

Early deadline:

The Timberjay will be published early next week.
Ads and articles due by Monday, Nov. 20 at 10 a.m.



the TIMBERJAY

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VOL. 28, ISSUE 45 November 17, 2017

INTERNET SERVICE

City of Orr: Not enough fiber?

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

CenturyLink reaches telecommunications capacity in town of 250

ORR — When Julian Brzoznowski and his wife JoAnn moved from their farm north of Ash Lake to the Bayview Apartments in Orr, he called CenturyLink to sign up for Internet access. It didn't go well. "They told me I couldn't get it," he said. "They said they

didn't have enough fiber to serve all the people in Orr."

It turns out the Brzoznowskis weren't the only ones who have been told that this town of 250 had used up its existing telecommunications capacity.

"We're considered an unserved area here," said Orr City

Clerk Cheri Carter. "When new people come into town, they're told they can't get Internet."

It isn't just residential customers who are turned away, either. Local businesses, and even the town library, can't sign up for an online connection, at least until CenturyLink invests

in upgrading its service in town, or until someone else in town opts to disconnect.

"It's been this way since the beginning of the year," said Carter, and it's become an ever larger frustration to local residents as well as would-be residents, some of whom have balked

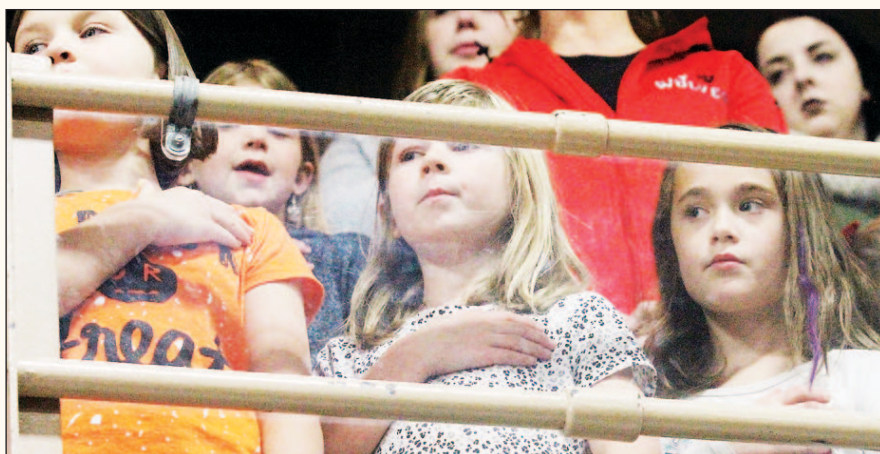
at moving to the quiet northwoods community because of the lack of Internet service. "I had somebody call me from Florida who was looking to buy property. They wanted to retire on Pelican Lake, but it's gotten to be that

See...ORR pg. 8

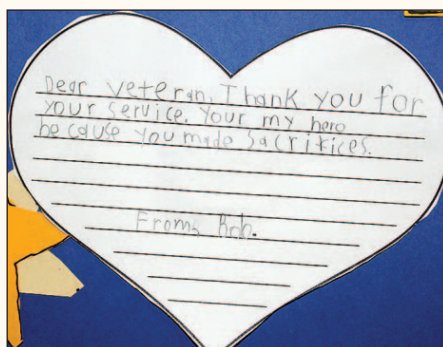
MILITARY SERVICE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Veterans Day events held across the region



Above: Steve Good Sky-Hertig gets a hug from Hayden Klassy at the Tower-Soudan Veterans Day program.
Top left: North Woods Elementary School students passed out thank-you cards to area veterans.
Bottom left: Ely Elementary School students recite the Pledge of Allegiance during the K-12 program last Friday.
Below: A handmade thank-you note from a T-S student.
Timberjay staff photos



CITY SERVICES

Water, sewer rates likely to rise next year

Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board looks to rebuild depleted reserves

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — Water and sewer rates are likely to rise here beginning in 2018, but the city council has yet to agree by how much.

The rate hikes are being planned as the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board seeks to rebuild its depleted reserves after a series of costly repairs for broken sewer lines and efforts to address drinking water quality concerns. The issue topped the council agenda on Monday, with Councilor Brad Matich absent.

Wastewater manager Matt Tuchel has asked for an extra \$30,000 in revenue in the coming year, which would be split between Tower and Breitung. Tower City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith told the council that a quarterly increase of \$15.25 would cover the city's share of that amount, but that assumes that all property owners, even seasonal users, would be assessed the additional fee year-round. Councilor Lance Dougherty objected to that idea, but he didn't find much support from the council for exempting seasonal users from

See...TOWER pg. 9

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Potential buyer steps forward for Ely Community Center

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — The city of Ely received a purchase agreement and business plan last week from potential buyers of the former Ely Community Center property.

"The broker we hired has had some interest and contact, and one actually came back again," Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold

Langowski told the Economic Development Authority Tuesday night. "This is a serious request and they have some serious interest in the building."

Princeton Commercial Holdings LLC, of Wilmington, Del., was established in 2006. The firm specializes in acquiring, across the nation, properties with problems that pose challenges, and addressing and resolving the

The Ely Community Center has been vacant for nearly three years. file photo

issues by using the expertise of their management team to address and resolve the issues.

According to their website, www.princetoncomh.com, the Princeton Commercial Holdings Group currently owns over 100

See... ELY pg. 9



Check out Poetry at the top of the stairs!

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New childcare center raising scholarship funds

Timing for Cook siding plant still unclear

The prospects of a future expansion in Cook continue to hinge on growth in L-P's Smartside division, and for now that prospect remains hopeful. In fact, according to Southern, the company's third-quarter sales and revenue from the sector hit a new record, up 12 percent from a year ago.



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SMALL TOWN STRUGGLES

Mayor asks: What future for Winton?

Finances, imminent loss of local leadership creating concerns for city of 171 residents

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

WINTON – Mayor Kathy Brandau admitted to the Community Economic Development Joint Powers Board last week that soon there may no one left to run the city government.

Kathy Brandau said the city “doesn’t have any money” left since investigating an expensive, months-long loss of city water. She said a water leak was just recently located, on the property of the former Donahue’s bait shop.

“His grandson has the place now and there was a water line break between the trailer and the house,” she said. “We noticed it after it froze and the water started coming up,” she said.

The water plant operations director Terry Jackson noticed it

the other day, according to Brandau and the city is giving the property owner the opportunity to get it fixed. “He is supposed to fix it next week,” she said. “We lost half again as much water we use normally (in an entire year),” she said.

Later in the meeting, she speculated that Jackson could retire when his contract is up at the end of 2017. “We’re working on getting a worker for the wastewater treatment plant right now,” Brandau said. “We are waiting on a letter from Terry. He’s getting there. He doesn’t want to do this any more.”

Brandau also noted that Winton City Clerk Anne Jackson’s term is up next year. “That will be huge,” she said.

She looked over at the Town of Morse representatives attending the meeting, as if to question whether the township would take

over the operations of the city of Winton.

“No, no,” said Supervisor Bob Berrini. “We checked on that. We don’t have to. You would go with St. Louis County,” he said, which would require that the city transfer to an unorganized form of government.

“You have to have people to run the city,” Brandau said. “(City Council member) Lee Tessier will be done. He doesn’t want to do it anymore.”

Ely Mayor Chuck Novak noted that the clerk’s position is very important for every city. “If you don’t have a decent clerk, you’re screwed. There is a lot of paper work. You have the same amount of paper work whether you’re a big city or a small one.”

Brandau also speculated on combining the clerk and treasurer duties into a hired position, similar to what is done in Ely.

“There is a process, but we can do that,” she said. “We would have to do that before the elected position comes up for re-election. I don’t know what is going to happen. Just losing Terry (Jackson) is huge.”

Legislative forum

The Joint Powers Board will hold their annual legislative forum on Monday, Dec. 4 at the Grand Ely Lodge. A lunch buffet will begin at 11:30 a.m. and the forum will begin at noon. The public is invited.

State legislators were invited and commitments have been received from U.S. Rep. Rick Nolan, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, State Sen. Tom Bakk, State Rep. Rob Ecklund, St. Louis County Commissioner Tom Rukavina, and Range Association of Municipalities and Schools

Executive Director Steve Georgi. Sen. Al Franken’s office has not responded, according to Joint Powers Secretary Tom Coombe.

The Joint Powers Board discussed sending invitations to other governmental, educational and industry leaders.

Berrini suggested contacting representatives from the PolyMet and Twin Metals copper nickel mining projects. A suggestion to invite Gov. Mark Dayton was met with chuckles and skepticism.

“We don’t want Rebecca Otto here,” Berrini said. No candidates will be invited, according to Coombe. Berrini added, “All politicians are welcome to come.”

Joint Powers Board members discussed the agenda for the forum. Bonding bills for

See **JOINT POWERS...**pg. 5

CITY OF ORR

Orr to seek county help on planned ATV trail

by MELISSA ROACH
Staff Writer

ORR — The city council here will ask St. Louis County to become the fiscal agent for a local ATV club’s trail grant request. The Voyageur Trail ATV Club is planning to construct a new trail that would connect the Crane Lake and Elephant Lake areas, which would include a bridge over the Vermilion River.

The club is working to apply for state bonding dollars in 2018, and city of Orr had earlier agreed to serve as fiscal agent for the estimated \$2 million project. But state officials have since informed Orr officials that the city doesn’t qualify for the funds unless it takes actual ownership of the trail, which is something the council is unwilling to do.

So the council approved a motion on

Monday to ask St. Louis County to serve as fiscal agent for the trail grant application and construction. The city could later serve as fiscal agent for grant-in-aid funds for trail maintenance.

Gary Cerkvenik and Ron Potter, who were representing the ATV club, agreed that asking St. Louis County to become the fiscal agent was the best approach under the circumstances. They said they had already

discussed the issue with Commissioner Tom Rukavina, who would discuss the issue with other commissioners and seek to add the proposal to the county board agenda for their Nov. 28 meeting.

In other business, the council approved a letter of support for a service area continuation grant application by Scenic Rivers Health Services. Scenic Rivers is seeking funds from the Department

of Health and the Human Health Resources and Service Administration to help maintain its medical and dental clinics for Cook, Bigfork, Big Falls, Northome, Floodwood, and Tower.

The council also heard from Ambulance Finance Director Jim Gray about proposed expenditures for four wrap-around Binder Lifts for \$2,926. He also submitted quotes for four high visibility parkas from

Municipal Emergency Services for \$1,040. The parkas would be for EMRs who complete training and have one year of service. Gray told the council that there is money in the capital budget for the items.

The council considered the League of Minnesota Cities liability coverage/waiver form, and voted not to waive the statutory tort limits. An

See **COUNCIL...**pg. 5

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OPINION

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Editorial

Corporate give-away

GOP tax plan represents the worst in American governance

Oh, the poor beleaguered American corporation. To hear GOP leaders, and even a few Democrats, tell the tale, companies in the U.S. are severely overtaxed and it's limiting America's competitiveness. And that's why the GOP-controlled Congress wants to slash the corporate income tax from the current 35 percent, to just 20 percent.

At first glance, it almost sounds reasonable. Corporations in most advanced western countries do pay a lower statutory tax rate— averaging about 22-24 percent— than in the U.S. But once you account for the differences in the number of special breaks and loopholes that so riddle the U.S. tax code, the effective corporate tax rate drops sharply, to just over 18 percent according to most analyses, which puts the U.S. well down the list in terms of actual taxes paid by corporations.

This would hardly surprise anyone who has tracked who pays what in America today. Back in the socialist paradise of the Eisenhower administration, U.S. corporations paid a third of all taxes to the federal government. Today, it's nine percent and if the GOP has its way, it will likely drop to less than five.

The proposed corporate tax cut is the biggest cost item in the GOP's plan, and it will, by itself, wipe out almost \$1.5 trillion in federal revenue over the next decade. If the cut in corporate tax rates were paired with a plan to eliminate the legions of special interest tax breaks that companies regularly deploy to trim their tax bills, that would be one thing. But that isn't in the Republican plan. This is simply a huge tax cut for corporations at a time of record profits.

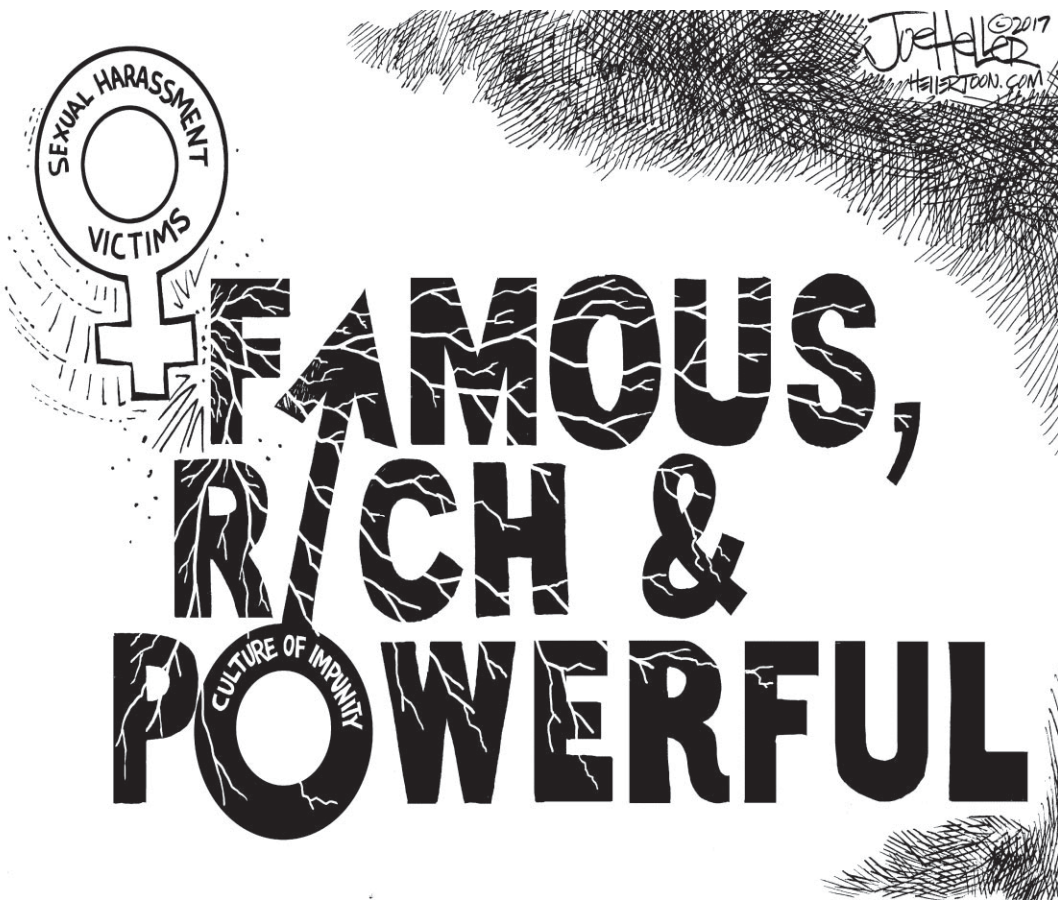
The GOP recognizes how this is going to look to the public, so they are using make-believe in order to convince voters that this isn't what it looks like— i.e., a huge payoff to their well-heeled donor class. They are suggesting that once their tax bills are lowered, these U.S. corporations will use their extra profits to boost workers' pay and create new jobs.

That's absurd. We don't have to guess where extra corporate profits will end up. We can simply use history as a guide. Since 1978, the average inflation-adjusted wage in the U.S. has grown by an anemic 10.9 percent, while the pay of corporate executives has increased by a whopping 997 percent according to the nonpartisan Economic Policy Institute. Large U.S. corporations have consolidated their power and most are making money hand over fist. And that money is going straight to the top, to executives and major shareholders, further exacerbating the already unprecedented level of income inequality in the U.S.

Far from helping average Americans, the GOP tax plan helps pay for its massive corporate give-away by closing loopholes and tax deductions for middle-class families. Depending on which version of the bill, if any, winds up on President Trump's desk, the GOP would cut home mortgage interest deductions, state and local tax deductions, tax credits for medical expenses, family adoption, even a tax deduction for teachers who use their own money to buy their students school supplies. In other words, they're more than happy to nickel-and-dime the middle class to pay for massive tax cuts for the very rich. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders was right to call it "Robin Hood in reverse."

Republicans can't even argue the point. Some, such as Sen. Lindsey Graham, have readily acknowledged what's really going on here— their plutocratic donors have paid for their campaigns and they expect to be well compensated for their contributions, or the campaign funds will dry up. Republican leaders have suggested as much in hopes of scaring their members into supporting a tax plan that is very likely the most inequitable ever devised in American history.

The GOP should be ashamed at the dishonesty, inequity, and outright venality represented by their plan. This is American governance at its very worst.



Letters from Readers

Moral development is in decline

“The revolution starts now, when you rise above your fear and tear the walls around you down,” sang Steve Earle.

In 2000, global corporations made up 51 of the world's largest 100 economic entities, owning over 50 percent of the global wealth. Currently, they number 69 of 100; only 31 are nation-states. Public wealth gives people some say, but in private hands they have no voice. Stand up and speak out!

“Where you work and where you play, where you lay your money down, what you do and what you say,” Earle sang.

An iron triangle of power, formed by the defense industry, Pentagon, and Congress gobbles up over \$600 billion per year, that's more than the next eight big spender nations combined. No audit allowed. Secret operations and 16 spy agencies add another \$50 billion or more in a hidden black budget. Dare to question, where does your money go?

“In your own backyard, in your own hometown, so what you doin' standin' around?” Earle asked. The U. S. Empire operates over 800 military bases in more than 80 countries worldwide. The U.S. leads the world as an arms dealer supporting unsavory and brutal dictators that carry out dirty wars against their own populations to secure corporate investment. Just whose interests are we protecting? We have a right to know!

“Just follow your heart, the revolution starts now.” The wealthiest one percent in the U.S. control over 43 percent of the nation's total wealth. On planet Earth, eight men have more wealth than the world's poorest 3.5 billion people combined, according to Oxfam

International. If the measure of conscience is found where we place our treasure, in 200,000 years of human history our moral development is in decline.

**Harold Honkola
Tower**

It takes special people to work with the disabled

One Saturday in late September we were off to town early for grandson Kaleb's bowling in Virginia at the Bowling Gardens. Our longtime best friends Blue and Willie came with us. After Kaleb and his group were done, Willie's group started their bowling games. All of their participants are “special needs” young adults. This was the second time that I have been in the presence of so many people who cannot drive or read; some still live with their parents, and others are in group homes. I had been fortunate to know many developmentally-disabled people when I was growing up, and became friends with an adult who lived at the same nursing home as my mother.

Willie started a brand new job on Tuesday. He has worked at Spring Creek Outfitters in Mt. Iron for over 20 years, but unfortunately the company was sold. The Newbergs were a second family to Willie, and he will miss them terribly. He also worked at ODC in Buhl for over 17 years, but because of state funding cuts, he was down to only two days a week, and had to pay for his own transportation to and from his job. Now he will be employed at East Range Day Activity Center in Eveleth, which is five days a week, plus they provide transportation. He was very excited to start his new adventure.

Willie needs to work and his self-esteem has grown from being with others.

In early October I attended a meeting at the DAC, or the Development Achievement Center, in Chisholm. Also known as the Range Center Inc., this center provides opportunity for so many in our community. The center's mission is to insure education, promote employment opportunities, and provide residential services to encourage people with developmental difficulties to become active, participating members of the community. More than a place to work, the DAC operates 13 residential homes where the lawn mowing and the snow shoveling is done by DAC workers who are able, something called supported employment.

County, state and federal funding support the center. DAC employee Raini Knaeble explained to me that her major goal is building awareness among employers to supply jobs where sometimes a special minimum wage can be worked out when finding a job the disabled can do.

The center supports many activities. In the basement they have a candle-making and decorating facility. It smelled real swell and everyone was acknowledging Raini. Other rooms were specifically equipped to supply day services for the severely disabled. Raini provided me with a view that everyone in our government should see. It takes special people to be with the disabled every day, to be teachers and social workers working for a bright future for their clients.

**Skip Dickinson
Britt**

So why not take a crack at innkeeping?

Boy has time flown! The snow is on the ground and it's nearly Thanksgiving already. Bill and I haven't had much “down time” since we moved into our house this past July. I think all of us agree, as we age, the details of our lives seem to multiply and the minutes in a day dwindle. Always so much to do!

One of the reasons we decided to move from Ely to Soudan was because we had accepted an arrangement with the owners of Soudan's Vermilion Park Inn. We were



to be the Winter Caretakers! There are four co-owners of the Inn, all kind and colorful characters, the majority over sixty-five years-old, and two have roots on the Iron Range. I met the primary owner, Mary Batinich, a couple of years ago when she would whirl into the Timberjay newspaper office to have my boss Jodi assist her with an invitation or something she needed for one of her many enterprises. I remember thinking, “Wow, that lady moves...and she gets lots of stuff

done!” Mary is that way.... she swirls and whirls with abundant energy and many of us are trying to keep upright in her wake.

Last spring on a random Tuesday after work, I stopped by the Inn to drop off some rate cards we had printed. Mary had previously invited Bill and me, the newlyweds, to be her guests and stay in the honeymoon suite, so I was planning to thank her and book the room. Mary greeted me, offered me a beverage and said, “Dear, let's go visit.” I followed her down a wide carpeted hall to the room we'd booked and we sat on the pair of white wicker sofas in one corner. I was busy admiring the ornate black and gold

fabric on the cushions, a tassled lamp nearby, and other furnishings and artwork in the room. In a lively discussion about our eventful pasts and mutual friendships, I also learned that Mary and the other owners, Mary Genalo, Tom Burns and Jane Turner, were in need of winter caretakers for the upcoming season. After what turned into the most casual and fun interview I'll ever have, (in which Mary had me sing a show tune for another of her passions, the Vermilion Cultural Center's Annual Midsummer Festival), we were adopted into the group!

See INNKEEPING...pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Bravo to cast and crew of Footloose

The Ely High School Fall Musical, under the leadership of the talented Mr. Jim Lah and his fine staff members– with participation of the great number of young students–proves, on a local level, that humans can do something right! During these often very discouraging times in the larger world, it was greatly uplifting to attend the show and enjoy the ensemble in their skilled effort presenting this difficult musical production.

I applaud all who were part of this entertaining musical for their cooperative endeavor, which brought forth, underneath toe tapping musical dance numbers, (may I say, as we haven’t seen on the Washington stage perhaps ever), the serious topic of individual freedom – acting without repression; in this case, students wanting to hold a school dance.

I think we definitely could use more examples of positive social interaction, reminders of the great potential of humankind!

Bravo cast and crew!
Cecilia Rolando Ely

Apology accepted, now show us that it’s sincere

“We Support Mining AND Clean Water!” Well, who doesn’t? Who *wouldn’t* support the concept of well-paying union jobs combined with effective land stewardship? Not me, and not you.

If only it weren’t for that troubling phenomenon called “actuaries.” Actuaries are a statistical tool used by insurance companies and lenders to assess potential risk. It tells them the odds of incurring loss based on historical records. For example, actuaries are used to create a statistically accurate forecast of how likely it is that a teenager will get in a wreck, usually based on their age, driving record, grades, even their extra-curricular activities. The tool relies on the performance of all of the other teenage drivers who have gone before and it is a wonderful tool for assigning risk.

Now. Would you like to see some “actuaries” for the performance of open-pit metals mining? The following link is a history of performance for one of the most heavily-mined states

in the U.S. – Wyoming: www.wise-uranium.org/udusawy.html

I worked in two of these mines, both of which are a micro-cosm of what we are likely to see here in Minnesota. Targeted ore bodies are different, of course. But apart from Wyoming’s special worries with radioactivity, many of the poisonous metal contaminants associated with rock exposure and leaching are the same. And the actuaries create a grim forecast:

Mining interests will apply for a mining permit. This triggers an “environmental impact” study, an assessment of the potential impact the mine may have on the environment and its people.

In its conclusions and recommendations section, the study will usually suggest an array of engineering controls and monitoring devices as safeguards for any proposed digging. It will also suggest “maximum contaminant levels” or MCLs, the highest acceptable concentrations for poisonous metals and other contaminants. The study warns that these MCLs cannot, *must* not be exceeded at any time; not before, during or after operation of the pit.

The study will also recommend reasonable reclamation goals. That is, the extent that the

open pits must be refilled, contoured and seeded with vegetation in order to minimize any visual or aesthetic impact to the environment.

The mining interests agree to Items 2 and 3 above. Readily. Completely. (After all, as we’ll see in a bit. . . it doesn’t matter.)

The permits are approved and the mining begins. Monitoring wells are placed around the perimeter of open pits, holding pits and tailings piles in accordance with permit approval.

Ten years or so of metals extraction begin. In accordance with the mining permit, smaller pits are filled in, contoured and seeded. But for some reason, reclamation of the larger pits is “delayed.”

Eventually and as it must, the ore plays out. Miners are fired. Maintenance shops and processing plants are shut down.

At about the same time, a series of complicated sales and property transfers effectively conceal the identities of original CEOs and stockholders. Legislators retire comfortably.

Monitoring wells, often taken over by the state out of necessity, begin to show an increase in contaminants. Holding ponds fail. That’s called an “emergency release.”

Millions of gallons of contaminated water are released into the environment.

The new owners of the mine regret this, of course, but offer a solution. What is it? Well, we’ll just REVISE the allowed “maximum contaminant levels” (MCLS) to ten, fifty, even a hundred times their original limit. These are also given a name; “ALTERNATE maximum contaminant levels,” or ACLs.

The ACLs are approved by the lead regulatory agency.

Eventually, the now-pseudo mining interests just can’t be bothered any more, and state their intent to cease all monitoring and/or other efforts at regulatory compliance.

With no money or enforcement, the lead agency ultimately must assign a new status to the open pit. It’s called a “No Further Action” status, or NFA. This status once meant that remedial efforts were complete. In the case of modern open-pit mines, however, it is best described as an admission that nothing more will be done. Suck it.

And where are we now here in Minnesota? Somewhere between Steps 2 and 5.

Duane Behrens Ely

INNKEEPING...Continued from page 4

The Vermilion Park Inn-Bed and Breakfast-Retreat and Convention Center (its full title), is located right next door to the historic Soudan Store at 30 Center Street. It has been newly renovated and is a wonderful, cozy and uniquely-decorated part of Soudan’s past. To shorten a long story, it was built in the late 1800s as a hospital and served the mining community for decades. Then it became a group home for developmentally-disabled adults, and has now evolved into the 12-room bed and breakfast it is today, moving through a few previous owners. The rooms, mainly decorated by Mary herself, are filled with antique furniture and beautiful decor and have names such as Nordic Room, Italian Room and British Garden Room, to name a few. The various names are reflected in the colors and styles of each room.

I’d never been an innkeeper before, neither had Bill, so we started hanging around the place during the summer to learn the ropes. It’s been BIG fun! Mind you, I have not left my post at the *Timberjay*. I will remain the “graphics person” I am, well into the future. But we’ve all heard that it’s good for the mind

and spirit to take on new challenges...and add more details to an already busy life! Busy is good.

During the summer, Bill was helping with maintenance and became the constant gardener, caring for all the flowers in the window boxes and garden beds. I refreshed my memory on bed-making with hospital corners and pillowcase-tucking techniques. Mary showed me how to “mangle,” in other words how to run an old-fashioned mangle iron to efficiently press sheets and pillowcases. I was instructed that towels, washcloths and hand towels must go into all rooms along with little soaps, shampoos, paper cups and T.P.

I started learning the computer system for booking and tracking guests and handling payments. My head was swimming a bit at first but it is getting easier.

There are plenty of rules to be followed in the kitchen area as well, especially with only specific food items allowed to be served in our bed and breakfast set-up. While the Inn has cooking facilities if guests choose to fry an egg or something, in the mornings we set out a very nice Continental breakfast.

There has been a great cast of new characters to acquaint ourselves with at the Inn such as Margaret and Shirley, housekeepers who come regularly or when needed. There is Pete the maintenance man whom I liked from the moment we had an exchange on the grand staircase to the second floor. I remarked, “This staircase reminds me of Gone With The Wind!” He stopped, turned, and replied, “Frankly my dear, I don’t give a damn!” With my name being Scarlet, his response humored me to the core and the friendship was sealed.

We met Pastor Doug, of Tower’s St. James Presbyterian Church, who has office space at the Inn, serving as administrator for another one of Mary’s passions, the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center. We cannot forget lovely Linda, who lives between the cities and Lake Vermilion and is the queen of helpful, at the top of the list of those bringing a bright spot to any day. Let’s not forget Cousin Steve either, a rather dashing silver-haired man who isn’t really Mary’s cousin at all, but a close friend of the Inn who travels from Grand Rapids periodically to visit. Then there is a nice couple renting a

small apartment; they provide a constant presence and assist with keeping it all running smoothly.

Our official take-over was mid-October when one set of owners and summer caretakers, Tom and Toni, headed south to Arizona for the winter. With a lighter flow of guests in the fall season, there was going to be time to ease into the new role. That’s what I thought ...but the first weekend, we had nineteen people come and stay at the Inn. I made a flow chart for myself on paper, chewed my fingernails, drank too much coffee and stressed out! With help from other staff and owner Mary, who was just twenty minutes away at her lake home, we sailed through it and all of the guests had a delightful time. The Inn is located on the Mesabi Trail and we have had summer guests who are strictly interested in hiking and biking. Guests also tour the nearby Soudan Underground Mine and like to drive to Ely and visit the Wolf and Bear centers, plus do some dining and shopping as well.

It is a goal of mine to find out more about the history of the Inn itself during all of its past lives. Friends from here and there, and locals, have shared

stories of their relatives being born in the second floor delivery room. My friend Mona Meittunen, from Side Lake, recalls her uncle being born at the hospital. In fact he was the first Caesarean birth ever performed there and the doctor on duty had to call the Duluth hospital for instructions on how to proceed. It was a success, as he (Mona’s uncle) lived to tell the story!

After the upcoming holidays there will be more time to delve into the rich history of the Inn’s past. Now we are anticipating getting the place decked out for Christmas and hosting some festive events in the newly-decorated meeting room downstairs. There will be a poetry reading in mid-December and between Christmas and New Year’s we will host a lovely meal with entertainment. If you can find time to squeeze in a visit to the Inn this holiday season, please give me a call. I’ll be dashing through the snow in either Tower or Soudan, tending to the details of Scarlet’s bustling life!

Vermilion Park Inn invites you to LIKE their Facebook page and visit the website at www.vermilionparkinn.com.

JOINT POWERS...Continued from page 3

the city of Ely’s various projects, including 17th Street improvements, a second business park and the recreational trailhead project, have to be included,

Novak said.

“I think we need to talk about what kind of legislation they intend on submitting for sulfate rules and wild rice standards,”

he said.

The school trust land exchange issue is on Fall Lake Township Supervisor Mary Tome’s list. “We also need to talk to them about

(Gov.) Dayton pulling the (mineral) leases.”

“I’m going to invite (Dayton),” Novak said.

“Not Dayton, Tome shot back “I don’t care if I

ever talk to him again. Our guys could have pushed a little harder.”

Brandau wondered if past Joint Powers legislative forums ever accom-

plished anything.

Ely City Council member Albert Forsman responded, “They help to build trust.”

COUNCIL...Continued from page 3

individual would not be able to recover more than \$500,000 on any applicable claim.

In other business, the council:

➤ Approved 2018 Liquor, Wine and Club Licenses for Oveson’s Pelican Lake Resort & Inn, and the Orr American Legion.

➤ Approved a Grant-in-Aid trail permit with the DNR for the Voyageur Snowmobile Trail System, allowing the VTSI trail system to cross state land.

➤ Approved the Orr Ambulance’s use of the conference room at Old City Hall for meetings and trainings.

➤ Approved a resolution for the city to make final application for a

Community Development Block Grant. The city has previously submitted a pre-application for King Rd. and Pine Dr. infrastructure projects for CDBG funding that has been accepted. This next application is for final consideration. Relatedly, the council had previously approved a quote from Parkk Paving for pavement repairs on King Road and by the Post Office. The unbudgeted repairs totaled \$5,130. The city has received the first half of state funding through the Small Cities Assistance program for \$3,046. The council approved use of those funds for payment to Parkk Paving, Inc. for the repairs.

➤ Approved a request from a resident for a one-

time utility adjustment on their water bill. The high usage was due to a faulty water heater. The resident has had the water heater replaced.

City reports

➤ Chet Nieman of the Liquor Store reported that sales are up, noting that Sunday sales have been better than Monday sales. He also reported that the new security system is working. The old security cameras have been repurposed for security at the airport.

➤ Water and Sewer Head Paul Koch reported the hydrant on King Rd is not fixable and will need to be dealt with. He is looking for parts for the 1958 model hydrant.

➤ Rocky Hoffman

reported for the airport, telling the council the fuel tank on the dump truck is leaking. He told the council of a temporary fix and that he is looking at replacement or repair. Hoffman reported replacement of the printer on the fuel pump.

➤ Finance Director Jim Gray reported the Ambulance has had 135 runs this year and posted \$250,000 in billing, with estimated collections running just above 50 percent. He also reported the department has come in under budget in many categories. Hits to the budget include workman’s comp and telephone expenses. He anticipated budgeting \$75,000 for wages in next year’s budget. Gray also noted a

\$2,500 reimbursement from St. Louis County. Over all, he reported, “The budget looks to be in good shape.”

➤ Fire Department Head Dallas Johnson reported that the department boat was out, and winterized. He brought up the issue of lack of quickly-accessible spaces to dock the boat during the summer. The council discussed options, and is looking into places. Johnson reported the cold-water rescue equipment was ready, which led to discussion of an Orr Polar Plunge.

➤ The Orr Christmas celebration and parade will be Saturday, Dec. 2. Organizers are looking for participants to enter a float in the parade. Interested

parties should call Shannon Woodworth at 993-8865 or email at smewoodworth@aol.com.

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ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN

Pastor Berhanu bids farewell

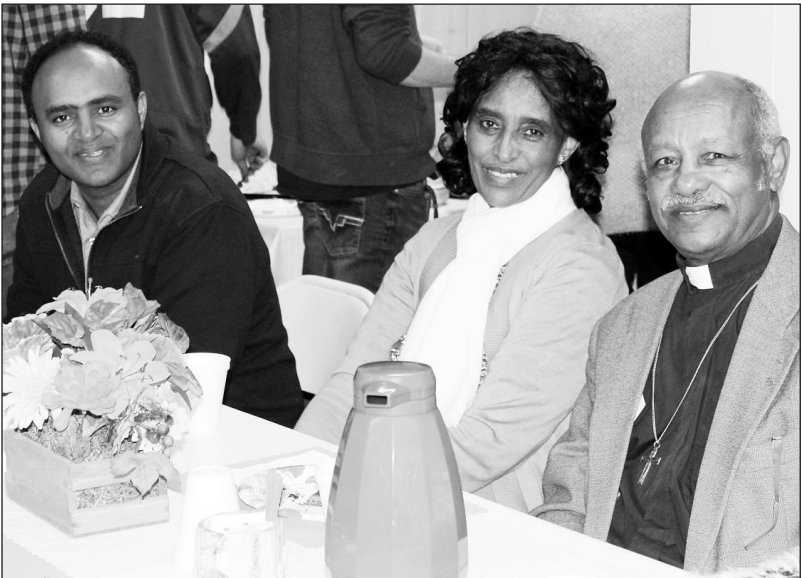
by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- Over 70 members of the community gathered on Sunday night to say farewell to Pastor Berhanu Alengo of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. After serving the church and community for thirteen years, Berhanu will be retiring to Atlanta, Ga., to be nearer one of his five sons.

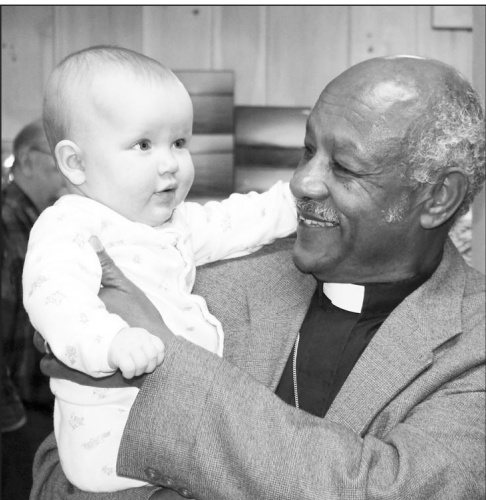
Back in 2004, St. Paul’s had been searching for a pastor for three years and Greg Dostert, president of the church, was in the process of building his house. Allen Schramm of Embarrass called Dostert to tell him of his friend who was visiting who might fit the bill. Not twenty minutes later, Berhanu was in Dostert’s unfinished home interviewing for the position. After a subsequent interview with the board, the church “hired” Pastor Berhanu.

Unfortunately, Berhanu, who is originally from Ethiopia, was here on a visitor’s visa and could not legally earn money. In exchange for his services, the church gave Berhanu and his wife, Aster, housing, food, a vehicle, gas, and a few members may have slipped him cash under the table, too. Berhanu volunteered his time for two years before he received his green card with help from congregants.

Many friends and congregants stood up to say goodbye to Pastor



Pastor Berhanu (at right) with his wife Aster and son Samuel. Below: Berhanu visits with Gaia Bialke. photos by S. Ukkola



Berhanu, to thank him, and share memories. “He really inspired me to be thankful for what we have,” said Fred Precht. In his closing remarks, Berhanu said, “There is a time for everything and now it is time to retire. I thank all of you. I’ve enjoyed working with all of you. My family and I are going to miss you. You are always here in our heart.”

THANKSGIVING

Community Thanksgiving Dinner at St. James

Reservations requested by Monday for this free dinner



TOWER- A Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held at St. James Presbyterian on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 23 at 2 p.m. Carry-out orders may be picked up at 2:30 p.m. only. You must call 218-753-6005 to reserve a spot or to order a carry-out to be picked up at the church. Please call by Monday, Nov. 20. Everyone is welcome.

AEOA Senior Dining Menu

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

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

Meals are served from 12:30 – 1 p.m. on days when the charter school is open. Call the school at 218-753-1246 ext. 1003 for reservations, or call AEOA at 1-800-662-5711 ext. 7323 for the one-time registration process.

- Week of Nov. 20
No school all week
- Week of Nov. 27
Monday- Meat Calzone, Marinara Sauce
- Tuesday- Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Tomato Soup
- Wednesday- Chunky Pork Gravy over Mashed Potatoes, Dinner Roll, Vegetables
- Thursday- Lasagna, Dinner Roll
- Friday- Chicken Noodle Soup, Cheesy Breadsticks.

Week of Nov. 20

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

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

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Nov. 21.

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

Wednesday
St. Paul’s Bible study- meets from 2-3 p.m. at the Soudan Apartment activity room.

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

Thursday
Vermilion Country School Board- Fourth Thursday of the month at 5 p.m. (except near holidays). Meetings posted online at vermillioncountry.org.

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



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www.timberjay.com

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THE NEWS OF THE WEEK FROM MS. VERA MILION



Dear Hearts,

I am in just a bit of a tizzy today—packing up essentials for Hilda who has been incarcerated (sent to the big house) again. It doesn’t happen that often but I think I should have an overnight suitcase ready and waiting in the trunk of the car. After all, with this household, I have a favorite lawyer on speed dial. I really should be aware of Hilda’s “special problem” this time of year... but one does forget. Don’t get smug and self-righteous on me... we all forget! It’s a fact of life, like hair loss, reaching the last hole on your belt and voting for the GOP! So don’t give me that memory issue spiel and another copy of “Ten Tips to Help You Remember Where You Put Your Teeth.” So don’t get smug and smarmy! I really have no idea what ‘smarmy’ means but I think it could be used in this case. If I’m

wrong in my usage... PLEASE keep it to yourself.

This time I feel that Hilda was not at fault, due to a psychological problem over which she had no control. I place the blame of the incident on the people who run those big box stores and their attempt to put you in the holiday shopping mood. It’s the Christmas music—with which they hope to make you feel jolly and spend, spend, spend. This onslaught of holiday homicide starts, it seems to me, right after Arbor Day.

Normally it doesn’t bother us, but last week the tinsel hit the tree as it were! The whole situation may have been exacerbated (I’ve wanted to use that word for YEARS). Hilda has hearing aids. She likes to pretend she doesn’t have hearing issues so she never buys her batteries locally. After the third time neighbors call and ask us to turn down the TV, even she knows it’s a road trip. I really do not blame what happened on Hilda. She is a sweet, kindly woman and generally has nerves of steel. A sweet young thing put in the new batteries and

smiled as Hilda put them in her ears. We decided to do a bit of shopping, the cockles of our ancient hearts being warmed by the good service. In a trice it seemed our carts were filled with needless things that were on sale and drastically reduced.

Hilda, I noticed, was getting tense, and a wee bit sweaty when I remembered her dislike of Christmas music. She is not opposed to “O, Holy Night,” “Adeste Fideles” or carols of that ilk, even sung by Johnny Cash. Her knuckles turned white as she tightened her grip on the cart as “Frosty the Snowman” went “Thumpety, thump, thump, Thumpity, thump, thump...” A look of sadness crossed her face when she was reminded that Rudolph had no one to laugh or play with until that foggy night. She got through “I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus” with just a slight facial twitch. As Yogi Yorgesson started “I Yust Go Nuts at Christmas,” all you could see were the whites of her eyes. I still could not get her loose from the cart.

It was “Jingle Bells”

by the Singing Dogs that started Hilda’s attack on all things Christmas. It took two large mall policemen with a fire hose to get her calmed down. The constable was going to haul her to jail but I convinced him that she was just off her meds. He did insist on a trip to the emergency ward just to “...make sure” she was all right.

At the emergency desk they told us there would be a slight wait. The nurse escorted us to a special Yuletide ER, “designed especially for people like your friend—no Christmas music allowed.” I waited while Hilda was being checked over by a specialist. “She’s fine, but no Christmas music until say, Dec. 19 or 20. Take care and Merry...” He was unable to finish his seasonal greeting. Hilda grabbed a bed pan from a passing orderly and hit him repeatedly—screaming, “happy Christmas, happy holidays, ho ho ho, greetings of the season and mele kalikimaka ame hauoli makahiki hou.” And THAT is WHY she is in jail.

Ms. Vera Milion

Transfer station

Soudan Canister

Expanded hours year-round

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

For info: 1-800-450-9278

Hwy. 77 Canister

Winter hours now in effect

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

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

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, Nov. 29, Dec. 20

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

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



the TIMBERJAY

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

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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



Ely Washington School Principal Anne Oelke along with ISD 696 Superintendent Kevin Abrahamson gathered with K-5 students last week to dedicate the new school playground. photos by K. Vandervort



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News In Brief

Holiday Fantasy Craft Fair opens Nov. 24
ELY - The annual Holiday Fantasy Craft Fair is set for Friday, Nov. 24, from noon – 4 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Miners Dry House, alongside Miners Lake.
With 30 vendors already registered it's going

to be a busy place. Entry is free. Bring your holiday shopping list; there is something for everyone. This year one can purchase fresh wreaths, kids puzzles, baked goods, photography and pottery to name just a few items available.
A new addition to the Holiday Fantasy will be traditional sleigh rides along the Trezona Trail. The sleigh rides will be offered both days of the show with a \$2 per person charge. Sleigh rides will start at Miners Dry and will run about 20-30 minutes per ride.
There will also be a table for crafts available for purchase. Children can make a full-sized nutcracker of their choice. The nutcrackers are made of real wood and the kits come with everything you need to take home an iconic nutcracker prince, princess, angel or even Santa. The kits are \$12 each. Volunteers will be available to help with the crafts so parents can shop the craft fair.
Bring the family and enjoy this celebration of gifts, art and winter. See Santa, too! Sponsored by Ely Greenstone Public Art and Stone Soup Events.

the TIMBERJAY

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Breathing Out
by Cecilia Rolando © 2017

lake silenced by ice
cold hard colors laying flat
playful deer hiding

Ely Free Clinic open Mondays
ELY - The Ely Community Health Center is Ely's Free Clinic. They are open every Monday evening from 5:30-7 p.m. in the lower level of the Frandsen Bank building on 1st Ave. in downtown Ely.
They are available to see anyone who does not have health insurance. They are also available for anyone who has health insurance but has unaffordable co-pays or deductibles (underinsured).
For more information, call 365-5678, or visit their website, www.ely-communityhealth.org, or Facebook page.

Music and Drama Club meets Monday
Presenters Susan and Cheryl will discuss local history, "Who We Are: the English and Irish."

First Deer
ELY - The Ely Music and Drama Club will meet at 7 p.m. on Nov. 20 at the home of Cheryl Martinetto.



Rylee Larsen, 11, was all smiles on opening day of the Minnesota gun deer season after she shot a doe with her father, Brad Larsen, of Ely. She made the 70-yard hit with an AR.223 rifle and the help of a shooting stick to steady her shot. submitted photo

Show Your School Spirit & Support The Conaway Family

Taco Dinner Fundraiser

Raffles Silent Auction

Saturday, November 25th
3pm-7pm
Adults \$8 Students \$5
Memorial School Cafeteria

On October 24th The Conaway family lost their home to a fire. Ely School Students have banded together to help their classmates during this difficult time. If you are unable to attend, but would like to make a donation please contact Kristi (218-235-8940) or Jacki (218-365-6443)

ELY HIGH SCHOOL FALL MUSICAL

Footloose

ELY - Ely Memorial High School students cut loose last weekend with their fall musical "Footloose."

In the play, the main character, Ren (Blaise Lah), and his mother (Emma Terwilliger), starting a new life, have to move from the big city of Chicago to Beaumont, Texas.

"The culture shock is enough to ruin Ren's life," Director James Lah said. "He learns that this town has outlawed dancing because of a past tragic accident."

Reverend Shaw Moore (Jasiah Wigdahl) is the de facto mayor and enforcer of the "no-dancing" law. In doing so he alienates his daughter Ariel (Erika Mattson) and his wife Vi (Danielle Krostue). Ariel rebels and finds Ren quite attractive. Vi retreats, but by the end finds her voice.

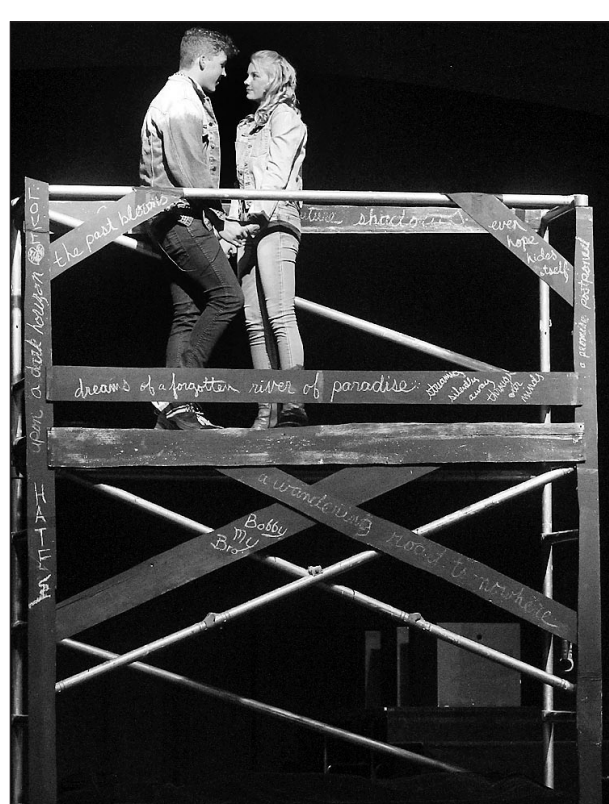
Ariel and Ren lead the high school on a quest to reverse the dancing law. In doing so, Ren helps the Reverend let go of the past, which secures his support of dancing.



Jasiah Wigdahl played the part of Rev. Shaw Moore.



Dozens of Ely Memorial High School students participated in the fall musical, "Footloose," presented last weekend in Washington Auditorium. photos by K. Vandervort



Above: Ariel (Erika Mattson) and Ren (Blaise Lah) share a tender moment on the bridge.

Left: Willard (Henry Dirks) and Rust (Emma Larson) kick up their heels at the Bar-B-Que.

Below: The School Dance scene had the audience clapping hands and stomping feet.



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Cook Community Thanksgiving Dinner

COOK- The public is invited to the Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 23 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at St. Mary’s Catholic Church social hall. The Cook Lions Club will be delivering meals to homebound residents; please call Noreen at 218-666-2869 to arrange delivery. Everyone is welcome to attend this meal, which is made possible by the generous donations from community businesses and individuals.

8th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner set for Orr Legion

ORR- The 8th annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be served in Orr on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 23, from 1-3 p.m. at the Orr American Legion Hall. It is a wonderful local gathering for families and friends. Meals will also be delivered to the homebound, starting at 12:30 p.m.

This meal is free and open to all. By community request, donations for the Loaves and Fishes Food Shelf will be accepted but are not required. Local businesses and individuals who would like to support the dinner can send a donation to Orr Thanksgiving Dinner, PO Box 247, Orr, MN 55771, or can make a deposit to the Orr Thanksgiving account at the American Bank in Orr or Cook. Funds not expended for the meal will go to support the food shelf through the winter, especially at Christmas.

Any questions can be directed to Joel or Lori Astleford at 218-757-0052 or Rick and Wendy Deatherage at 909-900-6626.

Coding Club for Kids Thursdays at Cook Library

COOK- Ever wanted to learn how to create a computer game or design your own website? Come to the library to explore computer coding in a fun and interactive environment. Kids in grades 5 and up are invited to participate. Adults are encouraged to attend and learn with the kids. All materials will be provided. The club will take place at 5 p.m. at the Cook Public Library every Thursday in November, except Thanksgiving.

“Open Art” painting group meets Saturday, Nov. 18 in Cook


COOK- The “Open Art Group” of Northwoods Friends of the Arts will meet in Cook on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the gallery located at 210 River St., next to Dream Weaver Salon and Spa. So, painters, “hope to painters,” Zentangers, and art enthusiasts of all media come and join with other NWFA artists to work on a new painting or one in progress. Work on a drawing, a Zentangle, or a collage on a Saturday afternoon. You have a free choice of activities.

NWFA board to meet Nov. 21

COOK- NWFA’s monthly board meeting will be held at the gallery at noon on Tuesday, Nov. 21. Budget proposals and ideas for 2018 are due. All are welcome. Please bring ideas and energy. NWFA is a 501c3 non-profit group that supports the arts in our area. We are supported by donations, grants and fundraisers. Our success is directly dependent on the support of members and donors. As part of our mission we have a gallery where we display and sell art of all price ranges. In addition, we hold classes at the gallery and at other locations in the area.

First Baptist Church hosts Annual Ladies Christmas Tea on Dec. 4

COOK- All the ladies of the community are invited to attend the annual Christmas Tea at the First Baptist Church of Cook on Monday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. The theme is “Simply Christmas.” Join the ladies of First Baptist Church to contemplate the profound, yet simple message of the Christmas season. The ladies look forward to sharing this delightful evening of reflection, rest and refreshment with you. Christmas music, readings, carol-singing and refreshments will add touches of festivity to the evening. The ladies of First Baptist Church look forward to welcoming you and trust that this delightful evening will help usher the Christmas season into your heart and all of your Christmas plans.




20th Annual St. Mary's
Holiday Bazaar

Friday, November 17, 4-7 PM
Saturday, November 18, 9 AM-3 PM

Crafts • Luncheon • Coffee An's • Potica
Raffle • Drawings • Bake Sale • Canned Goods
Wreaths & Greenery • Lefse • Cookie Walk!
We've Got Gifts for Everyone on Your List!
Choose your own assortment of yummy
Holiday Cookies!

Dinner Friday Night • 4-8 PM
and Luncheon on Saturday

Choice of Soups, Sloppy Joe,
Hot Dogs, Beverages and Bar or Cookie
Take-outs available



St. Mary's Church, Cook, MN

North Woods School honors Veterans

Student winners of Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen essays included Zoe Trip, Tate Olson, Nicole Olson, Avery Thiel, Brandy Walker, Emily Tri. Drummers performed the Flag Song. Veteran Jerry Yourczek talked about his service with the Navy during the Korean War. photos by M. Roach

CRANE LAKE

Crane Lake News by the Singing Teapot Dames

CRANELAKE- More snow, more snow and more snow. Winter came and it looks like it is going to stay. If you did not get your chores done before winter it is too late now.

The area has been busy with deer hunters. Reports have been that it is a good season. Eleven bucks have been reported out of our Crane Lake area. If reports are accurate, Jill Crane had a successful shoot.

Gini Stahnke tells the best deer-hunting story in years. Prior to deer season, Gini had a big buck hanging around in her yard. She named the deer Buck Bob. The day before the season opened Gini tried to hang up a new bird feeder which

she had just purchased for \$50. She needed help with the project and put the feeder on the picnic table until some help appeared. After a time she looked out and Buck Bob was at the table licking the birdseed out of the feeder. Gini ran out and shooed him away. However, the feeder was trapped in his antlers. So Gini lost her new feeder. She called Butch and John and they tried to find the feeder in the woods without luck. Deer season opened and Bruce Bestie shot Buck Bob. Attached to his antlers was the rope and tie from Gini’s feeder. The Dames wonder if Gini has Farmers Insurance. Her feeder is sure to be covered by Farmers, because Farmers has seen everything.

John Sanborn is home on leave from his Marine Corps stint. His plans are to get in some hunting. He is currently stationed out east. Dad and Mom, Jeff and Lorie, and Grandma Shirley will enjoy spending time with him. If you see him, thank him for his service to our country.

The Lang kids came from Austin, Tex., Coquille,

Ore., Bloomington, Ill., and Eveleth to celebrate their parents’ 50th wedding anniversary last weekend. Most of the grandkids were able to make it for the special weekend also. Mike and Linda were given a very special blanket, depicting the ‘family tree’ with Mike and Linda being the trunk, the kids as the branches and the grandkids as the leaves. Stories of family occurrences were remembered and it was a reminder that families share good and bad times, but remain connected through it all.

The grandkids had a great reunion getting together with each other as well. Some of the older boys got to share in male camaraderie by joining the “oldsters” in the rite of sharing guy talk in the garage. The middle-school-aged kids were having a great time in the snow, sliding down the hills—at least they were having a great time until one of them hit a rock and hurt his hand. After a trip to the Cook Urgent Care Clinic, it was determined that Logan Cameron had two broken metacarpal bones, received a brace, and was advised to see his own doctor when he returned home. His doctor then referred him to an orthopedic surgeon, who directed him to a hand specialist in case surgery is needed. Logan plays on the Texas Junior Stars hockey team, with a big tournament scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend in Baltimore. Some would say he is now “officially” a hockey player. Did you ever know a hockey player who didn’t break something somewhere along the way?

Thanksgiving, has one of your family traditions been watching the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade? Do you know which giant balloon character has flown more times than any other in the parade? If you guessed Snoopy, you’d be correct. Charlie Brown’s pet dog, with sidekick Woodstock perched on his head, has the record for most appearances at 38.

Comments continue to be made about how early darkness comes with the return from Daylight Savings Time. Some people say they end up falling asleep around 6:30 p.m. and then can’t go to sleep at bedtime due to the earlier nap. Thanksgiving is coming soon, so a turkey sandwich before bed might help you slumber if you are having trouble. Not strong enough for you? Add in a banana. Bananas contain potassium and magnesium, both natural muscle relaxants. Throw in a glass of milk, and you’ll settle in for “a long winter’s nap.” Or are we a season ahead?

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 to 218-757-3533, or by calling Sandy at 218-757-3233 and it will be added. So fire away with your news.

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

Speaking of



North Woods Volleyball Team Varsity letter earners: Back (from left) Neiva Smith, Kate Stone, Taylor Mejdrich, Karlyn Pierce, Nicole Olson, Claire Beaudry, Regan Ratai. Front (from left) Kayla Tschida, Morgan Burnett, Maddy Serna, Jacie Lakosky, and Hanna Sandberg. photos by C. Stone

Grizzly Volleyball Team awards



Top row (from left) Nicole Olson - Best server; Hanna Sandberg - Most digs; Claire Beaudry - Most set assists. Bottom row (from left) Morgan Burnett - Most improved; Regan Ratai- Most blocks and most kills.



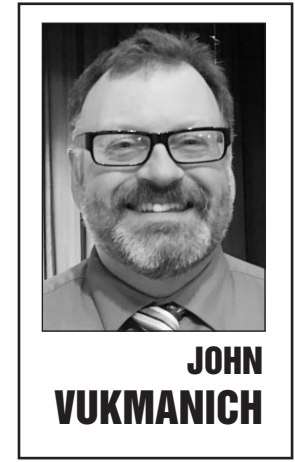
Arrowhead All Conference - Claire Beaudry, Regan Ratai and Hanna Sandberg.

GRIZZLY UPDATES

Social media and Internet safety tips

Congratulations to the North Woods Grizzlies football team on your State Quarterfinal appearance. The Grizzlies faced off against Nevis on Friday, Nov. 10 at Bemidji State University. The weather was challenging to say the least, with a stiff wind blowing off Lake Bemidji directly into the North Woods side and temperatures falling into the single digits. The Tigers proved to be more than North Woods could handle. Unfortunately the Grizzlies had difficulty stopping the Tigers’ powerful offense and the weather definitely hurt the Grizzlies’ strong passing game. Best of luck to Nevis as they move to the semi-finals at US Bank Stadium Nov. 17.

On Monday, Nov. 13, I attended a meeting for area schools at the St. Louis County Courthouse with our School Resource Officer Krueger. The meeting was a presentation by the County Attorney’s Office on responses to inappropriate use of technology,



particularly “sexting.” Sexting is when a person uses technology to send or receive an inappropriate picture of a sexual nature.

Although juveniles are usually not charged as adults unless the crime was particularly serious, committing an act such as this has far-reaching consequences for all those who are involved. This is a good reminder for us, as adults, to make sure we are monitoring our kids’ technology use. Some parents may think that these types of issues happen, but only to

“other” kids. In reality, in my line of work, I’ve seen kids from all walks of life use extremely poor judgement in the heat of the moment when it comes to social media, email, texting, and messaging.

Please talk to your kids about social media and Internet safety, including the following items:

- Never posting when angry or upset.
- Never posting private information. This includes names and addresses as well as other personal information.
- Never sharing information with someone you do not know.
- Never making threatening, harassing, racial, sexual, or other derogatory comments.
- When you post something, it is permanent. Even if you think it disappears, someone likely already took a screen-shot of it.
- As a general rule, if you know that a parent would not approve of it, do not post it.

Making posts that are harassing, threatening, or fall under sexting are punishable by law and by your school if it involves students.

Report suspicious or inappropriate things that you see or receive to a parent, teacher, principal, or school resource officer. We are all here to help.

Check your location and privacy settings so that your location and profile is not available to just anyone. Keep your postings private to your friends and family only.

Spending too much time on social media is just plain unhealthy for ALL of us!

Everyone have a great weekend! Only one more chance to get your deer. Winter sports season is just around the corner. I hope to see you soon at a Grizzlies basketball game.

Your Principal,
John Vukmanich

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Effective October 1

the **TIMBERJAY**

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GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Greenwood Town Board struggles to agree

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- In a meeting that started and ended with disagreements, the Greenwood Town Board made little progress on issues that have been on several previous agendas.

The board did not approve the minutes from the Oct. 10 meeting. Supervisor Mike Ralston said he was not comfortable with the description given of the public comment from Jeff Maus, who had “made some serious allegations against the previous board.” “I want the board to be able to respond to the allegations before I approve the minutes,” Ralston said.

Maus had made comments regarding lack of adherence to the open meeting law, and the issue of supervisors’ authority to oversee the clerk. He also suggested that one supervisor resign.

The board ended the meeting also in disagreement, this time on whether or not to table the hiring of a new assistant chief and administrative assistant for the fire department. Fire Chief Dave Fazio, who was not at the meeting because he had parent-teacher conferences, was recommending Mike Indihar as assistant chief and Tammy Mortaloni as administrative assistant. Both are brand new members of the department, though Indihar had been a long-time member who had retired and just rejoined.

Jeff Maus had sent an application into the town board for the assistant chief spot. The town board did not receive applications from either of the two candidates being recommended by Fazio.

Fire department member Howard Ankrum said the department had approved Indihar and Mortaloni at the last meeting, but Maus disputed this account and said he had a recording of the meeting.

“That discussion never took place,” Maus said. At a later point in the meeting, Maus noted that Fazio had mentioned there were two interested in the positions, but had never mentioned names.

Supervisor Bassing remind-

ed the board that the township attorney had urged the board to fill these positions as soon as possible. Currently the positions are being filled on an interim, month-to-month basis.

A motion to table the hiring until the next meeting when Fazio could be present passed 4-1, with Bassing voting against, noting they were acting against the advice of their attorney.

Maintenance

Supervisor Carmen DeLuca, who has been acting as the maintenance supervisor, asked if the board was ready to hire a part-time employee.

“We don’t need full-time,” he said.

Ralston noted there were items that needed to be done at the town hall, and that the township did own its own plow and lawnmower.

“We need to make a list of things to get done,” he said.

Bassing said the township could hire a contractor, instead of a township employee.

A motion to hire a part-time handyman to work on an as-needed basis died for lack of a second.

“I am not ready to make this decision yet,” said Ralston. “Who would they report to, who assigns tasks, and who approves the work completed?”

Some in the audience noted there are retired township residents who might be interested in such a position.

A request from DeLuca to be granted spending authority for maintenance-related items was also disputed.

DeLuca introduced a motion to grant himself the authority to spend up to \$1,000 without permission from the board as a whole. He noted the fire department chief and clerk both have similar limited spending authority.

Bassing reminded the board that supervisors do not individually have any spending authority, and the Minnesota Association of Township manual recommends that no spending authority be given to individual supervisors.

“I am not going to do the maintenance if I don’t have the authority to spend and have to go through the clerk,” DeLuca said.

Bassing brought up the case of a previous supervisor who had approved the purchase of a culvert and gravel for a secondary entrance to township property.

“This goes back to our road to nowhere,” Bassing said. “You can end up with everybody spending and no accountability.”

Bassing noted that it was proper to have limited spending authority for township employees like the clerk and fire chief, and previously the employee who was the maintenance supervisor.

The clerk noted that the motion on the floor was giving a specific person, not the supervisor who was in charge of maintenance, the spending authority, and that the motion needed to be clarified.

DeLuca said he was reporting any purchases to the board.

Ralston wondered if the clerk was giving the maintenance supervisor a list of items that needed repair, wouldn’t that be clerk-authorized spending, up to the pre-approved limit?

The clerk noted that there was still a need to hire out some work.

“There are things I cannot do,” said DeLuca, “when we need a carpenter or plumber.”

DeLuca said if the board wasn’t willing to give him the spending authority, he would quit the duties.

“If you don’t want me to do it, I am done,” he said.

Ralston said he couldn’t support the motion because it was creating too much turmoil.

“We need to get to a solution that works and is efficient,” he said.

The motion to grant spending authority to the maintenance supervisor of up to \$1,000 passed 3-2, with Bassing and Ralston voting against.

Positive progress

The board did see some positive progress. Supervisor DeLuca noted that the new fire department appreciation plaques have been

installed in the town hall, as well as updated outside faucets that are certified as safe for drinking water. The previously installed new faucet was not NSF-certified. DeLuca noted that the plumbing contractor that did the work is crediting the township for the original faucet.

Clerk Sue Drobac read correspondence from Teresa Debevec, administrator at the Cook Hospital, who informed the township they are no longer pursuing the issue of annexation.

Penguins Snowmobile Club

Steve Lenertz and Mike Indihar from the Penguins Snowmobile Club asked the township if they would help the club acquire some tax-forfeit county land to use for a club garage/maintenance building that will house the groomers used on the local trails.

“We are one of the oldest snowmobile clubs in the state,” they said, noting the club was formed in 1966. The club grooms 62 miles of trail and stakes another 60 or so miles on Lake Vermilion. Club trails have easements across 50 area property owners’ lands along with state and federal lands.

“We are all volunteers,” said Indihar. “None of us get paid.”

The club currently houses its equipment in the garage of a member, but that is not a long-term solution, they said. By building their own garage/maintenance building, they can insure they can continue to provide the services needed to keep snowmobiling, and the tourism it creates, an important part of the winter season.

The two spoke with County Commissioner Tom Rukavina about leasing suitable tax-forfeit parcel for the building, but Rukavina said the county might be able to transfer the land to the township.

Indihar noted the club carries its own insurance liability policy, so he didn’t think it would be an added expense for the township.

Bassing said he had already been looking into the issue, and

would like to meet with club officials and then bring it back to the board’s next meeting.

Skating rink

There was a bit of confusion over the township skating rink. At the start of the meeting, Noreen Butalla, from the Recreation Board, said that their group was interested in having a well drilled and boards installed for a rink. They said a well would cost around \$7,500 and could have a winterized pump. The well could also serve as a water source at the pavilion.

Mary Richard, who had urged the town board last winter to reopen the rink, noted that township volunteers had already offered to work on a rink for this year, using water from a fire truck as has been done in the past. Ralston, Bassing, and Maus all noted they will volunteer to flood and maintain the rink this winter, and that the rink area had already been plowed.

Other business

In other business the town board:

► Received a letter from a resident asking why fire department members are not receiving background checks.

► Reapproved joining the Joint Powers Board for the Lake Vermilion Trail, now that Breitung has decided not to be part of the agency. The board appointed Lee Peterson to be the township’s representative on the board.

► Accepted a \$15,000 grant from Bois Forte.

► Received a \$210 donation from North Country Quilts, who had used the town hall for a quilting retreat.

► Will transfer web hosting to Tech Bytes.

► Decided to print their own ballots for the upcoming March township election.

► Set the date of Aug. 25, 2018 for the 40th anniversary celebration.

► Thanked Lee Peterson, Dan Karakas, and Mary and Mike Richard for volunteer work done for the township this past month.

ORR...Continued from page 1

Internet access is one of the first things people ask about. These folks wanted high-speed.”

By rights, residents in Orr should have Internet like a rocket ship. It was actually one of the first communities in the region with a fiber optic connection, and the capacity of the fiber backbone has only

grown over time. “We have Paul Bunyan, CenturyLink, and Frontier, all running down the highway,” said Carter.

But it’s all headed elsewhere and the companies either can’t or won’t connect to homes or businesses in Orr. A combination of state and federal dollars recently allowed

the Northeast Service Cooperative to build yet another fiber backbone to remote locations like Crane Lake and Kabetogama. That fiber runs right through Orr, but CenturyLink, the local service provider isn’t a partner on the project, so it offers no benefit to would-be users in Orr. “It’s so frustrating that the feds and the state give them all this money to lay the cable and it just sits in the ground,” said Carter.

Brzoznowski agreed. “It’s our money and we can’t even use it,” he said.

Leiding Township had the opportunity to connect its town hall, which is located two doors down from the Orr Library, but township officials declined. Orr officials asked if the connection could run to the library instead, but were told that wouldn’t comply with their federal grant award.

Brzoznowski, who served for decades on the

Northstar Electric Cooperative board of directors and still serves on the Cook-Orr Healthcare District board, says he needs access to the Internet for the work he does. For years, Brzoznowski used a satellite company that provided him Internet at his remote farm. He expected to have similar service or better available in Orr, but now can’t purchase access through CenturyLink and the apartment building doesn’t allow individual satellite dishes, so he can’t use his former provider. “I can’t even get dial-up,” he said. “It’s disgusting.”

Some progress?

Slowly, but surely, better news may be on the way for CenturyLink customers in Orr and surrounding areas. According to Randy Long, IT director for the Bois Forte tribal government, CenturyLink is in the midst of laying new fiber and adding capacity, although exactly when the improved service will be available isn’t clear.

Long said he expects

the new service to go online at Nett Lake by next summer, but he’s less certain when that might happen in Orr, where CenturyLink also needs to update switching equipment.

The problem at this point really isn’t lack of fiber. There are multiple fiber conduits already in the ground, notes Long, but it’s getting the service out to customers that’s been the hurdle. He notes that Bois Forte tribal offices have exceptional broadband capacity, thanks to the middle-mile fiber project initiated by the Northeast Service Cooperative. But the private partners on that project, who were supposed to utilize that backbone to extend faster connections to residential and commercial customers, have been slow to deliver. “We have more capacity here at the government center than we know what to do with,” said Long. “But no one else can jump on board.”

The delays have prompted the band to consider their own “fiber-to-the-home” project, a project that Long said would cost about \$2.3 million, according to a plan the band has already developed. Long said he’d rather have CenturyLink do the project, but it’s not clear when or if the company would be willing to make that kind of investment.

NOTICE

Range Cooperatives, Inc.

Annual Shareholders Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Shareholders Membership Meeting of Range Cooperatives, Inc. The meeting will be called to order at:

6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 4, 2017
at Range Funeral Home Fellowship Hall,
911 16 St North, Virginia
(Please note new time and location.)

- Registration and Lunch will be served from 4:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.
- The regular business meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in the Range Funeral Home Chapel.

Regular business will be transacted at this meeting, which will include presentation of reports, election of directors, and any other business that may come up.

The speaker will be Craig Merten from Range Funeral Home.

Craig will be speaking about our journey of rebuilding our funeral home in Virginia after the fire in February.

David Stanaway, President
Michael Boyd, Secretary

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49th Annual Ladies of Kaleva
BAZAAR

Saturday, Nov. 18
9 AM - 1 PM

Historic Kaleva Hall • 125 3rd St N, Virginia

Live Music: Art Lehtonen

Pulla • Baked Goods • Raffle
Homemade Candies • Hand Crafts
Christmas “Used-a-Bit” • Sisu Hats/Totes
“Remembering Aiti” Cookbooks

Coffee an’s
Lunch: 11 AM-1 PM

Supplemental funds provided through Thrivent

LYME DISEASE SUPPORT GROUP

Wednesday, Nov. 29
6:30 PM

Vermilion Park Inn
30 Center St, Soudan
Downstairs Meeting Room
Refreshments Served
Open to the public

The city council has at least two more meetings to decide on the size of the rate increase for next year, and they moved on without making a final decision at

➤ Approved a reso-

➤ Referred a request from Orlyn Kringstad to put the addition of a street light near the entrance to the Marjo Motel back on the council agenda for an upcoming meeting. The city council had dismissed Kringstad's request last month after Clerk Keith

told the council that the addition of a street light could cost \$20,000 and require extensive coordination with MnDOT. The council had directed Kringstad to work directly with Minnesota Power to address any lighting issues near the motel entrance. When Kringstad contacted the company, they indicated by letter that the cost of a regular street-light would be \$197, plus \$23 per month for the electricity. Minnesota Power also indicated that the request would need to come from a government entity, either the city of Tower or MnDOT. Kringstad said he would be

► Heard an update on the city's funding status under the state's Water Infrastructure Fund. The

► Approved the transfer of the city's web maintenance service from Cold Snap to Tech Bytes. The individual who handles the city's web service is switching companies to Tech Bytes, which is the reason for the change.

According to the business plan, Princeton Commercial Holding's vision of its redevelopment of the Community Center is turning it into a mixed commercial-use building which will ensure the lowest vacancy with flexible leases for various uses

"We believe this is a serious offer," he said. "They will be looking at

“Ely has a lot to be proud of,” said Dr. Kathleen Annette, president and CEO of Blandin Foundation. “Local leaders are creating a broadband-enhanced future themselves when others wouldn’t do it for them.”

As leaders in rural

Communities are starting to see the direct economic impact of broadband investments like those in Ely. Blandin Foundation-commissioned research released at the conference

All the conference proceedings, including the county-by-county Digital Divide Index for Minnesota, are online at www.blandinonbroadband.org.



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Holiday Events

Nov. 24 & 25 Fri Noon - 4, Sat 10 - 2
Miners Dry at the Pioneer Mine will be turned into a Christmas Fantasy with carolers, kid's crafts, sleigh rides, & more! Many artists and craftsman showcase and sell their art, hand-crafted items. Sponsored by Ely Greenstone Public Art and Stone Soup Events.

Join us at Amici's Event Center for this free event with games, activities, cookie decorating, dancing, storytelling, hot chocolate and hot cider. Don't forget to bring your list for Santa as he will be stopping in for a visit. Every child gets a bag of goodies. While in town, stop by our shops for holiday gifts! Sponsored by Elv Chamber of Commerce.

ELY SCHOOL BOARD

Ely OKs girls hockey co-op for one student

ELY—The Ely School Board, Monday, authorized entering into a cooperative agreement with the Eveleth-Gilbert School District to provide an opportunity for students to participate in girls hockey this season.

Just one Ely female student has indicated a desire to play girls hockey. The decision was easy for school board members this week because ISD 696 will have no financial obligation in the agreement. All fees assessed are the responsibility of the participant.

Ely Athletic Director Tom Coombe was authorized by the school board to explore the idea last spring. “The brakes were put on over the summer because the one girl (who hoped to participate in girls hockey) was leaning more toward playing in our boys program,” Coombe said. “She recently had a change of heart, so we sped things up to get an agreement.

Their girls hockey season is actually under way.” Eveleth-Gilbert’s first game was Wednesday night.

“Eveleth has been very receptive, and the state high school league has given their conditional approval,” he said. “Eveleth-Gilbert has the responsibility of getting a majority of the schools in the section to agree to this last-minute co-op.”

The Ely School District has had girls hockey co-op arrangements off and on for the last 15 years or so. “Back in the early 2000s, we had a co-op with Eveleth Gilbert, then there was the Ely-Babbitt-Embarrass team that was in existence for four or five years,” Coombe said. After that a co-op was in place with Silver Bay that lasted a couple of years.

“For the last two or three years, there hasn’t been any interest in girls hockey, and now there is,”

he said. “I recommend this co-op. Number one, there is no cost to the district, and number two, it provides an additional opportunity for a girl who would like to play girls hockey, and this keeps the student in our school district.”

Washington, D.C. senior class trip

After more than two decades and more than 1,000 participants, the annual senior class trip to Washington, D.C., was again approved by the Ely School Board. The educational adventure will take place March 22-26, 2018.

“For 23 years, students from Ely High School, parents, faculty and community members have had the opportunity to tour our nation’s capital on one of the most exciting and educational trips they will ever take,” wrote Frank Ivancich, history teacher and trip coordinator, in a letter to the school board.

The annual trip is also coordinated by teacher Robert Simonich and Jeff Anderson, former student, aide to Rep Rick Nolan, and tour guide. “It has been our pleasure to organize and coordinate this trip since its inception in 1995.”

The trip costs just over \$1,000 per person. Students have the opportunity to work at fund-raising events like spaghetti dinners to help pay for the trip.

Trip participants leave Ely High School early on March 22 for a bus trip to Minneapolis Airport where they catch a flight to Reagan International Airport. The first day is filled with opportunities to meet Rep. Nolan, Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken, tour the U.S. Capitol, Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum.

The trip will include tours of Mt. Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, National Gallery

of Art, Kennedy Center and a production of “Shear Madness,” the White House, Holocaust Museum, various monuments, Gettysburg Museum and battle fields, World War II Museum, Embassy Row, National Cathedral, Ford Theater, and other historical monuments.

Other business

In other business, the board took the following action:

➤ Approved the resignation of Brian Lamppa as head coach of the boys football team, effective Nov. 1, 2017. “Brian has done a great job with our teams over the last eight or nine years,” said Board Chair Ray Marsnick. “He will be missed.” A letter of thanks will be sent to the coach, who is anticipated to retire from his teaching position at the end of the school year;

➤ Authorized professional growth subsidies in

the amount of \$7,250 to the Ely Education Association;

➤ Accepted the resignation of Cheri Debeltz from the part-time para-professional position, effective Oct. 27, 2017;

➤ Ratified the agreement between ISD 696 and Local Union No. 295 for the period July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2019;

➤ Renewed Jake Myers for the assistant hockey coach position;

➤ Approved the following volunteer assistant coaches: Billy Foy, hockey coach; Mike Keller, junior high boys basketball; Jake Vanderbeek, Rob Mattson, boys basketball; Tom Omerza, Nate Kallberg, Mark Krekelberg, John Meyer, girls basketball; and Laura Eilrich, Liz Anderson, Will Helms, Mary Schwinghamer, Adam Feichtinger, Barb Thompson, Jeff Nelson, Margaret Waechter, Molly Olson, Megan Devine, Heather Durkin, Travis Durkin, Nordic skiing.

Briefly

Ely student drug overdose leads to two arrests

ELY - An Ely high school student’s apparent drug overdose during the school day last week led to drug-related arrests of a mother and daughter at a residence just south of the school campus.

A male student was found collapsed in the hallway outside the high school office at about 1 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 3, according to school officials. “The

Ely Area Ambulance and Ely Police Department were called and responded and stabilized a student who was found non-responsive,” said Ely Memorial High School Principal Megan Anderson. “The student was taken to the hospital. The student is back in school,” Anderson said.

The Ely Police Department questioned the student and his parent following the incident. A judge authorized a search warrant at 630 East Pattison Street

the next day that resulted in the seizure of Oxycodone, at least 40 grams of marijuana, more than \$300 in cash and other drug paraphernalia.

Felony charges of possession of controlled substances and possession of drug paraphernalia were brought against Moneac Butler, 48, and her daughter, Shawna Butler, 20.

The charges carry a maximum fine of five years in jail and or a \$10,000 fine.

St. Louis County receives \$675,000 opioid grant

REGIONAL- Lt. Governor Tina Smith and Human Services Commissioner Emily Piper announced on Nov. 3 that the state will be investing \$16.6 million dollars in grant money across the state including a \$675,000 grant to St. Louis County.

“Opioid overdose deaths have increased in Minnesota by 430 percent since 2000. These

Minnesotans were our friends, neighbors, and family members,” said Lt. Governor Tina Smith. “These new grants will help more Minnesotans all across the state get the assistance they need before it’s too late. In the 2018 Legislative Session our administration will continue to urge the Legislature to make additional resources available for Minnesotans in need.”

St. Louis County will use the grant money to expand access to naloxone,

a drug that serves as an immediate life-saving antidote to opioid overdose. The grant will also allow St. Louis County to offer training to prescribers, pharmacists, student leaders, local coalitions and drug court participants and their families in the distribution and use of naloxone. The county will also deliver naloxone directly to opioid users, fund a clean syringe exchange, and offer HIV HEP-C testing.

Jury awards \$2 million judgment against Lake Cty.

REGIONAL— A jury has awarded a Florida-based contractor a \$2.08 million judgment against Lake County for unpaid bills associated with the Lake Connections broadband project.

The project helped to expand high-speed fiber connections to hundreds of homes and businesses in Lake County and portions of eastern St. Louis County, but fell into financial difficulty as federal grant

dollars ran out before completion of the project.

The Florida company, Rohl Networks, had been the primary contractor on the project and had filed suit against Lake County for unpaid work, after the county assumed liability for Lake Connections, the independent entity that originally built and intended to operate the new broadband service.

The Lake County administrator did not respond to questions or a request for comment.

Two suffer minor injuries on Hwy. 53

OWENS TWP- A 2017 Ford F150 driven by David J. Schunk of Britt was headed eastbound on

Leander Road when he attempted to cross Hwy. 53. The Ford struck a 2013 Dodge Caravan, driven by David P. Arjavec of Eveleth, traveling north on Hwy. 53. Both men were

not wearing their seatbelts at the time of the incident. Both men sustained non-life threatening injuries and were seen at Cook Hospital. Road conditions were dry and alcohol was not a factor.

Members wanted for trail board

REGIONAL- The steering committee for the development of the Lake Vermilion Trail is in the process of seeking individuals to form the Lake Vermilion Trail Joint Powers Board. The Joint Powers Agreement has been finalized and agreed upon between the cities of Cook and Tower, the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa; the townships of Beatty, Greenwood, Kugler, Owens, Vermilion Lake, as

well as unorganized Townships 62-17 and 63-17. Members of the St. Louis County Board have expressed interest in joining the agreement and will vote on the issue later this month.

Each local government entity listed in the agreement will own part of the 40-mile trail and will have a representative to serve on the Joint Powers Board. The ten-member board will direct the development and maintenance operations, marketing and promotion, as well as fundraising for the Lake Vermilion Trail.

The scenic paved trail will be a non-motorized, multi-use trail near the south shore of Lake Vermilion, connecting the cities of Cook and Tower.

People who are interested in serving on the Joint Powers Board should contact their local township, city or tribal council. Anyone can be a trail volunteer; contact Carol Booth at 218-666-5990. More information about the Lake Vermilion Trail can be found at www.lakevermilion-trail.org or Facebook/[lakevermiliontrail](https://www.facebook.com/lakevermiliontrail).



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2015 Chevrolet Equinox LS - AWD	\$17,990
2014 Chevrolet Sonic LTZ - heated leather, certified	\$10,990
2014 Chevrolet Cruze - LT, low miles	\$11,990
2014 Buick Encore - AWD	\$17,990
2013 Chevrolet Silverado LTZ - crew cab, 4x4, 1 owner	\$28,990
2013 Chevrolet Silverado LT 2500 HD - Ext cab long box	\$23,990
2013 Ford Explorer XLT - 4x4, heated leather, local trade.....	\$17,990
2011 Chevrolet Traverse LT - AWD, 1 owner.....	\$10,990

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SPORTS

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SWIMMING

NER/Ely won't send swimmers to state

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

HIBBING— The young NER/Ely swim team won't be sending any swimmers to state this year, but Head Coach Jason Limp said there was a lot to like in his team's section performance.

The team participated in the two-day Section 7A semifinals and finals, held last Thursday and Saturday.

"We had an amazing section meet," said Limp. "The girls worked so hard over the course of an extremely tough season, and it shows in the results."

With the NER pool in the midst of a major construction project, the team had few practice sessions to start the season. The girls hung in there, said Limp, and the team was able to host two swim meets toward the end of the regular season as construction at the school wound down.

NER/Ely did have some strong performances in last week's competition. "Standout swims for us were Kayla Mellesmoen in the 50 and 100 freestyle and Brooke Pasmick in the 50 freestyle and 100 backstroke," said Limp. Pasmick finished eighth in the 50 freestyle and tenth in the 100 backstroke, while Mellesmoen finished tenth in the 50 freestyle and thirteenth in the 100 freestyle.

"We just missed having two relay teams in the finals but the girls still dropped a ton of time," said Limp. "Every year we are getting better and sending more swimmers back on the second day for individual swims in the finals and consolation heats."

The team has the opportunity to improve for next year as they will lose just two seniors. Meanwhile, seventh and eighth-graders made up three-quarters of the team this year. "I am so proud of my girls this season and what they have accomplished," added Limp.

TOP INDIVIDUAL/RELAY FINAL RESULTS
50 YD FREESTYLE
8. Brooke Pasmick 26.47
10. Kayla Mellesmoen 26.77

100 YD FREESTYLE
13. Kayla Mellesmoen 59.45

100 YD BACKSTROKE
10. Brooke Pasmick 1:08.76

200 YD MEDLEY RELAY
11. Kelly Thompson, Maarja Faltesek, Lilly Tedrick, Shalya Zaverl 2:26.42

200 YD FREESTYLE RELAY
10. Kayla Mellesmoen, Laura Pasmick, Shayla Zaverl, Brooke Pasmick 4:14.43

SECTION 7A TEAM STANDINGS
1. Hibbing 415
2. Mesabi East 394.5
3. Duluth Denfield 237
4. Two Harbors-Silver Bay 220
5. C-E-C Lumberjacks 218.5
6. International Falls 186
7. Eveleth-Gilbert 165
8. Virginia 141
9. Proctor-Hermantown 138
10. Northeast Range-Ely 67
11. Chisholm 52



STATE NINEMAN FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

BITTER BOWL

North Woods falls to Nevis in brutal weather in first round of the Nineman state tournament

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

BEMIDJI— The Grizzlies faced a bitter wind in more ways than one during their opening round state tournament match-up with Section 6 Nineman champions Nevis here last Friday evening.

With temperatures in the mid-teens, and with a 20-mile per hour wind blowing off Lake Bemidji, the conditions were downright brutal. "I don't think words could describe it if you didn't experience it," said North Woods Head Coach John Jirik. "The windchill was about zero and everybody out there was pretty much in misery."

And for North Woods, the misery never let up as the Tigers' relentless ground game proved nearly unstoppable. "They were able to run their offense like we thought they would," said Jirik, who expected a high-scoring game. "The way they stopped us was a bit more of a surprise."

At 9-1 coming into the game, the Grizzlies had been able to rely all season long on a well-rounded offense, led by senior running-back Brendan Parson, senior full-back Garrett Abramson, and senior quarterback Tate Olson, whose passing ability—along with the sure hands of junior wide receiver Tanner Barto—had provided North Woods with the ability to score early and often. Since losing their season opener to Cromwell, the Grizzlies had averaged 486 yards and 44 points a game before their state tournament showdown.

But it was Nevis, at 8-2, that seemed the more powerful team. "They're very good," said Jirik after the game. While weather conditions weren't conducive to the Grizzlies' passing attack, Jirik said Nevis likely would have won even under perfect conditions. "I think they were the better team," he said.

Nevis went to work from the opening kickoff, as they halted the Grizzlies' first attempted drive and took the lead for good as they quickly converted their first two possessions for six points apiece.

North Woods seemed to rebound in their next possession, as nice runs by Parson and Abramson kept the Grizzlies moving forward. Abramson later scored on a three-yard plunge up the middle, to put North Woods on the board. When Olson connected with Barto for the conversion, the Grizzlies were briefly back in the game, down just 12-8.

But Nevis proved relentless as their outside running game kept racking up yardage almost at will. The Tigers, averaging eight yards a carry, racked up an astonishing 246 yards rushing in the first half alone. They

“The way they stopped us was a bit more of a surprise.”

Head Coach
John Jirik



Top: Fans were bundled up against the chill. At kickoff, temperatures were in the mid-teens, with a stiff wind blowing off of nearby Lake Bemidji.

Above: Nevis linebacker Tucker Roehl grabs Grizzlies runningback Brendan Parson during last Friday's state Nineman tournament matchup.

Left: Grizzlies players react to the loss.

photos by C. Stone

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Gifts That Give Fair on Nov. 18

ELY- Ely's 13th Annual Gifts That Give Fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18. Take part in the growing holiday tradition of giving gifts that help those in need in the name of friends and family. It is the chance to give in the spirit of the season and benefit worthy organizations, both local and global. A lunch of soup, bread and dessert will be available (with a free-will donation to the Ely Food Shelf). There will be special activities for children.

Ruby's Pantry on Nov. 25 in Babbitt

BABBITT- Ruby's Pantry food distribution at the Babbitt Municipal Center (71 South Drive) will be on Saturday, Nov. 25 (fourth Saturday of each month) from 10 - 11:30 a.m.
Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. \$20 cash donation buys an abundance of food. No income or residency guidelines. Bring two large boxes or baskets. Sponsored by St. Pius X Catholic Church. Volunteers are always welcome.

"To Venture Out: Courage in Our World" on Nov. 19 at Mesabi Unitarian

VIRGINIA- On Sunday, Nov. 19, Reverend Suzanne Wasilczuk will present "To Venture Out: Courage in Our World" at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church at 10:30 a.m.
Join us as we investigate these questions: What holds us back? What holds us down? From where do we get the strength to go out and do what needs to be done? How are we courageous?

Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 230 7th St. S in Virginia. Usual services are Sundays at 10:30 a.m. A parent/infant area is provided, as is toddler care, and religious education is provided for the over fives. All are welcome and we are handicap accessible.

AEOA Pancake Fundraiser on Nov. 24

REGIONAL- Limited government funding has made it difficult to meet the area's homeless shelter needs. In the last year, AEOA Homeless Shelters had to turn away 1,203 individuals due to limited space and more than 70 percent of the people who did stay at the emergency shelter had physical and/or mental health conditions. Being homeless is not a choice, but giving is.
To help alleviate growing costs, AEOA Homeless Shelters will be having a Pancake Feed Fundraiser on Friday, Nov. 24 from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Mt. Iron Community Center. Money raised will be used to directly fund our area homeless shelters located in Virginia and Hibbing which serve all of Northern St. Louis County. Tickets are \$8 for adults and children 6 and under are free. Please contact Liz Young at 218-735-6873 with any questions or if your company would like to donate to or sponsor our event.

Vermilion Penguins to meet Wednesday, Dec. 6

TOWER- The Vermilion Penguins Snowmobile Club will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. at Fortune Bay. All members and interested community residents are encouraged to attend.
The club's Christmas Party will be held on Friday, Dec. 8 at the Vermilion Club with social hour at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Please RSVP to Autumn at the VC by Dec. 1, by calling 218-753-6277. If you so choose, bring an inexpensive gift for the holiday gift exchange.

NAMI support group for families

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

NORTHWOODS PARTNERS

Festival of Trees begins Nov. 23 in Ely

ELY- Northwoods Partners' annual Festival of Trees will take place at the Grand Ely Lodge from Nov. 23 through Dec. 3. "This festival is made possible through the generous contributions from many local businesses and community members. Many talented individuals help transform the Grand Ely Lodge lobby into a winter wonderland filled with decorated trees and wreaths. We are so grateful to all the individuals who help make the Festival of Trees a wonderful fundraising event to support services for our area seniors and caregivers," said Executive Director Lisa Porthan.

The community is invited to the opening and lighting ceremony on Thanksgiving evening at 5 p.m. Come join family and friends for refreshments and entertainment by Bernie Palcher from 5 - 6 p.m. The lighting of the trees is an occasion you won't want to miss!

Begin your holiday shopping at the Northwoods Partners Christmas Boutique. This talented community provides a wonderful selection of



Get in the holiday spirit at the Festival of Trees at Grand Ely Lodge, Nov. 23 through Dec. 3. submitted photo

hand-made gift items available for purchase. In addition, there will be a raffle for a queen size quilt made by the talented Nancy Andreae. Enjoy taking a stroll through the lighted winter wonderland and place a bid on the beautifully decorated trees or

wreaths. The bidding for these decorated items begins on Thanksgiving night and continues until 12 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3. Be sure to come back often to check your bid! All winners will be notified to pick up their items at the Grand Ely Lodge.

ORR

Orr Snow City Celebration on Dec. 2

ORR - Get ready to jumpstart the holiday season as Orr hosts its annual Snow City celebration on Saturday, Dec. 2. This popular holiday tradition, sponsored by the Orr Chamber of Commerce, includes a day full of holiday activities. The festival begins with an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast at the Orr American Legion from 7-10 a.m. followed by a craft show from 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and will feature soup, hot dogs, hot chocolate, coffee and water.

The popular Snow City Parade begins at 1 p.m. To register your float for the parade, please call Shannon at 218-757-3200 or you may also come to line up that day. There will be cash prizes for the top three floats. Parade line-up is at Wally's Auto. After the parade, stop by the American Legion for a chance to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The festivities conclude with the Virgie Hegg Lights of Love ceremony at



Don't miss the annual Snow City Parade at 1 p.m. on Dec. 2. file photo

5:30 p.m., which will be held this year at the Orr Center in Orr, the old Orr School. Refreshments will be served after the tree lighting.

Tables are still available for the craft show. To reserve your spot, please call Veronica at 218-757-

0070. Medallion Hunt daily clues will be posted starting on Monday, Nov. 27 at the Orr Post Office and on the Orr Area Chamber Facebook page by 10 a.m. daily. Claim your prize at Re/Max Lake Country in Orr.

HOSPICE

Annual Lights of Love campaign is underway

REGIONAL- The 27th annual VHHP Lights of Love campaign, our largest fundraiser of the year, begins in November to commemorate National Hospice Month and National Family Caregivers Month. Last year's Lights of Love raised over \$6,300. Fundraising goals are achieved through the dedicated efforts of our Board of Directors working together with a communi-

ty of supporting individuals and businesses. We invite you to continue the tradition of remembering and honoring loved ones by supporting VHHP through this Lights of Love campaign.

Our mission is to bring comfort care services to enrolled hospice patients and their families in our local communities. VHHP sponsors two education scholarships for students enrolled in the North Woods School and Tower enrollment area, pursuing a medical career, and one for college students.

Your tax-deductible donation will help light the trees at the holiday celebrations in Cook, Orr and Tower in support of local

hospice patients and their families. Donations may be given in honor or memory of a loved one. Ice candles are available for purchase to be displayed as part of the tree lighting ceremonies. All Lights of Love contributions and dedications will be published in local area newspapers during the month of January, unless otherwise indicated on the attached form.

Please mark your calendars and join us for the Lights of Love tree lighting and caroling which will take place at the Cook Community Center on Friday, Dec. 1 at 5 p.m., Orr's Community Center on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 5:30 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec.

3 at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center at 4 p.m. You are also invited to join us following the ceremonies for coffee, cider and treats.

For more information about Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, visit our website at www.vhhp.org or contact Liz Cheney (Program Director) at 780-8907 or Shanna Kishel (Chairperson) at 666-5096. To make a donation, you can find a form on our website. Please make checks payable to VHHP Lights of Love and mail to PO Box 244, Cook, MN 55723. PayPal is also available via our website.

people earlier in the course of a serious illness.

More information about hospice, palliative care, and advance care planning is available from Fairview Range Home Care and Hospice in Hibbing by calling 218-262-6982 or International Falls by calling 218-283-3031. Office hours are 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or you can visit us online at www.range.fairview.org.

Hospice helps patients and families focus on quality of life

REGIONAL - November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month so programs across the country are reaching out to raise awareness about hospice and palliative care. Hospice is not a place but is high-quality care that enables patients and families to focus on living as fully as possible despite a life-limiting illness. Palliative care brings this holistic model of care to

Artisan Market: Crafts to Crops at MDC, Nov. 18

CHISHOLM- Find the perfect gift for Christmas, a birthday, a wedding, or just something fun for yourself on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the MN Discovery Center. Shop for home decor, candles, knitted items, kitchen towels, photography, and much, much more.

Admission will be free that day with a non-perishable food item(s) or a \$5 cash donation to the local food shelf.

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Friday 4:30-7 p.m.
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TOWER BINGO Monday, Dec. 4

TOWER- Senior Bingo will be held in Tower on Monday, Dec. 4 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 2017:

Monday, December 4
No bingo in January
Monday, February 5
Monday, March 5

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL



The North Woods Grizzlies football team got a grand send-off last Friday as they got ready to travel to Bemidji for their state tournament game. The team lost to Nevis, see story on page 1B. photos by M. Roach



ELY WINTER FESTIVAL

2018 Ely ArtWalk artists wanted

ELY- Artists, it's that time again. Believe it or not, the 2018 Ely ArtWalk is just around the corner, Feb. 1-11. The show will once again be held during the Ely Winter Festival. Our non-competitive, non-profit display of Ely's creative talent will be the 19th edition of Ely's hardy midwinter window-shopping event. Traditionally more than 40 businesses participate by offering their store windows as a city-wide gallery. ArtWalk entry registrations are due on Monday, Dec. 11.

Paper entry forms can be found at Kess Gallery, Art & Soul Gallery and the Chamber of Commerce. Artists can register at www.elyartwalk.org, which can also be accessed through www.elywinterfestival.com. Individual entries require a \$10 fee and groups may register for \$30. Those with PayPal accounts can pay online, the most popular method, but other options are detailed on the site and in the paper application.

The Ely ArtWalk draws many visitors from all around the

Arrowhead and beyond. Most of the work can be purchased and one hundred percent of sales go to the artists. The event is made possible, in part, by Minnesota voters through legislative appropriations to the arts and cultural fund via the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council. Additional support comes from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust Fund and the Ely Chamber of Commerce.

Hospice helps patients and families focus on quality of life

REGIONAL- November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month so these programs across the country are reaching out to raise awareness about hospice and palliative care. Hospice is not a place but is high-quality care that enables patients and families to focus on living

as fully as possible despite a life-limiting illness. Palliative care brings this holistic model of care to people earlier in the course of a serious illness.

More information about hospice, palliative care, and advance care planning is available from Fairview

Range Home Care and Hospice in Hibbing by calling 218-262-6982 or International Falls by calling 218-283-3031. Office hours are 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or you can visit us online at www.range.fairview.org.

Virginia Senior Center hosting craft and bake sale on Nov. 25

VIRGINIA- Lena's Craft and Bake Sale will be held at the Virginia Senior Center on Saturday, Nov. 25 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. There will be something for everyone. The center is located at 511 Chestnut St. (across from Goodwill), and additional parking is available at the rear of the building.

Ladies of Kaleva Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 18

VIRGINIA- The Ladies of Kaleva will be holding their 49th Annual "Finnish-American Holiday" Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Historic Kaleva Hall, built in 1906 at 125 3rd St. N in Virginia. The bazaar will feature lastu, pulla (Finnish cardamom biscuit), homemade candies, hand-made crafts, sisu hats and totes, cook-books, live music and raffles. Raffle tickets can be purchased from Kaleva Ladies or at the bazaar for \$1. The grand prize is \$500. Coffee an' will be served from 9-10:30 a.m. Lunch will be from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and includes ham balls, cheesy potatoes, cranberry salad, a dessert and beverage. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. The bazaar is holiday fun for the whole family and Santa will be visiting too!

Alpha-1 awareness: should you get tested?

REGIONAL- Two people in our community have recently been diagnosed with Alpha-1. You may not have heard of Alpha-1 before because it is somewhat rare and often goes undiagnosed, or is misdiagnosed as other lung conditions.

Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency is a genetic condition, meaning that the condition is passed on from parents to their children. Doctors often misdiagnose Alpha-1 as asthma or smoking-related Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). The American Thoracic Society and the European Respiratory Society recommend that everyone diagnosed with COPD, emphysema, or asthma that is not completely reversible with aggressive treatment be tested for Alpha-1.

Alpha-1 can result in serious lung disease in adults and/or liver disease at any age. About 1 in every 2,500 Americans has Alpha-1 and Alpha-1 has been identified in virtually all populations. The estimated 19 million people in the U.S. who have one normal and one defective Alpha-1 gene are called "carriers". Carriers may pass the defective gene on to their children.

The most common signs and symptoms of Alpha-1 are shortness of breath, wheezing, chronic cough and sputum (phlegm) production, chronic bronchitis, recurring chest colds, decreased exercise tolerance, bronchiectasis, unexplained liver disease or elevated liver enzymes, eyes and skin turning yellow (jaundice), and swelling of the abdomen (ascites).

Alpha-1 is the most common known genetic risk factor for emphysema and can lead to lung destruction and liver disease. The most serious liver diseases are cirrhosis and liver cancer.

You can be checked for Alpha-1 with a simple blood test. For more information, call the Alpha-1 foundation toll-free at 1-877-228-7321 or visit www.alpha1.org.

Vendors needed for Tower Holiday Craft Show set for Dec. 9

TOWER- The Tower Holiday Craft Show will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center. A few tables are still available at \$20 each (limit two 8-ft. tables per vendor) and must be reserved and paid for in advance. Checks can be made out to Friends of VCS and mailed to Vermilion Country School, PO Box 629, Tower, MN 55790 or can be dropped off at the charter school or at the Timberjay office in Tower. For more information, call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950.

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BENEFIT

FOR KEN ERICKSON

Spaghetti Feed Friday, Nov. 24
Embarrass Timber Hall
Noon to 5 p.m.

spaghetti meal, raffles, silent auction and bean bag tournament

CHRISTOPHER DAVID HANSON BAND
Music Benefit - Same Night!
7 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT at
The Shack Bar, Hwy 169 in Pike

Ken was recently diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's Disease/ALS. He is a long-time resident of the Embarrass-Tower area, married for 25 years, and the father of two boys.

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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

2017 FIREARMS DEER SEASON

Buck harvest down; antlerless take way up

Hunters reporting limited rutting activity which seems to be restricting deer movement and hunter success

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Hunters have taken fewer bucks in 2017 than at this point of the regular firearms deer season last year, but a 142-percent increase in the harvest of antlerless deer has boosted total registrations in the North Country by 14 percent.

“The bucks are out there, but the rut is just weird,” said DNR Tower Area Wildlife Manager Tom Rusch. “Weird” isn’t the

kind of scientific term typically deployed by most wildlife biologists, but it aptly describes a year in which many hunters are reporting seeing plenty of deer, but relatively few antlers.

Rusch said he’s one of those hunters, and he’d yet to bag his deer with less than a week to go in the regular firearms season. He said many hunters have reported seeing less sign of rutting activity than usual for this time of year, which likely accounts for the huge spike in the antlerless

harvest. A significant increase in the number of antlerless permits issued this year in the DNR’s Tower work area (which encompasses much of northern St. Louis and Lake counties) along with the shift of some zones to hunter’s choice, are also contributing to the jump in antlerless registrations.

So far, the buck harvest is down 15 percent overall, and that’s not always attributable to hunters opting to take antlerless

See SEASON...pg. 5B



Area Deer Harvest

Results through Tuesday, Nov. 15

Year	Bucks	Antlerless	Total
2014	3,850	0	3,850
2015	4,658	0	4,658
2016	4,987	917	5,904
2017	4,426	2,312	6,738

Preliminary harvest totals for permit areas in northern St. Louis and Lake counties, including 108, 117, 118, 119, 130, 132, 176, 177, and 178.



Left: Mark Monacelli said he was stunned by the unusual deer he shot on Nov. 7, north of Cook. The 10-point deer appeared to be a buck, but it’s actual makeup was a bit more complicated. The antlers remained in velvet and it had unusual genitalia, giving it some attributes of both a male and female deer. Such deer are rare, but are not unknown.

submitted

2017 FIREARMS DEER SEASON

Mother Nature’s mixup

Monacelli bags ten-pointer, but is it a buck, a doe, or neither?

When Mark Monacelli dropped a ten-pointer north of Cook last week, he assumed he had just bagged a nice trophy buck. The story, in the end, turned out to be a more complicated one.

Some of the deer’s unusual characteristics became apparent as soon as he approached it lying in the snow. For one, the deer’s antlers were still in velvet. Normally by deer season, the velvet has long since been worn away as male deer spar with other bucks or rub their antlers on trees and brush.

And there were other oddities as well. “It had a very skinny neck,” said Monacelli, who serves as St. Louis



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

County Recorder when he isn’t out hunting. “It didn’t appear to be in rut.” As most hunters know, a buck’s neck tends to swell, sometimes significantly, during the rut. The reasons aren’t entirely clear, but biologists believe it’s most likely due to the flood of testosterone that male deer typically produce this time of year. Like other steroidal hormones, large amounts of testosterone can quickly build muscle mass, in both deer and humans, and that appears to be what’s happening with most bucks this time of year. A skinny neck generally means the deer wasn’t producing enough testosterone to produce neck swelling.

But it turns out that Monacelli’s unusual deer wasn’t simply a case of a hormone imbalance. As he started to gut the animal, he recognized that its genitalia were unusual to say the least. While it had male parts, the animal’s testicles were almost non-existent and it urinated out the back end, like a doe. It’s a condition that occurs occasionally in humans, too, but doctors can typically make necessary anatomical changes surgically.

When it happens to wild deer, they can end up looking a lot like Monacelli’s deer.

“It’s an amazing animal,” said Monacelli. “I’m still stunned this was possible.”

The situation is exceedingly rare, but not unknown. “This seems to show up a couple times a year,” said DNR Tower Area Wildlife Manager Tom Rusch. “I usually read about it in the paper.” But considering that hunters shoot about 175,000-200,000 deer every fall in Minnesota, the one or two like Monacelli’s are truly exceptional. After spending some time researching the phenomenon online, Monacelli said such deer are typically females that have higher-than-normal levels of testosterone, which prompts antler growth. Rusch agreed. “The bottom line is it’s a hormonal imbalance.” In this case, it appears the deer was producing just enough testosterone to grow antlers, but not enough for them to harden or for the deer’s neck to swell. The antlers often remain more-

See MIXUP...pg. 5B

Outdoors briefly

Persistence pays off in deer baiting investigation

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Give credit for persistence to Conservation Officer Mark Hopkins. A year ago, the Tower-area CO received a report of suspected deer baiting a few miles west of Tower. He jumped on the report quickly back then, but was unable to locate the source of the bait, which consisted of large quantities of whole corn.

But this fall, as the firearms deer season neared, he was back on the hunt for the baiters, and this time he tracked them down. The property owners, who live in a northern Twin Cities suburb, were using an automatic feeder to dispense the deer feed in the general vicinity of where they hunt. They weren’t within sight of the deer feed when Hopkins stopped in, so they got by with only a stern warning. But if they don’t knock it off, the next time they won’t be so lucky.

It’s worth noting that deer hunters, particularly those who don’t illegally bait deer, have an interest in keeping baiting to a minimum. Wildlife biologists note that a bait source will prompt deer to alter their usual travel and feeding patterns, concentrating them for the hunters using the bait, leaving hunters in other areas wondering where all the deer have gone.

DNR reminds hunters of deer import limits

REGIONAL— The Department of Natural Resources is reminding hunters who harvest deer, elk, moose or caribou outside of Minnesota that whole carcasses cannot be brought into the state.

The restriction is part of efforts to minimize the opportunity for chronic wasting disease to become established in Minnesota.

Only the following cervid parts may be brought into Minnesota:

- Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached.
- Meat that is boned-out or that is cut and wrapped (either commercially or privately).
- Hides and teeth.
- Antlers or clean (no brain tissue attached) skull plates with antlers attached.
- Finished taxidermy mounts.

Meat and trophy handling already are part of the trip planning process so taking the additional steps to minimize CWD risk can be added to that process.

Alternatively, hunters can view a video at <http://bit.ly/capeyourdeer> on how to cape a deer. The same technique can be used on elk or moose.

CO reports

Deer season has area conservation officers busier than usual

►CO Troy Fondie (Orr) reports monitoring area hunting activities. The first ice house appeared on an area lake. Hunting complaints were checked and variety of questions were answered. Hunting success remains poor and hunter numbers continue to dwindle.

►CO Marc Hopkins (Tower) had a busy week with deer hunters. Enforcement action was taken for shooting from roadway, loaded guns in motor vehicle, trespass, over-limit of deer, hunt without valid license, illegal party hunt, and lend and borrow license.

►CO Matt Frericks (Virginia) spent a very busy second weekend of deer season handling numerous shooting from the roadway cases. In another case, CO Frericks is working with COs Hopkins and Velsvaag regarding deer hunters who are suspected of numerous violations including trespass, transporting loaded firearms in a motor vehicle, and taking an antlerless deer without a permit. While checking deer hunters in the Britt area, CO Frericks saw a truck heading down a snowmobile trail. A short time later CO Frericks located the vehicle stuck up to its axles. The driver/deer hunter failed numerous sobriety tests but was just under the legal limit. He received a citation for operating the truck on the snowmobile trail. A local towing company gave an estimate on the cost to remove the vehicle. Due to the wet area, a tracked vehicle had to be brought in to remove the truck. The tow truck driver said the minimum tow bill would be \$1,000.

►CO Mark Fredin (Aurora) worked deer season that started off slow but, deer activity increased throughout the week. CO Fredin took a call of hunter harassment, where a young woman was sitting in a stand on state land and was harassed by two separate individuals that ended up being father and son. One person on an ATV drove circles around her, cursing, and got stuck for a period of time. After he left, the

other came by yelling verbal insults.

►CO Sean Williams (Ely 1) reports deer hunting activity continued to be high over the second weekend of the regular firearms deer season. Unfortunately so was the violation rate. Investigations included trespass, litter, and several deer shot off the roadway.

►CO Marty Stage (Ely) found the deer season to be slow for a lot of people. There has been a lot of shooting from the road complaints, and it is completely amazing that some people are actually surprised that it is against the law to shoot from the roadway. The deer hunting trespass incidents seem to be on the increase as well. Take the time to read the laws before you hunt.

►CO Anthony Bermel (Babbitt) reports numerous cases resulting in deer violations with several noteworthy incidents over the past week. One individual was caught hunting from the same baited stand twice in seven days with a citation and seizure of equipment both times. Enforcement action was taken against two people who shot deer off the road, one of which was transported untagged in a vehicle. Two people were apprehended for killing deer over baited areas, one of which was shot right next to a cabin over a feeding trough. Numerous other deer hunting violations were charged as well. A TIP call led the officer to an individual who had illegally cut balsam boughs along the edge of hole #2 green at the Ely golf course, with enforcement action taken. Ice fishermen are out on several area lakes.

►CO Darrin Kittelson (Int'l Falls) reports another busy weekend with deer hunting. One individual reported that he had shot, tagged, and skinned his deer and had it hanging underneath a lean-to attached to his house ready to butcher the next day. Someone cut the body from the head and walked off with his deer, only leaving the head.

SEASON...Continued from page 4B

deer instead. In Permit Area 119, for example, where hunters were again limited to bucks only, deer registrations through the first two weekends totaled just 257, compared to 420 last year.

Heavy snow may have played a role in the decline, as much of PA 119, located north and east of Orr, was hit with heavy snow in late October, which bent down trees and broke branches, sharply limiting access in the forest. Some reports from around Elephant Lake indicated snow depths of a nearly a foot and half, which kept some hunters from accessing their usual hunting areas and likely made deer movement difficult as well. Snow showers on opening day followed by subzero temperatures later in the week likely reduced hunter effort as well. Last year, by contrast, hunters enjoyed unseasonably mild weather for the first week of the season.

“And part of it is the moon,” said Rusch. The opener coincided with a full moon, which means deer tend to be most active

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday

35 22

Saturday

22 10

Sunday

23 15

Monday

33 20

Tuesday

25 16

Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
11/06	30	15	0.00		11/06	22	14	0.00		11/06	29	13	0.00		11/06	28	12	0.00		11/06	26	13	0.00	
11/07	31	12	0.00		11/07	21	14	0.00		11/07	27	9	0.00		11/07	25	3	0.00		11/07	29	8	0.00	
11/08	26	11	0.00		11/08	20	13	0.04	1.0"	11/08	23	8	0.00		11/08	23	12	0.00		11/08	25	8	0.00	
11/09	25	7	0.04	1.3"	11/09	20	15	0.00		11/09	24	6	0.11	1.5"	11/09	10	-9	0.00		11/09	24	4	0.10	2.0"
11/10	14	-11	0.01	0.1"	11/10	16	1	0.00		11/10	12	-5	0.00		11/10	16	-11	0.00		11/10	12	-12	0.00	
11/11	21	-11	0.00		11/11	15	-16	0.00		11/11	20	-2	0.05	0.7"	11/11	28	16	0.00		11/11	21	-12	0.00	0.4"
11/12	31	22	0.00		11/12	29	15	0.00		11/12	27	20	0.00		11/12	27	25	0.00		11/12	22	21	0.00	
Totals			28.14	11.8"	Totals			34.81	8.0"	Totals			28.12	18.6"	Totals			NA		Totals			29.74	12.7"

MIXUP...Continued from page 4B

or-less permanently on the deer, rather than dropping off after the rut, as in most male deer. It's unclear if Monacelli's deer has had antlers for a long time, but they do appear to be unusually worn, with many of the tips appearing to have broken off. Monacelli said he plants to have the deer mounted.

The deer, as described by Monacelli, was probably incapable of breeding, but that's not always the case. When female deer grow antlers they typically still have a fully functioning reproductive system. Monicelli's deer appears mostly male, but without functioning testicles. The deer's otherwise unusual plumbing wouldn't allow for the growth of young within it, so it likely wouldn't be described as female.

In either case, it was an unlikely conclusion to Monacelli's quest for a buck. But one thing is certain, said Rusch. "He's got a legal buck no matter what it has down below."

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B



Left: Grizzlies senior quarterback Tate Olson cuts right to avoid a herd of Nevis tacklers.

photo by C. Stone

very well," he said.

With the season over, Jirik was already contemplating the Grizzlies' prospects for next season. This year's senior-dominated team will, by necessity, need an entirely new look in 2018. "We'll be a completely different team," said Jirik. "We will have to find a way to develop a new identity." Still, North Woods has a sizable crop of juniors who showed promise this year and will have the room to step into the starting slots next year. "At this point, it's tough to say," said Jirik. "We'll see how the kids develop."

would add two more touchdowns in the second quarter to take a comfortable 26-8 lead into the break.

In the second half, Nevis took the opening kickoff down the field for six more points, and this time added the extra points to take a 34-8 lead. North Woods stalled quickly on their next drive and when Nevis blocked their attempted punt, they found themselves on the North Woods 31-yard line. The Tigers quickly capitalized on the turnover for eight more points, putting the game out of reach for good. By then, both teams were rotating in their second string to give all the players some time on the field.

The Grizzlies would add one more touchdown in the fourth quarter, but it made little difference as North Woods' season came to an end with a final score of 42-14.

"It was not the weather for our high-flying defense," said Jirik after the game, although he said the weather really wasn't the deciding factor. "They played their game

Angel Tree

Embarrass Vermillion Federal Credit Union will be partnering with our communities to help up to 90 local children, ages 0-17, in need. We will be hosting three Angel Trees, which will be available in our Tower, Embarrass, and Aurora offices. This project will run November 13th through December 20th. Community members can stop in and choose an Angel from the tree, purchase a gift, and return it to us unwrapped. We will take care of the wrapping and the distribution of the gifts. Everyone is welcome to participate!

Thank you for your help in making a child's Holiday a little bit brighter!

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TOWER
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TAXES

Healthcare district dropping effort to annex townships

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- Cook-Orr Healthcare District officials, along with Cook Hospital CEO/Administrator Teresa Debevec have confirmed, this week, in correspondence with Greenwood Township officials and Rep. Rob Ecklund that the board “has no intent to pursue” the issue of annexation. In addition, Minority Leader Sen. Tom Bakk has also confirmed that he has no plans to change the dis-

trict lines through legislative action in the upcoming legislative session. Healthcare District Board Chair Don Potter, when contacted for this story, noted he thought the decision not to pursue the annexation was already final and was “surprised that the issue is still coming up.” Greenwood, Vermilion Lake and some other rural townships had been targeted by the healthcare district as potential members of the district, which has an annual tax

levy on member townships and cities that helps fund healthcare needs in the area served by the Cook Hospital. Officials in both Greenwood and Vermilion Lake noted that their residents mostly use health care options in Virginia and Ely, and questioned why residents should be annexed into the district without the opportunity to vote on the issue. Members of the district had asked state legislators to annex five townships that they claimed were part of the original map for the hos-

pital district when it was approved by the state in 1988. But the townships in question noted they had not been asked to vote on joining the district at that time. In addition, research done by township officials in Greenwood and Vermilion Lake showed that these townships were not included in the enabling legislation. The healthcare district took over control of the hospital and nursing home in 1990. The district is governed by a board that has the authority to levy taxes

to support the maintenance of health care services and facilities in the district. It was estimated by St. Louis County that if Greenwood were included in the district, it would add approximately \$100 per \$100,000 in value to each property in Greenwood. The Cook Hospital is a 14-bed Critical Access Acute Care facility with an attached 28-bed long-term care facility that employs a professional staff of more than 140. The hospital is governed by a board of healthcare district members

designated by the voters of each township and the cities of Cook and Orr. These members serve a rural/small town population of 10,253 and encompass a radius of 2,500 square miles. The hospital has a 24-hour emergency service, radiology, laboratory, pharmacy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and other services.

BREITUNG

Naming ideas needed for MINOS building

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- The former MINOS Surface building is in need of a new name. The building, which was constructed as part of the MINOS high-energy physics experiment, had been leased by the University of Minnesota. With the end of the MINOS experiment and closure of the lab at the Soudan Underground Mine, Breitung Township is

now moving some of its own offices into the space. The building is located on the town hall property. The Breitung Police Dept., which is currently housed in a very small building adjacent to the fire hall, will be moving into the building. The township will also be using some of the building for its maintenance equipment. The town board, at Tuesday’s meeting, said they will be thinking of ideas for a

new name, but they encourage area residents to submit ideas to town board members. The Breitung Police Dept. will be moving into the building soon. The township is purchasing new office furniture from Range Office in Virginia at a cost of \$3,283. The move will take place as soon as the Internet and phone service is installed in the building.

Obituaries and Death Notices

Katharina Pennala

Katharina Pflügl Pennala, 90, of Mt. Iron, formerly of Babbitt, died on Friday, Nov. 10, 2017, with her family by her side at Diamond Willow Assisted Living in Mt. Iron. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18 in Woodland Presbyterian Church in Babbitt. Pastor Frank Davis will officiate. Visitation will begin one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will be in the Argo Cemetery. Memorials are preferred and may be directed to Woodland Presbyterian Church. Family services provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia. She is survived by her children, E. Robert Pennala of St. Paul, Susan (Bob) Arvola of Mt. Iron, Lori Johnson of Cypress, Texas, and Michael Pennala of Virginia; siblings, Max (Agnes) Pflügl, Agnes (Ludwig) Müller and Erika Seger; sisters-in-law, Ilsa Pflügl and Rosi Pflügl; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Mallory M. Norrell

Mallory Monica Norrell, 16, of Toivola, entered into eternal life on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017, at Essentia St. Mary’s Children’s Hospital, surrounded by her loving family, after a 10-month battle with cancer. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Monday, Nov. 13 at St. Benedict’s Catholic Church in Duluth. Memorials may be made to the Diocese of Duluth, Attn: Mallory Norrell Memorial Fund, 2830 East Fourth St., Duluth, MN 55812. Or donate online at dioceseduluth.org. Memorials will be used as scholarships for Camp Survive attendees. Arrangements were by Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia. She is survived by her parents, Craig and Lori Norrell; sisters, Candice (John) Reilly of Fort Bragg, N.C., and Irish twin and very best friend, Brianne at home; brothers, Ryan (Maggie) of Mandan, N.D., Kyle (Shana) of Cavalier, N.D., and Neal at home; maternal grandparents, John and Elaine (Chesler) Postudensek

of Babbitt; numerous other family members and dear friends; and her Camp Survive family.

Karen J. Leiviska

Karen Jean Leiviska, 69, of Ely, formerly of Aurora, passed away peacefully on Monday, Nov. 6, 2017, at her home. Memorial services were held on Sunday, Nov. 12 at First Presbyterian Church in Ely with Pastor Corey Larsen officiating. Memorials may be directed to the Virginia Humane Society or Contented Critters. Arrangements were by Zierner-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Gilbert. Survivors include her children, Tara (Kevin) Boerst of Ely, Adam Leiviska of Virginia and Jenny Leiviska of Purcell, Okla.; grandchildren, Anika, Derrick and Amanda; great-grandchild, Bentley; siblings, Johnny (Gwen) Wudinich of Virginia and Laurie (Tom) Cundy of Eveleth; several nieces, nephews and cousins.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**KUGLER TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING**

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Monday, November 20, 2017, at 6 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 17, 2017

EMPLOYMENT

POSITION AVAILABLE

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**NOTICE OF BOARD
APPOINTMENTS
TOWN OF CRANE LAKE**

The Crane Lake Town Board of Supervisors will be making one appointment to the Crane Lake Water & Sanitary District Board of Managers for a three-year term that will commence January 1, 2018 and expire December 31, 2020. Application forms are available at the Clerk’s office. A completed application, current resume and cover letter stating qualifications and experience to serve must be filed with the Clerk of the Town of Crane Lake by December 5 prior to the Board of Supervisors’ Meeting on December 12, 2017.

Jo Ann Pohlman
Clerk, Town of Crane Lake
218-993-1303

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 17, 2017

Super Crossword

Answers

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

EMPLOYMENT



**Vermilion Country School
Special Ed Paraprofessional**

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

**Full job description online at
www.vermilioncountry.org/employment**

The Vermilion Country School (VCS), a grades 7-12 public charter school in Tower. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: interact with staff, students, parent/guardians, and the community; facilitate academic and personal goal-setting; assist students with skill development in reading and math; monitor student progress; manage the physical needs of students as needed; chaperone field explorations; records maintenance and due process paperwork; proctor assessments and diagnostic tests; supervise students during lunch and out in the community; address behavior issues in accordance with school policy; maintain strict confidentiality; assist office staff and director as needed. Minimum qualifications: Experience working with children, and a commitment to their learning; Excellent math, reading, and organizing skills; Excellent computer and office machine skills; Mature, friendly, and responsible; Commitment to the school’s mission and vision; Positive references; A minimum of 60 semester credits or the amount required to complete two full years of fulltime enrollment as determined by the institution of higher education attended; or an AA, AS, or AAS (or higher) degree; or a passing score on an assessment from the state-approved list (The ParaPro test has been approved for state-wide use. The cut score is 460). Additional desired qualifications (please see website).

Van Driver

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

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

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

VCS is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

1				6	3			2
	7			9		5	4	
		5	8			9		
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

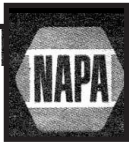
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TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

AUTOMOTIVE



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365-3132

Langevin Auto & Truck Repair
Full Service
Auto Repair & Garage



Hours: 8 AM-5 PM M-F
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HAIR CARE

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

DREAMWEAVER SALON & DAY SPA- Open Monday-Friday 8:30 - 6:30. 218-666-5594. tfn

HOSPICE

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

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

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BABBITT AL-ANON- meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. at the Babbitt Assembly of God Church

MS SUPPORT GROUP- meets the second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Babbitt Municipal Building, senior room. Open to all. For information contact Mary at 218-827-8327

ORR AA and AL-ANON meet Tuesdays, AA at 8 p.m. and AL-ANON at 7 p.m. Holy Cross Catholic Church, Orr

VIRGINIA AA WOMEN'S MEETING- Ladies by the Lake. Tuesdays at 12 noon. Peace United Methodist Church, 303 S 9th Ave, please use side door and parking

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS- Meetings every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Virginia

HIV/AIDS? For confidential compassionate local support call the Rural AIDS Action Network, toll-free 1-888-647-RAAN(7226)

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH DRUGS, give yourself a break. There is a way out with the help of other recovering addicts in Narcotics Anonymous. We have been there. For meeting or other information call 218-728-3199. (Narcotics Anonymous is a non-profit organization.)

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- 1 "The Real O'Neals" network
4 Eye-popper
8 Town in NE New Jersey
13 Root
19 Old Olds
20 Some till fill
21 Obstinate reply
22 Nobelist Hemingway
23 Phnom Penh's land [2015]
25 Tonga's site [2011]
27 Top points
28 Purplish-red flower
30 Apple product
31 "Beats me!"
33 Fashion's Anna —
34 Aries, e.g.
36 Home of Columbus
40 Kitchen raiders
41 Neighbor of Mexico [2005]
44 Kenya's home [2001]
46 Zing
47 Virginia hrs.
48 Varieties

- 50 They're part of French Polynesia [2002]
55 Country with the capital Vila [2004]
58 Tint
59 Sailor's site
60 Big Apple NFL team, on score-boards
62 Umlaut pair
63 High-five sounds
65 Conduct, as business
68 Legal exam
70 "Adios!"
72 Harvest mo.
73 Where Tagalog is spoken [2012]
76 "Finished!"
80 Sailing
82 Biology div.
83 Inventive
85 Cola brand
88 Comic Foxx
90 Log cutter
92 Paradieses
93 "Hail, Livy!"
94 Luzon province north of Isabela [2014]
136 Titans

- 97 Its president is Daniel Ortega [2010]
100 One who dawdles
102 Cartoon yell
104 Tram cargo
105 Where balboas are spent [2006]
106 World's largest rain forest [2003]
110 Cotillion girls
114 Hosi mishap
115 "Pardon?"
116 "— tu" (Verdi aria)
117 Diner staple
119 "Mamma Mia!" quartet
122 Treatment process
125 Greek vowel
126 Central American archipelago [2003]
130 Reality show of which 12 title locations are featured in this puzzle
132 "Billy —" (2000 film)
133 Maine city
134 Sky color
135 Butyl or propyl ender
136 Titans

- 137 Native of Italy's Leaning Tower city
138 Desires
139 Outlaw Kelly
DOWN
1 Secret stuff
2 Signal light
3 Perpetrate
4 Having slack
5 German link
6 Viking Ericson
7 Chant for the Dream Team
8 Aquarium swimmers, to toddlers
9 Deuces
10 Novelist — May Alcott
11 Necessitate
12 Numerical suffix
13 Sewer's line
14 Whale type
15 Horse's mythical kin
16 Ump's kin
17 2000-15 TV drama
18 List abbr.
24 Nap locales
26 Lapel sticker
29 Affectedly adorable
32 Old film critic James
35 Entire scope
37 Too — price

- 38 Freeze over
39 Havens
42 Co. with brown trucks
43 "True Life" channel
44 Hgt.
45 Soul-seller of legend
46 Many groan-eliciting jokes
49 Egg-hunt holiday
50 Verbal jewels
51 Lot division
52 Harvest
53 Australian airline
54 Opposer
56 Conforms
57 Brief denial
61 "The Wizard of Oz" witch
64 Hoity-toity
66 Jungle beast
67 Fee
69 Jacuzzi joint
71 "Do — say!"
74 Gent partner
75 "— get it!"
77 Blood type, in brief
78 Half of Mork's farewell
79 Film lioness
81 "Attack, mutt!"
84 Richard of "No Mercy"
85 Feelers on insects

- 86 Brand of spring water
87 Del. neighbor
89 Ground
91 Major Turkish city
95 Noted coach Parseghian
96 Classy gp.?
98 Dove's noise
99 River in Italy
101 Cosmonaut Yuri
103 Poet Ralph Waldo —
107 John Wayne film of 1962
108 Group that shares a culture
109 Flies past
110 Actress Moore
111 Late morning time
112 "Vamoose!"
113 Gazed rudely
115 Used to exist
118 Dance parts
120 Dark stain
121 Smithereens
123 Writer O'Brien
124 Noel
126 Wooden nail
127 Yale attendee
128 Pie — mode
129 Chop (off)
131 RBI part

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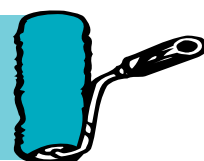
Answer

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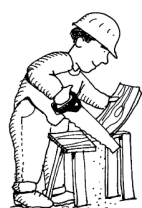
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