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ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Study: Good news, bad news for ISD 2142

Enrollment declines predicted in north half of district

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— A new ten-year demographic study for the St. Louis County School District offers encouraging news for the south half of the district, but raises warning flags for the district's two K-12 schools in the

north, where significant enrollment declines are expected.

John Powers, of Applied Insights North, presented the results of his analysis during a school board study session in February. Overall, Powers projects enrollment in the district to fall from its current 1,915 students to 1,716 students by the

2026-27 school year, with all of the losses experienced in the north half of the district.

The decline presents financial challenges, since the school district's state funding is determined by the numbers of students it serves. The projected decline

See...**STUDY** pg. 11

ISD 2142 ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS thru 2026-27

School	Current	2026-27
North half schools	874	696
North Woods	538	438
Northeast Range	260	187
TS Elementary	75	71
South half schools	1,009	1,031
Cherry	486	500
South Ridge	523	531

SLED DOG RACING



Fresh snow greets racers

32 teams participate in 10th WolfTrack Classic in Ely

by **JAY GREENEY**
Staff Writer

ELY – This year's WolfTrack Classic went on as planned with a fresh layer of snow Sunday morning.

Race conditions were much improved from a year ago when the race was cancelled due to lack of snow cover and warm temperatures. The new unpacked snowfall and warming temperatures resulted in slower than normal race times.

This year's format was similar to years past as it fea-

Above: Ryan Anderson drives his eight-dog team through the woods during the 10th annual WolfTrack Classic. photo by J. Greeney

Right: Neil Seeger's team pulls hard out of the starting chute. photo by K. Vandervort

tured both a six- and eight-dog race. The six-dog race was 30 miles in distance

See...**RACE** pg. 10



ISD 696

Armed staff not considered for Ely schools

Positive relationships emphasized between students and teachers

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

ELY – There are no plans to push for pistol-packing principals on the Ely school campus.

In light of the Florida school shooting and the ongoing national debate on school safety, including arming teachers with guns in the classroom, Ely school board members were reminded this week that policies are in place to keep students safe while at school.

Following a study session and special meeting Monday night, ISD 696 leaders discussed the school violence issue as it relates to the Ely community.

“Your policies as they relate to school safety have all been designed using the model from Homeland Security (Agency),” said Superintendent Kevin Abrahamson. “The policies may be a little bit more procedural than I prefer, but that happens. MSBA (Minnesota School Board Association) recommends that, and that predates me.”

There is not one month in a year that doesn't go by without some aspect of school safety being discussed in Ely schools, he said. “Right now, we are trying to make some of those (safety)

See.. **GUNS** pg. 11

Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign underway

by **JODI SUMMIT**
Tower-Soudan Editor

Statewide effort leverages additional funds for Minnesota food shelves

REGIONAL – The Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign kicked off this week with possible impact on the 15,841 people who access northeast Minnesota food shelves.

Now in its 36th year, this annual campaign



allows Minnesota food shelves to raise funds and food during the Feb. 26 – April 8, 2018, campaign

which will be matched proportionately through funds raised by the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches' Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign.

“It's a great time to give to your local food shelf,” said Shaye Moris

Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank's Executive Director. “These extra gifts allow food shelves in NE Minnesota to leverage additional support to feed people in their local communities.”

“Cash donations allow our food shelves to stretch

our dollars farther,” said Marge McPeak, volunteer coordinator for the Tower Area Food Shelf. “Local food shelves can stretch a one dollar donation into enough food for two to three meals.” Cash donations allow local food shelves to purchase food

in bulk from the Second Harvest Food Bank. Much of this food is donated by food manufacturers and food shelves only need to pay the shipping costs, she said.

Mirroring area trends,

See... **FOOD** pg. 10

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PUBLIC WORKS

County bond sale to fund projects in Cook, Virginia

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The sale of a total of \$28.1 million in new bonds, recently approved by the St. Louis County Board, will provide funding for major capital improvement projects in Cook and Virginia.

Among other things, the funds will provide for initial costs related to the new Cook public works maintenance facility. About \$15 million in additional bonding will be required to finish the Cook project, which includes renovations at the former Disability Specialists office near Cook, as well as construction of three new buildings on the 60-acre site. The new buildings will include an 82,000-square foot heated facility for vehicle storage and maintenance, a 16,500-square

Right: The former Disability Specialists building was purchased by St. Louis County and is being renovated into a multi-use building.

foot cold storage building, and a 16,500-square foot structure for salt and sand storage.

The existing office building on the site will be renovated for county offices for public works, the land department, and possibly other partners. The building will not be demolished, as a recent local rumor suggested.

Portions of the former Linden Grove public works garage, however, will be demolished, although a salt and sand shed and equipment storage building at the site will be maintained, according to county communications officer Dana Kazel. County public works staff currently stationed at Linden



Grove will report to the new Cook facility. The total project is estimated to be completed by late summer or fall of next year.

The majority of the most recent bonding will pay for demolition and construction of a new Government Services Center-North facility in Virginia. The

GSC-North Facility will serve as a centralized hub for people in Virginia and surrounding areas to access county services from more than 10 departments in one place. The two-story, 63,000-square foot building will replace the aging Northland Office Building. Ground break-

ing is expected to take place by early summer, with a goal completion date of fall 2019. Approximately 180 employees will work in the building.

Because of the county's strong AA+ credit rating and the market place providing the financing, the interest rate will be 3.058 percent. While the county is issuing \$28.1 million in bonds, based on the competitive bidding process, the county will actually receive \$29.78 million. In other words, the county will receive an additional \$1.68 million that will offset future financing costs.

"We are very pleased with the results of the issuance," said County Auditor Don Dicklich. "It demonstrates that strong financial management pays dividends for our taxpayers."

CITY OF ORR

Council approves suspension of EMT

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ORR— City officials have approved a 30-day suspension without pay for EMT Jules Long, stemming from an incident in which an uncertified individual may have administered some patient care while riding in the back of a city ambulance.

The city council approved the suspension based on the recommendation of the city's ambulance committee, which met Feb. 10 to discuss the matter. City Clerk-Treasurer Sherry Carter said some additional information had come to the committee's attention as well, which factored into the recommendation for the suspension.

Carter said the committee meeting had originally been

set to allow Long and others the opportunity to present their version of events. "We gave her the opportunity to explain, but she didn't on advice of legal counsel," said Carter.

"The committee made the recommendation for the suspension, and the council agreed," Carter added.

A report on the disciplinary action is now final, said Carter, although she's waiting on the city council's approval of the minutes from their Feb. 12 meeting before releasing the document. Disciplinary findings are public data once a public body has taken a disciplinary action in response.

The primary incident behind the suspension occurred during a patient transfer in early December in which Chandra Klakoski, who

was uncertified at the time, was in the back of the ambulance along with Long, and may have administered patient care, although reports are somewhat conflicting. Klakoski was formerly certified, and had reportedly recently completed a refresher, but has not completed necessary paperwork to obtain a certificate. The city's ambulance department is now in the process of updating its policies and procedures to prevent such incidents in the future.

The matter could still potentially be appealed, and Carter noted that Long and EMT Diane Klakoski have reportedly retained legal counsel over the matter. The *Timberjay* will report more on the situation once it becomes publicly available.

No plans for closure, merger of county garage in Tower

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— Rumors of a plan to shutter the St. Louis County Public Works garage here and consolidate its functions with the existing facility in Embarrass are just that, according to the county's communications officer Dana Kazel.

"That's just a rumor," said Kazel, who confirmed that the county has no plan in the works for such a change at this time. "And in terms of consolidation, it would never

go to Embarrass anyway," Kazel said. "It doesn't have indoor plumbing."

While Kazel said the county is always looking at potential consolidations to cut costs and improve service, there is no discussion related to the Tower and Embarrass facilities. "In the long term, it could be part of a prioritization study," said Kazel, "but we have no timeline for when we might look at it. There's no conversation going on around that issue right now."

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CITY OF ELY

'We rely on our charm and history'

Ely's Heritage Preservation Commission touts its accomplishments

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY —A statewide preservation award, a successful grant application to survey Ely's historic downtown landmarks, and the expansion of the popular walking tour with the addition of guided tours were just some of the accomplishments of the Ely Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) in 2017.

HPC member Celia Domich provided an annual update to the City Council this week during their study session. She highlighted many successes and a couple of challenges experienced last year and provided a preview of activities for 2018.

Domich began her presentation by highlighting her attendance at the State

Heritage Preservation Alliance Conference, held in Albert Lea. "They went through changes like Ely went through," she said. "Albert Lea had a big meat packing industry and was once the home of Cargill, and they lost those industries. Ely, as you know, lost our mining industry."

She said Albert Lea promotes their historic downtown area in a similar fashion to what the Ely HPC looks to accomplish. "We have to rely on our charm and our history," she said.

She said conference provided valuable information on conducting surveys to help with historic preservation planning, and she learned the difference between preservation, restoration, rehabilitation and reconstruction maintenance programs. "The Captain's Dry build-

ing at the Pioneer Mine Site is in need of preservation at this time," Domich said. "You fix the roof, close up the windows and do what you have to, to keep it from deteriorating further. At some later time when there is money and interest, then something can actually be done with the building. We have several buildings in town that would fall into that category."

Restoration involves taking a building back to what it was in a certain period. Rehabilitation involves changing the purpose of a building. Reconstruction involves rebuilding an historic structure.

The former VFW building, now housing Northern Grounds Coffee Shop, was nominated for and awarded one of only eight Minnesota Historic Preservation



Workers at Northern Grounds during the move-in phase at the former VFW Lodge. The project is one of several recent successes in historic preservation in Ely.

photo by K. Vandervort

Awards last year. "It was quite a bit of work to prepare the nomination, but well worth it," she said. "One of the other award-winners was the State Capitol, so we were feeling pretty important for a while."

The HPC continued to work

with the city to find a buyer for the landmark Community Center. Domich did not sound too optimistic on that project. "The Princeton Group never delivered anything they promised," she

See COUNCIL...pg. 5

POLITICS OF MINING

Poll finds growing opposition to sulfide mining near BWCAW

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Opposition to sulfide-based copper mining near the Boundary Waters is increasing in Minnesota and it could play a significant role in voters' decisions in this year's elections for both governor and the Eighth District congressional seat being vacated by Rick Nolan. That's according to the findings of a new poll completed by FabrizioWard, a GOP-leaning polling firm that worked for both Donald Trump and Tim Pawlenty.

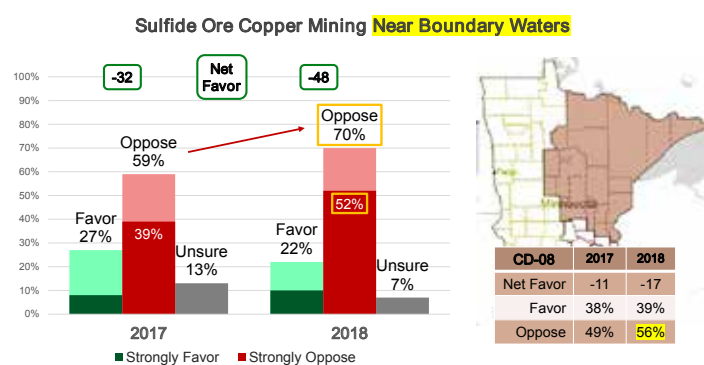
The Ely-based Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters commissioned the poll, which was completed in mid-February. The results showed that opposition to sulfide mining near the Boundary Waters has jumped significantly since FabrizioWard asked the same questions last year, with fully 70 percent of Minnesotans now saying they oppose the idea, up from 59 percent last year. Just 22 percent, or barely one-in-five Minnesotans say they support sulfide mining near the Boundary Waters.

The Chilean mining giant Antofagasta has proposed the

so-called Twin Metals mine near Ely, but the plan has faced considerable opposition, mostly out of concern for its location near the Kawishiwi River, a major watershed within the 1.1 million-acre wilderness.

Opposition to the idea continues to grow in northeastern Minnesota as well, and could play a role in the hotly-contested Eighth District congressional race. That's particularly so on the DFL side, where the poll found that 77 percent of DFLers in the Eighth District oppose proposed mining near the Boundary Waters, with fully 61 percent

Clear opposition to sulfide ore copper mining near the Boundary Waters.



expressing strong opposition. Statewide, 91 percent of DFLers are opposed. Meanwhile, 69 percent of self-identified independents oppose the mining plan, and even a 45 percent plurality of Republicans oppose it.

The latest poll found that a clear majority (56 percent) of all residents in the Eighth District now oppose sulfide mining near the BWCAW. That's a jump from the 49-percent opposi-

See POLL...pg. 5

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OPINION

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Editorial

Broadband disconnect

Despite millions invested in fiber, Internet in the region still falls short

We see the headlines all the time. A new broadband initiative, funded by the state or the feds, is investing more taxpayer dollars to lay fiber optic cable to small towns out across rural America. We've certainly seen our share of fiber optic cable buried across northeastern Minnesota in recent years — indeed, well over \$100 million has been invested in bringing fiber to area communities in just the last few years.

And, still, most residents of our region continue to suffer with the same poor-quality Internet access they've had for years.

It's clear that bringing fiber to a community is valuable, but it's only one part of the equation. If you don't believe it, just ask the poor residents in Orr. They've had fiber optic cable run through their community three times, beginning as early as the 1990s. Orr is one of the most fiber-rich communities in all of Minnesota. Folks in Orr should have blazing fast Internet. Instead, you can't even sign up for Internet access if you move to town.

How is that possible? Here's how: There's a fundamental disconnect between the promises we hear with each new broadband investment, and the service that actually gets delivered to the end users, whether they're residential or business customers. The publicly-funded projects that we hear about are enhancing the capacity of what's known as "the middle mile." Essentially, these projects provide a solid infrastructure with the "potential" to bring advanced broadband capacity to our communities, but they stop short of actually connecting with the businesses and homes

they're supposed to serve. The final mile of these projects is supposed to be completed by the private sector, companies like Frontier and CenturyLink, who are ostensibly partners on these projects.

These fiber installations are massive public subsidies that we provide to these telecommunications companies, with the supposed understanding that they will then provide a matching private contribution to enhance their switching capacities and upgrade their connections to the end users.

But as we've seen, these companies simply aren't interested in making such investments in our communities. Which means we lay a lot of fiber in the ground that, essentially, serves no purpose.

We see this all the time when government interfaces with the private sector. Unfortunately, the politicians are more than happy to throw money at the problem du jour, but there's little to no follow-up to make sure that the promises made at the press conference, when the money is approved, are converted to promises delivered six months or a year down the road.

In the case of broadband expansion in northeastern Minnesota, there isn't much to show for the tens of millions of dollars we've stuck in the ground extending fiber. Until state and federal officials require that private sector providers begin to live up to their commitments to make better use of the infrastructure we have all paid to install, residents and businesses in our area will continue to reside on the backroads of the information superhighway.



Letters from Readers

An inexpensive way to protect birds from roving cats

The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi down in Rochester taught us, "Be good to the birds. They're closer to God than we are, and maybe they'll put in a good word for you." That was more than fifty years ago for me, and I've only recently come anywhere near an actually squirrel-proof bird feeder.

But I do have a great way to protect my feeders and bird baths from cats - chicken wire. Get some 3' high green chicken wire (so you can see it in the winter). Drive 4' stakes into the ground about 3' out and all around your feeders and bird baths. Loop the wire around the circle and tie it to the stakes. This may not keep the cats entirely away, but it will make it awkward enough for them when they do go after your birds - just enough to give the birds time to escape. This method also reduces the ever-present likelihood of violent conflict between bird people and cat people. Plus, it's cheap, so what's not to like?

**David K. Porter, Lawyer
Minneapolis**

Time for a new approach to gun control issue

I know all of us were heart-broken by the mass shooting in Florida last week. In the wake of that, I have been even more upset by the complete lack of reasonable statements by politicians. Nothing has made any sense, and I have a very real nightmare that we will see more of these horrific events.

But I just read a commentary by Congressman Tim Walz which appeared in the *Star Tribune* on February 23, 2018,

which gives me hope. He's a former high-school geography teacher and coach, just like the geography teacher and coach who were killed. He's also a lifelong sportsman, gun owner, and a 24-year military veteran. I'd like to share some of his thoughts with your readers.

He knows that hunting and guns are part of many of our lives. I remember, as he does, growing up the National Rifle Association was an advocate for sportsmen and women. It was an organization everyone could respect.

To quote him: "Today, though, it's the biggest single obstacle to passing the most basic measures to prevent gun violence in America—including common-sense solutions that the majority of NRA members support."

Everyone I know wants to end gun violence. I agree with Rep. Walz when he says he's had it, with the years of obstruction and inaction, and he's had it with the mistrust and fear that divides us. He wants a new approach; a coalition of people of good faith from all over the state, of gun owners and gun-violence survivors, of hunters, police and, most importantly, the young people who are taking the lead on this.

I truly hope he'll be successful.

**Dr. Richard Borken
Lake Vermilion, Tower**

Vermilion Trail may be dead due to Bakk opposition

I have attended meetings and followed the Lake Vermilion Trail idea since its beginning. It is a very worthy project. But, it probably won't get past Sen. Tom Bakk and his allies who are on the St. Louis County Board: Keith Nelson, Pat Boyle, Pete

Stauber and Mike Jugovich. The main factor appears to be the protection of a 40 acre parcel, the "Meadow Hunting Club LLC", owned by Tom Bakk, that sits surrounded by hundreds of acres of public land in Greenwood Township. Access is through public land.

A founding LV Trail concept and original written statement includes that "eminent domain" would specifically not be used in acquiring right-of-way under any circumstances. Very simple. Tom Bakk knew this. Besides myself, his friends from Cook stated this to him long ago. But, he kept using "eminent domain" as an excuse to oppose the trail until that excuse wore out. Now he has evolved on to other false flag excuses. None of them valid.

Bakk has a lot of political power because of his position as Senate Minority Leader, and possibly as Majority Leader again in the near future. He can make or break the Lake Vermilion Trail, particularly the very important link that would traverse Greenwood Township. That's where the "Meadow Hunting Club LLC" facility is. (LLC, smacks of a little elitism, doesn't it?)

Sadly, privatized use of public land is something that is occurring all over the country. Some people certainly know how to arrange it and how to keep it secured.

Absent a joint press release from Bakk, Rep. Ecklund and St. Louis County giving full support to the entire Lake Vermilion Trail, I believe that the trail is dead as far as Greenwood Township is concerned. And I stated as much in my report to the Greenwood Town Board at the February meeting. That's just reality. The monkey is on Sen. Bakk's back.

**Lee Peterson
Greenwood Township**



A place for meeting and storytelling...

Last week I attended the second storytelling night in Ely, instigated by Julie Nester and Terry Cooper, who had discovered a shared love of storytelling. They thought there should be more opportunities in Ely, so they set about to do it, inspired by advice in the *Underground Optimist* about pursuing ideas: gather your crowd, build connections, collaborate like crazy, and take small steps. They didn't seek out a sponsoring organization, apply for grants, or conduct a market survey; they just did it and named it "Stories from the Edge." By my lights,



BETTY FIRTH

I'd say it has been wildly successful from the get-go. The first night about 45 people attended, with a similar turnout the second night. There was no shortage of people willing to tell a story.

The format is based on that of the Moth Radio Hour StorySLAM: people put their name in a hat if they wish to tell a story: it must be real, connected to the person telling, and five to six minutes long. Names are drawn until there are no more names or no more time. A theme is suggested each month, such as "My eyes were opened

when...", but all stories are welcome and appreciated.

I love it when people are encouraged to share real stuff about their lives. It would be hard not to notice that storytelling has been sweeping the land. On the weekends, public radio in our area offers This American Life, TED Radio Hour, Live Wire, New Yorker Radio Hour and Moth Radio Hour and Live From Here. Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor ran for 42 years with a couple years of defection to New York. Garrison's monologue about life in Lake Wobegon kept people coming back even when it seemed to me that there were too many corny skits and music featuring Garrison's not-very-good singing. Wondering at first

why New Yorkers or Floridians appreciate these midwestern stories, I realized he was telling universal stories we can all relate to, and he was a gifted storyteller who knows how to hold his listeners' attention. At its peak in 2015, four million people tuned in. He spoke of a simpler place and simpler times that we may yearn for, but four million people listening to a radio show? That's a lot of yearning.

Researchers say that people respond differently to a strong emotional story, creating a second personal movie in their head with themselves as leading characters. Melanie Green and Tim Brock

See **STORIES...pg. 5**

Letters from Readers

Thanks for addressing Frontier issue

Once again I have you to thank for addressing an issue that no one else seemed to notice (except all the Frontier customers I know). I heard about your article through the Friday morning interview on KAXE Community Radio. I followed up by perusing the article online to find out my best means of communicating the concerns I had with Frontier to the Minn. Dept. of Commerce. My situation was I had signed up for a three-year discounted rate on internet service and I noticed my rate increased after only two years. I tried to work through Frontier customer service and after a long time on the phone with three different representatives my complaint remained unresolved and my call was eventually just disconnected somehow. As my phone is pay-per-minute I decided I would be losing money to pursue this any further with Frontier. I went on their website and tried online chat, but they said they could not verify me as a customer, even with my account number. So I basically gave up. When your article appeared I was inspired to try again. I made copies of my original agreement that was sent to my residence, wrote a letter explaining my experience trying to work with Frontier, and copied my payment information showing when the reduced rate began, and when it increased prematurely. I put the docket number on all my correspondence and mailed it to the MN Dept. of Commerce. In three days!!! I got a call from Frontier

saying they would give me a credit on my account equaling the amount of the rate reduction for a year! Done and done! I am so happy about the turn of events and I credit your reporting on this issue that affects many of us who have no other choice than Frontier for internet service.

Thanks so much. I will be subscribing to your online version when I return from a lengthy trip. I had let my subscription lapse, but I do intend on supporting your efforts any way I can.

Tom Reiersen Wright

Drobac and Stoehr have my vote in Greenwood

I think it is most important for Greenwood Township to continue moving forward in providing its citizens with the best clerk possible. Sue Drobac is my vote for clerk for the following reasons:

As you may recall, Sue took office in a most difficult time and literally risked arrest in order to assume the clerk's office.

Sue then thwarted backbiting, intimidating, and bullying as she learned her office demands.

She succeeded in making a very smooth transition of all Township Planning and Zoning records to St. Louis County control, and thus ended Township control.

Sue has consolidated both the treasurer's and clerk's offices into one physical space where all documents are securely held.

Sue worked with changing fire fighters from once being regarded as private contractors to township employees with a

pay schedule and accompanying payroll deductions as the law requires.

She has served as the Township Election Official and has done so without the rancor or accusations of the past.

Sue transformed the clerk's office to one of an inviting, pleasant environment and treats all residents requests with respect and dignity.

My vote for Supervisor in Greenwood Township is Rick Stoehr:

Rick has been a regular visitor and expressed his opinion at many of the township's meetings.

As far as the laws guiding townships as expressed in the Minnesota Association of Townships' manual, Rick is well versed as he has studied the manual thoroughly.

Rick understands we may all have differences of opinion, but without procedural knowledge of the laws that guide townships, we are bound to misstep, often resulting in liability.

Rick has demonstrated support of the open meeting law and the need for township government to be conducted in a transparent fashion.

He has been a regular volunteer at the Greenwood Town Hall and as a veteran, has been a member of the ad hoc flag corps and maintains a DAV collection container which many Greenwood Township residents use.

Sue Drobac and Rick Stoehr are great assets to our community. Please vote for Sue and Rick on Tuesday, March 13.

JoAnn Bassing Greenwood Township

Put retired military in our schools

School shootings?

In these United States we have enough retired capable military people to guard every school in this country. We have armed guards in our banks and none in our schools? Is this our priority? Put these trained people to work defending our children.

Janet Schultz Sturgeon Township

Here are my votes for supervisor and town clerk

The township election is coming up in March. We need to keep moving forward with positive actions and honest changes.

My vote for Clerk is for Sue Drobac, Supervisor is John Bassing, and Supervisor is Rick Stoehr.

Here are some reasons why. Sue has done a great job.

She came into the position in a very hostile environment. She stood back and said, "Let's fix some things." She started with some keys, a few file folders and a locked office. Most people would have turned around and said nope!! She found training outlets, cleaned up the office and made it the clerk's and treasurer's office. All records are safe and secure. Like it was supposed to be. The office is now welcoming and open to all that come in. Sue Drobac has my vote!

John Bassing had done an awesome job. He has met with much opposition but has moved forward with turning Planning and Zoning over to the county. That has saved the township

about \$30,000. He also has done the 911 Coordinator job. Things were a mess and he has worked hard with the county to straighten things up. Also, for no pay. Again, saving the township about \$9,000. This position also needs to go back to the county. We are the only township in Minnesota that does their own 911 signage.

He was also the main reason why we stopped the takeover of the Cook Hospital District. Again saving us thousands. He follows the rules set forth by the board. Consults the attorney when needed and follows his recommendations. He is also working with the fire department to straighten things out with them. He is honest, hard-working and doesn't stop until things are right. John Bassing has my vote.

Rich Stoehr has my vote for the second supervisor position. He has attended most of the township meetings. He is very interested in following the board regulations. He is a Vet and is honest and trustworthy. He has a vision of what needs to be done and I think he will be instrumental in getting things done and done right. Rick Stoehr has my vote.

We need to have people on the board, clerk and treasurer to want to have Greenwood Township as their number one priority. They need to live here, care about our beautiful lake, and pay taxes in this township. They need to want to improve our township and not any other entities.

Get out and research for yourself all of the candidates. Come out and vote on March 13. The coffee will be on.

Mary Richard Greenwood Township

STORIES...Continued from page 4

suggest that we then drop our intellectual guard, becoming less critical or skeptical. Consequently, salespeople, marketers and non-profits have learned to use the story format to persuade people to buy or donate. The Super Bowl ads are so entertaining that even people who hate football will tune in to see them. Voted "Best Super Bowl ads" were Budweiser's with the adorable lab puppy adopted by the Clydesdales in 2014 and rescued in 2015. Viewers could connect emotionally with the puppy, his owner, and the horses, many saying they cried. Offering the polar opposite to cute and cuddly, an anti-tobacco public service announcement featured the guy with an electrolarynx (a mechanical voice box) singing with an electronic

voice through the hole in his neck, "You don't always die from tobacco; sometimes you just lose a lung...etc." In one verse, it changed the story quite effectively from "we all have to die sometime" to "you could live for years with any of those consequences."

Throughout time, storytellers have played a key role in their communities, beginning with ancient cave paintings showing crude representations of animals and humans. The oldest known figurative art is in Sulawesi, Indonesia, determined to be 35,400 years old by geochemist and archaeologist Maxime Aubert in 2014. Paleoneurologist Harry J. Jerison suggests that it was the very capacity to make pictures in our brain that compensated for our comparatively

weak sense of smell, sight, touch, hearing, and taste, enabling us to find our way around in the world. A good story helps us create mental pictures.

Before written language, storytellers were the historians, holding the memories so they would be passed on to the next generation. Aesop's fables were written down in the 200s B.C., 300 years after he died, but his stories were so powerful, they were remembered. Even today, 2,200 years later, they are still being used to teach life lessons.

In "Who Says?", editors Carol L. Birch and Melissa A. Heckler say that the amazing plasticity of the human mind and the opposable thumb allowed us to create and wield tools, to learn and evolve. They posit (isn't that a great word?) that perhaps stories

are a mental opposable thumb, "allowing humans to grasp something in their minds, to turn it around, to view it from many angles, to reshape it and to hurl it even into the farthest reaches of the unconscious."

History could be viewed as nothing but a series of stories that can teach, inspire and entertain us. Without that collection of stories, what role models would we have? How would we learn from our mistakes? Philosopher and poet George Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." We certainly see plenty of examples of that currently as we scratch our heads and wonder, "When will we ever learn?" Many feel history and civics are not given the attention needed in our schools.

I think the yearning for a saner world, a world in which we feel more connected with each other, is at the heart of this surge of storytelling. Caught in the whirlpool of technology and whirlwind of activities, we have lots of material things and rich opportunities, but we may lose track of what really feeds our souls, including our connections with the broader community. We know things could be different but often aren't clear on how to change or simplify.

Perhaps it's just as simple as taking time to tell our stories and listen to others tell theirs. Last week Steve Voiles told a hilarious story about his mom sending him to the store to buy a few bananas when he was seven; he'd heard an adult say that buying in bulk was a way to

save money, so he loaded up two grocery bags. Ask him for the rest of the story, because it's his to tell, but it embraced all the components of a good story: people could relate to being young, wanting to make mom proud, making a silly mistake; it was humorous, emotional and visual, walking down memory lane with him as he tried to figure out how to get all those bananas home. He let us in to his personal life, and I do feel more connected with him and the others who shared stories. I chickened out about telling a story, but I will in the future!

Come share your stories, usually on the third Thursday, 6-8 p.m. at the Ely Senior Center. We'd love to get to know you better.

COUNCIL...Continued from page 3

said. "We never heard from them. Another potential buyer, the Gilberts, were looking to open an upscale cuisine business with an online component, but that also did not happen." Some furnishings in the Community Center were auctioned off last year.

An application submitted to the Transportation

Alternative Grant Program to repair the failing retaining wall at the Pioneer Mine site did not materialize, according to Domich. "Another grant request was submitted to the state Historical Society last month to complete a condition assessment study for the entire site," she said. "We hope to get that study and meet with the Ely

Arts and Heritage Center group and prioritize a plan to move ahead."

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski confirmed Monday that grant was awarded to the HPC.

Seven locations were added to the Historic Walking Tour in 2017. "A guided walking tour was added last year, offered on

Tuesdays and Saturdays during July, and as many as 45 people would participate in a tour," she said.

HPC members also received a grant to survey the historic downtown area and to identify potential significant properties to preserve.

For 2018, Domich said the HPC plans to continue outreach and

communication through expanding their Facebook page, and to develop a survey for understanding the priorities of community members when it comes to historic preservation; complete the commercial district inventory survey; work to continue preservation efforts for the Pioneer Mine site and the Community Center;

nominate a local project for the Preservation Alliance Statewide Award; expand the historic walking tour; and to begin work on historic document management.

POLL...Continued from page 3

tion the poll found last year. Support for the idea remains roughly the same, at 39 percent.

The poll also finds that the intensity of voter opposition to sulfide mining is on the rise, with 52 percent of Minnesotans now saying that they strongly oppose sulfide mining near the wilderness. That's an increase of 13 points from the 39

percent of residents who strongly opposed the idea last year.

Two-thirds of Minnesotans also said they support Gov. Mark Dayton's order banning sulfide mining on state lands near the BWCAW, with 50 percent expressing strong support. Only 28 percent said they oppose the order, with only 18 percent expressing strong

opposition. Dayton issued his order in an effort to block further development of the Twin Metals project, which he has criticized as a potential threat to water quality in the wilderness.

The poll found that the issue is potentially potent politically, with 53 percent of respondents saying they would be more likely to vote for a governor who promised

to continue Dayton's ban on the development of the Twin Metals project. Just 12 percent said they would be more likely to support a candidate who would end the ban, while 35 percent said it would not impact their vote.

The poll also found continued broad support for the two-year study and mineral development suspension established

in the final weeks of the Obama administration. Seventy-eight percent of Minnesotans and 66 percent of Eighth District residents said they favored the study and the two-year pause in mineral development.



Chimpy Skating Parties this weekend

SOUDAN- Chimpy will host two skating parties, Saturday and Sunday, March 3 and 4, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Stop by for skating fun, and plenty of great food. Loaner skates are available and boot skaters are welcome. This week's parties are being sponsored by Chuck and Nancy Tekautz, and Starkovich Distributing.

Eric Gooden named to U of M-Twin Cities Dean's List

MINNEAPOLIS- Eric Gooden, of Tower, has been named to the 2017 fall semester Dean's List at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Gooden is a senior in the College of Science and Engineering. To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must complete 12 or more letter-graded credits while attaining a 3.66 grade point average.

World Day of Prayer service at Immanuel on Friday, March 2

TOWER- On Friday, March 2, at 1 p.m. the 2018 World Day of Prayer will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower. World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical celebration with people throughout the world observing a common day of prayer, each year on the first Friday in March.

This year the service is titled "All God's Creation is Very Good," which was written by the women in the country of Surinam. People in more than 170 countries are joining in the same worship service on this day.

The service at Immanuel will include special music with an ecumenical women's choir led by Mary Beth Reller.

Everyone, women, men, and children are invited to come to this meaningful service.

Coffee and light refreshments will be served following the service. We hope to see you there.

St. James begins new adult class on Sunday, March 4

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower will begin a new series of adult classes on Sunday, March 4 at 9 a.m. Classes will continue each Sunday.

The series "That the World May Know," by renowned teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan, guides us through the land of the Bible. In each lesson, Vander Laan illuminates the historical, geographical, and cultural context of the sacred Scriptures. Filmed on location in the Middle East and elsewhere, the That the World May Know film series will transform your understanding of God and challenge you to be a true follower of Jesus. The five-week theme will be "The Path To The Cross," embracing obedience and sacrifice.

Defensive Driving 4-Hour Refresher

SOUDAN- The four-hour defensive driving refresher course will be held on Wednesday, March 14 or on Wednesday, April 18 at the Soudan Fire Hall from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. The four-hour refresher course is offered for drivers 55 years of age and older who have previously completed an eight-hour beginner course and who need to re-certify to continue receiving a discount on their car insurance. A certificate of completion will be given to participants to continue the 10-percent car insurance discount. Check your certificate or check with your car insurance agent to learn when you need to recertify. Dana Waldron is the instructor for the class offered under AARP. Class fee is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Payment is payable to the instructor on the day of class. You must pre-register so we can plan accordingly for class space and materials. Please call or text Leone Graf to pre-register at 218-343-3744. If no answer, please leave a message.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY

Reading Olympics



Tower-Soudan Elementary students (above) were honored for meeting their reading goals during "I Love to Read Month." Below: These students read over 1,000 minutes in February. photos by Max Helmberger



SISU HERITAGE

Sisu Heritage reports on year's activities

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

EMBARRASS- As Embarrass' reputation for its Finnish log buildings and sauna history continues to grow, Sisu Heritage Inc., a non-profit that works to enhance the Embarrass region by preserving and sharing its unique culture, climate, and history, continues its work to preserve bits and pieces of Embarrass history.

The group co-hosts tours of the historical Finnish log buildings during the summer months, operates the Nelimark Homestead museum and gift shop (with help from area crafters) in the summer, puts on their now annual National Sauna Day event, and a fall evening musical get-together at the one-of-a-kind Seitaniemi Housebarn, which is currently being re-



St. Louis County Commissioner Tom Rukavina spoke with guest speaker Dr. Philip Johnson after the program. photo by J. Summit

stored. Sisu President Marlin Bjornrud gave a brief summary of the year's activities to open the annual meeting, last Sunday.

"Over 1,700 visited the Nelimark last year," he said, "and about 550 attended the two Christmas at the Nelimark weekends."

The group approved a 2018 budget of \$27,330. Last year the group had \$17,337 in

revenue and \$11,461 in expenses. They currently have about \$20,000 on hand, along with \$1,549 in an account dedicated to the historic Apostolic Lutheran Church, which the group took ownership of last year, and are working on restoring. Sisu has 130 members, and 17 are "lifetime members." Memberships cost \$10 per year, and lifetime memberships are \$250. The group recognized lifetime member

Gordon Johnson, who passed away last year. Johnson's estate will be making a donation to Sisu, which they plan on using for work at the Apostolic Church.

The group has a newly-revamped website at www.sisuseritage.org. Board members include Marlin Bjornrud, John Kinnunen, Mickey White, Linda Koskela, Gary Rantala, Ron Sutton, Leone Graf, Cindy Scherer, Carol Knuti, Carl Lamppa, and Jack Lamar. Board member Leone Graf, who represents Sisu on the St. Louis County Historical Society Board, also serves as that board's president. Graf noted that Sisu receives generous funding through the county historical society.

The speaker for this year was Dr. Philip Johnson, President of Finlandia University in Hancock, Mich. Johnson spoke about the Finnish education system (see story in next week's Timberjay).

Upcoming events include 2018 National Sauna Day on Saturday, June 2, and Community Night Out at the Seitaniemi Housebarn on Sunday, Sept. 9.

ELECT
Byron Beihoffer
Greenwood Supervisor

DON'T GET MAD, VOTE!

Paid for by the candidate on his own behalf

RE-ELECT JOHN BASSING GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

TRANSPARENCY ★ CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT ★ LOW TAXES

- ★ PROPOSED LAST YEAR'S LEVY OF \$1
- ★ VOLUNTEERED TO BE 911 COORDINATOR
- ★ DECREASED TOWNSHIP EXPENSES
- ★ MOTION RENT FREE USE OF TOWN HALL
- ★ CHAIRED GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP FOR 20 CONSECUTIVE MONTHS
- ★ FORCED THE BOARD TO MAKE PUBLIC DATA PUBLIC

Paid by Candidate on Own Behalf

Cook VFW
Open Daily at Noon
CLOSED on TUESDAYS

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

Event Rentals
Welcome
218-780-6709

Pull-Tabs Sold Daily
Lic. 00390

Sunday FREE Pool

Thursday Bingo
Early Bird 6 p.m. Progressive Prizes

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

Take-Out 666-0500

VOTE

SUE DROBAC

Greenwood Township Clerk

Vote Tuesday, March 13

"I have enjoyed my work as the Greenwood Township Clerk for the last two years! I am totally wanting to continue with this position!"

Paid for by the candidate on her own behalf.

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

CATHOLIC LENTEN TRADITION
Fish Fry time at St. Anthony's

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

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

The pre-Easter tradition was held for the first two Fridays of Lent at the Babbitt Catholic Church, St. Pius X, and now moves to Ely's St. Anthony's Catholic Church, for four more fish fry events, March 2, 9, 16, and 23, finishing up on the Friday before Good Friday.

The all-you-can eat Fish Fry has proven so popular over the years that hungry fish eaters line up well before the doors open at 5 p.m. Fish is served for just two hours, and well over 300 meals are consumed in the church hall or carried out.

Knights of Columbus volunteers get to work early on Friday mornings with the goal of opening the doors precisely at 5 p.m.

Two assembly lines are in operation for the breeding of the pollock fillets, starting with a coating of flour, a swim in an egg bath, and a generous coating of secret-ingredient breading. The workers need to bread more than 250 pounds of fish and get the trays back in the cooler.

In the church hall kitchen, another dozen or so workers are all at their



Chad Loewen and his three sons, Thomas, Cody and Travis, are about all who fit in the portable fry shack used for the annual Lenten Fish Fry at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. Timberjay file photo

work stations, inspecting and cleaning more than 150 pounds of red potatoes. The potatoes are diced and sliced at a nearby work station. Later in the afternoon, the special coleslaw recipe perfected by Bernie Hutar years ago is prepared. It is simply called "Bernie's Cole Slaw."

By mid-afternoon, the portable fry shack is up and running outside and an array of deep fryers are warming for a vigorous workout. Chad Loewen and his three sons, Thomas, Cody and Travis, are about all who fit in the fry shack. Their movements around each other

and workflow procedures demonstrate how well they work so well together in cramped quarters.

Marlene Marleau, known as the "Dessert Lady" cuts and plates a dizzying array of homemade pies, cakes, bars (especially lemon bars) and cookies for the meal.

The price for the meal is \$9 for adults, ages 13 and up, \$5 for kids age 5-12, and free for youngsters under that. Take-out meals are available. Proceeds go to local charities, including local food shelves in Ely and Babbitt, and the Buddy Backpack program in local schools.



Knights of Columbus Council 3238 members volunteer their time to bread hundreds of pounds of fish for the Friday fish fry dinners.

the TIMBERJAY

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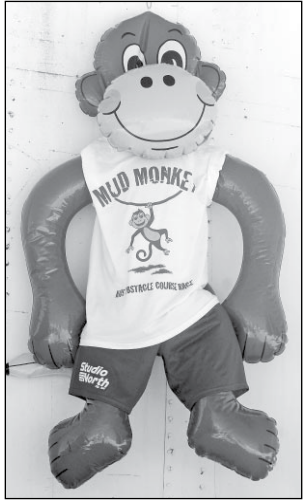
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Moving? Questions about your subscription? Call the Tower office at (218) 753-2950.

WINTER FUN

Mud Monkey obstacle course held at Studio North

Ely-area youngsters enjoyed a sunny Saturday morning making their way through the Mud Monkey Obstacle Course at Studio North.
photos by K. Vandervort



Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2018



winter in full swing offering all its sweet charms currently a melt



SUBSCRIBE (218) 753-2950

OUR COMMUNITY

Ely youth participate in Hot Shot Contest



ELY - Another year of Saturday morning basketball has come to an end with the annual Ely Jaycees and Ely Cops for Kids Hot Shot Contest, and the annual Ely Hoop Club Hot Dog Feed last Sunday.

The elementary kids got two minutes to shoot from three different areas on the court and earned points for the baskets that they made during that time. Each kid received a certificate and water bottle. The top three places received a ribbon and the first place winner received a basketball.

There was also a shootout for the high school helpers who had to make

a layup, free throw, three-point and half-court shot. This year there were 42 elementary kids in the contest and 13 high school boys and girls basketball players. The high school boys winner was Eric Omerza who made all four shots and high school girls winner was Erika Mattson making three of the four shots.

The Jaycees would like to thank the Cops for Kids for helping out with the prizes, the Ely Hoop Club for allowing them to do this event with them and providing the delicious hot dogs.

And to the high school helpers: Seniors - Carter Gaulke, Blaise Lah and

Shayla Zaverl; Juniors - Trevor Mattson, Patrick Vanderbeek and Jasiah Wigdahl; Sophomores - Nils DeRemee, Erika Mattson and Eric Omerza; Freshmen - Will Davies; 8th graders - Sidney Marshall and Ande Visser; and 7th grader Taylor Gibney, thanks for all your help.

The winners

Boys Kindergarten - 1st place - Jacob Vanderbeek - 30 points; 2nd place - Hayden Weidemann - 13 points; 3rd place - Braden Jonas - 6 points; Boden Devine - 4 points; Ethan Nickolson

- 2 points.

Girls Kindergarten - 1st place - Alex Brandriet - 5 points; 2nd place - Raegan Borchert - 0 points.

Boys 1st grade - 1st place - Tommy Kerntz - 15 points; 2nd place - Aaro Kari - 14 points; 3rd place - Jimmy Keller - 8 points.

Girls 1st grade - 1st place - Kaija Shultz - 20 points; 2nd place - Kylie Mosher - 9 points; 3rd place - Jazmyne Akins - 8 points.

Boys 2nd grade - 1st place - Jace Myers - 49 points; 2nd place - Dawson Murphy - 19 points; 2nd place - Wyatt Devine - 19 points; 3rd place - Grant Chittum - 18 points; Talan

Hart - 14 points.

Girls 2nd grade - 1st place - Jordan Borchert - 12 points; 2nd place - Naomi Archer - 5 points.

Boys 3rd grade - 1st place - Wyatt Tedrick - 33 points; 2nd place - Max Brandriet - 30 points.

Girls 3rd grade - 1st place - Gretta Lowe - 51 points; 2nd place - Kaylin Visser - 47 points; 3rd place - Ruby Lowe - 40 points; Lydia Shultz - 36 points; Grace Flynn - 28 points;

Julia Zgonc - 25 points; Madison Jonas - 12 points.

Boys 4th grade - 1st place - Jack Davies - 84 points; 2nd place - Drew

Johnson - 44 points; 3rd place - Otto Devine - 41 points; Blake Hegfors - 25 points.

Girls 4th grade - 1st place - Zoe MacKenzie - 47 points; 2nd place - Brianna Marshall - 39 points.

Boys 5th grade - 1st place - Caid Chittum - 72 points; 2nd place - Noah Anderson - 69 points; 3rd place - Hunter Kirkeby - 45 points; Max Cochran - 36 points.

Boys 6th grade - 1st place - Sammy Prijatel - 72 points.

Girls 6th grade - 1st place - Grace LaTourell - 84 points; 2nd place - Abigail Johnson - 39 points.

Higher Education

Snyder graduates from basic training

ELY - U.S. Air Force National Guard Airman 1st Class Wesley R. Snyder Jr. graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

He is the son of Mary A. Snyder and Wesley R. Snyder Sr. of Ely, and a 2012 graduate of Ely Memorial High School.

Snyder completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Snyder earned distinction as an honor graduate.



Wesley R. Snyder

Bemidji State University honors

BEMIDJI - Four students from Ely earned Dean's List honors from Bemidji State University at the conclusion of the Fall 2017 term.

The students are Abbie Edman, Max Gantt, Morgan Housey and Jordan Huntbatch.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, BSU students must be enrolled for at least 12 credits and earn a 3.5 GPA during the semester. A total of 1,123 students earned Fall 2017 Dean's List honors from the university.

Ely students honored at Michigan Tech

HOUGHTON, MICH - Two Ely students attending Michigan Technological University, in Houghton, Mich., made the Dean's List for the 2017 fall semester.

> Jesse Olson*, Mechanical Engineering, son of Brenda Olson and Scott Olson; and

> Seth Prigge, Mechanical Engineering, son of Roberta Prigge and Scott Prigge.

More than 1,800 students were named to the Dean's List this past fall.

Asterisks indicate those earning straight-A averages of 4.0.

Cook honored at Bethel University

ST. PAUL - Natalie Cook of Ely, a senior at Bethel University in St. Paul, has been named to the Dean's List for academic excellence for the fall 2017 semester. She is the daughter of Timothy and Deanne Cook.

The Dean's List honors students who achieve an outstanding scholastic record during a semester with a grade point average of 3.6 or greater.

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Gardner Humanities Trust offers arts grants

ELY - The Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust board set a deadline of Friday, March 23 for its spring grant round for artists, art groups, youth grants and scholarships.

There will again be a fall grant round with a deadline at the end of September. "The Trust is continually working on updating its grant process," said Keiko Williams, the Trust's executive director. "So people and groups applying for funding should make sure they download the newest forms from the website at www.gardnertrust.org. If someone does not have access to the internet they can call the office for grant forms at 365-2639."

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

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

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

> Youth Grants are awarded to Ely school students in grades 6-12 who have an interest in and demonstrate high motivation in the fine arts. Home school students who live in area codes 55731 and 55796, grades 6-12, also qualify for this program. The youth grants of up to \$750 can be used for workshops, classes, lessons or mentorships. Youth applicants must call Keiko to schedule a grant review by Friday, March 9.

> Scholarships are awarded to students majoring in one of the disciplines of the fine arts or library science. Scholarships may be awarded to Ely Memorial High School graduates or an Ely area resident for the past five (5) years that are in their third year of studies or higher.

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

Grant forms and eligibility requirements are available on the Gardner Humanities Trust website at www.gardnertrust.org. Those without internet access can contact Keiko at

365-2639 to have an application mailed to them. The deadline for applications will be 12 noon on Friday, March 23. Completed applications can be mailed to the Trust office at PO Box 720, Ely, MN 55731 or dropped off at the Ely City Hall, Clerk's Office, at 209 E. Chapman Street.

The Trust will have open office hours if people have questions about grants and would like to talk with the executive director. "New applicants are strongly encouraged to have a grant review by the director prior to the deadline to make sure their project will fit into the grant criteria. Individuals or groups that have applied for grants before can also use these office hours to check in about their new application submissions. It never hurts to have a draft reviewed to make sure the narrative or budget are covering all the requirements," Williams said.

Open office hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday. Keiko is available to meet by appointment on other days of the week or evenings, if needed. The Trust office is located on the Lower Level of the Ely City Hall.

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
BETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS

Northwoods Transfer Station
9384 Hwy 21 N. Ely/Babbitt
Winter Hours
Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm
Tue: 9:30am-3pm
Wed: 11am-5pm

Aurora Transfer Station
5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora
Hours
Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm
Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm
Sat: 8am-noon

Embarrass Canister Site
7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass
Hours
Sat: 12:30-4:30pm
Thu: 10am-5pm

Soudan Canister Site
5160 Hwy 169, Soudan
Hours
Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun:
8am-5pm

Household Hazardous Waste Facility
5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia
Hours
Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm

Regional Landfill
5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia
Hours
Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm
Sat: 8am-3:30pm

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

St. Louis County Environmental Services Department
1-800-450-9278
Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday
www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle

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

ALL-U-CAN-EAT Spaghetti Dinner
Friday, March 2 • 3:30-7 pm
Ely High School Cafeteria

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

Adults \$7 • Students (with school ID) \$5
Seniors \$6 • Children Grades K-6 \$4
Age 4 And Under FREE

Join us before the Boundary Waters Choral Festival concert at Washington Auditorium 7 PM featuring over 70 students from six area schools coming together for a night of singing.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
2018 WASHINGTON DC SENIORS

Tuesday Group schedule
March 6 - Kim Schlichting - We have one life, keep it simple.
March 13 - Underground Optimists

Empty Bowl fundraiser set for Friday, March 2 at North Woods School

FIELD TWP- Don't miss the sixth annual North Woods School Empty Bowl event. This year the event will honor veterans. Last year the event raised over \$2,000 for the Cook and Orr Food Shelves, as well as the Nett Lake Boys and Girls Club. The Empty Bowl event will take place on Friday, March 2 from 4:30-7 p.m. The one-of-a-kind ceramic bowls will be available for \$10; included in the price is a soup dinner with dessert and beverage.

Tacos and Trivia night at North Woods on Saturday, March 3

FIELD TWP- International Travel Club Students of Cook will be hosting a Taco and Trivia Night on Saturday, March 3, at the Cook Community Center. Tacos will be served from 3:30-7:30 with take-out available or stay for the evening to participate in the Trivia Competition starting at 6 p.m. Taco meal will include two tacos, Spanish rice, chips, salsa, dessert and a beverage for \$8 for adults and \$5 for children, 12 and under. \$25 per trivia team with 50-percent pay-out. There will be ten rounds, so gather your friends to create a team of 1-6 people of any age. Pre-registration is encouraged, but not required. Email Carrie Carstens at ccarstens@isd2142.k12.mn.us or Denise Parson at dparson@isd2142.k12.mn.us to register your team.

The NWFA Woodcarvers now meet every Thursday

COOK- The Northwoods Friends of the Arts carving class will now meet every Thursday at The Gallery from 6 – 8 p.m. Experienced carvers will supply some tools and knives if students are unable to bring their own. Located next to Dream Weaver Salon, NWFA Gallery is open the public on Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Questions, call Howard Hilshorst at 218-741-7941.



Howard Hilshorst's carvings.

Writers Group meets March 10

COOK- Ellie Larmouth will lead the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Winter Writers Group from 1 to 3 p.m. in Cook at The Gallery on Saturday, March 10, always on the second Saturday each month. The NWFA Gallery is in Cook at 210 S River St.

The group of diverse writers of all ages spends two hours discussing writing and sharing, as well as writing together with prompts given by Ellie. Welcome to all those interested in writing.

North Woods archery

REGIONAL- The North Woods archery team participated in the Grand Rapids Grand Prix held on Feb. 24. The middle school team took third place overall. Fourth-graders Anna Nelson took fifth place with a 231, and high school student Jeremiah Voges took fifth place with a 284. The next archery meet is on March 10 at North Woods in Cook. This will be the Region Tournament.

Cook Seniors to meet March 7

COOK- The Cook Seniors will meet on Wednesday March 7 at 1 p.m. at the Homestead Apartments Community Room for afternoon bingo. Prizes will be our white elephants. Refreshments will be served by Diane Cin. There will be a short meeting of the Cook Senior Citizens Club before we play. You don't need to be a member or a senior! Everyone welcome! For information, call Barbara at 612-868-3040.

Readers and Rappes to meet on Tuesday, March 13

COOK- Readers and Rappers, a Cook-area book club, meets on Tuesday, March 13 at 1 p.m. in the Community Room at the Homestead Apartments in Cook.

Selected book to discuss is "Lesson Before Dying" by Earnest J. Gaines

Moderator is Ellie Larmouth and Mary Richards is the hostess. All who love to read are invited to join Readers and Rappers. April's meeting will be sharing poetry.

BUSINESS NEWS
North Star Insurance opens in Cook

Purchases property and casualty business from the 100-year-old Francis Agency, Inc.

COOK- The oldest insurance agency in Cook, The Francis Agency which began in 1917, has sold its home, auto, recreational vehicle, and commercial liability business to the newly created North Star Insurance Agency. In September 2017, North Star Credit Union formed a Credit Union Service Organization when they incorporated North Star Insurance Agency, LLC. Although owned by North Star Credit Union, the Agency will be run separately from the Credit Union and has its own Board of Directors. Recently, The Board of Directors hired a local, Tom Beaudry to manage the new agency.

Beaudry, having grown up in Grand Rapids, is accustomed to life up North. "It is an honor to take over a business that has over a 100-year history and I look forward to continuing to foster the relationships The Francis Agency has established." The Francis Agency, Inc.



Tom Beaudry is managing the new North Star Insurance Agency, which now has two offices in Cook. The business is hosting an open house the week of March 5 at the new office inside the credit union building. photo by M. Roach

will soon be changing its name and will continue to offer health and life products out of its 106 South River Street office.

The North Star Insurance Agency's new office is conveniently located in the main lobby area of the North Star Credit Union at 24 South River Street. "It's exciting to be an independent agent because I am able to offer a wide array of products and ser-

vices to the community," says Beaudry, who most recently managed one of the local golf courses. "Making the transition from golf to insurance has been very interesting because both are heavily focused on providing outstanding customer service, which is where I excel."

North Star Insurance Agency will have an open house the week of March

5. Stop in Monday-Friday between the hours of 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. to say hello to Tom Beaudry, have some refreshments, and sign up for a chance to win \$50 gift certificates to Zup's, The Country Store, Northwoods True Value, or Cook Building Center.

CRANE LAKE

Crane Lake News by the Singing Teapot Dames



Life in the North Country

Weather Report: Temperature- 29 degrees, cloudy and misty. There was snow last night and again this morning. There is snow every day, and shoveling is required. Trails must be wonderful with the snow we have been having. However, it is always a beautiful day in the North Country.

The flu bug has really hit our community. Bruce, Traci and family, Jeff Miller, and Joe Bonner have been victims of the bug. It is a vicious little bug this year but our hearty souls survive. Drinking plenty of liquids and getting plenty of rest is about all one can do. It seems to last a good week or seven days if treated. Take care.

Feb. 23 was the 68th anniversary of the non-denominational Crane Lake Chapel. The founders are honored every year in February. This year there will be a special Founders Day celebration in the summer for all the snowbirds to enjoy. None of the founders are living; however, their good work lives on. The seven visionary men who made Crane Lake Chapel a reality are Reverend Sylvester Hanke, Donald Bowser, Ed Congdon, Chester Kneen, Robert Mohr, Alvin Ostlund, and Walter Scott. Attend the ceremony in June.

Of great interest has been the Winter Olympics, especially the curling. Team USA won the gold, which is the first time USA has ever gone that far. The final game was started at midnight and completed at 3:30 a.m. A lot of sleep was lost for the entire country. There were parties watching the game at all the curling clubs throughout the country with the NBC hook-ups to broadcast them. Duluth is the home club for the USA team. This old curler has known the team for many years so it was especially thrilling to watch the victory. In excitement this old curler whipped out her curling sweater to cheer for the USA. The sweater still fits (somewhat).

Also in the Olympics was a bit of hockey. The USA girls won the gold for the womens ice hockey. The goalie made a great winning save in overtime. She is the goalie for UMD. It is a thrill to have local players do so well.

Everyone is looking forward to the Crane Lake Challenge. With the long winter, folks are ready for an outing. Saturday, March 3 is the kick-off for the races. Lots of prizes are being offered. Racing starts at

10 a.m. with an award ceremony at Voyageaire. If you beat the Crane Lake Challenge top speed of 177.37 you will win an additional \$500 bonus. Sunday, March 4 is the First Annual Sunday Drag Racing. There will be 35 classes, including an Outlaw Shootout. Always a fun event, there will be hot food and drink specials available on the ice.

Life in the Land of Sun and Sand

A busy Monday morning here in the land of sun and sand. Several police cars and a firetruck congregated at a condo just down the street, sirens blaring all over the place. Wouldn't you give a clear view of exactly what is happening. We'll have to wait until later to find out what all the commotion was about!

The land of sun and sand produced a week that was, well, full of sun and sand. Temps in the high 70s-low 80s, tons of sunshine, and busy beaches. This old Dame counted 30 kids on surfboards in the ocean right out in front of her patio. They were there from early morning, thru the day, and into early evening. The pool was full of kids, and even some oldsters, cooling off in the daytime sun. Others were seen just relaxing around the pool, lounging on the fold-down chairs, reading their books or just taking a nap. The aroma of coconut oil predominated, and one may have even spied a toddy or two being consumed.

Have you ever wondered why some oldsters think they look good in speedos or bikinis? Here in the land of sun and sand, it seems to be acceptable, but this old Dame is quite sure that these people have never looked in the mirror be-

fore going out. No matter how they look, they are out in the sun in all their glory (?). Some refer to them as "raisins in tennis shoes" as they stroll along the beach.

The youngsters are probably also digging out bikinis and suntan oil as soon Spring Break will descend upon the Emerald Coast of Florida. Panama City Beach made the news a couple of years ago because of all the shenanigans occurring by the Breakers. Because of that, many of the beach communities tightened up their regulations about alcohol consumption on the beaches, causing many Breakers to head to other communities that haven't implemented restrictions.

It is for them and all the summer tourists that there are beachwear establishments all around town. They have names like Alvin's Island, Surf & Sand, Surf Side, Sun Stations, etc. They offer free beach bags with a \$25 purchase, t-shirts that are 3 for \$10 or 2 for \$10, swim cover-ups, swimwear, and sweatshirts. It is a wonder that all of them survive, as there are about two per block, and more are being built.

The ocean is a gorgeous blue-green color this morning, with waves gently rolling in to shore. Time for a walk on the beach! Enjoy your week, wherever you are.

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 and we like to know about you. Send news by e-mail to info@thelakecountry.com, by fax at 218-757-3533 or by phone to Sandy at 218-757-3233, and it will be added. Fire away with your news.

Until next week, the Dames are singing off.

ZUP'S Inc.
201 Hwy 53 SE Cook, MN
666-0205
Fall/Winter Hours
Sun: 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Mon-Sat: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Effective October 1

Cook Optical
Quality Eye Care for less Stop in & Compare
HOURS: 9-4:30 Mon.-Fri.
Jerel D. Johnson, ABOC Certified
23 E. Vermilion Dr., Cook
EYE EXAMS • 666-2879
Call for Appointment with Dr. Jensen, Optometrist

VOTE
SUE DROBAC
Greenwood Township Clerk
Vote Tuesday, March 13
"I have enjoyed my work as the Greenwood Township Clerk for the last two years! I am totally wanting to continue with this position!"
Paid for by the candidate on her own behalf.

NORTH WOODS

Lots to learn at North Woods College Fair

by MELISSA ROACH
Staff Writer

FIELD TWP-Nearly 200 high school students explored possible options for their future at the North Woods College and Career Fair that was held last week. The gymnasium was set up to host over 45 exhibitors from local businesses, college and university programs, as well as military service options.

Fortune Bay brought in interviewers to assist in mock interviews for students who have never had an interview, where they received real-time feedback as well as a performance evaluation. North Woods student counselor Jill Stark said, "I think this is a good opportunity for them to see what is available. Sometimes I don't think students necessarily take the opportunity to go out and see what there is. It isn't so overwhelming and there is an element of comfort when the businesses and colleges come to them. They can be more relaxed."

Hibbing Community College program class advisor Angela Heikkila was hoping to attract female students to the Electrical Maintenance program that is offered at the college. "We really want to help women enter into the workforce in nontraditional trades by helping to break down some of the barriers they encounter through our EM-POWER initiative that helps women in

the program." Although Heikkila went through the program with a few other women many years ago, more recently the number of women entering the program has decreased, a trend she would like to see change. The program has however, recognized the growing popularity of solar power, and added instruction for panel installation to their program.

Cook's Country Connection was at the event to help bring awareness to agriculture and farms. Owner Lois Pajari wanted to use the event as an opportunity to reflect the diversity in farming operations from petting farms to crop farming. Students could also sign up for on-farm volunteer opportunities for the summer.

Additionally, break-out sessions were held for students to provide a more in-depth focus on financial literacy, interview skills, resume writing, and personal branding. Stark said, "The personal branding focuses on what you put out there on social media. A lot of employers check applicants on these sites and can gain a lot of information, so it's important for them to be reminded of that." Stark said she receives feedback from business, and sees, within the school, areas that today's youth need more instruction and guidance in, as well providing opportunities. "It's really about helping them discover what's out there."



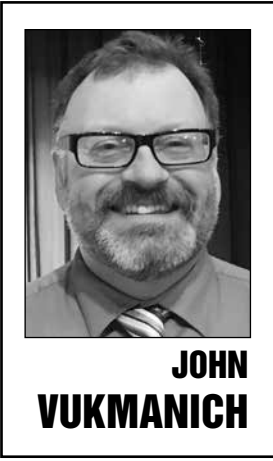
photos by M. Roach



GRIZZLY UPDATES

North Woods College and Career Fair 2018

Congratulations to Morgan Burnett and Daebwae Chosa, both eighth-graders at North Woods. Morgan and Daebwae took first and second place respectively at the St. Louis County Schools District Spelling Bee! Way to go kids! It's worth noting that Daebwae was the North Woods Champion this year and Morgan has now won the District Bee for the second year in a row.



JOHN VUKMANICH

Last week on Feb. 22, North Woods hosted its second-ever College and Career Fair. The event was a joint effort between North Woods School, local businesses, military recruiters, vocational providers, and local colleges. How lucky we are to have this event on-site at North Woods! Many schools offer their students opportunities such as this, but not necessarily on-site at the high school.

Thank you to all of our colleges, businesses, and agencies for attending. Special thanks to North Woods staff Joel Anderson and Jill Stark, local business owner Tim Johnson, Fortune Bay, North Star Credit Union, and the Office of Job Training in Virginia for the organization of our event. More "thank you's" will be published in the paper acknowledging all of the groups and individuals involved.

Academic achievement is certainly a priority at school. In addition, the MN Department of Education has also been stressing the importance of preparing our students for their lives after graduation from high school.

tor simulator featured a miniature excavator complete with controls that allowed the user to load sand and golf balls into a Tonka dump truck. After running the controls for a few minutes, I could see how challenging it is to operate the machine at the speed that the pros do!

Mock interviews, conducted by Fortune Bay, military personnel, and area business owners, were very popular with the kids. The ability to interview well and sell yourself and your skills is important in securing a job. It is also a skill that most do not get much practice at. Students also received training on "Personal Branding." This part of the fair focused on social media and how employers may look at what you post about yourself, therefore creating a personal statement, or "brand" about yourself. Students need to be aware that what you post becomes a part of your public persona. As students age towards employment, how they market themselves on social media can become a factor in potential employment. Along with interview skills, resume-building and personal finance

management were also components of each student's day. Again, these are skills that we can always use more practice on.

Our plan is to host this event every two years so that all of our 10-12 grade students have the chance to experience it. If your kids ever have questions about their future plans, North Woods school counselor Jill Stark is an excellent resource. She has years of experience and resources in her office to assist kids as they move forward after high school.

Have a great weekend! Go Grizzlies!

Your principal,
John Vukmanich

Tacos & Trivia
Hosted by
International Travel Club
Students of Cook

Saturday, March 3
Cook Community Center.
Tacos served 3:30-7:30 PM
(take out available)
\$8 adults, \$5 children
(12 & under)

Trivia Competition at 6 PM
\$25 per trivia team
50% pay-out
Ten rounds
Teams 1-6 people-any age

Pre-registration encouraged
Register: email Carrie Carstens
ccarstens@isd2142.k12.mn.us
or Denise Parson
dparson@isd2142.k12.mn.us

**RE-ELECT JOHN BASSING
GREENWOOD
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR**

TRANSPARENCY ★ CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT ★ LOW TAXES

- ★ PROPOSED LAST YEAR'S LEVY OF \$1
- ★ VOLUNTEERED TO BE 911 COORDINATOR
- ★ DECREASED TOWNSHIP EXPENSES
- ★ MOTION RENT FREE USE OF TOWN HALL
- ★ CHAIRED GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP FOR 20 CONSECUTIVE MONTHS
- ★ FORCED THE BOARD TO MAKE PUBLIC DATA PUBLIC

Paid by Candidate on Own Behalf

NW Parent-Teacher conferences set for March 5 and 6

FIELD TWP- North Woods School Teacher Conferences for parents and guardians will be held Monday, March 5 and Tuesday, March 6. Conference hours on Monday, March 5 are 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Conference hours on Tuesday, March 6 are 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The conference schedule is also available on the North Woods School website.

the **TIMBERJAY**

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NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$100 year or \$10 per month.

Moving? Questions about your subscription? Call the Tower office at (218) 753-2950.

**ELECT
Byron Beihoffer
Greenwood Supervisor**

DON'T GET MAD, VOTE!

Paid for by the candidate on his own behalf

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Try Hockey for Free on Saturday, March 3 in Ely

ELY- The Ely Blue Line Club is hosting a Try Hockey for Free Day on Saturday, March 3 at the Ely Ice Arena from 9-10 a.m. Please register at TryHockeyForFree.com. Any questions, call 218-235-1935. Hockey teaches kids a lot more than how to skate. Come play youth hockey and experience more great moments in your child's life.

Red Owl Reunion on March 10

VIRGINIA- An informal gathering of Red Owl Store staff and friends will be held on Saturday, March 10 starting at noon. The Virginia Red Owl Store closed about 30 years ago. Please RSVP to Donna at 218-749-5444 or Mary at 218-741-8069.

BFF Club Winter Challenge Ice Cream Party on March 8 at Cook Library

COOK- The Cook Library is hosting a BFF Club Winter Challenge ice cream party on Thursday, March 8 at 4 p.m. The event is for children ages preschool through sixth-grade.

Over 300 books and audio books were checked out during the Winter Reading Program at the Cook Public Library. The BFF will host an ice cream party to celebrate. The BFF Club and Ice Cream Party are sponsored by the Friends of the Cook Public Library.

Adult Mystery Event at the Cook Public Library on March 8

COOK- The Cook Public Library is hosting an Adult Mystery Event on Thursday, March 8 at 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a fun night of mystery set in the 1920s. Discover the crime, meet the suspects, decode the clues and solve the mystery. Snacks and beverages will be provided. 1920s era dress is encouraged! This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Cook Public Library.

Cook Library hosts "Coding Time for Kids" on Thursdays

COOK- The Cook Public Library is hosting "Coding Time for Kids" every Thursday until April 26 at 5 p.m. All students interested in learning about computer coding are invited to stop by. Students will get help from our volunteer coder, Theresa Drift, or can use the space to work on projects of their own. Laptops and public computers are available for student use.

Northwoods Friends of the Arts photography contest underway

COOK- Grab your camera! Or dig out some favorite photos! Whether a great new shot or an old favorite, join in!

Entries to this contest will be accepted now through May 26 at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook. All photos must be original. There are prizes for best student, best adult and people's choice.

Additional information and entry forms are available at the NWFA Gallery, next to Dream Weaver Salon at 210 S River St. Mailing address is PO Box 44, Cook MN 55723.

For information about the 2018 Northwoods Friends of the Arts (NWFA) fun photo fundraiser contest, the email address is nwfamn.org@gmail.com and website is www.nwfamn.org or call Alberta Whitenack at 218-666-2153.

Spaghetti Showdown at Ledgerrock Church on Sunday, March 11

ELY- Join us for the YoungLife Saucy Spaghetti Showdown! Happy Camper vs. Stan the Man will be challenging each other to see who makes the best spaghetti. Enjoy their special creations and vote for the best sauce. The Showdown will be held on Sunday, March 11 from 12 noon - 2 p.m. at Ledgerrock Community Church. All proceeds support 19 area youth going on a Young Life mission trip to Puerto Rico. Free will donation at the door.

TOWER BINGO Monday, March 5

TOWER- Senior Bingo will be held in Tower on Monday, March 5 at the Tower Civic Center from 11:45 a.m. - 3 p.m. There is a \$10 charge for the bingo party, which includes lunch. All ages are welcome to attend this community event. Lunch is served starting at 11:45 a.m., and bingo begins at 12:45 p.m. Senior Bingo is organized by the Friends of the Vermilion Country Charter School. In case of inclement weather or school cancellation, bingo may be cancelled. Questions, call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950.

Upcoming dates for 2018:

- Monday, March 5
- Monday, April 2
- Monday, May 7
- Monday, June 4
- Monday, July 9 (second Monday)

LIVE MUSIC



The Frontmen to play at Fortune Bay March 15 and 16

VERMILION RES.- Veteran country hitmakers, "The Frontmen," featuring Larry Stewart of Restless Heart, Tim Rushlow, formerly of Little Texas, and Richie McDonald of Lonestar, will be performing at Fortune Bay Resort Casino on Thursday and Friday, March 15 and 16. Both shows are at 7 p.m. in the Woodlands Ballroom, with doors

open at 6:30 p.m.

The group just released their new single "If It Wasn't For The Radio" in January 2018, along with a nationwide tour. The group has sold a collective 30 million records and has over 50 Top 40 hits between them.

The Frontmen features three singers who were the voices of three of the top country bands of the 90s.

From their rave review performances around the globe for our troops, to casinos, fairs and corporate events, to their globally televised performance on the steps of the hallowed Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., The Frontmen are making their mark as the newest country supergroup of our generation.

BIGFORK



Irish Celtic Concert at the Edge on Friday, March 16 at 7 p.m.

BIGFORK- This year's season of performances at the Edge Center in Bigfork starts with a group that will provide an amazing variety with an equally amazing line-up of instruments. The Duluth-based group Eria provides music and entertainment from Ireland, Scotland, Newfoundland, Canada, Wales, China, Scandinavia, and the U.S. They perform contemporary, traditional, and original songs, tunes, and stories. Their program is in English, Gaelic, Irish, Welch, and Chinese played on fiddle, ehru, guitars, bodharn, bouzouki, button accordion, and whistles. That should satisfy everyone who attends the concert and leave a little extra to talk about. The concert will be held Friday, March 16, at 7 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children.

The Duluth-based group provides a mix of music and instruments that will be hard to find regardless of where they are from. The word eira means snow in Welsh and certainly is appropriate for the group's origin and where they typically perform. The artists in the group provide a wide range of talents and come with an equally wide range of backgrounds. Liesel Wilson has a musical back-

ground, growing up in Wisconsin in a musical environment. Her passion is the Celtic fiddle. Her musical start was as an ehru soloist after studying abroad in China. With that background she combined a linguistic fascination with a love of singing. She specializes in singing in languages besides English, including Gàidhlig, Irish, Early Scots, Welsh, Mandarin Chinese, Russian, Spanish, Hindi, and Japanese.

Sue Spencer's Irish roots come via Newfoundland. She plays guitar, but that was just the start of her musical experiences that include performing internationally as part of such well-known groups as Willowgreen and McInnis' Kitchen. Her vocals have a Newfoundland feel, and her driving guitar style and signature smile will lift your spirits.

Jim Ofsthun's talents as a vocalist and instrumentalist come via international performances on Irish bodhran, guitar, button accordion, and tin whistle. He is also a member of McInnis' Kitchen, and a former member of Willowgreen. Jim is considered one of the top producers in Irish music in the Midwest.

Mary MacGillivray's performances include fes-

tivals and events throughout Scotland, Ireland, France, and Australia.

She has taught and assisted in fiddle camps and schools in Scotland. Her performances include work with bagpiper and composer Duncan MacGillivray and fiddler and bagpiper plus original music artist Iain MacGillivray.

Home for the Edge Center for the Arts is the northern Minnesota city of Bigfork located where the Big Fork and Rice rivers join. The center exists to enhance the edge of the wilderness by providing a welcoming and well-managed space where creating, enjoying, and sharing art experiences build community. Its 283-seat, state-of-the-art theatre and 1,400-square-foot art gallery provide opportunities for residents, guests, and vacationers. All this is in a city of under 500 people. The Edge is attached to and part of the community's school, enjoying the energy and vitality that only an education-based facility can offer. Visit us at www.the-edge-center.org, e-mail us at admin@the-edge-center.org, or call us at 218-743-6670.



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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

LAKE VERMILION

Side Lakers take top honors at pond hockey tourney at White Eagle



COOK- The Annual Vermilion Pond Hockey Tournament was held last Saturday on the ice at White Eagle Resort. Seven teams took part. North Woods cheerleaders provided concessions as a fundraiser for their squad. First place went to the Side Lakers, second to the Rangers, and the Black Bay Bisons took third. photos by B. Smith



Boundary Waters Choral Concert performance set for Friday, March 2 at 7 p.m. in Ely

ELY- For the ninth year in a row, high school choral students will have the opportunity to train and sing as one large choir as part of the Boundary Waters Choral Festival on Friday, March 2. The public is invited to attend the evening concert, at 7 p.m. in Ely's Washington Auditorium. There is no charge, but donations are greatly appreciated.

This year the festival will feature students from Ely, International Falls, Mt. Iron-Buhl, Silver Bay, and the Vermilion Country School in Tower.

Writers group meets in Cook

COOK- Ellie Larmouth will lead the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Winter Writers Group from 1 - 3 p.m. in Cook at The Gallery on Saturday, March 10, always on the second Saturday each month. The NWFA Gallery is in Cook, 210 S River St.

The group of diverse writers of all ages spends two hours discussing writing and sharing, as well as writing together with prompts given by Ellie. Welcome to all those interested in writing.

Post office requests snow clearing

REGIONAL- The U.S. Postal Service is asking customers to keep snow and ice cleared from their sidewalks, stairs and mailboxes to help postal carriers deliver the mail. Postal customers who receive door mail delivery should ensure their sidewalks, steps, and access ways are kept safely clear of snow and ice. Customers receiving rural, curbside, or centralized mailbox delivery should also pay special attention to having a safe and clear pathway to their mailbox.

Postal carriers will continue to do their best to deliver the mail, but when mailboxes and approaches to mailboxes are buried in snow and ice it can make it difficult for carriers to make deliveries safely.

If mailboxes are blocked off and conditions are too difficult, postal carriers must consider safety and accessibility first. They are instructed to refrain from delivering to locations they deem too hazardous.

Ruby's Pantry in Cook

COOK- The next Ruby's Pantry food distribution will be Thursday, March 8, from 4:30 - 6 p.m. at the old Cook School. Registration begins at 3 p.m. at the old school for 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, March 9, for the April distribution for a \$21 donation at sign-up. Sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Alango. For more information, contact Sue Kolstad at 218-741-3925 or Amy Viita at 218-666-2220.

Cook Thrift Shop returns to regular hours

COOK- The Thrift Shop in Cook will resume their regular hours on Thursday, March 1. The shop will be open Thursdays, Fridays, and the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The donation bin will once again be open 24/7.

After many hours of hard work by volunteers, the shop was transformed over the winter to provide more open space and make use of wall space for shelving. As a result, there is now room to accommodate donations of small furniture items such as side tables and chairs. No large couches or bulky furniture items. As in the past, the shop does not accept mattresses or electronics.

The auxiliary is always looking for volunteers. Work days are Mondays and Wednesdays starting at 8 a.m. If you would like to be a volunteer or have questions about the shop or donations, call 218-666-2905 during business or working hours.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Little Church to hold annual meeting on March 10

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church of Vermilion Lake Township is holding their annual meeting on Saturday, March 10 at 9 a.m. Anyone interested in welcome to attend. The Little Church is located on Hwy. 26/ Wahlsten Rd.

Seeking aprons for exhibit in April

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts in Cook is welcoming entries of art aprons, art made from or about aprons, and aprons of historical or personal significance. Please deliver apron submissions to North Woods Friends of the Arts Gallery P.O. Box 44, Cook, MN 55723 before March 29. Please include a short, postcard-sized description or story pinned to the piece, along with name, address

and phone number.

Contact nwfamn.org@gmail.com, lynreed12@yahoo.com, orkmusto@mcad.edu with questions; www.nwfamn.org is the website.

Aprons are a significant tool and symbol of home, family, nurturing, work, and protection. From protecting cooks from splatters, to protecting the blacksmith from burns, aprons do the important work of shielding, organizing, and identifying. Explore the historical context of aprons, aprons and women's roles, apron traditions in different cultures, aprons as art, and other ideas in the objects created and curated by artists Lyn Reed and Kris Musto.

The Aprons in April exhibition will be held at NWFA Gallery next to Dream Weaver Salon and Spa in Cook throughout the entire month of April. There will be a reception on Friday, April 13 at the NWFA Gallery, 210 S River St. in Cook from

5:30 - 8 p.m. NWFA is a non-profit 501(c)3 organized in 2010 to encourage the creation, display, performance and appreciation of the arts while providing art education opportunities for all ages.

Rangoli Sand Art with Shakun Maheshwari

BABBITT- The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present Shakun Maheshwari's Rangoli Sand Art, a free program being offered for ages six and up on Tuesday, March 13 at 1 p.m. at the Babbitt Public Library. Learn about Indian culture,

history, and celebrations through art. Explore the use of art made from chalk, sand, or rice flour. Wrangle designs are a temporary floor art that people create and redo on a daily basis in India, in order to bring good luck and happiness to the home. Create stylized wrangle designs with flour or colored sand.

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

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NORTHERN LAKES ARTS ASSOCIATION

Ely celebrates spring with Seussical the Musical

ELY - As spring approaches, Ely will become all things Dr. Seuss. With Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2, National Read Across America Day, is held in honor of Dr. Seuss' contributions to children's literature and the promotion of reading. This year's Ely Community Spring Musical, Seussical the Musical, is based on the stories of some of Seuss' favorite stories.

The Spring Musical, a collaboration between Northern Lakes Arts Association and Vermilion Community College, opens March 15 and runs through March 24 at the Vermilion College's Fine Arts Theater.

Theodor Seuss "Ted" Geisel (March 2, 1904 - Sept. 24, 1991) is the beloved American author, political cartoonist, poet, animator, book publisher, and artist, best known for authoring more than



60 children's books under the pen name "Dr. Seuss."

His work includes several of the most popular children's books of all time, selling over 600 million copies and being translated into more than 20 languages by the time of his death, including: And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street (1937), and classics like If I Ran the Zoo (1950), Horton Hears a Who! (1955), If I Ran the Circus (1956), The Cat in the Hat (1957), How the Grinch Stole Christmas! (1957), and Green Eggs and

Ham (1960).

He published over 60 books during his career, which have spawned numerous adaptations, including 11 television specials, four feature films, a Broadway musical, and four television series.

Seussical the Musical, written by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, debuted on Broadway in 2000. The play is an amalgamation of many of Seuss' most famous children's stories, with most of its plot being based on Horton Hears a Who!

The cast features many

of our favorite characters, including the Cat in the Hat, who functions as our narrator, and is played by Tom Bennett, returning to the Vermilion stage. Horton the Elephant is played by Greg Mann, and the Whos, including Mr. and Mrs. Mayor Who (Todd Crego and Vermilion student Courtney Brittingham) and their son Jojo (Ely Jr. High student Karissa VanVickle), Cindy Lou Who, (Senja Kess), the Grinch (Vermilion student Ethan Schiffman), and General Schmitz (Vince O'Connor).

Among Dr. Seuss' creatures are the birds Mayzie (Ely schools' band teacher Sarah Mason) and Gertrude (Ely High student Danielle Krostue), and the "Bird Girls" (Ely students Lily Sauls and Vanessa Bravo and Elementary teacher Amanda Vanderbeek), with the

naughty Wickersham Brothers (Caleb Rouse-Littler of Babbitt, and Andrew Sauls and Jacob Dorman of the Vermilion Country School) and the colorful Sour Kangaroo (Vermilion Country School teacher Karin Schmidt) and her Baby Kangaroo (Tracy Thibodeaux).

Additional Whos and Jungle Animals include Laurie Bambas, Joe Elliot, Grace Erickson, Shianne Gheen, Kahsha Hyde, Paul and Cameron Kienitz, Hanna and Ronan Rouse-Littler, Gabe Mann, Katie Pickney, Crystal and Alison Poppler and Amelia Pluth, Theo Quick, and Margaret Renner.

This year's Ely Community Spring Musical production is funded in part by the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust which has provided money for family ticket packages (two

adults and two+ kids) for \$20 (call the NLAA office at 365-5070 to reserve family packages on a first-come, first-served basis); in addition, Gardner funds are enabling the reduced student ticket rate of \$5, and Safe Ride transportation services for senior adults for rides to the theater (call Safe Ride at (218) 380-7433 to reserve).

Performances are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 15-17 at 7 p.m., Sunday, March 18 at 2 p.m., and Tuesday, March 20 and Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 22-24 at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available at the door or visit northern-lakesarts.org to reserve. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$12 for NLAA members and \$15 for non-members. All performances are at the Vermilion College's Fine Arts Theatre.

RACE...Continued from page 1

while the eight-dog race totaled 50 miles.

All teams started in two-minute splits with the larger teams taking off first and the six-dog teams following.

The race made use of the Taconite Trail between Ely and Tower. The six-dog course turned around just short of Bear Head Lake State Park using open logging roads before getting back on the Taconite for its return trip to Ely. The eight-dog teams continued on to Bear Head Lake State Park and made a loop throughout the park before returning to Ely.

There were 22 teams that participated this year in the six-dog class, and the eight-dog race featured 10 teams.

The winner of the six-dog race, was musher Al-Jo Thiart who is originally from Cape Town, South Africa. She has been handling and racing for Magnusson Racing LLC since September 2010.

"We saw her compete at the Apostle Islands race earlier in the month and invited her to our WolfTrack Classic," said organizer Ellen Cashman. "This was her first time in Ely."

Thiart beat out second-place finisher Liz Van Dentoorn by just over five minutes.

The winner of the eight-dog race was Ryan Anderson of Ray. A Pine City native, who competed in the 2017 Iditarod, Anderson has been racing for 28 years and still enjoys it. He prefers racing his young dogs at the WolfTrack. After racing for over five hours Anderson edged out Brian Berger by less than three minutes for the win.

8 - DOG RACE RESULTS

Place, Musher, Finish Time
1. Ryan Anderson, 5:07:51
2. Brian Bergen, 5:10:32
3. Jim Ward, 5:33:41
4. Dusty Klaven, 5:41:59
5. Melvin Mickelson, 5:44:59
6. Frank Moe, 6:11:41
7. Colleen Wallin, 6:25:14
8. Ero Wallin, 6:32:43
9. Neil Seeger, 7:08:22
10. Adam Treeful, 7:08:51

6 - DOG RACE RESULTS

Place, Musher, Finish Time
1. Al-Jo Thiart, 2:47:39
2. Liz Van Dentoorn, 2:53:21
3. Darcy Staney-Nord, 3:23:37
4. John Ward, 3:27:08
5. Rhonda Heerschap, 3:28:17
6. Morgan McClelland, 3:32:54
7. Billie Diver, 3:33:06
8. Curt Craig, 3:33:07
9. Jen Freking, 3:35:03
10. Linus Meyer, 3:40:56
11. Chelsea Trucano, 3:46:51
12. Robin Sue Fisher, 3:50:46
13. Andy Heerschap, 3:52:32
14. Scott Edgett, 3:52:50
15. Liz Graves, 3:56:59
16. Brian Wiese, 3:59:46
17. Angelie Menicucci, 4:07:21
18. Julie Schmelzer, 4:14:26
19. Mathew Klessner, 4:19:40
20. Tim Chisolm, 4:22:41
21. Steve Bergermann, 4:25:54
22. Alice White, 5:04:34

Who is Ryan Anderson?

Ryan Anderson, 35, of Ray, was born and raised in a dog mushing family in Minnesota. He's been around the sport of mushing since he was five-years old and has been mushing competitively since the age of 10. When he was 17, he went to Alaska to run the Jr. Iditarod. Since high school, Anderson has wanted to make mushing his career.

He's won the Beargrease twice, the UP 200 six times, and had many other top finishes. In 2017 he finally fulfilled his ultimate goal of racing in the Iditarod. In the off season, when he is not racing, he is a carpenter for a construction company on the Canadian border.

Ryan and his wife, Missy, operate AnderTier Racing Kennel, which is home to about 40 Alaskan Huskies. He says he enjoys "anything outdoors."

Ryan Anderson, of Ray, leads his dogs out of the starting chute at the Ely softball field Sunday morning. Anderson raced in the Iditarod last year. photo by K. Vandervort



WolfTrack Classic photographers braved stiff west winds at the start of the race. photo by K. Vandervort

FOOD...Continued from page 1

the Tower Area Food Shelf has seen an increase in usage over the past few years, but luckily, McPeak said, donations have been keeping pace with the ongoing demand.

Each month an average 15,841 individuals access one of 40 regional food shelves served by Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank. Within the food bank's eight-county service area (St. Louis, Carlton, Lake and Cook counties in Minnesota; Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland and Iron counties in Wisconsin) food insecurity is higher than the state average (with the exception of Cook County). The child food insecurity rate is higher than the state average in all Northland counties.

In addition, for many Northland neighbors, nutritious food like fresh fruits and vegetables may be too expensive and simply out of reach. Second Harvest has made a commitment to access these nutritious options for agency partners and their own programs. As

much as 28 percent of the food distributed by Second Harvest, over 1.4-million pounds, are fresh fruits and vegetables. The food bank has also transformed their traditional food shelf into a healthier, "choice" program.

"Our food shelf encourages the healthy choice by providing ample fresh produce, merchandising healthier food on our eye-level "healthy eaters shelf" and at our entrance, offering 2-for-1 incentives on nutritional choices and recipes," Moris stated. "With the generous support of the March Campaign, we plan to expand our access and distribution of healthy food. Every dollar donated will allow the families, children and seniors we feed to make the healthy choice, the easy choice."

To participate in the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, contribute food or cash to NE Minnesota food shelves between now and April 8, 2018.



Your donations make a difference....

Tower Area Food Shelf is located in the back (lower level) of the

Timberjay building on Main Street. Open the third Tuesday of the month from 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. Donations can be mailed to PO Box 533, Tower, MN 55790 or dropped off at the Timberjay office on Main Street.

Cook Area Food Shelf is located behind St. Mary's Catholic Church. Open the third Wednesday of the month from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Donations can be mailed to PO Box 633, Cook, MN 55723.

Ely Food Shelf is now at a new location at 15 W. Conan St. Open the third Wednesday of the month from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Donations can be mailed to PO Box 786, Ely, MN 55731. Email: info@elyare-foodshelf.org.

Loaves and Fishes Food Shelf located in the basement of Calvary Lutheran Church in Orr is open the third Friday of every month, 8-10 a.m. and 5-7 p.m. If you are in need of food assistance, outside of these hours, contact Michelle at 218-666-6021, Jules at 218-780-1740, Diana at 218-780-3617, or Linda at 218-757-0080. Donations can be sent c/o Calvary Lutheran Church, PO Box 176, Orr, MN 55771. Loaves and Fishes does not participate in FoodShare, but donations are always appreciated.

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GUNS...Continued from page 1

procedures more user-friendly and are copying some policies that other school districts have used."

Abrahamson explained that school safety procedures call for three initial reactions: evacuate, shelter in place, or shelter in a different school location. "We talk about how and who does what," he said.

"We hear a lot about prevention from the standpoint of arming teachers," he said. "Personally, I would hope never it never goes there. Number two is raising the age of (gun) purchases. That's fine, but if somebody wants something, they're going to get it."

Abrahamson said he believes the best prevention available in the Ely School District is creating healthy relationships with the students. "That is what I emphasize, whether we are talking about school safety or academics and student achievement. So much of this comes down to relationships," he said. "There is nothing that is going to be 100-percent effective. We do the best we can. We try to be vigilant."

He referenced the "see something, say something" mantra that seems to be an effective policy in terms of school safety. "That is not

just about school safety. That is about bullying and all kinds of things. I think we have to make it okay that if you see something, then say something, whether you are a student, staff, parent, or general public."

He said that Ely teachers have expressed concerns about safety. "They have expressed those concerns to our principals and it has come to the administration. We will attempt to address those concerns in the best way possible without showing any of our cards."

School Board member Heidi Mann praised the Ely Community Resource in helping to build strong relationships with students. "We are so lucky to have ECR in our school," she said. She noted that she was approached by a community member last weekend who wanted assurance that teachers feel comfortable with discussing potential problems and concerns.

Megan Anderson, 6-12 principal, said teachers know the procedures to address issues. "We also review safety procedures, and address any issues, and as far as the students are concerned, that's what we are here for," she said.

School board chair Ray Marsnik related an incident in Minnesota

where a police officer was in a third-grade class and a student was able to pull the trigger of his holstered handgun. Can you imagine if teachers had to carry a gun?" he asked. "They are busy enough teaching. It is a dangerous situation all around."

Abrahamson highlighted the increased sensitivity to the issue. "People are searching for solutions, and sometimes we go to danger-type of reactions. That is not something that I would like to see happen. We should look at what is best for Ely schools. There is no one size that fits all," he said.

Mann asked Abrahamson if he heard of anything happening in Ely concerning the national grassroots school walk-out activity planned for March 14.

"I would rather not discuss that right now," he said.

Other topics

School Board members discussed a wide-variety of issues at their monthly study session Monday night.

The long-range strategic plan goals are set to be rolled out and Abrahamson reported that committees are being established.

"The principals are basically in charge of the

two curriculum and course goals," he said. "Those committees may be somewhat fluid but the principals will be leading them."

Facilities planning will entail a committee of as many as 15 to 18 members, he said. "When you think about stakeholder involvement, along with principals, teachers, staff, it may be that big," he said. "We will have an initial meeting within a month or so."

The facilities maintenance goal committee will involve more of maintenance staff and administration. "We want to take an audit of square footage and personnel, and annual systems checks," he said. "We have standards that we work toward that are in place," he said.

The facility upgrade staff survey was discussed. Mann noted that many respondents are in favor of adding another gymnasium and enclosed courtyard with upgraded cafeteria, but noted many references to ongoing facility issues.

"We have everything from painting that needs to be done, to a non-functioning toilet," she said. "How do we decide where to put our focus, and is it possible to take care of these smaller items at the same time as we talk about construction projects?"

Teachers and staff have

emphasized the need for continuing upkeep in the facility. "That helps them take more pride in our facility and school," she said.

Abrahamson noted that the newly-implemented long-term facilities maintenance plan will address those types of ongoing concerns.

School board member Rochelle Sjoberg said she would like to see a progress tracking system put in place to audit the facility maintenance activities.

The Early Childhood Family Education program in Ely schools looks poised to grow based on the proposal introduced to school board members last month.

The current ECFE classes at Ely total 1.5 hours per class over 20 weeks. School readiness classes are held two days per week at three hours per class for 22 weeks. Special events add a total of 16 hours and additional teaching hours total about 54 more hours.

Currently, the total cost of the ECFE programs in Ely is just over \$32,000. That funding comes out of the Community Education fund in the school district's budget.

Government-funded programs are not available to the Ely School District because the minimum number of hours of education are not being

reached.

The additional cost to expanding the ECFE program is about \$16,000 per school year, or a total of \$48,382 per year. A second ECFE expansion option, at an additional cost of about \$3,260 per year appears to be favored by school board members.

Abrahamson will have more information for school board members to discuss and possibly act on for the March 12 regular meeting.

Board members reported on the sessions they attended at the recent Minnesota School Board Association Leadership conference.

A revised fiscal year 2018 budget was discussed. General Fund expenditures increased more than \$71,000 due to revisions in the approved union contracts, health insurance premiums and special education staff. Capital Fund expenditure revisions include the revised playground fund balance and other capital expense adjustments. The Food Service and Community Education funds also show slight increases.

The revised budget was approved at a special meeting following the study session.

STUDY...Continued from page 1

would translate into a roughly \$2 million loss in revenue over the next ten years.

Superintendent Reggie Engebretson called the study "very informative," but said it will take more time to analyze the data and incorporate the projections in any future planning.

"Our district is healthy right now," said Engebretson. "My plan is to continually look at the data and explore all options to keep our programs viable and sustainable."

The district-wide enrollment decline is fueled by an anticipated decline in overall population in the region, which makes the trend somewhat difficult to reverse. In the south half of the district, both the South Ridge and Cherry schools have had some success in attracting new students from outside the district, and that's allowed the district's overall enrollment to hold its own in recent years, even as numbers have slid in the north.

Powers projects that both South Ridge and Cherry will experience modest student gains over the next ten years, with combined enrollment expected to reach 1,031 by 2026. By contrast, both North Woods and Northeast Range schools are expected to experience significant declines, while the Tower-Soudan Elementary is expected to dip initially, but rebound later in the decade.

According to Powers, student numbers at Northeast Range will dip 28 percent, from its current enrollment of 260 to just 187 by 2026. At North Woods, Powers expects student numbers to fall from the current enrollment of 538 students to 426. While Cherry and South Ridge have been able to boost their student numbers through open enrollment in recent years, Powers said that's not likely to be a factor for schools in the north, where population is

much sparser.

"The problem is that the restructuring didn't adequately address the needs in the north," said Tower-Soudan school board representative Troy Swanson. "It actually made things worse."

Indeed, nine years ago, the four K-12 schools in the district's north half, which included Cook, Orr, Tower-Soudan, and Babbitt-Embarrass, served 1,188 students. Today, that's fallen to 868, or 27 percent. By 2026, or just eight years from now, according to Powers, total enrollment in the north half will fall to just 684 students, a drop of 42 percent over the 17-year period.

While the district has experienced open enrollment gains at South Ridge and, especially at Cherry, they haven't kept pace with the enrollment losses in the north. Northeast Range has experienced the biggest loss to open enrollment in the north, with fully one-third of the students in the attendance area transferring to other schools, such as Ely, Mesabi East, or Virginia. South Ridge has an equally high exodus of

students, but also gains students from other neighboring districts, which is something that Northeast Range has not experienced.

North Woods attracts the highest percentage of district students, with 83 percent attending the school. But Powers notes that most students have few other options in the sparsely-settled attendance area. He notes that the students that North Woods does lose live mostly on the southern fringes of the school's attendance area, where the Virginia school district is relatively accessible.

Powers' study is sure to reignite discussion at the board level on how to address the enrollment situation in the north. Chris Koivisto, who represents the Northeast Range attendance area on the school board, said the numbers aren't really that unexpected. "It's concerning, but these are pretty much in line with what was projected ten years ago. So, I don't know that the sky is falling."

Even so, the projection for 2026 puts enrollment at Northeast Range well

below enrollment numbers experienced in Tower-Soudan and Orr back in 2008-09, when the school district initiated the restructuring that closed schools in both communities.

Koivisto said he's sensed a "school spirit issue" in the community, and said it may be playing a role in the continued enrollment decline as well as very low participation in the school's sports programs. Koivisto said little things may be compounding that problem, such as a lack of lights at the football field and the lack of a practice field for baseball.

He said the lack of a youth sports program is also an issue. "I think that's a big deal," he said, since such programs tend to serve as feeders for school-based sports programs. "Winning teams will help attract students," Koivisto said.

The community does have an active figure skating program, and while Koivisto acknowledges that it's an excellent opportunity for young people, he said it does draw some athletically-minded students away from winter sports programs in the school.

The school has also struggled academically in recent years, posting lower than average scores in the district. At the same time, however, Koivisto notes that the school does offer some interesting programs, like robotics and computer coding, that aren't available in many other schools.

The key question, said Koivisto, is whether the school's enrollment continues to slip beyond 2026, or whether it stabilizes. According to Swanson, Powers noted during last month's study session, that schools that hit a certain level of enrollment decline can experience a more drastic falloff if parents and students begin to feel the school won't survive.

While the enrollment projections are a cause for concern, Swanson said it's still too early to be calling for drastic measures. "We're not talking about cutting programs or school closures, or anything like that," he said. In the end, said Swanson, the answer may be to do more to market the district's southern schools, since there's more potential for enrollment gains there. He said

the board thinks of the district as a whole, so if enrollment gains in the south help the overall budget picture, that helps all the schools.

Yet Powers notes that there's a potential limit to the enrollment upside in the south, particularly at Cherry where the district had to restrict new open enrollment due to lack of space. That's started talk of another expansion at Cherry, said Swanson, who has mixed feelings about the idea. On the one hand, he said, the district hates to have to turn down students. At the same time, Swanson said, it's not certain that the open enrollment wave will continue.

Engebretson said she expects the space issues at both southern schools will likely be a focus of future planning for the district.

Meanwhile, Swanson added, he's just happy that the spotlight is on enrollment issues at schools other than Tower-Soudan. According to Powers, the elementary school's enrollment is likely to dip to about 60 in the next year or two, before rebounding to 70-75.

Outpatient Services Open House

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Greenwood has not settled Kregness pension claim

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- Well, that long-standing request from retired Fire Chief Scott Kregness is back on the table. While Greenwood Chairman John Bassing had reported (see story in Feb. 23 *Timberjay*) that the issue had been settled last month, current Fire Chief Dave Fazio has since contacted PERA and they revised the pension award back to 23 years and seven months.

“Chief Fazio sent PERA a letter disputing Kregness’s service credits

as approved by the Board of Supervisors unanimously,” said Bassing.

Kregness also expressed surprise at the reversal. He has documentation dating back to 2014, the year in dispute. This information has been in the possession of the town board as well as the fire chief since that time.

Fire department members are required to meet certain requirements, each year, to be eligible for a pension credit for that year. Fazio has repeatedly said that Kregness has not met the standard of 50-percent attendance at meet-

ings and trainings for 2014, but has not offered any other details. Fazio has also said he had not received the information in 2014 from Kregness, which was set by certified mail.

At that point in time, the fire department bylaws did allow for exceptions for members working outside the area, or exempted for other reasons. Kregness was working for FEMA at that point in time, and the town board was aware of that fact and had even appointed him fire chief while he was not in the township full time. Kregness met the training

requirements by completing coursework and classes outside of the township, something also permitted by the bylaws, and had responded to the minimum number of actual calls required, according to discussion by the town board.

“I find it truly unbelievable that the Greenwood Town Board would allow an employee to ignore their 5-0 board vote on the presented documentation and reverse the employer decision,” Kregness said. “That same employee has allowed service credits for pensions and payments for

training on multiple members with far less documentation in previous years. So much for a fair and equitable policy.”

Kregness made a formal complaint to State Auditor Rebecca Otto in June 2014, detailing his concerns, dating back several years, with the administration of the fire department’s pension funds by Fazio and two other fire department officials, noting irregularities with record-keeping, violations of data privacy, illegal and unposted meetings, and the inability of the relief association to report current

account balances to its members. Kregness noted that the board had been made aware of these concerns but had not acted on them. The letter also stated he was concerned he would be retaliated against for raising these issues.

“My training records and run records have been lost in the past,” he said, “and threats have been made to change my pension distributions.”

While the auditor never acted on the complaint, the fire department has since shifted their pension to PERA, which is administered by the state.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

North Woods ends regular season with pair of losses

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

BARNUM— The Grizzlies struggled defensively against Barnum last Friday, falling 80-53 to lose their second straight match, as the playoffs were set to get underway this week.

No stats were available as of press-time for the Barnum matchup, which wrapped up the regular season for the Grizzlies.

Hosting Floodwood last Thursday, the Grizzlies couldn't maintain their offensive performance, slipping to the Polar Bears 69-31. Eight North Woods players managed to score, but no one proved to have a hot hand. Bria Chiabotti proved the top scorer as usual, but with just seven points as no one reached double digits on the night. Brynn Simpson added five points, while Regan Ratai, Alanna Rutchasky, and Kennedy Wardas scored four points apiece. Hanna

Sandberg added three points and Sasha Strong tallied two.

The Grizzlies were set to take on 20-6 Cherry in the opening round of the Section 7A girls basketball playoffs on Wednesday night, as the *Timberjay* went to press. Results will be posted online and will be published in our March 9 edition.

Right: Hanna Sandberg looks to pass under pressure by Floodwood defenders. photos by C. Stone



BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies at 24-1

Two more solid wins as North Woods looks to post-season; Olson poised for 1,000th point

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

FIELD TWP— The Grizzlies' Tate Olson closed in on his 1,000th career point on Tuesday, as he led North Woods to a 99-64 win over visiting Carlton. The senior forward poured in 31 points to lead all scorers, leaving him just ten points shy of the career milestone. He'll have one more regular season game to reach his goal as the Grizzlies host Deer River on Friday night in their regular season finale.

They'll be top-seed in Section 7A when the playoffs get underway next week.

Tuesday's game improved the Grizzlies record to 24-1. "It was a good game for us," said Grizzlies Head Coach Will Kleppe. "Our perimeter players did a great job finding the basket."

Junior guard Cade Goggleye and senior guard Brendan Parson both had a good night, adding 19 points apiece. Parson was hot from beyond the arc, dropping five threes on the night.

Also scoring for the Grizzlies were Trevor Morrison, with 11, and Chase Kleppe and Tanner Lokken, with four points apiece.

In action last Friday, the Grizzlies



easily outpaced Chisholm 77-46, led by Cade Goggleye's double-double, including a game-high 25 points and 11 assists. Hot shooting in the first half made the difference for North Woods, as they hit 53 percent of their shots, compared to just 29 percent for

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



Above: North Woods' Tate Olson takes to the air on a jump shot.

Above left: Chase Kleppe makes his move. photos by C. Stone

'Jackets end Wolves' win streak at 14

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

HIBBING – Ely's 14-game win streak faced a tough test on Tuesday as they took on Class 3A Hibbing on their home court. Despite leading 33-28 at the half, the Wolves just couldn't hang on, falling 64-60 in a heartbreaker as the regular season winds down.

Hibbing trailed much of the night, but took the lead late in the game and knocked down some free throws to secure the victory.

"We were up five at half and at the four-minute mark we were still up three but a couple of poor offensive possessions let them take the lead," said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. "We played very well against a very good team but just couldn't hold the lead we had."

Carter Gaulke led offensively for Ely, with 24 points, while Pat Vanderbeek added 15. Trevor Mattson led the team in both assists at 14 and rebounds with seven.

Playing in South Ridge on Friday, Ely found more success, topping the Panthers 64-49. The Wolves took a 39-26 lead into halftime with hopes of keeping their win streak alive. A strong

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

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Ely tops Northeast Range in a rout

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

Senior Shayla Zaverl reaches her 1,000th career point

BABBITT— Shayla Zaverl reached her 1,000th career point on Friday as the Wolves easily outpaced Northeast Range, 59-19. It was the two teams' second match-up this season, and both ended with an easy Ely victory.

Left: Northeast Range's junior guard Shayler Lislegard advances the ball under pressure from Ely's Brielle Kallberg. photo by J. Greeney

As they did in their first meeting, Ely used the press to keep the Nighthawks off balance, and it helped the Wolves build a 35-4 lead by halftime.

Zaverl, a senior guard for Ely, reached her milestone with just one game to go in the regular season. She will then have at least one playoff game to pad her total.

"This game was also a big game for Shayla as she scored her 1,000th career point tonight," said Ely Head

Coach Darren Visser. "This is one of those accomplishments that takes a lot of time and work to obtain."

Erika Mattson led Ely offensively, with 20 points while Zaverl added 18 to go with a game-high 11 rebounds for the double-double. Brielle Kallberg and Gabi Omerza scored eight apiece.

The Wolves were set to face Deer River on Wednesday as the *Timberjay* went to press.



Ely girls finish regular season on a strong note

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

CULVER— The Ely girls finished their regular season on a winning note last Friday as they topped South Ridge 67-54.

The Wolves played a strong first half, building a 33-16 lead by the break. They stretched that lead to 20 points with just four minutes left in the second half before the Panthers caught fire late and

trimmed Ely's lead to just ten points in a little over two minutes. It proved to be too little too late for the Panthers, however, as Ely held on for the win.

"After already having two road games this week and this being the third I thought our girls did an excellent job," said Ely Head Coach Darren Visser. "We handled being tired, stayed focused, and did what it took to get the victory as this was a big win for us."

Ely was led by Erika Mattson with 22 points including going eight-for-eight from the charity stripe and 14 rebounds. Shayla Zaverl added 18 while Brielle Kallberg chipped in 13 to go with ten rebounds.

The Wolves had a busy week, with three road games and may have been feeling the effects by the time they reached South Ridge. They managed wins against three teams with less-than-stellar records,

so they'll be looking to step up their performance in the playoffs. The fifth-seeded Wolves were set to play fourth-seeded Deer River on Wednesday evening, as the *Timberjay* went to press. A victory would send them to the quarterfinals, where they would likely face first-seeded Mt. Iron-Buhl, at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 3, at Romano Gym at UMD.

COLLEGE

Ironmen fall one game short of title

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

GRAND RAPIDS—The Ironmen knew they'd have to take care of business against Itasca on Saturday to have a shot at a tie for the conference title. They did just that in a dominating 101-65 win.

In the end, it didn't matter, however, as 20-6 Rainy River rallied to beat Fond du Lac and retain the top spot in the conference.

Yet with playoffs set to start, the Ironmen can take solace in the fact that they've won four in a

Four-game winning streak as playoffs begin

row and are playing some of their best basketball of the season.

Against the Vikings, the Ironmen played a solid all-around game as they took a 17-point lead into halftime. Vermilion led in just about every statistic and prevented Itasca from finding their footing.

Demetrice Mitchell led the attack with 33 points while Bradlee Lewis and Marquail Johnson each added 14. Denario Jackson had 11 points to go with a game-high 14 assists.

Devontaye Spates came off the bench to lead the team in rebounds with 11.

VCC was on the road Wednesday night to play Mesabi Range who they beat by almost 50 points earlier in the season. The Ironmen won, but in a much closer contest, 102-87.

Vermilion jumped out early like they had in the previous matchup and took a 46-31 lead into halftime. The Norseman didn't give up, put together a strong second half, and matched

VCC point for point as each team played well, scoring 56 points.

The Ironmen got a big night from Denario Jackson as he was near perfect shooting going 9-11 inside the arc, 3-4 on threes, and 2-2 on free throws good for a team-high 23 points to go with team highs in assists with seven and steals with six. Bradlee Lewis and Deshawn Lawson each added 19 points while Lewis was also the team leader with 12 rebounds.

Vermilion, 20-8 overall

and 11-3 in conference play, is headed to the playoffs as only the top four teams in the conference make it. They will play Riverland, 19-8 overall and 10-4 in conference play, at 7 p.m. on Friday at the Anoka-Ramsey Campus.

"We have a tough game with Riverland as they have size and quickness," said Vermilion Head Coach Paul McDonald. "All teams are tough with Anoka being the favorite as it is time to play our best or go home."

TUESDAY GROUP

Drug industry asked to help on opioid crisis

Dr. Bianco outlines efforts to address the epidemic

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Ely family medicine physician Joe Bianco, M.D., who is also director of primary care for the Essentia Health system, spoke to the Ely Tuesday Group recently about the expanding opioid crisis that not only affects northern Minnesota, but every corner of every state in the nation.

His presentation was a prelude to the announcement the next day by Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton who laid out a broad plan to tackle the healthcare crisis, including a significant increase in funding for prevention and treatment, and a "penny-a-milligram" fee paid by drug companies to cover costs.

Ely is home to one of Essentia Health's 65 clinics in a system that stretches from Wisconsin to Idaho and includes as many as 400 family medicine physicians.

"I've been working the opioid crisis since 2011," Bianco said, "when we first started talking about what we were seeing in our clinics from an increase in hospitalizations to more overdoses coming into our emergency rooms.

He presented a short history of opioid medica-



Dr. Joe Bianco

tion distribution, dating back to 3,400 B.C., right up to present day with the unfettered promotion and marketing of Oxycodone and Oxycontin by Purdue Pharma in the late 1990s and early 2000s. "There was a really aggressive promotion, coupled with a criticism of the medical profession for not addressing pain, or the fifth vital sign," Bianco said. "Lots of work was done to create pain scales, not just for acute pain but for chronic pain. We were all sold this bill of goods that we could take care of people with narcotics for long-term chronic pain and everyone would be okay."

According to Bianco, the gates were opened by a short letter published in the New England Journal of Medicine based on a study that indicated there was no development of dependence from medicinal narcotics use. "There was no peer review, and this letter started the cycle that we are still dealing

with," he said. This is not how information should be passed on. It was grabbed by Perdue Pharmacy, and the American Pain Association swallowed it hook, line and sinker and promoted it as well. Looking back, there are all kinds of regrets about how this developed."

Fast-forward to current day, and 80 percent of the world's supply of opioids are consumed in the United States, according to Bianco, and there is actually a shortage in Africa and other continents.

In his plan, Gov. Dayton called out the pharmaceutical industry for creating the crisis, and urged drug companies to support legislative efforts to address it.

At least 395 people died of opioid overdoses last year in Minnesota, which was an 18-percent increase over the previous year.

The centerpiece of the governor's proposals is a "stewardship fee" required of opioid manufacturers of one cent per milligram of opioids in a pill. Fully implemented, it would be expected to raise about \$20 million a year.

"It was opposed last year by the drug companies, whose products have caused this epidemic and continue to fuel this expansion," Dayton said. "Those ongoing efforts should not be paid by Minnesota taxpayers, but rather by the

people who created this problem."

The idea had some bipartisan support. Rep. Dave Baker, R-Willmar, acknowledged that a fee on industry could be controversial to some in his caucus.

"Something needs to be done. People are dying," Baker said. "For this issue today, this is the best option for us to help fix this problem."

The country has been slow to come together on this issue of opioids, he said, because it came from the trusted medical community. Baker, whose son Dan died of an opioid overdose in 2011, said Minnesota now has the opportunity to lead the country in dealing with this epidemic.

House Speaker Kurt Daudt, R-Crown, said he expects to pass a major bill this session to fight opioid abuse, but said Dayton's plan might not be the way to go. "I'm not sure if it will pass exactly in that form, but we're going to take some big steps this year to curb the opioid addiction problem," Daudt said.

Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka,

R-Nisswa, also wants to put more money toward fighting opioid abuse, but he too has reservations about the proposed fee. Gazelka said drug companies already pay a lot in taxes.

"I wasn't aware until recently that the pharmaceuticals right now give about \$250 million a year that just simply goes into Minnesota's general fund," he said. "So, at the very minimum, I would try to carve out some of that."

The industry group Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America employs five lobbyists at the state Capitol, according to state records.

Nick McGee, a spokesperson for the industry group said in an emailed statement that the penny-a-pill bill ignores factors other than prescription painkillers that led to the opioid epidemic.

"This tax would unfairly penalize and ostracize vulnerable patients who legitimately rely on these prescribed medicines to treat serious, debilitating and sometimes fatal conditions," McGee said.

McGee said Pharmaceutical Research

and Manufacturers of America are open to working with stakeholders including policy makers to help address the opioid crisis.

The maker of the painkiller Oxycontin, Purdue Pharma, employs one lobbyist at the state Capitol. The company didn't respond to a request for comment.

State Sen. Chris Eaton, DFL-Brooklyn Center, described the penny-a-pill fee plan as "reparations" from drug companies. Eaton's daughter Ariel Eaton-Willson died of a heroin overdose in 2007.

"Whether their intention was to addict the populace or not, that's what happened," Eaton said. "Like many parents who have lost children to this, I'm pretty angry about that. And I don't see any reason why the taxpayers should have to pay to fix this."

Dayton said funding for the anti-opioid proposals would be covered by state funds in fiscal 2019 and then covered by penny-a-pill revenue.

State officials noted opioid overdose deaths rose 66 percent between 2010 and 2016. Similar increases have been reported nationwide.

Lexi Reed Hultom of the Steve Rummier Hope Network lost her fiance to an opioid overdose in 2011. She said the country is on a "dangerous trajectory."

U.S. Senator Tina Smith also announced last week that she'll propose a bill similar to the "penny-a-pill" legislation that would require drug companies to pay for solutions to the opioid epidemic at the federal level.

Minnesota Public Radio contributed to this report.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B



the Bluestreaks. That left the Grizzlies up 43-24 at the break, a margin that Chisholm just couldn't make up in the final half despite an improved shooting percentage in the period.

Trevor Morrison

Left: Junior guard Cade Goggleye goes up for a shot under heavy pressure from a Carlton defender.
photo by C. Stone

added 17 points for the Grizzlies along with six rebounds, while Tate Olson added 15 points and six boards. Chase Kleppe just missed a double-double, with nine points and nine rebounds. Brendan Parson added six points and as many assists.

The Grizzlies host 12-11 Deer River in their regular season finale this Friday, March 2. Game

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

second half was enough to secure the victory.

"We played well again defensively and well enough offensively," said McDonald. "We got the job done."

Vanderbeek led offensively, with 20 points, while Carter Gaulke had another double-double when he scored 16 points and added 15 assists. Trevor Mattson chipped

in 15 points while Michael Lah led the team with 13 rebounds

Ely, 21-4, will complete its regular season Friday when it travels to Northeast Range. Game

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ELY

Ely's Int'l Wolf Center hosts almost 40,000 visitors in 2017

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The International Wolf Center's Interpretive Center in Ely experienced a surprisingly successful "post-pup" season in 2017. IWF Executive Director Rob Schultz told the Ely City Council in an annual report presentation last week that attendance typically collapses the year after new wolf pups are introduced into the ambassador pack, but that trend was busted last year.

"We had 38,947 visitors last year, and that is up almost 7,000 people compared to a normal post-pup year," Schultz said.

He attributes the increase in visitors partly to the increase in billboard and other advertising conducted in the past year. Six new sites were included in the billboard campaign in Duluth, Pine City, Moose Lake, Superior, Wis., Cotton and Virginia.

The theme "Arctic Wolves" was featured on the billboards and Schultz said countless visitors would come into the Ely center and specifically ask about the Arctic wolves. "We didn't use the term on all of our advertising, so it gave us a good indicator that the billboards are making a big difference," he said.

With funding help from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, their billboard advertising campaign will be increased in 2018.

Schultz also highlighted the "Wolves at Our Door" classroom education campaign as a major success in 2017. "We expanded the program to all of Minnesota and we visited just over 600 classrooms this past year," he said, "and that's a 36-percent increase over the previous year.

"The really neat thing is that we have gotten into most of the classrooms in the Ely community and the surrounding area," he said. "We spent a lot of time at Washington Elementary and every grade level had presentations. This program is helping to teach kids about wolves – the good, the bad, and everything in between."

He said the Interpretive Center staff talks to the students about the struggles people have living in wolf country. "We talk about the impact, good and bad, that wolves have on the environment. We're working hard educating people so that we can live as peacefully as possible with these members of our ecosystem."

The "Wolves at Our Door" educational program was expand-

ed into as many as 18 Minnesota State Parks last year, including at Bear Head Lake State Park just west of Ely.

Educational webinars continue to expand as the Wolf Center continue to grow. "This is a way for people all over the world to see the great things happening right here in our community," Schultz said. "The webinar programs feature the ambassador wolves and are watched by enthusiasts worldwide." The most recent webinar had more than 200 participants, he said.

Schultz also highlighted the success of the continuing second-day admission re-entry program at the Ely Interpretive Center, where visitors pay one admission fee and can come back the next day.

"We are seeing steady increases in that program and that is important to us in this community because it means that people are staying here longer," he said. "We want our visitors to be in our hotels and at restaurants and enjoy all the great things in our Ely community."

Schultz said the Ely Interpretive Center continues to struggle with maintaining a seasonal employee base. "I think we all continue to experience that and we are working to

overcome that challenge."

Schultz highlighted plans for 2018 and beyond:

- > Work is continuing on the design of a new Wolf Discovery Center exhibit with the help of state legislative funding;

- > Billboard advertising will be expanded to Grand Rapids and the north-central portion of the state;

- > An International Wolf Symposium planned for this fall will include a visit by participants to the Ely Interpretive Center;
- > Through a generous private donation, the "Wolves at Our Door" program will be expanded to eight western states;

- > A new temporary exhibit opens in May that will feature the relationship the moose and wolves; and

- > The IWF webinar programs are expected to continue growing.

Schultz also noted that the leadership dynamics are changing in the ambassador wolf pack. "Aiden, our alpha male, has been with the pack for about seven years and we are seeing signs within the pack that it may be time for him to step down and for another member to take that role."

Frozen water pipes

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski said water main freeze-ups are occurring frequently around town and warned residents to take action. "If you froze up in the past, you will freeze up this year if you are not running water. I guarantee it," he said.

In the last five days, there had been as many as four properties freezing up twice, according to Langowski. "Keep a water faucet running with water about the size of a pencil," he suggested.

The water freezing issue will probably continue until the frost is out of the ground. "The rule of thumb is until the ice is off the lakes," he said.

In areas of the city where a water main may be compromised, an emergency water relief policy is in place, where utility customers get credit for 25 cubic feet of water per day. "If everyone in town ran their water, we will run out," Langowski said. "That happened in 2014. In areas where we are concerned with (water) mains freezing, we allow the credit and we will go house by house explaining this to the residents. If you have a question, call the utility."

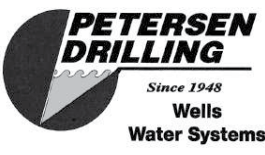
In other business, the

council took the following action:

- > Authorized JPJ Engineering to complete design work for the Water Tower supply and 7th Avenue project and advertise for bids, and to authorize their proposal for the Trailhead complex design;

- > Directed city staff to continue to work with the DNR to develop mountain bike trails at Hidden Valley.

- > Approved the following committee assignments: Irene Hartfield, Telecommunications Advisory Board, Michelle Moore, Parks and Recreation Board, and Sue Savereide, Library Board;
- > Authorized in-kind services for the Pink Ribbon Riders and the WolfTrack Classic events.



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CITY OF COOK

Cook hears update on bike trail plans

by MELISSA ROACH
Staff Writer

COOK - The city council here heard the latest development on plans for the Lake Vermilion Trail at their February meeting. Councilor Elizabeth Storm has been involved in the trail development and told the council the trail working group has hit a few obstacles and is working to resolve issues and to eliminate concerns. "We want people to know that we're not taking anybody's land away, and there is no eminent domain in this process," she said.

Recently, the trail developers have said the project is getting some pushback from state and county elected officials. "You think you're ahead, and then there's a little back drop, but we'll keep going." At a meeting with the working group that was recently held with elected officials, she said, one of our state senators said he thought the trail should be as much on the road shoulder as possible.

Storm continued, "He was asked if he has ever ridden a bicycle on the road with semi-trucks going by... it's a real safety issue." She told the council the group was then pressed to look into developing the trail under the powerlines, which creates other safety issues and issues of passing through private land. She said the electric companies were not in support of that option.

Pushback from the county was mostly regarding the language of the joint powers agreement which has since been changed.

As to the actual trail development, she told the council it will be done in segments as grant money becomes available. She said that private parties in the Head-o-Lakes Bay area

and in the Camp Vermilion area have indicated their support for the parts of the trail going through their areas. "Bear in mind, I will be seeing this trail from heaven because it's a long process. We've already spent 15 years developing the working groups, the ideas for the trail, and it will take some more time."

The council also discussed the new community center and the rental and usage fees. Theresa Martinson told the council of the variety and impressive amount of usage the community center has seen. She felt the council may want to revisit the fee schedule, as some may be "steep." Rental options include exclusive rental, all-day, half-day, resident and non-resident rates.

Other business

- > Approved St. Louis County's request for the city to work with the county concerning demolition projects they may have

within the city. The county pays either 25 percent or \$3/square ft., whichever is larger.

- > Heard a short update from the Broadband Steering Committee. Storm said the library would soon be completely wired for library outlets and hotspots.

- > Accepted an offer from Daniel and Ivette Reing for city-owned lots of 8 and 16 in the Lobes addition. The estimated land value is \$7,500. The council approved the Reings' offer of \$3,100.

- > Accepted a Mayor proclamation for April to be recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.


- > Heard the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization open book meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 11 from 10-11 a.m. at the St. Louis County assessor's office.

WORKSHOP NOTICE

**Government Contracts:
Where's the Work and How Do I Get It?**

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Wednesday, March 28 • 1 PM to 4:30 PM
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Description: For new and experienced contractors, both loggers and landscape/tree service businesses. Get help deciphering the government contract bidding process, learn about current and future hand and mechanical work projects on public and private lands, and discuss challenges you face. Qualifies for 3 hours of Minnesota Logger Education Program credit. You must find another 3 hour MLEP class to complete your 6 hours of training for the year. **Please register by March 21 at gjerickson@frontiernet.net or call 218-365-0878.**



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Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK

Study shows beavers face heavy predation by wolves

Research finds that beavers may comprise a majority of wolves' diets during spring and fall

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK — Recently published research here suggests that beavers may make up a significantly larger percentage of the diet of gray wolves than has previously been documented, at least in regions with high beaver populations.

The study, by biologists Tom Gable and Steve Windells, tracked for several months the kills of a single

radio-collared wolf from the Ash River pack, whose territory straddles the southern boundary of the park just south of Lake Kabetogama. Their research concludes that the wolf pack, comprised of four adult wolves, likely removed between 80-88 beavers from their territory between pond ice-out in April to late November, when ice cover returned. If so, that represented roughly 40 percent of the beaver population, a rate of mortality that is well above previous known levels, and would

likely reduce the beaver population without in-migration from surrounding areas.

Previous studies of beaver predation by wolves elsewhere in North America and Europe have suggested that wolves may take less than 15 percent of the local beaver population, but Gable and Windells note that those studies have relied on analysis of wolf scat, which they argue can be unreliable.

See **STUDY...pg. 5B**



Beavers are a surprisingly significant food source for gray wolves during the open water season, according to new research done at Voyageurs National Park. photo by M. HelMBERGER



KIDS IN THE OUTDOORS

A fishing field trip

by MELISSA ROACH
Staff Writer

LAKE VERMILION — Thirty-eight North Woods fifth graders hit the ice for a day of fishing this past week. This was the second year for the event. Although only four fish were caught, the students enjoyed the time spent outdoors.

The students were given a bobber, and a Lake Vermilion fishing guide book from the *Timberjay*. The Lake Vermilion Guide League brought in equipment for the students to use and also provided a hot dog lunch at the Landing. Other sponsors include Cook Lions Club, Cook Snowmobile Club, Country Store of Cook, Lucky 7, L&M, and Walmart.



Top: Students and fishing guides spread across the ice in Head-o-Lakes Bay.

Above: Jasmine Munson waits patiently for a bite. photos by M. Roach



Above: Fishing guide Joe Panichi and his grandson Louie Panichi make use of electronics to watch for fish.

Right: Matthew Goggleye is all smiles as he waits for a bite. And why not? A day on the lake beats a day in the classroom any day!



WEATHER

Two feet of fresh snow boosts winter rec season

REGIONAL — After weeks of cold but little new snow, the precipitation tap hit wide open beginning Feb. 17, with a series of significant snowfalls that left the area buried under nearly two feet of fresh snow in a little over a week. While mild weather finally arrived in the wake of the snow, daytime temps in the 30s to low 40s this week barely put a dent in the snow conditions, with snow depths still in excess of two feet across much of the region.

Trails remain in excellent condition and with highs in the mid-30s forecast for the weekend, it should be the perfect time to enjoy the lengthening days of late winter.

ACCIDENTS

Two injured in separate snowmobile accidents

REGIONAL — The St. Louis County Sheriff's Office responded to two separate snowmobile accidents late last week.

On Feb. 23, Kurt Kennedy, 48, of International Falls, was injured when he struck a snow-covered rock and was thrown from his machine. The accident took place near the Vermilion River, near Buyck. Members of his riding party transported him to the Vermilion River Tavern where he was picked up by the North Memorial Air Medical Transport and brought to St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth. His injuries were reported to be non-life-threatening. Buyck First Responders, Orr Fire Department, Cook Ambulance, and the MN DNR also responded to the scene.

On Feb. 22, Reid Nelson, 42, of Crystal, was operating his snowmobile on the Bearskin Trail near Hwy. 73 and the Lind Rd. in Linden Grove Township when his ski caught the outer edge of the trail and he was thrown from his machine. He landed on the trail but was struck by a snowmobile coming from the opposite direction. He was transported by ambulance to the Cook Hospital with non-life threatening facial injuries. He was wearing a helmet at the time of the accident. The DNR also assisted at the scene.

Outdoors briefly

Time to renew your fish and game licenses

REGIONAL — If you're heading out to fish or hunt this weekend, don't forget to renew your licenses.

Minnesota fishing, hunting and trapping licenses for 2017

all expired on Wednesday, Feb. 28, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Licenses for 2018 are now available wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold, online at mndnr.gov/buyalicense and by telephone at 888-665-4236. New licenses are required for 2017 hunting and fishing seasons

that continue past Feb. 28.

This year, license fees increase by \$3 for a resident individual angling license, and fees also increase for other license types including deer hunting licenses, sports licenses and lifetime licenses.

License fees support the ongoing work of DNR fish, wildlife and enforcement staff

to conserve, enhance and protect our waters, fields and forests.

"Thank you to all who purchase a license. License fees pay for the work we do and the dollars go directly toward improving fishing and hunting opportunities in Minnesota," said Steve Michaels, DNR licensing program director.

STUDY...Continued from page 4B

The VNP study used the radio-collaring to directly link the studied wolf with verified or extrapolated beaver kills. During the course of the roughly seven-month study period, the researchers attributed 22 beaver kills to this single wolf. During the spring and fall, when beavers tend to be most vulnerable to wolf predation, beavers may comprise a majority of a wolf's diet. In May, the researchers estimated that beavers comprised 60 percent of the wolf's diet, and w made up just over 50 percent of the animal's diet in September and October.

Wolf reliance on beavers dropped significantly in the summer months, comprising ten percent or less of the wolf's diet from June through August.

Beavers appear to be most vulnerable to wolf predation in the spring, when they spend considerable time repairing and expanding their dams, as well as in the fall when they spend a lot of time on shore gathering their winter forage, which they stockpile near their lodges.

The researchers were able to document that the wolf spent a considerable amount of time in the vicinity of beaver ponds during the spring and fall. That finding was confirmed by radio-tracking of five other wolves from three other packs located in or adjacent to the park, which showed clusters of activity near beaver ponds during certain portions of the year.

While biologists have long recognized that beaver comprise a portion of the diet of wolves in many locations, little was

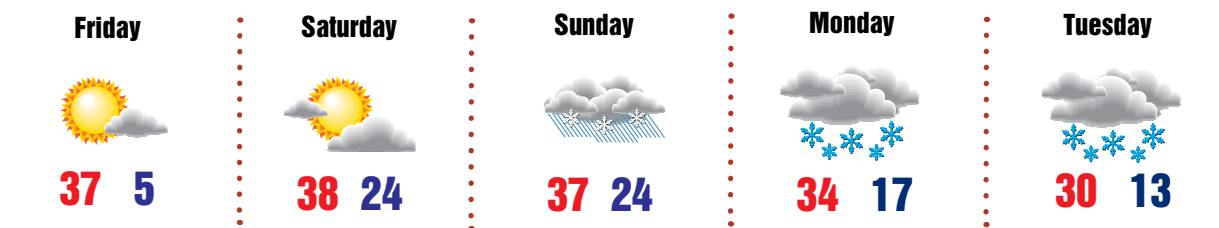
known about how they hunt beaver. But the VNP study suggests wolves use three primary methods to hunt beaver. The wolves appear to lie in wait for extended periods in the vicinity of beaver ponds and will frequently ambush beavers. In the spring, they catch them most often while working on the back side of their dams. In the fall, they capture them most frequently on land while the beavers are gathering winter forage. At other times, it appears they jump in the water when beavers are near shore and drag them onto land.

The researchers acknowledge that the study is limited by its sample size. The researchers determined the total beaver consumption of the Ash River pack by assuming that the other three adult wolves consumed similar numbers of beavers.

The findings likely also reflect the high beaver population in and around Voyageurs National Park, which makes a high level of predation possible. According to the researchers, beaver ponds are abundant in their study area and the park has maintained a high beaver density for over 40 years, despite predation from wolves during that entire period.

The researchers speculate that the beaver population in their study area is replenished both through beaver births locally, as well as in-migration of juvenile beaver from neighboring areas, which may allow the population to remain stable and at a high density despite significant losses to wolves.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather



Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
02/19	17	3	0.29	9.3"	02/19	20	10	0.50	9.0"	02/19	15	0	0.27	7.0"	02/19	12	1	0.00		02/19	16	1	0.38	10.0"
02/20	12	3	0.14	3.8"	02/20	14	-4	0.15	3.0"	02/20	9	2	0.09	2.5"	02/20	10	3	0.62	10.0"	02/20	11	2	0.22	3.5"
02/21	12	-9	0.02	0.1"	02/21	10	-2	0.00		02/21	10	-7	0.02	0.4"	02/21	21	-6	0.00	0.1"	02/21	10	-17	0.00	0.4"
02/22	23	-11	0.00		02/22	12	0	0.00		02/22	21	-14	0.00		02/22	30	-11	0.00		02/22	22	-19	0.00	
02/23	32	-11	0.14	5.4"	02/23	17	-18	0.20	5.0"	02/23	30	-15	0.23	4.0"	02/23	27	9	0.32	3.5"	02/23	33	-16	0.30	5.0"
02/24	29	-9	0.03	0.3"	02/24	29	-21	0.00		02/24	28	-11	0.01	0.1"	02/24	27	-8	0.00	0.3"	02/24	27	-16	0.00	
02/25	31	-10	0.17	4.5"	02/25	27	17	0.27	5.0"	02/25	28	-13	0.24	3.8"	02/25	27	18	0.38	5.0"	02/25	29	-16	0.34	4.4"
Totals			1.54	63.7"	Totals			1.85	63.4"	Totals			0.94	68.3"	Totals			NA	NA	Totals			2.04	60.8"

Outdoors briefly

At tax time, you can invest in the birds and the bees

Need something to lift the spirits in the midst of this winter's recurring cold and snow? Looking for a way to make a big difference with a small investment?

Filing state income taxes might not be the first thing that comes to mind as an antidote for the winter blahs, unless one realizes that it offers the chance to help more than 800 species of nongame wildlife, some of them threatened or endangered. Line 21 of the Minnesota income tax form - marked by a loon - provides individuals with an opportunity to invest in the future of nongame wildlife.

When taxpayers designate an

amount they would like to donate to the Nongame Wildlife Program, their tax-deductible donations are matched one-to-one by state conservation license plate funds. The Nongame Wildlife Program receives no money from the state's general fund for its efforts to support a wide range of animals that aren't hunted -- from eagles and loons to turtles and butterflies. It receives no funding from hunting and fishing license fees, lottery proceeds or sales taxes. It relies almost entirely on voluntary donations to support its work.

That work includes research to understand how creatures fit within functioning ecosystems, managing habitat, and assisting with recovery efforts for rare species. Over the program's 41-year history, it has played an important role in the

recovery of bald eagles, trumpeter swans, eastern bluebirds, peregrine falcons, and many more species. It also provides nature education, including such highly popular features as the DNR EagleCam now in its sixth year of streaming live video from a Twin Cities bald eagle nest.

"The Nongame Wildlife check-off is a great way to warm one's spirit on a cold, winter day by helping fund something we all care about," said DNR Nongame Wildlife Program supervisor Carol Henderson. "We all want a future where our kids and grandkids will still be able to chase butterflies, listen to frogs and loons on summer nights, watch falcons and eagles -- in person or on a webcam. That's what the Nongame Wildlife Program is all about."



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COMMUNITY NOTICES

Workforce Development Scholarship for Mesabi Range students

REGIONAL- Mesabi Range College is proud to announce a scholarship opportunity for new students enrolling in the Electrical Controls and Maintenance program in Fall Semester 2018. ECM is a two-year technical program devoted to hands-on skills training to prepare graduates for careers in a high demand field. For more information about this program, visit www.mesabirange.edu/programsdegrees/process-auto.html.

Initially funded by a \$1 million appropriation from the 2017 session of the Minnesota Legislature, the Workforce Development Scholarships will be available to new students enrolling at any Minnesota State college in associate degree, diploma, or certificate programs that prepare graduates for careers in high demand sectors.

Mesabi Range College will be awarding four \$2,500 ECM Scholarships

To be eligible for a scholarship, students need to apply for Fall 2018 admission to the Electrical Controls and Maintenance Program. Funds will be distributed over two

terms. They must also complete a scholarship application and submit high school transcript and college transcript(s), if applicable, to Mesabi Range College, Enrollment Services, P.O. Box 648, Eveleth, MN 55734-0648. March 30 is the deadline for all applications. Notification of awards will follow.

Genealogy Genie

CHISHOLM- Join us for our next Genealogy Genie class on Saturday, March 10 starting at 10:30 a.m. This class's topic will be the same as our February class, A Bird's Eye View: Using Maps for Family History. The IRRC staff will highlight some map resources that can help you

locate built structures—private residences, schools, churches, mining locations, business districts—that were primary locations of daily activity for your ancestors. As always, these classes are free and open to the public.

Kids' Cluezeum at MN Discovery Center

CHISHOLM- Join us for a fun day with the whole family! On Saturday, March 10, the classic game of Clue is being brought to life at the Minnesota Discovery Center (MDC). The object of the game is for players to strategically move around the museum, that will become our

game board, collecting clues from which to deduce which suspect murdered the victim, with which weapon and in what room. We'll start off the day with lunch at noon. After lunch, kids (along with their chaperones) will get the chance to put their brains to the test, as they have to solve the riddle. For this fun and exciting day, members only pay \$10 per kid, \$14 per kid for non-members and all adults will pay \$5 per person. Pre-paid reservations are required. No reservations will be taken after Friday, March 2. No refunds will be issued unless the Minnesota Discovery Center cancels the event. Please call 218-254-7959 to claim your spots!

Obituaries And Death Notices



Raymond E. Villebrun

Raymond Elmer "Ray Guy" Villebrun, 59, of Nett Lake, passed away on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2018, at the Mayo Clinic Hospital in Rochester-St. Mary's Campus. Traditional Services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 3 at the Nett Lake Government and Services Center. The wake will begin at 5 p.m. on Friday, March 2. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.

Raymond was born on Feb. 24, 1959, at the hospital in Cook, to Milo "Buster" Villebrun and Jane (Dupree) Villebrun. His family fondly recalls that he was an avid duck hunter, golfer, pool player, softball player, and ricer. He loved to build model cars and sing/karaoke. He loved to tear people up at cribbage. He loved to play slots. He loved to watch his kids in sports, and would travel as much as possible to cheer them on.

Ray was very talented and held many jobs during his life. He was a sawmill laborer, janitor for RBC, game warden, firearms and explosives instructor, police officer, DNR Director, Tribal Council member, and a shuttle bus driver for Fortune Bay employees.

Ray is survived

by his wife, Victoria; mother, Jane Villebrun; three sons, Ray Jr., Aaron and Ryne; two daughters, Marjorie Villebrun and Nicole Fairbanks; grandson, Christopher Fairbanks; brothers, Milo Jr., David "Bohz", William "Teben" and Earl; sisters, June, Effie and Terry; and numerous nieces and nephews.



Helen M. Folstad

Helen Mae Folstad, 86, of Soudan, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018, at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. A Celebration of Life service will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower later this spring. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia.

She was born to Arthur and Ruth (Harrington) Wills on March 20, 1931, in Crosby, the sixth of ten children; she had to drop out of school during ninth grade to help raise her younger brothers and sister. Helen was working as a waitress at Hulls Hotel in Moose Lake in 1946, when she met her beloved husband, Clarence Folstad. They were united in marriage on Feb. 23, 1947, in Moose Lake. They raised their family in Moose Lake for 10 years

and then moved to Tower. Helen was a mother and housewife, planted trees for the State of Minnesota, and in 1970 began working as a Nurse's Aide at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, where she was very active in the union and held an officer position. After retirement, Helen worked at Parkside Homes in Soudan and did home health care.

Helen was a member of St. Paul's and Immanuel Lutheran Churches. She taught Sunday School and was an active quilter. She enjoyed hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, sewing, crocheting, reading, painting, and baking her famous Christmas cut-out cookies. Helen's family was very important to her. She was happiest when caring for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, cheering them on at their school programs and sporting events.

Survivors include her two sons, Kenneth "Shorty" Folstad and Lawrence "Peanuts" (Linda) Folstad, both of Soudan; two daughters, Kathryn (Harold) Fuson of Soudan and Lynell (Michael) Yancey of Tower; 13 grandchildren, Kenny, Keith, Larry, Jeremy, Tony, Lisa, Lori, LeeAnn, Tammie, Lorrie, Julie, Joseph and Melissa; 28 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; one brother, Harvey Wills of Babbitt; two sisters, Alta Rogers of Moose Lake and Eleanor Fralich of Silver Bay; one brother-in-law, Robert (Maxine) Folstad of Brooklyn Center; numerous nieces and nephews; and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Clarence; siblings, Leslie, Elsie, Dorothy, Lawrence, Robert and Arthur; great-grand-

daughter, Kendra Folstad; and sister-in-law, Pearl Northrup.

Ronald E. Salo

Ronald Ernest Salo, 79, of Embarrass, died on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018. A memorial service was held on Thursday, March 1 at Range Funeral Home in Virginia with Pastor Evelyn Weston officiating. Arrangements were with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

He was born on July 1, 1938, in Biwabik, to Ernest and Viena (Haryn) Salo. He was a 1957 graduate of Embarrass High School, and a 1976 graduate of Vermilion Community College. He served in the Army from 1957 to 1963. Ronald was united in marriage to Mary Jo Taapa on Aug. 4, 1962. He was an employee of Erie Mining Co. LTV Mining Co. for 41 years.

The family would like to extend their sincere thanks to St. Michael's Health and Rehab in Virginia for their wonderful care for the last 17 months.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Jo; children, Craig (Rosa) Salo, Shelley (Jamey) Sundberg and Charisse (Tim Aho) Salo; seven grandchildren, Steven and Ryan Sundberg, Shaylee, Isabelle and Addison Aho, Amber Salo and April Druen; brother, Lawrence (Kay) Salo; niece, Tracey (David) Cook; grandnieces, Melinda and Genevieve Cook; nephew, Josh Carlon; and brother-in-law, Michael (Edie) Taapa.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and his sister, Sheryl Carlon.

John R. Sainio

John R. Sainio died on Friday, Feb. 23, 2018, of a heart attack while shoveling snow. A kind and gentle spirit left the earth that can never be replaced. A memorial service will be held later in March. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to Contented Critters or the Humane Society.

He is survived by his parents, Gary Sainio (Dianna) of Mt. Iron and Jeanne Rieck of Gilbert; grandmothers, Helen Sainio of Virginia and Laverne Hoglund of Gilbert; brothers, Chris Sainio (Lisa) of Ely, Rick (Peggy) of Bloomington and Garrett (Vicki) of Blaine; sister, Heather Edminster (Sanjeev) of Wichita, Kansas; and numerous other relatives.

Randy L. Rankila

Randy Lee Rankila, 66, of Embarrass, passed away at his home on Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, Feb. 28 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Following the service, family gathered at the VFW in Cook.

He is survived by his fiancé, Sharon Hawkins; daughters, Richelle Perreault (Bill Cole), Renee (Davin) Isaac, RaeAnn (Jeffery) Scott, Rebecca (Nathan) Warwas and Katie Anderson; grandchildren, Rebecca Perreault, Autumn Perreault, Connor Green, Lillian Warwas, Alexis Remington, Henry Isaac, Elizabeth Warwas, Ruby Scott, Noah Remington, Louis Isaac and Jacob Warwas; brothers and sisters, Alice Wien, Robert Rankila, Beatrice Waisenen, Gerald Rankila, Arlene Jablonsky and Karen Nolde.

Glen D. Lund

Glen David Lund, 61, passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018, from cancer at the Virginia Regional Medical Center. At Glen's request, no funeral services will be held. A memorial gathering for friends and family was held on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at Snicker's Pizza Shop in Eveleth. Arrangements were with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his brothers, Gregory (Patricia) Lund of Angora, Gary Lund of Virginia and Geoffrey (Eileen) Lund of Casper, Wyo.; sister, GeorgAn (Gordon) McFaul of The Villages, Fla.; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mary Lou Tamte

Mary Lou Jyhla Tamte, 90, formerly of Britt, wife of Rev. Kenneth R. Tamte, died on Friday, Feb. 16, 2018, at Joanne's House Hope Hospice of Bonita Springs, Fla. A funeral service was held on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at Range Funeral Home in Virginia with Fr. Frank Perkovich officiating. Burial was at Sand Lake Chapel Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to FBCN, Memo to Prayer Shawl Ministry, 3000 Orange Blossom Dr., Naples, FL 34109. Arrangements were with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her three sons, Tom (Lisa) of Cook, Scott (Tammy) of Cedar and Dan (Jackie) of Bonita Springs, Fla.; grandsons, Jason, Erik, Ryan, Zach and Zeb; and great-grandchildren, Emmerson, Madison and Kinley.

Little Eagles Childcare Center Classroom Teacher

\$14.00/Hour, .75 to fulltime hours per week

The Little Eagles Childcare Center is hiring a Lead Teacher to provide quality, engaging and safe care for the children in the Tower/Soudan area. The Lead Teacher will teach and supervise the children alongside a team of like-minded caregivers to promote the development of their social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth.

Minimum Requirements: Hold an AA degree in Early Childhood Education from an accredited college; 1040 hours experience as a teacher, aide or student intern; Experience working with young children and families; Possess current First Aid/CPR certificate or must be able to obtain; Ability to pass a background study; Able to lift 50 pounds and occasionally more; and able to kneel, bend, stoop, and sit on floor to attend to children's needs

Responsibilities: In partnership with the Director, design and follow a full schedule of activities and discover suitable teaching material; Provide basic care and caregiving activities; Use a wide range of teaching methods to enhance the child's abilities; Evaluate children's performance to make sure they are on the right learning track; Communicate with parents and update them on the progress of their children; Observe children's interactions objectively; Identify behavioral problems and determine the right course of action; Collaborate with other colleagues; Adhere with teaching standards and safety regulations

Preferred Candidates also must have the following qualities:

- Proven experience as a childcare provider or assistant
- Excellent knowledge of child development and up-to-date education methods
- Methodical and creative
- Patience, flexibility and love for children
- Strong communication and time management skills
- Leadership and organizational skills

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Little Eagles Childcare Center Teacher Assistant

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The Little Eagles Childcare Center is hiring a daycare teacher assistant to provide support to a lead teacher by helping the Lead Teacher to teach and supervise the children and to promote the development of their social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth.

Minimum Requirements: High School graduate or GED and minimum 18 years of age; Prefer Early Childhood education and work experience; Possess current First Aid/CPR certificate or willing to obtain; Ability to pass a background study; Required to enroll in Child Development Associate Program (CDA) upon hire, if not already credentialed; Regularly lifts 50 lbs., and occasionally more, and is able to kneel, bend, stoop, and sit on floor to attend to the children's needs

Responsibilities Include: Assisting in the management of the site in its entirety and maintains compliance with federal performance standards and state licensing requirements; Ensuring the safety of all children; Assisting the Director in planning of the food program and meal requirements; Assisting in the individualized and quality care of children; Assisting with planning and implementation of the designated curriculum; Timely documentation of all required program data

Preferred Candidates also must have the following qualities:

- Experience as a childcare provider or assistant
- Knowledge of child development
- Patience, flexibility and love for children
- Good communication and time management skills
- Good organizational skills

PUBLIC NOTICES

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Breitung Township, County of St. Louis, and State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

The election poll hours will be from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. at which time the voters will elect by ballot:
One Supervisor for a term of 3 years
One Clerk for a term of 2 years

The Board of Canvass will meet following the Election.

The Annual Meeting will commence following the Board of Canvass to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

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

Valeda McDonald, Town Clerk,
Breitung Township

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 23 & March 2, 2018

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ELECTION

The Greenwood Township Annual Election will be held on March 13, 2018. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 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

The Greenwood Township Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at the Greenwood Township Hall at 8:15 p.m.

The Greenwood Town Board will meet immediately following adjournment of the Annual Meeting to pay bills and Canvass Election Results.

In the event of inclement weather, the election and meetings will be held the following Tuesday, March 20, 2018, at the same times listed.

Sue Drobac, Greenwood Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, March 2, 2018

LEIDING TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Leiding Township, County of St. Louis, and State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

The election poll hours will be from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. at which time the voters will elect by ballot:
One Supervisor for a term of 3 years
One Clerk for a term of 2 years

The Board of Canvass will meet following the Election.

The Annual Meeting will commence following the Board of Canvass to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

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

The regular monthly meeting of the Leiding Town Board will be held on Wednesday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Leiding Town Hall.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk, Leiding Township

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 23 & March 2, 2018

EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Eagles Township, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the Eagles Nest Town Hall. In case of inclement weather, the Meeting may be postponed until Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

Deb Siverhus, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 23 & March 2, 2018

MORCOM TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Morcom Township, County of St. Louis, and State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

The election poll hours will be from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at which time the voters will elect by ballot:
One Supervisor for a term of 3 years
One Supervisor for a term of 3 years
One Clerk for a term of 2 years
One Treasurer for a term of 1 year

The Annual Election will be held at Bear River School.

The Board of Canvass will meet following the Election.

The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:30 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The Regular Town Board Meeting will follow the Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be held at Bear River School.

Sasha Lehto, Town Clerk, Morcom Township

Published in the Timberjay, March 2 & 9, 2018

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST NOTICE

Friday, March 9, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.
Pursuant to MN Statute 206.73, the Township Clerk will conduct a test of the automatic tabulating equipment to ascertain that the equipment will correctly count the votes cast for all candidates on the ballots for the General Election to be held on March 13, 2018. The test will be held at the Greenwood Town Hall office, Tower, MN at 9:00 a.m.

Sue Drobac, Greenwood Township Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, March 2, 2018

EMPLOYMENT



Executive Director Full Time Position Available Ely Chamber of Commerce

Seeking an energetic, experienced professional to promote the needs and interests of Ely. Full job description and application details are available at www.ely.org/jobs.

Application Deadline: April 2nd, 2018

Pike River Hatchery – Hatchery Laborer

The Tower Fisheries Office of the MN Department of Natural Resources is seeking to fill two hatchery laborer positions. These are temporary positions lasting up to 8 weeks at the walleye hatchery, primarily night shifts to take care of hatching walleye eggs. Positions are up to 40 hrs per week and will include weekends. Experience in hatchery operations, fisheries, or outdoor work; minor repair of plumbing and mechanical systems; previous night watch work; record keeping skills; attention to detail; and ability to communicate to the public is desirable. Must be able to follow instructions, withstand adverse environmental conditions, and lift up to 50 lbs. Send resume to Tower Area Fisheries, MNDNR, 650 Highway 169, Tower, MN 55790 or to edie.evarts@state.mn.us. For more information, contact Edie Evarts, Area Fisheries Supervisor, 218-300-7803.

Engineering Technician (Range)

Apply by 3/13/18

Intern Trainee-
(4) Children & Family Services North Division
Public Health & Human Services

Apply by 3/15/18

Apply online at
www.stlouiscountymn.gov/jobs
or call 218-726-2422

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EMPLOYMENT

Hiring - Executive Director Well Being Development

Well Being Development (WBD) is a 501(c)3 non-profit with the mission to inspire and foster activities that develop and enhance the mental well-being of residents in and around the rural NE Minnesota communities of Babbitt, Ely, Embarrass, Soudan, Tower, and Winton.

This is an exciting opportunity for an individual seeking a challenging and rewarding career working in a non-clinical Clubhouse community and with an innovative Behavioral Health Network. The Executive Director will work under the direction of the WBD Board of Directors to implement a Clubhouse program following the standards of Clubhouse International and to oversee Ely's Behavioral Health Network.

- Preferred experience and qualifications
- BA/BS degree
 - Non-profit management including grant-writing and fundraising experience
 - Excellent written and oral communication skills
 - Excellent organization and time management skills
 - Proficiency with Office Suite and QuickBooks

This is a full-time position with a starting wage of \$23/hour with paid time off. Send inquiries and resume to info@elynlc.org by March 15, 2018. For more info go to 'Career Opportunities' tab at www.elynlc.org or call Jenny Uhrich Swanson at 218-576-5756. 3/2



JOIN THE WINTERGREEN TEAM! "We Love What We Do!" Full & Part-Time Retail Positions

Do you love creative work and working with people? We are looking for motivated individuals with fresh energy. Livable wages and a great work environment. To apply: Stop in at Wintergreen Northern Wear, 205 East Sheridan Street, Ely for an application or email a cover letter, 1 reference contact info, and resume to sola@wintergreennorth-ernwear.com. 3/2

EXPERIENCED DRIVERS WANTED

Looking for a driving career on the Iron Range? Current Class A drivers average over 7 years with the company. Now we are looking for experienced drivers to add to our capabilities. If you are looking for part time/permanent positions (2-3 days/week) consistently we can accommodate but we prefer full time/permanent applications (4-5 days/week). Your shift and your days of work schedule will be consistent each week. You don't have to worry about not being paid for deadhead miles or wait times as we pay by the hour. You will be home every day for time with the kids and grandkids. Full-time work gets full-time benefits including medical, 401K, and your choice of other popular insurances with above industry average pay. Equal opportunity employer. Apply on-line with Edwards www.edwardssoilandpropane.com; or send resume or pick up paper applications at Edwards, 820 Hoover Road N, Virginia, MN 55792. We look forward to hearing from you. 3/2

Town of Embarrass Annual Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Embarrass Township, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Township Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018. In case of inclement weather, the meeting may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March (March 20, 2018).

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

This meeting will be held at:
Embarrass Town Hall
7503 Levander Rd.
Embarrass, MN 55732

Jennifer Boese, Town Clerk, February 22, 2018

Published by the Timberjay, March 2, 2018

EMPLOYMENT



Vermilion Country School Special Education 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

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).

Position 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 • www.vermilioncountry.org
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.

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VERMILION SHEAR IMAGE - Men's & Women's hairstyling. 314 Main St., Tower, 218-753-2928. Open Tuesday-Friday, 9am - 5pm. tfn

HOSPICE

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

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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

REAL ESTATE

Search ALL MLS listings at www.pfremmerrealty.com. tfn

FOR RENT

FOR RENT BY THE MONTH - 2 BR, 1 BA housekeeping cabin on sandy shores of Lake Vermilion. May to Oct. Includes Lund fishing boat or slip in sheltered harbor. Linens provided. Call 218-666-3151. 3/16

2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS for rent in Orr. Call Dennis at Bayview Apartments, 218-757-0200. tfn

APARTMENT FOR RENT IN TOWER - Furnished, 2BR, 2BA, quality throughout, heated attached garage. \$850/mo. Call 218-750-6566 tfn

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED: Intermittent Parks Worker at Lake Vermilion - Soudan Mine State Park. Apply online https://mn.gov/mmb/careers/ Job Posting #: 19825. Retail service, snow removal and chainsaw experience preferred.

CAMP VOYAGEUR IS HIRING FOR THE SUMMER- PT, FT cooks and bakers, PT kitchen helpers/cleaners. Flexible schedule and we will train. This is a wonderful opportunity if you are creative, like working with youth and enjoy the outdoors. For more information contact cvsprit@campvoyageur.com or 218-365-6042. tfn

LUDLOW'S ISLAND is looking for staff to join its team for the 2018 season. Duties include, but are not limited to, house-keeping, landscaping, and guest services. Competitive wages and an end-of-season bonus. Positions start in May and end in October. Please contact Erin at info@ludlowsresort.com or 218-666-5407. 3/2

WHITE EAGLE is hiring for the 2018 vacation season! Various positions prepping cabins/ grounds & welcoming/assisting vacationers. April through Oct. www.WhiteEagleResort.com/Employment. 4/13

SEEKING CABIN CLEANERS for the 2018 season. Individuals/teams available a minimum of 2 Saturdays/month. www.WhiteEagleResort.com/Employment. 4/13

FOR SALE

Classic 1938 (or earlier) 18' Wood-Canvas Prospector Vee-Stern Canoe, refurbished 8 years ago, with (optional) 1933 Johnson Outboard A-65 4.1hp. Have pictures. Call 715-892-0901 for questions. No trailer. Asking \$3,000. 3/30

2015 BRECKERIDGE LAKEVIEW DESTINATION TRAILER 40 FKBS. Front kitchen, rear king bedroom, see it at craigslist.com. See it at craigslist.com. 6461227559. 218-749-2014. 3/2p

KIRSCH PRIVACY BLINDS FOR SALE- 2-inch wide white wood Kirsch Privacy Blinds. Smoke-free home, custom-made from Floor to Ceiling. Valances and side clips included (to wrap cords around). All hardware included. Very pretty. Picture window has 3 narrow blinds with valance. Each window has a valance. Pictures can be sent if interested. The list has the size and price (priced at 50% off new price). Two blinds at 29x65-7/8 \$59; valance \$8; 24-1/4x65-7/8 \$59; 25-1/8x65-7/8 \$59; 24-1/4x65-7/8 \$59; valance 74-3/4 \$8; four blinds at 52.25x39 \$74 each; Call 218-225-2632 (leave message) for info. 3/9p

PETS

LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME for an older Siamese cat with really fun/good personality. Call Deb at 218-235-1692. 3/2p

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IN HONOR OF LEAP YEAR

Super Crossword

ACROSS
1 Spanish squiggles
7 Blue Ribbon brewer
12 Places for military craft
20 Declare the truth of
21 — Brothers ("That Lady" R&B group)
22 Most rare
23 Elicit the stamp "NSF"
25 Pause with uncertainty
26 Web site facilitating job-hunting
27 In — (prebirth)
29 Credit card come-on
30 Bit of work
31 Little mistake
33 Chinese appetizer
36 Premolars, e.g.
39 Splendor
42 "Allow — introduce myself"
43 Mail come-on
44 Austrian "a"
46 Nation due south of Iran
48 Maritime plea
50 Put a flaw in
51 Hell-bent
58 Got the soap out of
59 Slalom turn
60 "— won't!" (firm refusal)
61 Gave the slip
65 "That's —!" ("False!")
66 Its cap. is Boise
68 French subway
70 Beethoven's "Für —"
71 Drill Sgt., e.g.
72 Sky's high arch, figuratively
76 Abbr. on a rap sheet
77 "Inferno" author
79 Milo of movies
80 Hector
81 Skated
82 Nuts
84 "Whether — nobler ..."
85 Beatty of movies
87 In-house
89 Start following a trend
93 Acct. amount
96 — Paulo, Brazil
97 Spanish coin
98 Starting from
99 List abbr.
101 Lands in the ocean, to Henri
104 Leave the house
106 Sky twinklers
110 Go by plane
113 Bronze coin in Harry Potter books
115 — chi
116 Stupefy
117 Angel player Della
120 Transverse rail support
123 Courage
126 Track-and-field event
128 Tangles
129 Come next
130 Irish city near Killarney
131 Scares
132 — Park, Colorado
133 Indian lutes
DOWN
1 iPad Air, e.g.
2 Côte d'— (country in Afrique)
3 Cocktail bar
4 Flashy hoops shot
5 Latin "Lo!"
6 Tool-holding buildings
7 Lawn lunch
8 Oar wood
9 Sky color, in Cannes
10 Religious branch
11 Rug rats
12 No longer sailing
13 See 73-Down
14 Univ. dorm monitors
15 BYOB part
16 Cast list
17 Froth made by waves
18 Ward of Miss Havisham
19 Pittsburgh footballer
24 Quinn who played Annie
28 Tachometer abbr.
32 Walks laboriously
34 "Who's there?" response
35 Nary a soul
37 Uptight
38 Animal skin
40 City of Iowa
41 Tit for —
45 Gymnast Comaneci
47 Cherry with the 1989 hit "Buffalo Stance"
49 Number of deadly sins
51 Chastain of soccer
52 Tin Man's container
53 Coalitions
54 Gives a hand at a card table
55 Mechanical learning
56 Carmen of "That Night in Rio"
57 East Indian lentil stew
62 Scripted lines
63 Inuit or Yupik language
64 Benumb
67 Tag team, e.g.
68 Deg. for a painter
69 Female cells
72 Hot planet
73 With 13-Down, it's risky to skate on
74 Opposite of east, in Spain
75 "By gar!"
78 Trump — Mahal
81 Elevator part
83 Send via PC
85 Stepson in "I, Claudius"
86 Thing read on a Kindle
88 Low cards
90 — sci
91 "O" in a letter, maybe
92 Essence
93 Isn't naughty
94 Super-insect of 1960s TV
95 City near Anaheim
100 More slothful
102 Means of exit
103 That lady
105 Mothers' brothers
107 Head Hun
108 Luise of "The Good Earth"
109 Long fights
111 Lavish meal
112 Giggly laugh
114 Wrongful acts, in law
118 Phoenix hoopsters
119 Once, old-style
121 Goa dress
122 Some jazz singing
124 Org. for pucksters
125 Mid grade?
127 Fitting

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

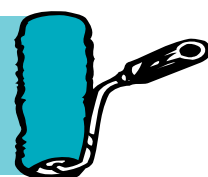
4	8	6	5	2	7	1	9	3
3	2	7	1	9	4	5	6	8
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1	3	8	7	5	2	6	4	9
6	5	4	9	3	8	2	7	1
9	7	2	6	4	1	3	8	5
7	4	1	8	6	5	9	3	2
2	9	5	4	7	3	8	1	6
8	6	3	2	1	9	7	5	4

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 SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
 Court File No.
 69VI-PR-17-168

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ESTATE OF
 Joan Kay Kujala
 a.k.a. Joan K. Kujala
 a.k.a. Joan Kujala
 Decedent

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Dated: Feb. 14, 2018
 BY THE COURT
 HON. GARY PAGLIACCETTI
 Judge
 AY TURNQUIST/
 STEFANIE HIGGINS
 Deputy Court Administrator

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on March 14, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. a hearing will be held at the Virginia Courthouse, Minnesota, 300 S 5th Avenue S, Virginia, Minnesota on a petition for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of decedent's heirs, and for the appointment of Jerry D. Kujala, whose address is 4951 Spirit Lake Road, Mt. Iron, MN 55768, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration.

Attorney for Petitioner:
 Angela E. Sipila
 Sipila Law Office, LLC
 108 South 5th Ave., Suite 1
 Virginia, MN 55792
 License No. 024501X
 Phone: 218-741-5000
 Fax: 866-675-0629

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Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to

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MLS

#119905 Lake Vermilion 60-acre wooded parcel w/2,000+ft lksh. 3 BR, 3 BA home offers seclusion and privacy. Extras include attached garage, boathouse and much more. Subdivision potential. \$875,000

#133868 Bear River 4 BR, 2.5 BA home, 320 acres w/Bear River Creek running through. Split stone fireplace w/custom burled mantle, T&G ceilings, hickory cabinets, alder doors and trim. \$495,000

#132002 Embarrass 2 BR, 1.75 BA, 1,276 sq ft manufactured home on 11.5 acres! Large porch, decks, central air, pole building and older garage. \$165,000

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Namakan Lake-\$345,000 Boat-access cabin and guest cabin near Namakan River.

Crane Lake-\$189,000 Boat-access cabin with 103 ft of shoreline. MLS#131487

Elbow Lake, Cook-\$397,500 2 BR quality home with large deck overlooking the lake and 159 ft of shoreline. MLS#131313

Sand Point Lake-\$275,000 2 BR cabin with electric and septic on Sand Point Island.

Crane Lake-\$130,000 Boat-access cabin with 215 ft of shoreline. MLS#130455

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Congratulations Calhoun

Congratulations to Bryan & Stacey Gerrard, Kippy Kuboy & Lynse McDonough, the new owners the former Windigo Lodge on the Gunflint Trail, from Steve Bragg, Business Broker

The new name of the resort is Poplar Haus. They plan to be hands-on operators doing an extensive remodel and major clean-up and are now open with 5 cabins renting year-round, on-site liquor store, as well as a new bar and restaurant overlooking Poplar Lake. They will be looking for housekeeping and wait staff for summertime.