



the TIMBERJAY



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TELECOMMUNICATIONS

State opens Frontier investigation

Consumer Affairs supervisor cites ‘large volume’ of complaints against utility

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The Minnesota Department of Commerce has opened an investigation into Frontier Communications in the wake of

widespread complaints and reporting by the *Timberjay*.

A *Timberjay* investigation last November revealed a laundry list of complaints from Frontier customers for both phone and Internet service. The state of Minnesota does impose per-

formance standards on telecommunications providers licensed in the state and they can be held accountable for failure to meet their obligations.

Anne Thom, Consumer Affairs Supervisor at the state’s Public Utilities Commission,

told the *Timberjay* last week that the PUC had decided to initiate an inquiry after reports had prompted them to review their database of complaints — revealing “a large volume,” sufficient to begin the investigation.

While the PUC’s consumer

affairs office seeks to mediate such complaints, the agency said “many of them remain unresolved.”

The Commerce Department posted notice of the investiga-

See...UTILITY pg. 10

CELEBRATIONS



Olive and Fern

Flower girl dresses and handcrafted cotton couture

by SCARLET Lynn STONE
Staff Writer

ELY - February is the month where winter wears out its welcome and Valentine’s Day provides a sweet reprieve mid-month. It is truly the holiday of loving expressions with heart-shaped boxes of chocolates, romantic greeting cards and special events such as weddings and engagements.

For anyone who has ever planned a wedding, you know there are countless details involved in enhancing the beautiful memories. Most brides would agree the most important detail is finding the perfect wedding dress, which is followed by clothing choices for the wedding attendants. It is usually the ring bearer and flower girl who are without a doubt the “cute factor” in most wedding ceremonies, looking so fresh-scrubbed in suit

Beth Ohlhauser, owner, designer and seamstress of Olive and Fern, creates custom-designed girls’ dresses in her sewing shop in Ely. submitted photo

and dress, with all the trimmings. I recently had the pleasure to meet Beth Ohlhauser, of Ely, who specializes in sewing adorable vintage-style flower girl

See.. OLIVE pg. 11

COOK/ORR

Blandin funding helps in rural expansion for internet service

by MELISSA ROACH
Staff Writer

REGIONAL - One year ago the Blandin Foundation awarded funding to improve broadband access and technical training and support for the communities of Cook, Orr, and Nett Lake. Joining together as the “Grizzlies Community,” they were one of ten Blandin Broadband Communities selected for two rounds of grant funding.

One year later, the Grizzlies Community has plenty of progress to report, even as some challenges remain.

Establishing a Wi-Fi hotspot in Cook has gone largely according to plan, said Cook Library Director Crystal Phillips. The library is the local hotspot, and it’s proven popular already. “The hot spots are kind of a big deal,” said Phillips. “We have had a waiting list for people to check them out. People can’t believe that it’s really what it is...that it’s Wi-Fi, and it works.” So far, the system has worked well, with few problems,

See...BLANDIN pg. 10

Inside
Broadband access leads economic priorities for Ely area.
Page 10

EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Rep. Nolan reconsiders; will retire from Congress

Family health issues, endorsement challenge, likely factors

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Eighth District Congressman Rick Nolan announced on Friday that he will retire from the U.S. House of Representatives at the end of his current term.

The 74-year-old DFL congressman has represented the

Eighth District since 2012 and had indicated last fall that he planned to seek re-election. But he has faced an endorsement challenge from former FBI analyst Leah Phifer, who attracted substantial support during Tuesday’s caucuses.

Nolan also has a daughter who is undergoing treatment for lung cancer, and he said a

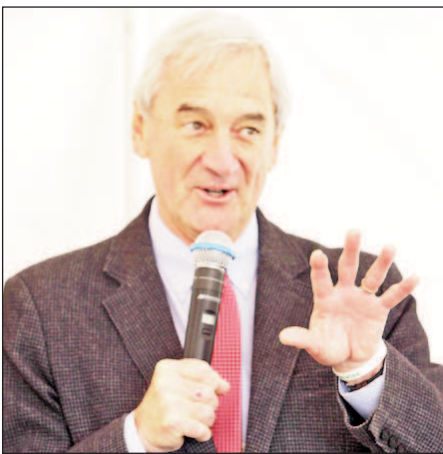
United States Congressman Rick Nolan, who has represented the Eighth District in Minnesota since 2012, announced last Friday that he will retire at the end of his current term. Timberjay file photo

desire to spend more time with his family was his primary motivation for calling it quits.

“It’s time for me to go home and spend more time with them,” he told Minnpost

on Friday. “It’s been coming for a long time. I got back into the front line of politics to see what I could do to help with

See... NOLAN pg. 12



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WINTER EVENTS

WolfTrack Classic marks ten years

Dogsledding competition set for Feb. 25 this year in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - The 10-year anniversary of Ely’s own WolfTrack Classic sled dog race will run on Sunday, Feb. 25. New this year, both races will start and finish in Ely.

Local musher Nancy Ensley was in town with her Siberian Husky team last Saturday at Whiteside Park during the Winter Festival as a WolfTrack ambassador to preview the popular winter event.

Her friendly dogs yelped and jumped around as people came up to them for a greeting.

“I won’t be racing this year,” Ensley said. “We’re getting older and don’t have the stamina we need,” she said, mostly referring to her dogs. “We go out on runs when we can.”

As of Tuesday, the following mushers were registered:

►Eight-dog race - Sandra Visger, Ryan Anderson, Rhonda

Heerschap, Neal Seeger, Linus Meyer, Krystal Hagstrom, Frank Moe, Dusty Klaven and Adam Treful;

►Six-dog race - Tim Chisholm, Steve Bergeman, Scott Edgett, Robin Fisher, Morgan McClelland Julie Schmelzer, Darcy Stanley-Nord, Chelsea Trucano, Billie Diver, and Adrea DeBoer.

Dog teams will be arriving on Saturday, Feb. 24. They will meet with Race Veterinarian Dr. Chip Hanson between 4 -5 p.m. at the Ely Senior Center, located at 27 South 1st Avenue East. Late musher registrations will also be accepted during that time.

The public is invited to join the mushers, handlers, WolfTrack Classic Board and the volunteers for the traditional Musher Dinner, which follows the vet checks, at the Senior Center. Tickets are \$12 and will be available at the door. Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. “This year it is a hearty all-you-can eat spaghetti dinner,

with bread, salad, dessert and a beverage,” said Race Director Ellen Cashman “The proceeds from this event go to support the Vermilion Community College Wilderness Club.” The musher meeting and bib presentation follows the Musher Dinner.

By 7 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 25, the sled dog teams arrive at the Ely Softball Complex on Highway 1 to get ready for the start of the race. Dog truck parking and spectator parking are across the road from the start line. “This is a wonderful opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes for the mushers to prepare for the race, how the equipment is used and to see the excitement of the dogs,” Cashman said. “Dog-sledding is not just a sport or a hobby, it is a lifestyle and one the whole family is involved in from a very early age.”

The race consists of two competitions: a six-dog, 30-mile race and an eight-dog, 50-mile

race. The eight-dog teams are first to go and are moved from the staging areas to the starting line. “The count-down begins above the high volume of the excited, jumping, howling, barking, eager to start dogs,” Cashman said. “This high energy chaos is followed by a silence as they take off and spectators watch 32 paws pounding the ground, sending snow flying as they quickly round the corner and run out of sight down the Taconite Trail.”

Teams will cross Highway 1, Highway 21, Bear Head State Park Road, turn onto the Bear Head State Park Trail and then on to the Fishing Lakes Trail,



Local musher Nancy Ensley was in Whiteside Park with her Siberian Husky Kazoo and other members of her dog team recently, drumming up attention for the upcoming WolfTrack event.
photo by K. Vandervort

which takes them back to the Taconite Trail for the return to the Ely finish line. Teams are sent off at two-minute intervals.

See WOLFTRACK...pg. 5

POLITICS

Coleman out in governor’s race

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The field in the DFL race for governor thinned to four on Monday after former St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman announced he was suspending his campaign.

Coleman, who enjoyed some of the highest name recognition among the six DFL candidates, came in fourth in the gubernatorial straw poll conducted during last week’s precinct caucuses.

Coleman’s departure leaves four candidates, including First District Congressman Tim Walz, who took first in last week’s straw poll, second-place finisher and current state Auditor Rebecca Otto, and legislators Erin Murphy and Tina Liebling.

Walz is also leading in the money hunt, according to year-end campaign finance reports filed this week by the campaigns. Walz reports total receipts of \$1.1 million, with total expenditures of \$627,000 and \$488,000 cash remaining. Coleman was second in the money hunt, but it didn’t translate into support from caucus-goers.

Murphy was third, with \$377,000 in receipts during the period, and total expenditures of \$351,000. Otto was fourth, with receipts

of \$320,000 and total expenditures of \$158,000.

Three candidates remain on the GOP side, including Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Johnson, who finished first in the GOP straw poll. Also in the Republican race are Keith Downing and Mary Guiliani Stephens, although former Gov. Tim Pawlenty is now widely expected to enter the Republican race in the near future.

Johnson led the GOP field in fundraising, with \$263,000 in receipts and \$112,000 in expenditures.

With final caucus numbers now available, the DFL advantage in terms of attendance was better than 3-1. A total of 34,112 DFLers cast ballots in the gubernatorial straw poll, compared to just 10,909 on the GOP side. That’s an all-time low for the state’s Republicans. While not a definitive gauge of election results in the fall, caucus turnout is generally linked with party enthusiasm, which may bode poorly for Republicans in Minnesota in the fall. “Between this strong showing and our record-breaking fundraising numbers, it’s clear our party is heading into this pivotal election year with the energy it needs to create a blue wave across Minnesota,” DFL Party Chair Ken Martin said in a statement.

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CITY OF TOWER

Development projects lead council agenda

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER—Economic development projects dominated the city council meeting here on Monday, as the council gave approval to several motions to further ongoing projects.

The council gave approval to new building design standards for the business park and approved the proposed location and exterior design of the planned 9,000 square-foot industrial building which will house Lamppa Manufacturing and possibly a second business. The project has been underway for several months and is slated to go for bid in early April with construction set to begin in late May.

In related business, the council approved a resolution authorizing a grant request to the IRRRB to cover some infrastructure-related costs on the

industrial building project, such as necessary blacktopping. The council also green-lighted a final proposed plat for the harbor area, which includes platting of that portion of the city’s business park located west of Hwy. 135.

The new plat was necessary to define the lots in the industrial park as well as the land surrounding the harbor. The platting issue has been one source of delay on the harbor town home project, which should now soon be resolved. St. Louis County will still need to give final approval of the new plat, which could take about 60 days.

The council also appointed City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith, Mayor Josh Carlson, and new TEDA president Steve Peterson to negotiate a lease with Lamppa Manufacturing, which is planning to lease 4,500 square feet of the new industrial building.

In other economic development, the council tabled bids on

planned demolition work at the former Standing Bear Marina, now owned by Your Boat Club, after the two bids were far apart. Dave Rose bid \$32,100, while CC Winger bid \$251,500. City engineers said the enormous difference suggests the project was inadequately scoped. The project specs were developed by the new marina owner and were not reviewed by SEH. Your Boat Club principal Luke Kujawa said he had received a quote of \$71,000 from a well-established dock installer in central Minnesota that had visited the site and understood the project well.

Matt Bolf, of SEH, suggested that the IRRRB might have wage requirements associated with the project and that the city should get more information before approving a bid. Mayor Josh Carlson initially said he favored rejecting both bids, but after further discussion, the council

voted to table the bids pending more information. City officials hope to have their questions answered in time for a special meeting on Feb. 20.

In other business, the council:

- Gave approval to publish the EAW for Dave Rose’s proposed RV park along the East Two River. City officials noted that publication of the EAW is just one of many remaining steps for the project. It will appear in the Feb. 22 edition of the state-published EQB Monitor.
- Approved job descriptions and missions for city committees and commissions.
- Heard an update on the city’s plan to replace its existing septic system at the airport with holding tanks. A lift station pump for the current system needs replacement and the city is looking at installing holding tanks instead of fixing the pump.

City Engineer Jason Chopp said

his initial investigation suggests the city would be better off installing two 2,000-gallon tanks rather than one 4,000-gallon tank as originally proposed. He said he still thinks the cost will be under \$10,000, but that the city will need to hire a licensed designer to actually create the project plan. Last month, Chopp estimated the cost of a new lift station pump at approximately \$5,000.

- Approved a mutual aid agreement with the Hoyt Lakes Ambulance Service.
- Approved a change in the city’s dog and cat license fee to \$10 for the lifetime of the pet.
- Gave the first reading to a revision of Ordinance 81A that annexes 23.13 acres of city-owned land in Kugler Township into the city limits.

ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION

U.S. Steel, MPCA settle dueling lawsuits

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— U.S. Steel and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency have agreed to settle their ongoing litigation over permitting for the Minntac tailings basin out of court. The two parties reached an agreement last month and a Ramsey County judge dismissed the Writ of Mandamus filed by U.S. Steel last year as well as a counterclaim filed by the MPCA in response.

The settlement does not address claims made by three intervening environmental groups, but an attorney for the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy said that settlement talks with the company are ongoing.

The legal tit-for-tat arose out of a lawsuit originally filed by the MCEA and two other environmental organizations in November 2016 alleging that the MPCA had failed in its obligation to regulate water discharges from

Minntac’s 8,000-acre tailings basin located just north of Virginia. The facility continues to operate under a permit that expired a quarter-century ago and environmental groups and tribal authorities have become increasingly concerned about ground and surface water contamination from the basin.

In response to the environmental lawsuit, the MPCA quickly issued a new draft permit for the facility as part of a settlement of the case. U.S. Steel

filed suit against the MPCA last February, alleging that the agency had failed to address company requests for some regulatory changes and seeking a court order preventing the state agency from issuing a new permit until agency officials approved the changes U.S. Steel was seeking.

The MPCA responded with a counterclaim that highlighted an ongoing pattern of delay and apparent bad faith by U.S. Steel in its prior dealings with the agency over clean-up

efforts at the tailings basin. The court approved the intervention of the three environmental groups in the case last June. The groups were seeking to ensure that their agreement with the MPCA was protected.

The settlement likely isn’t the final word in the matter. The MPCA and U.S. Steel agreed that they will seek to work out their differences through an administrative process rather than the courts, but both parties maintain their

rights to seek court intervention if the administrative process fails to resolve outstanding issues. The judge dismissed both lawsuits without prejudice, meaning they can be brought back to court at a future date.

U.S. Steel agreed to reimburse the MPCA for \$80,000 in litigation costs under the settlement but did not admit to any violations in doing so.



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OPINION

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Editorial

Nolan’s retirement

A strong progressive was bogged down in the sulfide mining debate

The announcement last week that Eighth District Congressman Rick Nolan will not seek re-election this fall was unexpected, but hardly a surprise. While Nolan had previously announced that he planned to seek a fourth term, a combination of his daughter’s current health struggles and growing dissatisfaction within his own progressive base had undoubtedly affected his enthusiasm for what was widely expected to be a brutal re-election effort.

While politicians always cite a desire to spend time with family when they leave the public stage, we believe Nolan, now 74, is sincere when he made a similar claim last week.

The timing, coming in the wake of last week’s precinct caucuses, suggests that the intra-party battle was going to be a bigger challenge than Nolan might have initially realized. The congressman faced an endorsement challenge from former FBI national security analyst Leah Phifer, who was well-organized going into the caucuses and came away with a significant number of delegates. Exact numbers won’t be known for certain until those delegates gather at future conventions, but anecdotal reports point to a strong showing for Phifer.

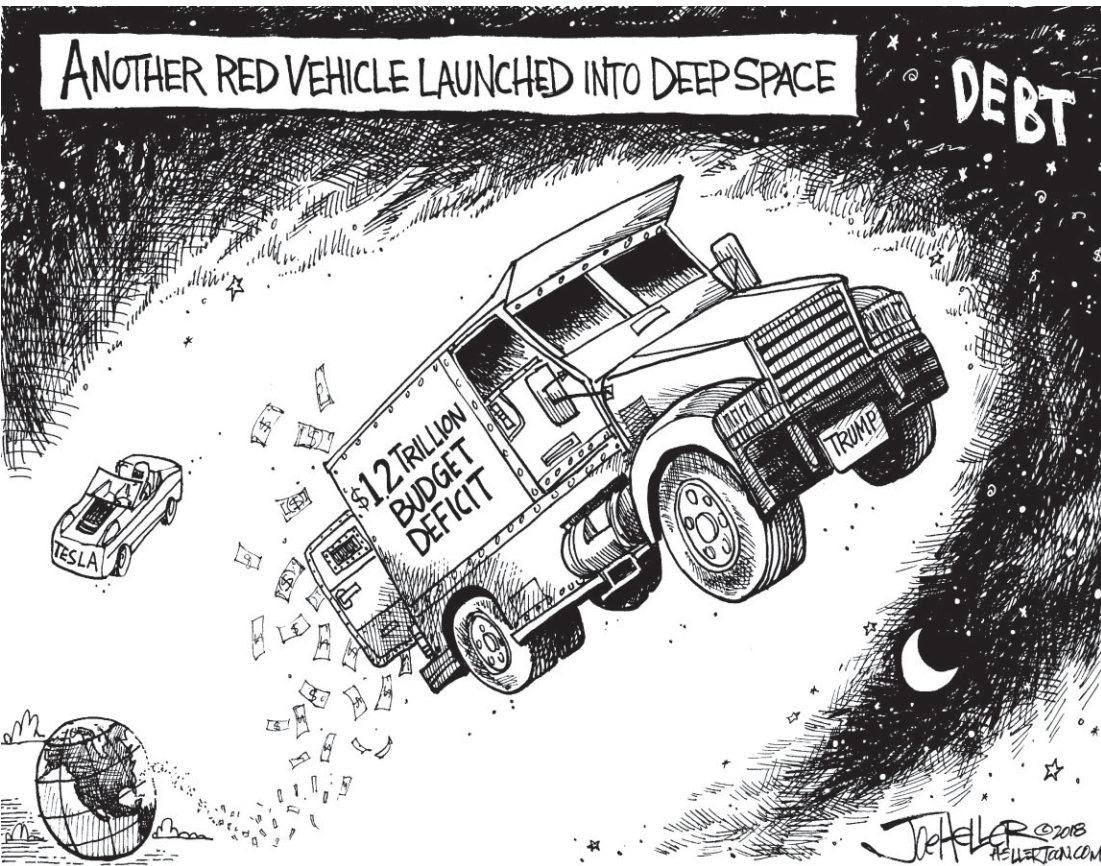
Nolan almost certainly faced a tough fight in the general election as well, in large part because of his decision to align himself politically with the anti-public lands agenda of a handful of far-right Western Republicans, including Trump Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The otherwise progressive Nolan found common cause with this small group of radicals over his own efforts to short-circuit due process in regards to copper-nickel mining projects in the Superior National Forest.

His actions shocked many progressive DFLers, most of whom strongly support maintaining and protecting public lands and are skeptical, at least, of copper-nickel mining proposals in the region. While most had been willing to live with Nolan’s general

backing of new mining projects in the past, his more recent actions were widely viewed as simply too extreme. Many vowed they would never vote for Nolan again. In a district where the DFL needs every base voter to win, it could well have been fatal. It was that concern that prompted Phifer to enter the race.

Regardless of his reasons for retiring, Nolan’s departure is certain to widen the field of candidates and all but guarantees a bruising primary fight. And the copper-nickel divide within the party is likely to be front and center in that battle, even though DFLers largely agree on a long list of other political issues. Candidates entering the fray would be wise to learn from Nolan’s miscalculation on the issue. Residents of the Eighth District cherish their public lands and support for sulfide-based copper-nickel mines is not nearly as strong in the district as some folks seem to believe. Indeed, among DFLers outside the Mesabi Range, large majorities of DFLers oppose sulfide-based mining, according to recent polls.

While his backing of sulfide mining at all costs came to be seen as a defining issue for Nolan, in most other ways he will be remembered as a strong progressive voice in Congress during his time representing the Eighth District. As a Bernie Sanders supporter, he backed a transition to a “Medicare-for-all”-style single-payer health insurance system, wisely fought against foreign military intervention, and was a tireless advocate for sensible campaign finance reform. Having also served in Congress in the 1970s, Nolan was in a unique position to recognize the degree to which big money had changed Washington and its priorities over the past few decades, and he spoke out about the harm it was doing to the country. His perspective, on that and other issues, will undoubtedly be missed in Washington.



Letters from Readers

Democrats should focus on what unites them

Following last week’s caucuses, I was dismayed by press coverage and conversations in the community about the continued “blue-green” divide within the DFL. The recent *Ely Timberjay* announced “Ely debates mining”, and spent the next nine paragraphs discussing this; I overheard a conversation in the community in which a former local politician complained about the anti-mining resolutions; and online, the debate persisted.

Someone at the caucus pled that anti-mining resolutions not be raised, as they only divide the party. So where are community members supposed to go to express their concerns about the proposed projects? Assured by the mining companies themselves, mining advocates assert that the proposed projects will be safe. But there are valid reasons to be concerned that the projects may not be safe. Among these concerns is that there is not one example to be found on this planet where such mining has occurred in similar circumstances as ours without causing significant damage to the environment and local water supplies. So people who are concerned about clean water and protecting the Boundary Waters will continue to raise these concerns within and outside of the DFL.

Unfortunately I’ve heard nobody comment on the points of unity. Readers may be interested to know, and possibly be reminded, that at the Ely caucus – coming from the same people who proposed resolutions against unsafe mining – also came proposals against anti-union “Right To Work” legislation, and another that supports “Medicare for

All”. Both of these proposals passed unanimously.

Surely there are disagreements within the DFL. Although clearly, we’ve seen the GOP with its share of divisions, ranging from typical fiscal conservatives to its imminent endorsement of a Nazi candidate for the 3rd Congressional District of Illinois. But be clear, the GOP does not support workers’ rights to organize, Medicare for All, or even a continuation of Social Security. In spite of one difference of opinion, choose wisely, because our future depends on it.

Brian Thorbjørnsen Ely

Domestic cats pose a major threat to birds

Betty Firth’s column on dogs and cats states the obvious: golden retrievers have more cognitive capacity than do cats (full disclosure: I’ve lived with golden retrievers all my life). She then wades into the even more fraught issue of cats killing birds, citing the opinion of “internationally recognized cat and dog researcher” John Bradshaw that “in all likelihood, your house cat is probably a clumsy and inefficient hunter” because they aren’t “born in the wild and taught to hunt by their mothers in their first two months of life.”

Don’t believe it. First off, Mr. Bradshaw is expert only when it comes to cat-human interactions (“Anthrozoology,” as he calls it), not cat-wildlife interactions. If he were, he would know about the damning literature on mortality of birds caused by both feral and domestic cats. The best paper on the subject, “The impact of free-ranging domestic cats on wildlife of the United States” was published in *Nature Communications* in 2013. The authors did a data-driven, sys-

tematic review of studies of predation rates of feral and domestic cats, and estimated the magnitude of bird mortality caused by all cats. Their conservative estimate: Cats kill between 1.3 and 4.0 billion birds each year across the contiguous United States. While the majority of this carnage was caused by feral cats, domestic cats were thought responsible for between 400 million to 1.25 billion of those bird deaths. That means domestic cats rival or surpass all the other direct sources of human-caused mortality including collisions with windows, buildings, communication towers, vehicles, wind generators and pesticide poisoning. A study in Canada reached a similar conclusion.

I didn’t have to go any further than my living room easy chair to see evidence of this. On occasion I’ve spotted neighbors’ cats stalking birds at my bird feeders, and often see their tracks in the snow there. Once, while watching evening grosbeaks on the feeder out the window, I witnessed a neighbor’s cat suddenly rocket into view from under the feeder, its paw stretched overhead ala LeBron James going in for a dunk, except in this case the cat deftly swiped a grosbeak off the rim of the feeder before dropping back out of sight.

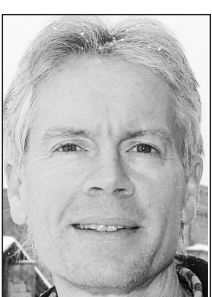
Responsible cat owners who have made the decision to keep their cats indoors shouldn’t be fooled by Mr. Bradshaw’s poorly-informed opinion about the impacts domestic cats have on bird populations (and other animals, including small mammals, reptiles and amphibians, which could fill another letter). Keep on keeping your cat indoors. For those interested in more information, check out the American Bird Conservancy’s website under, appropriately, the “threats” link.

Steve Wilson Tower

Republicans have loved big deficits since Reagan

Two weeks after Donald Trump won election as our 45th president, I made a couple predictions in these pages— namely that the agenda that Trump touted during the campaign would bear little relationship to what would actually happen in Washington during his administration. Instead, I wrote, “Here’s what Americans can really expect over the next four years.

➤ Huge tax cuts for big business and the wealthy: Whatever Republicans say on the campaign trail,



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

this is the one policy that is a guarantee whenever Republicans control the levers of power in Washington. America’s wealthiest companies and individuals will see hundreds of billions of dollars in tax cuts, while most Americans will see modest reductions at best, and many will likely pay more. Income inequality will continue to worsen.

➤ A ballooning federal budget deficit. President Reagan exploded the deficit. President George W. Bush inherited a \$200 billion

budget surplus and left President Obama with a \$1.3 trillion deficit. Obama has managed to cut the deficit by two-thirds during his presidency, but with the GOP back in charge, and passing out huge tax cuts, the deficit will spike. *Mark this one down... it’s a virtual guarantee.* Republicans will claim that deficits will fall from all the new business generated by their tax cuts, but this is, without a doubt, the most discredited theory in economics. It will not happen.”

I was reminded of these predictions last week, when the Treasury Department announced that the federal government is on track to borrow nearly \$1 trillion in the first year of the Trump administration,

an 84-percent jump from the last year of the Obama administration. The \$1.5 trillion tax cut plan, approved last December, was guaranteed to add to the deficit. And the GOP’s big boost in military spending approved earlier this month will further add to the budget woes, with the latest forecast now pegging the 2019 deficit at \$1.2 trillion. That represents a doubling of the deficit in just two years under President Trump. And that’s before so much as a dollar of Trump’s supposed infrastructure plan has been added to the mix. He wasn’t kidding when he said he’s the king of debt.

See DEFICIT...pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Still waiting for openness in tribal government

I would like to respond to your article in the Jan. 31 edition of the *Timberjay* regarding the Bois Forte State of the Band titled “Last year was tough financially.” Some of what Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers stated is not accurate. In particular, a statement made “This is the first year we presented our budgets and the Fortune Bay budgets on livestream during our tribal meeting.”

There were no budgets or Fortune Bay budgets with information presented publicly at the 2018 State of the Band or any meeting livestream by the Bois Forte Tribal Government. The fact is that the Bois Forte financials and the Fortune Bay financials were presented at a closed-door session at the 2018 State of the Band only after signing a non-disclosure form. The only way Bois Forte Band members have access to financial information is if they first send a letter, set up a meeting time at the RTG accounting office, and

then sign a non-disclosure form under the threat of tribal law and fines. The tribal council’s excuse for hiding financial information is that the non-Indian will use our financial information against us or they will be publicly criticized. Myself and about 20 other tribal members attended the 2018 State of the Band financial presentation and it was unrecorded. I want this statement corrected because it makes it appear to Bois Forte Band members and non-Natives that our government is open and shares financial information to the band members of Bois Forte which is not true. I strongly disagree with the statement, “We want to insure our tribal members have more openness.” Again, this statement is incorrect because to this day we do not have an open government. What is public are council meetings that address non-essential business such as grant reports, new hires, etc. All financial information related to budgets, audits, etc. is done in closed session. If any Bois Forte Tribal Council member were to divulge any information from the closed session meetings they would be punished with ethical violations and possible removal from the

council. These are the conditions that Bois Forte Band members live under on a daily basis. It is true that we are experiencing financial difficulty because the salary and fringe are the biggest problem. The tribal government put themselves in this position because of the high salaries and benefits of top administration. Our revenue can’t sustain the massive payroll because of this. We once had cash on hand of about \$7 million in reserve but now that is depleted and in 2017 the band received a loan of approximately a half-million-dollars to cover tribal payroll and expenses and used 1854 per capita money as collateral to make government payroll. The record needs to be set straight. This is an election year on Bois Forte and I want the facts presented correctly for everyone including all the 2018 candidates.

Donald L. Chosa Jr.
Bois Forte Band Member
Nett Lake

Editor’s Note:
Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers responded to this letter, stating that budgets mentioned during the State of the Band were

approved in general session, but acknowledged they were not made available for public viewing at that time. The public was told they could access the budgets in the office of the Secretary-Treasurer, by prior written request.

True Stories a wonderful event

An exciting evening of True Stories from the Edge took place on Jan. 25 at the Ely Senior Center. A dozen stories on the theme of “Lessons Learned” were told by young, old and in between. We want to thank the storytellers and the 40-plus people in attendance! It was wonderful to see the VCC creative writing students in the audience and on stage.

We heard about a car engine blowing up on the way to a rafting trip on the Rio Grande and of other “inconveniences” that made the trip a true adventure. Another storyteller explained why you should always have a spare tire even when you are too young for a driver’s license. We heard about digging latrines in Mexico that were needed but not wanted. And, we learned that

missing a collision with a deer in the road is something that just happens and we don’t know why. One storyteller said his older brother was an example of what not to be like and it changed his life. Another story described how too many boilermakers led to being dead for a few days! We learned how a six-year-old found a future career by carefully watching the customers in his parents’ restaurant. And, how listening to your parents would have been a good way to avoid a handful of splinters. We tried to imagine how hard it would be to go through USMC training. And finally, when you are little and really scared of getting a shot, you may scream all you want until your mother holds you down and the doctor steps in. Thank you so much, storytellers!

We will have another opportunity to listen or tell a story on Feb. 22, 6-8 p.m. at the Ely Senior Center. The theme for that evening is “Eye Openers”. Tell us about a time that opened your eyes and changed your mind. We hope to see you there.

Terry Cooper and Julie Nester
Ely

DEFICIT...Continued from page 4

Now I don’t claim to be a fortune teller, although these predictions from 15 months ago were spot on. What I am, however, is a student of political history, and since the days of Ronald Reagan, the Republicans have been as predictable as the sun coming up in the morning. No matter the question, the answer from the GOP is always more tax cuts and bigger deficits. They just can’t help themselves.

Unfortunately, as the preeminent economist John Maynard Keynes pointed out, there is a time for government debt and a time to pay the bills— and the Republicans have it exactly backward.

Those who remember their history will recall that Republicans fought tooth and nail in the wake of the 2008 financial crash to block the financial stimulus that virtually every economist agreed was necessary to prevent a much deeper slide into a full-blown depression. That’s classic Keynesian economics...

when the economy is hurting, the government can right the ship through fiscal stimulus, particularly public works.

The big recovery package that Obama passed despite GOP opposition injected hundreds of billions of dollars into the economy at the same time that it repaired our highways and bridges, added broadband infrastructure, kept police, firefighters, and teachers on the job, and built hundreds of new schools.

The stimulus package worked. Within a few months, job losses had been stemmed, the economy was growing again and the growth continued throughout the remaining years of Obama’s presidency. It would have grown faster with more stimulus, but Republicans blocked that after they regained control of Congress in 2010 and the economy’s progress was slowed as a result.

Yet by 2016, the economy was doing well enough despite the GOP

efforts. Unemployment was near record lows and incomes were starting to rise, even for average Americans. The Dow Jones, which sat at 7,949 the day Obama took the oath of office and hit 6,547 six weeks later as the recession reached rock bottom, sat at 19,827 as Obama handed over the reins. And the \$1.3 trillion deficit that Obama inherited from George W. Bush, had been trimmed by two-thirds.

It was just one more case study demonstrating that Keynes had it right. And that Republicans had it wrong.

Keynes, as I said, also believe in paying the bills. When the economy is strong, Keynes argued, governments need to use their taxing authority to pay down the debt they incurred when the economy needed stimulus.

This is not only sound fiscal policy, it’s actually good economics. Higher taxes are, in effect, fiscal stimulus in reverse and they can help keep an

economy from expanding too quickly and creating the inflationary pressures and potential instability that often lead to the next downturn. That’s why the recent Republican tax cut package was so reckless—it poured gasoline on a well-controlled flame. In 2016, the economy wasn’t too hot or too cold—it was just about right. Now, in the wake of the GOP tax cuts, we’re seeing growing worries about inflation, higher interest rates, and an overheating economy, all of which contributed to the recent volatility on Wall Street.

The GOP kept the brakes on when the economy actually needed the gas, and now that a little braking might be in order, they’ve put the pedal to the metal. Clearly, the GOP leadership is lacking a competent economist.

What’s worse is that the GOP’s debt bomb will leave the country unable to respond to the demographic challenge posed by the retirement of the

baby boom, which will increase the demand on programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

It will also leave the country less able to provide

the appropriate level of fiscal stimulus the next time the economy goes sour. And with the GOP in charge, that’s probably sooner rather than later.

WOLFTRACK...Continued from page 2

Depending on weather and trail conditions, the first teams should arrive back in Ely starting around 1:30 pm.

Once the eight-dog teams are trail bound, the six-dog teams will also leave the start area at two-minute intervals. Teams will head out of the ball field and connect with the Taconite Trail. “You can get a great look at the teams in action as they cross Hwys. 1 and 21,” Cashman said. The six-dog race will make a loop onto Purvis Road and reconnect with

the Taconite Trail leading back to the Ely finish.

“With all the teams coming back to Ely there is plenty of time to head over to race headquarters at the Grand Ely Lodge. You can stop in the banquet room and get race information, check out the history of the Ely All American Race, warm up and have a wonderful meal off the special “Musher Menu” created in honor of the stars of the day,” Cashman said.

Head back to the Softball Complex to catch

the excitement of 30-40 teams coming across the finish line. After the last team crosses the finish line and the dogs are all cared for and bedded in their comfy dog trucks, the post-race celebration begins.

The Grand Ely Lodge is the host site for the awards presentations. “The awards dinner is open to the public, so come join mushers, handlers and volunteers for conversations filled with adventures from the day. We will present awards to the winning teams,” she said.

A “Meet the Team” event, an opportunity to meet a team of racing Siberians and learn about the sport of dog sledding, training and caring for a team of dogs will be held Saturday, Feb. 10, at Whiteside Park from noon to 3 p.m.

Visit the website for all the latest race information and learn about volunteer opportunities, at wolftrackclassic.com, and on their Facebook page.



Steve Fields
Minnesota Attorney

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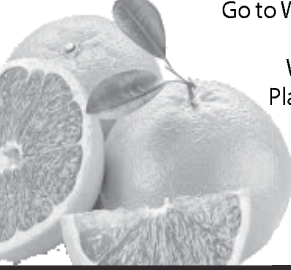
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WORKSHOP NOTICE

Government Contracts:
Where’s the Work and How Do I Get It?
Dates and Locations:
Wednesday, March 28 • 1 PM to 4:30 PM
Kawishiwi Ranger Station
1393 MN Hwy 169 • Ely, MN 55731

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





READ the Timberjay!

City of Tower/Howard Wagoner Trail Club seeks to “relaunch” on Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 6 p.m.

TOWER- Are you a cross-country skier or hiker on our great city of Tower/Howard Wagoner ski trails? Or a supporter of this beautiful gem of a trail system? Do you want to see it maintained, improved, or promoted as another one of the many great out-door attractions in our area? If so, please join us on Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center for a one-hour meeting. The goal is to bring trail users, volunteers, and supporters together to reignite our community’s involvement in maintaining these trails. The group will review the current state of the trails and their management (big thanks to city of Tower, volunteers, groomer, and DNR), but the main part of this short meeting will be to brainstorm ideas for keeping our trails great. For more information, or if you are interested but can’t make the meeting, please contact Terry Vagle at 218-248-0654 or Mary Shedd at 218-830-2457.

Northern Red Hat Belles

TOWER- The Northern Red Hat Belles will meet at Benchwarmer’s on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 12:30 p.m. The group will order from the menu. Call Gwen at 218-753-6599 or Carol at 218-753-3220 to RSVP by Feb. 19.

Chimpy Skating Parties Feb. 17, 18, 19

SOUDAN- There are three days of fun this holi-day weekend, with Chimpy’s Skating Parties from 12 noon - 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, Feb. 17-19. There will be food and fun. Loaner skates are available. Boot skaters welcome. This week’s parties are being sponsored by St. James Presbyterian Church and Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board.

Movie Night set for Sunday, Feb. 18 at 6 p.m. at St. James

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower is hosting a free movie night on Sunday, Feb. 18 at 6 p.m. The movie this month is “Jimmy.” Ian Colletti delivers the performance of a lifetime in this heartfelt drama based on the best-selling novel by Robert Whitlow. Colletti stars as Jimmy Mitchell, a young man whose world is a place where a boy can be a man, even if he’s “special.” w“Jimmy” is an extraordinary tale about growing up in the midst of real struggle.

TS Civic Club to meet on Feb. 21; RSVP for dinner by Feb. 16

TOWER- The Feburary meeting of the Tower-Soudan Civic Club will be on Wednesday, Feb. 21 at Sulu’s Coffee Shop (please note change from usual meeting location). This will be a dinner meeting with a social hour beginning at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m. The menu will include Asian chicken, an Asian salad, mango tart for dessert, and tea or coffee. Cost for the evening is \$20.

The speaker for this meeting will be Jeff Lovgren of the Vermilion Lake Association. He will speak of the invasive species concerns on the lake along with other environmental issues.

Please make reservations to Linda Haugen by Friday, Feb. 16. Guests are always welcome! No meeting is scheduled for the month of March.

Learn about our native trees and tree care during two weekend classes

SOUDAN- Planting and caring for native trees benefits our wildlife, pollinators, soil, and water. If you are planning to plant trees this spring, this is the class for you. Beth Kleinke, a District Forester from the St. Louis County Soil, Water and Conservation District will present information on the right tree for the right location, how to care for your trees, how to make them grow, and how to watch out for pests and diseases. The class will also profile several unique northern Minnesota trees for your front lawn, swamps, and river banks. Two classes are offered: Saturdays, Feb. 24 or March 17 from 9 -10:30 a.m. at the Soudan Fire Hall. You must pre-register. For registration and more information please call or text Leone Graf at 218-343-3744 or email at camplake@earthlink.net.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY

I Love Reading month...

Tower-Soudan Elementary students celebrated the start of I Love to Read month with an after-noon of “Reading in the Dark” in the school library. Flashlights plus books added up to a lot of fun! photos by J. Summit



Jacque Horvat spent some time reading with Raeanna.



Norman and Kija found a hide-away under a table.



Audriana was having a hilarious time reading with Jasmine.



Trevor used the light from his iPad to read to Aydrian.



Vermilion Country School Second Quarter Honor Roll

A Honor Roll

Alexander Dorman
Alyssa Pratt
Julianna Schmidt
Jacob Karasti

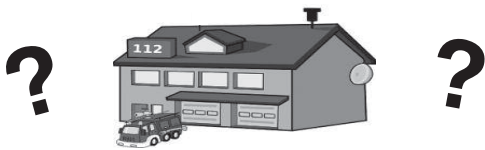
B Honor Roll

Kelsie Walker
Skylar Laulunen
Leah Anderson
Andrew Sauls
Niin-Day Dunkley
Shaylin Peliska
Jason Premo
Daniel Kuriatnyk

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP NOTICE

NAME OUR BUILDING
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Read us online at timberjay.com

Northeast Range Second Quarter Honor Roll

A Honor Roll

Grade 12
Tasha Bissonette
ShaRee Kachmarzinski
Melissa Nelmark
Bethany Runquist

Grade 11
Jacon Bjork
Annkathrin Ketterer
Chelsea Larson
Sophie Lenz
Shayler Lislegard
Mikayla Mellesmoen
Mersadies Stordahl

Grade 10
Carolyn Desilets
Maude Lenz
Kaliyah Reinhardt

Grade 9
Oskar Koivisto
Phoebe Morgan
James Zupancich

Grade 8
Audrey Anderson
Erin Backe
Markus Maki
Natalie Nelmark
Hannah Reichensperger

Grade 7
Rachael Kratz
Jennie Nelson

B Honor Roll

Grade 12
Marshall Backe
Courtney Kilmister
Mylea Laulunen
Madisyn Littler
Quintin Pecha
Hannah Peitso
Brett Rosendahl
Wynn Tripp
Jonathan Weston

Grade 11
Chloe Aase
Heidi Houghton
Taina Koivisto
Maija Maki
Ruth Morgan
Justice Porisch

Grade 10
Makaya Bodas
Robert Daughtery
Charles Fritz
Shelby Nelson
Lara Poderzay
Jason Skube

Grade 9
Anne Barich
Robert Bielejeski
Christopher Ferguson
Dillon Gorsma
Kaleb Kappes-Bliss
Willa Koivisto
Alexia Lightfeather
Brayln Lislegard
Ethan Zaitz

Grade 8
Aili Bee
Ty Fabish
Wyatt Gorsma
Joscelyn LaSart
Rylan Poppenhagen
Hunter Shenett
Jenna Smith

Grade 7
Zoey Cameron
Inga Lakey
Alice Wolter
Jonathan Zaitz

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VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL



Just stopped by to say hello...from China

TOWER- No, it wasn't a pair of rock stars creating a huge stir at Vermilion Country School during lunch on Monday, it was a pair of beloved teachers, Clint and Jess Hughes, who were back in Tower for a short visit during their Chinese New Year's vacation break. The couple left Tower a year-and-a-half ago for a two-year teaching stint in China. Besides working at the charter school (Clint as a teacher for social studies, drama, and phy ed, and Jess as a special education para), the two taught karate and were active members of Immanuel Lutheran Church. They now plan to extend their China stay by at least two more years, but they will be moving from the relatively small city of only seven million residents they now live in, to a smaller, northern city (which will have winters similar to or even colder than Tower) to teach at an International Baccalaureate School where Clint will be teaching drama full-time, and Jess, who is almost finished earning her teaching license, will be teaching psychology.

Clint said that teaching in China isn't that different from teaching in Minnesota.

"Kids will be kids," he said, noting they see the same issues

with cell phone use that they saw when teaching in Tower! Though he noted the discipline at his school is much sterner.

The school where Clint teaches this year is a highly-competitive public school. Students who are admitted to the school, he said, mostly have been in English-language private schools since preschool, and most students are planning to attend top-ranked universities in the United States or Europe.

Clint said that most of the people they work with don't understand how small a city like Tower is. Hangzhou, where they now live, is considered a small city. The apartment complex they live in houses about 50,000 in about 15 buildings, each over 30 stories high. Two huge malls, which include amenities like Imax theaters and other high-tech entertainment options, surround the apartments.

The two admit to taking advantage of the very affordable dining options, and eat out "more than we should." Eating options include American choices like Pizza Hut and KFC. And many dining spots offer home delivery, even places like Dairy Queen. But the two are taking advantage of the many ethnic offerings, and have found lots of new everyday favorites that you



won't find back home in Tower. Jess's new favorite breakfast food is a steamed bread dumpling filled with seasoned meat that costs about a dime.

The two have been taking advantage of their location to do as much traveling as they can find time for. Their next adventure, they said, is a trip to Russia. They will be spending this summer moving to their new town, so aren't sure how much time they will have to visit Tower, but are planning to spend most of the summer of 2019 back at their home, which they think of as their true home, in this town of 500.

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 218-753-2266 ext. 1003 for reservations, or call AEOA at 1-800-662-5711 ext. 7323 for the one-time registration process.

Week of Feb. 19	
Monday-	No School
Tuesday-	Italian Meatball Sub, Vegetable
Wednesday-	Taco Salad, Corn Muffin
Thursday-	Pork Roast Dinner
Friday-	Breaded Pollack, Baked Potato, Dinner Roll

Week of Feb. 19

- Monday**
TOPS - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower, at 9 a.m.
- Embarrass Al-Anon Family Group-** Hope Lutheran Church, 5088 Hwy. 21, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday**
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Feb. 20.
- Greenwood Fire Dept.- Meetings on the first (drill) and third (business meeting) Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.**
- Wednesday**
Tower AA- Open Basics- 7 p.m. at St. James Presbyterian Church. Questions, call 753-2332.
- Thursday**
Vermilion Country School Board- Fourth Thursday (except near holidays). Meetings posted online at vermilioncountry.org. Next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 22 at 5 p.m. (third Thursday).
- AA Meeting- Lake Vermilion 12x12 (Open). 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower, use the rear side door entrance.**

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, Feb. 21; March 14

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

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

THE NEWS OF THE WEEK FROM MS. VERA MILION



Dear Hearts,

We are huddled by the fireplace wrapped in blankets, quilts, and an old buffalo from years gone by that we had forgotten. It seems that whenever we move, a new dagger of cold air creeps in and stabs us through the many layers. What did we do to deserve this arctic blast, as the weathermen announce sub-zero temperatures as if negative meteorological conditions were some kind of good news?

Hilda has saved us from those bouts of cold weather angst on the nightly news—those positive, optimistic reports by that smiling Adam Lorch. Well, not exactly saved! "It may be sixty below," he chuckled, "but at least we aren't in the middle of monsoon season, ha ha, hee hee."

Well, he is just a child!

Hilda let out a terrifying yell that I am positive could be heard in Duluth, rose up, and drop-kicked the TV into the next room. It was a TV-Stereo from the sixties and much heavier than she thought. The cast comes off in a week or two.

We were now prepared for these arctic conditions. Without a

boob tube we have to read and all we have on our shelves are Reader's Digest Condensed books and some old Trixie Belden books from my youth. In frigid weather, one must read what one has in one's hand. I did, however, find The Mystery of the Midnight Marauder much more compelling than The Mystery of the Whispering Witch.

As one reads, it is often nice to have an adult beverage in hand.

A Dirty Snowman
Ingredients
1/4 c. Melted chocolate, for rim
1/2 c. chocolate shavings
1 c. vanilla ice cream
2 c. hot chocolate
1/2 c. Baileys
Whipped cream, for serving

Pour melted chocolate and chocolate shavings into separate shallow dishes. Dip the rims of two mugs in melted chocolate then immediately dip in chocolate shavings.

Using a medium cookie scoop, add a few scoops of ice cream into each mug. Pour hot chocolate and Baileys on top.

Top with whipped cream and sprinkle with any extra chocolate shavings.

Peanut Butter Nutella Hot Chocolate
Servings: 4
Ingredients
4 c. low fat or skim milk

2 tbsp. Nutella, a chocolate hazelnut spread (or any hazelnut cacao spread)
1-2 tbsp. smooth peanut butter OR powdered (dry) peanut butter to cut calories
2 tbsp. unsweetened cocoa powder
2 tbsp. natural sweetener of choice/or raw sugar
Marshmallows
Heat milk in a medium-sized saucepan on medium-high heat until it begins to steam. Add the spread, peanut butter, cocoa powder, and sugar, and whisk until all is dissolved and combined. Bring to a gentle simmer while stirring, then take off heat.

The Quicker Warmer Upper
Ingredients
1 c. Swiss Miss Instant Cocoa
1 tsp. vanilla
2 tbsp. half and half (optional)

8 tbsp. bourbon
1 c. mini marshmallows

If you are really, really chilly, just skip to ingredient 4 and repeat until you are warm or could care less. This is for experienced adults only!

What really warmed up my day was the arrival of the Burpee catalog—the first harbinger of the gardening season, and that makes me happy. It looks to me like it is going to be a *Salvia canariensis*, *Steely Wings Verbascum*, and *Snowy Spires* kind of summer.

Hilda and I were watching television the other day and wondered—if you have all the money in the world and the wind whips up your comb-over, why not get hair plugs?

Ms. Vera Milion



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Sunday 8-3



the TIMBERJAY

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Moving? Questions about your subscription? Call the Tower office at (218) 753-2950.
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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.
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Center Thursday 10 a.m.-4
p.m.; Tower by appointment.
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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

News in Brief

Celebrate music and the arts in Ely

ELY - The third annual Celebration of Art and Music is now in the works. Stone Soup Events is looking for artists, teachers, musicians and anyone wanting to share their talents. Host an art show or concert, teach a class, read poetry, sell your wares - the sky is the limit.
Spend three weeks celebrating the amazing talent that Ely has to offer. The Celebration will run from March 23-April 14. Your event may take place any time within that time period.
There is no cost for you to participate! Stone Soup Events will advertise and help to coordinate dates, space and anything else you may need.
Contact elystonesoup@gmail.com or 218-206-4702 by March 1.

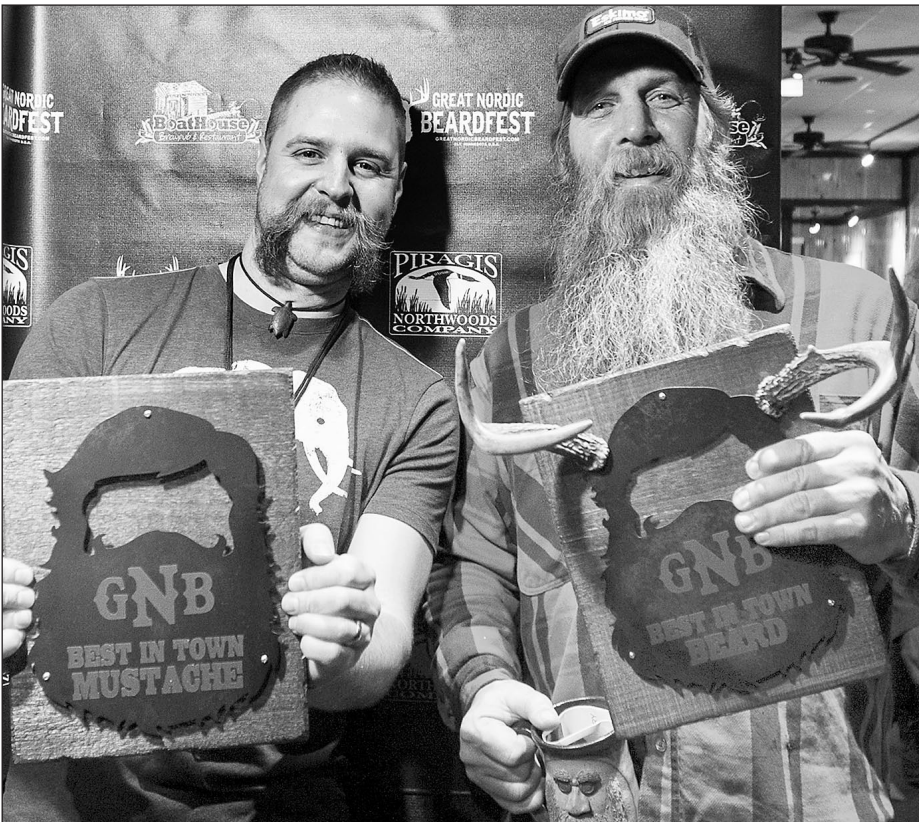
Camp set for softball, baseball skills

ELY – The Ely Community Education Softball and Baseball Skills Development Camp begins Sunday, Feb. 25 and will meet once a week for two hours through April 8. The Skills Development Camp is designed to increase both the mental and physical skills of baseball/softball players.
Each weekly session will focus on a different developmental skill. Camp session instruction is designed to keep participants engaged in learning and improving skills: reinforcement of skills; lectures, demonstrations, and video review of new skills; hands on work and development of skills at various skills stations.
Topics will include: Arm Care and Conditioning, Throwing Mechanics, Hitting Mechanics, Pitching Mechanics, Base Running, Infield Defense, Outfield Defense, Catcher/Pitcher Defense, and other skill development.
Instructor Paul Kienitz has coached and managed youth baseball teams for several years from ages 7 – 18 years old, including being a volunteer assistant coach on Ely's high school team last season. He has also been the hitting and pitching instructor for various youth baseball teams. Paul is a lifetime baseball player. He played high school baseball and played softball for decades. He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to his coaching. His camp is designed to teach skills in a positive and creative way.
WHEN: Sundays, Feb. 25, Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1 (no class – Easter) April 8 (last class)
TIME: 3-5 p.m.
WHERE: Ely Memorial Gym
FEE: \$35 per student, \$60 max per family.
AGES: 10 to 18 years of age (may be divided into smaller age groups).

Music and Drama Club meets Feb. 19

ELY - The Ely Music and Drama Club will meet at the home of Jodi Martin on Monday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m. for their monthly meeting and discussion.

GREAT NORDIC BEARDFEST



The Great Nordic Beardfest last weekend featured local talent winning the Best Moustache in Town, Chris Ellerbrook, left, and Best Beard in Town, Chico. Heidi Pinkerton photo

Higher Education

Kellogg honored at Wichita State University

WICHITA, KAN. – Ely resident Courtney S. Kellogg, a freshman at Wichita State University, was on the list of more than 2,900 students who were on the WSU dean's honor roll for fall 2017.
To be included on the dean's honor roll, a student must be enrolled full time (at least 12 credit hours) and earn at least a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
WSU enrolls about 15,000 students and offers more than 60 undergraduate degree programs in more than 150 areas of study in six undergraduate colleges.

Tracy Henrich graduates from RCTC


ROCHESTER – Tracy Henrich of Ely, recently graduated from Rochester Community and Technical College (RCTC) at the end of Fall Semester 2017. Henrich received an AS for Nursing.
The College's Commencement Ceremony will be held on May 10, 2018, in the Regional Sports Center. Fall 2017 graduates will be recognized, along with Spring and Summer 2018 candidates.
Rochester Community and Technical College serves approximately 8,300 students in credit-based courses and 3,000 students in non-credit courses.

Local student graduates from Michigan Tech

HOUGHTON, MICH. – Jesse Olson of Ely was among the more than 360 graduates honored at Michigan Technological University's midyear commencement held on the Houghton, Mich., campus on Dec. 16, 2017.
Olson earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He is the son of Brenda and Scott Olson.

Ely students honored at MSU

MANKATO - The Academic High Honor and Honor lists (Dean's lists) for the past fall semester at Minnesota State University, Mankato, include two Ely students:
► April Levar, Senior, Honor List, Integrated Engineering;
► LynnAnne Vesper, Specialist Degree, Honor List.
Among 3,235 students, a total of 764 students qualified for the High Honor list by achieving a 4.0 straight "A" average, while 2471 students earned a 3.5 to 3.99 average to qualify for the Honor list.
To qualify for academic honors, undergraduate students must be enrolled for at least 12 credit hours for the semester.



the **TIMBERJAY**

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

Tuesday Group

ELY - The upcoming Tuesday Group schedule (subject to change) is listed below. All talks are at 12 noon on Tuesday at Grand Ely Lodge, unless noted.
Feb. 20 – Dr. Robert Savereide – Ely's General Surgeon
Feb. 27 – Shannon Barber-Meyer – Wolf and Deer Research Project

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2018



carvings completed
an animated whiteside
visitors depart

ELY MEMORIAL SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

- Quarter 2 Honor Roll 2017-2018
* Denotes 3.5 GPA or above
Grade 6: Chase Anderson *Esther Anderson, Colton Bramley, *Lily Dirks, *Kiarstin Eaton, Samuel Favet, Asher Folz, *Thomas Homer, *Abigail Johnson, *Grace Latourell, Samuel Leeson, Henry Lowe, *Andrew Marolt, *Gavin Marshall, *Jacob Moravitz, Braydin Mosher, Samuel Prijatel, *Deegan Richards, Isabelle Shiltz, Rose Mary Schlosser, *Ava Skustad, Leo Stalmer, *Sarah Visser.
Grade 7: *Kale Beno, Joseph Bianco, Charlyze Carlson, Jacob Cochran, *Katherine Coughlin, *Rachel Coughlin, *Margaret Dammann, *Zoe Devine, *Sydney Durkin, *Courtney Eilrich, *Natasha Fulkrod, *Taylor Gibney, Madelyn Gruba, Gunnar Hart, *Jackson Hegman, *Phoebe Helms, Madeline Kallberg, *Jason Kerntz, *Logan Loe, Kole Macho, *Gabriel Mann, Morgan McClelland, *Sean Ogburn, *Cedar Ohlhauser, *Elizabeth Omerza, Madeline Perry, *Madison Rohr, *Juliet Stouffer, *Grace Sundell, Lillian Tedrick, *Audrey
- Thomas, *Kelly Thompson.
Grade 8: Rylee Dusich, *Bryce Fairchild, *Charly Flom, Joseph Foster, *Jon Hakala, *Drayke Hanninen, *Madison Hasz, Matthew Janeksela, *Micah Larson, *Sidney Marshall, *Annikka Mattson, Willow Ohlhauser, *Cora Olson, *Lauren Olson, *Gabriel Pointer, *Gracie Pointer, Edward Prijatel, *Abigail Rehbein, *Zachary Robbins, Raven Sainio, Chase Sandberg, *Katrina Seliskar, Harry Simons, *Kellen Thomas, Jacob Towley, Ande Visser.
Grade 9: Madisyn Carlson, *McKenna Coughlin, Harrison Dammann, *William Davies, *Grace Erickson, *Jasper Johnston, Cameron Kienitz, *Brock Latourell, Hanna Littler, Sophie Montana, Katie Pinckney, *Amelia Pluth, Margaret Renner, *Sydni Richards, Madelyne Roderick, *Julia Schwinghamer, Abigail Thompson, Brynn Vollom, Davis Walsh.
Grade 10: Elissia Bennett, *Ana Bercher, *Eli Conaway, Nils DeRemee, *Kalyssa Eilrich, *Dylan Fenske, *Apolonia Homer, *Haley Hopkins, Sarah
- Isbell, *Savannah Johnson, McCartney Kaercher, Joshua Larson, *Henry Matthys, *Erika Mattson, *Jenna Merhar, *Nathan Nettifee, *Luke Olson, *Raif Olson, Eric Omerza, *Brooke Pasmick, *Winter Sainio, Dalton Schreffler, James Schwinghamer.
Grade 11: Jessica Anderson, *Dana Crenshaw, *Charles Dammann, *Lida Dodge, Isaac Gawboy, *Leo Georges, Nash Hren, *Madelene Johnson, *Kaitlyn Lakner, Trevor Mattson, *Gabriella Omerza, Mackenzie Peterson, *Shane Spangler, Lucy Stouffer, *Logan Synnes, Patrick Vanderbeek.
Grade 12: *Evelyn Bercher, *Lindy Dalberg, *Cody Davis, *Chase Eilrich, Kalley Fischer, *Carter Gaulke, *Benjamin Gustafson, Gracie Hanson, *Ethan Hasz, Hannah Jankovec, *Emma Kari, *Dylan Kienitz, *Danielle Krostue, *Blaise Lah, *Emma Larson, Cole Longwell, *Brandon Martin, Gage Merhar, *Thomas Montana, *Tyler Moravitz, *Anna Nelson, Austin Nelson, *Laura Pasmick, *Ryne Prigge, Andrew Rouse, *Emma Terwilliger, Shayla Zaverl.

ELY WINTER FESTIVAL

Nobody does winter better

Perfect weather, lots of visitors spell successful Winter Festival



The Snow Sculpture Symposium, above, featured many artists from around the world. Some carvers really got on top of their work. The Sebastian Project, right, held at Vermilion Community College, featured, poetry, art and music by Tim Stouffer and Joey Kenig. The Northern Lakes Arts Association hosted an artists' market, below, in the former James Drug store on Chapman Street.



The 25th annual Ely Winter Festival opened with a special ceremony in Whiteside Park featuring Nordic skiers, hockey players and the lighting of the torch. photos by K. Vandervort



Penguin carvers Sarah Malik, Sarah Moldenhauer and Jaymie Stocks, above, take a break from their work. The Ely Art Walk, below, was sponsored by dozens of Ely businesses.



The Ely Jaycees Club hosted a broomball tournament, above, held at the Ely Rec Center. Students from Vermilion Community College participated in hosting outdoor activities like "Campfires 101," left, at the Dorothy Molter Museum.



Beginners Wood Carving Class meets twice a month in Cook

COOK- Have you ever wanted to try whittling something from wood? The Beginners Wood Carving Class at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery, 210 S River St. in Cook will be held twice monthly and the next classes are Thursday, Feb. 15 and Thursday, March 1 from 6 - 8 p.m.. Experienced carvers will supply some tools and knives if students are unable to bring their own. Class size is limited to 12 participants so registrations will be taken in Cook, next to Dream Weaver Salon at NWFA Gallery on Thursday, Friday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and Saturday (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.), or call Howard Hilshorst at 218 741-7941.

Felted Wool Bowl-Making Class on Saturday, Feb. 24

COOK- Susan Arnold will be teaching a felted wool bowl-making class on Saturday, Feb. 24, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook. Your completed bowl will be about the size of a cantaloupe.

Participants need to bring along a towel and a tote lid to use as a work surface.

Please register before Feb. 19, which will give Susan time to dye wool fiber in your choice of color. For more information or to register, call Alberta at 218-666-2153. Space is limited at NWFA Gallery in Cook, 210 S River St. next to Dream Weaver Salon.

“Open Art” where artists work together on Saturday, Feb. 17

COOK- Artists will be meeting in Cook at Northwoods Friends of the Arts on the third Saturdays each month, the next gathering is on Saturday, Feb. 17. Conspiring artists will meet to work and discuss their own particular projects from 12 noon until 3 p.m. at 210 S River St. next to Dream Weaver Spa and Salon. Carvers, painters, sculptors, photographers, writers, weavers, and musicians are welcome to attend “Open Art” at NWFA Gallery.

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

FIELD TWP- Preparations are underway for the sixth annual North Woods School Empty Bowl event. This year the event will honor veterans. North Woods ceramic students are working to meet the goal of making 250 bowls for the event. The high school students also pitched in, assisting the third-grade elementary students in glazing the bowls. Local area churches and volunteers make the soup. Last year the event raised over \$2,000 for the Cook and Orr Food Shelves, as well as the Nett Lake Boys and Girls Club. The Empty Bowls event will take place on Friday, March 2 from 4:30-7 p.m. The one-of-a-kind ceramic bowls will be available for \$10; included in the price is a soup dinner with dessert and beverage.

Middle School team takes third at archery tournament

REGIONAL- The North Woods Middle School Archery team took third place at the Hill City Grand Prix held on Saturday, Feb. 10. Individuals earning honors included fourth-grader Anna Nelson with 221 for fifth place, middle schooler Lillian Voges with 272 for fifth place, high schooler Jeremiah Voges with 289 for second place.

The next archery meet is on Feb. 24 in Grand Rapids.

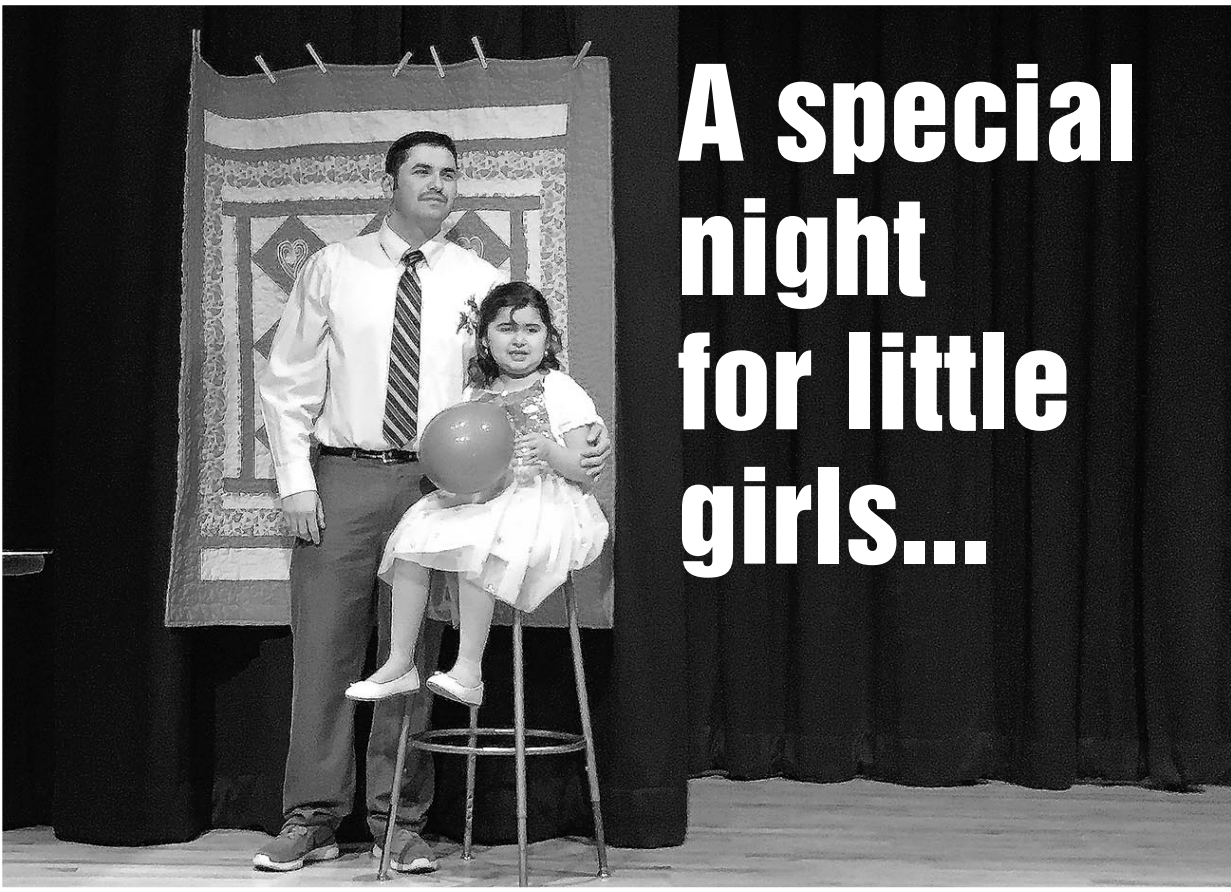
Northwoods Friends of the Arts to hold meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 20

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts in Cook will hold its regular monthly meeting at 12 noon on Tuesday, Feb. 20. The public is welcome. On the same day at 10:30 a.m. there will be a meeting of the “Spring Art Expo” Planning Committee. All interested people are welcome to help plan the biggest event of the years for NWFA at The Gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook between Dream Weaver Salon and Spa and Gustafson Motors.

Registration for the Mary Beth Downs watercolor workshop in April will end on March 15.

You may reach NWFA at the website for more information at nwfamn.org, or by email at nwfamn.org@gmail.com.

NORTH WOODS PTO



A special night for little girls...



Top: A professional photographer was one hand for keepsake images. Above: Ryan Miller and Annalee enjoyed treats from the chocolate fountain. Right: The chocolate fountain was clearly the crowd favorite.

FIELD TWP-The North Woods PTO held the second annual Father Daughter Dance last week. Elementary girls were treated to a dance event with dads, uncles, Grandpas and other special attendants. In addition to dancing, the popular fundraiser offered a chocolate fountain to share a treat, as well as an opportunity for professional photos. The men were also given the opportunity to pick out a keepsake necklace and write a note for their date. Organizers called the evening a success with pre-event ticket sales for this year topping last year’s attendance. photos and story by M. Roach



CRANE LAKE

Crane Lake News by the Singing Teapot Dam



Life in the North Country

Weather Report:
2 below zero with a prediction of 11 below tonight. No wind so it is a beautiful day in the North Country.
Everyone is busy keeping warm. Firewood is in great demand. There is nothing as warm and cozy as a wood fire. Snowmobilers are having a great time as the groomers are doing a great job on the trails. There is just enough snow for good trails. It snows just enough to put a dusting on all the walks and decks requiring a shovel every morning.
We send prayers and sympathy to Martin Bergerson and all of his family on the passing of his wife Edwina.

Health Report:
Say a prayer for Bud Bystrom. He is in hospice in Duluth. Char and the family are with him.
Sue Kaneski had reverse shoulder surgery on Tuesday. The doctor had guaranteed Sue it is a painless surgery. It will be interesting to get Sue’s report.
Everyone is trying to avoid the cold/flu bug which has been going around. No new reports on any victims.
Football season is over, but now we have the Olympics. This old Dame is an old curler and is glued to the TV watching every curling game shown. When she retired and moved to the lake, she had plans of starting a curling club and playing the game on the lake. Curling started in Scotland on the frozen lochs. The Scots must have decided to do something in the winter to replace golf, which they also invented. The Old Dame’s club did not develop, as she was the only one with her own curling rocks. The rocks weigh 43 pounds and are mined from a quarry in Scotland. Scotland is the only place in the world where rocks are

of such high density that they can withstand the abuse that a rock receives in a game. If anyone has a set of curling rocks, give the Old Dame a call and challenge her to a game of curling.
The political world is shocked at the retirement of Rick Nolan. Who will replace him is the big question! Pro- or anti-mining is the big political debate for this area.
Not much news this week. Keep warm.

and one felt like one was standing in the shower from all the humidity in the air.
McGuire’s is a restaurant here that is fun for dining or drinking. The Irish theme and Irish music being played as background set the happy mood—the waitresses are dressed in long green skirts with aprons or tuxedo-type jackets on the fellas. There are dollar bills hanging from the ceilings and the walls are covered with dollar bills—more than a million dollars—and the food is delicious. Some of the dining choices include traditional Irish fare—corned beef and cabbage, Reuben sandwiches, and shepherd’s pie. You can get bean soup for 18 cents with your meal, and Boxty is an interesting appetizer, a mashed potato ball, rolled in a crunchy crust and fried, then served with salsa—surprisingly good.

Lent begins—Easter can’t be far behind. In a little more than a month, Crane Lake will have two inhabitants returning. Can you please begin to warm up?
Let us hear from you. If you are a snowbird tell us what life is like in your area. Snowbirds like to hear the news of what is going on at Crane Lake; we like to know about you. Send news by e-mail to info@thelakecountry.com, by fax at 218-757-3533 or by phone to Sandy at 218-757-3233 and it will be added. Fire away with your news.

Read us online at
www.timberjay.com

Bookmobile schedule

Visit your library on wheels, the Arrowhead Library System Bookmobile. **NOTE NEW STOPS AND TIMES!**
Thursday, March 1, 22.
Nett Lake – Community Center 9:30-10:15 a.m.
Crane Lake – Ranger Station 11:15 a.m. - 12 noon
Orr – Lake Country ReMax building 1:45 - 2:30 p.m.
Kabetogama – Town Hall 3:15 - 3:45 p.m.



For further information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, write or call the Arrowhead Library System, 5528 Emerald Ave., Mt. Iron, MN

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ORR CENTER



ORR-The Orr Center revitalized the city’s Annual Chocolate Bake-Off. The center hosted the event for the first time with nine chocolatey entries competing in a sweet-tooth sample. Judging was for appearance, originality, and taste. This year’s grand prize winner, of one hundred dollars, was Judy Koch for her entry, Chocolate Cranberry Peanut Clusters. The Orr Center Volunteers of the Year were announced, recognizing Linda Rissanen, Rick Deatherage, and Jeff Francke for 2016. Jeff Purdy and John Hess were recognized for 2017.



Mayor Joel Astleford did some taste tests. photos by M. Roach

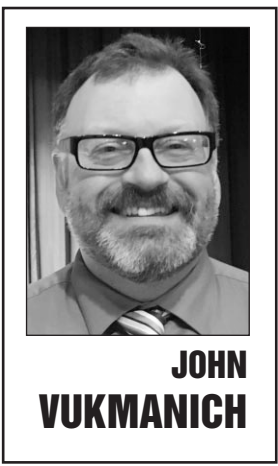
GRIZZLY UPDATES

Coaching and sports: a personal perspective

School sports play a very important role in school and community pride, and also teach valuable skills to students far beyond the sport. Besides experiencing the thrill of competition, students learn about hard work, perseverance, teamwork, communication, and how to function under pressure. Some of my best-loved mentors from school were coaches. My high school football lineman coach Joe Matanich was one of my role models and inspirations for going into education and coaching. I had many great coaches in school, but I always thought that if I could model what Joe did as a coach, I would have successful teams and players. He didn’t care what your ability level was or your last name or how much money your parents made. He expected us all to work hard whether a starter or not. Sadly, Joe passed away last year. Thankfully, I think he knew how I felt about him, because I told him every time I saw him. He’d stick out his giant mitt of a hand and give me a handshake and simply say, “Thanks.”

Being a coach is very rewarding, but it’s no secret that the number one challenge facing coaches is conflict with parents over playing time. It is an issue that has been at the forefront of numerous coaching decisions both locally and across the state. A recent article in the MN State High School League Newsletter cited a coach in Brainerd and his resignation due to issues with parents. It is an issue that is receiving national attention, but an issue that is no secret in coaching circles. I personally know coaches who have stepped down due to parent conflict and many others who cite it as their number one issue.

How can we address this issue? Is there a recent rash of unfair treatment of players nationwide? Have coaches become increasingly callous and unprofessional? Have parents become increasingly vocal about their opinions? Why are



JOHN VUKMANICH

coaches across the country stepping down or being fired over playing time? It has become increasingly difficult to find coaches for our positions, and much like the teacher shortage that we are currently seeing, it may have to do with the same reason: increased scrutiny.

Without taking the entire article telling all the details of my high school sports career, I will say that I played high school football. I was a big kid, so I played tackle on offense and defense. Halfway into my senior year, with no explanation or forewarning, I lost my starting spot at defensive tackle. I wasn’t happy, but knew that I best just keep my mouth shut. I seem to recall telling my dad, and remember a response akin to, “Guess you’ll have to work harder.”

That was it. End of discussion. I never thought of quitting, either. I loved football. To this day I still don’t know why I lost my spot, but I know my parents never went to the school board, Activity Director, or Superintendent. While my juvenile brain didn’t understand it, in hindsight I now know that what my parents were actually doing was teaching me to fight my own battles. They were teaching me that life isn’t always fair and that there are people out there who are better at some things than others.

Looking at some of the best coaches that I have worked with over the years, I see that they have some things in com-

mon. First, they have a program in place for their players starting at a young age. The program has goals and benchmarks built in for skills much like progressing academically through a math curriculum. The standards for playing time are different depending on the age group. To quote Jeff Mumm, former head football coach at Thief River Falls, “I want all my players at a young age to get equal playing time because those chubby little eighth grade boys are going to be 250-pound linemen in high school, and I want them to have a good experience and keep coming out for football.” He said this to me when I was twenty-five years old and coaching the eighth-grade football team at Franklin Middle School in Thief River Falls. I had almost forty kids to juggle in and out of the game, and as recommended by Coach Mumm, I put them on different “platoons” as best as possible. I remember having three different offenses and defenses, but only two fullbacks. The two fullbacks also both played middle linebacker, so I switched them both by quarters rather than platoons. I remember a game when the parent of one of the fullbacks arrived late at a game only to see me pulling his son out to replace him with the other boy, who was equally talented. The dad yelled at me angrily across the field and every player, parent, and fan at the game heard it.

As players ascend through a program into the upper grades, playing time becomes less equal and the better players get more playing time. Keep in mind that coaches are under tremendous community pressure to win, as well as balance playing time. It is just that: A balancing act. Varsity-level coaches, simply put, are playing their best players most of the time.

The best coaches also have high expectations and usually a player/par-

ent handbook. In this handbook they should outline their team rules, expectations, and even guidelines on playing time. As a parent, read through the handbook and talk to the coach if you have questions. You have the right to know what is expected of your student as a part of the program. Also, familiarize yourself with the MN State High School League rules and guidelines. Players are held to a standard for grades, behavior, and chemical use. One of the more common violations is “Conduct Unbecoming an Athlete.” This outlines grounds for violations that are not as specific as grades, chemical, or rules violations.

Coaches all want the same thing: They want to have successful teams and be viewed as a successful coach. Coaches love the sport and enjoy working with our kids. They certainly would not do it otherwise. The salary is low, the hours are long, the stress is high. Our coaches endure late-night bus rides and having to show up for work by 8 a.m. the next day regardless. They juggle jobs, kids, and families while putting in twelve-hour days and longer for months at a time. They try to work out conflicts between players, parents, and officials and make fair decisions while upholding standards and rules. How would you like to be faced with having to bench your best player for a rules violation going into the playoffs? The best coaches do it because they have integrity. They are independent and hard-working, spending hours formulating game plans and maintaining equipment and facilities.

If you have issues or questions about playing time, ask to meet with the coach. Do not go above the coach because the proper chain of command is to see the coach first. Voice your concerns calmly and ask

questions. Listen to the coach and their reasons. Ask for advice. Realize that the coach has the entire team’s concerns to balance, not just your child’s. Be a partner with the coach in helping to have the best program for our school and community. Keep your stance out of the social media. Facebook is no place to air your criticisms and will accomplish nothing positive for the situation. If meeting with a coach does not resolve the issue, then go up the chain of command to the AD and then principal. Team sports is not for everyone, but it can be beneficial for everyone.

If you ever think you could do it better, please consider applying for a coaching position or to be a referee. Seriously, schools need coaches and referees. It is a challenging, but rewarding opportunity.

Best of luck to all of our area sports teams as we head into the winter tournament season. Do your best, work hard, and above all demonstrate humility and good sportsmanship.

Have a great weekend! Go Grizzlies!

Your Principal,
John Vukmanich



the **TIMBERJAY**

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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Penguins Snowmobile Club hosting rides Feb. 17, 22, and 24

REGIONAL- The Vermilion Penguins Snowmobile Club has three rides scheduled in February. Saturday, Feb. 17, meet at Benchwarmer's in Tower at 10 a.m. for a ride to the new Rouchleau Bridge in Virginia. Thursday, Feb. 22, meet at the Vermilion Club at 10 a.m. for a Lunch Bunch ride to Grand Ely Lodge. And Saturday, Feb. 24, meet at the Vermilion Club at 10 a.m. for a ride to the Penguins Cook-Out at a mystery location. Call 750-0695 with any questions.

Ruby's Pantry in Babbitt on Feb. 24

BABBITT- Ruby's Pantry will be distributing food on Saturday, Feb. 24 (4th Saturday of each month) from 10 – 11:30 a.m. at Babbitt Municipal Center, 71 South Dr. in Babbitt. A \$20 cash donation buys an abundance of food. Sponsored by St. Pius X Catholic Church. Volunteers always welcome.

Vermilion Dream Quilters to meet in Tower on Thursday, March 1

TOWER- Vermilion Dream Quilters will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 1 in the social hall at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower. Our February snowball block lottery drawing was postponed due to bitter cold weather at our last meeting, so you can still be included and might win all of the blocks. Bring your snowball blocks with an address label on the back. In addition, Noreen Saukko will present the Year of the Dog Challenge, which will be due at our Oct. 4 meeting. Marlene Johnson and Cathy Burt are coordinators of our famous Chinese Auction. It's time to check your shelves, drawers, and closets for quilting-related (or not) items that are duplicates or no longer needed, but that will appeal and have value to others. Raffle tickets will be sold that evening, and you might be the lucky winner of someone else's neglected treasure. As a hint, address labels make putting your name on the tickets easy. All proceeds benefit the Tower Food Shelf.

Our hostesses this month are Nancy Lindbeck, Joyce Swanson, Dede Yapel, and Margaret Jarka.

The Vermilion Dream Quilters is a guild with members from throughout the Iron Range and Arrowhead region, and is open to anyone interested in quilting and creative sewing. Members encourage and instruct each other and share tips. For more information, please contact Corrine Hill in Tower at 218-753-4600.

Register soon for the watercolor workshop with Mary Beth Downs

COOK- Registration begins now for the April 19 and 20 "Grape Expectations" painting workshop by Mary Beth Downs, hosted by Northwoods Friends of the Arts in Cook. For two days from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Doug Johnson Recreation Center, Downs will focus on creating textures in different subjects including grapes, along with reusing, rethinking and revamping our old tired paintings. There will be demonstrations to guide students in new approaches. The class is perfect for all levels of painters. The cost is \$60 for members and \$75 for non-members.

Mary Beth Downs is an award-winning artist and art instructor who began studying fine art in 1975. She pursued her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a focus in painting and drawing at the University of Minnesota, Duluth and graduated with honors in 1994. She currently teaches six classes per week at her studio in Duluth, The Art Cellar, and often gives presentations to local organizations and conducts workshops. For more information, visit www.artcellarduluth.com.

Registration is open until March 15. To register, call Alberta Whitenack at 218-666-2153 or e-mail nwfamn.org@gmail.com. NWFA is a nonprofit membership organization established to encourage artists and the arts in all forms by presenting finished art, classes, contests and performances. The NWFA Gallery in Cook at 210 S River St. is open Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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MESABI COMMUNITY BAND

Mesabi Community Band winter concert

MT. IRON- The Mesabi Community Band, under the direction of Paul Helfter, will present its midwinter concert on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. in the Merritt Elementary School Auditorium in Mt. Iron.

The concert will feature an evening of light classical, marches, and a medley from West Side Story. Featured numbers will be Jupiter from The Planets by Gustav Holst, UnChained Melody by Alex North, The Beatles' When I'm Sixty-Four, along with marches by Sousa and Fillmore and other light numbers.

Now in its 44th year, the band is composed of musicians of all ages from towns all over the Range. Its members range in age from teenagers to some in their eighth decade. We have several present and past band directors from



Range schools, along with their past and present students participating. Bill Lavato, retired Eveleth Band director, has seven former students in the band, proving that music

is a lifetime sport. Marie Frietas, Cherry Band director, along with Kathy Wiegert, former Cherry band director, have also encouraged several students to participate in the

band. All are invited to attend. Admission is \$5, with no charge for students under 18. There will be refreshments after the concert.

WINTER SPORTS



Hockey Day in Soudan



The 2018 Hockey Day in Soudan was fun for all ages. Clockwise from top: The final event of the day, ice hockey with Tower vs. Soudan teams, brought out a nice crowd of seasoned skaters. photo by T. Trucano. Kasewwn and Koooper Dostert played boot hockey outside the rink. Tasha Trucano gave it her all in the goal during a boot hockey game. Amelie Zak enjoyed watching the games. Jason Carlson showed off some fancy puck-handling skills during a boot hockey game. photos by J. Summitt



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ISD 696

Early childhood education expansion pushed in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — “Early childhood education really counts and school funding spent on this type of education really counts.”

Those were the words of Ely K-5 Principal Anne Oelke Monday night as she introduced a presentation to the Ely School Board to expand the current early childhood programs in ISD 696.

Oelke was joined by Kristi Marshall, school readiness and preschool teacher, and Ely Early Childhood and Family Education (ECFE) coordinator and infant/toddler teacher Mary Mattson.

“What we have is great,” Oelke said, “but it could be greater. Research has shown that much of what you need to succeed in life is established before

you enter Kindergarten. During that time, the human brain undergoes rapid development; it’s a period when a child builds cognitive skills, the foundation for math, reading, science and academics, as well as character skills, socio-emotional growth, gross-motor skills and executive functioning, which includes everything from impulse control to problem solving.”

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

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

budget.

Government-funded programs are not available to the Ely School District because the minimum number of hours of education are not being reached, Oelke said. “We need to have way more hours for that (funding).”

Oelke presented two proposals to expand the ECFE program, including the following:

- Increase ECFE classes from 1.5 hours to two hours, allowing more time for students and parents to get settled and actually begin separate learning activities.
- Increase the ECFE coordinator position (now 210 hours) by 30 hours to allow for census and outreach activities. “Without our babies being born in Ely any more, we don’t have a good handle on our census here in our district,” Oelke

said. “We don’t even get some of our children screened before they enter Kindergarten.”

- Increase school readiness classes from two half-days to three half-days, and extend the class weeks from October to mid-May.
- Incorporate a Kindergarten Boot Camp to help prepare students entering the Kindergarten setting.
- Increase family events and outreach programs for the community.

The additional cost to expanding the ECFE program, according to Oelke, is about \$16,000 per school year. She estimated the cost at \$48,382 per year. “This budget is mostly teacher salaries and the cost of classroom aides, as well as prep time and special events time,” she said.

“Another thing that hold us back from (funding) is that our curriculum is all

teacher-created,” Oelke said. “We are changing that in our language arts and math curriculum planning starting this year.”

The second option for expanding the ECFE program is to implement the first option plan, as well as expand the number of ECFE education weeks from 20 to 24 weeks. “This would allow even more content for our parents and students,” she said, “and that would be an additional increase of \$3,261.”

She noted that the proposed expansion of the ECFE program would get the school district closer to eligibility for funding. “We also would need to add transportation, and that is another whole tricky part of (plan),” she said. “I would be very wary about putting four-year-olds on a bus without supervision. We’re not even talking about that

yet.”

School Board Chair Ray Marsnik added that according to the latest district audit, the Community Education fund shows a positive balance of at least \$36,000.

Scholarship funding is not available to the Ely School District for ECFE students because there are not enough teaching hours provided, according to Superintendent Kevin Abrahamson.

“Scholarship funding also requires a state-approved curriculum,” Oelke added.

Board members were not asked to act on the expanded ECFE proposal this week. Board members will study the proposal and continue to discuss the issue.

“This program is very beneficial to our district and will pay off in the long run,” Marsnik said. “

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Greenwood to ask residents to approve \$150k levy for 2019

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- The Greenwood Town Board will ask residents to approve a \$150,000 levy for 2019 at the annual meeting on March 13. Chairman John Bassing presented a 2019 budget to the board on Tuesday which set spending at \$303,319.

The budget continues the trend of decreasing township spending. Budgets have fallen from over \$560,000 in 2009 to \$351,723 in 2017. Township reserves peaked at over \$1.3 million in 2014. The town board has been levying less than expenditures, starting in 2015, in an effort to bring township reserves down to a more reasonable level. The 2019 levy and budget show the township ending the year with \$572,000 still in reserves. The Minnesota Association of Townships recommends that townships keep at least 50-percent of their budget in reserve, to account for fluctuations in state tax revenue payment schedules.

of the full-time maintenance position.

The township is planning no major projects for 2019, except for possibly re-paving the town hall

parking lot, so they did add about \$20,000 to the levy for that project.

The township budget reporting requirements have changed over the past

few years, to meet new state guidelines, so in some cases it is hard to make “apples to apples” comparisons of spending by category. In addition, the township

acted as fiscal agent for the recreation committee’s pavilion project in 2016, which added over \$97,000 to the township budget (but most of this was paid for

by donations). Total township salaries are showing slight increases of about \$1,000 per year from 2017 to 2019.

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martin.lepak@aEOA.org

Broadband access leads economic priorities in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Ely Economic Development Authority reviewed their priorities for 2018 this week, and while several items on the list have advanced to completion, many big-ticket items, such as providing high-speed internet service to the area, remain top priorities.

A draft report of a survey by Design Nine, of Blacksburg, Va., part of a broadband feasibility study was presented by Jack Maytum prior to the priority list brain-storming session. Part of the study included a survey conducted in the Ely area to find out how satisfied businesses and residents were with the existing internet service and what is needed in the community to fulfill the communication technology needs in the future.

Maytum said the need for broadband is clearly

evident in the area. “As many as 94 percent of the 300-plus survey respondent indicated that better internet service is needed,” he said. “And 98-percent of the 60-plus business owners who responded said that they need better internet.”

The outspoken need for improved internet service prompted Design Nine to provide a draft analysis of how broadband can be provided to users in the city of Ely and the surrounding area through a pilot program utilizing both fiber and wireless technologies and systems.

“It does not cover the whole school district, it is only a pilot program,” Maytum said. “We decided to use the area around (Shagawa and Burntside) lakes because we know there is difficult connectivity in those areas.”

“We have shared all of our (utility) pole ownership issues with Design

Nine,” said Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski, “That is a big part, especially in the core downtown area, of the challenges we will need to overcome. We also have underground challenges with rock outcrops and ledge rock, in addition to varying elevations around the lakes that challenge wireless reception factors.”

The downtown area focused for the pilot project runs from 3rd Avenue East to 12th Avenue West. “There will be a loop on both sides of Sheridan Street,” Langowski said, to hopefully provide fiber connection to many of the 98-percent of businesses in the survey that said they need better connectivity. Existing fiber in the ground would be utilized for this phase of the project.

A tower located near the Trezona Trail parking lot area would feed antennas to Sandy Point to service north shore resi-

dents on Shagawa Lake, and another by Olson Bay. “Underground fiber near Schaffer Road would feed another antenna to provide wireless service across Burntside Lake,” Langowski said.

“At this point in time, these are just ideas and concepts,” Langowski asserted. “This would be just the first phase of a multi-phase project.

“It is our intention, after you make a decision to move ahead, to generate some cost estimates and details and come back and discuss the project with you,” Maytum said.

The 76-page draft report is linked to the city of Ely website. Go to www.ely.mn.us.com.

Other priorities

Ely’s economic advisor John Fedo worked with authority members to compile a list of other economic development priorities for the year.

“The 17th Avenue reconstruction project is about to be completed and removed from the priority list thanks to the recent grant application and funding success. “I don’t have anybody to lobby anymore,” said Mayor Chuck Novak. “We are finalizing the DEED grant and will be bidding the project for construction this year.”

The trailhead project for the Taconite, Prospectors Loop and Mesabi trails on the west end of town is in varying stages of activity moving toward completion. “This project will help round out our 12-month year of tourism activity we are lacking now,” Fedo said.

In his typical style, Novak teased that “there may be a surprise coming” relative to the Department of Natural Resources concerning the trailhead and trail system. He provided

no more information.

According to Fedo, the Ely Regional Community Complex is still alive following the group’s abandonment of the school campus as a location for the recreational center. “We have been talking about various locations,” he said.

The Community Center marketing continues with sporadic interest. “We have a couple of interested parties and hope to get them here this spring,” Langowski said.

Other priorities remaining on the list include: pursuing housing options through the Ely Housing and Rehabilitation Authority, Ely airport improvements, blight reduction in the city, maintaining Minnesota Revenue Department jobs at the Ely facility, and continuing tourism and marketing efforts.

BLANDIN...Continued from page 1

according to Phillips. “We see that people in town seem to have sufficient access. The hot-spots are huge for people living out in the townships because we have such a large rural patron base that use the hot spots.”

The grant also enabled purchase of a SMART-TV for library class instruction as well as five hot spot mobile internet access units for library patrons to check out.

Establishing a hotspot in Orr has faced a bigger challenge. The ORR Center is the designated hotspot location in Orr, but the lack of broadband capacity in the community has proven an impediment to setting up the system. “We aren’t technically a hot-spot, as we don’t have internet in our building yet,” said Wendy Purdy, ORR Center President. “CenturyLink doesn’t have capacity to add any new customers in Orr.” The telecommunications company is adding new fiber to its local network, which should clear the way by summer to finally connect the ORR Center, located in the former Orr School.

For now, Bois Forte IT



Theresa Drift instructs Rory on a coding program with computers that were purchased with funds from the Blandin Foundation for the purpose of increasing reliable broadband internet access and teaching computer education throughout the Grizzlies Broadband Community.
photo by M. Roach

Director Randy Long has been setting up temporary hotspots when the ORR Center needs the access for classes and other programming. The grant also helped the ORR Center purchase laptop computers and a SMART-TV on wheels for its classes.

Education and training is also part of the initiative. Phillips and Long created curriculum and, along with

local media specialists, have taught a variety of internet use basics and computer classes that have been offered at the Cook Library, North Woods School, ORR Center, and at Nett Lake. In addition to the mobile hot spots, the Cook Library also received laptops which they have recently been put to use for coding classes. Every Thursday evening since

last fall, Cook resident Theresa Drift has been teaching the “Coding for Kids” class using the laptops. “We are learning how to build apps right now through code.org. It’s a lot of fun.”

North Woods School is also part of the Grizzlies Community. Principal John Vukmanich described the school’s role in the community investment project

as having two main components. “First, is the potential for increased rural internet connectivity. The majority of our student and family base at North Woods School is very rural. As more of our systems and education platforms become technology-based, internet connectivity is more important than ever. Second, is utilizing community education as a vehicle to address the technology needs of adults, and even kids if the interest and need is there. An increased knowledge base with our adults, parents, and community will help our kids to be better digital citizens.”

Initially, a variety of classes were offered, some more popular than others. “The hardest part was identifying community needs,” Long said. Looking to the future he said the group will be offering more in the form of business based or computer education classes, as well as identi-

fying individuals in the community for refurbished computers. As for the success of the project, Long said it’s better than he expected. “Over all, it’s been great!”

Addressing a need

Reliable high-speed rural internet access is a problem shared by many rural communities across the state. Last year at the beginning of the effort, Bill Coleman of Community Technology Advisors spoke of the importance of communities working together. He said extending broadband to every house was much like the mid-20th century push to get electricity to every farmhouse. “This is a challenge for communities, even statewide. There is so much rural area right outside these towns, how far will the communities reach out is up to each community to look at the cost,” he said.

UTILITY...Continued from page 1

tion on Monday, and is asking customers of Frontier who have experienced problems with the company’s service quality, customer service, or billing practices to submit comments on their experiences to the state by May 25, at 4:30 p.m.

The investigation is handled by the Commerce Department, but is likely to involve the Attorney General’s office and possibly other state agencies, which have until May 11 to submit their own initial investigation findings to the Commerce Department.

While other agencies are involved in the investigation, any determination stemming from the findings would be the responsibility of the PUC.

The Commerce Department has created what’s known as a “docket,” which will serve as a publically-accessible file of all of the documents and comments developed and received during the course of the state’s investigation.

Members of the public have three options for commenting on their experiences with Frontier, including:

- ▶ Submitting com-

ments through the Speak Up! function on the home page of the PUC’s website at mn.gov/puc. From there click on Open for Comment, which will provide a list of the dockets open for public comment. Look for docket number 18-122.

- ▶ Email comments to consumer.puc@state.mn.us, and reference the docket number, 18-122.
- ▶ Write a letter to the Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101. Remember to include the docket number in your correspondence.

The comments received will help state regulators as they investigate the extent of the problems with Frontier, according to Ross Corsin, spokesperson for the Department of Commerce. As part of the investigation, said Corsin, state officials will analyze the complaints and comments that come in from the public and ask Frontier to respond to and provide documentation to support their responses.

The *Timberjay* will be reporting on developments in the investigation as they occur.

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CITY OF ELY

Ely utility customers hit with more rate increases

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Business owners and residents are looking at another rate increase for water, sewer and electricity usage. Following a public hearing last Wednesday the City Council approved rate increases as recommended by the Ely Utilities Commission.

Base rates for both water and sewer service will climb by \$2 per month each, while residential rates are also set to jump. Based on various scenarios provided by the EUC, overall residential rate hikes of between five and nine percent will take effect next month. Businesses will realize a one-to-three-percent rate hike. High-use customers, like restaurants and grocery stores will see larger hikes.

Rate hikes are becoming commonplace for Ely utility customers. This year's rate hikes follow similar water and sewer rate increases last year. In addition, a larger increase in electric rates last year was needed, according to officials, to compensate for a double-digit jump in wholesale rates paid by the city and to budget for upcoming capital improvements.

Water and sewer fund balances have slightly

increased over the past five years, mainly as a result of "good budget management" paired with rate increases approved by the EUC and the City Council, according to a memo from the Budget and Rate Committee to the EUC. However, the fund balances have not increased as a result of more usage or new users.

Because of diminishing balances in the water and sewer accounts, \$500,000 was transferred from the Electric Utility to the Water and Sewer Utilities in 2011. Despite modest increases in the electric rate, and a large commercial feeder project and other equipment upgrades over the past two years, the cash balance in the Electric Utility has continued to decline due to lower usage overall, the memo said.

"Our next phase, planned for 2018, is approximately \$440,000, and that will balance our system to take load off of some feeders and put them onto other feeders so all customers have stable voltage and to improve the reliability of our (electric) system," said Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski.

"At the end of the day, the cost of the utility keeps going up," Langowski said.

An automatic water-metering project will also be completed over several years. "There are several improvements with the new system," Langowski noted, "For instance, we can monitor if a customer has a (line) break in their house. It will flag that account and will show that there is an extreme amount of usage in a short period of time, and we will be able to notify the customer that there is an issue." There are many technological improvements with the new electric metering as well, he said.

"We are planning to use our own staff," he said. "If we were to hire this work out it would probably double the project cost," she said.

New base charges in place for water (\$14.25 per month) and sewer (\$17.20) are \$2 higher than 2017 and \$4 higher than two years ago. The variable fees remain the same at \$3.90 per 100 cubic feet of water usage and \$7.20 for sewer.

On the electric side, recent rate increases have not kept pace with expenditures and the need for major improvements, according to the memo.

"One of the more recent changes has been our wholesale rate from Minnesota Power," the memo said. "It has been stable in recent years, but

spiked from 2016 to 2017, with a projected increase for next year. This latest change has had a significant impact upon our 2017 Electric Utility performance and our projections for 2018."

Langowski noted that Electric Utility revenues from 2009 are equal to what they were in 2017. "That is telling me that we have had a lot of conservation, through LED light bulbs and such. Those are all good things, but costs to the utility continue to go up," he said.

The city will reduce the base charge for electricity from \$15 per month to \$10 per month, but it will no longer provide the first 100 kilowatt hours at no charge. Under the new system, all electric usage will be charged at 9.75 cents per kilowatt hour. Commercial rates also changed, with customers with demand meters to be assessed for all usage. Dual fuel and off-peak rates are also set to increase.

Langowski said that rates for large users such as schools, hospitals and grocery stores, unchanged since 2011, will increase as well.

The proposed rate hikes were approved by the City Council without opposition. Council member Al Forsman addressed the council as a

citizen during the public hearing

"It's important that we have a strong infrastructure," he said, but he called for further exploration of how the rates impact large-scale electricity users. Forsman is the operations director for the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. "I can comfortably say the large users are subsidizing the residential (users) at this point," he said.

Ely resident Mike Banovetz asked if the utility rates for Ely favorably compare to other Iron Range cities.

Langowski responded, "Yes. Right now we are below the retail Minnesota Power rates. We also looked at several other area communities to make sure we are in the same range."

ments in the leaflets were offensive to some citizens."

The resolution, as published, reaffirms a commitment to:

- Act with honesty and integrity;
- Promote an inclusive environment for all citizens; and
- Promote respect for others and encourage tolerance for the diverse points of view held by our citizens.

Other business

In other business, the council took the following action:

- Approved an interim use permit for the Jake Forsman Memorial Car Show and Burnout Competition to be held on Saturday, Oct. 20 in front of City Hall on East Chapman Street;
- Approved a process for evaluating the performance of administrative personnel;
- OK'd a revised sexual harassment policy;
- Appointed Jean Tome to the Cemetery Committee;
- Passed yet another resolution in favor of copper-nickel mining initiatives in the area, specifically, the PolyMet project near Hoyt Lakes.

OLIVE...Continued from page 1

dresses and everyday dresses, too. Beth began sewing when she was young, designing dresses for her Barbie dolls; then in college she took a class in theater costume design, further advancing her seamstress skills.

Over the years she has sewn curtains, pillows and numerous items for her own home and has also sewn professionally for another business. With a basket-load of experience, she started her own business, Olive and Fern, back in 2009 while living in a cabin in Idaho with her husband and young family. I told Beth, "Oh, it's such a great name for a business!" She said, "The name came from my love of these two names; I wanted to name my kid that." She said other names were chosen for her daughters so the leftover names, Olive and Fern, became the business' name.

It was no easy task to start her dressmaking business in a small cabin, she recalled. "I had to put away all my sewing supplies each day for supper, since I was using my kitchen table to sew." Her business continued to grow; then six years ago the Ohlhausers decided to move to Minnesota to be closer to home.

Beth, who is originally from Iowa, and her husband Craig, of central Minnesota, were both drawn to the north country. They liked the town of Ely, its people, and the work options for Craig, who is employed in the Natural Resource field. Beth has moved way beyond kitchen table parameters and has an Etsy site and a sewing shop in downtown Ely that she shares with her friend, Tara Boerst, who owns Grey Duck Bag Company. "Tara is instrumental in helping me with building my new



Cecilia Vanni Trucano Majerle, 3, of Tower, poses in a custom-designed flower girl dress by Beth Ohlhauser of Olive and Fern, organic and nature inspired dresses, located in Ely. Pamela Wattering photo

website and sewing when I need help." Beth drafts and designs all her own dress patterns for what have become wedding treasures. "I specialize in natural fabrics with a nod to vintage styles. I love to use lace and 100-percent natural hand-dyed cotton grown and milled in North Carolina," said Beth. Embellishments unique to her dresses are the hand-twisted roses made of the same fabric, that are sewn to the dress fronts. "I do use touches of satin ribbon and soft nylon tulle, also made in the USA. I really try to source my supplies from the U.S. first," she said.

and service are nothing short of the highest praise! She had the experience of dressing the daughter of celebrity James Van Der Beek (actor in Dawson's Creek) for her Los Angeles wedding and in addition, other high profile wedding guests. Olive and Fern dresses have been featured in print and online. They were voted by Martha Stewart Weddings magazine as "The Best-Dressed Flower Girls from Real Weddings." Olive and Fern dresses have also been featured in Lake Bride Minnesota magazine.

On her Etsy site, Beth says: "My shop started as a need to create. The process: Long walks in the woods, inspired my dress designs, as did long road trips through Idaho

and Montana. Each dress is first thought up, sketched out freehand and then pieced together by me. Then the dress is born, I name it and begin cutting patterns. I take the first pictures and post the dress.

Next I wait, it really is up to you to decide if the dress is a success or not. I make each dress, start to finish, and my husband runs them to the post. I love interacting with all the people who contact me. Each day I am thankful for what I am capable of creating."

Northern Minnesota provides some beautiful settings for outdoor weddings and reception venues of varying capacities including The Vermilion Park Inn, Soudan; Grand

Ely Lodge and Tofte Lake Center, Ely; Giants Ridge Golf and Ski Resort, Biwabik and Fortune Bay Resort Casino, Tower, to name a few.

So if this year's Valentine's Day brought you scrumptious chocolates, a well-versed greeting card or better yet, the joy and excitement of an impending wedding, you may consider choosing a lovely memory-making flower girl dress from Olive and Fern. Beth mainly sells on Etsy at <https://www.etsy.com/shop/OliveandFern>, as the sewing shop is not open to walk-in customers.



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February 2018

NOLAN...Continued from page 1

getting things turned around in the district and in the country... There's just a time and a season for everything."

Phifer issued a statement following Nolan's announcement, lauding the congressman's long-standing support for single-payer health coverage and campaign finance reform. "Congressman Nolan's retirement presents a unique opportunity to unite the DFL in the Eighth District," said Phifer in her statement. "I've been trav-

eling the district the past eight months, hearing from many DFLers concerned about the future of our district. I look forward to uniting us around our core values of economic justice, human rights and environmental protections."

Nolan was widely seen as among the most vulnerable Democrats in the country in the 2018 election, and Friday's announcement reshapes the race for the DFL, and possibly for the Republicans as well.

By Monday, North

Branch Mayor Kirsten Kennedy had declared her candidacy on the DFL side. Kennedy is in her second term as mayor of the growing northern Twin Cities exurb and she was Nolan's guest at last month's State of the Union speech in Washington, D.C. She has a master's degree in advocacy and political leadership from the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

Some higher profile DFLers, however, have already ruled out a bid. Former Rep. Tony Sertich,

former Duluth mayor Don Ness and current Duluth mayor Emily Larson have all indicated they are not interested in the seat.

Phifer said her campaign has been inundated with phone calls in the wake of Nolan's announcement, and has already seen an uptick in fundraising, a key issue in a race that proved to be one of the most expensive House contests in the country in 2016. Her campaign had raised about \$35,000 as of the end of 2017, according to a filing

with the Federal Elections Commission.

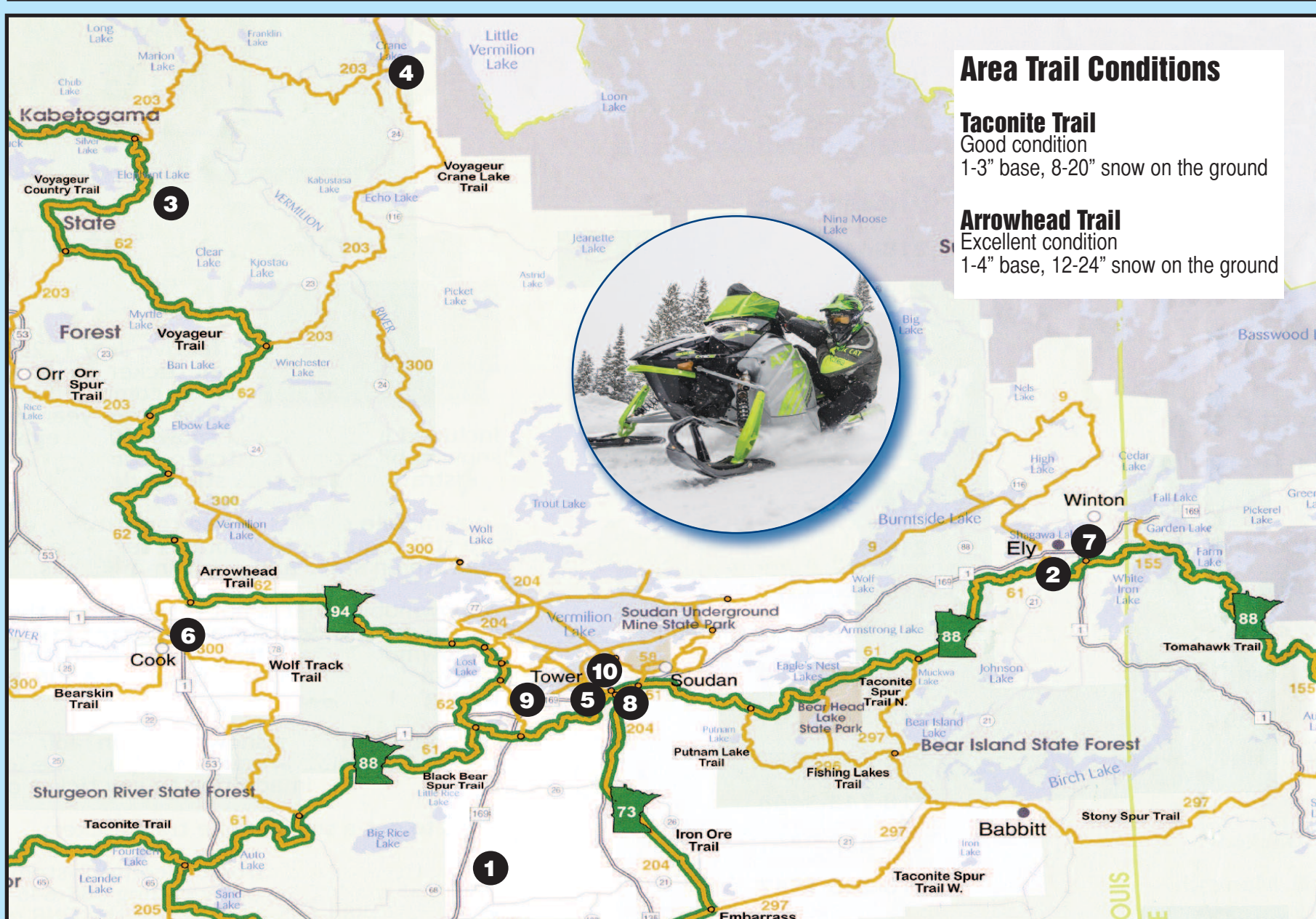
GOP officials were quick to tout their prospects following Nolan's decision and predicted victory in the fall. "Rick Nolan, too liberal and out of step with his deep red district, saved us the trouble of defeating him this fall," said NRCC Communications Director Matt Gorman.

St. Louis County Commissioner Peter Stauber appeared to have the inside track on the GOP nomination, but

Nolan's decision has other higher-profile candidates now eyeing the race. Fleet Farm scion Stewart Mills, who lost narrowly to Nolan in 2014 and 2016, had earlier opted out of a third try. In a Friday Twitter post, Mills said he is now reconsidering that decision.

Meanwhile, Democrats vowed to hold the seat, that has been in Democratic hands for all but two years in the past half century.

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies improve to 20-0

Defeat Broncos to maintain perfect record as season winds down

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

I-FALLS—Up at the border, the Grizzlies overpowered a highly physical International Falls boys basketball squad to improve their season record to 20-0. The Grizzlies had six players in

double figures as they had to keep the ball moving en route to a 96-68 victory over the aggressive Broncos.

“It was a physical battle for us,” said North Woods Head Coach Will Kleppe. “The Falls has good size and strength which presents challenges for our matchups,” he said.

Sophomore forward Trevor Morrison proved the hot hand for the Grizzlies, as he poured in 21 points.

Seniors Tate Olson and Brendan Parson added 15 points, while Chase Kleppe connected for 12. Junior guard Cade Goggleye and senior forward Tanner Lokken scored 11 points apiece. Isaiah Squires added three points.

Playing at home last Friday, the Grizzlies made short work of Littlefork-Big Falls, as they routed the Vikings

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

NORDIC SKIING

Ely ski teams head to state

Boys and girls finish second at sections

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

GIANTS RIDGE— The Ely boys and girls Nordic ski teams were set to compete in the state tournament on Thursday after qualifying during the Section 7 competition held here on Feb. 8. The competition was set to get underway after the *Timberjay's* weekly presstime. Results will be posted at timberjay.com and a full report will appear in the *Timberjay's*

Feb. 23 edition.

During section competition last week, the Ely boys finished with a team score of 367, just behind top finisher, Duluth East, which tallied 376 points in the competition. The top two teams in the section meet move on to state competition.

The Ely girls also took second place, with 374 points. Grand Rapids took first with a team score of 383.

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

Far right: Ely's Ben Gustafson powers up a hill ahead of several competitors at last week's section meet.

Right: Ryne Prigge works her way up a hill last week.

photos by
J. Bianco



BOYS BASKETBALL

T-Wolves notch 11th straight win

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

ELY - The Wolves played solid basketball for most of Tuesday night's game against 13-7 Lakeview Christian Academy, but it nearly fell apart in the waning minutes. Some clutch free throws were just enough to allow Ely to salvage a 60-57 win.

The teams played head-to-head until about midway through

the first half when Ely started to gain ground, eventually taking a nine-point lead into the break.

The Wolves maintained a double digit lead throughout the second half, that is until the final three minutes.

“We didn't play well down the stretch and allowed them to get right back into the game,” said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. “They hit some big shots in the last few minutes.”

Ely was stuck on 58 points as Lakeview Christian Academy crept back and trailed by one with just 6.2 seconds left in the game. The Lions were at the line shooting two free throws with a chance to take a lead for the first time since early in the game. They missed both and fouled immediately, giving Ely the opportunity to build on their lead. The Wolves added two free throws to eke out the win.

“It was nice to see us pull out the win,” said McDonald. “I thought our kids fought hard and had the will to win.”

The Wolves were led on offense by Pat Vanderbeek, who poured in 20 points. Carter Gaulke had a good all-around night with 15 points, nine assists and seven rebounds. Michael Lah led the team with 12 boards and added

See **ELY BOYS...**pg 5B

HOCKEY

Ely tops Moose Lake in regular season finale

Girls fall to Carlton, Deer River

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

ELY – The Wolves overcame a slow start to notch a 6-3 Parents' Night win over Moose Lake Area on Tuesday. It was Ely's final regular season game and the team's third straight win over 1-19 Moose Lake this season.

The Rebels scored first with just under two minutes left in the opening period. But the Wolves got on track in period two as Nick

Right: Ely junior defenseman Dean Boese advances the puck against a Moose Lake defender.
photo by J. Greeney

Mattila tied the score three minutes in. With just under three minutes to go in the period, goals by Luke Olson and Gage Merhar just 31 seconds apart gave Ely a 3-1 lead going into the final period. The

See **HOCKEY...**pg. 2B



Sports week

Boys bball

Friday, Feb. 16

NW hosts Mesabi East

7:15 p.m.

Ely at Chisholm,

7:15 p.m.

NER hosts Cherry,

7:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 20

NW hosts Lakeview-

Christian, 7:15 p.m.

Ely hosts MI-B,

7:15 p.m.

Girls bball

Tuesday, Feb. 20

Ely at Greenway,

7:15 p.m.

NW at Littlefork, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 22

NER hosts Ely, 7:15 p.m.

NW hosts Floodwood,

7:15 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 23

NW at Barnum, 7:15 p.m.

Ely at South Ridge,

7:15 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Win some, lose some

Ely girls at 10-10 as regular season hits final week

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

ELY - The Ely girls got back on the winning track against Silver Bay on Monday, as good shooting and solid defense combined for a 50-35 Parents’ Night victory.

The Wolves played deliberately, showing patience working the ball inside for the best shot. A full court press helped keep Silver Bay off balance.

“I felt our girls did a good job of battling a quality team,” said Ely Head Coach Darren Visser. “We found a way to pull away in the end to get the win.”

The Wolves led at halftime 20-14 as both teams played well

in the opening half. Ely was able to slowly pull away in the second half and earned the 15-point win.

Ely got a big night from their two seniors, playing in their final regular season home game. Shayla Zaverl led the team with 19 points and tied for the lead in rebounding with nine while classmate Kalley Fischer created havoc all night long on defense, with nine steals.

Playing on Thursday against Mesabi East, a strong second-half rally wasn’t enough for Ely to overcome a big halftime deficit and they fell 54-40 to the Giants.

“The girls did a great job of playing Mesabi East evenly in the second half,” said Visser. “It

just wasn’t enough.”

Erika Mattson led for Ely with 16 points and nine rebounds. Shayla Zaverl was the only other double-digit scorer as she netted ten points, added nine rebounds, and a team high eight steals.

Ely, now 10-10, is set to travel to North Woods on Thursday. They’ll visit Greenway on Tuesday and wrap up their regular season on Thursday and Friday against Northeast Range and South Ridge.

Right: Ely senior guard Kalley Fischer scrambles for the ball during Monday’s home tilt against Silver Bay.
photo by J. Greeney



Grizzlies’ late season slump continues

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

EVELETH— A late Grizzlies’ rally fell just short last Thursday, as Eveleth-Gilbert held on to win 60-56. It was the Grizzlies’ sixth loss in the past

seven games, as their late season slump continued.

The Grizzlies had their chances despite falling behind early. The Golden Bears found themselves in foul trouble in the second half as a strong Grizzlies press left them rattled, and four

of their players eventually fouled out. That allowed the Grizzlies to close most of a 32-21 halftime gap, falling just short.

Bria Chiabotti led the way for the Grizzlies, with 22 points, even though she fouled out late in the game. Kate Stone added

12 for the Grizzlies, while Sasha Strong scored nine and Brynn Simpson and Regan Ratai added five points apiece. Nicole Olson added three points.

Avery Slaughter led Eveleth-Gilbert with 18 points.

The Grizzlies wrap up their

regular season this coming week. They face Littlefork-Big Falls on Tuesday, host Floodwood on Thursday, and head to Barnum on Friday.

ELY BOYS...Continued from page 1B

nine points.

Ely visited Mesabi East on Friday night to play a much taller Class 2A team. Solid defense and hot shooting in the second half gave the Wolves a 73-55 win.

The Wolves stuck to their season-long game plan of playing good defense and working to get good shots.

“I thought they played really well against us and we didn’t shoot the ball well in the first half,” said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. “We struggled defending their size all night as they start a 6’-7” and 6’-6” player.”

The Wolves came out after halftime and played better defense and hit a number of

open shots. The Giants’ size didn’t seem to bother Ely as much in the second half.

“We started to hit shots in the second half,” said McDonald. “We tightened up our defense which helped get us the win.”

Pat Vanderbeek had another big night scoring 26 while hitting on eight three-pointers,

six coming in the decisive second half. Carter Gaulke had a double-double netting 19 points and ten assists while Michael Lah led the team with eight rebounds.

The 18-13 Wolves will host Mt. Iron-Buhl on Tuesday. Game time is 7:15 p.m.

COLLEGE Ironmen slip to Northland

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

THIEF RIVER FALLS—The Ironmen had a chance to even the season series on Saturday when they went into halftime tied at 25 with Northland. But the Pioneers edged Vermilion in a close game 69-64.

Neither team shot well from the field. The difference for Northland came at the free-throw line, and they made 21 of 26 attempts for a solid 80 percent. VCC hit just 10 of 18 from the charity stripe.

Devontaye Spates, who came off the bench, led the way for the Ironmen, with 15 points and 11 rebounds. Noel Mshihiri had 12 points while Denario Jackson had ten points to go with a team-leading nine assists.

On Wednesday, Fond du Lac Tribal came to town looking for their third conference win. The Ironmen had other ideas, winning 96-78 thanks to a strong second half.

Vermilion led by just four points going into halftime as the score was 44-40. The Thunder tried to win with three-point shooting as they fired up 41 while making only 13. Ultimately the Ironmen controlled the free-throw line to help win the game as they hit 18 compared to just nine for Fond du Lac Tribal.

Demetrice Mitchell had a huge night for the Ironmen, with a game-high 31 points and 14 rebounds. Marquail Johnson had 17 points and Noel Mshihiri added 13 points to go with 13 rebounds. Denario Jackson put up 11 points to go with 15 assists.

Vermilion, now 7-3 in the conference, will travel to Rainy River on Friday, with game time scheduled for 6:30 p.m. They host 4-18 Hibbing on Saturday, with a 3 p.m. start time.

HOCKEY...Continued from page 1B

Rebels came back on a power play to close the gap to one. The Wolves’ Nick Mattila and Gage Merhar each scored their second goals of the game midway through the period, giving Ely some breathing room with seven minutes to go. The Rebels added a goal with four minutes left before Thomas Montana finished the scoring with two minutes left, giving Ely the win.

Leading the attack for Ely was Mattila with two goals and one assist while Merhar had two goals. Montana had a goal and game-high three assists while Olson had a goal to go with two assists. Dalton Schreffler, Jason Skube, Austin Meskill, and Brandon Hanson each added an assist.

Ely was aggressive on offense, with 47 shots on goal and played solid defense as

they allowed just 20 for the game. Starting goalie Chase Sandberg had a good night in the net, giving up just two goals on 19 shots.

The Wolves struggled in Baudette last Saturday, as they fell 10-1 to Lake of the Woods.

The Bears netted five unanswered first period goals on 18 shots and put Ely in a hole. Ely limited the Bears to just nine shots on goal in the second,

limiting the Bears to just a single goal. After giving up two more to begin the final period Ely finally got on the board when Thomas Montana scored on a assist from Nick Mattila. Lake of the Woods would add two more goals before buzzer sounded.

The Wolves finished their regular season at 7-13 and will await their first playoff matchup.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

121-49. Cade Goggleye poured in 24 points, including four treys, to lead the Grizzlies offensively. But he had plenty of help as North Woods had six players in double figures,

including Olson, who hit four three-pointers en route to 21 total points.

Lokken and Parson added 12 points apiece, while Kleppe and Ian Sherman connected for

ten points each. Darius Goggleye added eight points.

The 20-0 Grizzlies were set to take their undefeated record to Virginia on Thursday night to take on the Class 2A

powerhouse, in a game that’s likely to be North Woods’ biggest test ahead of the playoffs. They’ll host Mesabi East on Friday and Lakeview Christian Academy on Tuesday.

NORDIC...Continued from page 1B

Duluth East took third place, with a score of 356.

As usual, skiers competed in the pursuit format, combining finishing times in both classical and skate skiing events. Team scores were determined by combining the four top times from each team.

Ely Head Coach Paula Anderson said she was satisfied with her teams’ times. “It was probably not our best performance,” said Anderson. “We met our goal of getting to the state meet with both teams.”

All seven members of each team will be competing and eligible for both the team championship and individual awards.

Leading the way for the girls team was the senior quartet, who took four of the top fourteen places in the competition. Ryne Prigge led the way for Ely, finishing fourth, followed closely

by a sixth place finish by Emma Terwilliger. Laura Pasmick and Evelyn Bercher finished back to back in 13th and 14th places. They were followed by the future of the girls team with sophomores Kalyssa Eilrich and Brooke Pasmick, at 18th and 20th respectively, while freshman Julia Schwinghamer finished in 28th place.

The boys had a solid all around day as they put six skiers in the top sixteen spots. Freshman Jasper Johnston who took fifth, led the way for Ely, while senior Ben Gustafson finished sixth and sophomore James Schwinghamer was just behind in seventh. Seniors Elijah Olson and Ethan Hasz finished in 12th and 14th and were followed by sophomores Nate Nettifee in 16th and Raif Olson in 42nd.

“The skiers feel very good

and very strong this week,” said Anderson ahead of the state meet. “We are all healthy and ready to go for it this week and ready to give it their best shot!”

The state meet was set to get underway at 10 a.m. on Thursday at Giants Ridge.

GIRLS SEC. 7 TEAM RESULTS	
1. Duluth East	376
2. Ely	367
3. Grand Rapids	358
4. Proctor/Hermantown	337
5. ME/Virginia/Eveleth-Gilbert	322
6. Cloquet-Esko-Carlton	287
7. Duluth Denfeld	261
8. Marshall School	255
9. Two Harbors/Cook County	205
10. Hibbing	199
11. Deer River	47
BOYS SEC. 7 TEAM RESULTS	
1. Grand Rapids	383
2. Ely	374
3. Duluth East	356

4. Cloquet-Esko-Carlton 344		
5. Marshall School 316		
6. ME/Virginia/Eveleth-Gilbert 291		
7. Proctor/Hermantown 228		
8. Duluth Denfeld 212		
9. Hibbing 169		
10. Two Harbors/Cook County 156		
11. Deer River 89		
ELY GIRL FINISHERS		
PLACE	NAME	TOTAL
4.	Ryne Prigge	0:36:41.2
6.	E. Terwilliger	0:37:51.9
13.	Laura Pasmick	0:38:48.4
14.	Evelyn Bercher	0:38:54.5
18.	Kalyssa Eilrich	0:40:30.2
20.	Brooke Pasmick	0:41:09.0
28.	J. Schwinghamer	0:43:49.4
ELY BOY FINISHERS		
PLAC	NAME	TOTAL
5.	Jasper Johnston	0:32:40.3
6.	Ben Gustafson	0:33:04.2
7.	J. Schwinghamer	0:33:09.8
12.	Elijah Olson	0:34:07.4
14.	Ethan Hasz	0:34:23.6
16.	Nate Nettifee	0:35:07.5
42.	Raif Olson	0:39:20.7

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Briefs

Northwoods Care Partners receives \$5,000 grant from the Medica Foundation

ELY- The Medica Foundation has awarded a \$5,000 grant to Ely-based Northwoods Care Partners. The funding will be used to support health-related programs and services core to the organization’s mission in 2018.

Northwoods Care Partners serves people in St. Louis County. The Medica Foundation awarded \$1.2 million in grants to nonprofit organizations throughout Medica’s service area that in 2018 will serve about 200,000 people.

The funding priorities for the Medica Foundation include behavioral health, early childhood health, and general health improvement.

Search still on for missing person near Babbitt

REGIONAL- Investigators have developed new information that puts Tawhna Pringle in the Babbitt area on Jan. 11, 2018.

Her vehicle has recently been located southeast of Babbitt, in Lake County. Pringle has been missing from her home in Grand Rapids since earlier in January. Authorities are asking for the public’s help in locating Tawhna or her vehicle and would like people to check their properties or trails for the vehicle or signs of someone seeking shelter.

Tawhna, age 30, was last seen on Jan. 6, 2018, in Floodwood. She has had no contact with family or friends since then. This is very



out of character for Tawhna and authorities are concerned for her welfare. Tawhna is described as 5’2”, 135 pounds with black hair and hazel eyes. If you think you have seen Tawhna or know of her whereabouts, please contact the Grand Rapids Police Department at 218-326-3464 or dial 911.

Spinning and weaving day at Minnesota Discovery Center

CHISHOLM- Curious about spinning and weaving? Want to try it, but think you need fancy equipment? Come and try simple hands-on activities with us to learn the basics. The event will be held on Saturday, Feb. 17 from 11 a.m. 4 p.m. at the Minnesota Discovery Center in Chisholm. Cut, weave, and glue strips of paper to make a greeting card or a woven design to hang on the wall. Set up warp threads on a cardboard loom and weave with ribbon and yarn. Use a microscope to examine the difference between woven, knit, and felt materials. See how wool is spun into yarn and meet some of the artists who demonstrate their fiber crafts at the MN Discovery Center.

St. Louis County Board approves details of \$150,000 Mineral Royalties Scholarships

REGIONAL- The county board on Tuesday unanimously approved the operating guidelines for the St. Louis County Mineral Royalties Scholarship. Beginning in the fall, the four community colleges that operate in St. Louis County will each have an additional \$37,500 in scholarship money to award to students.

Through this program, the county is dedicating a portion of the iron ore royalties it receives to create scholarships for students

at Hibbing Community College, Lake Superior College, Mesabi Range College and Vermilion Community College. The scholarship program is intended to be used as a workforce development resource to help train and retain skilled employees in high-demand industries in St. Louis County.

“Our region has been blessed with precious minerals including iron ore,” said Commissioner Tom Rukavina. “For generations, the hard-working men and women of St. Louis County have been employed by industries associated with the extraction, production and export of these minerals. Now, through this scholarship program, our current and future generations will continue to benefit from mining on the Iron Range. Our goal is to make this a permanent program by creating an endowment through the use of mineral royalties.”

Each college’s foundation will be responsible for implementing the scholarship process and selecting recipients. Individual awards will range from \$500 to \$2,500 annually. To be eligible, a student must have received a high school diploma or equivalent while they were a resident of St. Louis County.

The County Board, back in December, as part of the approval process for the 2018 budget, authorized \$150,000 in funding for the scholarship program. Commissioners Tom Rukavina, Mike Jugovich and Beth Olson then worked with Auditor Don Dicklich and county staff, along with Lake Superior College President Patrick Johns and Higher Education District President Bill Maki to establish the guidelines for the scholarship program.

Bois Forte receives grant to improve energy efficiency for reservation housing

REGIONAL- It is an energizing start to 2018 for Bois Forte Band of Chippewa who received a \$4,350 Seed Grant from the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) this past week.

“We’re very excited to learn about the grant award,” said Danielle Pieratos. “We can’t wait to get started on our project, Bois Forte Weatherization Project.”

The Bois Forte Housing Department will work with technicians who will install spray foam insulation, weather stripping, caulking, and window coverings in up to 50 homes of the elderly and disabled on the Bois Forte reservation. The supplies for the weatherization will be provided by the Bois Forte Tribal Government. The project will include educational components, and the Bois Forte Housing Department will provide educational tools on weatherization throughout the duration of this grant.

These techniques are known to save on heating expenses in the winter, and cooling in the summer if you use air conditioning, said Pieratos. Work will be done this April and May. Registration will stay open until all spots are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The grant itself is limited to affording the labor for the project. The supplies are provided through the Elder and Disabled Maintenance

Program. Therefore, the Housing Department is extending the invitation to those who are registered in that program. Anyone who is not currently registered can still sign up and must meet the eligibility requirements for the program. You must sign up for this opportunity specifically in order to be included in the project. It is first-come, first-serve, maxed out at 50 homes. Contact Kathleen Adams at the Housing office, 218-757-3253, or send her an email at padams@bois-forte-nsn.gov.

The award is one of 39 grants given to innovative renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in communities across Minnesota. These awards mark the ninth round of Seed Grants from the group, totalling over \$1 million to 300 projects since 2006. A complete list of funded projects can be accessed at <http://mncerts.org/2018grants>.

“CERTs provides these Seed Grants with two primary objectives in mind,” said Lissa Pawlisch, CERTs Director. “First, to encourage implementation of community-based clean energy projects across the state. Second, to provide an educational forum for energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and their economic, community, and ecological benefits.”

Obituaries And Death Notices



Shirley L. Lubarski

Shirley Lorraine Rajala Lubarski, 87, of Embarrass, died on Monday, Feb. 12, 2018, in her home with her husband and family by her side. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17 at the Bauman-Cron Funeral Home Chapel in Virginia. Pastor Ron Wipf will officiate. Visitation will begin one hour prior to the funeral. Interment will take place in the East Pike Cemetery. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her husband, Leonard Lubarski; children, Connie (Ron) Hermanson of Proctor, Deborah (Gary) Hart of Dolores Colo., Cindy (Jeff) Forseen of Mt. Iron, Ray Gentilini of Virginia, Susan Austin of Plymouth and Steve (Tracy) Gentilini of Virginia; nine grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; extended family and friends, including special friends, Scott and Debi.

Delbert G. Fish

Delbert “Bud” George Fish, 82, of Babbitt, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018, at St. Raphael’s Health and Rehabilitation Center in Eveleth. Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 16 at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Babbitt. Visitation will begin one hour prior at the church. A reception will follow the service at the church. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by

his children, Steve Fish of Grand Forks, N.D., Delby (Dan) Seliga of Ely, Sheryl (Frank) Mathews of Ely and Duane (Jeanette) Fish of Rosemount; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and special friends, Ronnie Anderson, Harvey Willis and Steve Nelson.

Adeline R. Bollig

Adeline Rita Kedrowski Bollig, 88, of McKinley, died on Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018, at her home with family by her side. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17 at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Gilbert. Visitation will begin one hour prior at the church. Fr. Frank Perkovich will officiate. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her children, Julie (Jeff) Achman of Gilbert, Marie (Rodney) Salo of Tower and Diane (Scott) Hildreth of Embarrass; grandchildren, Brian (Kate), Nathan and Amy Achman, Bonnie and Jessica (Leander) Salo, Matthew (Taylor) Hildreth and Michael Hildreth; great-granddaughter, Desarea Mattson; brother, Daniel Kedrowski of McKinley;

sister, Katherine (Ivan) Bollig of Cushing; numerous other family and friends.

Anne M. Dehler

Anne M. Hammer Dehler, 79, of Aurora, died on Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018, at Chris Jensen Health and Rehabilitation in Duluth. A private service will be planned for a later date. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her husband, Clarke; children, Henry (Debbie) Dehler of Minneapolis, Mark (Vickie) Dehler of Seattle, Wash., Deaune Klingfus of Ely and Michael Dehler of Duluth; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Brian Jacobson

Brian “Butch” Jacobson, 64, of Priest River, Idaho, formerly of Florenton, died peacefully on Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018, after a battle with esophageal cancer. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Feb. 24 at Sandy Town Hall. Visitation will be at 2 p.m. and the service at 3 p.m. Please call 218-749-6026 for further information. Arrangements are with Sherman Campbell Funeral Home of Priest River.

He is survived by his loving wife, Suzanne; daughter, Melody (Austin) Meek; grandchildren, Jackson and Marigny; siblings, Dennis Jacobson of Britt, Florence Durbin

of Winton, Darlene (Brian) Kuopus of Eveleth, Karen (Raymond) Lehto of Britt, Sharon (Tom) Paavala of Britt and Janet (Mike) Swanson of Virginia; and numerous nephews and nieces.

Stephen Thue

Stephen Thue, 75, also known as Steve Thue eagles, died at his home in Buyck on Monday, Jan. 22, 2018. Condolences to his family of southern Minnesota and to Little Bear Meklin of Buyck.

Darryl E. Johnson

Darryl Ervin Johnson, 80, of Lake Vermilion-Tower, died on Monday, Feb. 12, 2018, at the Virginia Care Center. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower, with Pastor Liz Cheney officiating. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia.

Darryl was born on May 17, 1937, in Mankato, to Mervin S. and Gerta E. (Schwartz) Johnson. He always loved God and the outdoors—fishing, hunting, birdwatching and photography. He graduated from Garden City High School and Minnesota State-Mankato. He worked as a chemist for the Food and Drug Administration for over 30 years. He was an active member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, the Vermilion Lake Association and the National Audubon Society.

Darryl is survived by his wife, Joan (Gilman) Johnson; sons, Brett (Peg) of Lindstrom, Vince (Kathy) of Little Canada and Dwight of Embarrass; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and sister, Lynne of Afton.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and brother, Darwin.

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BOIS FORTE

Lots of interest in upcoming Bois Forte tribal elections



VERMILION RESERVATION- It is looking to be a very busy election season for the Bois Forte Band. The following candidates were certified on Wednesday, Feb. 7 during the Special Reservation Tribal Council meeting held at Fortune Bay. The primary election is set for Tuesday, April 3, and the general election is on Tuesday, June 12.

District I Representative
(seat currently held by Brandon Benner, who is now running for Sec./Treas.)
> Charles Howard Wagner
> Edward Villebrun
> Mildred R. Holmes
> Crystal Villebrun
> Edward D. Chavers
> Robbie E. Goggleye
> Shane Drift

District II Representative
(seat currently held by Ray Toutoff, who is retiring)
> Sidra Starkovich
> Kristal Strong
> Gary Wayne Adams
> Peter F. Boney
> George J. Strong
> Corey Strong
> Earl Villebrun
> Muriel Deegan

Secretary-Treasurer
> Karlene Chosa
> Brandon D. Benner
> David C. Morrison, Sr.
*Incumbent

2017 27th Annual Lights of Love Campaign

The VHHP board of directors would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who contributed to the success of the 2017 Lights of Love Campaign.

In Honor Of: Club Members Nevin Johnson Kuharski Families Evelyn Gregg B.I.C. Realty Staff & Clients Frances Scofield Char Rice & Neil Mayo Frances Scofield Anne Joki & Darwin Platter Bruce Garbisch P.J. Bailey Susan Pederson Patricia Karich Loved Ones Pastor Liz Cheney Stan Bular Parents, Arlee & Doreen Olson	By: Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club Tim & Debbie Johnson James & Valda Kuharski Roberta Wood BIC Realty Nancy Stoneburner Cheryl Lamppa Cynthia Petroske Rob & Rhonda Joki Lois Garbisch Tom & Sharon Pelach Joel & Lori Astelford Kim & Scott Geiger Doug Workman Rolf & Laurie Anderson Elaine McGillivray Brenda & Bill Tibbetts
In Loving Memory Of: Clines & Walters Families Arne & Ken Alt Ellen Burkhardt Dorothea Olson & Viola Podpeskar Kmett Betty McCue, Charles Olliney, Gunder & Martha Fosso, Dana Anderson Richard & Bettie Kirschner John Perushak Aaron de Venecia Donald & Marjorie Herr, John & Helen Cinciva Deceased Family Members Eugene Kantola & Ellen Burckhardt Leo & Jean Moeglein Warren & Reggie Johnson, Bob & Lousie Dobosenski Carol Ann Pohto, Roger Novak, Jim Bachman, Jim Kirk, Dave Lehtinen Irvin (Ole) Swanson, Paul & Lucille Olson Todd Wood, Betty Lou Wood, Leslie Wood, John Refsdal Cassandra Brandon Our Deceased Parents Robert Delich Rodger Vogel, Evelyn Cheney Pederson Donald Baumgartner & Erwin Keister James B. Dietel Patti Jo Knoer Raymond Phillips & Larry Phillips Richard Flack & Memphis Padora Harold Olson Joe Surla Jim & Char Elling Tenna Perkio & Michlle Perkio Perlander Tammy Johnson, Dale Long Ray & Janet Hill Scott Thomas Parents Jack Richardson Josh Rutar Joe & Lil Biondi, Bill & Angie Glad Murline Tahija Todd Wood, Robert Gregg Jessie Rutar Donald Housenga Richard & Patricia Lenski, Fred & Katy Erkkila Rowan McDonnell Sr. Philip Gulan Patrick Daniel Wilenius Eino & Elway Metsa, Ellen Metsa Nelson Ed Zottola Ward, Leone & Paul Conklin Charlotte & Leon Johnson, Anne & Pete Peterson Daniel & Paige Swason Galen Squires	 Timbuktu Marine Patricia Alt Cook Building Center Pat Olson Wesley & Debbie Fosso The Hutton Family Rhonda & Mike Manning Eric & Mary Hanson-Pehrson Lodge Resort Steve & Marge Herr Chuck & Mary Richards Terry & Bernie Kantola Michael Moeglein Tim & Debbie Johnson Ray & Carol Pohto Paula Swanson Jody Refsdal Roger & Nancy Lindbeck Anonymous Gregory Delich Andrea Vogel The Tire Shop Robin Fisher Gene & Marilyn Jenkins Eleanor Phillips Don & Becky Simpson Arliiss Olson Pat Surla Pauline Myrum-Touch of Class Bruce Perkio Dale Johnson Deb & Steve Hill Bob & Norma Thomas Anonymous Richardson's Shangri-La Resort Todd, Chris, Kyle, Dusty Gabrielson Jeff & Carol Biondi Bergetta Indihar Roberta Wood Anthony Rutar Pauline Housenga Fred & Dana Erkkila Dean Salminen Cecelia A. Gulan Leo & Lindy Wilenius and Family Denise J. Metsa John & Claire Zwiig Cork & Lynn Connor Edie & Bill Peterson The Swansons Carla Squires

In Loving Memory Of (continued): Raymond R. Scofield Past Members Dolores A. Poderzay Erling & Virgie Hegg Deceased Members of St. Mary's CCW Family Members Ray Scofield Loved Ones Josie Ilse Clifford Trygg Our Loved Ones Leonard & Doris Pangerl, Ken & Lorraine Grahn, Diane Olsen, Rick Grahn Ray Scofield Bill Joki & Phyllis Platter Our Parents Our Parents Patrick McDermott, Clarence & Lucy Lessard, Anthony & Mary McDermott Art & Lorraine Boutto & Don Roderick James & Emily Peyla Theo Jasper Lemieux-grandson John & Vi Bergman, Delmer & Alice Hard, Chad, Paige, Dan, Lindi and Nancy Arthur Nichols Linda Johnson Our Mothers: Hilda Kringstad & Solbjorg Andol Nick Tuomela Eero Ruuska, Frank & Vivian Pliml Eunice D. Roivanen Arne Alt & Kenny Alt Lloyd Gustafson Raymond Johnson Jody Cin, John & Faye Cin, Joseph & Mildred Peterka Robert, Regina & Jan Champa, Leonard, Janice & Bernadette Pappone Fred Jacobi Dorothy Whiteside Simensen Denny Hanson Jacquelyn Meehan Clarence Folstad, Kendra Folstad Dale Long Erling Hegg Donna & Stanley Schelde, Jane Schelde, Mavis Meyers; Allen Gunderson Morris Talberg & Boyd House Melba Rockensock Chester & Irene Kishel, Fred & Ellen Sorgenfrei Lakmann & Schweitzer Ginger, Jim & Doc Heiam Natalie & Bob Gallagher Mom, Dad, Sister, Brother & All Bea & Harold Haugen Byron Jackson Sr. Clarence Folstad Fred & Verna Rolloff Lindi, Nancy, Paige & Dan Marge McDonald JoSH Rutar John Morin Margaret Graham & Harriet Hess Chester Root Leonard & Becky Niemi, Connie Dunstan, Bertha Niemi Erling & Virgie Hegg, Bea Sjurseth, Leonard & Becky Niemi, Ernie & Lyna Lamppa, Art Lamppa & Trevor Reichel Dave Pearson Richard Mayo Terry & June Brownell Doris Mighel Parents, Carol & Bill Tibbetts Sr. Dorothy & Earl Soderberg Loved Ones	By: Frances Scofield Alango Sturgeon Homemakers Thomas Poderzay Cherie Bridges St. Mary's CCW Arlee & Doreen Olson Nancy Stoneburner Esther Jowaski Kathy Sutich Lois Trygg Barb Seopa Randy & Julie Grahn Cythnia Petroske Rob & Rhonda Joki Marge Hyppa Mary Mollard Karen McDermott Gary & Barb Boutto Richard Peyla Laurie Chilcote Chuck & Gail Bergman Joanne Nichols Anonymous Oryln & Marit Kringstad Susan Tuomela Robin & George Pliml George & Kathy Meyer Sylvia Alt Mary Gustafson Family John & Diane Cin Bob & Andrea Champa Lois Jacobi Jim & Pat Mueller Helen Hanson Rolf & Laurie Anderson Kathryn Fuson Liz Dahl Gloria Hegg Jack & Vicki Schelde Anonymous James Rockensock Don & Shawna Kishel James & Rita Lakmann Becky Barnes Colleen Jannila Nancy Eicholz Linda & Gary Haugen Penny & Byron Jackson Helen Folstad Gary Rolloff Steve & Julie Fogelberg Pat Michaelson Rob Rutar Janice Morin Kathleen McQuillan Linda Kronholm Alice Niemi Hegg Family Elaine McGillivray Katherine Mayo Sandra Coughlin-Desannoy Dan & Lisa Janisch-Janisch Realty Brenda & Bill Tibbetts Bailey & Bill Conger Bill & Joyce Fromel
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The following individuals & businesses also made generous donations:

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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

PHOTO CONTEST

“Woody, the Wonder Dog” is the mascot for the 2018 NWFA Photo Contest

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts is holding its annual fun photo contest fundraiser. The contest mascot, Woody the Wonder Dog, is preparing by posing as “little and cute” for the camera. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this fundraiser, from photo enthusiasts to amateurs and those who just want to have fun with a camera.

Most of the past winners have been amateur photographers who just happened to be in the right place at the right time. The contest has drawn a wide array of entries from kids and adults, professional and amateurs. So if you have a favorite photo, or want to get out there and take one, or a dozen, you are encouraged to enter it in the contest and have your photo displayed at the NWFA Gallery as part of a community celebration of the arts. Woody loves to see a big turn out; more opportunities for treats.

Entries must be either 5x7 or 8x10 photographs and need to be submitted at the NWFA Gallery, 210 S River Street in Cook (next to Dream Weaver Salon) and will be accepted from Feb. 15 through May 26. The mailing address is PO Box 44, Cook, MN 55723.

Winners of the fundraising contest will be selected at the awards ceremony on June 29 at the NWFA Gallery in Cook. The ceremony is a great time to gather, talk and have fun and everyone in the community is encouraged to attend and join the fun. The contest will raise funds for educational programs, concerts, classes and other activities sponsored by NWFA.

Prizes will be awarded in three categories: adult, student and people’s choice. A “student” is anyone 18 or younger who is attending



school, including young people who are home-schooled.

The prizes are: Adult — \$75 and the opportunity to exhibit or sell up to three photographs for free for one month. Student—\$25 and the opportunity to exhibit or sell up to three photographs for free for one month. People’s choice- \$50 and the opportunity to have your winning photo framed.

The winners will be selected on an anonymous basis by a panel of non-participating judges based on originality, artistic value and technical merit.

For the adult category, there

is a \$10 entry fee for each submission, while students may submit up to three entries free of charge. Otherwise, there is no limit on the number of entries that may be submitted, so enter as many as you like. Participants will be provided a white mat and sleeve to assure uniformity of the display.

Contest rules and entry forms are available at NWFA Gallery, 210 River Street in Cook, by email at info@nwfamn.org, or by calling Alberta Whitenack at 218-666-2153.

Sisu Heritage annual meeting Feb. 25; speaker on Finnish education

EMBARRASS- Sisu Heritage, Inc. will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. at the Embarrass Town Hall. The guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Philip Johnson, President of Finlandia University in Hancock, Mich., on the topic of the Finnish education system. This should be of interest to all involved in education - teachers, students, administrators, parents, and the general public. A short business meeting will precede Dr. Johnson’s talk, including committee reports, election of board members, and presentation of the 2018 budget. Coffee an’ will be served and door prizes awarded.

Sisu Heritage, Inc. is a non-profit organization affiliated with the St. Louis County Historical Society. Its mission is “to enhance the Embarrass region by preserving and sharing its unique culture, climate and history.” Memberships to Sisu are \$10/year and can be renewed or purchased at the meeting, or by mail to Sisu Heritage, PO Box 127, Embarrass, MN 55732.

The public is cordially invited to join Sisu members for the afternoon. Embarrass Town Hall is located at 7503 Levander Rd. Please call 218-984-3402 with any questions.

Learn all about aprons at Ely and Babbitt libraries on Tuesday, Feb. 20

REGIONAL- Join us on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 10:30 a.m. at the Ely Public Library or at 1 p.m. at the Babbitt Public Library for a review and explanation of both vintage and new age aprons with historical details of styles, types, and embellishments. Patrons are invited to bring their own aprons to share stories and details about them. Vintage aprons bring out lots of fond memories and stories of women from the past, often relatives and grandmothers. Aprons tell women’s history through a homespun, common garment cover-up. If you have one of these aprons, bring it out of storage to Vintage Aprons and share your story.

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

Musical film highlights women’s contribution to Finland, Feb. 24 at Kaleva Hall

VIRGINIA- The Singing Strings Musical Drama, a 55-minute film, will be shown on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 3 p.m. at Kaleva Hall, 125 3rd St. N in Virginia. Admission is free and coffee an’ will be available after the film.

The film chronicles “Women’s Contribution to Finland’s 100 Years of Independence.” It took two years for the pianist and co-director of Singing Strings to collect information and write this musical drama. The film is about the life stories of Finland’s women who influenced and advanced the country’s aim to achieve independence from Russia.

This film uses music, pictures and narration to enhance the effect of the stories. This project has made us realize how important it is to include and educate women all around the world about the contributions women have made, said co-directors Hilpi Leino-Kantola, pianist, and Helina Leino-Pakola, violinist.

FUNDRAISERS

Black Woods Blizzard tour hits million-dollar mark

REGIONAL- The Black Woods Blizzard Tour once again raised a million dollars for The ALS Association, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota Chapter. The three-day snowmobile ride concluded with a banquet dinner held at Cirrus Aircraft in Duluth, where event organizers unveiled a check with an inspiring total of \$1,009,250. Twins legend Terry Steinbach was among the crowd of 550 that showed up at Cirrus to help put the Black Woods Blizzard Tour over the million-dollar mark for the second year in a row.

“Maybe we shouldn’t be surprised by what this group does every

year,” said The ALS Association’s Executive Director, Jen Hjelle, “but it’s truly incredible the way they come together to raise funds and support the 500 families we serve living with ALS.”

The Black Woods Blizzard Tour has now raised nearly \$10 million in its nineteen-year history, and has broken fundraising records almost every year.

“It’s so special that this event happens in northern Minnesota and touches families across three states,” added Hjelle. “The riders, volunteers, sponsors, and donors are such caring people. They never let up and this event gives everyone who has



Pictured from left: Terry Steinbach, Jennifer Hjelle (Executive Director, The ALS Association), Cullen Flaherty (Black Woods), Julie Thoreson (Black Woods). submitted photo

been impacted by this disease much hope that we will someday live in a world without ALS.”

Annual NSLSWCD tree sale underway

REGIONAL- Trees are available for your spring planting needs from the North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District. Take your choice of over 20 varieties of trees in bundles of 10, 15, or 25. There is a nice assortment

of shrubs, deciduous trees, and conifers. New this year are bur oak and red splendor crabapple. Reasonably priced between \$30 and \$45 per bundle. Plantskydd and Repellex brands of organic animal repellent products are available to

help keep the critters away. All proceeds are used for conservation efforts in the northern part of St. Louis County.

Order early for best selection. Quantities are limited. Deadline to order is Thursday, May 4. Pick up will be in Eveleth on Thursday, May 10 and Friday, May 11. Order forms and information are available at www.nslswcd.org, via e-mail to info@nslswcd.org, or by call or text to 218-749-2000.

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Dinner Includes:

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Adults \$12

Children (10 and under) \$5

All proceeds go to our general fund/youth fund to support various activities within the church and community.

Vermilion Country School Annual Meeting & Election

will be held on
Thursday, Feb. 22
4:45 p.m.
(following the regular board meeting at 3:45 p.m.)
at the Vermilion Country School

Parents/Guardians of current VCS students, along with staff and board members will vote in the election to elect one parent board member, one teacher board member, and one community member board member for three-year terms. Current board members Joan Doster (community) and Allan White (teacher) are on the ballot, along with Sarah Strong (parent). Nominations can also be taken from the floor at the meeting.



Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

IRON RANGE PARTNERSHIP

Local sustainability grant funds available

Application for \$500 awards due April 1: winners announced at Earth Fest

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—The Ely Area Bee Club used their award to buy demonstration honeybee hives to help launch new beekeepers.

The Mountain-Iron Buhl School Forest Committee used their award to help make their school forest more accessible to everyone, from snowshoers to geocachers.

The Hibbing Farmers Market used their award to spruce up their market site, make it safer and more comfortable for visitors, improve access to locally-grown food, and support the local food economy.

What might your group do with a \$500 Community Sustainability Initiative award from the Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability?

The Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability works to

support and encourage sustainability projects within our communities. Organizations, students, groups, churches or businesses that have a project idea to advance the health and sustainability of Iron Range communities, but need funding to support it, are encouraged to apply for the Community Sustainability Initiative (CSI). Members of the IRPS Board of Directors and the Earth Fest Planning Team review and

discuss all proposals. The top four proposals will win \$500 to implement their projects! In addition, a \$200 People's Choice Award is voted on by attendees at Earth Fest each year.

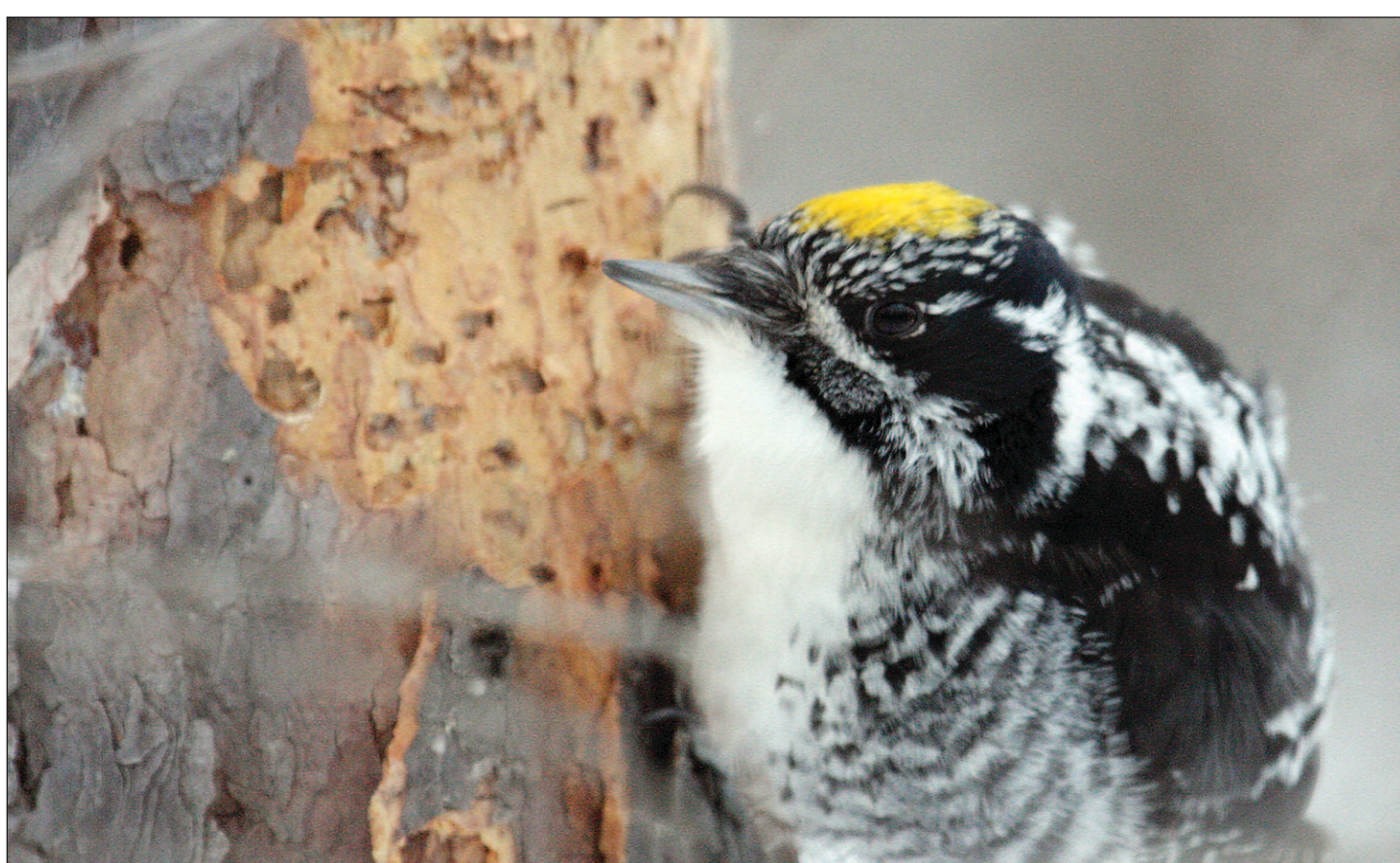
Contest applications are due by April 1. The 10th annual Iron Range Earth Fest will be held on Saturday, April 21 in Mt. Iron. Take advantage of a full day of presentations, demonstrations, a keynote address by Frank Haney of the "Sioux Chef" collaborative,

and to learn how last year's CSI winners put their awards to work for sustainability in their community.

In 2017, winners included the Chisholm Downtown Revitalization Project, the Ely Community Garden, and the Northern Lights Community School in Warba, which installed an outdoors wetland classroom.

Organizations, clubs and individuals from across the Iron Range are encouraged to apply

See **GRANTS...**pg. 7B



BIRDS OF THE NORTH

An enclave of three-toeds

These boreal forest woodpeckers are unusual as well as uncommon

You have to listen closely to hear an American three-toed woodpecker at work. In contrast to the noisy flamboyance of many other species of woodpeckers, this rare woodpecker prefers the quiet life.

A pileated or hairy woodpecker may be happy to pound and drill noisily on trees and logs— usually the louder the better. But not so for the three-toed woodpeckers. There are actually two species of three-toed woodpeckers, the American and the somewhat more common black-backed woodpecker, both of which are found here in the North Country.

These two species of woodpeckers are known as "three-toed" to distinguish them from most other woodpeckers, which have four toes— two in front and two in back.

The three-toed, over the course of time, lost one of the back toes and effectively uses all three of its toes as "front toes" when clinging to the trunks of trees. You can see that in the photo at right.

You're unlikely to see either of these birds at your suet feeder. Unlike our more common woodpeckers, which readily come to feeders, the three-toeds are specialists that rarely can be coaxed from their remote forest habitats. These woodpeckers make their living by softly flaking loose bark off of trees, most often spruce and jack pine. These are two species largely limited to the boreal forest or coniferous woods

high in the Rockies, and they feed on the bark beetles that feed on the cambium, found just below the bark, of dead or dying conifers. Flaking off the bark exposes the beetles and their larvae, and the woodpeckers use their sticky tongues to grab a meal.

You can always tell when one of these woodpeckers has been at work. Fresh flakes of bark litter the ground, and you almost invariably look up to see the trunk of a spruce or jack pine nearly stripped bare.

The population of these two species ebbs and flows across the landscape, depending mostly on food supply. The American three-toed, in particular, appears to follow natural disaster across the vast taiga, showing up in the wake of forest fires or insect outbreaks. Wherever large numbers of dead spruce, or jack or lodgepole pine can be found, three-toed woodpeckers won't be far behind, flaking off the remaining bark looking for food.

That's exactly what brought a small population of these rare birds to the woods near our house recently. When beavers plugged up a flowage along the edge of the Lost Lake Swamp four years ago, they flooded about 15 acres, including about five acres of regenerating black spruce and tamarack. The flooding soon killed the trees, which attracted wood-boring insects, and eventually the three-toed woodpeckers, both American and black-backed.

I discovered them a couple weeks ago, on one of my many forays in the woods. I'm always on the lookout for the unusual whenever I'm out and as I neared this stand of dead trees, I could see the telltale signs of three-toed woodpecker

Above: A male American three-toed woodpecker pauses to ponder a photographer while he hunts for bark beetles under the bark of a tamarack. The male can be told by the yellow cap, a mark shared by males of both species of three-toed woodpeckers.

Below: A female black-backed woodpecker feeds on a stunted spruce in the Lost Lake Swamp, its three toes clearly visible. Note the full black cap and solid black back, which distinguishes this species from the American three-toed as well as from the far more common hairy woodpecker.

photos by M. Helmberger



**MARSHALL
HELMBERGER**

See **WOODPECKERS...**pg. 7B

Outdoors briefly

Join the backyard bird count

REGIONAL—Join the Ely Field Naturalists and others in contributing to the Great Backyard Bird Count this weekend. Only with you and other volunteers reporting birds will Northeastern Minnesota's winter birds be included in the Feb. 16 through Feb. 19 count.

Each winter the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology team up and gather information on birds across the country. Go to their website at www.birdcount.org to learn how to participate. The event is free and open to anyone.

Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at birdcount.org.

Each checklist submitted during the event helps researchers learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them.

For more information, contact Ely Field Naturalist, Bill Tefft, at 218-235-8078.

Fishing reports

Ely area

ELY—Most anglers in the area have turned their attention to trout fishing as a good alternative recently and many have had some good success. Lakes such as Burntside and Snowbank have been turning out a few nice lakers up around seven pounds, with many more in the three-to-five-pound range. Active jigging seems to be the most productive method, with baits such as soft tubes, Jigging Raps, Slender Spoons, and Airplane Jigs leading the way in preferred lures. Anglers are also picking up fish right on or near the bottom with smelt or live suckers fished either under a tip-up or hanging on a "dead" stick.

Stream trout fishermen are scoring some impressive numbers of rainbow trout on Miners, Tofte, and Dry lakes with most of the action within viewing distance of the hole. It is great fun to actually see the trout come in and approach your bait, and to see how they react to your offering. Most fish are responding to either small jigs tipped with wax worms, or to salted minnows fished from ten to fifteen feet below the surface. The viewing is as much of a pleasure in these clear waters as is the actual hook-up of a fish.

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

GRANTS..Continued from page 6B

for a CSI grant. The Community Sustainability Initiative is intended to provide the opportunity for people in Northeastern Minnesota to take action on one or more of the three areas of sustainability: the local economy, the community, and the environment. Think creatively — these three areas of sustainability are open to many different ways of being innovative and unique with a proposed project. Proposals may be for a stand-alone project, or one that is part of a larger goal. Visit the IRPS website at www.irpsmn.org/csi and use the on-line form to submit your CSI contest application. If you have questions about the contest, please contact Janna Goerdts at fatchickenfarm@gmail.com. Applications are due by Saturday, April 1. The CSI contest is supported by the IRPS Silent Auction, which takes place each year at Earth Fest.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
14 2					23 1					19 0					13 -7					15 -4				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
02/05	2	-30	0.00		02/05	3	-11	0.00		02/05	1	-24	0.00		02/05	5	na	0.00		02/05	2	-30	0.00	
02/06	7	-27	0.00		02/06	-2	-43	0.00		02/06	4	-24	0.01	0.1"	02/06	7	-20	0.00		02/06	2	-32	0.00	
02/07	8	-29	0.00		02/07	11	-15	0.00		02/07	7	-24	0.00		02/07	10	-17	0.00		02/07	7	-32	0.00	
02/08	14	-17	0.01	0.1"	02/08	6	-38	0.00		02/08	10	-19	0.00		02/08	3	-13	0.00		02/08	12	-21	0.00	
02/09	8	-19	0.00		02/09	8	-24	0.00		02/09	3	-14	0.00		02/09	7	-18	0.00		02/09	7	-26	0.00	
02/10	10	-22	0.00		02/10	4	-31	0.00		02/10	6	-20	0.00		02/10	14	-13	0.00		02/10	8	-25	0.00	
02/11	14	-17	0.00		02/11	2	-25	0.00		02/11	13	-12	0.00		02/11	10	-6	0.00		02/11	13	-20	0.00	
Totals			0.74	40.2"	Totals			0.73	41.4"	Totals			0.91	50.2"	Totals			NA	NA	Totals			0.80	37.5"

WOODPECKERS...Continued from page 6B



Left: Dead tamarack and spruce stripped of bark is a sure sign of activity by the two species of three-toed woodpeckers in the North Country.

Right: A side view of a male American three-toed woodpecker.

photos by M. Helmberger



activity. Literally hundreds of trees were in various stages of being stripped bare of their bark. As I stopped and listened, I could hear the soft tapping of three-toeds at work — in every direction. After more exploration of the site the following day with some friends, we determined there were at least four American three-toeds and an undetermined number of black-backed woodpeckers. To give you an idea of how rare the American three-toed actually is, these were the first I had ever seen in Minnesota. Only once before, 40 years ago, had I seen one of them, and that was in northern Saskatchewan. We posted word of the find on a statewide rare bird alert and with the Ely Field Naturalists and soon had people coming from as far away as the Twin Cities and La Crosse, Wis. to see the rare birds. We

led two tours to the site this past weekend and everyone was thrilled to get great looks at both species. The American three-toeds are just slightly smaller than a hairy woodpecker. The black-backed is about the size of a hairy, but is easy to distinguish by its charcoal-black back. The American three-toed can be a bit tougher to distinguish, although the

yellow cap on top of the head is a give-away on a male bird. Both the male black-backed and American sport a yellow forehead, which distinguishes them from any other woodpeckers in the North Country. The male hairy and downy woodpeckers sport a red patch on the back of their heads. Females lack the colored patch, which can make them a bit tougher to distinguish from a female American three-toed. Of course, one of the easiest ways to distinguish a three-toed from a hairy is just by watching its behavior. Hairies are aggressive, noisy, and inquisitive. Three-toeds are quiet and keep to themselves. That's why you'll have to be paying attention to find them.

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HELP WANTED

JOB OPENING- The MN DNR Parks and Trails Division has a Laborer, Trades & Equipment Worker position open, and is located in Tower. Date posted 2/9/18, closing date 3/2/18. This is a permanent, full-time position with an hourly wage range of \$20.20 to \$23.29. For position details and those interested in applying and submitting a resume go to <http://www.mn.gov/careers>. Click on “Search For Jobs”; then “External Applicants Search for Jobs Now”; enter Job ID 20174 in the search tab and click on “Laborer, Trades & Equipment” Position in Tower, when it appears. For additional information contact Joseph Majerus, Area Supervisor, at 218-300-7842. 2/16

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

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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.

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

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

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

AA OPEN MEETING- Thursdays at 7 p.m. at Woodland Presbyterian Church, Acacia Blvd. and Central Drive in Babbitt.

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

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.

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1 Birmingham locale	1 Maui “hello”
8 Holy See leaders	2 Detection system that uses a laser
13 Largest living bird	3 Higher than 4 Deprive (of), as through absence
20 One vilifying in print	5 “When I was — ...”
21 Spitz relative	6 Actress Suvari
22 City WSW of Albany	
23 Aroma source	
24 Former NBAer Odom	
25 Most humble	
26 Own delicately pretty baby enclosures?	
29 With 32-Across, tourist's reference	
30 Baseballer Hershiser	
31 Rhine feeder	
32 See 29-Across	
35 People put aside their pride for a while?	
43 Posed for a painting, e.g.	
46 Mineo of film	
47 Tidbits	
48 Log splitter	
49 Bring on mawkish sea monster?	
53 Turbine part	
56 “Weird Al” Yankovic hit	
57 Pinched a chubby shrink?	
61 Pet's jingler	
62 Gluck's “— ed Euridice”	
63 My, in Milan	
64 “Ammo” pair	
67 “New Math” singer Tom	
69 “The Donald”	
72 Shiite, e.g.	
75 Stubborn beast	
76 Not at home	
79 Wage hike	
82 Open spot in a forest	
83 “Airplane!” co-star created an online fund-transfer service?	
88 Large parrot	
91 Exotic juice berry	
92 India or Iran	
93 Park it	
94 Astounds	
96 “Yay, team!”	
98 Geezers	
100 Turn down a	
106 USN rank	
107 Chip or nick	
108 Large feline	
109 See 85-Down	
113 What this puzzle's long answers are anagrams of	
120 Enchant	
123 PC character format	
124 Some suede	
125 In pieces	
126 Diadem's kin	
127 Prayer rug user, say	
128 Hot springs	
129 Lucifer	
130 50- — (some long field goals)	
7 Intro class for painters	
8 Trifling	
9 Signed off on	
10 Zits	
11 List-curtailling abbr.	
12 Poet Teasdale	
13 Tuba sound	
14 Disdain openly	
15 Many a rave attendee	
16 Soldiers on “M*A*S*H”	
17 Salt additive?	
18 Dol. parts	
19 Fez or kepi	
27 “Just joking!”	
28 “Yahoo!”	
32 Beef or ham	
33 Opposing	
34 “Hey, I've got a secret ...”	
36 Maintain	
37 Essential	
38 Boise setting	
39 Volcanic flow	
40 Actor Ladd	
41 JFK was one	
42 Bog material	
43 Philippines' capital	
44 Lime, silica and rust	
45 — of despair	
50 The, to Franz	
51 Roosevelt's successor	
52 Higher than	
54 “Rambo” site, for short	
55 Yale student	
58 Duffer's goal	
59 “— joking!”	
60 Thanksgiving staple	
64 Slip by	
65 In-flight	
66 Puts in a blast furnace	
68 Singer Clark	
70 Singer Aimee	
71 Bread for a gyro	
73 Kampala site	
74 Cunning	
77 Signer of SALT I and II	
78 Quirky habit	
80 Unit for Graf	
81 Mandate	
83 Ill-defined	
84 Astonishes	
85 With 109-Across, zilch	
86 Apothecary's bottle	
87 Roo's friend	
88 Produced	
89 Revival reply	
90 Gives the boot	
95 Selection of chocolates	
97 Spiteful, violent sort	
99 Ground, as the teeth	
101 Daily news sources	
102 Inquire nosily	
103 TV host Meredith	
104 Old Greek	
105 Cookout pest	
110 “Swan Lake” villainess	
111 Watchdog Ralph	
112 People ogling	
113 Attila's bunch	
114 Secretary, say	
115 Giant tubs	
116 Yemen locale	
117 Really gross	
118 Octa- + one	
119 Fancy water jug	
120 Luggage item	
121 Dialect suffix	
122 Man	

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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