heard Feb. 6 in a Ramsey County courtroom could decide which party controls the Minnesota Senate. At issue is the decision by Sen. Michelle Fischbach, R-Paynesville, to serve as both lieutenant governor and as a state senator.



Michelle Fischbach

“You can’t be both,” said current Senate Minority Leader Tom Bakk, DFL-Cook, who will be watching the case closely.

A Sauk Rapids constituent of Fischbach’s brought the legal challenge, contending that Fischbach is violating the constitution by simultaneously holding an office in both the executive and legislative branches of government. The state’s constitution states explicitly that an individual cannot hold two government offices simultaneously. Attorney General Lori Swanson has already weighed in on the issue, determining last month that Fischbach has no constitutional means to avoid becoming lieutenant governor and is not able to

hold both offices at the same time. Bakk said Republicans appear to be hoping that Fischbach’s refusal to take the oath of office as lieutenant governor provides her a legal loophole. She currently describes herself as “acting lieutenant governor.” But Bakk dismissed that notion. “The constitution says you shall take the oath. Her refusal to do so appears to be a constitutional violation,” he said.

Among other things, the plaintiff in the case is asking the court to prevent Fischbach from casting any votes during the upcoming legislative session, which begins Feb. 20. Bakk notes that should the court later determine that Fischbach must resign her senate seat,

it could present a conundrum for the Legislature, particularly if her vote were decisive on an issue, as is possible given the current two-vote Republican majority in the body. That margin could be cut to one depending on the outcome of a special election set for Feb. 12 for the seat formerly held by DFL Sen. Dan Schoen, who resigned amid sexual harassment allegations late last year. DFLers are optimistic that they will be able to hold that seat.

And Bakk isn’t ruling out a DFL victory in a special election in Fischbach’s district, should she be forced to resign her seat.

“It’s high drama,” said Bakk, “we’ve got a very good candidate in that district.”

While the district is Republican leaning, recent special elections around the country, including a recent one in western Wisconsin, suggest that Bakk’s optimism may be warranted. “It would normally be a tough seat, but the environment is pretty toxic for Republicans right now,” he said.

Depending on the

timing of a legal decision, any special election to fill Fischbach’s seat would likely not be held prior to the start of the legislative session. And that could leave the body deadlocked at 33 Republicans and 33 DFLers. Such an eventuality has Bakk talking about the need for a possible power-sharing agreement should Fischbach be forced to resign her seat.

The uncertainty even holds the possibility that the legislative session could come to a halt before it even convenes. Calling the Senate to session requires 34 senators to vote in favor, and if Republicans don’t agree to share power, it’s possible DFLers could withhold their consent. If Senate leaders can’t get the 34 votes they need for three consecutive days, the session would be cancelled, said Bakk.

It would seem an unlikely prospect, but in the current political environment, there’s no telling for sure.

Bakk said he’s hopeful that the court will take steps to head off such an outcome. “There’s still plenty of time for the court to act,” he said.

Political dominoes

Fischbach’s road to becoming lieutenant governor in a DFL administration was convoluted to be sure, and began with the resignation of U.S. Sen. Al Franken in December. When Gov. Mark Dayton appointed then-Lt. Gov. Tina Smith to replace

Franken, it left Smith’s office vacant. Under the state constitution, the most recent state Senate president (a mostly honorary title that Fischbach held in the GOP-led body) automatically becomes lieutenant governor in the event of a vacancy.

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Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

WATCHING THE SKIES

Blue moon, red moon

Lunar eclipse to coincide with January's second full moon

REGIONAL— If the clouds cooperate, North Country residents will have the opportunity to view an unusually rare celestial event next Wednesday morning, Jan. 31.

That's when a blue moon coincides with a total lunar eclipse, the

first time such an event has been visible from the Western Hemisphere since 1866, according to Space.com. For residents of the North Country, the partial eclipse will begin at 5:48 a.m. and will reach totality at 6:51 a.m., or very close to moonset in the western sky. If the sky is clear, the eclipse could make the setting moon even more spectacular than usual, but for best viewing, you'll want to

find a location that provides a view of the western horizon.

Binoculars or a small telescope can greatly improve viewing of a lunar eclipse. Unlike a total eclipse of the sun, the moon never completely disappears when it is eclipsed by Earth's shadow, since the Earth's atmosphere reflects enough light to

See **ECLIPSE...**pg. 5B



Watch for the lunar eclipse on Wednesday morning, Jan. 31.
file photo by M. Helmberger

Fishing reports

Ely area

Trout fishing seems to be the hot draw for anglers to Ely area lakes recently, and with just cause. Limits of rainbow trout have been caught recently on lakes such as Miners, Glacier Ponds, Tofte, and High and Dry lakes. Most folks are fishing these beauties from just under the ice to depths of fourteen feet. Baits of choice have been varied, from wax worms and soft plastics on tiny jigs to fresh salted minnows. Remember that only dead minnows are allowed on designated trout lakes. The best fishing times have been during mid-day, with a minor surge in activity at daybreak.

Lake trout, too, have been the target of most diehard fishermen, who are targeting these fish on lakes such as Burntside and Snowbank, with decent numbers coming from both. Some hearty souls have been traveling to Knife and Basswood lakes in the Boundary Waters, with moderate success there as well. While no true giants have been coming to the scales, many three-to-six-pounders have been caught with a few approaching ten pounds. These waterways have only minimal snow cover and decent ice beneath it, so travel by light truck, sled or four-wheeler appears to be no problem.

Walleye fishing has been a bit disappointing, with meager stringers coming from Shagawa, Birch, and Fall lakes. Anglers there are finding that it is much better to move often to attain the best results. Minnows on a dead stick will work, but a jigging spoon tipped with a minnow head will tempt the more aggressive into biting. This is where it pays to have good electronics and use them to locate roaming schools of walleyes that are chasing schools of bait fish. Think of how you would approach a lake in the open water season. Would you just drive out on the lake, pick a spot and anchor there for the day? Probably not. Most likely you would move on if you haven't been connecting with fish at a given spot. Same holds true for the ice fishing.

Most lakes are sporting at least sixteen inches of ice, but it's best to drill as you go when approaching choke points and moving water. Remember that no ice is ever considered safe. Taking the little time and effort to drill a few holes as you go can save you many dollars and perhaps even your life in the long run. Be safe and good fishing!

Courtesy Babe's Bait, located at Ely's west entrance.



Left: A young North Country resident enjoys a morning outside in minus 40 degree weather. It's the frosty eyelashes that let you know it's really cold!

file photo by M. Helmberger

ICEBOX OF THE NATION?

The contest of cold

In battle over Lower 48's cold winter title, the numbers tell the story

When it's winter, and it's cold outside, it seems some in the news media just can't resist the story of the handful of remote towns across the country that vie for the title of "Icebox of the Nation."

It's been a claim to fame for International Falls for years, which actually trademarked the title about a decade ago after agreeing to pay \$2,000 to Fraser, Colo., to relinquish that town's claim to the title.

But the trademark hasn't quelled the debate and, a third town, Big Piney, Wyoming, has muddied the waters, claiming that it's the coldest town in the country. In a story on the debate last week, National Public Radio interviewed representatives of Fraser, Big Piney, and International Falls, none of whom made a particularly compelling case. Bob Anderson, mayor up at the Falls, mentioned frozen turkey bowling, which was its usual hit at last weekend's Icebox Days festival in the Falls, as if somehow that was compelling evidence of his town's cold weather supremacy.

Of course, who knows what Bob really had to say to NPR. For most reporters, these are human interest features, preferably delivered with a heaping helping of quirky local color. Most of them couldn't care less which town is colder... it's more about entertaining readers or listeners about the weird things people way out in

the sticks actually argue about.

Which town is coldest? To most folks, that's like competing for bragging rights over which town smells the worst. I mean, is that actually a title anyone (in their right mind, at least) wants to win?

Of course, those of us who live in the North Country know it matters. Which is why I decided to truly get to the bottom of this by digging into the numbers. After all, this isn't a question of how many human tongues are stuck to your town's flagpole. We've got data that can settle this one once and for all, and I was more than happy to summon my inner nerd and wade through the snowdrifts.

So I tracked down the historical data thanks to Intellicast, and analyzed the numbers from multiple angles, and came to the obvious conclusion: It's complicated!

That's because it all depends on how you define "Icebox of the Nation."

Come January, it isn't even a contest. International Falls, with its daily mean temperature of 3.5 degrees F, blows both Fraser (14 degrees) and Big Piney (10 degrees) out of the running. For the six months of what we normally consider to be "winter" around here (Nov.-April), it's closer, but International Falls still wins easily with a mean temperature of 18.75 degrees F, compared to 20.5 degrees for Big Piney and a relatively balmy 22.5 degrees for Fraser.

International Falls has the coldest overall record low of the three communities, at minus 55 degrees (Big Piney is second with minus 50, Fraser's coldest is, yawn, minus 46). The Falls also has the coldest record lows for the months of January (-55), February (-48), March (-38), and April (-14).

Come summer, the situation is different. Both Big Piney (elevation 6,824) and

Avg. mean winter temp

Big Piney, Wyoming.....	20.5° F
Fraser, Colorado.....	22.5° F
I Falls, Minnesota.....	18.75° F
Embarrass, Minnesota.....	16.1° F

Mean determined by averaging monthly normal high and low, Nov. 1-April 30. Source: Intellicast

Fraser (elevation 8,574) are high altitude locations where the air is thin and dry, and that helps their daytime heat dissipate at night. Big Piney, for example has the warmest daytime high temperatures of the three towns in the summer, but the coolest overnight lows. If you average the whole year, Big Piney is slightly colder than International Falls with an annual mean temperature of 36.0 degrees to 37.5 degrees in the Falls. Fraser checks in with a yearly mean of 36.5 degrees. That's where the question becomes complicated.

To me, none of the communities qualifies as an "icebox" come summer. You can get frost in any of the towns during summer, but it's more likely in the high elevation communities. Still, when you're talking "icebox" you're talking winter in my book, and on that front, the answer is clear— northeastern Minnesota has these western mountain towns beat, hands down.

And if we're really talking about iceboxes, none of these three towns is really in competition with the truly coldest places in the Lower 48, such as Embarrass, or Tower at its former official weather station, where the mean Nov.-April temperature comes in at a frosty 16.1 degrees. Or try

See **COLD...**pg. 5B



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

ECLIPSE..Continued from page 4B

its dark side to allow the moon to remain visible, although it takes on a deep reddish-brown hue. Lunar eclipses, by themselves, are relatively common, being visible perhaps once a year on average in North America, although the frequency can be highly variable. What makes this event unusual is that it coincides with a

blue moon, which is the term for the second full moon within a calendar month. The first full moon in our region occurred on Jan. 2, which makes Wednesday's full moon the second in January. The next full moon won't appear until March 1, which means February will not have its own full moon this year.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
36 21					23 3					14 -3					17 6					28 14				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
01/15	6	-9	0.04	1.7"	01/15	3	-39	0.12	2"	01/15	3	-8	0.00	01/15	3	-6	0.00	01/15	3	-9	0.20	2.2"		
01/16	10	-1	0.01	0.2"	01/16	6	-10	0.00	01/16	6	-2	0.11	2.1"	01/16	9	-6	0.00	01/16	7	-5	0.00			
01/17	11	0	0.00	01/17	8	-6	0.00	01/17	9	-2	0.01	0.2"	01/17	30	5	0.00	01/17	8	-4	0.00				
01/18	29	6	0.02	0.5"	01/18	25	1	0.00	01/18	27	6	0.00	01/18	30	21	0.00	01/18	29	5	0.03	0.4"			
01/19	32	21	0.00	01/19	27	19	0.00	01/19	30	22	0.00	0.2"	01/19	41	25	0.03	1"	01/19	30	21	0.00			
01/20	39	29	0.00	01/20	35	18	0.00	01/20	41	29	0.00	01/20	37	25	0.00	01/20	40	25	0.00					
01/21	41	12	0.00	01/21	35	27	0.00	01/21	37	12	0.00	01/21	25	16	0.00	01/21	40	5	0.00					
Totals			0.68	38.0"	Totals			0.63	39.4"	Totals			0.74	47.9"	Totals	NA	NA			Totals			0.80	35.1"

ICEBOX..Continued from page 4B

Warroad, with a six-month winter mean of 16.8 degrees, or Hallock, in far northwestern Minnesota, with a winter mean of 17.1 degrees. Even on an annual basis, Embarrass's mean of 34.5

degrees, takes the cake. The bottom line is that the winter deep freeze in our region isn't an isolated experience, dependent on high elevation or some other geographic oddity

that makes a particular place cold. Everywhere is cold in northern Minnesota in winter, because we're located in the far north and in the center of the continent, where we receive the most fre-

quent outbreaks of arctic air and the least frequent intrusions of milder maritime air masses. While our winters aren't what they used to be, they're still tough to beat for cold weather.

On the question of who has the coldest winters in the Lower 48, it's northern Minnesota, no doubt about it.

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Obituaries And Death Notices

Ann Mobilia
Ann Mobilia, 101, of Ely, passed away on Monday, Jan. 22, 2018, at St. Michael's Health and Rehabilitation Center in Virginia. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 27 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely with visitation being held one hour prior to the service at the church. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Martha D. Wirta
Martha D. Hutchins Wirta, 76, of Superior, Wis., passed away with her family by her side on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018, in Solvay Hospice House in Duluth. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 26 at Nelson Funeral Care Chapel in Cloquet, with visitation for one hour prior. Interment will be in Maple Grove Cemetery in Cloquet.

She is survived by her daughter, Anna (Scott) Wirta Kosobuski of Superior; son, Les (Zina

Micklewright) Wirta of Cloquet; grandchildren, Levi Wirta, Savannah Kinsman, Lucas Kosobuski, Jonah Kosobuski, Logan Wirta and Elizabeth Vandecar; two great-grandchildren; sister, Sara Grogg of LeRoy, Kansas; brother, Robert (Carolyn) Hutchins of Emporia, Kansas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Al Podominick
Al Podominick, 83, of Ely, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2018, at the Boundary Waters Center in Ely. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Wednesday, Jan. 24 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. Burial was at Maple Hill Cemetery in Hibbing. Family arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his sons, John (Margie) Podominick of Lakeville and Ray (Kari) Podominick of Ely; daughter, Vicki Podominick of Ely; grandchildren, Liz Podominick of Colorado

Springs, Colo., and Ashley Coombe of Duluth; sisters: Evelyn (Jim) Anderson and Janice (Dean) Fairbanks; and brother, Dick (Karen) Podominick.

Mark E. Wakefield
Mark E. Wakefield, 78, of Wuori Township, died on Sunday, Jan. 14, 2018, in Essentia Health-Virginia. At Mark's request, no formal services will be held. A private inurnment will take place in the spring of 2018. Family services provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his mother, Clara Wakefield of Island Lake; wife, June Hagen of Pike-Sandy Township; sons, David Wakefield of Virginia and Scott Wakefield; stepson, Keith Hagen of Tower; siblings, Bob, Joe (Sue), Clifford (Nan), Don (Linda), Edie Gelineau and Judy (Tom) Ferrell; numerous nieces and nephews, extended family and friends.

Precinct caucuses set for Tuesday, Feb. 6

Caucus finder website helps find locations

ST. PAUL — Secretary of State Steve Simon announced the availability of the state's official Precinct Caucus Finder on Tuesday, Feb. 6. The Finder displays caucus locations provided by the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party and Republican Party of Minnesota.

Minnesotans can find their caucus location here: <http://caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>.

Precinct Caucuses mark the beginning of the 2018 election in Minnesota. They are meetings run by the state's political parties where the candidate endorsement process begins, delegates are selected, and goals and values (called party platforms) may be set. Precinct Caucuses are entirely run by the state's political parties, including the selection of caucus locations and meeting procedures. This year, one part of Precinct Caucuses will be a preference ballot where Minnesotans will be able to vote for the person they want their political party to support for Governor.

"I encourage all Minnesotans to go

out and caucus on Feb. 6 and make their voices heard," said Secretary of State Steve Simon. "Minnesota has a proud tradition of civic engagement and going to a caucus is a great way for Minnesotans to show support for their preferred candidates, raise an important issue, and meet people in their community. This is an important and historic election year in Minnesota and every voice matters."

In order to participate in a caucus, Minnesotans must be eligible to vote in the November general election, live in the precinct, and generally agree with the principles of the political party hosting the caucus.

Minnesotans also have the right to take time off work to be at a Precinct Caucus or political party convention (if they are a delegate or alternate), but must give their employer ten days' written notice. Minnesotans interested in caucusing with one of the state's non-major political parties should contact their party directly for dates and locations.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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NAMEHOLDER(S):
Jeremy Brent Aho, 4258 Kangas Rd., Hibbing, MN 55746

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the

person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of

perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

Dated: January 22, 2018
SIGNED BY: Jeremy B. Aho
MAILING ADDRESS: 4258 Kangas Rd., Hibbing, MN 55746

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 26 & Feb. 2, 2018

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT Court File No. 69VI-PR-17-159

ESTATE OF ROBERT EARL JORDAN Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on February 14, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. a hearing will be held in this Court at Virginia, Minnesota, on a petition for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the decedent's Will dated October 28, 2014, and Codicil dated N/A, and

Separate Writing pursuant to Minn. Stat. 524.2-513 dated N/A, and for the appointment of PATRICIA ANN JORDAN, whose address is 4900 Nature Trail, Racine, Wisconsin 53403 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an unsupervised administration.

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the

claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: January 3, 2018
Gary J. Pagliacetti
Judge of District Court
Amy Turnquist
Court Administrator
By: Stefanie Higgins, Deputy

Attorney for Petitioner
DEFENBAUGH
LAW OFFICE
RAE R. BENTZ
MN# 218376
107 E Camp St
Ely, Minnesota 55731
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Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 19 & 26, 2018

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

4					9			5
		7	8				6	
	1				3			7
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦♦♦ Moderate ♦♦♦ Challenging
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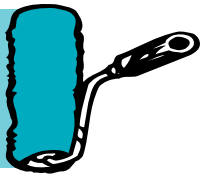
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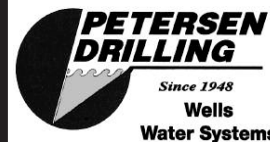
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Benefits: All positions are eligible for the following:

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