

1,000 points

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VOL. 28, ISSUE 48 December 8, 2017

## ELY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT JOINT POWERS BOARD

# 'We're not paying to fix your streets'

## Ely mayor gets schooled in state bonding realities

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – The State of Minnesota is not in the habit of borrowing money to pay for city street projects.

Minnesota State Senator Tom Bakk forcefully reminded Ely Mayor Chuck Novak of that fact of life this week.

The Ely Economic Development Joint Powers Board hosted their annual legislative forum at the Grand Ely Lodge Monday afternoon.

Bakk opened the session by summarizing the year ahead for the legislature. The state legislative session starts Feb. 20 and will run until May 20

"We did a two-year budget in the state last year," Bakk said. "So, the main thing that happens this year is our budget forecast, where we see how the revenues are coming in as compared to how they were forecasted last February."

With the new revenue forecast numbers, released on

Tuesday and showing a \$188 million shortfall, the governor will develop a supplemental budget of things he wants to submit to the legislature. "We will either have more money or less money, or about the same, but it will determine what is available for us to spend," Bakk said.

A potential general fund bonding bill of up to \$1 billion is a real possibility this year,

See...FORUM pg. 10



Ely Mayor Chuck Novak reacts Monday to being told by State Sen. Tom Bakk that the city's continuing bonding request for their 17th Avenue reconstruction project will likely never be approved. photo by K. Vandervort

# Snow City

## Orr celebrates the season



Santa made a stop in Orr last Saturday during this year's Snow City celebration. He rode in the parade, along with the Grinch, and then visited with children at the Legion Hall, where community members gathered for coffee, treats and conversation, plus had the chance to shop at the craft show. The annual event is sponsored by the Orr Chamber. photos by M. Roach



## MINING

# Taconite taxes drop for third straight year

## Lower production, sales tax exemption cited for reduction

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Lower taconite production in 2016 combined with a sales tax exemption applied to mine processing equipment in 2015, have contributed to a third straight year of reduced tax receipts to the state and local governments in the region.

According to the 2017 Mining Tax Guide, just released by the Minnesota Department of Revenue, tax receipts levied on the industry fell to \$80.56 million, their lowest level since 2009, when the financial crash shuttered most mines on the Iron Range.

As recently as 2013, the state levied taxes totaling \$141.9 million. While the state and county levy a number of taxes on the industry, the production tax, which currently amounts to \$2.66 per ton, makes up the lion's share.

That means reductions in total taconite production due to layoffs and shutdowns can have a big impact on the amount of taxes the industry generates. Production tax dollars

See...MINING pg. 11

## SULFIDE MINING

# Emmer bill passed narrowly in the House - but will it matter?

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — A bill that would restore two federal mineral leases to Chilean-based Antofagasta and its proposed Twin Metals mine, and halt a two-year study of a proposed mineral withdrawal in the Superior National Forest, narrowly passed the U.S. House last Thursday — but in the end it may

not matter.

The measure — dubbed the MINER Act or H.R. 3905 — was introduced by Republican Rep. Tom Emmer and backed by Eighth District DFL Congressman Rick Nolan. It reverses two decisions made in the final weeks of the Obama administration, but also rewrites the rules that authorize the president to offer future protections to federal lands in Minnesota

without congressional approval.

The vote on the measure, which had originally been scheduled for Nov. 29, was pushed back a day when it became clear to House leadership that the bill lacked the votes to pass it. While the Republican and Democratic caucuses often vote along party lines, Emmer's bill faced more than the usual opposition from fellow Republicans. Pushback from the national

Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, along with opposition from organizations like the League of Conservation Voters (LCV), helped convince 23 Republican House members, including Minnesota Third District Congressman Erik Paulsen, to oppose the measure. In the end, it passed 216-204, a remarkably close vote in a Congress where

See...EMMER pg. 11



Rep. Tom Emmer



Check out Poetry at the top of the stairs!

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MANUFACTURING

# Lamppa wood furnaces cleanest on the market

## New EPA data shows Tower-based stove company in a class by itself

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— New data published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency last week confirms that Tower-based Lamppa Manufacturing is producing the cleanest and most efficient wood burning furnace on the market today.

In fact, it's in a league entirely of its own, with emissions that are orders of magnitude lower than their nearest competitors, and an efficiency rating that is on par with standard-efficiency oil furnaces.

The company's primary wood furnace, known as the Vapor-Fire 100, is so clean that the EPA certified it in September as meeting strict emission standards that don't take effect until 2020. As of today, it's the only wood furnace manufactured in the U.S. that has met the new standard. Under the EPA rules,

wood furnaces that don't meet the standard won't be able to be sold in the U.S. beginning in less than three years.

So how much cleaner is Lamppa's Vapor-Fire furnace? According to EPA-approved testing data, the Lamppa furnace emits just 0.72 grams of particulates per hour. That compares to an average of 6.54 grams for the ten other wood furnaces currently on the market. The next closest furnace emits 2.84 grams of particulates per hour, while the worst emits more than 11 grams per hour.

Particulates include fine ash particles that can cause respiratory problems, particularly in cities where wood-burning is common. Concerns about wintertime air quality in many mid-sized cities helped prompt the EPA to enact the stricter emissions standards.

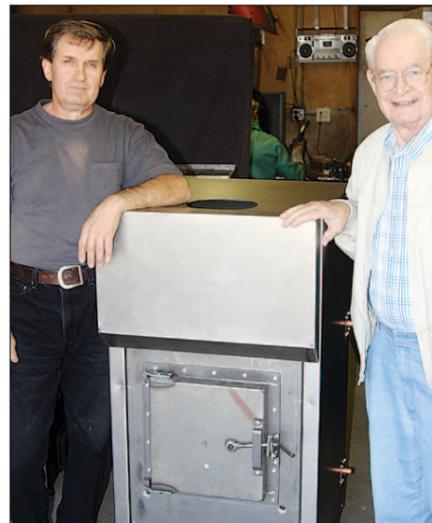
The Vapor-Fire also enjoys the highest efficiency rating, at a whopping 79 percent. That's

well above the 68.7 average efficiency rating of the ten other wood furnace competitors. And the remaining wood furnaces still on the market are among the best of the industry, since numerous other manufacturers were shuttered following the implementation of new standards in 2015.

While the remaining manufacturers are scrambling to try to meet the new 2020 standards, Lamppa's has benefitted from the company's long history of seeking to build a cleaner wood stove. "This isn't something that they started working on three years ago," said Dale Horihan, operations manager at Lamppa Manufacturing. "Both Daryl and Herb started this 40 years ago, long before anyone else cared about the effect on the environment," added Horihan. "It's been years of trial and error to get where they are today."

That relentless focus has given Daryl an extraordinary

**Right: Daryl Lamppa and his father Herb worked together to develop their remarkable wood furnace.**



understanding of how fire burns in a controlled environment. "He understands what's going on inside the fire box without even opening the door."

The word is apparently getting out. "It's been fun working here," said Horihan. "It's busy. I have a hard time doing anything but being on the phone here."

The company is currently in the process of planning an expansion that will allow them to significantly ramp up production by late 2018. The company is working with the Tower

Economic Development Authority and the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board to build a new production facility in Tower's business park. The current timeline has the company in the new facility by next fall.

**Briefly**

### Budget forecast heralds possible deficits ahead

ST. PAUL— The state of Minnesota may be facing red ink once again, according to the latest state revenue forecast, issued on Tuesday. A combination of lower expected revenues, higher state spending, and economic uncertainty prompted the change in the budget forecast, according to officials with the Minnesota Management and Budget. The latest forecast projects

a \$188 million deficit in the current two-year budget cycle and a \$586 million deficit in the 2020-21 biennium.

"Today's forecast is a reality check," MMB Commissioner Myron Frans told reporters on Tuesday. "The risk that our current economic expansion will come to an end is real. We always have to remember how quickly surpluses can turn to deficits."

The gap is relatively small against a \$45 billion biennial budget, but it marks a surprising turnaround after

years of hefty state surpluses. Yet even as the forecast was being issued, state officials were discounting its significance, noting the continued uncertainty over tax changes in Washington, D.C., and the economic impact of those changes. State economists also made note of the fact that the current economic expansion, which began in 2009, is already one of the longest on record in the U.S., posing the potential for a reversal in the business cycle.

### Apply now for heating help

REGIONAL— As cold winter weather settled in this week, the Minnesota Department of Commerce is encouraging eligible Minnesotans to get help paying their heating bills through the state's Energy Assistance Program.

"Heating your home is a necessity in Minnesota, and energy assistance is essential for vulnerable Minnesotans, especially low income families with

young children, people with disabilities, veterans and seniors," said Commerce Commissioner Jessica Looman.

Households that earn less than 50 percent of the state's median annual income (\$48,077 for a family of four) are eligible for the Energy Assistance Program.

Energy assistance funds help low-income homeowners and renters pay for heating bills through grant money paid directly to utility companies and heating fuel vendors

on behalf of eligible households.

In October, the Energy Assistance Program received over \$102 million in federal funds, or about 90 percent of the total funds expected for the program this year.

In northeastern Minnesota, residents should contact the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency at 218-749-2912 to sign up for this assistance.

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CITY OF ELY

# Duluth mayor gets an earful from Ely officials

ELY – As Duluth Mayor Emily Larson completes her second year in office, she is traveling around the Iron Range to meet and greet various city leaders.

Larson visited Ely last Thursday with St. Louis County Commissioner Tom Rukavina as her chaperone and got an earful from elected officials.

“I believe a strong Duluth is a strong St. Louis County,” she told members of the Ely City Council. “We can be a good partner with the county in many ways. Commissioner (Rukavina) has been wonderful to work with. It is my goal to do my part for Duluth to have a better understanding of what is happening outside of us, and what we can do to be supportive, to learn more, and to help lift up the projects that you need.”

Larson admitted that the city of Duluth can “suck all the energy” out of what is happening in northern Minnesota.

With that said, Ely Mayor Chuck Novak began the listening session by saying, “There seems to be a lack of understanding on the Duluth City Council about the impact of the Duluth economy



**Left: Duluth Mayor Emily Larson gestures while discussing issues with the Ely City Council.**

photo by K. Vandervort

get to the point where Duluth is an island

on the industries up here, especially when you look at the amount of taconite that is delivered to the port, the number of people who go to Duluth for health services, and the number of people who shop in Duluth.”

Novak then got to the point. “There are some people who are getting irritated with the resolutions against mining that come out of Duluth.”

He continued, “Then we hear that Duluth pulled out of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities. The coalition is fighting very hard on the clean water initiative, which Duluth is part of the argument. So, we are a little perplexed. We shouldn’t

onto itself.”

Novak defended the attitude of the Iron Range. “We’re a tough bunch up here, and we get a little attitudinal. If Duluth is not going to support our initiatives, and this is very simple with the mining and other things, if you go the opposite direction, us Finns and Bohunks take that very seriously. We should be working together on things.”

Rukavina stepped in to smooth the waters. “Mayor Larson has heard the message loud and clear. I never planned for this to be a bitch session. She heard it already this morning from Bill Erzar, and others at the Front Porch. The frustration is

there, that’s all.”

Council member Al Forsman drew similarities between Ely and Duluth. “We are very dependent on the mining industries, but we are also very unique in our character and in our tourist attraction, probably more so than anywhere else in St. Louis County. I know that Ely, and I’m pretty confident that Duluth too, would not survive without the industries that we have. It’s great to embrace the tourism that we have. It is an important part of our economy, but not all.”

Council member Heidi Omerza parroted her frustration with Duluth exiting their CGMC membership. “We do a lot of lobbying for Local Government Aid and you are one of the biggest cities for LGA,” she said.

Omerza touted her leadership roles on the Ely Economic Development Authority and Incredible Ely. “We copy a lot of what Duluth does and we are a lot like you on a much smaller scale, and we are working on making Ely a much more vibrant community.”

She challenged Larson to get Duluth back into the CGMC. “You benefit no matter what,

and you are one of the big dogs in the room, and people are watching you.”

Larson described the disconnection between her city and the CGMC – the annual fee for Duluth’s membership in the coalition is \$88,000. “At a time when we are cutting money for police and fire and all sorts of things, that \$88,000 is a fulltime lobbyist, and a whole bunch of things. I think their budget number is wrong. Conversely, to join the League of Minnesota Cities is \$6,000.”

Council members Dan Forsman and Jerome Debeltz pointed out that mining throughout the Iron Range benefits Duluth in many ways. “I would like for us to be more on a level playing field rather than accepting handouts from you. All of us getting our fair share in St. Louis County is what I would like to see.”

Debeltz shared his frustration with witnessing a Duluth City Council member voice his opposition to copper nickel mining at a public hearing in Virginia. “Between May and September

See VISIT...pg. 5

COUNTY SCHOOLS

# Board approves interim super contract

by MELISSA ROACH  
Staff Writer

REGIONAL-The St. Louis County School Board has approved a six-month contract for Interim Superintendent Reggie Engebritson. Engebritson

was hired by the board back in November after Superintendent Steve Sallee announced he had accepted a position with Southeast Service Cooperative, a non-profit administrative consulting service located in

Rochester.

Ingebritson has already worked with the county school district for many years. She will leave her ten-year post as executive director of the Northland Learning Center, a special education coop-

erative with eleven area independent school districts, including 2142, and will begin with the district on January 1. For the six-month interim position, she will be paid \$65,000, including medical and dental care benefits, as well

as life insurance under the district’s group plan.

Engebritson studied special education and received her master’s degree as well as her Administrative License from St. Cloud State University. She went on

to obtain her Doctor of Education in Educational Policy and Administration from University of Minnesota. Superintendent Sallee has been with the district since July, 2014.

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# OPINION

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## Editorial

### Corporations rule

More than ever, the nation's political class kowtows to those with money

There was a time when some politicians in this country stood up to corporate America. They were progressive and truly populist, and believed that the government had a role to play in ensuring that the economic gains of a burgeoning U.S. economy were shared by all. They understood that too much economic power in the hands of a relative few threatened the very foundation of democracy.

Those progressive leaders, including a number who helped shape the politics of Minnesota, must be turning over in their graves.

We now see the political power of those with great wealth every day in Washington, where the Republican majority takes its marching orders from the billionaires who keep them in power. We see this manifested in a tax bill heading toward final passage that ladles out huge tax cuts to the wealthiest citizens and corporations at a time when income and wealth inequality in the U.S. is already obscene. That these tax cuts will be paid for by higher taxes on many average American families and higher health care premiums for working people, makes the injustice all the more astonishing. The tax bill that pretend-populist President Trump hopes to sign before the end of the year is the virtual manifestation of the power of an immoral oligarchy that year after year demands a bigger share of the wealth that America creates.

Yet we don't have to look as far as Washington to see the effects of growing corporate power and influence, and the ways in which it erodes the public good. Three years ago, we reported on the ever-shrinking share of northeastern Minnesota's mineral wealth that ends up being returned to communities in the region. This week, we can report that nothing has changed during the ensuing three years. In fact, it's gotten worse. The value of the production tax, and other levies on the taconite industry, continues to lose ground to inflation, which means less actual spending power for area schools, cities, or for economic diversification.

Today, the region's taconite mines are yielding as much ore as ever, and the value of that ore, while lower than a few years ago, remains historically high. Even though mine production dropped last year due to foreign dumping of steel, the value of the ore produced in 2016 was still about \$1.8 billion. The roughly \$80 million in total taxes that the mining companies paid on that production amounts to

just 4.4 percent of the wealth that ore generated. That's pathetic.

While wages contributed approximately \$250 million to the economy last year, that's still just 13.8 percent of the total value of that production.

Twenty-five years ago, a ton of iron ore sold for about \$14 a ton, and the region's mines generated about \$98 million a year in taxes. Today, that same ton of ore fetches about \$61 per ton as of this week, and the mining industry would still generate only about \$100 million a year in taxes on equivalent production.

Adjust for inflation, and that \$98 million that the industry generated in taxes in 1991 would equal \$175 million today. In 1992, the industry paid about 18 percent of the value of its ore in production taxes and other levies. Today, that percentage has fallen by three-quarters.

And that's still not enough to please the mining executives. In 2015, they successfully lobbied to exempt equipment used in mining production from the state use tax, which saved mining companies \$13 million last year. To make matters worse, the Legislature recently authorized Minnesota Power to reduce power rates on the mines and large paper plants, and have local residents, many on fixed incomes, pick up the tab.

No wonder the rich keep getting richer. From Washington, D.C., to St. Paul, corporate America is running the board, and we're all paying the price. For years we've been promised that if we just cut corporate taxes and reduce regulation, corporate America will create new jobs, boost wages, and reinvest in our communities. Instead, the corporate windfalls have all gone straight to the top, while workers' wages stagnate and manufacturing production continues to move beyond our borders.

How long before the American people say enough is enough? For too long we've allowed politicians to get by with lip service about the needs of the middle class while they've consistently passed laws demanding less and less from corporate America and the wealthy. It's time we wise up and quit falling for politicians' populist rhetoric while they pass legislation bought and paid for by billionaires, or mining company executives. There was a time when Americans voted for candidates who were true to their word, and truly believed in helping average Americans. Let's start electing that kind of leader once again.



## Letters from Readers

### Thank you for speaking up for everyone's mother

I just finished Mr. Helmlinger's commentary, "For legislative staffers, sex abuse tales ring close to home," which was republished in MinnPost.

Thank you for writing such a personal and painful story.

Thank you for allowing it to be republished from the *Timberjay*.

Thank you for speaking up for my mother and my sisters.

Thank you for not staying silent and for speaking for many of us men.

Thank you for doing everything you can think of to take the highly moral and high integrity path while still calling out the men who are a threat to families.

And most of all, thank you for not accepting the value to "keep it in the family", or the community or the neighborhood. This choice is even harder in smaller communities than it is in Capitol Cities or urban, suburban communities.

I feel some relief after reading your words. We are not going to let this issue die down and the problem caused by men will continue to be dealt with by men.

**Stuart Macdonald Woodbury**

### Frontier should not be the only game in town

I have kept my Frontier monthly bills [including broadband service] over the last two years. Each time my bill went

up, I'd call for an answer as to why, and each time with various excuses. The past year has found my bill going up slightly almost every month, and there is NEVER a straight answer as to why it went up.

I now believe the "customer service" people are being trained on how to confuse and sidestep any questions on billing. I think because they realize there is no other real option to their phone and internet services, they are doing as they please without having to answer to anyone for it. I would like to see THAT changed!

**Barry W. Tungseth Ely**

### Believing in fantasy opens the door to tyranny

The season for believing in magic, miracle and myth brings to mind FANTASYLAND (2017), written by Kurt Andersen. Magical thinking by early Protestants held that "I believe, therefore, I am right," and was key to Puritan fanatical dreams of a private heaven on Earth. What followed was a 500-year history of how America went haywire.

How we interpret the world guides our actions. Andersen offers a history of delusion in our national character in chasing supernatural fantasies, utopian dreams, desires for conquest and myths of national exceptionalism. Get-rich-quick schemes, quack medicine and hellfire preachers lured the easily persuaded.

Ideas of race born out of belief, not of scientific fact, have morphed into racism. Sexism and homophobia are beliefs rooted in biblical origins. Religious superiority,

one better than the other, qualifies as bigotry. Prejudice and bias is the stuff of closed minds exploited by agents of oppression.

Beliefs are based on feelings, not fact; absent evidence and reason, no questions are asked and critical thinking is suspended. Believing in belief rather than believing in factual reality has persuaded many Americans to think and act (voting) against their own best interests and needs.

"Believe me," urges Trump in promoting free market magic of the "gospel of wealth" tax cuts and deregulation for the top one percent. Believing in belief has spread from religion to economics, fake news to alternative "facts," creationism to anti-science climate deniers, and P. T. Barnum to celebrity show business.

Tyranny arrives as celebrity cloaked in a flag and carrying a cross. Scoundrels, when in trouble, often seek refuge in patriotism or religion as cover for wrongdoing or harming others. Belief in believing is a force behind dehumanization, discrimination, scapegoating and ostracism. Close the doors to truth and you open the doors to tyranny.

**Harold Honkola Tower**

## We want your letters!

The *Timberjay* encourages letters to the editor. You can submit letters by mail at PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790, or email letters to marshall@timberjay.com.

# 'Tis the season of Merry and Bright

In less than three weeks I will be fifty-nine years-old and celebrating my Christmas Eve birthday. For nearly sixty years, people have been asking me if I got gypped on presents because my birthday landed on Christmas? I have replied, "Oh no!" It should be, "Oh no, and give me a gift for the aggravation of being asked one more time!"

In reality, I'd wake up on the morning of the twenty-fourth and before breakfast would sit on the sofa taking audience like a



**SCARLET LYNN STONE**

princess, surrounded by family and would open my birthday gifts. I had other gifts awaiting under the tree for the Christmas Eve festivities, however dinner had to be eaten and dishes washed before our family opened those presents. Santa would visit later that night and we three kids would run into the living room on Christmas morning to see toys everywhere, leaning up against the walls, laid out under the tree, stretching out to the middle of our living room. That's how it went down

year after year when I was a child. We always figured it was my dad's way of making up for having gone through the Depression with few toys. He enjoyed seeing us oozing with happiness.

After decades of wrapping paper and bows, it doesn't really matter if I receive gifts any longer. I have enough stuff. Verbal gifts are wonderful and so is sharing company with a good friend. When someone says they like reading my columns in the paper or enjoyed seeing me play a role in a local theater production, these are great gifts. A suitable President for our country along with removing all the greedy elves from the workshop would be the best gift, but I doubt that will arrive

by Christmas Eve!

It's fun to give people gifts. Back in the eighties, my older brother went into a beige phase which caused me concern. He only wore clothing in shades of beige, tan, taupe, linen, buff, mushroom, oatmeal, let's not forget bone...or parchment and its kissin' cousin...hazel. One Christmas, knowing he needed an intervention, I gave him his gift, "The BEIGE Box." It was wrapped in brown shipping paper, and filled with as many beige items as I could find, such as Band Aids, masking tape, putty, rubber bands, a card of buttons, Dr. Scholl's moleskin, an ACE bandage

See **MERRY...**pg. 5

# Letters from Readers

## City officials should consider demographic trend

A surge of baby boomers is now flooding into their retirement years. It's estimated that 60,000 Minnesotans are turning 65 every year. The Ely City Council would be wise to take this demographic trend seriously in its long-range planning for the future of our community.

If Ely were to aggressively promote itself as a wonderful and relatively inexpensive retirement destination for this huge market, think of the benefits: many currently empty homes would be filled by retirees who bring financial resources earned elsewhere to spend here.

I have noticed that when our older friends here are ready to give up house maintenance and

yard care, but do not yet need assisted living or the nursing home, they tend to move away for lack of good local alternatives. Hopefully our community leaders will find ways to encourage developers to build beautiful new senior housing options in and near downtown Ely.

**Elton Brown  
Morse Township**

## We need to stop the lies that always lead us into war

Are we tired of lies from Washington, yet? We need a law that says if any president, secretary of state, senator, or representative lies or misleads us into a war they should lose their job, benefits, and face prison time.

War is never necessary. There are always ways to prevent them. Probably every president of the

20th and 21st centuries is guilty of lying their way into wars. We are often convinced that war is the only way — that's never true. People like Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Kissinger, Nixon, Johnson, Truman, Obama have all committed horrendous war crimes — crimes against humanity. It doesn't matter how many children die (or grandfathers) as long as the banks, oil companies, the Halliburtons, etc. get their huge profits.

When, for example, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was asked about the 500,000 young children of Iraq who died of starvation and a lack of medical supplies from Clinton's embargo, she responded "...the price — we think the price is worth it."

Johnson lied to us about the Gulf of Tonkin incident and the result was three million dead Vietnamese, secret bombings in

Laos and Cambodia, and 58,000 dead GIs.

G. W. Bush lied about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and refused to let the observers complete their work. The result was hundreds of thousands of dead Iraqis. Iraq lost maybe three million of their people from the crimes committed by the elder Bush, Clinton, the younger Bush, and Obama.

ISIS, al Qaida, and the Taliban get stronger when the U.S. drops 500-pound bombs on their children, when U.S. soldiers break into people's homes, when the U.S. tortures their citizens, and when the U.S. occupies their land. The U.S. caused these groups to exist. No one wants their country to be occupied.

Another U.S. crime is its support of the Israeli occupation of Palestine. I worked four times in Palestine. Palestine is the victim. What the U.S. does in

Palestine is one of the main reasons why much of the world hates the US.

The U.S. is beating the drums of war once more, lying and demonizing the next victim-North Korea. Koreans are good people just like us. They don't want to be threatened. They want peace which could easily be accomplished but the U.S. wants war, wants to control North Korea in its bid to control China and Asia. The U.S. forced North Korea into needing the bomb. The U.S. doesn't want peace.

We need to stop the war madness. More than half of our taxes goes to the military. We would be safer if that were used instead to help rebuild what we have destroyed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

**Steve Johnson  
Ely**

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

# Tower daycare looks to expand age range

TOWER — The Little Eagles Childcare Center may soon be able to accept children as young as 18 months of age. Center director Amy Richter is working with state licensing officials to obtain a waiver that would give the center the ability to accept a wider age range of children.

State licensing rules normally limit the age spread among children in a center to 36 months, unless the children are segregated. But that can be difficult to do in small centers, like Little Eagles, which is currently operating in the Tower-

Soudan Elementary School.

"The parents we have been able to serve have been thrilled at the quality of care that their children have been receiving at Little Eagles," said Richter. "We've known all along that there was additional need out there, so we're hoping that the waiver will allow us to further meet that need."

Richter said she's hopeful that the center can have the waiver in place within about two weeks. That would allow the center to serve a wider range of families and children ahead of the Christmas

break, when most schools are closed and many parents are forced to scramble for childcare.

Richter said Little Eagles is also continuing to accept children on a drop-in basis and Richter urged parents who haven't already taken advantage of the facility to register for drop-in services. Parents can contact the center at 218-410-7077 or visit the website at [littleeagleschildcare.com](http://littleeagleschildcare.com).

**Right: Kids at play at Little Eagles Childcare in Tower**



## MERRY...Continued from page 4

and an unwrapped Bit-O-Honey to sweeten the joke. It has become a fond memory for us at Christmastime. I report that my brother moved out of his beige phase and never went back. He has made a full recovery, because last summer I was delighted when I saw him in an enterprising plaid shirt of turquoise and watermelon, with white in the weave as well, to give rest to the eyes.

One year I received quite an odd gift. I had offended someone because they made tuna salad as a side dish for Thanksgiving dinner. Thinking it an odd choice, I made what I considered humorous, but apparently hurtful, comments about it. A month later I opened my Christmas gift from them and received all the ingredients needed to make tuna salad. A rather clever comeback on their part.

This year for Christmas I'd like to have all the answers. All these years of experiences have

come and gone and I still haven't "figured it out yet," or maybe I really have and I'm waiting for someone to show up at my door with a big certificate of acknowledgement, like a Publisher's Clearing House event. That would be a nice gift! We are taught as mere punks that our smarts earn us a report card and we get the impression we are figuring it all out. Somewhere around eight-teen, or the mid-twenties if you go on to college, that chapter ends and we flounder for the rest of our days wondering if we will ever arrive. We know the Dalai Lama has arrived. How? We just know. The majority of us seem to rely on others to tell us if we have arrived somewhere on the "figured it out" chart. If nobody ever tells you how brilliant, profound or wise you are then you probably slipped through the crack and need to try harder, or run for President. I trumped myself on that one.

What about self-help for Christmas? I mean it,

seriously. To be nearly sixty and lacking in structure is an issue, so perhaps I need some self-help, habit-forming tips. I start routines and they don't last. I miss out on regular exercise, can't persevere in popping gaggingly-large, ugly, sometimes beige vitamins and holistic supplements that could be very beneficial to me. I rarely even make my bed. When I do I am always reminded that "Mother," the queen of routine, always made her bed. She was making her bed moments before she died. I'll probably be drinking a Morgan Coke and wearing a feathered hat when I make my departure. But I always think of her as I smooth on the bedspread in an attempt to make the process routine, sometimes commenting out loud, "Mother, you are laughing at me, I know it."

Writing Christmas cards isn't in my routine anymore either. Does anyone send cards? Last weekend I was in the basement storage space under

the steps digging in a green Rubbermaid tote with red handles. Toward the bottom of the tote, pressed to the side was a box of Christmas cards. I thought, "Oh, I should send out a few cards." I slid them up the side of the tote, turning the box over to reveal the card front through the clear plastic. The words "Merry & Bright" were written in white with poinsettias and holly greenery adrift around the words. In sarcasm and aggravation, I thought, "What a joke!" North Korea is as unstable as me in stilettos, Matt Prowler is in the headlines every day with new women coming forward to accuse and now Keillor, too. What the hell is "Merry & Bright" about this state of affairs!

Santa will be delivering lumps of coal and bushels of sticks this year. I feel it's all unraveling faster than a kitten pulling on the red ball of yarn that's supposed to be my Ugly Christmas Eve sweater! How can it be that all these women waited

until now to come forward? They accomplished all that professional training, lived lives of intense routine with successful diet and exercise, then in 2017 many are deciding they've come far enough to not be quiet any longer? Up until now their careers were worth the silence? I do lack some understanding here and surmise that if I'd been in their situations some nut crackin' would have ensued. I will say this however...if Meryl comes out...then I'll eat crow on this one.

Yes, "Merry & Bright!" I wondered how long has it been since anyone could send out a card saying that in all honesty? I mean, you probably could if you were in a steady relationship with Captain Morgan and Jim Beam and absolutely never watched the news! A toast to isolation with spirits and ice! A bottle of spirits may be a fine gift to myself this year as a matter of fact.

Oh come, all ye faithful. Let's dispense with the

doom and gloom and be a bit joyful and triumphant! Surely there are still things to be thankful and festive about these days! A card that says "Merry & Bright" might just be a reminder to DO this and to BE this. Let's look deeper, reach out and grab one another by the hand and move ahead into 2018. I'll raise my spirits as I continue to avoid routine! The big beige vitamins will sit in the pill box, the bedspread will drape down onto the rug at the end of my bed, and I'll eat peanut butter star cookies under a cozy quilt, avoiding that healthy walk. I steadfastly find pleasure in things like sparkly red velvet gloves, singing a holiday tune, hugging my cats, sharing time with my son and keeping company with people who are ages one to one-hundred and trying to make sense of it all just like me.

Scarlet invites your comments and can be reached at: [timberjay@frontiernet.net](mailto:timberjay@frontiernet.net).

## VISIT...Continued from page 3

we have people in town, but after that the businesses close," he said. "When a city councilor from Duluth says he is anti-mining, it doesn't look very good. Maybe they should just keep quiet on who they are. We need more than tourism. We need jobs. We need support up here."

Former Ely Council member Warren Nikkola referred to the tourism industry around Ely as being dominated by canoeists in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. "There are a finite number of permits available, and those aren't even being used because kids don't want to come up here and do that stuff anymore," he said. "At the same time, the people who want to use it, can't because

of the day-use motor restrictions. This is something beyond our realm to cure, but support from you could help get the quota system changed. The whole thing up here is a disaster. The ones who supposedly love the Boundary Waters are the ones who are ruining it."

Larson thanked the group for being honest with her. "I don't take this as complaining. This is about building a relationship. I'm not here to campaign or run for something. I really am here because I do feel like we are in a family. We all have different relationships and different roles. I don't feel that Duluth is a bigger sibling or is more important. Duluth has to get out of Duluth to see what's going on," she said.

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# Vermilion Country School honor roll



Alexander Dorman  
Alyssa Pratt  
Andrew Sauls  
Julianna Schmidt  
Niin-Day Dunkley  
Daniel Kuriatnyk

## B Honor Roll Students

Hemi Ranua  
Mariah Mitchell  
Tod Zibrowski  
Jacob Dorman  
Jacob Karasti  
Madison Ludwig  
Shaylin Peliska  
Jason Premo  
Alyssa Burington  
Alanna Honkola

## A Honor Roll Students

Kelsie Walker  
Leah Anderson

## Movie Night, Dec. 10 at St. James

TOWER- Join us for a movie night at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. The movie, "Anything Is Possible," shows us that music can heal a broken heart. Ten-year-old Nathan Bortnick is devastated when his mom is reported missing while serving on an overseas Army rescue mission. Feeling scared and alone, Nathan runs away from home only to find shelter from the city streets at a local orphanage. There, Nathan's incredible talent at the piano is discovered, and he becomes the star attraction at a benefit concert to raise money for the orphanage. Inspired by the kindness of the people he met on his journey, Nathan holds on to the belief that his mom will come home and his family will be reunited. This heartwarming story proves that with love, compassion, selflessness and hope, anything is possible.

## Advent Services at St. James

TOWER- The theme for Advent at St. James is "Gifts of The Season." St. James's Christmas Eve Service will be at 7 p.m. followed by a birthday party for Jesus. Sunday Worship will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 24 as well. The theme will be "God's Action Plan."

## St. James Women's Luncheon on Thursday, Dec. 14

TOWER- The Women's Christmas Luncheon, a special gathering to celebrate the season, meet new friends, and cherish the old, will be held at noon on Thursday, Dec. 14 in the Fellowship Hall (basement) of St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower. A lasagna meal will be served with all the trimmings. Pauly Housenga will share the tradition of the Advent wreath, music will be provided by Ellie Larmouth, and singing and a short skit will round out the entertainment.

## Lost and found news

Found: The laundry that went missing at the Tower Laundromat has been found.

Found: A small zippered pouch with dog treats was found on the bike trail between the storage units and airport. Can be claimed at the Timberjay office in Tower.

## Tower-Soudan Bowling League

Results from Nov. 15 play

Team rankings: Vermilion Club (62-26); Broten Construction (58-30); Jeanne's Cards (54-34).

Hi Team Game- Vermilion Club 667; Hi Team Series- Vermilion Club 1,871; Hi Ind. Game- Johnnie Schlieske 187; Hi Team Series- Johnnie Schlieske 485. Other notable play: Flora Ferretti 184, 470; Bev Thomas 168, 437.

## FUNDRAISER

# Gift-wrapping fundraiser on Saturday, Dec. 16

TSLV Events Board fundraiser will help fund upcoming community events

TOWER- The Tower Soudan Lake Vermilion Area Events Board has several upcoming events in the making and they want to see you there! First up is a gift-wrapping fundraiser at the Tower Civic Center scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 16. Board members will be available from 1-4 p.m. with wrap and ribbon to get your gifts looking picture perfect under the Christmas tree. Price per gift will range from \$1 - \$5 depending on the size; coffee and bars will be available as well, for a free-will donation.

Fundraisers like this help to sponsor bigger upcoming events like the Finlander Bocce Ball Tournament, which is slated for Jan.



20. The board has also committed to helping with Soudan's annual Hockey Day, hosted by Gavin Bialke. Plans for the tournament and Hockey Day are being made right now, so if you'd like more information or want to help with the planning, the

next TSLVAEB meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 18 at 5 p.m. at Benchwarmer Grille in Tower.

Of course, the TSLVAEB is also already getting ready for the Fourth of July in Tower—with only 30 weeks to fundraise and plan, they are already looking forward to throw-

ing an amazing Independence Day celebration. Please consider joining us at the meeting this month to tell us your ideas and find out how you can help to make next year's Fourth of July the best one yet.

## LIGHTS OF LOVE

# LVCC teams up with Virgie Hegg for Tower tree lighting



Above: A team of newly-trained bell ringers added some holiday cheer to the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in Tower on Sunday. The event, hosted by the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center Board, included an outdoor tree lighting for the Virgia Hegg Hospice's Lights of Love fundraiser, along with holiday treats and music at the Tower Civic Center.

Left: Shawna Kishel, from Virgie Hegg, places donation tags on a small tree. Below: Whitney, Hudson, and Ryan Cobby stopped by for a visit.



Below: The Tower-Soudan Area Singers sang traditional carols as the audience sang along. photos by S. Ukkola



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HOLIDAY GIVING

# Santa helpers still

Toys, arts/crafts, books, gift cards all still needed; donations due by Dec. 15

TOWER- This year's Operation Santa toy drive is officially underway. Operation Santa is a local fundraiser which purchases Christmas gifts (toys, gift cards, and warm winter items) for children whose families use the Tower Food Shelf. We expect to serve as many as 150 children again this year.

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

We are looking at donations of toys, games, art supplies, and sporting equipment for children, and gift cards to either Target or Walmart for our teenagers (\$10 or \$15).

Donations can be dropped off at the Timberjay in Tower, and will be distributed at the food shelf on Dec. 19. Any questions, please call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950.



MY NEIGHBORS

## Interfaith conversation at Immanuel on Sunday, Dec. 10



Kadra Abdi

TOWER- On Sunday, Dec. 10 at 11:30 a.m., the Tower-Soudan community is invited to participate in an Interfaith Conversation with Kadra Abdi and her sister about their Muslim faith and their journey with Lutheran Social Services as refugees

from Somalia. The Immanuel group that has been participating in the study, "My Neighbor is Muslim" has invited Kadra to visit with the congregation and wider community. This event will be in the Fellowship Hall and is open to the public.

Kadra Abdi received her Masters of Public Policy from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs. She earned my B.A. in Anthropology, and Women and Gender Studies from Luther College. She is the president and co-founder of Iskaashi International, an initiative whose mission is to partner with communities to co-create spaces in which all people can express ideas and opinions, identify solutions to concerns, and navigate the policy world to

create sustainable change.

She describes herself as a strategic thinker with a passion for solving complex issues through strategic frameworks. She specializes in strategy consulting for minority startup businesses and nonprofits. Her work is at the intersection of creativity and innovation and strategy.

She is also a member of the Metropolitan Council Equity Advisory Committee and the American Relief Agency for the Horn of Africa (ARAHA) Board.

She has worked with Immanuel member Orlyn Kringstad. They were both active with The Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights.

More information is available on her website at [www.kadraabdi.com](http://www.kadraabdi.com).

BREITUNG

## McKinley Park camping rates to remain the same in 2018

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA  
Staff Writer

BREITUNG TWP- At the Nov. 28 meeting, McKinley Park Campground Manager Susie Chiabotti, reported that the camping season "went really well." Expenses and income varied very little from years past, despite a slow start. "We had the worst June in a few years," she said, due to rain and wind. Chiabotti thanked the township board, maintenance director Dale Swanson, and the police department for their help and support over the summer.

The township will renew the Campground Management Agreement with Chiabotti for the following year.

Susie, who manages the campground with her husband, is still in the process of exploring possible restroom updates for the campground and have been working with board

member Chuck Tekautz and Swanson to determine the scope of work and seek a contractor.

A motion was passed to keep the McKinley Park rates the same for the next season. Chiabotti will send out a letter in December to notify seasonal campers.

### Other News

In other news, the Breitung Town Board:

► Police Chief Jesse Anderson reported that 1,070 toys and \$3,063 in cash were collected from the Stuff the Bus event in Virginia on Nov. 24 and 25. Both Anderson and Officer Dan Nylund volunteered time at the event and the Breitung Police will receive a portion of the funds raised to take a few lucky local children shopping this holiday season.

► One contractor came to do a walkthrough of the post office and

review the work to be done with Tekautz and Carlie Kemp from DSGW Architects. No job estimates have been received yet.

► The township has savings certificates at Frandsen Bank and Trust maturing in their equipment replacement fund for \$100,000 and \$200,000. The township will renew each certificate for one year.

► Maintenance and police contracts are still under negotiation.

► Acknowledged correspondence from the Vermilion Lake Association to renew membership at no charge.

► Reviewed financial statements sent by the Minnesota Association of Townships.

► Acknowledged correspondence from Environmental Services of North St. Louis County SWCD asking to increase recycling.

► The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 1 p.m.

SOUDAN BAPTIST



## Christmas cards for seniors

Bob Romig led a team of volunteers at Soudan Baptist Church who helped address and stamp Christmas cards that will be sent to area seniors.  
photo by S. Ukkola

## 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 Dec. 11

Monday- Chicken Alfredo with a Twist, Bread Stick, Vegetable

Tuesday- Breaded Pollock, Mashed Potatoes, Dinner Roll

Wednesday- Pulled Pork Sandwich, Hashbrowns

Thursday- Tater Tot Hot Dish, Dinner Roll

Friday- Chicken ala King in a Bread Bowl.

### Week of Dec. 18

Monday- Chicken Sandwich, Vegetable

Tuesday- Italian Meatball Sub, Vegetable

Wednesday- Taco Salad, Corn Muffin

Thursday- Turkey Dinner

Friday- Pizza, Fruit Salad

### Week of Dec. 25

No school all week

Week of Dec. 11

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

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

**Tuesday**  
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Dec. 19.

Greenwood Fire Dept.- Meetings on the first (drill) and third (business meeting) Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Tower City Council- NOTE change from regular date, Dec. 12 at 5:30 p.m.

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 12

Breitung Town Board- 6 p.m. on Dec. 12.

**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](http://vermilioncountry.org).

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

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## the TIMBERJAY

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## Bookmobile Schedule

**Wednesday, Dec. 20, Jan. 10, 31; Feb. 21**

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

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

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Recycling canisters available daily at the Greenwood Town Hall. For info: 1-800-450-9278

A CHRISTMAS TRADITION

# St. Nicholas Day celebrated in Ely

## Authentic Slovenian costume part of traditional celebration

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - The Slovenian Union of America, Branch 23 in Ely presented their second annual St. Nicholas Day celebration on Sunday at St. Anthony's Church hall.

The actual feast is on Dec. 6, but the SUA chooses to hold the event on the first Sunday of the month. The St. Nicholas outfit, worn by Tom Bajda, came directly from Slovenia and the outfits for the angels and the devils, played by high school students, Shayla Zaverl, Gabi Omerza, Emma Kari, Brandon Martin, Blaise Lah and Jeremiah Kari were made here, according to organizer Pat Koski.

"St. Nicholas is played by a gentleman who came from Slovenia as a little boy," she said. "There were little bags of goodies for the children, the story of this man was told to the children by Ely high school teacher James Lah. We still have a woman in her nineties who tells of when St. Nicholas visited her in Slovenia."

Card stock sheets of St. Nicholas were available for children to color and cut out. Carols were sung. Cocoa, coffee and goodies were served to all.

### Slovenian tradition

The tradition of Sveti Miklavz (St. Nicholas) who brings gifts to chil-



This St. Nicholas outfit, worn by Tom Bajda, came directly from Slovenia and was featured in the St. Anthony Catholic Church celebration of St. Nicholas Day last Sunday. photos by K. Vandervort

dren on the eve of Dec. 6, is a popular Slovenian folk tradition, first mentioned in written records in 1839.

Every child who has been good in the past year receives a gift, and is encouraged to continue in the same manner in the year to come. However, if the child was naughty, St. Nicholas' s evil companion called "parkelj" (the devil) will put him in a sack and take him away from his parents. "Parkelj" drags chains behind him and rattles them in front of the house door, which to a little child sounds very devilish.

In the past, some Slovenian villages took the ritual of rattling chains a tad too seriously, as the men who played the "parkelj" got into violent fights with each other. Most Slovenian towns will organize a small celebration, with Ljubljana having a three-day St. Nicholas Fair with festively decorated stalls offering goods traditionally given as St. Nicholas gifts in Slovenia.

On the eve of the 5th of December, the St. Nicholas procession will begin at Krekov trg (square), go through Ciril-Metodov trg, pass down Stritarjeva ulica (street) and end up at Presernov trg, where the colorfully

costumed angels and "parkeljni" will give a performance. St. Nicholas will address the gathered crowd while the angels will be distributing biscuits, fruits and sweets to the good children, and "parkeljni" will be scaring the naughty ones.

### The man behind the legend

St. Nicholas was a bishop who lived in the fourth century in a place called Myra in Asia Minor (now called Turkey). He was a very rich man because his parents died when he was young and left him a lot of money. He was also a very kind man and had a reputation for helping the poor and giving secret gifts to people who needed it.

The most famous story about St. Nicholas tells how the custom of hanging up stockings to get presents first started.

There was a poor man who had three daughters. He was so poor, he did not have enough money for a dowry, so his daughters couldn't get married. (A dowry is a sum of money paid to the bridegroom by the bride's parents on the wedding day. This still happens in some countries, even today.)

One night, Nicholas secretly dropped a bag of



The angels and the devils, above and below, featured in a children's skit in the church hall, were played by high school students, Shayla Zaverl, Gabi Omerza, Emma Kari, and Brandon Martin, Blaise Lah and Jeremiah Kari.



gold down the chimney and into the house. (This meant that the oldest daughter was then able to be married.) The bag fell into a stocking that had been hung by the fire to dry. This was repeated later with the second daughter. Finally, determined to discover the person who had given him the money, the father secretly hid by the fire every evening until he caught Nicholas dropping in a bag of gold. Nicholas begged the man to not tell anyone what he had done, because he did not want to bring attention to himself. But soon the news got out and when anyone received a secret gift, it was thought that maybe it was from Nicholas.

Because of his kindness Nicholas was made a saint.

### Protector of sailors

St. Nicholas is not only the saint of children but also of sailors. One story tells of him helping some sailors who were caught in a dreadful storm off the coast of Turkey. The storm was raging around them and all the men were terrified that their ship would sink beneath the giant waves. They prayed to St. Nicholas to help them. Suddenly, he was standing on the deck before them. He ordered the sea to be calm, the storm died away, and they were able to sail their ship safely to port.

St. Nicholas was exiled from Myra and later put in prison during the persecution by the Emperor Diocletian. No one really knows when he died, but it was on Dec. 6 in either 345 or 352.

In 1087, his bones were stolen from Turkey by some Italian merchant sailors. The bones are now kept in the church named after him in the Italian port of Bari. On St. Nicholas feast day (Dec. 6), the sailors of Bari still carry his statue from the cathedral out to sea, so that he can bless the waters and so give them safe voyages throughout the year.

In 1066, before he set sail to England, William the Conqueror prayed to St. Nicholas asking that his conquest would go well.

### Other traditions

In the 16th century in northern Europe, after the Reformation, the stories and traditions about St. Nicholas became unpopular.

But someone had to deliver presents to children at Christmas, so in the United Kingdom, particularly in England, he became 'Father Christmas' or 'Old Man Christmas' an old character from stories and plays during the middle ages in the UK and parts of northern Europe.

In France, he was then known as 'Père Noël'.

In some countries, including parts of Austria and Germany, the present giver became the 'Christkind' a golden-haired baby, with wings, who symbolizes the new born baby Jesus.

In the early United States, his name was 'Kris Kringle' (from the Christkind). Later, Dutch settlers in the U.S. took the old stories of St. Nicholas with them and Kris Kringle and St. Nicholas became 'Sinterklaas' or as we now say "Santa Claus."

Many countries, especially ones in Europe, celebrate St. Nicholas' Day on Dec 6. In Holland and some other European countries, children leave clogs or shoes out on Dec. 5 (St. Nicholas Eve) to be filled with presents. They also believe that if they leave some hay and carrots in their shoes for Sinterklaas's horse, they will be left some sweets.

St. Nicholas became popular again in the Victorian era when writers, poets and artists rediscovered the old stories.

In 1823 the famous poem 'A Visit from St. Nicholas' or 'T' was the Night before Christmas' was published. Dr. Clement Clarke Moore later claimed that he had written it for his children. (Some scholars now believe that it was actually written by Henry Livingston Jr., who was a distant relative of Dr. Moore's wife.) The poem describes St. Nicholas with eight reindeer and gives them their names. They became really well known in the song "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer," written in 1949.

## 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



## the TIMBERJAY

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### Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2017



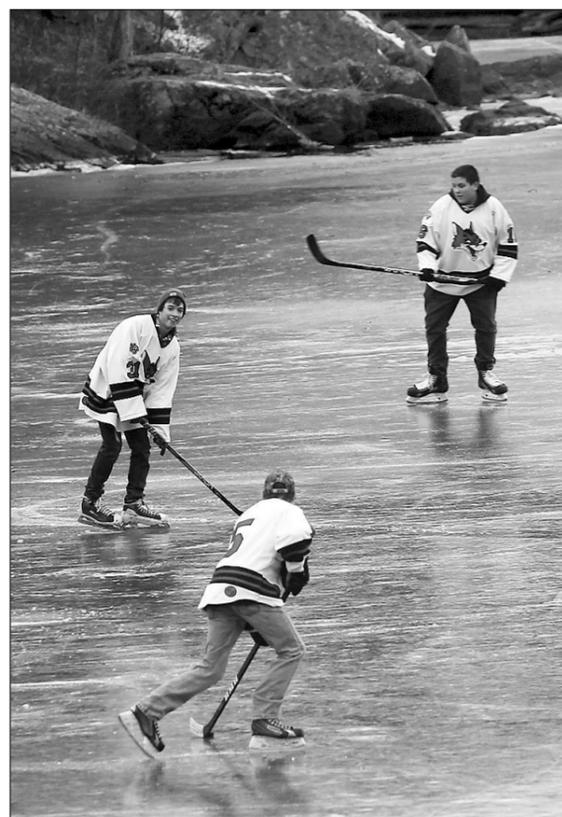
young and old skating  
across the big lake's dark ice  
moving swift and fast

GOOD ICE



Perfect conditions for skating on the lake

The frozen surface of Shagawa Lake at Semers Park was perfect late last week for an ice skating party. Dozens of Ely residents, including the high school hockey team, took advantage of the rare occurrence of smooth, bare ice thick enough for safe skating. photos by K. Vandervort



OUR COMMUNITY

Ely student raises money for cancer

ELY - Ely sixth-grader Robert Towley hosted a chili feed last week to do his part in the fight against cancer. More than 200 people were served in the church hall at First Lutheran Church on Camp Street.

"Robert had the ambitious goal of trying to raise \$2,500 and he took in \$3,305," said his mother Hollee Coombe. "He was thrilled and humbled that

people would help him with his cause. He was able to greet almost everyone that came, to shake hands with them, and talk about his goal."

Robert witnessed firsthand the devastation the disease can do when it attacked his uncle, Chad Meskill. "He did the research and determined that he wanted to raise money for St. Jude's Research Hospital in

Memphis, Tenn., starting with the chili feed," Hollee said.

Members of First Lutheran Church are supporting Robert and his goal. Members provided baked goods for the chili supper, and he is thinking about having a blanket sale and may be asking for donations of afghans and quilts.

"We've now begun the next steps to work with St. Jude's to deliver the dona-

tion in person," Hollee said. "He would like to volunteer for the day at St. Jude's. He has learned that it is good to be good. He has a big heart."

**Robert Towley, an Ely sixth-grade student, held a chili feed fundraiser at First Lutheran Church last Friday and raised more than \$3,300 for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.**

photo by K. Vandervort



Local artist Andy Messerschmidt hosted an exhibit and opening recently at his new studio, The Ornamental Hermit located at 132 N 1st Ave. E. next to the former Music Outfitters. Visitors were encouraged to bring patterned elements to help donate/integrate into a collaborative wall collage. "I was looking for symmetrical patterns or images in pairs that could be arranged bilaterally," he said. For more information on Ely's newest art studio, go to [www.andymesserschmidt.com](http://www.andymesserschmidt.com). photo by K. Vandervort

Co-dependents meet on Fridays

ELY - The Ely co-dependents support group meets Fridays at noon at St. Anthony's Church in Classroom 3. Use west side entrance. For more information, go to [www.coda.org](http://www.coda.org).

EMPOWER meets Sunday

ELY - Join EMPOWER for their Holiday gathering at the Ely Folk School on Sunday, Dec. 10 beginning at 6 p.m. Bring a finger-food appetizer or dessert to share. EMPOWER will provide beverages. Irene Hartfield will provide the music for the traditional sing-along.

Ely Area Food Shelf Thank You!

The Ely Area Food Shelf would like to thank the following for making our Free Will Donation Soup Day at the Gifts That Give a huge success. You, our patrons and our volunteers helped make the holidays better for our neighbors.

- Insula
- Gators Grilled
- Cheese Emporium
- Northern Grounds-
- Jasper Bakery
- Plum Bun
- Jodi Naykki
- Merdie Merrill
- Lorelei Lenich
- Ely Northland Market
- Zup's Grocery

- Dahl's Dairy
- Karl Jonas
- Gene Hicks Coffee
- Carol Carlson-Bursch
- Sally Koski
- Sue Smith
- Grace Lutheran Church
- Gifts That Give
- All our fabulous volunteers

And Our Community for your valued and continued support. Thank you!!!



ely area food shelf

WASHINGTON D.C. SENIORS Spaghetti Dinner



FUNDRAISER

ALL-U-CAN-EAT Spaghetti Dinner

Friday, Dec. 8 • 4-7 pm

Ely High School Cafeteria

Spaghetti w/Meat or Veggie Sauce  
Tossed Salad/Dressings/Bread Sticks  
Cookies/Beverage

Adults \$8 • Students (with school ID) \$6  
Seniors \$7 • Children Grades K-6 \$4  
Age 4 And Under FREE

Join us before the High School Boys Basketball Game vs International Falls

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING 2018 WASHINGTON DC SENIORS



### Fifth Annual Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner on Saturday, Dec. 9

COOK- Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook will be holding their Fifth Annual Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 4-7 p.m. Dinner includes lutefisk with white sauce and/or melted butter, meatballs, potatoes and gravy, green beans, rutabaga, lefse, homemade bread, cranberries, pickled herring, desserts and more. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$6 for children under ten. Take-out meals are available. Net proceeds will be donated to ELCA World Hunger, Cook Community Food Shelf, and other ministries. Trinity Lutheran is located at 321 2nd St. SE. All are welcome.

### Wi-Fi hotspots available for checkout at Cook Library

COOK- The Cook Public Library now owns five wireless hotspots available for check out. A hotspot is a portable Wi-Fi device that allows you to connect your computer, tablet, smart phone and other devices to the Internet.

#### Hotspot Terms of Use

**Eligibility-** Borrowers must have an Arrowhead Library System library card. This card must be in good standing. Borrowers must sign the Hotspot User Agreement at checkout. If under 18, a borrower must have a parent or caregiver sign the Hotspot User Agreement at checkout.

**Checkout Terms:** The Hotspot loan period is 7 days. Hotspots cannot be renewed. Hotspots circulate only from the Cook Public Library. Hotspots are not available for interlibrary loan. Internet service will be disconnected if the Hotspot is overdue. Hotspots cannot be used outside of the United States.

**Check In Terms:** Hotspots cannot be placed in the overnight drop. Hotspots must be returned to the circulation counter. All items listed on the Packing Slip must be returned at the time of Check In.

**Coverage Area-** Disclaimer: The Hotspot relies on AT&T 4G signal. There may be some areas without coverage.

Funding for these Hotspots was provided through the Blandin Broadband Grant. This grant was awarded to the Grizzlies community to support projects and raise awareness about Internet resources and services.

### Ruby's Pantry Christmas dinner for volunteers on Dec. 16

COOK- All who volunteer for Ruby's Pantry in Cook are invited to a Christmas dinner at noon on Saturday, Dec. 16 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. A program will follow the meal. Please RSVP with Sue at 218-741-3925 by Saturday, Dec. 9 if you plan to attend.

### Readers and Rappers book club meets on Tuesday, Dec. 12

COOK- Readers and Rappers, a Cook area book club, will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 1 p.m. in the Community Room at the Homestead Apartments in Cook. Susan Kolstad will be the moderator for the book, "The Wife, the Maid, and the Mistress," by Ariel Lawhon. Attendees are asked to bring cookies to share. January's meeting will be on Tuesday, Jan. 9 and the book of choice is "Locally Laid" by Lucie B. Amundsen. All are welcome.

### Volunteer Appreciation Night at Cook Library on Thursday, Dec. 14

COOK- Stop by the Cook Public Library on Thursday, Dec. 14 at 5:30 p.m. to help us thank and celebrate all the volunteers who dedicate their time and share their talents at the library. Hot beverages and light snacks will be available courtesy of the Friends of the Cook Public Library.

Our library volunteers serve in a variety of ways including running the circulation desk, shelving materials, serving on the library board, advocating and fundraising with the Friends of the Cook Public Library, leading programs such as Summer Reading and the BFF Club, participating on the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) and working at special events like the Quilt Lovers Tea.

The Cook Public Library thanks everyone who volunteered this year. We would not be able to provide such outstanding services and programming without your commitment to this library. Thank you.

**Read us online at  
www.timberjay.com**

### Bookmobile schedule

Visit your library on wheels, the Arrowhead Library System Bookmobile. Local stops and times include:

- Thursday, Dec. 28**
- Nett Lake** – Community Center 9:30-10:15
- Orr** – City Hall/Tourism Center 11:00-11:45
- Buyck** – Vermilion River Tavern 1:15-1:45
- Crane Lake** – Ranger Station 2:00-2:30
- Kabetogama** – "Town" Hall 3:45-4:15

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](http://www.alslib.info).



### COOK



Santa arrives at Cook Country Christmas by horse carriage as children young and old come to greet him. He led them in singing Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer.



Santa visited with children inside. Cook Area Farmers Market vendors also set up at the Community Center for a winter mini-market during the event on Dec. 1. There were also children's art activities sponsored by NWFA. photos by M. Roach



### CRANE LAKE

## Crane Lake News by the Singing Teapot Dames



CRANE LAKE- It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Night driving around town gives some beautiful displays of Christmas lights. Check out Bruce Bestie and Jeff Miller's displays. Putting up all the lights is not an easy job, however, the displays are appreciated. There will be more before the season is over. Orr started the season with a bazaar, parade, breakfast, lunch and several bake sales. An unbelievable assortment of cookies were displayed and purchased. The highlight was the arrival of Santa Claus. The strong winds have not been kind to our decorations. For Christmas decorations, Linda Lang put out about six Christmas windsocks— with the wind (gale force!) four of them blew away! She hopes to find them in the woods or somewhere, but has a feeling they're in Wisconsin!!!!

This is the year of

building, especially garages. Carl and Marie are building a garage with a small house for Thera. The Smiths are having a garage built and there appear to be more construction materials being shipped into the area for other cabin owners.

The lake is frozen but it is recommended to not travel on the ice until there are seven inches all over! A tragedy on Red Lake with a couple going into the ice with a snowmobile happened recently. Be careful.

Tina Sokoloski was in New York recently to comfort her father and mother on the sad news of her father being diagnosed with stage four cancer. Everyone wishes Tino a speedy recovery.

Have you noticed the full moon? Next month, January, we will be treated to two full moons in one month. That should bring out the wilds in some folks. Police, doctors, nurses and all emergency people claim the full moon brings out the wild side of folks. This month will be remembered as the month of three seasons. In one day we had fall with fall-like temperatures, spring with April showers and even a thunderstorm with lightning and thunder, and certainly we have winter. We have not had summer.

Mike and Linda Lang

have returned from a trip that took them to Texas, Arkansas and Iowa. A couple of nights were spent with Mike's brother, Myles (Tucker) and wife Carol in Fort Worth, Texas. They had an enjoyable time there that even included seeing the movie, Murder on the Orient Express. They spent Thanksgiving at the home of Brett and Shannon Cameron, daughter of the Langs. The good news from them is that Logan is making bone like crazy to heal his two broken metacarpal bones, and he will be able to return to full use and function two weeks earlier than previously expected. Then Mike and Linda went to the home of Dave and Ticky Freiborg, and then all of them went to Hot Springs, Ark. It was fun to learn about the "gangster" history of the area, visit some of the historic bathhouses, and learn how they "marketed" the hot springs. The highlight was the Trail of Lights—a beautiful path of lighted Christmas trees and decorations of the season. A beautiful family wedding in Ankeny, Iowa, finished off the Langs' trip—Mike and all six of his brothers were in attendance—so it was a fun family time filled with celebration, conversation, and commitment. Many of the couples have celebrated 50 or more years of marriage, and even those who haven't reached that marker yet are incredibly close.

Shannon and Brett Cameron and sons, Ian and Logan, have a family Christmas tradition for the last dozen years at their home in Texas. Their yard becomes a lighted extravaganza of wrapped trees with outlined beams and windows on their home, and multiple Christmas trees in the yard. Not only is the display gorgeous, the lights blink according to Christmas music that is played during the show. Their light show runs only on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings just after sunset (they have the agree-

ment of their neighbors) and lasts about 45 minutes in total. People from the community are invited to stop by to view the show. You can show your appreciation by leaving non-perishable food donations in boxes provided. The Camerons then take the donations to a local food shelf.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Marie Anderson on her recent surgery! Everyone loves Marie.

Have you ever wondered who thought of the idea to put electric lights on trees as Christmas decorations?

Trees previously were lighted with candles. As you can imagine, this resulted in many house fires. In 1882, Edward Johnson, Thomas Edison's longtime assistant and friend, put together the first string of lights for stringing around a tree. As they say, the rest is history!

The Dames are looking for traditions. The Dames are delighted to receive news of some traditions: the Camerons' tradition of their unique light show, last week Ruth Carlson's tradition of Christmas dishes. This week, Lulu Fry of Northland Lodge reports she also uses her Christmas dishes the entire month of December. Let us know of your Christmas tradition, share your Christmas tradition with us.

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 at Crane Lake; we like to know about you. Send news by e-mail to [info@thelakecountry.com](mailto:info@thelakecountry.com), by fax to 218-757-3533, or by phone to Sandy at 218-757-3233 and it will be added. So fire away with your news.

Until the next time, the Teapot Dames are singing off.

*Dashing Past* NCUA

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BEAR RIVER LUTHERAN

# Hanging of the Greens on Friday, Dec. 8

BEARRIVER- When the hardy pioneers of the newly formed Bear River Lutheran Church gathered to celebrate the birth of Jesus over 100 years ago, they worshipped at the old Bear River Log Schoolhouse. One of the traditions was to pull the tree out of the corner of the room, light all the little candles attached to its boughs (with one person standing nearby with a pail of water, of course...), hold hands with each other, and sing Christmas carols as they walked around the tree. Although we no longer sing around the tree, favorite Christmas traditions continue. Along with the Christmas Eve Worship Service on Dec. 24 at 4:30 p.m., another tradition has become a favorite Christmas event at Bear River for over 20 years.

On Friday, Dec. 8 the community will gather at the little white church on the banks of the Bear River for the 22nd annual "Hanging of the Greens" worship service. As we get ready for Christmas, we often find ourselves getting caught up in all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Sometimes we lose sight of why we are celebrating in the first place. The "Hanging of the Greens" worship service provides a way to stop and prepare ourselves for the real reason for the season – the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

As we progress through the season of Advent – the season of preparing for Christmas – we find ourselves embracing customs and traditions that have come down to us through the ages. It is true that some of our celebrations have their origins in pagan customs and have little to do with the birth of Christ. These traditions have been brought to Christmas by converts to Christianity. We don't need to have any qualms about using these customs, for they – along with the people who celebrated them – were converted to Christianity. Their traditions were laid at Jesus' feet as gifts. What is significant for us is not "what they may once have meant" but rather "what they mean for us today."

At 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8, the Bear River Lutheran Church will begin to wear its Christmas apparel. We will make the Sanctuary ready for the birthday of the King much as we would make it ready for a banquet with a royal host, by dressing it in its best apparel. We are mindful that, though it is not Christmas yet, it will be here very soon. Preparation for this beautiful season is not something that should be done for us. It is something that we should do ourselves. On this night of the Hanging of the

Greens, each individual and family will share in the furnishing of the Bear River Church for the celebration of the birth of Christ.

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

Celebrating Jesus' birth will continue throughout the Advent Season during our 10 a.m. Sunday worship times – including Sunday morning, Dec. 24. Christmas Eve Candlelight Services will be held on Sunday, Dec. 24 at 4:30 p.m.

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

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

## BFF Gingerbread Event at Cook Library on Thursday, Dec. 14



COOK- The Cook Public Library is pleased to host its third annual BFF Gingerbread Event on Thursday, Dec. 14 at 4 p.m. This year all children are welcome to help build a gingerbread village to display at the library during the month of December. To ensure we have enough supplies, please contact the library at 218-666-2210 or email crystal.phillips@alplib.info by Friday, Dec. 8 to let us know you're attending. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Cook Public Library.

## Legends of the Wilderness at Cook Library on Wednesday, Dec. 13



COOK- The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present Homeward Bound Theatre's Legends of the Wilderness, with Jacques La Christian. This is a free program being offered for ages eight though adult at the Cook Public Library on Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 6 p.m.

Experience the wilderness through reenactment of the 1800s with French

Canadian Voyageur Jacques La Christian. See Indian beadwork, flintlock rifles and pistols, along with furs of various types used in the fur trade in the U.S. and Canada.

David Popilek, as Jacques, has been entertaining diverse groups of people with his educational and compelling series of historical stories, exhibits and CDs for over 30 years.

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

GRIZZLY UPDATES

# Thoughts on school discipline policies

Greetings Grizzlies Families and Communities,

I love snow. I have to admit that I am a little disappointed that Monday's storm missed us. I know that snow is a pain to shovel and plow, but banking the fishhouse with strips of cardboard just doesn't cut it. Enough on that!

School discipline is a complicated subject that could easily fill a book, and in many instances does. This week I would like to talk a little about it.

I've been a teacher or administrator at four different public schools in my career. All of them have had similar rules and expectations. Most would agree that all schools generally have the same rules and expectations for students. Students and parents sometimes have different expectations, depending on circumstances, and this is where we run into occasional conflict.

I want everyone to realize that parents and schools want the same outcome for kids: success. How we get there and how we define it is where we sometimes differ.

First, it's never fun dealing with misbehavior, whether with your own children at home or as a teacher at school. Think of your own children at



**JOHN VUKMANICH**

home when they are being naughty. Now, multiply that out by ten. Teachers have anywhere from fifteen to thirty children in their classes at once, even larger in some classes. Ever host a party for your kids? Ever invite ten kids? Ever do it again? Now try teaching them math and reading. Every day. Try getting them to all stop talking and listen to you. It's challenging. As a parent, did you ever give in to your child's demands even when you knew you shouldn't? Have you ever grounded your child and then let him or her out of it? If you do that as a teacher in front of your class, you just lost your credibility and now other students will expect the same leeway. This is why teachers and administrators try so hard to be consistent with every child,

period. I think sometimes we forget this.

Consequences for misbehavior vary depending on the infraction and the age of the student. The younger the student is, the less likely they are to receive a stiffer sentence. As students mature, so do the expectations and consequences. Some students are on IEPs (Individual Education Plans) which include modifications for academics or behavior based upon the student's documented disability. This can also be a factor in how discipline is handled.

In order to keep consequences consistent for more of the serious infractions, a discipline chart was created. Don't get me wrong, I am allowed to use my discretion if circumstances allow, but the chart spells out what the typical school responses would be. Our Student Handbook (available online at [www.northwoodsschool.net](http://www.northwoodsschool.net)) outlines most infractions and their consequences.

At North Woods, consequences can range anywhere from a hallway conversation to out-of-school suspension (OSS). OSS has come under increasing scrutiny as it removes students from the school. Sending a kid home

for a day or two is a big decision, but when the behavior warrants it or when safety is an issue, it is still used. Detention at lunch, loss of recess, loss of privilege, parent/student/teacher conference, and ISS (in-school suspension) are also common consequences.

Data privacy protects all minors, and actually all students at school regardless of age. For this reason, schools cannot talk to parents about consequences for kids other than their own. We are not trying to hide anything. We are just following the law.

Parents and schools are in this together, with both of us doing our best to raise respectful kids and young adults.

If you ever have questions about how your child is doing in school, please call and talk to me or your child's teachers. We will do what we can to resolve concerns.

Part II will continue next week. Until then think snow and have a great weekend!

Your Principal,  
John Vukmanich

CHRISTMAS PLAY

## "The King and Me" at First Baptist Church on Dec. 16 and 17

COOK- Come experience the joy and true meaning of Christmas as portrayed by the children of our community and surrounding area. "The King and Me" will be presented at the First Baptist Church of Cook on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 5 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 10:30 a.m. The musical is filled with vibrant songs that deliver the truth of God's Word and a script that features an exuberant cast preparing for a theme park extravaganza in the Little Town of Bethlehem. King David, Goliath, Solomon and others will literally "explode" onto the scene...Goliath in full costume and the Kings in royal garb.

Following the Saturday performance, there will be a "Feast and Fellowship" time in the lower auditorium. All are welcome to attend one or both of these performances. You won't want to miss it. The children invite you, too.

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# COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

## Nelmark open Dec. 8 and 9 for holiday shopping and treats

EMBARRASS- It's a snowy December again in Embarrass. That means it's time to start thinking about holiday gifts for everyone on your list. The Nelmark Heritage Museum is the place to do your shopping for Christmas gifts of all kinds. The Nelmark will be open only one weekend before Christmas, on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 8 and 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Starting Friday morning at 10 a.m. the Nelmark will be open with locally crafted items and goodies galore for you and your family. Items available include homemade candies, Finnish biscuit, jule kakka, potica, peanut brittle, flat-breads, sweet breads, rye breads, homemade taffy, fruitcakes, cinnamon rolls, fruit tarts, artisan breads, pies, colorful aprons, refurbished collectibles, Finnish gifts, glassware, mementos, children's books, holiday decorations, wreaths, items from yesteryear, sauna supplies, handmade soaps, handmade oils, kitchen items, wooden signs of all kinds, books by local authors, old postcards and more.

The local artisans will be on hand to welcome you and your friends from across the Range on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 8 and 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with fresh brewed coffee and cider free for all to enjoy. You can sit and have a visit with neighbors or browse the rooms upstairs and down and just enjoy your day at a very popular and unusual local gathering place. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## Ruby's Pantry in Cook on Dec. 14

COOK- The next Ruby's Pantry food distribution will be on Thursday, Dec. 14 from 4:30 - 6 p.m. at the old Cook School. Registration begins at 3 p.m. with a \$20 cash donation at the door. Volunteers are asked to please arrive at 3 p.m. Please bring your own containers. Ruby's Pantry is now offering online registration at rubyspantry.com starting Friday, Dec. 15 for the January distribution with a \$21 donation at sign-up. Ruby's Pantry is sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Alango. For more information, please contact Sue Kolstad at 218-741-3925.

## NWFA writers and artists meet Saturdays in Cook

COOK- Artists and writers meet on Saturday afternoons at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook. Coordinator Ellie Larmouth will hold the Cook Area Writers Group this Saturday, Dec. 9 from 1 to 3 p.m. The writers group meets on the second Saturday of each month. Anyone interested in writing and talking about writing is welcome.

All types of artists are invited to Open Art meetings on the third Saturday of each month at NWFA Gallery. There was a mix up in dates for December so... the gallery will be open on Dec. 16 from 12 - 3 p.m. for those who want to do art together. Bring friends and bring supplies. Contact Alberta at 218-666-2153 to let her know if you are going (or not going, if you are a regular).

NWFA is a non-profit organization established in 2010 to encourage the arts and artists in the region of Cook. The NWFA Gallery is located next to Dream Weaver Salon at 210 S River St. Winter hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and, ordinarily, on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Check out NWFA's website at www.nwfamn.org.

## Last chance to see Finland 100 exhibit on Dec. 9

VIRGINIA- Everyone is invited to an open house on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 1-3 p.m. at the Virginia Area Historical Museum, located at 800 9th Ave. N (adjacent to Olcott Park). Come to look at the permanent exhibits, the Finland 100 display that depicts Finnish influence on our area, and enjoy a coffee social with music and refreshments! This will be a last chance to see the Finland 100 display; it is scheduled to be taken down to be replaced by the next exhibit.

## HOLIDAY MUSIC

### Tower-Soudan Area Singers Christmas Concert on Sunday, Dec. 17



TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Area Singers have prepared a concert you do not want to miss. Under the direction of Rolf Anderson and pianist Lynn Watts, the 30-member choir has prepared an afternoon of fun and nostalgia for the whole family at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17 at the Tower-Soudan Elementary School.

Included in the repertoire of

songs are favorites such as The First Noel, Joy to the World and Everywhere Christmas Tonight, as well as the fun and rousing music and lyrics of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, The African Noel, and You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch. These, combined with moving and tender psalms such as Mary Rocked the Little Baby and

Bethlehem Winds, are sure to get you into the Christmas mood.

Special appearances will be made by Santa and Mrs. Claus, as well as the Grinch. The vocal and instrumental talents of these area musicians will be followed by a coffee an'.

A free will donation will be taken.

## TOWER

# Update on LVCC building project

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- While it may appear that progress on the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center building is at a standstill, behind the scenes the board has been working to raise the funds needed for the next phases of the project, as well as hiring a new architect and making sure the building is secure and stable until the roof lines are secured. Attaching the roof sections of the cultural center additions to the existing roofline of the old church hall has been more complicated than originally believed. Much of this was due to the condition of the existing 128-year-old roof rafters. This damage wasn't apparent until the building was moved to its new location and parts of the roof were opened up and examined.

John Bowe and Peter Blodgett, of H&B Ltd., have moved into the role of general contractors. The two are nearby to oversee the project, have experience in restoration contracting, and fulfill a grant requirement for local people working on the job. Also, they spent much of last winter preparing the interior of the original building and additions for completion. That work is not visible to the passerby but it readied the interior for finishing once the rooflines are secure. "Both John and Peter have a tremendous heart for this project," said Mary Batinich, chair of the LVCC. In addition, John and his wife, Rosemary Shepherd, are stained glass craftsmen who have been restoring the beautiful stained glass windows.

The LVCC board and building committee have also decided to retain the services of Architectural Resources Inc. ARI has extensive experience with historic restoration projects such as this, and will be taking the lead to oversee this project. Their work will enhance and add further detail to the original architectural plans.

Moving forward will be a collaboration between the building com-



Peeling paint and tattered shingles on the LVCC building exterior will be replaced, but not until the structural and roofing work is completed.

mittee, ARI as architects and engineers, H&B Ltd. as general contractors and on-site management, and as many local contractors and workers as possible.

The goal is to soon have a code-compliant plan, complete construction documents, and specifications to ensure a high-quality project of which the entire Iron Range can be proud.

The garage/carriage house behind St. Mary's Hall looks very nice. Many have wondered why can't some initial siding work be done, at least on the highway side of St. Mary's Hall?

"We are proud of the carriage house phase of the project," said Bowe. "It has a half-round window and cut shingles that match the originals on the old church. Our goal was to set a benchmark for how the rest of the project will look."

When you are in Tower, take a moment to stop and study the carriage house and envision how St. Mary's Hall will look when completed. Bowe said as much as they would like to do the trim, siding, and install the stained glass windows to make the exterior of the building look pretty, they must follow a logical and sequential restoration/construction process, which means that all the exterior construction work and roofing must be completed before the shin-

gles and trim, along with the newly-restored stained windows, are put into place.

"We have all the stained glass windows and frames in our shop (Kekekabic Studios in Ely) and have a good many of them restored," Bowe said. Rosemary and crew will be working on the rest throughout the winter. Anyone who is curious about the stained glass restoration is invited to stop in at the studio at 118 E. Chapman Street, in Ely, to watch the progress.

## Child's Christmas in Wales on Dec. 27

The LVCC is holding a holiday fundraiser on Wednesday, Dec. 27 at the Vermilion Park Inn in Soudan. Come and celebrate the holidays with a reading of "A Child's Christmas in Wales," by William Kimes, Professor Emeritus at Hamline University. The evening starts with a social hour at 5 p.m. with a viewing of the "Dickens Christmas Village," and a gourmet dinner served at 6 p.m. There will also be carol singing. There is limited seating, cost is \$50 per person (\$25 is tax-deductible). Call 612-360-7079 for reservations, or email malex@gmail.com. For overnight accommodations at the inn, call 218-753-2333.

## U of M and Shakopee Tribe announce 2017-2018 scholarship recipients

PRIOR LAKE- The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) and the University of Minnesota today announced the newest class of scholarship recipients for the SMSC Endowed Scholarship program. They include 19 Native American students from 10 different tribes including two Bois Forte Band members, Jenna Cashman and Austyn Dagen.

The new scholars represent fourteen undergraduate students and five graduate students, ten scholars from Minnesota tribes, eight students at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, six at the Twin Cities campus, and five at the Morris campus, and majors including civil engineering, biochemistry, medicine, environmental studies, social work, and the undergraduate and

master's-level tribal administration and governance program in Duluth.

The SMSC Endowed Scholarship program was established through a \$2.5 million gift to the University of Minnesota from the SMSC. The gift leveraged a former university matching program that doubles the impact of the gift to students. Since the program began in 2009, more than 200 students have received this scholarship. Thirty-eight students are enrolled this year, representing more than 30 tribal nations across the United States.

"As I look toward my future, I feel confident that I will succeed at the University of Minnesota," said Alexandrah Walker, a scholarship recipient and member of the Meskwaki Nation in Iowa. "I am

highly motivated to finish school and earn my degree, and after graduation I intend to give back to my community and inspire others to do the same. This scholarship helps ease the financial burden of moving toward my goals."

The University's Office for Equity and Diversity administers the scholarship. Native American students who have been admitted to any University of Minnesota campus are eligible to apply for the SMSC Endowed Scholarship. Scholarship applications for the 2018-2019 academic year are due March 1, 2018, for undergraduate students and May 1, 2018, for graduate students. Visit diversity.umn.edu/smsc for more information.

## BENEFIT

# Tina Brown

Our mother and friend Tina Brown (Hardy), from Soudan, was recently diagnosed in September with Adenocarcinoma of the left lower lobe, stage 4 brain cancer. Please come to enjoy some food and support Tina.

### Saturday, December 9

#### 11 AM - 3 PM

(Timber Hall, 4855 Hwy 21, Embarrass)

Silent Auction!

Join Us!

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Chili & Soup!

Adults \$8 • Kids \$5

We will be celebrating Tina's 50th Birthday at D'Erick's on Main Street, Tower later that evening • 6 PM to ?

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We look forward to seeing you!

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# COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

ORR

## New thrift shop opens at Orr Center



The new thrift shop, located in the old Orr School building, will be open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays during the winter months. photo by M. Roach

by MELISSA ROACH  
Staff Writer

ORR-The heat has been turned on in the elementary wing of the Orr Center, allowing for the Orr Center Market, a second-hand store, to open in the old library. This is a major advancement for the center which had only been able to be open during warmer weather. The wood boilers

had been in place for some time, but funding was needed to complete the job. This past September, Ruth Husimann organized a Go Fund Me page for donations to fund the heating project, which so far, has topped \$8,000. This is an on-going project and there is still work to be completed. Income generated from the shop will go toward the completion of the heating project.

Donations are accepted during market store hours, or by appointment. Many items are accepted, including gently-used clothing, housewares, books, and toys. No large appliances or large furniture will be accepted. The Orr Center Market will be open during the winter months on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

### CONSUMER TIPS

## Hang up on fraud! Minnesota Commerce Department launches senior fraud prevention campaign

ST. PAUL- The Minnesota Commerce Department is convening a series of free public forums to provide information for older Minnesotans and their family caregivers on how to protect themselves and their money from common scams and fraud.

“These events are in conjunction with the launch this month of the Commerce Department’s Hang Up on Fraud! initiative,” said Commerce Commissioner Jessica Looman. “This is a statewide public information and outreach campaign to promote the availability of a new financial fraud prevention toolkit for older Minnesotans and their families.”

“The number of seniors and vulnerable adults who are targeted by

scammers is alarming,” said Representative Paul Rosenthal (DFL-Edina), who carried legislation establishing the fraud prevention campaign. “Financial fraud can completely upend someone’s life and makes it more difficult for seniors and families to protect what they have worked so hard to earn. These proactive measures will help Minnesotans protect themselves from fraud and permanent financial hardships.”

Older adults are often targeted for financial exploitation. It is estimated that one out of every five persons over the age of 65 has been victimized by a financial swindle, with older Americans defrauded out of nearly \$3 billion each year. The threat of senior financial fraud is expected to grow as the senior pop-

ulation itself grows.

To provide older Minnesotans and their loved ones with the knowledge and tools to stop fraud before it starts, the Commerce Department is working with law enforcement, social service agencies, and groups such as AARP Minnesota, Minnesota Elder Justice Center and Senior LinkAge Line (Minnesota Board on Aging).

A free copy of the Commerce Department’s financial fraud prevention toolkit can be requested by email at [consumer.protection@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.protection@state.mn.us) or by phone at 800-657-3602. It is also available on the Commerce Department website at [mn.gov/commerce](http://mn.gov/commerce).

### BUSINESS

## Lake Country Power provides revolving loan fund for marina expansion at Handberg’s Marina

CRANE LAKE – Handberg’s Marina recently received a \$100,000 Revolving Loan Fund from Lake Country Power to support its expansion to build a new repair and retail marine store in Crane Lake.

“Honestly, we couldn’t have done the project without Lake Country Power’s help,” said Lori Sanborn, co-owner of Handberg’s Marina with her husband Jeff. “Lake Country Power was such a fun piece of our expansion project. The funding helped bridge the gap between what the bank provided and what we were able to provide.”

The Revolving Loan Fund that LCP administers came about from previous economic development grants received through the United States Department of Agriculture. The USDA is a federal funding agency. USDA provides loans to non-profit rural electric cooperatives like Lake Country Power to spur economic development in rural America.

“Part of Lake Country Power’s mission is to help its communities prosper, so anytime we can help our



Pictured (left to right): Jeff Sheldon, Lake Country Power; Lori Sanborn, Greg Povroznik, Jeff Sanborn and Randy Clemmer, Handberg’s Marina; Mark Olson, Lake Country Power; Jason Long, District 1 Director for Lake Country Power; Shirley Sanborn, Joe Bonner, Dave Thul, Nick Diederick and John Luoma, Handberg’s Marina. submitted photo

local businesses grow and succeed it’s a win-win for everyone,” said Jeff Sheldon, manager, energy services and business development at Lake Country Power. “Through the Revolving Loan Fund, we’re able to re-lend federal funding to businesses that meet a set of loan qualifications.”

Qualifying businesses must be located within Lake Country Power’s service area. Businesses may apply for up to \$100,000 at three-percent interest which must be paid

off within 10 years or less.

Handberg’s Marina has been a family-owned recreation business since 1926. They offer products and services for fishermen, vacationers, visitors and residents of the Crane Lake area. They sell and service Yamaha and Evinrude outboard motors, and Crestliner, Alumaweld and Polarcraft boats. They also operate an inside/outside boat storage, more than 70 marina slips on Crane Lake, RV sites and a fun little store with ice cream cones, clothing and gifts.

In 1996, Jeff and Lori Sanborn became the fourth generation to own the business, adding new products, more storage, and upgrades to the marina. For more information, visit [www.handbergs.com](http://www.handbergs.com).

For more information about economic development loans and qualifications, please contact Jeff Sheldon, manager of energy services and business development for Lake Country Power at 800-421-9959, ext. 7146.

## Old-Time Dance at Wolf Creek Dance Hall on Saturday, Dec. 16

ELY- There will be an Old-Time Dance with a caller, with music by “Sugar on the Roof,” on Saturday, Dec. 16 starting at 5 p.m. at McKenzie’s Dance Hall, 2140 Wolf Creek Pass Rd. (eight miles west of Ely on Hwy. 169). Pot luck dinner begins at 5 p.m. with dancing and music to follow. Donations taken at the door. Limited parking. Please carpool if possible. Any questions, call Tim McKenzie at 218-365-5136.

## Tower Holiday Craft Show set for Saturday, Dec. 9

TOWER- The Tower Holiday Craft Show will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center. Stop by to browse the wares from over 20 area crafters who will be offering gifts for all ages along with holiday baking.

There will be handmade gifts for all ages, knitted goods, crafts, decorative items, Native American crafts, doll clothes, wooden cutting boards, rag rugs, candles, and much, much more.

This is a great opportunity to shop local and support your neighbors. The show is sponsored by Friends of Vermilion Country School, which will be selling lunch and coffee an’.

## “False Hope and True” at Mesabi Unitarian on Dec. 10

VIRGINIA- What is the proper balance between wishful thinking and hope grounded in reality? In what, or in whom, do we place our faith, trust, and hope? What does it mean to be people of hope? Explore these questions in a presentation called “False Hope and True” on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 10:30 a.m. with Reverend Suzanne Wasilczuk at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church, located at 230 7th St. S in Virginia.

Usual services are Sundays at 10:30 a.m. A parent/infant area is provided, as is toddler care, and religious education is provided for the over fives. All are welcome and the church is handicap accessible. For more information, visit [www.mesabiuu.org](http://www.mesabiuu.org).

## Embarrass Ice Candle Celebration set for Saturday, Dec. 16

EMBARRASS- The Embarrass Ice Candle and Holiday Gathering will be held on Saturday, Dec. 16 from 4 – 6 p.m. at the Embarrass Cemetery and the Embarrass Town Hall.

Join the community at the Embarrass Cemetery for the display of ice candles set out in memory of loved ones, then stop by the town hall for Christmas goodies along with crafts and a movie for the children. The township is looking for donations of Christmas cookies and bars for the gathering. If you are able to help out, please call the clerk’s office at 218-984-2084. Volunteers are also needed to help place the ice candles at the cemetery that afternoon. This is a great time for all ages to be involved.

## NER Elementary winter concert on Tuesday, Dec. 19

BABBIT- The Northeast Range Elementary School winter concert will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 1:30 p.m. at the school auditorium.

## Northeast Range Community Theater production set for Dec. 8 and 9

BABBIT- The Northeast Range Community Theater will present “Who’s Dying to be a Millionaire?” by Pat Cook. The play will be directed by Joe Kaufenberg. Performances are set for Friday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 9 at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$5 each.

## Auditions for Love Letters at Lyric Center on Dec. 12

VIRGINIA- The Lyric Center for the Arts is holding auditions for a February production of Love Letters on Tuesday, Dec. 12 from 5:30 – 7 p.m. at the Lyric Annex. Love Letters requires one male and one female actor. The Lyric Annex is located at 516 Chestnut St. in downtown Virginia.

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CITY OF ELY

# City Council revisits off-sale liquor license request

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – Ely’s newest coffee shop and wine bar, Northern Grounds, will likely be granted an off-sale liquor license, despite the City Council’s previous attempt to stifle competition.

Cindy Beans, managing owner of the Jasper Co., appeared before the council this week with a re-application for an off-sale license in her hand and Minnesota State Statutes in her back pocket.

Pending the state’s approval of a site plan providing for a separate and secure off-sale location within the Northern Grounds building, and the proper filing of all paperwork and payment of all fees, the business that now sells beer and wine on premises, should be allowed to sell products on an off-sale basis.

“Ultimately this is the state’s decision,” said Mayor Chuck Novak. “We are somewhat limited in how we can apply this law.”

On May 16, the council denied the application by Northern Grounds for a combination liquor license that allows for both on-sale and off-sale, apparently because the other liquor stores in town didn’t want the competition.

“Prior to the council’s decision, Ely’s three exclusive liquor stores requested that my application be denied, claiming undo competition,” Beans wrote in a letter to the council last month. “However, those who meet the eligibility restrictions would have the same opportunity and in concurrence; competition is universally accepted in commerce and it is absolutely critical for economic growth.

Competition raises the bar, encourages innovation and reduces the likelihood of complacency.”

Beans also said, “Following the council’s decision (on May 16) displayed in one of these three stores, was a sign ‘Great Wines as Featured at Northern Grounds’ with wines from my (food pairing) program, previously unavailable anywhere in Ely except on-sale at Northern Grounds, offered for off-sale purchase elsewhere. I chose not to take legal action on the blatant trademark infringement for the theft of my intellectual property.”

Beans presented the opinion of a nearby law firm. Attorney Bryan Lindsay, of Trenti Law Firm, Virginia, wrote, “My understanding is that the only justification given for denying your application is that it created a slip-

pery slope, meaning that other establishments selling on-sale liquor may apply for off-sale licenses. The law permits on-sale license holders to also hold an off-sale license. The city of Ely was simply making a statement that they did not want other establishments to do something that the law, as it exists both in Minnesota and in Ely, permits.”

Objections to Northern Grounds’ application for an off-sale license continue from the established liquor trade in Ely.

An undated letter to the council from Mark and Dottie Zojonc, owners of Mike’s Liquors, states, “After receiving more information regarding the request from Northern Grounds asking for an off-sale liquor license, we will continue to object to the granting of this license. We still feel they would have

an unfair advantage over conventional liquor stores. We have one business contained in our stores, they have multi (sic) and it sounds like they are expanding in even more areas of business. If granted, you are opening the door for all restaurants, bars and lodges to request the same license. It has been mentioned the granting could possibly allow wine only off-sale, but we wonder how that would be monitored. And how soon would a request for more be presented? After speaking to the MLBA, cities do have the power to deny any license under good moral standings. There are just too many aspects and avenues that take away from a level playing field.”

Following the establishment of an off-sale plan in the building with the landlord’s approval, inspection and approval by

the state, and filing of all paperwork and payment of all fees, Beans will seek final approval from the City Council.

“I, along with many others, do not believe it to be in Ely’s best interest, nor the responsibility of the Council, to suppress competition when the current code states eligibility as the only requirement,” Beans wrote.

## Polling place

The Ely Senior Center was again designated as the 2018 Polling Precinct location following a failed attempt to move the voting location to City Hall.

“Our investment in City Hall was all for nothing,” said a frustrated Mayor Novak when the motion by Heidi Omerza to move city voting to the renovated city building failed to receive support from any council member.

## FORUM...Continued from page 1

according to Bakk. “We will have the opportunity to get some projects for northern Minnesota and all around the state.”

Novak pushed his request for the 10-year-old 17th Avenue reconstruction project, one of two items on his wish list.

The city of Ely has had some funding progress on the project, but an additional \$1.3 million to \$1.6 million is needed to reconstruct the dirt road that runs along the west side of Vermilion Community College between Camp Street and Miners Drive.

“This would be a good year for that (bonding request) to come through,” Novak said. “We have a dilemma down there. The college students who live in the barracks or trailers have to walk that dirt road to get to school in the morning. It is almost a safe routes to school (issue).”

Novak continued to build his case, voicing the city’s desire to have curb and gutter and sidewalks on the road by the college. “We can’t stripe intersections on Sheridan Street because the Minnesota Department of

Transportation rules call for a sidewalk to stripe a pedestrian crossing. It is unsafe for the students. We need to do something with that.”

Just recently, a storm water lift station failed in the area in question. “In our plan, if it had been done, there would be no lift station, because it is all redesigned for a gravity flow (system),” he said. “Now we have a dilemma. We have to spend thousands of dollars to replace a lift station that will be a useless piece of equipment when we complete the project. That doesn’t seem like a wise use of taxpayer money.”

Novak added, “We’re going to push hard on that this year, and we expect total support from our representatives to get this through the bonding bill.”

“At the risk of sounding like the Grinch, this is a city street,” Bakk said. “I’ve said this before. If we’re going to start using streets and infrastructure need to be repaired and upgraded. “Is there a way to earmark some money to the college to put (Minnesota State Colleges and Universities) on the hook for that because they need the improvement? Maybe?” he asked. “We just can’t start building city streets with

general fund bonding. We don’t have enough muscle to be successful. Every city in the state will all of a sudden want their streets rebuilt. I’m sorry to sound like the Grinch. I’m pretty powerful down there, but you can’t make the argument that this is somehow the state’s responsibility. I would love to help, but the reality is it is still a city street.”

Novak cited his frustration with how that state spends money. “The city of Ely is very beneficial because it has a strong sales taxability,” he said. “When I go down (to St. Paul) and talk to our anti-LGA people, I have to make this point because they look at rural Minnesota as being on welfare.”

According to the Department of Revenue, \$3.2 million in sales tax is collected in Ely. “We get \$2.1 million in LGA, so I figure, with how much money has gone to St. Paul over and above LGA, getting a little bit back once in a while wouldn’t hurt,” Novak said. “I’m going to keep pressing for this because it is a top priority of our Economic Development Authority and a top priority of the city. I’ll knock on everybody’s door as long as I have to get this through. This is important to us.”

Novak added, “When you look at our transportation needs, you can’t drive a truck down that dirt

road anymore. We spend a ton of money with dust control, grading and everything else. We’re not rich enough to do this street ourselves. We’re asking for some help and I’m going to fight this every which way I can.”

Bakk talked about the importance of precedent in the state legislature. “When you do something, someone comes along and says, ‘You did it for them how about us?’ That sets a whole new precedent,” he said. “I’m sorry Chuck. I’m just not powerful enough to make that happen. I can’t make the argument that the city of Ely should get its streets rebuilt by the state. Find something else.”

Bakk touted Ely’s other request, a recreational trailhead on the city’s west end, as a great bonding project. “That could be successful,” he said. Novak said three different trails, the Prospectors Loop, Mesabi Trail, and the Taconite Trail, would all converge at a common area just west of the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital and Essentia Clinic complex.

“We have already designed it with secure areas for parking,” he said. “The good news is that St. Louis County allows ATVs on the highways. We have routes through the city for access to businesses. We’re going to push hard for that project too.”

Town of Morse Supervisor Robert Berrini voiced his concerns for the trailhead. “You have to remember that all this land where the trails are going through is in the Town of Morse,” he said. “We get a lot of complaints about these people going by their houses.”

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## EMMER...Continued from page 1

Republicans hold a commanding majority. "The vote was close and showed the broad, bipartisan opposition to a foreign conglomerate threatening our Boundary Waters with toxic mining," said Minnesota Fourth District Congresswoman Betty McCollum, one of the bill's chief opponents.

"This was not a victory for Tom Emmer," said Becky Rom, co-chair of the Ely-based Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. "They had to wait for eight members to return in order to pass it," Rom added. "I think if we had had another week out there, we would have blocked it. In Washington, this bill is as toxic as sulfide-based copper mining."

In a sign of the significance that conservation groups attached to the Emmer bill, the LCV sent a Nov. 28 letter to House members saying they were

considering including the vote for their annual scorecard. While that might not be a concern to many Republican House members, those representing suburban districts are frequently more supportive of environmental protections, and the nature of Emmer's legislation struck many conservation groups, and even some Republicans, as too extreme.

"Among many harmful provisions, H.R. 3905 would waive normal environmental review and public input under the NEPA and grant two federal mineral leases that were denied by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management," wrote LCV president Gene Karpinski, in a letter to members. "And this legislation would add barriers to designate national monuments under the Antiquities Act in

Minnesota's national forests," noted Karpinski.

"It changes five federal laws, and singles out Minnesota as not being worthy of the protections offered to other states," notes Rom.

Rep. Emmer, who represents Minnesota's Sixth District, said the vote was a significant victory for workers in northeastern Minnesota. "The MINER Act reverses the misguided, last minute actions of the Obama Administration to stop any exploration of one of the most valuable precious metal deposits in the world," he added.

Emmer, in a statement, said passage of the bill "protects more than ten thousand jobs and billions of dollars in revenue and education funding, while leaving an extensive process intact to protect and preserve the environment and our state." It's not clear, however, how

Emmer calculated his employment claim. Representatives for Antofagasta have put new job creation at the proposed Twin Metals mine at about 650, although that estimate is based on a preliminary mine plan that is not economically feasible at current metal prices.

The two mineral leases that the bill would restore, originally issued in 1966, are critical to plans for the mine. Antofagasta filed suit against the U.S. Department of the Interior earlier this year after the federal Bureau of Land Management opted not to renew the two leases, which expired in 2013. Antofagasta claims that renewal of the leases was mandatory and that the federal bureau abused its discretion in denying an extension.

The two-year study of the proposed mineral with-

drawal is already underway and is focused on both the environmental and economic impacts of a sulfide-based mine within the watershed of the 1.1-million acre wilderness. The U.S. Forest Service is leading the study, with cooperation from the BLM.

### Senate prospects unlikely

Last week's narrow victory in the House was probably the end of the line for Emmer's bill, which appears to have little support in the U.S. Senate. Neither Minnesota senator has indicated an interest in offering companion legislation in the Senate, a reality even supporters of copper-nickel mining in the region concede.

At a legislative forum held in Ely this week, Aurora Mayor-elect David Lislegard, said he believes

the two-year study of a proposed withdrawal is likely to move forward. "In reality, I'm going to be honest with you, it is probably not going to get a companion in the Senate," he said.

What's more, as a policy bill, the measure would be subject to a potential filibuster, which would require 60 votes to advance the measure to a floor vote. That would require significant Democratic support, which appears unlikely. Emmer's bill received support from just eight Democrats in the House, including Nolan and Minnesota's Seventh District Congressman Collin Peterson.

The Timberjays sought official comment for this story from both of Minnesota's U.S. senators. As of deadline, neither office had responded.

## MINING...Continued from page 1

provide revenue for cities and townships, school districts, and counties in the taconite assistance area, along with funding to the IRRRB. The production tax generated as much as \$102 million in 2014, when total tonnage hit just under 39.7 million tons.

But the slowdown in the industry that began in 2015 dropped production that year to 32.6 million tons. It fell even further in 2016, to just over 29 million tons, the lowest since 2009. That dropped production tax revenues to \$89 million. The production tax fund does receive a \$7.37 million allocation from the state's general fund, which raised the total revenue available for distribution to communities in the taconite assistance area to \$96 million this year. Those extra dollars are raised through statewide general taxes, however, not the mining industry.

At the same time, mining companies received \$13.98 million in rebated sales taxes on production equipment in 2016. That left the total taxes actually levied on the industry at \$80.55 million in 2016.

"This just goes to show

what a huge impact Minnesota's iron mining industry has on our region," said Iron Mining Association of Minnesota President Kelsey Johnson in a press statement issued last week. "Despite the downturn caused by significant global pressures, millions of dollars still went into our communities," Johnson said.

The majority of the 2017 production tax dollars — more than \$38 million — went to the IRRRB which reinvests in Iron Range communities, businesses, and workforce development.

Nearly \$22 million went to local school districts, \$11 million went to property tax relief, and the remaining \$25 million went to cities, townships, and counties in various ways.

While significant, the iron mining industry's tax contribution to the region has failed to keep pace with inflation over the years, and pales in comparison to the tax impact the industry had decades earlier. For example, the industry generated an average of almost \$97 million in taxes annually in the 1970s, on annual

taconite production of about 42 million tons. Adjusted for inflation, the same tax revenues generated by the iron mining industry in the 1970s would be worth nearly \$388 million today, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. While those were heady times for the industry, even in the relatively lackluster early 1990s, the industry generated an average of \$98 million in taxes annually, according to the mining tax guide. Adjusted for inflation, that equals \$175 million in today's dollars.

In terms of dollars per ton, the value generated by taxes on the mining industry continues to slip to inflation. Beginning in the 1970s, when the state boosted taxes on the industry, the region's taconite mines paid out an average of about \$2.40 in taxes for every ton produced. At the time, according to the Federal Reserve, a ton of iron ore sold for \$12.15 on the world market. That put the tax rate on a ton of ore at about 19.7 percent.

In 2016, by contrast, that same ton of iron ore

fetches an average of about \$60 per ton, while the region's mining companies paid \$2.77 of that in taxes, or just 4.6 percent of the value of an equivalent ton of ore.

And that \$2.77 per ton, when adjusted for inflation, is worth far less than the \$2.40 per ton that the industry generated in the 1970s and 80s. Indeed, that \$2.40 per ton generated in 1980 is equivalent to \$7.61 in today's dollars, according to the BLS.

Over the years, the industry has coaxed legislators into enacting a number of changes in the law that have helped reduce their tax burden. In 1988, the Legislature repealed a gross earnings tax on railroads operated by mining companies, switching to an ad valorem assessment that dramatically reduced their tax bill. In 1989, legislators repealed the royalty tax, which generated over \$4 million annually at its peak. In 1992, the Legislature created the Taconite Economic Development Fund, which dedicated a portion of the production tax to grants to

the mining companies for investments in their operations. In 2001, the Legislature made the fund permanent and dedicated 30.1¢ per ton, or about 12 percent of the total production tax, to the program. In recent years, the program has provided mining companies anywhere from \$10-\$12 million annually, although that fell to just \$700,000 in 2016. The law suspends payments if total taconite production on the Iron Range falls below 30 million tons, which it did last year.

In addition, in 2015, the Legislature approved a measure that exempts equipment purchased for use in mine processing from the state use tax, which is similar to the sales tax. That resulted in a

\$13.98 million rebate from the state to mining companies in 2016.

At the same time, the Legislature has kept the production tax rate from increasing at the rate of general inflation, and has enacted freezes on a number of occasions. Twenty-five years ago, for example, the state levied \$2.05 on every ton of taconite produced. In 2017, that rate is \$2.66 per ton. Had that rate kept pace with inflation, the production tax would be \$3.67 per ton today and the tax would have generated \$123 million in 2016, rather than the \$89.1 million in production taxes actually levied on the mining industry last year.

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## BOYS BASKETBALL

# Wolves rout Two Harbors



by JAY GREENEY  
Sports writer

**ELY** – The Wolves jumped out front early and never looked back in their season opener on Tuesday, routing Two Harbors 83-35.

Ely started the game with a smothering full court press, forcing numerous turnovers, which the Wolves turned into easy points. The Agates couldn't find a solution.

"We limited their output with some very good defense," said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. "We shot the ball very well."

With the return of a couple of starters and a few reserves who played lots of

**Left: Blaise Lah comes down with one of 14 rebounds he tallied in Ely's season opener.**

photo by J. Greeney

minutes last year, Ely played like it was mid-season instead of the first game of the year. Whether it was a three-pointer or a drive down the lane the Wolves played with confidence. Depth will be a concern for Ely moving forward as they graduated a large group of seniors.

"It was a great opener for us," said Head Coach McDonald. "We played very well as a team."

The huge win allowed the Wolves to clear the bench and get some young players some valuable playing time.

On offense, senior Carter Gaulke led with 21 points and eight assists. Junior Pat Vanderbeek scored 18 points hitting on six of eight three-pointers, while senior Adam McDonald added 14 points. Senior Blaise Lah had a season-opening double-double when he had 14 points to go with 14 rebounds.

Ely is set to host International Falls on Friday, with varsity tip-off at 7:15 p.m.

## Sports week

### Boys bball

**Friday, Dec. 8**  
NW at Fond du Lac, 7:15 p.m.  
Ely hosts I-Falls, 7:15 p.m.  
NER hosts Chisholm, 7:15 p.m.

**Monday, Dec. 11**  
NER hosts Silver Bay, 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, Dec. 12**  
NW hosts N-K, 7:15 p.m.

**Thursday, Dec. 14**  
NER hosts Cook County, 7:15 p.m.

**Friday, Dec. 15**  
NW hosts Ely, 7:15 p.m.

### Girls bball

**Friday, Dec. 8**  
NER hosts Chisholm, 7:15 pm

**Saturday, Dec. 9**  
Ely at Hill City  
2:45 p.m. (varsity)

**Monday, Dec 11**  
NW at Cherry, 7:15 pm  
NER hosts Silver Bay, 4:45 pm

**Tuesday, Dec 12**  
NER at Evel-Gil,  
7:15 pm

**Thursday, Dec. 14**  
NW hosts Fond du Lac  
7:15 pm  
NER hosts Cook County,  
4:45 pm

### Hockey

**Saturday, Dec. 9**  
Ely hosts May-Port  
2 p.m.

**Tuesday, Dec. 12**  
Ely at Evel-Gil,  
7:30 p.m.

### Nordic ski

**Saturday, Dec. 9**  
Ely Invite, Cancelled  
due to limited snow.

# Grizzlies roll at Bigfork

## Junior Goggeye hits 1,000-point milestone

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**BIGFORK**— North Woods junior guard Cade Goggeye hit his 1,000th career point here on Tuesday night, helping to lead the Grizzlies to a 77-59 victory over the Huskies. A fast start for the Grizzlies made the difference as they jumped out to an 18-2 lead in the first quarter, and held onto that margin the rest of way.

"Our defensive pressure created some opportunities," said North Woods Head Coach Will Kleppe. Senior forward Tate Olson led all scorers, with 24 points, followed by Goggeye, with 18.

The Grizzlies took a 42-23 lead into halftime, a margin that the Huskies managed to trim to 11 thanks to five unanswered points with about eight minutes left in the game. But Kleppe called a timeout to slow Bigfork's momentum and the Grizzlies responded with a seven-point run of their own to reclaim their

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



**North Woods' Tate Olson goes up for two during Tuesday night's game against Bigfork. Olson led all scorers in the matchup, with 24 points.**

photo by C. Stone

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Ely falls to Agates

## Rout young Spartans team 64-29

by JAY GREENEY  
Sports writer

**ELY** – A late Wolves rally fell short on Saturday, as the girls basketball squad dropped to 1-1 on the season with a 49-42 loss to Two Harbors.

"We played a competitive game with Two Harbors," said Ely Head Coach Darren Visser. "We need to improve on our free-throw shooting (1 for 8) and cut down on our turnovers," he added.

After a season opening blowout of Nashwauk-Keewatin last Thursday, the Wolves found the Agates to be much more disciplined on offense, leaving Ely fewer turnover and fast break opportunities. A slow start for Ely let Two Harbors build a 26-15 lead through the first half. But the Wolves rallied

**Right: Sophomore guard Brielle Kallberg goes up for shot during last Thursday's game with Nashwauk-Keewatin.**

photo by J. Greeney

in the second half, cutting the Agates' lead to three points with less than two minutes remaining. Good free-throw shooting by the Agates in the final couple minutes closed the door on an Ely comeback.

"It is early in the season and we are still working on the chemistry of the team," said Visser. "With continued hard work I believe the girls will get it and just continue to improve as the season moves forward."

Sophomores Brielle Kallberg and Erika Mattson led scoring for

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



## COLLEGE

# Ironmen slip to Minnesota West

by JAY GREENEY  
Sports writer

**WORTHINGTON**—Vermilion lost momentum and couldn't finish on the road against the Bluejays. Minnesota West came from behind to beat the Ironmen on Saturday 81-77.

Vermilion came into town 5-0 to open the season and were playing a Friday/Saturday weekend series on the road.

"We were up 14 on Saturday with 10 minutes to go and ran out of gas," said Vermilion Head Coach Paul McDonald. "Shot 9 for 40 in the second half."

The Ironmen had big games from Demetrice Mitchell with 25 points and 14 rebounds, followed closely by Bradlee Lewis who put up 24 points and collected 12 rebounds. Denario Jackson led the team with seven assists and six steals.

## HOCKEY

## Wolves hockey still looking for a win

by JAY GREENEY  
Sports writer

WADENA – Ely came out on the short end of a high-scoring hockey matchup here on Saturday. The Wolves kept it close through most of two

periods, trailing Wadena-Deer Creek 7-5 with three minutes left in the second. But they couldn't keep pace in the final period, as the Wolverines scored five more goals to take it 12-7.

The Wolves again found themselves plagued by penalties,

playing more than half the game shorthanded. They racked up 36 minutes in the box on 11 penalties, and the Wolverines took advantage, scoring four goals on the power play, compared to zero for the Wolves.

Offensively, the Wolves were

led by junior Nick Mattila who had two goals and two assists. Sophomore Luke Olson added two goals while junior Austin Meskill chipped in with a goal and senior Gage Merhar tallied two assists.

Chase Sandberg started in

goal and gave up nine goals on 37 shots in just under 32 minutes while junior Tyler Housey allowed three goals on 12 shots in just over 19 minutes of action.

The 0-3 Wolves host Mayport on Saturday. Game time is 2 p.m.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

## Grizzlies girls crush visiting Nighthawks

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

NORTH WOODS— The Grizzlies crushed a young Northeast Range girls basketball squad 65-12 in their home opener last Thursday. Junior guard Hannah Sandberg led all scorers, with 15, followed closely by junior guard Bria Chiabotti with 14. Other scorers for the Grizzlies included sophomore forward Nicole Olson, with nine, junior forward Kate Stone, with eight, and junior guard Allana Rutchasky, with five. Brynn Simpson, Regan Ratai, and Sasha Strong each scored four points.

Junior guard Shayler Lislegard tallied nine of the Nighthawks' 12 points. Alexia Lightfeather added two points for the 'Hawks.

**Right: Shayler Lislegard calls for help under pressure from two North Woods defenders.**

photo by C. Stone



## GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

comfortable margin.

Despite playing on the road, Goggleye had plenty of supporters on hand to witness his scoring milestone, which came during the second half. His family and friends almost didn't get the chance. Goggleye had started the season needing 69 points to reach 1,000, and would almost certainly have reached the mark in the Grizzlies' first game of the season had Kleppe not pulled him with ten minutes remaining. Goggleye had put on a scoring performance rarely seen in high school sports against a young South Ridge team in their season opener on Nov. 30. Goggleye racked up 15 three-pointers and a total of 62 points despite polishing the bench for much of the second half, leading his team to a 117-27 victory over the Panthers.

Kleppe said he wanted Goggleye's family there to celebrate his milestone, and they had been unable to attend the game at South Ridge. "No one thought he would reach his 69 points in the first game," said Kleppe. Goggleye's blowout performance put him in the top five for most points scored in a high school basketball game in Minnesota, and tied for second for the most three-pointers in a single



**Cade Goggleye poses with fans following Tuesday night's game.** photo by C. Stone

game.

So Goggleye reached his mark in Bigfork instead, with plenty of fans on hand to watch.

While Goggleye's recent scoring has been impressive, the Grizzlies clearly don't depend on any one or two big scorers. "We had nine guys score last night," said Kleppe on Wednesday. In addition to Olson and Goggleye, senior guard Brendan Parson added 12 points, and Chase Kleppe and Trevor Morrison added seven apiece. Isaiah Squires and Ian Sherman each added three, Tanner Lokken added two,

and T.J. Chiabotti scored one.

Nine players also scored in the Grizzlies' blowout at South Ridge last Thursday. In addition to Goggleye, Olson tallied ten points, Dylan Chiabotti and Sherman scored nine apiece, and Squires added eight. Morrison added five and Parson tallied three.

The Grizzlies are on the road Friday, at Fond du Lac, before starting an eight-game home stand. They'll host Nashwauk-Keewatin on Tuesday and welcome the Ely Timberwolves next Friday. Tip-off both nights is at 7:15 p.m.

## Sports briefly

## NER boys dumped by South Ridge

BABBITT— The Nighthawks' boys basketball home opener didn't go as planned as Northeast Range fell hard to South Ridge, 65-22.

The Nighthawks have struggled to even field a team this season, with just eight players on the team roster, including four eighth and ninth-graders. South Ridge dominated from start to finish.

Senior guard Quintin Pecha provided the one bright spot for the Nighthawks, scoring 11 points. Senior guard Brett Rosendahl and eighth-grade guard Ty Fabish scored five points apiece. Senior forward Austin Erickson connected on a free throw for a point.

Nick Carlson proved the top scorer for South Ridge, with 17 points.

The Nighthawks are scheduled to host Chisholm

on Friday night. Game time is set for 7:15 p.m.

## Two losses for NER girls

BABBITT—Northeast Range girls fell behind quickly on Tuesday night en route to a 69-20 loss to Mesabi East.

The young Northeast Range squad is struggling to start the season. With just two seniors and one junior on the roster the Nighthawks are hopefully building for the future.

The Nighthawks had their home opener on Monday and were overmatched by South Ridge. The Panthers jumped out early and won 76-13.

Northeast Range was never able to get on track as the Panthers early full court press created easy scoring opportunities.

Next up for the Nighthawks is another home game against Chisholm on Friday. Game time is 7:15 p.m.

## GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

Ely with 16 and 11 points respectively. Seniors Shaya Zaverl and Kallberg led in rebounds, with eight apiece. Zaverl was the team leader with four assists and tied fellow senior Kalley Fischer with four steals apiece.

Ely opened the season with a strong defense and full court press keeping a very young Nashwauk-Keewatin squad scoreless for over nine minutes of

the first half en route to a 64-29 Wolves rout.

The Wolves quickly took advantage of the Spartans inexperience as they built a huge second half lead allowing everyone on the bench some game time.

The Wolves got a big night of scoring from Shayla Zaverl with 22,, while Erika Mattson added 18. Brielle Kallberg dominated the boards with 15 rebounds and added seven steals.

The Wolves hit the road on Saturday to face Hill City. Game time is 1 p.m.



## COUNTY SCHOOLS

## NER projects raise board concerns

by MELISSA ROACH  
Staff Writer

REGIONAL—Carl Clark, of Foster Jacobs & Johnson gave each member of the St. Louis County School Board a hard hat and an update on the heating conversion project at Northeast Range last week.

"The project is winding down," he said. "We upgraded some countertops, added one that was missed." He continued, "We also had a minor snafu with the countertops as we were replacing the glycol heating solution, and needed to replace one that was damaged, which will be covered by insurance through their company."

Board member Chris Koivisto pressed Clark further about the countertops and change orders for them. "It seems like countertops keep getting added on. Countertops are the bane of these projects," said Koivisto,

who asked who was at fault for the errors in counting countertops. "There may have been some mix-up in the number," said Clark, "but if you want to point the finger at someone, point it at me." Koivisto said the "countertops should have been measured correctly to begin with."

Clark addressed the concern, and explained that as the project progressed, work orders were needed which resulted in the change orders for the number of countertops from the beginning of the project estimate. He also said the next change order would include countertops, for a change from Corian to laminate.

Clark addressed the dire roof conditions at the school as well. "The roof will be needed soon, it's in tough shape. There is some ceiling damage and a leak outside the auditorium." The board acknowledged that the roofing issue is an upcoming priority project that may start

this coming spring. The board approved the change orders Clark presented, costing \$75,576 and adjustments of \$86,326. The bulk of adjustment is Lenci Enterprises' deduction for countertops at \$84,200. The amount was already included in the original contract.

Sara Niska addressed the board concerning the cheerleading program at North Woods. "We have had a cheerleading program since the 2011-2012 basketball season, and we have built the program into what is it now. We have 12 high school cheerleaders and a large community of "Grizzlie-ettes" cheerleading program for grades two through six." She further explained, "I would like the cheerleading program to be recognized as an activity with district support and compensation for the advisor role." Board member Dan Manick voiced support of the issue and said he would work

with district Curriculum Director Kristi Berlin to take a look into the program along with Interim Superintendent Reggie Engebritson.

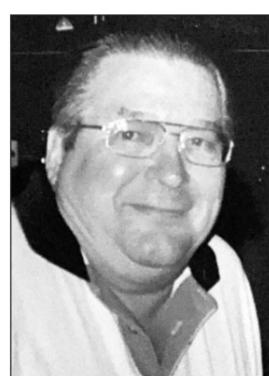
North Woods Principal John Vukmanich reported to the board on the updates, activities and trainings at the school. He told the board of active shooter response training the staff and students recently underwent with SRO Matt Krueger. "The kids thought it was exciting to have an active role." He added, "Kids have been thinking about this." He reported the school has seven new teachers, prompting him to start a teacher mentoring group, meeting every two weeks. He noted he has worked to strengthen communication with the community through messages in local newspapers.

North Woods Student Council President Grace Johnson updated the board on the student council's activities, listing off a

number of fundraisers and community service projects. She told the board the new concrete patio area was completed.

The board approved a \$10,000 one-time shared stipend agreement between the district and Mt. Iron-Buhl school district. The agreement acknowledges Kristi Berlin for "going above-and-beyond" what was expected of her in her 2017-2018 role as Elementary School Principal and K-12 Curriculum Director for MIB schools. She is also the 2142 District Director of Curriculum, Technology Integration and Assessments. She will be paid in two installments at the end of December, and the next payment this June. The district will process the payment and will bill MI-B fifty percent for their share of the stipend payment.

Obituaries and Death Notices



**Jerry J. Yernatich**

Jerry James Yernatich, 75, of Tower died on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017, in Essentia Health-Virginia. The memorial service for Jerry will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 11 in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soudan. Pastor Joel Hasz will officiate. A gathering time for family and friends will begin one hour prior to the service at the church. Spring inurnment will take place in Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

He was born on July 2, 1942, in Soudan, the son of Anthony and Ina (Erickson) Yernatich, was a 1960 graduate of Tower-Soudan High School, and graduated from Minnesota State University-Mankato. He married Katherine Niemi on Sept. 16, 1967, in Tower, and was a long-time resident of the Tower area. Jerry taught industrial arts in the Ely and Eveleth School Districts and purchased the Black Bear Café in 1976. He was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soudan, enjoyed time spent at the cabin on Pine Island, traveling, and was an avid Vikings fan. Jerry cherished time spent with his grandchildren; he baked cookies for the kids, and was an accomplished conversationalist.

Jerry is survived by his children, Robert "Rob" Yernatich of Tower and Anthony "TJ" (Brooke) Yernatich of Soudan; grandchildren, Jersey, Skyler and James; sister, Marlene (Jim) Saretzky of Springfield, Va.; sister-in-law, Margaret Yernatich of Duluth; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Kathy in 2012; son, Bradley in 1989; and brother, Jack in 2009.



**Rose Spehar-Isaacson**

Rose Spehar-Isaacson, 63, of Lake Vermilion-Tower, died on Friday, Dec. 1, 2017, after a long battle with scleroderma. A Memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Virginia with visitation for one hour prior. Fr. Brandon Moravitz will officiate. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

Rose was born on Jan. 5, 1954, to Nick and Mary (Paun) Spehar in Virginia. She was a graduate of Roosevelt High School and Bemidji State University, where she excelled in swimming and track and field. Rose taught adaptive physical education in Chisholm and then worked for the Northeast Service Co-Op as a consultant for physically-handicapped, health-impaired, and traumatic-brain-injured students throughout northeastern Minnesota until her retirement in 2011. Rose coached girls' and boys' swimming in Chisholm, girls' swimming for Babbitt-Embarrass and later Northeast Range/Ely, and golf for Northeast Range/Ely. Rose married Jon Isaacson on May 10, 2010, at their home on Lake Vermilion.

Everywhere Rose went, she met old friends and made new ones. In her 34 years of working with students and athletes, she impacted the lives of hundreds of young men and women.

She is survived by her husband, Jon; sisters, Annie (Ralph) Berge of Broadview Heights, Ohio, and Mary (Larry) Everett of West Des Moines, Iowa; niece, Kate (Tim) Duhanich; nephews, Alex Berge and Van, Jake and Broc Everett; aunt, Rose (Lou) Lackner; stepmother, Eleanor Spehar; stepdaughters, Dr. Leah (Alan) Becicka of Virginia and Eva (Rich) Tusso of Roseville, Calif.; step-grandchildren, Roman, Austin, Wyatt and Carson Becicka and Jonathan and

Catherine Tusso; and beloved canine companions, Josie, Sunny and Sophie.

She was preceded in death by her parents.



**Kathleen A. Leding**

Kathleen Agnes Wold Leding, 88, of New Brighton, and longtime former resident of Cook, passed away on Friday, Dec. 1, 2017. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook. Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 11 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook, and for one hour prior to the service at the church. Memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church Choir in Cook.

Kathy was born on Dec. 26, 1928, to Einar and Laura (Johnson) Wold in Great Falls, Mont. She grew up in Hibbing and graduated from Hibbing High School in 1946. Kathy continued her education at Hibbing Jr. College and the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis/St. Paul, graduating in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics. While attending the University of Minnesota she belonged to the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority.

Kathy taught Home Economics in Albion/Brookston, Cook, and Orr for a total of 32.5 years. She planned to only teach in Cook for one year to save money to go to Europe, but then met Ken Leding and didn't make it to Europe until many years later. They were united in marriage on April 10, 1954. As a teacher she was both mentor and confidante and advised National and State FHA officers and arranged Proms (including dates). When she retired, she received an award from Governor Rudy Perpich for all her years of service in educating students.

Kathy had a variety of jobs during her lifetime. During the summers in

Hibbing, she held different jobs which included work at a chocolate factory in Chicago (while staying in Chicago (while staying there); work as a secretary for the Oliver Mining Company in Hibbing while attending Jr. College; and at the Hibbing hospital to prepare special diet meals. After college graduation, she moved to Washington, D.C., for one year and worked at the Capital Sewing Machine Co. servicing sewing machines by day and teaching sewing classes by night. She also worked at Constitution Hall as a coat checker and enjoyed attending free concerts.

Kathy had a variety of hobbies. Her main love was sewing for herself and her family. Major accomplishments included sewing a total of five wedding dresses, dresses for her granddaughters, and dresses for their American Girl Dolls. She loved music, especially jazz, musicals, singing and playing the piano. She also enjoyed painting and traveling (especially cruising). She made it to every continent except Antarctica. She wintered in Arizona for 10 years and enjoyed making new friends and learning new skills such as quilting, glass fusion, writing her memoirs, and ringing handbells.

Anybody who knew Kathy knew she loved a good joke and she LOVED to laugh! Her laugh was infectious. If you were lucky, you were able to hear her sing "The Persian Kitty"!

Kathy's greatest joy was her family. She was very proud of her son and daughter and their families. Susan was her favorite daughter-in-law, and Gary was her favorite son-in-law. She loved her granddaughters greatly and had a very special relationship with both of them. She attended many grandparent days, orchestra and band concerts, and was always there for Sarah and Haley. Kathy always talked about the three F's that she lived her life around. They were Faith, Family and Friends.

Kathy was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church of Cook; directed the choir for 22 years; was a charter member of Virgie Hegg Hospice; was a member of the Cook Library Board; and a member of the Cook Area Health Services board. In addition, she gave

wellness workshops on "Laughter is the Best Medicine". She was also a charter member of P.E.O. Chapter ER, Lake Vermilion; an Elderberry; a long time member of Sons of Norway; and had fun with the Red Hats group. Kathy was the local leader of the Youth For Understanding program for exchange students in the area. She and Ken opened their home to two students, Kathrin Bruggman from Germany and Kristil Blomquist from Norway. Even after 30-plus years, Kathrin and Kristil are still considered family and both were here last year to see her.

Kathy is survived by her son, David Leding and his wife Susan, of Corvallis, Ore.; daughter, Allison Leding and her husband Gary Muellerleile, of New Brighton; granddaughters Sarah Muellerleile of Minneapolis and Haley (Patrick) Marshall of Grand Rapids; brother-in-law, Earl Wesley; and many nieces, nephews and special friends.

Kathy was preceded in death by her parents; her beloved husband, Kenneth Leding; sisters, Margaret Leino (Clarence) and Harriet Wesley; brothers-in-law, John Leding and Lawrence Leding; and sisters-in-law, Helen Brink and Beulah (Boots) Cerar.

**Curtis Thompson**

Curtis Thompson, 55, of Nett Lake, passed away on Monday, Dec. 4, 2017. Traditional Services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9 at the Nett Lake Government Services Center. The wake will be held on Friday, Dec. 8 starting at 4 p.m. at the center. The Spiritual Leader will be Gilbert Smith and the Spiritual Advisor will be Gene Goodsky. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.

**Mary J. Johnson**

Mary Jane Benko Johnson, 67, of Ely, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2017, at St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth. A service in memory of Mary Jane will be held this spring.

Mary Jane is survived by her husband, Douglas Johnson of Ely; son, Derek (Tammy) Johnson of Ely; daughter, Devon (Jason) Brazil of Minneapolis; sister, Sally (Greg) Jerich of Eagle River, Alaska;

and three grandchildren, Matthew Johnson, Dylan Brazil and Andrew Johnson.

**Marilyn Wilson**

Marilyn Wilson, 70, of Ely, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2017, at her residence. A celebration of Marilyn's life was held on Monday, Dec. 4 at Kerntz Funeral Home. Family arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

**George W. Rhein**

George William "Duffy" Rhein, 85, of Ely, passed away on Friday, Nov. 24, 2017, at Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 8 at Range Funeral Home in Virginia with visitation for one hour prior. Deacon Dan Schultz will officiate. Military honors will be accorded by the Virginia Honor Guard. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Janet; sons, David (Julie) and Mike (Pat); daughter, Sandy (Paul); grandchildren, Triston, April (Leo), Katie, Eric, Sara and Tyler (Joselyn); great-granddaughter, Isabell; brother, Allen (Betty); sisters-in-law, Francis Kramer and Norma Kramer; and several nieces and nephews.

**Bertha M. Hennessy**

Bertha Maria Vainio Hennessy, 94, former resident of Alango, died in Los Angeles, Calif., on Oct. 10, 2017. She was cremated in Los Angeles and her memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook with burial following at the Alango Cemetery. In lieu of gifts, she would want you to simply love your families.

She is survived by her nephews, Arne Vainio, M.D. of Duluth and Brandon Vainio of Esko; niece, Sherri Monroe of Duluth; second cousins, Dale Lapakko of St. Louis Park, Mark Lapakko of Minneapolis, Kim Lapakko of St. Paul and Mayo (Lapakko) Hart of Minnetonka; and her only living childhood friend, Eleanor Phillips of Surgeon.

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# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

## MOOSE MANAGEMENT

### New deer permit area boundaries boosted harvest in moose range

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The numbers tell the story, and offer a measure of hope for slowing or reversing the decline of moose in northeastern Minnesota. A realignment of deer permit areas this year to coincide with the region's primary moose range, appears to have worked as intended during the just-completed regular firearms deer season.

The only question is whether the moose population will respond.

It was a change prompted by research and management necessity. DNR biologists have shown that whitetail deer abundance is a primary driver of adult moose mortality in northern Minnesota. The more deer, the research shows, the more debilitating, and ultimately fatal, diseases and parasites, you'll find in moose. Wildlife managers set their deer population goals accordingly, trying to balance the demands of deer hunters — who typically want higher deer numbers — and the need to sustainably manage for an iconic North Country

species.

Yet that had proved difficult, particularly on the western edge of the moose range, where deer permit areas used to overlap with lands located outside the moose range. If the DNR allowed hunters to take too many deer in those permit areas, it could reduce the population below goals outside the moose range. Set the harvest limits too low and a burgeoning deer herd could sicken more moose.

See **MOOSE...**pg. 5B



A collared moose was one of more than one hundred included in a study of moose mortality by the DNR. The verdict? High deer numbers were a major factor behind the decline.

Photo courtesy DNR

## TRAILS



### Big task clearing snowmobile trails this year

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — A big October snowstorm and frequent high winds in recent weeks have made plenty of work for state trail crews as they prepare for the snowmobile season. The impact of the late October storm varied across the region, but some places were hit hard, bending and breaking trees and leaving swampy areas a tangle of flattened alder in many cases.

"It's kind of a mess," said Tower Area DNR trails supervisor Joe Majerus. "We had already cleared the Taconite [trail], but we'll have to go back after this wind," Majerus said on Tuesday. High winds early in the week brought in much colder air, but it didn't bring the several inches of snow that forecasters had predicted.

And that's just fine with Majerus. "We're actually very happy about that," he said, noting that his work crews are still finding lots of unfrozen stretches of trail. "We need some freezing before we get the snow," he said.

For trail crews, the stretch of the Arrowhead Trail near Elephant Lake has proven to be the biggest challenge. That area saw well over a foot of heavy, wet snow in October, which left the trails inaccessible. "Our crew is out in that area right now," said Majerus. "That area has been giving us problems." The Ely end of the Taconite Trail is another stretch where heavy snow created more than the usual clearing challenges for work crews.

Given the extra work, Majerus said he's been supplementing his work crew with DNR staff from local state parks. "They're out there, doing a lot of hand-cutting."

Once trails are clear, the DNR crews will focus on packing down grass and other vegetation in swamps to facilitate freeze-up.

The forecast looks like it just might cooperate in that effort. The latest ten-day outlook calls for the longest and coldest Arctic blast of the season so far, with little or snow expected. "If the snow holds off, I think we'll get it done," said Majerus.

Right: You probably shouldn't put away your cross country skis just yet, but a new study points to a major drop in winter recreation in the Upper Midwest and elsewhere in the U.S. over the next few decades.

file photo



### Study: Winter recreation faces challenge from climate change

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — A new study suggests winter recreation in the Upper Midwest could be living on borrowed time, and the economic impacts of that reality could be significant in northeastern Minnesota.

The study, undertaken by Abt Associates, an international consulting firm, used several modeling scenarios to predict ongoing impacts from climate change on winter recreation throughout the United States. The study looked at the impact on downhill skiing, snowmobiling, and cross country skiing.

While the impacts varied among the differing models and scenarios considered, the ultimate conclusion was that traditional forms of winter recreation in the Upper Midwest, the Northeast, and the Pacific Northwest, are likely to all but vanish as viable industries over the next several

decades. Indeed, significant impact on winter recreation is now anticipated as early as 2050, or just over 30 years from today.

"Virtually all locations are projected to see reductions in winter recreation season lengths, exceeding 50 percent by 2050 and 80 percent in 2090 for some downhill skiing locations, wrote the authors. "We estimate these season length changes could result in millions to tens of millions of foregone recreational visits annually by 2050, with an annual monetized impact of hundreds of millions of dollars."

The study included Giants Ridge, Lutsen Mountain, and Spirit Mountain among the nearly 250 downhill ski operations examined in the study, and they were among those ski areas expected to see dramatic changes in the length of the ski season by 2050.

Perhaps the biggest impact for the

industry is expected in the early part of the season, if increasingly warm temperatures make it difficult for ski operations to generate sufficient snow ahead of the Christmas holiday. "For most downhill skiing locations, opening prior to the Christmas and New Year's holidays is critical to remaining profitable and staying in business," conclude the study's authors. "While approximately 70 percent of modeled downhill skiing sites can reach 450 hours of snowmaking by Dec. 15 under baseline climate conditions, this percentage declines markedly under each of the future scenarios. By 2050 this percentage is reduced by nearly half under both [model types]."

The study notes that snowmobiling and cross country skiing are two traditional forms of winter recreation that are likely to be even more vulnerable to climate

See **RECREATION...**pg. 5B

## Outdoors briefly

### DNR seeking comments on OHV park master plan

REGIONAL — The Department of Natural Resources will host a public meeting to review a draft master plan amendment for the Iron Range Off-Highway Vehicle State Recreation Area in Gilbert.

The meeting will provide an opportunity to review the draft, ask questions and submit comments. The DNR began a master plan amendment process for the site with a public open house in June 2017. The draft amendment includes proposed changes to site access, miles of trail within the site and site management.

The Iron Range OHV Recreation Area was designated in 1996 as Minnesota's first recreation area catering primarily to OHV enthusiasts. Originally 1,200 acres, the site was expanded to more than 3,700 acres in 1999. It has trails for all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles and off-highway vehicles.

Anyone unable to attend the meeting can submit comments by email to joe.unger@state.mn.us or by mail to Joe Unger, Parks

and Trails Division, Minnesota DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4039. The DNR will accept written comments through Jan. 2.

The draft master plan amendment can be found online at [www.mndnr.gov](http://www.mndnr.gov) or at the park office. For more information, contact Allan Larsen, site manager, at [allan.larsen@state.mn.us](mailto:allan.larsen@state.mn.us) or 218-735-3833.

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**FISHING**

**LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST**

from NOAA weather



Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
<b>15 -2</b>				<b>16 7</b>				<b>28 14</b>				<b>19 4</b>				<b>13 -4</b>			
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.
11/27	34	23	0.00	11/27	27	6	0.00	11/27	30	24	0.00	11/27	41	25	0.00	11/27	40	20	0.00
11/28	44	30	0.00	11/28	40	16	0.00	11/28	42	28	0.00	11/28	37	14	0.00	11/28	43	26	0.00
11/29	41	12	0.00	11/29	38	23	0.00	11/29	38	10	0.01 1.0"	11/29	36	10	0.00	11/29	40	9	0.00
11/30	37	13	0.00	11/30	26	5	0.00	11/30	37	12	0.00	11/30	36	27	0.00	11/30	38	12	0.00
12/01	36	28	0.00	12/01	30	24	0.00	12/01	35	25	0.00	12/01	43	27	0.00	12/01	41	26	0.00
12/02	41	30	0.00	12/02	38	25	0.00	12/02	40	28	0.00	12/02	39	25	0.00	12/02	40	18	0.00
12/03	45	22	0.00	12/03	37	23	0.00	12/03	40	25	0.00	12/03	39	28	0.00	12/03	43	19	0.00
Totals 28.26 13.1"				Totals 35.01 14.0"				Totals 28.48 23.6"				Totals NA				Totals 29.92 12.9"			

**New northern pike regs coming this spring**

**REGIONAL** — Anglers and spearers pursuing northern pike this winter can prepare for new pike regulations that will be in effect for the spring fishing opener on Minnesota's inland waters.

"Pike regulations remain the same this winter, with major changes coming this spring," said Chris Kavanaugh, northeast region fisheries manager. "As anglers continue fishing for pike, we encourage them to get used to measuring their catches and even consider keeping some of the smaller ones in the north-central part of the state."

The new regulations on inland waters take effect starting March 1, although they won't begin affecting anglers until the May 12 fishing opener, since the northern season closes on Feb. 25.

Current statewide regulations including the daily and possession limit of three northern pike is still in effect. So, too, are special and experimental regulations listed for specific waters in the 2017 rules.

The new fishing regulations take a cue from hunting regulations and will set up three distinct zones to address the different characteristics of pike popula-

tions in Minnesota.

"Anglers and spearers have an opportunity to use this winter as a transition period and become accustomed to measuring their catch before the new rules take effect," Kavanaugh said.

**Pike zones also begin this spring**

When the new regulations take effect this spring, the majority of the state will be in the north-central zone where the issue is overpopulation of small pike. Anglers here will be able to keep 10 northern pike, but not more than two pike longer than 26 inches, and all from 22 to 26 inches must be released. Northern pike taken by spearing follow the same rules except one pike may be between 22 and 26 inches and one longer than 26 inches.

In the northeast zone, the new regulation will maintain harvest opportunity and protect large fish already present and anglers here will be able to keep two pike and must release all from 30 to 40 inches, with only one over 40 inches allowed in possession. Spearers also will be able to take two pike but only one may be longer than 26 inches.

**RECREATION...**Continued from page 4B

impacts due to their greater reliance on natural snow.

Such findings are probably not surprising considering that the average wintertime temperatures across much of the country have already risen significantly, particularly in the coldest regions. Northern Minnesota has seen some of the most dramatic increases in average winter temperatures in recent years of any place in the lower 48, with average winter lows increasing by 5-6 degrees Fahrenheit over the past 45 years. Climate scientists project that same trend will continue, and potentially accelerate over the next several decades, as the concentrations of heat-trapping gases, like CO2 and methane continue to increase steadily within the atmosphere.

While the study looked at economic impacts across large regions, research in Minnesota highlights

the potential economic impact to the state if traditional forms of winter recreation are lost, without viable replacement industries. Citing 2008 data, the University of Minnesota's Center for Tourism, indicated that snowmobiling generated \$54 million in spending in northeastern Minnesota, while cross country skiing generated another \$17 million. A 2013 study estimated total statewide spending in the downhill ski industry at \$282 million, with a total economic impact of \$401 million.

While the study didn't look at every type of winter recreation, the impacts are being widely felt, according to Paul Schurke, co-owner and operator of Wintergreen Dogsled Lodge near Ely.

"In the 35 years that we've operated the lodge, we've watched our season diminish by nearly 20 percent— from an average of 116

operating days to about 94," said Schurke. "And our industry is the lucky one. All our dogs need is a few inches of snow and off we go. But cross-country skiing and snowmobile tourism need a much more substantial snow base. Those tourism sectors are measuring their operating loss over the past few decades not in days, but rather in weeks."

While the news would appear to be bleak for businesses engaged in winter recreation, the impact of population growth could somewhat offset the losses in visitor numbers, at least under a scenario which predicts milder impacts from climate change. Even under that more optimistic scenario, however, the study forecasts visitation at Midwest ski operations would fall by more than a third. Under more pessimistic scenarios, these operations will largely disappear by 2090.

**MOOSE...**Continued from page 4B

Shifting the borders of the permit areas to align with the moose range, was the solution that wildlife managers adopted— and deer registration data shows it's a change that worked as intended, at least this year. "That's something to keep in mind," said Tower Area Wildlife Manager Tom Rusch. "The first thing is, this is just one year's data.

That said, however, he agrees that the numbers look promising. Adopting a "hunter's choice" designation in four of the five deer permit areas in moose range coincided with a big boost in the deer harvest, particularly the harvest of antlerless deer, which jumped 231 percent in 2017. The change also pushed the percentage of antlerless deer taken by hunters in the moose range from just 20 percent last year to 43 percent in 2017.

While most permit areas saw spikes in the antlerless harvest this

year, the increase in deer permit areas adjacent to the moose range jumped a more modest 106 percent, according to Rusch. Overall harvest in the moose range increased 48 percent, while the total harvest in adjacent permit areas actually fell by three percent.

The harvest numbers should help keep deer numbers in moose range somewhere near the current DNR goal, of four-to-eight deer per square mile. That's substantially lower than deer management goals in most other parts of the region, but Rusch said it's pretty clear that deer populations much above that level will negatively impact moose. "We used to say that ten deer per square mile was the threshold, now most biologists would probably say five-to-seven per square mile is better."

When it comes to moose management, deer aren't the only factor,

acknowledges Rusch, but they're the only one that the DNR has some ability to control. While wolves and to some extent black bears are moose predators, the DNR can't do much to limit their populations. Bear populations are already under goal, and wolves remain a federally-protected species in the Great Lakes region.

"And there's not a whole lot we can do about our milder winters," said Rusch, who noted a recent analysis that showed winter temperatures in northeastern Minnesota are now running nearly six degrees Fahrenheit warmer than in 1970. The milder winters allow more deer to survive, putting greater pressure on moose. At the same time, the proliferation of deer feeding in many areas is negatively affecting moose, notes Rusch.

"There's not much we can do about that, either," he said.

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Community Briefs

**Ely man in rollover accident on Hwy 169**

EAGLES NEST TWP – A 60-year-old Ely man was injured in a one-vehicle rollover accident on Highway 169 near Bear Head State Park Road on Saturday.

According to the Minnesota State Police accident report, Keith Martin Hanson was traveling northbound on Highway 169 in a 2001 Ford Ranger at about 11:15 a.m. on Dec. 2 when the

vehicle veered off the roadway to the right. The driver overcorrected, causing the vehicle to roll, landing right-side-up facing the opposite direction in the northbound lane.

According to officials, the road condition was dry, Hanson was wearing a seatbelt, and alcohol was not a factor in the accident. He was transported to Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital for treatment of non-life threatening injuries.

The St. Louis

County Sheriff's Department also responded to the accident.

**Hakes named as Phifer campaign manager**

REGIONAL — Leah Phifer has announced that she has hired Sue Hakes, of Grand Marais, to manage her bid to win the DFL endorsement for the Eighth Congressional District seat currently held by

Rep. Rick Nolan. Hakes is a former Cook County Commissioner and Mayor of Grand Marais, first elected to office in 2008.

In 2014, Hakes was awarded a two-year Bush Foundation Fellowship to build leadership in rural, northeastern Minnesota. A graduate of Augsburg College, Hakes used her Bush Fellowship to study at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs and Harvard's Kennedy School. She serves on

the Board of Directors for Rural American Indigenous Leadership (RAIL), and serves on both the Duluth and Cook County YMCA Advisory Councils. Hakes is also an advisor to the first-ever Grand Marais Youth in Government delegation.

"Sue's dedication to fostering community engagement, espe-

cially in our rural communities, is unparalleled," said Phifer. "Her experience organizing and mobilizing diverse populations is an incredible asset to our campaign."

"Phifer's promise to uphold the United States Constitution and her courage to stand up against the current administration's threats to the federal

government's balance of power and due process is why I believe in her. That's why I am excited to get to work convincing the Eighth District to put their trust in her too," said Hakes.

Hakes is married to Eveleth native John Gorski. Both have worked in real estate in northern Minnesota for over 15 years.

**EMPLOYMENT**

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**Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners Program Director Position**

Part-time position as an independent contractor available beginning January 15, 2018.

For additional information and/or a copy of the job description, call Chairperson, Shawna Kishel, 780-6510 or current Program Director, Liz Cheney, 780-8907.

To apply send resume by December 22 to: VHHP, P.O. Box 244, Cook MN 55723 12/15

**Building Maintenance Worker-Public Works**  
Apply by Dec. 15, 2017

Planner/Senior Planner-Virginia  
Apply by Dec. 18, 2017

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

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 12/8



**International Wolf Center**

**Wolflink Marketing Coordinator**

The International Wolf Center is seeking applicants for the position of Wolflink Coordinator. This position will market and promote education programs to past and prospective schools. The ideal candidate will have strong sales and organizational skills as well as oral and written communication skills. To apply, submit a cover letter and resume to [careers@wolf.org](mailto:careers@wolf.org) or stop by the International Wolf Center (located just east of Ely on Highway 169) to pick up an application. Temporary, 12-month part-time position with hourly wage DOQ & E. For job description, please visit:

[www.wolf.org](http://www.wolf.org)  
1396 Highway 169 • Ely, Minnesota 12/15/17

**Como Oil & Propane, A Thompson Gas Company, is seeking a Part-Time Customer Service Representative.**

Must have excellent communication skills and computer experience. Competitive wage and compensation package.



Send resume to Como Oil and Propane, 6403 Hwy 169, Tower, MN 55790.

Or email resume to: [ljaniksela@comolp.com](mailto:ljaniksela@comolp.com).

Equal Opportunity Employer 12/15

**Wanted - Manager for the Ely Area Food Shelf**

The Ely Area Food Shelf seeks an open-minded strong leader to manage the Ely Area Food Shelf operations. This part-time multifaceted position (40-50 hours per month) requires a cooperative, forward-thinking leader who is able to interact with our underserved community, the food shelf advisory committee, volunteer staff, task forces, and other community agencies. This individual must be self motivated, able to work independently, be flexible, have excellent communication skills, and some computer skills (training can be provided). Pay is commensurate with experience/skills.

Please send resumé to [info@elyareafoodshelf.org](mailto:info@elyareafoodshelf.org) or mail to EAFS, P.O.Box 786, Ely, MN 55731

**Nett Lake Schools, Nett Lake, MN Seeking Tech Support**

The Nett Lake School is seeking Tech Support for the remainder of the 2017-18 school year. The current position is for 1 day a week, but may increase at specific times throughout the year based on district's needs.

- Qualifications include:
- Self starter
  - Dependable
  - Experience with networks
  - Experience with Apple platform and devices.
  - Experience with SMART boards
  - Willing to learn Telepresence Applications
  - Ability to maintain hardware
  - Ability to install new software and updates

Interested parties please submit a letter of interest, resume and 3 work-related references to: James J. Varichak  
Nett Lake Schools  
13090 Westley Drive  
Nett Lake, MN 55772  
This position will remain open until filled. Salary will be based on experience.

**STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS**

**DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT Court File No. 69VI-PR-17-160**

Estate of LYNNE NETTIE HILL, a/k/a LYNNE HILL, a/k/a LYNNE MELLETTE HILL, Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR SUMMARY ASSIGNMENT OR DISTRIBUTION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that a petition has been filed requesting that the Estate assets be summarily assigned and distributed without probate administration.

The petition also requests the probate of an instrument purporting to be the Decedent's last Will dated March 8, 2009, and any codicil(s) to the Will dated (none), and separate writing under Minn. Stat. 574.2-513 ("Will").

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and if no objections or claims are filed or raised, the Court may issue a decree distributing or assignment the Estate's assets.

It is Ordered and Notice is now given that the Petition will be heard on January 10, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. at this Court at Virginia, Minnesota.

Michelle Anderson, Judge  
Amy Turnquist, Court Administrator  
Stefanie Higgins, Deputy

Attorney for Petitioner  
RAE R. BENTZ #218376  
DEFENBAUGH LAW OFFICE  
107 East Camp Street,  
Ely, MN 55731  
218-365-4977

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 1 & 8, 2017

**GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ELECTION**

MN 205.16, subd. 4

**THE GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP ANNUAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 13, 2018**

Polls will be open 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Greenwood Town Hall

Offices to be elected:  
Supervisor Position 3: 3-year term  
Supervisor Position 5: 3-year term  
Clerk Position: 2-year term

Filings will be open January 2 - 16, 2018 until 5:00 p.m. Applicants, please file at the town hall for affidavit of candidacy. Town hall offices will be open on January 16, 2018, until 5:00 p.m.

THE GREENWOOD TOWN BOARD WILL MEET IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING ON MARCH 13, 2018, TO PAY BILLS AND CANVASS ELECTION RESULTS.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meetings will be held the following Tuesday, March 20, 2018, at the same times listed. MS365.51 subd.1

Sue Drobac, Greenwood Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 8 & 15, 2018

**FUNERAL SERVICES**

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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**Vermilion Country School Special Ed Paraprofessional**

\$14.00 per hour, benefit package (prorated at 20+ hours/week), approximately 180 days/school year plus a few training days, approximately 8:30 am to 3:15 pm, except with additional duties

Full job description online at [www.vermilioncountry.org/employment](http://www.vermilioncountry.org/employment)

The Vermilion Country School (VCS), is a grades 7-12 public charter school in Tower. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: interact with staff, students, parent/guardians, and the community; facilitate academic and personal goal-setting; assist students with skill development in reading and math; monitor student progress; manage the physical needs of students as needed; chaperone field explorations; records maintenance and due process paperwork; proctor assessments and diagnostic tests; supervise students during lunch and out in the community; address behavior issues in accordance with school policy; maintain strict confidentiality; assist office staff and director as needed.

Minimum qualifications: Experience working with children, and a commitment to their learning; Excellent math, reading, and organizing skills; Excellent computer and office machine skills; Mature, friendly, and responsible; Commitment to the school's mission and vision; Positive references; A minimum of 60 semester credits or the amount required to complete two full years of fulltime enrollment as determined by the institution of higher education attended; or an AA, AS, or AAS (or higher) degree; or a passing score on an assessment from the state-approved list (The ParaPro test has been approved for state-wide use. The cut score is 460.) Additional desired qualifications (please see website).

**Van Driver**

\$11.00/hour (\$16.00/hour CDL); 10-15 hours/week, am and pm routes, with additional hours as needed. Driver Qualifications: Regular Class D license (CDL preferred); Prefer experienced drivers (CDL highly preferred); Criminal and driving record clearance; Drug and alcohol tests may be mandated; Must be able to work entire school year; Must be able to work with and supervise students.

Van driver can also be employed as a para, or can be a stand-alone position. Both positions will remain open until filled.

Please e-mail resume, cover letter, transcripts of college work and/or ParaPro score, and three letters of recommendation to: Vermilion Country School, P.O. Box 629, Tower, MN 55790  
[kfitton@vermilioncountry.org](mailto:kfitton@vermilioncountry.org) [www.vermilioncountry.com](http://www.vermilioncountry.com)

VCS is an Equal Opportunity Employer

# TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

## AUTOMOTIVE

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**VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS** can provide help for patients and their families in ways such as: comfort care, massages, last wishes and more. For more information, contact Program Director Liz Cheney at 218-780-8907 or vhpdirector@yahoo.com. This ad is paid for by Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners.

## LICENSE BUREAU

**COOK AREA LICENSE BUREAU-** 221 S. Hwy 53, Cook. Open M-F 9-5, FastTrack Title Service-MVR-DNR-Limited DL, Dry Cleaning Drop off/Pick up, CDL/Motorcycle/Drivers Manuals. Now accepting Visa/MC/Discover. Questions call 218-666-6199. Tfn

## MEDICAL/THERAPY

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## REAL ESTATE

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## SNOWPLOWING

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**SELIGA CANOES WANTED:** We'll buy old Seligas in Good Shape. Turn your classic canoe into cash. Call Steve at 365-6745. tfn

## SUPPORT GROUPS

**NEW MEETING in Ely!** "New Ideas" WOMEN IN RECOVERY: 12 Steps. For women seeking help and hope to recover from any addiction: drugs, alcohol, food, gambling etc. Every Thursday noon at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. Come join us! Q: 218-235-3581.

**ELY CO-DEPENDENTS MEETING-** Fridays at noon-St. Anthony's Church Classroom 3-Use west side entrance. For more information go to coda.org on the web.

**AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP-** Are you troubled by someone's drinking? Al-Anon Family Group is a community-based mutual support program for the friends and families of alcoholics. It is confidential and open to anyone affected by someone else's drinking. Hope Lutheran Church in Embarrass hosts an Al-Anon group on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. 218-984-2037

**Sell It Here**

## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

## Classifieds run in all 3 editions of the Timberjay.

Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum. Classified ads can be run a second time at half price (private parties only). We now accept payment by Visa, Mastercard and Discover. Call your ad in to 218-753-2950. Display (boxed) classifieds are billed by the "inch" - please call for prices and information on discounts. Call Today - 218-753-2950 or 218-365-3114

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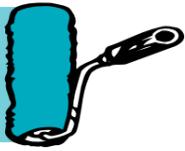
## Super Crossword

**ACROSS**  
1 Roman god with a bow  
5 Knotting craft  
12 Move like a kangaroo  
15 Overquick  
19 Be a wanderer  
20 Moral  
21 Actress  
22 Comical Kett  
23 Jack London novel  
26 Dumbfound  
27 Flynn of films  
28 Prone (to)  
29 Big name in credit cards  
30 Cake coater  
31 Writer Verne  
33 Easy targets to attack  
36 Lacking a musical key  
38 Writer  
40 Mystery novelist  
41 Relative of soul  
46 Infuse with oxygen  
50 Sphagnum, e.g.  
51 Cookie with a "Thins" line  
52 One-masted sailboats  
54 Chic, '60s-style  
55 Really, really quick  
59 Drive off  
63 Pretty low grades  
64 "That is — ask"  
65 "Picnic" playwright  
66 With 13-Down, giant in internet service  
69 Sports org. with the eight teams featured in this puzzle  
71 Trip to a rain forest, maybe  
73 Vicious  
74 Eban of Israel  
77 Foreboding  
80 Shimon of Israel  
81 2011 Jim Carrey comedy  
86 Head sweller  
87 Tie up again, as shoes  
88 Don't skip, as an event  
89 Oaf's cry  
93 Waters off Eritrea  
95 2007-13 pickup truck model  
99 Clearasil treats it  
101 Designer  
102 Old TV tube  
103 Be engulfed in fire  
109 Ate  
110 Writer Bret Easton —  
111 Know — fact  
112 Actor's help  
114 The blahs  
117 Rake feature  
118 Hawaiians and Tongans  
122 Tennis' Lendl  
123 TV producer  
124 In a very angry way  
125 Filmdom's —  
126 Bird setting  
127 Sinuous fish  
128 Vilify  
129 Gambol  
**DOWN**  
1 Johnson of "Laugh-In"  
2 Comic actor Jay  
3 Elates  
4 Tells in detail  
5 Ex-Giant Ott  
6 Gazetteer shelfmate  
7 Hew  
8 Falling-out  
9 Masquerade  
10 — -jogg  
11 Chosen few  
12 Papa Doc's place  
13 See  
14 Inflate falsely  
15 Hero, often  
16 Top-floor storage site  
17 Reeked  
18 With 56-Down, surfs like a pro  
24 God, in Islam  
25 Clever type  
30 Most lazy  
32 "St. — Fire" (1985 film)  
33 Hero in a deli  
34 Fluish, say  
35 Shown with explicit detail  
36 It has biceps  
37 However, informally  
38 Golf's Sam  
39 — of one's own medicine  
42 Dog cry  
43 Naval vessel abbr.  
44 Fitzgerald of song  
45 Loam, e.g.  
47 Key of "Für Elise"  
48 Mouth organ  
49 Lawn care tools  
53 Eye creepily  
55 — Baba  
56 See  
57 "... woman who lived in —"  
58 Evening, casually  
59 Rear-ending car, e.g.  
60 Arise  
61 Natural legume  
62 Cube maker  
67 Peninsula northeast of Boston  
68 Brother in Genesis  
70 Pre-O trio  
72 Mil. missions  
75 Bric-a —  
76 Yiddish writer Sholem  
78 Actress Samantha  
79 Italian for "new"  
82 Summary  
83 16th letter  
84 "Don't make — habit"  
85 Nick of "Warrior"  
89 Potato chip topping  
90 Singer Helen or actor Jerry  
91 Univ. award  
92 Envision  
94 Wise  
96 22nd letter  
97 "Indubitably" actress Eve  
100 Erase  
103 Gain entry  
104 Drab color  
105 Forelimb bones  
106 Close-by  
107 "Exodus" protagonist  
108 Don's group  
109 Cuts down, as a tree  
112 Refer to support seeker  
115 Bear, celestially  
116 "By Jove!"  
118 Adolescent leader?  
119 Taxing org.  
120 Beret, e.g.  
121 Senate vote

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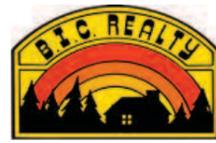
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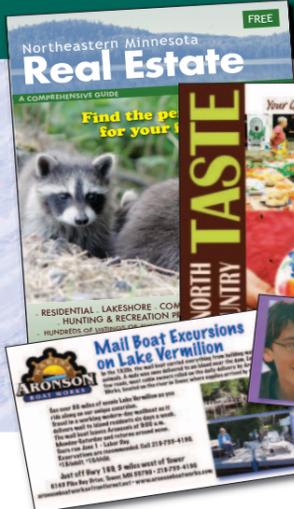
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