



We hope you enjoy this special holiday greeting edition. Watch for next week's Timberjay on Thursday, Dec. 28. Please note, there will be no Timberjay published on Friday, Jan. 5. Timberjay offices will be closed Dec. 25 - Jan. 5.

the TIMBERJAY



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VOL. 28, ISSUE 50 December 22, 2017

MINNESOTA POLITICS

Musical chairs could put Bakk back in charge

Appointment of Tina Smith triggers obscure state leadership provision

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Could the resignation of U.S. Sen. Al Franken put state Sen. Tom Bakk, DFL-Cook, back in charge of the Minnesota Senate?

That's just one of a number of questions now circulating in St. Paul as the state's top leaders grapple with the political version of musical

chairs touched off by Franken's resignation.

When Gov. Mark Dayton appointed Lt. Gov. Tina Smith to fill Franken's seat, it triggered a previously obscure provision of the Minnesota Constitution that requires the most recent presiding officer of the state Senate to become lieutenant governor in the event of a vacancy. That role, in this case, falls to Sen. Michelle Fischbach, R-Paynesville,

the current Senate President.

Fischbach has held her office since winning a special election back in 1996, and she says she has no intention of resigning her seat, which would prompt another special election to fill her Senate vacancy. Fischbach insists she can do both jobs, but whether the state's constitution allows that is now the subject of intense debate in St. Paul. A top Senate lawyer contends that

Fischbach can serve in both positions, citing an 1898 state Supreme Court ruling that concluded that an individual could serve in both positions.

But that was a long time ago, and the job of the lieutenant governor has changed significantly, and not just in terms of its duties. "Back in 1898, the lieutenant governor had



Tom Bakk

See...POLITICS pg. 11

Sounds of the season



Area school auditoriums were filled with the sounds of the Christmas season this past week as students presented musical programs, including kindergarteners from Tower-Soudan Elementary School, above, dressed as toy soldiers, Ely High School band trumpet players, left, and North Woods High School Choir, below. Timberjay staff photos



SULFIDE MINING

PolyMet adds more money to cover clean-up of mine project

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — PolyMet Mining is offering up additional financial resources as part of its financial assurance package for its proposed NorthMet copper-nickel mine near Hoyt Lakes. The new proposal is part of an updated Permit to Mine application that the company filed with the state's Department of Natural Resources late last week.

"With this financial assurance estimate, we believe PolyMet has fulfilled all of the requirements necessary for the state to issue a draft Permit to Mine," said Jon Cherry, president and CEO. DNR officials say they expect to issue a draft permit sometime shortly after the first of the year.

The financial assurance package is a form of insurance for the state, to protect taxpayers from having to pay clean-up costs when the mine closes, or as a result of major leaks or spills. The project is expected to require ongoing water treatment for centuries.

PolyMet's revised application proposes to put up \$65 million in letters

See...MINING pg. 11

PUBLIC SAFETY

Bear shot after two attacks near Isabella

Dog owner, carpenters fight off aggressive animal

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ISABELLA — A black bear was shot and killed by authorities Tuesday near Isabella after the bear apparently injured two people in two different incidents earlier in the day. The incidents happened near McDougal Lake off Minnesota Highway 1.

In the first incident, according to the Lake County Sheriff's Department, the bear attacked a dog, and a

homeowner was injured when he tried to intervene.

"He was bitten in the abdomen and suffered some puncture wounds," said Capt. Tom Provost, regional conservation officer supervisor for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The 68-year-old man drove himself to Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital for treatment.

The bear apparently moved down the lakeshore

to another cabin and encountered two carpenters doing construction work on a garage. Officers said when the bear attacked one of the workers, the other worker tried to help and was bitten on the arm.

One man was transported to the Ely hospital and treated for non-life threatening injuries.

DNR officers were able to track the bear they believe attacked the workers and put

Minnesota DNR Conservation Officer Sean Williams (left) and Lake County Sheriff's deputy Mike McGregor hold a bear that attacked three people and injured two near Isabella on Tuesday. photo courtesy of Lake County Sheriff's Office

it down later that day, after issuing a Code Red Alert for residents in the area.

The female black bear weighed about 200

See...BEAR pg. 12



Check out Poetry at the top of the stairs!

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SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Little Eagles Childcare can now accept toddlers

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — The state’s Department of Human Services has issued a special variance to the Little Eagles Childcare Center that allows the center to take children as young as 18 months, beginning on Tuesday, Dec. 26. The center’s previous license had only allowed preschool-aged children, beginning as young as 31 months.

The variance is unusual, but represents the growing recognition by state officials of the challenges of maintaining childcare facilities in small communities. “They saw we have kind of a unique situation,”

said Little Eagles director Amy Richter. “They wanted to help the community so they were willing to consider our request.”

The new license still comes with some limitations, including that no more than five toddler-aged children can be in the center at any one time. That’s likely to make the toddler openings highly sought-after by area parents. Richter said the center will give preference to full-time toddler enrollees, followed by part-timers. Drop-in care for toddlers will be available only as space allows.

The center still has several openings for older children, between 31 months and age four-and-a-half. Parents looking for drop-in care

during the holidays should contact the center at 218-410-7077 for enrollment information or visit the website at www.littleeagleschildcare.com. The Little Eagles Childcare Center is a state-licensed facility located in the Tower Elementary School that offers highly-trained and caring staff, active learning through play, snacks, and breakfast and lunch when the school is in session. “We’re hearing wonderful things from parents,” said Richter. “Their children really enjoy their time here and we enjoy having them!”

Right: Children playing this week at the Little Eagles Childcare Center.



RANKINGS

Minnesota rated as “best-run-state” in the U.S.

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Minnesotans generally share a sense of pride about the quality of life here in the North Star state — but it turns out we’re not alone. Around the country, Minnesota is regularly recognized as one of the best states in the U.S. on a wide range of measures.

Just this past week, the state took top honors in a USA Today study on the best-run states in the country. The USA Today cites Minnesota’s strong fiscal management, low unemployment and poverty rates, above-average median household income, and the state’s nearly perfect credit rating as factors behind its decision to put Minnesota at the top of the ranking this year. Since ranking tenth in 2012, Minnesota has consistently climbed in the study’s rating, including ranking second last year.

Specifically, the study notes that Minnesota’s state government enjoys one of the largest rainy day funds in the county, along with a nearly perfect and stable credit rating from Moody’s, one of the largest rating agencies. The state enjoys one of the lowest state unemployment rates, at 3.9 percent, reasonably well-funded pensions, and a median household income of \$65,599, or about \$8,000 higher than the national average.

Not surprisingly, the Dayton administration was happy to take a bow, in part because the state’s gains in the ranking have all come under the current governor. “This Administration has worked hard to make state government work better for the people of Minnesota — and we are not done yet,” said Gov. Mark Dayton. “Next session, I will urge the Legislature to work with me to protect the long-term fiscal stability of our state, which is essential for Minnesota’s future.”

Working together, I know we can deliver even better services, and better value, for the people of Minnesota.”

The state’s businesses have added more than 290,000 jobs since Dayton took office in 2011, and the state has made investments in education every year, something that has been a top priority of the governor. Wages also are growing in Minnesota, due in part to a minimum wage increase that Dayton championed.

While the USA Today study noted that Minnesotans pay higher state taxes than in most other states, a recent survey of Minnesotans found that nearly 60 percent of Minnesotans believe government in Minnesota is providing a good value for the taxes they pay. The same survey found that more than 80 percent of Minnesotans are optimistic about the state’s future, and a majority believe Minnesota is on the right track to address the challenges we may face in the



Minnesota’s government is the best-run in the U.S., according to a new ranking from USA Today. file photo future.

Other recent surveys have put Minnesota in a favorable light on a whole host of indicators. A CNBC survey last year ranked Minnesota number four among the best states for business. A WalletHub survey earlier this year listed Minnesota as first among the best states for women, citing their social and economic well-being, as well as health and safety. A 2016 survey by AARP found Minnesota to be the best state for retirement, citing the abundance of senior housing options and extensive senior services. An analysis by the Annie E. Casey Foundation last year, found Minnesota to be number one in a ranking of the best states for kids.

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COUNTY SCHOOLS

District may face deficit this year

by MELISSA ROACH
Staff Writer

REGIONAL— The St. Louis County School District could be facing red ink in the current school year after finishing the 2016-17 school year with a slight surplus. That was the upshot of the latest financial report from Business Manager Kim Johnson at the school board’s Dec. 11 meeting.

The district ended the 2016-17 year with a roughly \$100,000 surplus, leaving an unreserved general fund balance of \$4.33 million. The current year budget, however, projects a \$1.44 million deficit and a year-end unreserved fund balance of \$2.96 million. District superintendent Steve Sallee noted that the budget projections are typically extremely con-

servative and that final numbers are often significantly better. Still, he said the district is dealing with the rising costs of health care and teacher salaries at a time when enrollment tends to remain largely steady.

At the same time, the school board certified a 2017-18 district levy of \$6.9 million, a decrease of just over one percent from last year.

In his final meeting as superintendent, Sallee expressed thanks to the board and some satisfaction that the district appears to have finally emerged from years of chaos and controversy.

“This has been the smoothest year, with the district running like clockwork,” said Sallee, during the meeting held Dec. 11.

He added that he hopes to have a seamless transition to interim super-

intendent Reggie Engebritson, who will take over the district’s helm in January. In some final actions, Sallee said he would be addressing the issue of a district-supported cheer-leading program that was raised at a recent board meeting. He said the curriculum director would meet with the current cheerleading advisor. “The principals and I are putting together some options for the board to decide on and putting together some information on pros and cons.”

In other action, the board:

- Approved a proposal from Parsons Town and Country Electric for outside lighting at the district office, not to exceed \$2,800.
- Hired Tobi Taylor-South Ridge, Karen Larson-Northeast Range, and Kelly Dagen-District Office Benefits Coordinator.

Briefly

Tower council approves two-percent levy increase in 2018

TOWER— The city council here has approved a two-percent levy increase for 2018. The council took their unanimous action at a special meeting on Monday, after adding additional monies to street supplies and sidewalks. The city clerk-treasurer had proposed a one-percent levy increase, but the council added an additional percent to cover the extra streets and sidewalks spending.

The council also gave its second reading to an ordinance annexing a 40-acre parcel on the city’s southwest side into the city limits. The land in question

includes a portion of the city’s industrial park, which the city is now platting in preparation for the construction of a building to house Lamma Manufacturing.

The land in question was supposed to have been annexed in 1996, but the process had never been finalized.

Eveleth girl dies in snowmobile accident near Orr

ORR— An 18-year-old high school student from Eveleth died last Sunday, Dec. 17, after striking a gate on a forestry road north of Orr.

Kirja Kishel died as a result of injuries she suffered while riding on a snowmobile with 21-year-

old Nathan Giese of Gilbert. The pair were riding near the intersection of Lost River Road and Ash Lake Camp Road at about 6:45 a.m. when they struck the metal gate.

Giese was also injured in the incident and was initially transported by the Virginia Ambulance to the Cook Hospital. He was later transferred to a Duluth hospital. Law enforcement did not reveal the extent of his injuries.

The accident is still under investigation by the St. Louis County Sheriff’s office. Assisting agencies included Orr Ambulance and Fire, Virginia Ambulance and Fire, St. Louis County Rescue Squad, and the Minnesota DNR.

Andover man airlifted following Hwy. 169 crash

BREITUNG TWP— An 18-year-old male from Andover had to be airlifted to Duluth after suffering severe injuries when he lost control of his vehicle on Hwy. 169 and struck a tree.

Alexander Doege was at the city limits of Tower when he lost control due to ice, sending his vehicle down a steep embankment and into the tree.

Doege was driving southbound in a 2003 Ford Ranger. He was airlifted to St. Luke’s Hospital with serious, but non-life-threatening injuries. He was wearing a seatbelt and alcohol was not a factor at the time of the crash.

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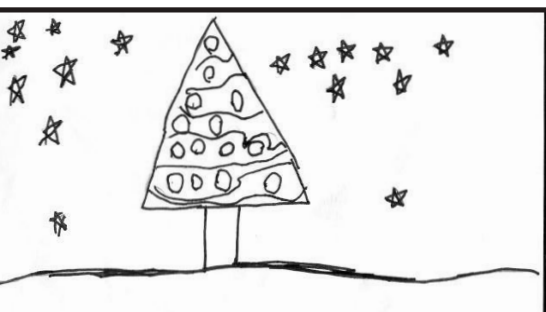
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Editorial

Peace on Earth?

Does America under Trump represent our greatest values?

Peace on Earth. It's an ideal and a hope that seems to festoon our greeting cards and other signs of the season come the holidays. As many of us celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, it's worth taking a moment to consider how well we, as a nation, live up to the ideals so eloquently expressed by this remarkable historical figure.

The face that America has long presented to the world has been a complicated one, tinged at various times with either high ideals or crass self-interest. Today, we find ourselves at a crossroads, where America seems poised to abandon many of the ideals that have, at least on occasion, tempered our worst impulses.

"America First" was an effective piece of branding for candidate Donald Trump, even as it implied something that was never really true. America's foreign policy has always centered first and foremost on America's interests, yet our leaders have understood for more than a century that America's interests are inextricably bound with those of our allies and others around the world.

Unfortunately, that's not how President Trump understands global relations. Rather than recognizing our common interests and values, the new president views foreign relations through a simplistic, zero-sum prism, in which every gain must come at the expense of another. He rejects international agreements, such as the Paris Climate Accord, and the Iran nuclear deal, because these agreements offer benefits to all the parties involved — which, in his mind, means America somehow loses.

Instead, America loses by failing to address two of the biggest threats to humanity — nuclear weapons and climate change. The changing climate is already prompting the forced migration of millions of refugees, a number that scientists say will grow exponentially as huge parts of the world become increasingly uninhabitable. President Trump's response is to build a wall, as if we can somehow isolate ourselves, both physically and morally, from the world we share with nearly seven billion other humans.

Rather than leadership based on ideals and commonality, President Trump offers little more than a big stick approach. He's pushed for huge increases in America's already grossly-excessive military budget, has talked recklessly of using nuclear weapons against others, and deploys playground taunts as his solution to a nuclear-armed North Korea.

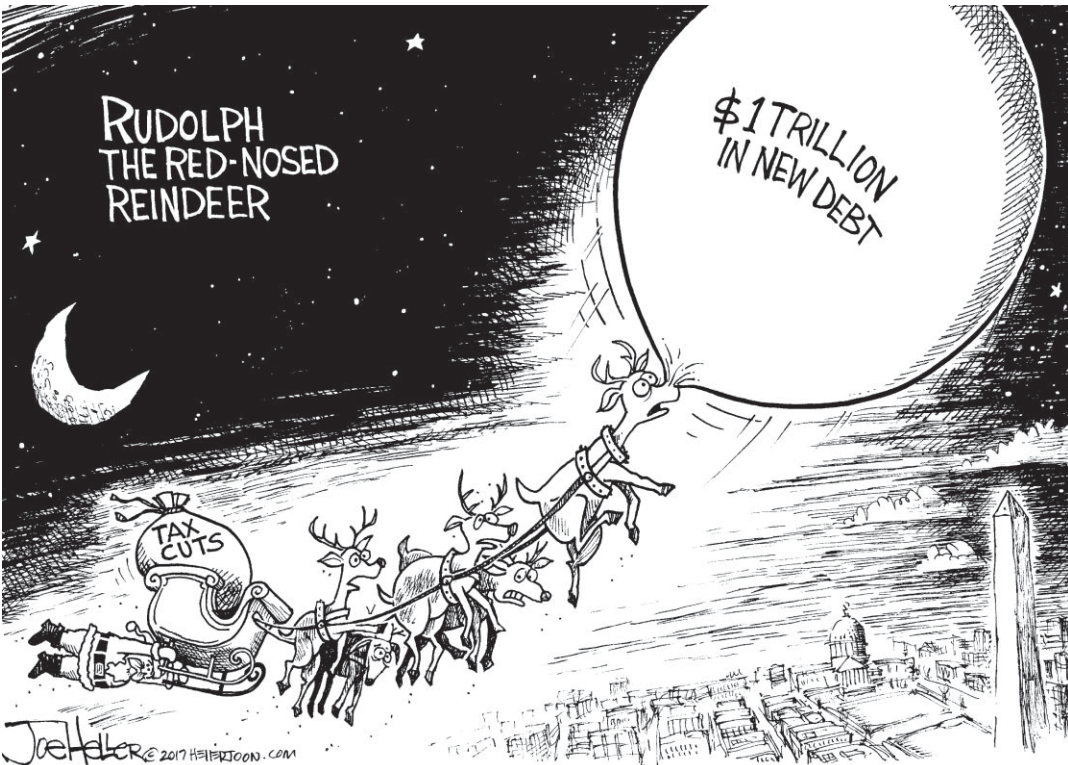
He criticized George W. Bush's disastrous invasion of Iraq, but not for the rationale shared by most Americans. Trump says we should have stolen their oil.

These are neither the actions nor the words of a man of peace. These are not the words of a man who professes to follow the teachings of Christ.

Humility. Love. Compassion. These are some of the highest teachings of the Christian faith and they are traits no one would ever apply to America's new president, a man who has built his career on the ostentatious celebration of greed, confrontation, and ignorance. No one would mistake America's foreign policy as humble or compassionate in the age of Trump.

Instead, we offer a dog-eat-dog view of international relations, where the strong do what they will on the world stage. It's a view expressed more clearly than ever by the image of President Trump roughly shoving aside the Prime Minister of Montenegro at a NATO summit earlier this year so he could stand at the front during a photo session. It's America, as the land of the rude.

It might benefit us to recognize that our choice of leaders is an expression of our real values as a people and a nation. Especially at this time of year, as we try perhaps a little harder to live up to the sentiments expressed in our holiday missives, we should pause to consider that those ideals don't just apply to our friends and family. The Prince of Peace taught universal principles that should apply to all with whom we share our only home.



Letters from Readers

Glacier NP will need a new name

In September Carol and I drove our car from Minnesota to Canada to Alaska and then home again through Washington and Idaho and Montana and North Dakota. We wanted to say goodbye to all of the glaciers big and small. There were twelve big ones: Athabasca, Ruth, Metanaska, Malaspina, Mendenhall, Grinnell, Jackson, Kluane, Bow, Crowfoot, Hector, and Herbert. To see the remains of the Grinnell Glacier we hiked six miles up the side of a mountain in Glacier National Park. The park rangers told us that it, and all of the other glaciers there, will be completely gone in 13 years. In the year 2030 there will be no more glaciers in Glacier National Park. I think it's time to have a national contest to rename the park. What do you think? Glacierless National Park? Glacier Memorial National Park?

Jim Ganahl
Cook

Trim high tribal government pay to help the people

As a Nett Lake School Board member, I requested an increase to the \$50 that each student gets for gym shoes, school supplies, clothes etc. The increase was to help out the parents and the students. This \$50 amount is reimbursed to the parents for the student supplies. I was told this amount couldn't be increased because the Bois Forte RTC budgets were cut and this included the services to the youth. This goes to show you what happens when the band's money is tied up in high salaries. When there is too much money going into salaries the RTC is unable to increase services to the people. When the RTC keeps paying top dollar

salaries, we cannot increase services to our Band Membership.

If I am elected I will work towards increased services to our Band membership instead of paying these high salaries. Vote Karlene Chosa for Bois Forte Secretary Treasurer 2018. Miigwech,
Karlene Chosa
Nett Lake

Bills offer hope for the region

As someone who took an active role by serving briefly on the Greenwood Township Board of Adjustment during the previous "administration", watching the uproar created by their actions and the significant changes that followed I've been compelled to attend the monthly township meetings. At this point I can honestly say I think we're headed right back to where we were.

As you may recall we were facing ever-increasing costs in legal fees with planning and zoning run amuck, a board that relied on the township lawyer to make most of its decisions, authorization of construction work ignoring spending procedures, office lockouts, questionable tax assessing, and enough other various shenanigans to cause our insurance carrier to threaten cancellation.

At the November meeting we were entertained by a supervisor insisting that the board needed to respond to "charges" made during the public comment portion of the October meeting and that the person making those comments failed to provide the board a copy of his notes. He then made a motion not to accept the minutes of the previous meeting based on those comments. The motion passed.

Another insisted he needed a \$1,000 budget in order to perform his duties as Building Supervisor or he would give up that duty. There was a discussion

about needing light bulbs from time to time. This is after he had purchased and installed a non-compliant outdoor faucet resulting in the hiring of a licensed plumber without prior authorization from the board to correct a non-emergency situation. Against the recommendation by the township lawyer and the language in the Minnesota Association of Townships' manual discouraging the practice, a motion was made and passed granting him the \$1,000 budget.

There also seems to be an ongoing discussion of what constitutes an Open Meeting Law violation with one supervisor referring to them as.... chicken fecal matter. There is also the matter of the fire department placing an individual in a position of authority despite the opinion of the township lawyer not to do so.

Given what we've been seeing I have to ask myself, "What could possibly go wrong?"

The Minnesota Association of Townships' website has a 2017 Township Manual that can be downloaded or read online for free. If nothing else, I'd suggest their "Township Government 101, A Township Government Primer." It's only two pages but gives a person the basics. Go to mntownships.org.

To the board members, I will say I seriously doubt that any of the voters in Greenwood Township had giving the board the "Keys to the Kingdom" in mind when they voted for you. With assets consisting of the town hall, two relatively short roads, a fire department, and guidelines readily available from various sources it shouldn't be that difficult to keep us all out of trouble and do the job you are asked to do without a lot of drama.

Rick Stoehr
Greenwood Township

The perplexing season of light

The Christmas season's contradictions of amped-up marketing and consumerism layered with the sweet message of peace and good will has perplexed me for many, many years, but this year might just take the prize. I grew up in a household that became Christmas Central in December every year with an oversized tree loaded with lights and unique ornaments, presents carefully selected and creatively wrapped, and a large party my parents hosted. Our motto could have been



BETTY FIRTH

"nothing succeeds like excess." It was a child's dream come true, and we reveled in anticipation and the resulting mounds of treasure underneath the tree on Christmas morning. However, my perceptions of gift-giving and receiving were altered when I heard at church about the hungry children around the world. A sensitive and caring child, I was upset and asked my parents about it; they said that, sadly, it was true. Knowing we had a very nice home and plenty to eat, I said, "Well, why don't we feed them?" That may have

been the first seed of my social and political consciousness. I told my dad I didn't want presents, that I'd rather they bought food for those children. Astoundingly, as I remember it, he told me I was being selfish, since people enjoyed giving me presents and would have already bought some. It was quite close to Christmas, so I might have been hedging my bets with that generous request, but I think that was the spark that fed the flame of responsibility to take action, which I often have with food shelves and meal-serving programs throughout my adult life. I've identified with progressive politics and values of social justice for all, seeing my volunteer

work as important as my paid work. In my 30's I found the Quakers, so those values were affirmed and deepened. I also carried with me the belief that there was goodness in every person and found that the Quakers believed that there was "that of God in every person." I believed we all learn and grow, and that in our hearts we all wanted to become the best people we could, striving for the pinnacle of Mazlow's hierarchy. As you can well imagine, I've lived through many experiences that threatened to disabuse me of those notions, the current political scene included.

See **CHRISTMAS...**pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Risking our future to please the special interests

A couple of weeks ago, Rick Nolan voted in favor of an extreme pro-pollution bill threatening not only public lands, but all of our properties in any watershed connected to the Superior or Chippewa National Forests. In essence, the bill would make toxic sulfide mining a matter of right on any public lands in these areas, while simultaneously stripping anti-pollution safeguards in the National Forests.

And it isn't just mining. Think of it this way— let's say a foreign company wants to build a chemical plant on federal land by Lake Vermilion, your hunting land, farm, river or favorite fishing spot. It could be a plant producing a weed killer known to cause cancer with a history of leaving pollution everywhere one has ever been built. The foreign company is owned by a billionaire with a terrible envi-

ronmental record in many other places. The river that flows by the plant feeds water to area lakes, rivers and wells. Under the current law, the government has an obligation to look at the impact on your land to determine whether to lease the foreigners the land. That's a big deal because if they get the lease, they have the right to build the plant. No worries, the government has to first determine that such a plant can operate without hurting your land and neighboring properties before giving the foreign company the right to build it. The facts and science will reveal the dangers of the chemical plant. However, the foreign company enlists lobbyists and uses money and influence to change the law so this plant can be built as a matter of right and to prohibit the government from looking into whether the plant will cause devastation to your land. Your Congressman, supported by special interests, votes to take your legal protections away from you to benefit the foreign company. That is essentially

what has happened— and the Congressman's name is Nolan.

Nolan's bill places our land at risk, but why and for whom? Well, the why is the money and support he receives from the interests promoting the push by foreign corporations to exploit our land and pollute our water. Who will benefit from the destruction of your property? Foreign mining billionaires. Polling conducted in March by pollsters for the Trump campaign confirmed that 70 percent of people polled in the Eighth District supported the environmental study Nolan just voted to kill. This confirms that this measure was supported solely to please special interests.

If Nolan is so proud of these votes, then why does he send letters that are untruthful and deceptive about how these laws impact us? He claimed in a recent letter that the MINER bill requires "rigorous environmental review," when it in fact eliminates the application of the National Environmental Policy Act to such projects and terminates the

current environmental study being conducted by the Forest Service. The letter also laughably claimed that sulfide mining here is "green" because copper-nickel mining in other countries (presumably China) is causing terrible pollution so we should do it here instead. Apparently Nolan thinks that that we should pollute our land and water instead of allowing other countries to pollute their land and water; a real head shaker. Sulfide mining always results in irreversible pollution as it did at the Mount Polley Mine only a couple of years ago. His staffers are making calls falsely claiming that his DFL opponent, Leah Phifer, shares his position on changing current law to terminate the Forest Service's environmental review when she clearly does not. This tells me that he knows that these acts are detrimental to many of his constituents.

The tradeoff for this risk benefits few and harms many. The truth is that mining jobs continue to be eliminated by automation. Any jobs created

will be temporary and subject to the boom and bust of the metals markets. That's just a fact. Conglomerates like PolyMet will not even commit to use union labor. So while elected officials jump on the toxic mining bandwagon, they are selling us a bill of goods, as opposed to moving the regional economy into the future. Politicians have chosen to turn neighbors against each other based on a false promise of a return to the 1950s levels of mining employment.

Copper-nickel mineral exploration is exploding in this entire region so this issue affects all of us. Rather than praying that no commercially viable mine can be established affecting your land, it is time to stand up and demand that landowners' interests, hunters' interests and the public interest are heard, and support candidates willing to protect our interests.

Kelly Dahl Cook

ELY SCHOOLS

Ely school finances continue to improve

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Following the release of a very favorable audit last week, ISD 696 business manager Spencer Aune briefed school board members at a study session Monday night on the general health of the district's finances.

Superintendent Kevin Abrahamson said the report contained "nothing but good news." The annual audit shows the Ely School District's general fund took

in about \$700,000 more than it spent in the fiscal year that ended June 30,

The district's undesignated reserve, usually used by school officials to gauge the district's financial health, climbed by over \$450,000.

According to the audit, the district's undesignated reserves now total \$2.61 million, an increase from \$2.16 million in 2016, and way up from the \$1.11 million the district had in undesignated reserves just three years ago.

A year ago, the district had undesignated fund balances representing about 28 percent of the district's annual general fund expenditures. "I would consider that a healthy unassigned fund balance," Aune said.

Board Chair Ray Marnsik asked if that should be adjusted in any way.

"That 28 percent is about three or four months of operating costs," Aune said. "Other school districts have just one or two months of reserves.

Just 10 years ago, Ely school reserves fell into a negative balance and there was a fear of (SOD), statutory operating debt designation, and state intervention into the school district's finances.

The school district ended the fiscal year with a total general fund balance of just over \$3 million. Other fund balances include: food service, \$20,010; community education, \$35,864; debt service, \$863,956; and scholarships, \$122,158.

Substitute employees

Abrahamson asked school board members to consider changing their policy regarding substitute employees. He provided them a sample policy from Mankato School District.

"I was wondering if there are any statutory requirements regarding benefits for subs, especially those that are here more than 50 percent of the school year, and the information I received from the Minnesota School Board Association said there are no such requirements," he said.

"However, if we are hiring a long-term sub and we find someone who is licensed, in the area, and here for half the school year, our only benefit is

that a long-term sub receives two sick days a month," he said. "There is no health insurance, no life insurance, no personal days."

He told board members he was looking for school board members to give the issue some thought. He pointed out that recruiting for long-term subs would be helped with some sort of benefit package.

"If we can afford it, we should offer it," said board member Scott Kellerman, "They're not second-class citizens.

Abrahamson will formulate a recommendation for board members to consider next year.

CHRISTMAS...Continued from page 4

The modern politics of hate and greed can be traced back to Barry Goldwater's loss in his bid for president in 1964. The right wing so-called conservatives (conserving nothing but their own wealth and privilege) were shocked at the loss and began building a structure of increasingly sophisticated strategies, including a five-story training think tank in Washington, D.C. to groom young Republicans in the party line. They called their platform The New American Century, available for all to view on a website by that name, clearly spelling out the goal of world domination by those of wealth and power. (See the book, *Blinded By the Right*, by David Brock for the enlightening details of this progression.) We have witnessed their actions to decrease taxes on the wealthy (individual, corporate and inheritance); to weaken the rights of people to sue those in power; to fill judgeships with people from the extreme right; to buy and control media outlets; to overturn Roe v. Wade; to block affordable health care for all citizens; and to decrease benefits to those who are most in need

of assistance with medical care, education, food, and housing. Millions, even billions of dollars are spent every election on dirty campaigning and outright lies in pursuit of partisan agendas.

We yearn for statesmen and women with good minds and hearts who truly want to work for the common good. So, I ask, along with many others, "How could this be happening? Why are we not changing this direction?" I ask, in this holiday season, "What is happening to the goodness that I still believe resides in each of us?" Believers of many different faiths seek and celebrate the light in this season of darkness, especially those of us in the northern latitudes filling our early nights with candles and strings of lights. The light represents hope and renewal as well as the mystery of spirit and faith. And yet our country is rife with incidents of racism and hatred toward anyone who is considered "other," whether they be Muslim, Jew, Black, immigrant, someone with a different sexual orientation, or just someone from someplace else. Unfortunately, these haters are emboldened by a president who

models ugly, unthinking, narcissistic behavior, reminding me of a spoiled, fearful, out-of-control child who just keeps throwing tantrums, while we wonder how in the world he got in office and when his offenses will catch up with him. A kindergarten, fearful for her safety, asked, "Why did we elect a bully?" I ask the same thing, wondering how private individuals or elected officials can act as they do and still sleep at night. In *A Quaker Book of Wisdom*, Robert Lawrence Smith writes, "We all know right from wrong. It's what defines our humanity. Acting on that knowledge affirms our faith in the idea that what we do in this life matters."

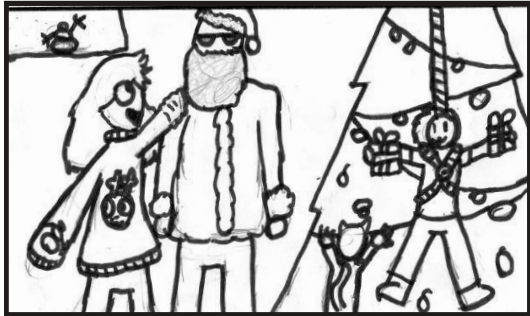
In the meantime, I keep coming to the same conclusion: that we need to do what we can to make a difference, to help others and to build trust and community where we live. So, give this a try: on Christmas or Hanukkah or Boxing Day or whenever, invite someone over for dinner or out for a walk who is not part of your family or close friendship circle, who doesn't look like you, who is in a different socio-economic class, who speaks a different language, who

has a different type of education, a different sexual orientation, who grew up outside the Midwest, better yet, in a foreign country, and/or who thinks differently than you do. Any combination of those things, such as an atheist born in Dallas who grew up under an oil rig, votes Libertarian, and doesn't ski. Or an urban transvestite with a cooking show who makes five times your income. Or maybe someone who has different views on copper mining than you do.

Many people will be traveling to see loved ones, and some of us will be staying right here, sharing a community potluck dinner at the Ely Folk School on Christmas Day, where everyone is welcome. If you would like to break bread with old and new friends, enjoy some singing, and share some of your own light, come join us at 4 p.m., but let us know you're coming by calling 218-235-0138. Turkey, tea and coffee will be provided; bring a dish to share. And have a warm and peaceful holiday season.

Have A Safe & Happy Holiday!

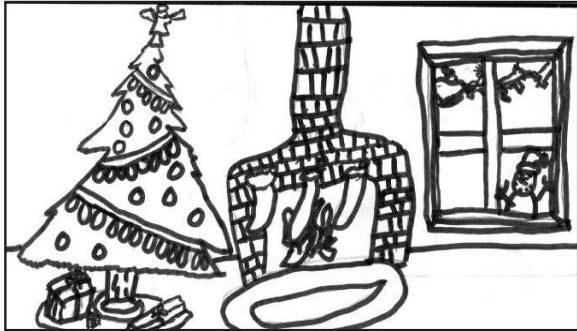
from The City of Tower



Winning Artist • Bailey Pratt • Grade 5

Wishing Everyone a Joyous Holiday Season

from Broten Construction



Winning Artist • Sam Kvistad • Grade 6

Merry Christmas from Tower

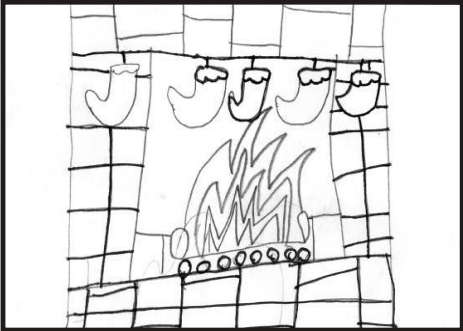
from Bob's Service and Towing



Winning Artist • Greyson Reichensperger • Grade 5

Ho-Ho-Ho Merry Christmas!

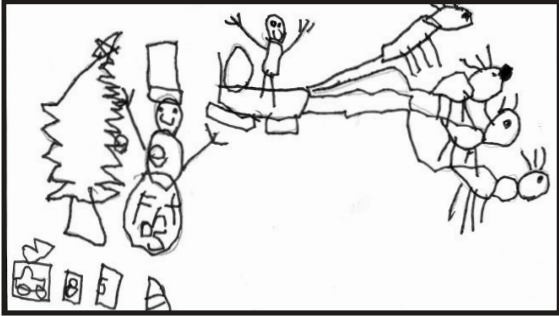
from BIC Realty



Winning Artist • Khloe Holland • Grade 3

Happy Holidays To You !

from Breitung Township



Winning Artist • Nolan Lenci • Kindergarten

Soudan Skating rink now open

SOUDAN- The Soudan Skating Rink is now open for the season. The warming shack regular hours will be posted. Also, watch for dates for upcoming skating parties with Chimpy. Loaner skates in all sizes are available in the warming shack.

St. Martin’s Catholic Church Christmas/New Year Mass schedule

TOWER- St. Martin’s is happy to announce their Christmas and New Year’s schedule: The Christmas Mass schedule is: Christmas Eve at St. Martin’s (Tower) at 4 p.m; and at Holy Cross (Orr) at 7 p.m.; and Christmas Day at St. Mary’s (Cook) at 10 a.m. With Jan. 1, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God falling on a Monday, it is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation. Father will still offer a Mass in honor of Mary, the Mother of God at St. Mary’s (Cook) on Monday, Jan. 1 at 10 a.m. Confessions are heard one half-hour before all Masses. If these times do not work for you, contact the rectory.

Christmas Services at St. James

TOWER- St. James’s Christmas Eve Service will be at 7 p.m. followed by a birthday party for Jesus. Sunday Worship will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 24 as well. The theme will be “God’s Action Plan.”

Tower-Soudan Bowling League

Dec. 13 Team Rankings: Vermilion Club (78-34), Broten Construction (74-38), Jeanne’s Cards (70-42). Hi Team Game- Vermilion Club 716; Hi Team Series- Vermilion Club 1,952; Hi Ind. Game- Flora Ferretti 178; Hi. Ind. Series- Flora Ferretti 453. Dec. 6 Team Rankings: Broten Construction (72-32), Vermilion Club (72-32), Jeanne’s Cards (62-42). Hi Team Game- Broten Construction 725; Hi Team Series- Broten Construction 2,051; Hi Ind. Game- Lois Nyrhinen 192; Hi Team Series- Lois Nyrhinen 478. Nov. 29 Team Rankings: Vermilion Club (70-26), Broten Construction (64-32), Jeanne’s Cards (56-40). Hi Team Game- Vermilion Club 659; Hi Team Series- Vermilion Club 1,918; Hi Ind. Game- Flora Ferretti 161; Hi Team Series- Flora Ferretti 477.

VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL



Students from Vermilion Country School went carolling on Tower’s Main Street last week and spent some time at Golden Horizons, leading the residents in some songs and some holiday crafts. They also sang at a holiday luncheon at a local church. photo by J. Summit

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



“Toys! The Night They Came Alive”



Greyson Reichensperger played the baritone horn during the elementary band performance.



Kindergarteners Ethan (left) and Aydrien (right) were toy soldiers.

Give Gifts of the Spirit!

from Golden Horizons Assisted Living

Artist • Sophia Medicine • Grade 2

Have a Safe, Happy Holiday Season

from Jeanne’s Cards & Gifts

Winning Artist • Macy Boshey • Kindergarten

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

from Tower Auto Parts

Winning Artist • Christian Nelson • Grade 4

Read us online at www.timberjay.com



Rag dolls Shaye (left) and Claire (right) cranked up the giant Jack-in-the-Box. It took the concerted effort of all the singing toys to convince the “Jack,” played by Truce, that it was time to celebrate Christmas. photos by J. Summit

CHRISTMAS

Christmas: Understanding the most important history

TOWER- When we think of history, we tend to think of American history or world history. But there is a much more fundamental history. A history that marks, that is stamped on each one of our souls. That history is salvation history. God created the world good, yet it has fallen due to the sin of Adam and Eve and our own personal sins, but it is redeemed through the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We all have this history stamped on our souls. We are created God, yet have fallen, but are redeemed, especially through the Sacrament of Baptism.



This is why Christmas matters. God, by becoming man, by becoming a baby, essentially is his clandestine invasion into enemy territory. God is sneaking past enemy lines into the world ruled by Satan. It will be then, in due time, that Jesus will deal that ultimate and devastating defeat to Satan and his kingdom through his death on the Cross. Christmas is the beginning of the end for Satan and his reign.

This is the gospel, this is the good news of Christmas, this is why Christmas matters, and matters to every human person! No one should avoid or feel left out of this good news, because no one is excluded from Christ's offer of redemption. I want to wish a blessed Christmas to all, and invite everyone to join one of our local churches to celebrate this Christmas. As the pastor of St. Martin's in Tower, you are most welcome here. Our Christmas Eve Mass is at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 24. "For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord!" (Luke 2:11)

Father Nick Nelson
Pastor of
St. Martin's Catholic Church

EVENTS BOARD

Happy wrappers



Volunteers from the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board (Fourth of July committee) held a gift-wrapping fundraiser in Tower last Saturday. The group is hoping this fundraiser will become an annual holiday tradition. photo by J. Summit

Santa says THANK YOU!

The spirit of giving is alive and well in the Tower-Soudan community. Once again this year, the community stepped up and donated enough to make a special Christmas for over 165 children from over 60 area families. Donations this year topped our amazing record from last year, which made a difference, because Santa's list was a little longer than last year!

Donations of toys, gift cards, and cash (used to purchase gifts) were enough to cover all of our needs.

Firstly, we would like to thank Lake Country Power's Operation Roundup® program for their \$3,500 grant to the Tower-Soudan Civic Club. These funds were used to purchase warm clothing, hats and mittens, socks, pajamas, and coats.

We would like to thank the Tower-Soudan Civic Club, Red Hat Belles, our area churches (including St. Paul's, St. James, Immanuel, St. Martin's). Thank you to the Target Store in Virginia for giving us a significant discount on our Santa shopping, (where we were able to take the discount off the already sale-priced toys and gifts). Thank you to Wendy Tuominen, our honorary Mrs. Claus, for her donations of toys, toiletries, and warm clothing. Thank you to all those who made larger cash or toy donations (and many came in anonymously- so thank you all): Ron and Sue Norha, The Little Church of Vermilion Lake Township, Kathy and Frank Siskar, The Forconi Family, Bertha and Wilbert Hill, Dick and Ellie Larmouth, Joanne and Gerald Connell, Peter and Collette Johnson, Steve and Laurie Vukelich, George Stefanich, Steve Wilson and Mary Shedd, Tim and Nancy Kotzian, Jane Johns, Kevin Norby, Judy and Emmanuel Sundahl, Vermilion Land Office, Pauly Housenga, Broten Construction The Wycoff Family, The Driscoll Family, The Hotakainen Family, Paul and Carol Knuti, and many others who made smaller (but still important) donations. In addition, we had enough gift cards donated for every teen on our list. Every ten or fifteen dollar gift card was appreciated.

And thanks to my helpers: Corky Eloranta, Mary Shedd, Kathy Lovgren, the Civic Club volunteers, and the staff at the Timberjay.

Jodi Summit, Operation Santa Organizer



Transfer station

Soudan Canister

Expanded hours year-round
Monday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wed. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
For info: 1-800-450-9278

Hwy. 77 Canister

Winter hours now in effect
Thursday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Recycling canisters available daily at the Greenwood Town Hall. For info: 1-800-450-9278

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 31; Feb. 21; March 14

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

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

AEOA Senior Dining Menu

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

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

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

Dec. 25 - Jan. 5
No school all week.
Senior dining resumes on Jan. 8

Week of Dec. 25

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 Jan. 16.

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 vermillioncountry.org.

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

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the TIMBERJAY

The Tower-Soudan Timberjay and Cook-Orr Timberjay are published weekly on Friday by The Timberjay, Inc. Offices are at 414 Main St., Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 [218-753-2950], PO Box 718, Ely, MN 55731 [218-365-3114]. Fax number is 218-753-2916. E-mail address is: editor@timberjay.com. Visit our website: www.timberjay.com.

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office in Tower, Minnesota. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Timberjay, P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Three award-winning community editions are published each week for Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

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

Official Newspaper:
City of Tower, Orr, Townships of Bearville, Breitung, Crane Lake, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Greenwood, Field, Morcom, Leiding, ISD 707.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce, Orr Chamber of Commerce, Laurentian Chamber.

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Have a Warm, Cozy Christmas in Your Little Corner of the World.

Season's Greetings from Cindy and the Gnome Makers



Libraries

Ely library
Hours: Monday — Friday,
10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturdays — 8 a.m. to noon
Closed on Sundays
Phone: 365-5140

Babbitt library
Monday Noon-6 pm
Tuesday Noon-6 pm
Wednesday Noon-6 pm
Thursday Noon-6 pm
Friday Noon-5 pm
Phone: 827-3345

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
AA - 7 p.m. Mondays, First
Lutheran Church,
915 E. Camp St.
WOMEN'S AA - Noon
Mondays, Ledgerock
Community Church, Ely -
use 15th Street entrance
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m.
Tuesdays, Woodland
Presbyterian Church.
AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m.
at St. Anthony's Catholic Church
in Ely. For persons who
encounter alcoholism in a
relative or friend.
BABBITT AL-ANON -
Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland
Presbyterian Church.
CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step
support group, noon Fridays, St.
Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely.
ELY AREA FOOD SHELF - third
Wednesday each month. 15 W.
Conan St.
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION
GED Study materials and pre-
test available. Ely Community
Center Thursday 10 a.m.-4
p.m.; Tower by appointment.
Call 365-3359, 827-3232, or
1-800-662-5711.
CAREGIVER SUPPORT
GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd
Monday of Month: 6-7:30
p.m. at Carefree Living
Ely: 4th Monday of Month:
10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-
Bloomenson Hospital
Conference Room B

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

The Christmas pickle ornament tradition

If you find the hidden
pickle on the tree, you get
to open the first present —
or to open an extra one.
But why?

The Christmas pickle
is part of many holiday ce-
lebrations in American
families. Traditionally, a
Christmas ornament in the
shape of a pickle is hidden
somewhere on the tree.
Whoever finds the special
pickle ornament is said to
have good fortune in the
coming year.

In some families, the
pickle-finder even gets an
additional present—or the
privilege of choosing the
first present to open.

Most Americans
believe that the Christmas
pickle is an old-time tra-
dition that came to the
United States from
Germany. It turns out that
the Christmas pickle tra-
dition has absolutely no
history in Germany. In
fact, if you ask a German
about the Christmas pickle,
you will probably get
nothing but a confused
look. Pickles just have no
place on the Germans' Christmas trees.

So, where in the world
did this myth come from?

The answer is far more
commercial than histori-



cal. While the origins of
the Christmas pickle are a
bit murky, it seems that the
first-known marketing
came to us from the famous
retailer Woolworths.

In the 1890s, the retail
giant began importing
glass ornaments from
Germany for their store
locations across America.

Ornaments from Germany
soon became a staple on
many Americans' Christmas trees, and

indeed, still are.

When unusual glass
ornament shapes like
pickles caught on, this
could have led to the
country-wide misassump-
tion that Christmas pickles
are a German tradition.

But why exactly did
Americans start to believe
that Christmas pickles
could bring good luck to
the finder?

Some people believe
that the story has origins

in the Civil War.
Supposedly a man named
Private John C. Lower, a
Bavarian soldier who was
fighting on the Union side,
was captured by the
Confederate Army. After
spending a good deal of
time in captivity and given
few rations, Lower was
starving.

On Christmas Eve, he
was so hungry that he
begged his captor for any-
thing to eat, even a pickle.
His guard took pity on
him, perhaps due to the
Christmas spirit, and
Lower was given the
pickle.

Later, Lower says
that the pickle saved his
life and kept him from
dying of starvation. When
he returned back to his
family, he told them the
story. And every year after
that, his family hid a pickle
in the Christmas tree as a
way to remember his suf-
fering and the mercy which
allowed him to live and
return to them.

There is another pos-
sible theory for the origin
of the Christmas pickle.
The story goes like this:

St. Nicholas was a
bishop in the town of Myra
in what is now Turkey. In
that village, there lived an

evil shopkeeper who hated
children. One day, he kid-
napped three small boys,
and then cut them up in
tiny pieces and put them
into a pickle barrel.

Hearing about this
horror, St. Nicholas was so
moved that he prayed to
help the poor "pickled"
boys. Because his faith
was so pure and strong, it
is said that God listened
to his prayer, and when St.
Nick opened the barrel...
the three boys were found
whole, alive and well.

The Christmas pickle
tradition may have origins
in this frightening, but ul-
timately happy, story as
well. In fact, for many
years, Godiva used to
produce a large chocolate
figure of St. Nicholas with
three young boys and a
pickle barrel at his feet.

Ultimately, it is hard
to say exactly why
Americans started putting
Christmas pickles in their
trees. As told here, there
are a few possibilities, and
they range from the mys-
tical to the commercial. All
that matters is that it brings
a smile and spark of
holiday magic into the
home for the holidays.

Source:
www.simplermost.com

Kissing under the mistletoe tradition dates back to first century

What's so romantic
about a parasite? The oh-
so-romantic mistletoe is
actually a life-sucking free-
loader. Becky Little, a free-
lance writer in Washington,
D.C., said for the past several
centuries people have found
mistletoe to be an interest-
ing plant.

In the first century
A.D., Celtic druids mixed
mistletoe into a drink to
give to animals because
they thought it would help
with the animals' fertility,
she says. It's also this
group that is credited with
hanging the plant above
their doorways.

"It's something that is
maybe special, has signs
of vitality, fertility," Little
said. "Because it's a par-
asite, it sucks the nutrients
from trees. And people in
European countries have
noticed this over the cen-
turies, because it's one of
the only things that stays
green during winter."

It's that fact that is fun-

damental to understanding
why mistletoe has had such
importance throughout the
years, she said.

But what gives mistle-
toe its romantic edge? She
said one has to look at
Norse mythology. In the
story, Balder, a son of Odin
(yes, the same Odin that
is father to Thor, for all you
Marvel fans), dies after
being pierced by a mistle-
toe arrow. In some ver-
sions, Little said that's the
end of the story. But in
others, Balder's mother
Frigg weeps when her son
dies and her tears turn into
mistletoe berries that bring
her son back from death.
After this miracle, Frigg

declares the plant a symbol
of love.

While there are a lot
of hints in mistletoe's story,
Little said, nothing about
the origin of kissing under-
neath is completely certain.

"We don't have one
answer for why people
began to kiss under mistle-
toe. Really, the first record-
ings we have of people
doing this are in the 18th
century," she said. "The
origin of traditions is hard
to trace and it does seem
like there was some evo-
lution from it being a
special, maybe romantic
plant that you would hang
up sometimes around the
winter solstice to some-

thing that you would hang
up around the winter sol-
stice again, but this time
you call it Christmas, and
kiss under it."

Traditions are ever-
changing and Little said
she thinks mistletoe could
be on its way out —
because, for as much as it's
mentioned in songs and
movies, she doesn't think
many people hang it up
during their holiday
parties.

This might be a good
thing though, because
unlike poinsettias, mistle-
toe is poisonous and should
not be ingested.

Source:
www.mprnews.org



The Ely Timberjay is published
weekly on Friday by The Timberjay,
Inc. Offices are at 414 Main St., P.O.
Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 [218-
753-2950], and PO Box 718, Ely, MN 55731
[218-365-3114]. Fax number is 218-753-2916. E-
mail address is: editor@timberjay.com. Visit our
website: www.timberjay.com.

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office in
Tower, Minnesota. POSTMASTER: Send
address changes to: The Timberjay, P.O. Box 636,
Tower, MN 55790. Three award-winning com-
munity editions are published each week for
Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

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| Publisher | Marshall Helmberger |
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Official Newspaper:

City of Tower, City of Orr, Townships of
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OUR COMMUNITY



Toni Zaverl, left, looks through hand-made greeting cards at the recent Gifts that Give event at Grace Lutheran Church. photo by K. Vandervort

Gifts that Give event features world-wide items

ELY - The annual Gifts
that Give event was recent-
ly held at Grace Lutheran
Church in Ely.

Handmade gifts from
around Ely as well as the
rest of the world, both beau-
tiful and practical, were
available. The Ely Area
Food Shelf also offered
soup, rolls, desserts and
coffee for a cash donation
to the Food Shelf.
Ely Folk School sold
items crafted by local arti-

sans in support of the Folk
School. Northern Lights
Clubhouse sold handmade
dishcloths and cards. The
Children's Choice Book
Award Project sold books
and/or opportunities to buy
books for the Ely elemen-
tary and middle school.

Story Portage sold
Equal Exchange fair trade
chocolates and teas to
support local literacy and
writing projects. Local
watercolor artist Sarah

Levar presented a selection
of cards and other artwork
in Support of Ely Rotary's
End Polio Now Project.
Vermilion Community
College Veterinarian
Technician students sold
dog and cat toys to support
their community service
projects. Friends of the
Library offered member-
ships and promoted the
holiday Donate-a-Book
project.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2017



holiday rushing
when light and peace might prevail
observe the quiet

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Taylor honored for service to arts

ELY - The Ely Music and Drama Club announced that Claire Taylor is this year's Community Service to the Arts Award recipient.

Claire was born in the Chicago suburb of Batavia, Ill., and later moved with her parents to Arizona, where she attended the University of Arizona in Tucson. In 1979, she moved to Minnesota, and in 1993, to Ely. She now lives in a cabin built on the property of her grandparents' Lindskog's Resort on Burntside Lake.

Claire loves the wilderness, the lake and fishing, but mostly, Claire loves making art. She began doing stained glass when she moved to Minnesota. She then, expanded to water colors and now pottery, all of which she does in her studio on the shores of lovely Burntside Lake, where she is inspired by the beauty of nature that surrounds her.

Although Claire loves her soli-

tude, she has always been active in many clubs and organizations since coming to Ely. She's been an active member of the Watercolor Club, the Garden Club, the Quilt Club, and the Pottery Guild, and has been a member of Northern Lakes Arts Association since moving to Ely. She has served as a board member of the Greenstone Public Arts and on the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust Board.

In addition, Claire has worked on planting trees around Trezona Trail, spent five years volunteering to teach art in the Ely Public Schools, and always donates art to the Ely Community Resource Art Auction, among others.

Claire is dedicated to making our community more beautiful, and has worked on the Miner's Mural on Central Avenue, the Blueberry Mural on the propane tank near the Grand Ely Lodge, and the tree mural at the

Claire Taylor helps make soup bowls for the annual Empty Bowl fundraising event for the Ely Area Food Shelf.
Timberjay file photo

hospital. She contributed to the quilt that hangs in the Ely Public Library, and spearheaded the stunning stained glass windows in the new library building.

"If anyone asks, I just give," said Claire. "I just believe we need to give back to our community." Claire Taylor has certainly done so much for the Ely community, and the Ely Music and Drama Club is so pleased to recognize her contributions with the 2017 "Community Service to the Arts" Award. Claire's name will hang with the 36 previous award recipients in the alcove entrance to the Vermilion College Fine Arts Theatre.



LEARNING THROUGH LEGOS



The Ely Middle School Lego robotics team includes: back row, Mariah Jeske, Chris Hegenbarth, Morgan McClelland, Robert Towley, Braydin Mosher, Peter McClelland; middle row, Sam Favet, Lily Dirks, Asher Folz, Abigail Johnson; and front row, Bryce Ferdig, Henry Lowe, Leo Stalmer, Tommy Homer. submitted photo

Ely Memorial Middle School teams compete in LEGO robotics competition

ELY - Two Ely Memorial Middle School teams and their robots recently participated in the First Lego League competition at Hermantown Middle School. Known as the "sport for the mind," the competition involves building and programming robots to perform several missions in a set of timed competitions, as well as a research and presentation component.

Participation prepares kids for STEM-related fields and develops life skills. The First Lego League in Minnesota is part of an international robotics program that includes more than 200,000 kids in 63 countries. This year, at 638 teams, Minnesota is home to the second largest number of teams in the world.

Ely fielded two teams, each competing with the robot they designed, built and programmed. Each team completed three 2.5-minute rounds where points were scored by completing missions on the themed challenge board. This year's theme was hydrodynamics, and each team researched and made a presentation on a real-world project related to the theme. Robot design and programming are also judged components of the competition.

AROUND TOWN

Minnesota Twins Tour to visit Ely

ELY - The Minnesota Twins Major League Baseball team will make a stop in Ely on their annual Winter Caravan Tour on Thursday, Jan. 25.

Ely fans can expect to see pitcher Jose Berrios, outfielder Eddie Rosario, broadcaster Dick Bremer and the Twins mascot, TC, at the International Wolf Center beginning at 1 p.m.

Typically, at the stops, Twins players and representatives each speak for a few minutes

about the upcoming season. There's usually time for questions from the audience, too. It's expected that the stop will last about 60 minutes.

Doors open at 12:30 p.m. on Jan. 25. There will be no fee for admission. The Wolf Center will close at about 4 p.m. The capacity of the Wolf Center's auditorium is approximately 150 people. Seating is not guaranteed.

Later that day, the Twins players will help kick off the Northland 300 snowmobile rally at the Grand Ely Lodge.



Mrs. Claus reads a Christmas story to Jessica Lovich and her two-year-old daughter, Cora, at the recent Mrs. Claus Party held at Amici's Event Center. photo by K. Vandervort

Ely Free Clinic open Mondays

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

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

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

Santa Paws
Hershey was decked out in reindeer antlers at the recent Santa Claus picture day at Vermilion Community College. Hershey belongs to Hailey Worth, of Ely.
photo by K. Vandervort



News in Brief

Co-dependents meet on Fridays

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

WASHINGTON D.C. SENIORS
Spaghetti Dinner
FUNDRAISER

ALL-U-CAN-EAT Spaghetti Dinner
Thursday, Dec. 28 • 2-7 pm
Ely High School Cafeteria

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

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

Join us at the Holiday
Boys and Girls
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
2018 WASHINGTON
DC SENIORS

St. Mary's, Holy Cross and St. Martin's Christmas/New Year Mass schedule

REGIONAL- We are happy to announce the Christmas and New Year's schedules at St. Mary's, Holy Cross, and St. Martin's.

The Christmas Mass schedule is Christmas Eve at St. Martin's in Tower at 4 p.m and at Holy Cross in Orr at 7 p.m. Christmas Day Mass will be at St. Mary's in Cook at 10 a.m.

With Jan. 1, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, falling on a Monday, it is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation. Father will still offer a Mass in honor of Mary, the Mother of God, at St. Mary's in Cook on Monday, Jan. 1 at 10 a.m.

Confessions are heard one half-hour before all Masses. If these times do not work for you please contact the rectory.

Public meeting for proposed Voyageur Country ATV Trail System on Jan. 4

REGIONAL- The Voyageur Country ATV Club and Benchmark Engineering encourage the public to attend an informational meeting concerning the overall master plan of the proposed trail system that will extend throughout northern St. Louis and Koochiching counties. This meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan. 4 at 5 p.m. at the American Legion in Orr.

The project proposes to add approximately 250 miles of new routes to an existing 250 miles of existing shared routes for ATV usage. This meeting will primarily focus on a general introduction of the project, its regional significance to northern Minnesota, and current status.

Planners are encouraging comments and/or questions regarding the trail system. Comments received, either written or verbally, will be recorded and considered when making future project decisions. If anyone is unable to attend the meeting, comments and/or questions may also be directed toward Voyageur Country or Benchmark Engineering.

To contact the Voyageur Country ATV Club, call Bruce Beste at 218-993-2401, Steve Koch at 218-374-3621, email voyageurcountryatv@gmail.com or write to PO Box 414, Crane Lake, MN 55725.

To contact Benchmark Engineering, call Jeremy Schwarze at 218-735-8914, email jeremys@bm-eng.com, or write to 8878 Main Street, PO Box 261, Mt. Iron, MN 55768

Wi-Fi hotspots available for checkout at Cook Library

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

Hotspot Terms of Use

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

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

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

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

Funding for these Hotspots was provided through the Blandin Broadband Grant. This grant was awarded to the Grizzlies community to support

Bookmobile schedule

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

Thursday, Dec. 28; Jan. 18; Feb. 8; March 1, 22.

Nett Lake – Community Center 9:30-10:15

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

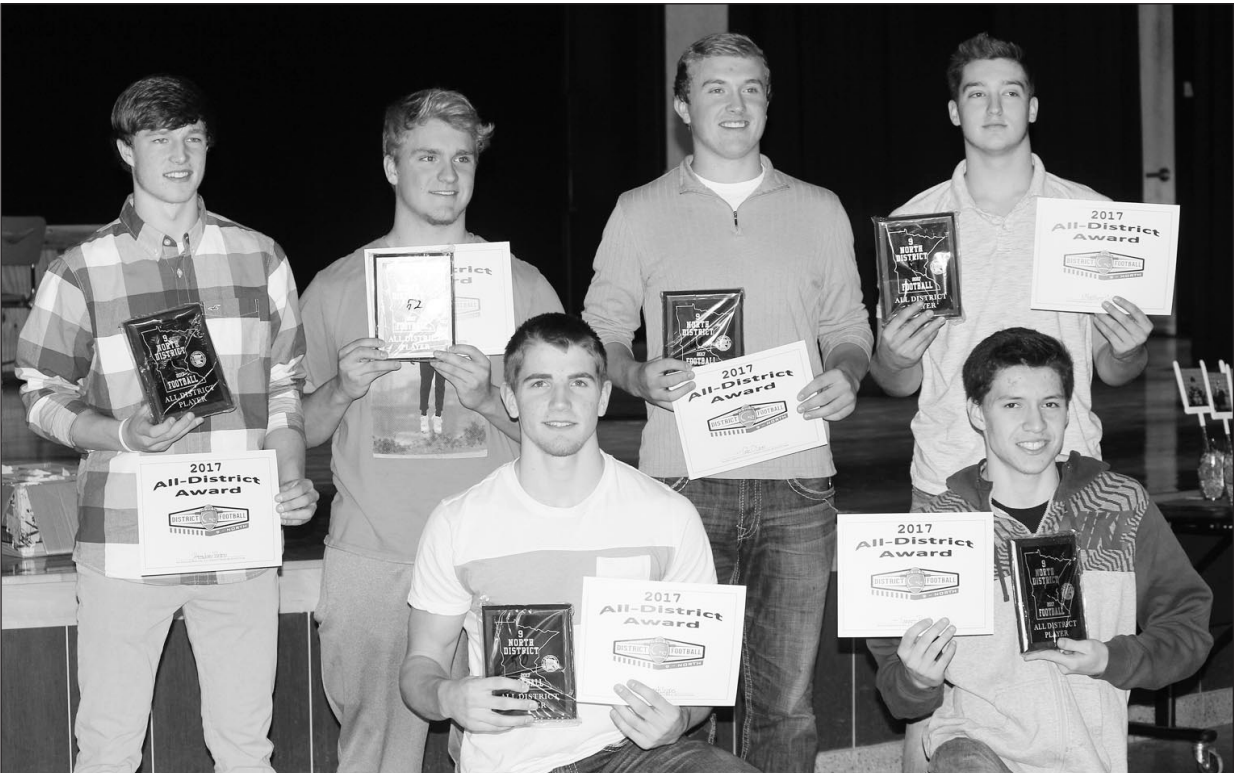
Orr – Lake Country ReMax building 1:45 - 2:30 p.m.

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 55768 218-741-3840, or check our website at www.alslib.info.

GRIZZLY SPORTS



Grizzly Football All-District players. submitted photos

North Woods Grizzly Football team receives honors

FIELD TWP- The North Woods Grizzly Football team held their annual banquet on Dec. 11. Team players were honored for participation in this state tournament team, and players were recognized for many awards.

Letter winners: Levi Byram, Nathan Crain, Clayton Janssen, Jerome King, Wyatt Kneen, Trevor Morrison, John Bye, Tanner Barto, Alex Byram, Dylan Chiabotti, Jake Hyppa, Dylan Day, Cade Goggeye, Stefen Johansen, Tyler Kiehm, Chase Kleppe, Kyle Nelson, Hayden Picek, Blake Scofield, Kent Villebrun, Brody Driscoll, Garrett Abramson, Austin Chaulklin, Dylan Kiehm, Tate Olson, Brendan Parson, Tim Pierce, Isaiah Squires, Matthew Schultz, Marcus Udovich.

Managers: Zoe Kisch, Alanna Rutchasky, Meadow Prescott, Jeremiah Voges.

Senior letter winners.

Team awards

Unsung hero: Austin Chaulklin

Most improved: Trevor Morrison

Best defense: Matt Schultz

Best offense: Brendan Parson

MVP: Brendan Parson

Brian Linn award: Matt Schultz

Honors

All District: Brendan Parson, Garrett Abramson, Tate Olson, Matt Schultz, Tanner Barto, Chase Kleppe

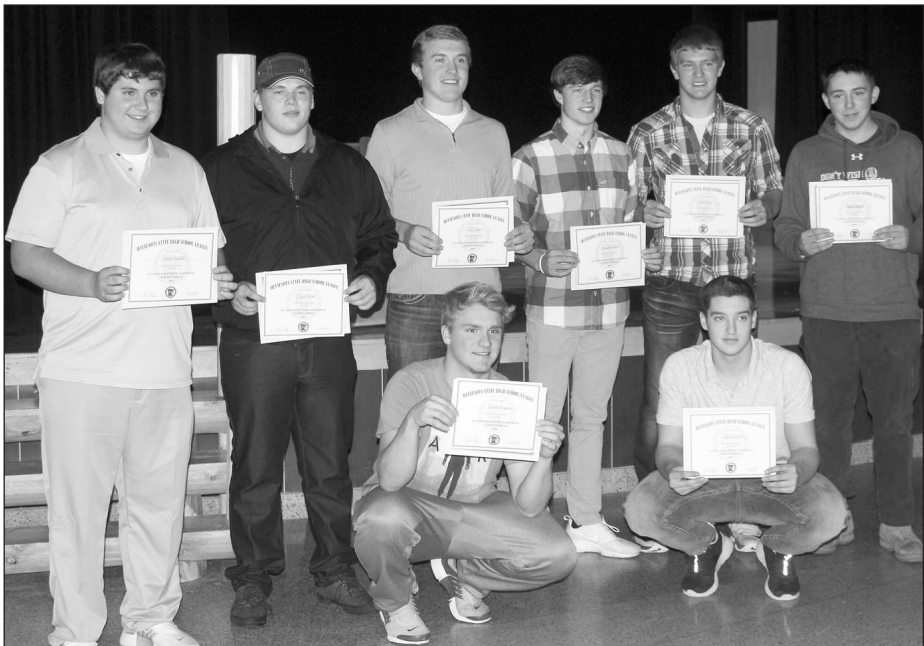
Honorable Mention All District: Dylan Kiehm, Austin Chaulklin

District MVP Back of the Year and Honorable Mention All State Team: Tate Olson

Honorable Mention All State Team and Duluth News Tribune First Team: Brendan Parson

9-Man All State Team: Garrett Abramson

9-Man All State Academic Team: Austin Chaulklin



NORTH WOODS MUSIC



The North Woods Choir sang the Carol of the Bells at their concert last week. There was also a performance by the high school band. photo by M. Roach

CRANE LAKE

Crane Lake News by the Singing Teapot Dames



CRANE LAKE- Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! If pos-

sible, reach out to those who cannot be home for Christmas — soldiers, nurses, the elderly in nursing homes requiring special care, those in hospitals, and all those stranded in Atlanta! They will appreciate your prayers and good will. As we are busy bustling around preparing for the holidays, they may be lonely, homesick, ill, or frustrated. May they be blessed with peace and

comfort.

The Dames are sure you will have a wonderful Christmas with the special season enjoyed by everyone, remembering the reason for the season. And soon it will be a new year. The Dames wish everyone a Happy New Year with 2018 being good to you and yours. We hope next year to again be available to tell the news as we see it.

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

Until next year, the Teapot Dames are singing off.

201 Hwy 53 SE Cook, MN
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NORTH WOODS ELEMENTARY

Card contest winners

The Timberjay would like to congratulate the winners of this year's Christmas Card Contest. Find the artwork from the following North Woods Elementary students, along with many others, in this week's special holiday edition.

Winners listed in order, first, second, third (ties as noted).

Kindergarten: Brylee Turnbull, Jordan Herdman, Ellie Sherman; **First:** Laurin Glass, William Flores-Leander, Cooper Long and Xena Hannine (tie); **Second:** Rebecca Koch and Evalyn Thiel (tie), Tysen Lenzen, Lilee Harrenstein and Alice Sopoci (tie); **Third:** Andrew Hartway, Grace Bundy, Khloe Holland; **Fourth:** Tristan Vidal and Isabelle Koch (tie), Brittin Lappi, Blaze Markwardt; **Fifth:** Alec Perala, Lucah Prescott and Amber Sopoci (tie), Natalie Bergman; **Sixth:** Helen Koch, Addy Hartway, Cadence Nelson and Victoria Olson (tie).

photo by M. Roach



COOK HOSPITAL

Matter of Balance classes look to expand



COOK- Scenic Rivers Health Clinic and Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging have offered two Matter of Balance classes at the Pioneer Senior Living Center in Cook this last year. We are proud to say they were a huge success and thank you to all of you who participated. The goals of the classes were to make home changes to reduce risk of falls, increase activity, and of course increase strength and balance through exercise. We are hopeful to continue to offer these classes, expanding to the Tower and Orr areas. If anyone is interested in becoming an instructor for these classes, please reach out to Pam Rengo, Nursing Supervisor at 218-666-5941. submitted photo



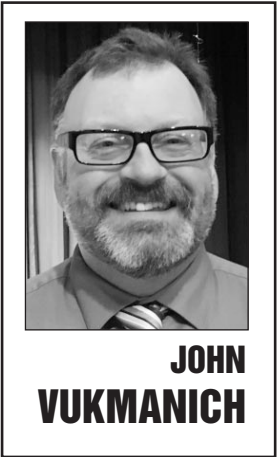
GRIZZLY UPDATES

Thoughts on school discipline policies, part 2

Why do kids misbehave? Kids sometimes come to school with issues that affect their school day, from lack of food and proper care at home to domestic violence. Sometimes they want the attention. Sometimes they don't want to work. Sometimes they don't want to be in school. Sometimes they want the control and to be able to manipulate the adults in their lives.

Family issues sometimes contribute to school behavior issues. Even well-meaning adults can have issues that emotionally affect their children, from losing a job to a death in the family to divorce and everything in between. In modern times, educators have been trained to show understanding, compassion, and flexibility to help students be successful even when events in their lives make school more challenging.

Thankfully most students understand that rules are in place to help them be successful. Those who don't hopefully eventually figure it out. There are rules in life just as there are in school, and mostly it comes down to being respectful of each other.



JOHN VUKMANICH

The vast majority of parents I speak with about a behavior issue with their child are totally supportive! It really does "take a village" to raise our kids. We are here to help your child be as successful as possible, but also hold them accountable so that they acquire the tools needed for success. We all want the best for our kids. In some instances, we just need to get on the same page about how we get there. The most common conflict issue that I hear at school from students and/or parents is that something "isn't fair." Parents and students can rest assured that we are doing our best to make a decision that works for ALL of the parties involved.

Here are some items

to keep in mind when parents find out about a behavior problem in school. These guidelines are more helpful if you read them with a sense of humor in mind:

When your child comes home and tells you about something that happened in school, you are receiving their side of it. Please listen to your child's teacher before reacting because there may be more to the story.

When student conflict occurs, the school has a responsibility to handle it in the best interest of both parties involved.

The right decision isn't always the popular decision.

School policy generally guides decisions involving behavior and consequences.

The adults at school do their best, but we aren't perfect. We don't see and hear everything.

Kids screw up. Even yours and mine. Make the best of it, learn from it, move on.

As a parent, don't ever tell a teacher, "My kid would never lie to me."

Parents and educators want the same thing: We want happy, well behaved

kids! Also, we want peace and quiet.

Student conflict is not always bullying.

Ask teachers what you, as a parent, can do to help the situation.

Please offer advice to your kids' teachers if you have strategies that work for your child. We are all ears!

The hard-edged disciplinary approach that many of us grew up with at school has been replaced with a less punitive, more nurturing and flexible approach. Consequences still exist, but our focus is on defining the root causes of behavior and addressing them so we can change the behavior.

There will be an excellent chance for parents and community members to hear a nationally known author on student behavior, Dr. Ross Greene, at the Mt. Iron Community Center on Thursday, Jan. 18 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. His theories are being incorporated into many schools in northeastern Minnesota, including North Woods.

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



the **TIMBERJAY**

The Cook-Orr Timberjay is published weekly on Friday by The Timberjay, Inc. Offices are at 414 Main St., Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 [218-753-2950] and Box 718, Ely, MN 55731 [218-365-3114]. Fax number is 218-753-2916. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Visit our website: www.timberjay.com.

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office in Tower, Minnesota. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Timberjay, P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Three award-winning community editions are published each week for Cook/Orr, Tower/Soudan, and Ely.

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Publisher | Marshall Helmberger |
| General Manager | Jodi Summit |
| Staff Writers | Melissa Roach Stephanie Ukkola |
| Ely Editor | Keith Vandervort |
| Office Manager | M. M. White |
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Official Newspaper:
City of Tower, Orr, Townships of Bearville, Breitung, Crane Lake, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Greenwood, Field, Morcom, Leiding, ISD 707.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Orr Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce, Laurentian Chamber.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Ruby's Pantry on Dec. 23 in Babbitt

BABBITT- Ruby's Pantry will be distributing food at the Babbitt Municipal Center, 71 South Drive, on Saturday, Dec. 23 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Ruby's Pantry is always the fourth Saturday of each month. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. A \$20 cash donation buys an abundance of food. There are no income or residency guidelines. Please bring two large boxes or baskets. Ruby's Pantry is sponsored by St. Pius X Catholic Church. Volunteers are always welcome.

Cook Senior Citizens to meet on Wednesday, Jan. 3

COOK- The Cook Senior Citizens will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 3 at 1 p.m. at the Homestead Apartments Community Room. The group will be playing a dice game, followed by coffee and snacks. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend. For more information, call Barbara at 612-868-3040.

Cook Library winter reading programs start Jan. 2

COOK- The Cook Public Library is ready for winter, offering programs and events for all ages.

Adults/Teens: Hot Reads for Cold Nights Mystery Edition. Check out books and enter to win prizes. Extra tickets will be given when mystery books are checked out.

Teen Event (7-12 grades): Jan. 26: Escape the Library, 5:30 p.m. Find the clues, solve the puzzles and escape the library!

Preschool – 6th Grade Reading Challenge: Every time a child checks out a book they will receive a green tree to hang in the library window. If 300 trees are in the windows by March 2, we'll have an ice cream party at the library.

Preschool Story Time, Fridays at 10:30 a.m.: Jan. 6: Tall Tales; Jan. 13: Making Music; Jan. 20: Animals; Jan. 27: Fire Safety.

VNP visitor center winter hours

INT'L FALLS- Voyageurs National Park's Rainy Lake Visitor Center will be closed Sunday, Dec. 24 through Tuesday, Dec. 26. The visitor center will be open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27 through Dec. 31, 2017.

Winter hours begin Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018. The Rainy Lake Visitor Center will be open Wednesdays through Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Visitors are invited to come to the visitor center over the holiday break to view exhibits, watch the park film, have a cup of cocoa and, conditions permitting, borrow cross country skis or snowshoes to explore the park.

Vermilion Dream Quilters meet on Thursday, Jan. 4

TOWER- The Vermilion Dream Quilters will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 4 in the social hall at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower.

Karen Lamppa will tell us about the Snowball Block Lottery. Then she and Vickie Lange will present our UnFinished Objects (UFO) Challenge that will be due in November. Bring one (or more) languishing and neglected projects you would like to complete. Get inspiration and encouragement from other members for steps or techniques that might have caused you to set the project aside.

Coffee an' will be served during the intermission. Hostesses are Noreen Saukko, Marlene Johnson and Leah Hazell.

Members encourage and instruct each other and share tips. For more information, please contact Corrine Hill in Tower at 218-753-4600.

EMBARRASS

Embarrass celebrates the holidays

Embarrass held its annual Ice Candle Celebration on Dec. 16. The cemetery and path to the town hall were all lit with ice candles. Inside the town hall there were treats and a visit from Santa. submitted photos



NORTHERN TWISTARS

Gymnasts compete at meet in Wisconsin



Northern Twistars Gymnastics students participated in their second meet of the 2017-2018 season. We traveled to Rice Lake, Wis., to participate in their Jingle Bell Jubilee. The group competed against eight other teams, all varying in team sizes and levels. The club includes students from the Tower-Soudan and Ely areas.

The gymnasts had a long but wonderful day, starting at 8 a.m. with the Silvers and concluding the evening at 9 p.m. with our Platinum

and Diamond athletes. What is wonderful about gymnastics is the challenges overcome during just one competition. The falls and getting back up. The routine hits and the misses. The highs and the bruises. The pain of not making the podium and the joy of standing on top. We were moved by the poise and the grace of our girls. They showed a great focus and drive that day that we have not seen before. Our team is definitely coming together with common goals and strong teamwork.

We want to acknowledge our 1st Place All-Around finishers: Zelia Brysch (Silver), Sophie Roark (Gold), Naomi Davis (Platinum) and Kiara Moeholenbrock (Diamond). We could not be more proud of their accomplishments and their leadership.

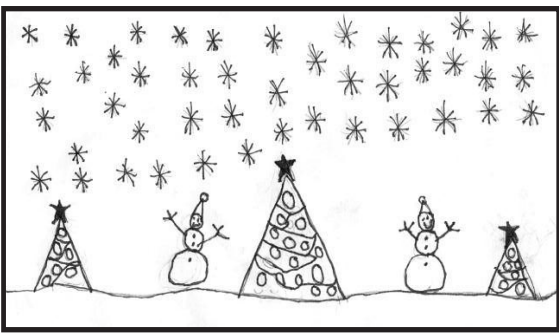
Article submitted by coaches Gwyn Roos, Lisa Fix and Emmalee Line, Northern Twistars Gymnastics, Virginia.

Enjoy the Warmth of Family & Friends! from Fortune Bay Resort Casino



Winning Artist • Matthias Boshey • Grade 2

Holiday Wishes to You! from Frandsen Bank-Tower



Winning Artist • Liz Achterling • Grade 3

Have A Very Merry Christmas! from Good Ol' Days



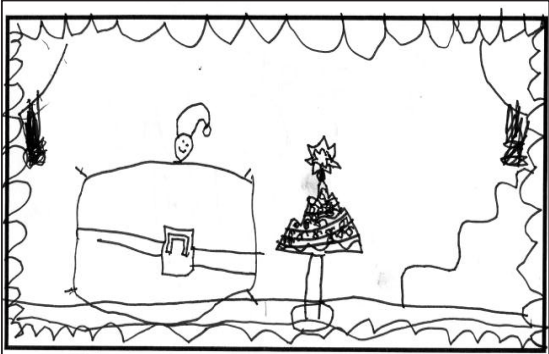
Winning Artist • Truce Lightfeather • Grade 6

Greetings From The North Pole! from Greenwood Township



Winning Artist • Serah Ross • Grade 1

Celebrate with a Merry Christmas! from Gruben's Marina



Winning Artist • Calvin Childs • Grade 1

We Wish You a Merry Christmas from Handberg's Marine



Winning Artist • Isabelle Koch • Grade 4

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

TOWER-SOUDAN



Holiday tradition

The Tower-Soudan Area Singers held their annual Christmas concert, Sunday, which featured holiday favorites, both new and old, as well as a visit from the Grinch and Santa and Mrs. Claus. The choir is led by Rolf Anderson. photos by S. Ukkola





Ely Steak House

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\$100 gift card gets a \$25 gift card free



218-365-7412
216 E. Sheridan St, Ely • www.elysteakhouse.com

Sending You Holiday Wishes!

from **Honey Wagon**



Artist • Kellin Pratt • Grade 3

Christmas Bells Ring With Joy!

from **Russ Hyppa Accounting**



Winning Artist • Natalie Bergman • Grade 5



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Holiday Cheer from Us!

from **KGM Contractors**



Winning Artist • Brylee Turnbull • Kindergarten

Deck The Halls This Christmas!

from **Lake Vermilion Houseboats**



Artist • Ian Sundahl • Grade 5



316 Main St, Tower
218-753-6097

Stop by for a Tom & Jerry!

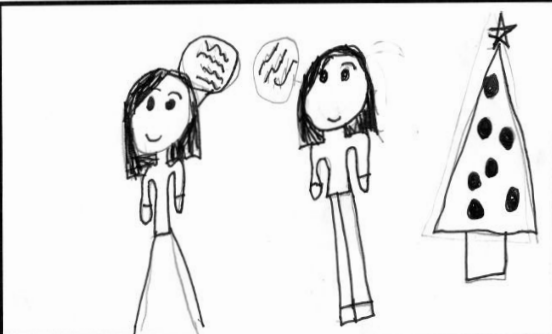
on
December 24
Christmas Eve



Tom & Jerry

Be Happy With Friends At Christmas!

from **Karl's Bread**



Artist • Claire Jonas • Grade 2

Enjoy the Warmth of Family & Friends!

from **Fortune Bay Resort Casino**



Winning Artist • Evalyn Thiel • Grade 2

Deck the Halls...It's Christmas!

from **Vermilion Park Inn's**
Winter Managers - Scarlet & Bill Stone & Staff



Winning Artist • Reanna Medicine Strand • Grade 3

COMMUNITY CREATIVITY

Ely is about to get its own hacker space

Hak Ely is a creative community collaboration effort aimed at empowerment

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Coming to Ely in January is the community’s own hacker space called Hak Ely.

What is Hak Ely?

“Hak Ely is for anyone interested in collaborating creatively on technological and artistic projects,” said its founder Zac Huberty. “No prior experience is required – we are all beginners.”

More precisely, Hak Ely is a hacker space.

So, what is a hacker space?

“It is a part of a worldwide movement aimed at empowering individuals to create and explore the world,” Huberty said. “We break the shackles of possible and strive to regain a curiosity with the world that many of us left behind as we grew older.”

Hak Ely is a new non-profit tech-maker space located above the Ely NAPA store and set to open in early 2018. Huberty said he wants to help, teach and inspire people to create products and promote themselves.

“Hak Ely is a community-defined space stocked with specialized equipment and supplies,” Huberty said. Located at 41 E Chapman St, the space will soon be accessible 24/7, and we will have regularly scheduled meetings based on a variety of topics, some including 3D Modeling/3D Printing, Natural Science, Virtual



Zac Huberty is set to open Hak Ely in the second floor space of the NAPA building on Conan Street. submitted photo

Reality, Industrial Sewing, Laser Engraving, Computer Programming, Game Design, Electrical Engineering, and more. “We do so by putting our heads together, by taking apart, by observing, by breaking, by fixing, by learning, by teaching,” he said.

Huberty described his vision for Hak Ely. “I dream of Hak Ely becoming a hub for ideas, collaboration, and community service, a place where people from around the state (from around the world?) come to take part in discussions and projects,” he said.

“Through well-

planned video conferencing, I envision collaboration occurring between similar spaces across the world - essentially we can create a portal to these other spaces where we can pool both intellectual and physical resources. Also, physical and digital products will develop from our ability to amass our collective human ingenuity. Some of these products will become valuable to different areas of the world and wealth will spread into areas where maybe those resources wouldn’t normally be available or affordable,” he said.

“Ely itself will grow

through our mission of empowering the individual to work with others and turn ephemeral concepts into distinct and concrete realities. Also, through artistic inspiration, the beautiful and genuine culture that is already present in Ely will find a new voice. We will open the space to the public in January, but this movement will last forever,” he said.

Huberty asked for interested people to let him know what knowledge and resources (even if it is just “junk” technology) they may have to offer. “We are seeking all kinds of volunteers, ideas, and resources. It is important to remember that this space is meant to be free,” he said. “The only assistance to Hak Ely will come through voluntary contributions and community service. This is to maintain upkeep and fund projects. If you are excited about this development, then mine is reciprocated tenfold, and it’s the same for early volunteers who have allowed themselves to believe in what this means for the community.”

Who is Zac Huberty?

As a young boy Zac grew up coming up to Mom’s cabin on Farm Lake, fishing, canoeing, exploring and swimming; it became one of his favorite places on earth.

Then growing-up happened. He went to college,

joined the military, got a degree, traveled the world, and all the while kept growing his skills in computer technology, eventually landing a hot programming gig in Washington, D.C. One day he had had enough of that “big city” life. He dreamed of running free in those wild evergreen-thick North Woods of his childhood.

Oh, and a couple more things about Zach. He’s been a boxing instructor, he’s a renegade insectologist, he speaks Arabic, typically runs several miles per day, and has an interest in Zen and meditation.

Classes and equipment

Here are a few examples Huberty offered of possible classes that will be offered at Hak Ely: Getting Your First Website - For Real Cheap, 3-D Printing 101, Microscopes Happy Hour, Programming in Python 101, Introduction to Industrial Sewing, Let’s Solder Something, and Intro to Facebook Business/Advertising.

“So far we have about 5,000 square feet of mostly open space, a couple of 3D printers, an industrial sewing machine, a virtual reality headset (HTC Vive), over a dozen banquet tables and many more chairs, projectors, various microcontrollers, a GameCube, lots of cheap computers, electronics tools and testing equipment, power tools, lovely junk, non-3D print-

ers (for you normal-ish people), video camera and green screen, audio-recording equipment, books, and lots of software. So, we’re getting there,” he said.

Getting involved


Huberty said the best way to get involved is to come to a class or meeting. “It’s all free, and free is good,” he said. “Donate old or unused technology by dropping it off, or message us and we’ll pick it up (great for charitable tax-deductions too). Sign up for a membership; membership costs will be a nominal monthly fee (maybe \$10-20/mo), and membership is not required to come to classes either - it is only encouraged. With a membership, you will receive an entry badge, which will give you 24/7 access to the space and its tools. You will also receive random fun gifts and a storage space for your project materials. You can also become a volunteer teacher. This is a great way for people to teach other people valuable skills and to showcase a level of proficiency in hopes of becoming a valuable community resource.”

To subscribe to their calendar, go to <https://www.meetup.com/hak-ely-mn/>. They have not announced their first classes or meet ups yet, but will soon.

To get involved, contact Huberty at info@hakEly.org.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Your legal rights: Don’t dial ‘1’ to stop bogus calls



53.5 cents per mile is now the reimbursement rate for AEOA volunteer drivers.

Volunteers in the Cook, Nett Lake and Lake Vermilion area are needed to drive persons to medical appointments and to work. Must have a valid driver's license, a dependable vehicle, insurance, a clean driving record and pass a background check.

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martin.lepak@aeoa.org

It can happen like this: “Ted” answers his phone. A pre-recorded voice instructs him to press “1” to stop future calls or “2” to speak with a live person. Ted presses “1” because he wants the calls to stop.

“Beth” receives a similar call. She presses “2”, intending to tell the caller to stop calling. In both cases, the call immediately disconnects. Neither “Ted” or “Beth” ever speak with a live person.

Pressing one of these numbers may seem harmless, but doing so may lead

to an increase in calls. Here’s why:

Scam artists often use dialing machines to place calls using a number generator. The automated dialer does not know when it dials a number whether or not that specific phone number is active. Answering such a call and then pressing “1” or “2” in response indicates that the number is valid and that someone has picked up the call. The scammer then may call again, knowing there is a good chance the call will be answered, in an effort to commit a finan-

cial scam. Or, the scammer may place your number on a list of “live” phone numbers he sells to other scammers.

If you get unwanted calls, the most effective approach is to simply hang up without speaking. Do not press any buttons, which just confirms that your number is active.

Unfortunately, given the ease with which such calls can be placed with modern technology, there is no quick or easy way to end these types of calls. These calls are almost always made by people

located outside Minnesota, and often outside the United States.

People should report these calls to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which has the authority to enforce laws regarding unwanted calls and work with international law enforcement authorities to curb financial scams.

You may contact the FTC as follows:

Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C., or call 877-382-4357.

Website: www.ftc-complaintassistant.gov

For more information about these and other scams, you may contact the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office at:

Office of Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson, 445 Minnesota Street, Suite 1400, St. Paul, MN 55101.

Call 651-296-3353 (Twin Cities Calling Area) or 800-657-3787 (Outside the Twin Cities).

TTY: (651) 297-7206 or (800) 366-4812

Website: www.ag.state.mn.us

From the Office of Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson

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NCUA

MINING...Continued from page 1

of credit or surety bonds, in addition to \$10 million in cash, for the first two years of construction. Most of that is designed to cover clean-up costs at the former LTV Steel Mining Company. PolyMet will assume legal liability for those clean-up costs once the DNR issues an actual Permit to Mine.

The proposal estimates the potential liability for the first year of actual mining at \$544 million, which represents the cost of closure, reclamation, and centuries of water treatment at the site assuming that PolyMet is unable to perform the work. That figure would be updated annually during the course of mining at the site, and could increase or decrease each year depending on the outstanding liabilities.

State officials will now examine PolyMet’s latest offer and decide whether

it meets the state’s anticipated costs for potential clean-up.

Environmentalists acknowledged that the numbers reflect an improvement over the company’s initial offer, but they express wariness at the same time. “The numbers look pretty good, but are they worth the paper they’re printed on?” asked Aaron Klemz, a staff attorney at the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. “The real issue is whether they can meet their promises,” he added.

Financial consultants that the state of Minnesota hired in late 2016 expressed similar skepticism, noting that PolyMet would almost certainly rely on the cash flow it would generate from its mining operation to purchase surety bonds, letters of credit, or other financial instruments. “Due

to numerous mine bond forfeitures that caused considerable losses to the surety industry, it has now become more difficult for mining companies to obtain surety bonds,” noted the consultants, Twin Cities-based Emmons Olivier Resources, or EOR, in their report. “For a small or new mining company like PolyMet it would be very difficult to obtain a reclamation bond if there is any risk of bankruptcy, which would be indicated if the financing or economics are not solid. It would be even more difficult to find a surety willing to guarantee a long-term financial assurance liability unless the project’s economics are very strong.”

If PolyMet is unable to obtain a surety bond, it would likely require that the company post up-front capital and “that could

harm the project’s feasibility,” according to the consultants.

Robust economics could be key to reducing the environmental risks of the project, since the company’s ability to fund its financial assurance package will likely depend on it.

It’s unclear how robust PolyMet’s finances would be under operation. While a 2008 financial report had suggested a robust 30-percent return on investment, that projection assumed a price (in 2008 dollars) of \$2.90 per pound for copper and \$12.20 per pound for nickel. After adjusting for inflation, the current copper price of \$3.05 per pound is slightly below the benchmark used by PolyMet in its 2008 report. And the current price of nickel, at just \$5.05 per pound, is barely a third of the price

that PolyMet assumed in its earlier analysis. At the time, nickel was estimated to generate more than a third of PolyMet’s total revenues from mining.

Klemz worries that continued sluggishness in the metals market could put the state’s taxpayers at risk. “If we get to year five of mining, and the company is struggling to meet their obligations, what happens if they can’t get the surety bonds?” he asks. The state could presumably force a shutdown at the mine, but Klemz notes that the ramifications of such a move would be politically fraught. “Are they going to shut them down? I can’t see a world in which they would do that.”

Instead, the state would be left hoping that the company could meet its obligations down the road, rather than up front, as

financial assurance is supposed to work.

PolyMet is working to update its financial projections, but won’t be able to issue them until the DNR has issued a draft permit. “We first need to have the state’s permit conditions in a draft permit before we can finalize the report,” said PolyMet spokesperson Bruce Richardson.

It’s unclear whether a new financial report will include a source of financing for the project, which will include an estimated \$650 million construction price tag in addition to financial assurance obligations. When asked by the *Timberjay* whether the company has obtained a commitment from its Swiss-based partner Glencore, or any other investors to fund the project, company officials did not respond.

POLITICS...Continued from page 1

no duties other than to preside over the Senate,” said Sen. Bakk. “But the constitution changed in 1971,” Bakk added, noting that the office became more substantive and took on a purely executive function. The lieutenant governor now presides over a number of executive branch commissions and has other significant duties in law, according to Bakk, who believes that Fischbach’s current plan would conflict directly with other constitutional provisions which prevent a person from holding two separate government positions at any one time, particularly when those positions include duties in the both the legislative and executive branches of gov-

ernment. “There’s a separation of powers issue there,” said Bakk.

Gov. Dayton, a DFLer, said he’s focused on hashing out a productive working relationship with the Republican Fischbach. He invited the senator to the governor’s mansion last Friday for lunch and both Dayton and Fischbach said the meeting was productive and that they look forward to working together.

As for whether Fischbach can hold both offices, Dayton said he’s leaving that to Attorney General Lori Swanson, who he has asked to rule on the question. Bakk said he’s confident that Swanson will find that Fischbach has no choice but to resign her Senate

seat. “It’s clear that you can’t hold two offices at the same time— that’s black and white,” said Bakk.

Senate control in the balance

Republicans are clearly concerned that their slim majority in the Senate could be undone by the strange turn of events. While the GOP currently holds a 34-32 seat majority, that margin was padded by the recent resignation of DFL Sen. Dan Schoen, of St. Paul Park, over sexual harassment allegations. DFLers hope they can hold that seat in a special election set for February.

That would leave the GOP with a single seat margin, an edge that would

be erased for a time if Fischbach is forced to resign her seat. And while Fischbach’s seat has been relatively safe Republican territory in recent election cycles, Bakk notes that Democrats have been overperforming in legislative special elections all around the country since the election of President Trump. He said he has already heard from several potentially strong DFL contenders for Fischbach’s St. Cloud area seat.

While the DFL’s prospects for retaking the Senate in the near-term are real, they depend on several dominoes falling in their favor. First, the DFL needs to hold Schoen’s seat, then Fischbach has to resign her seat to give the DFL

any hope of a special election pick-up.

The whole calculus could well be upset by the attorney general or, more likely, the courts, since neither side is likely to accept an adverse decision from Swanson. If it goes to court, the issue could remain in limbo for months, perhaps through the end of the next legislative session, which begins in February.

Meanwhile, GOP leaders have suggested a different solution, according to Bakk. He said Senate Majority Paul Gazelka, R-Nisswa, called him recently to suggest a January special session, during which the body could appoint a DFLer as Senate President. But Bakk sounded cool to the idea,

and such a session would require action by the governor. And it’s not clear that DFLers are particularly eager to relieve Republicans of the unusual circumstances they currently face.

The situation has prompted some charges by Republicans that Dayton’s appointment of Smith to fill Franken’s seat was intended to upset the GOP’s current hold on the Senate. But Dayton spokesperson Matt Swenson disputes that charge. “That was the farthest thing from the governor’s mind,” he said. “His primary focus was on who would be the best person. And he had no question in his mind from the beginning that it was going to be Tina.”

Merry Christmas to Everyone!

from Cook-Scenic Rivers Health Services



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Have A BIG, Merry Christmas!


from Cook - Vermilion Land Office



Winning Artist • Alice Sopoci • Grade 2

Treasure the Magic of Christmas

from Tim Johnson-State Farm



Winning Artist • Andrew Hartway • Grade 3

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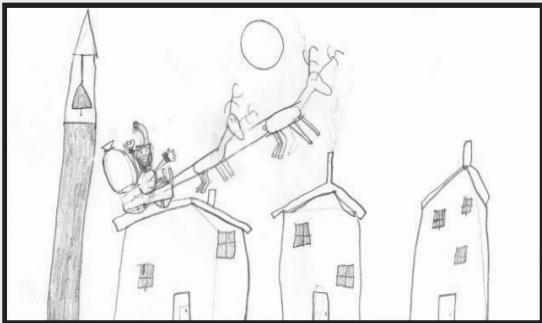
from Vermilion Land Office



Winning Artist • Katie Larson • Grade 1

Wishes for a Bright, Brilliant Holiday


from Waschke Family Chevrolet-Cook



Winning Artist • Tristan Vidal • Grade 4

Jingle Bells & Merry Christmas !

from Wally's Auto



Winning Artist • Laurin Glass • Grade 1

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

from Zup's Grocery-Tower



Winning Artist • Chase Kvistad • Grade 1

A time of special gifts!

from Voyagaire Lodge & Houseboats

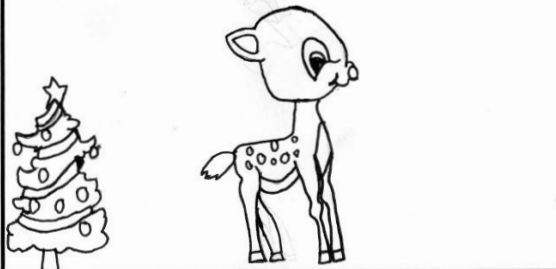


Winning Artist • Grace Bundy • Grade 3

Zup's of Cook

Says to you all.....

Have A Deer Christmas



Winning Artist • Alec Perala • Grade 5

CITY OF ELY

Ely strategizes for 17th Avenue work funding

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – On the heels of getting a lesson in the realities of state bonding from State Sen. Thomas Bakk at a recent legislative forum here, Ely Mayor Chuck Novak and the rest of the Ely Economic Development Authority remain determined to keep the 17th Avenue reconstruction project at the top of their priority list for next year.

Novak lobbied hard on Dec. 4 at the area Joint Powers’ annual gathering of northern Minnesota lawmakers for state funds of up to \$1.6 million to renovate the city street adjacent to Vermilion Community College, including infrastructure work, pavement and curb and gutter.

“At the risk of sounding like the Grinch,” Bakk responded to Novak’s arm-twisting, “it’s a city street. If we’re going to start using state and general fund bonding to rebuild city streets, where is it going to end?”

In remarks last Tuesday night on next year’s list of priorities for economic development projects, EEDA President

City Council wraps up business for 2017

Heidi Omerza referenced the street project, “For those of us who were at the legislative luncheon, we might want to switch one of them, or not.”

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski was quick to defend the project. “The 17th Avenue project is a good lobby for state funding, and that means many different things,” he said. “We have received DEED (Minnesota’s Department of Employment and Economic Development) funding for the project. When we say state funding, it means many different sources.”

He also noted that the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board is “very supportive” of the project. “We understand that not every request we make is going to be funded,” Langowski said. “We are always hopeful that there is a solution.”

Novak said he hesitates on changing the EEDA priorities list in the new year. “We have put a lot of time and effort into the project,” he said. “If we

back down from this now, we might lose some sizzle.”

He quickly shifted gears to the recreational trailhead project for the west end of town. Bakk had indicated that bonding for that project has a better chance of succeeding in St. Paul next year when state legislators are in session.

EEDA member Paul Kess suggested changing the wording on the priority list for 17th Avenue work from “lobby for state funding” to “seek appropriate funding sources” for the project. “It is not just state funding,” he said. “Our priority is to rebuild the street.”

EEDA member Ryan Callen suggested getting the street designated for county/state aid funding. “That’s a tough one,” Novak said. “That has already been brought up. To do that, Miner’s Drive would also have to be a state aid road. We would have to give up other county/state aid streets.”

Other projects

Ely’s economic advisor, John Fedo, sum-

marized his activities for the month on his \$3,500 invoice for consulting services.

Fedo followed up with phone calls with a developer and the city clerk in reference to the potential for locating a housing project near the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital for individuals with disabilities. “We asked for and received a letter of intent from Rural Living Environments,” he said. We hope to make this part of the redevelopment area by the hospital.”

Fedo indicated that the city clerk is reviewing maps and reviewing utility extension locations for the project.

Blandin Foundation grants were awarded in October for the implementation of the Ely Tech Center and small business marketing proposals. “Both of those projects moved quite a ways down the road, particularly with Northeast Entrepreneur Fund helping us implement the various elements,” he said. The marketing program will launch in the

spring.

Fedo said he continued conversations with a potential (and unnamed) manufacturing/retail developer in Ely. “We had a meeting on Dec. 7, and we put together the developer and property owner,” he said. “There was a significant amount of time spent in taking dimensions and measurements. This (project) could move forward fairly fast. There is employment (involved) and this could be fairly unique.”

Fedo also said he participated in the recent Incredible Ely Business Conference. He is also continuing discussions and meeting with Northspan, Northland Foundation and Entrepreneur Fund regarding development funding for Ely. “The first project has been funded in December,” he said. He provided no further details.

Council wraps up for the year

In a brief year-end meeting Tuesday night skipped by Mayor Novak,

the Ely City Council took the following action:

- Approved three-year labor contracts for supervisors of essential employees and supervisors of non-essential employees that call for wage increases of 2.75 percent in the first two years and 2.5 percent in the third year of the contract;
- Authorized Police Sgt. George Burger to attend the 2018 Lifesavers Conference in San Antonio, Texas in April;
- Approved council and staff to attend the League of Minnesota Cities 2018 Leadership Conference at Brooklyn Park on Jan 26-27;
- Contracted with TKDA to provide design, bidding and construction services for the proposed picnic pavilion at Semer’s Park;
- Approved renewing the five-year lease of the airport real estate with the Federal Aviation Administration;
- Approved the hiring of Jeremy Moen to the Ely Fire Department;
- Passed a resolution allowing for vacating of two portions of city right-of-way property.

BEAR...Continued from page 1

pounds. According to DNR officials, it is abnormal for bears to be walking around at this point in the year. They speculated the bear may have been awakened by the power tools the construction workers were using.

The incidents were reported just before 11 a.m. Deputies shot the bear, within 100 yards of the scene where the carpenters were attacked.

“We had deputies out there and (conservation officers) and they got it pretty close to the scene,”

Provost said, adding that DNR biologists will inspect the bear to find out why it was awake, moving around and aggressive.

In June 2013, a 72-year-old rural McGregor woman was bitten and clawed by a bear in the woman’s yard just outside her lake home. The woman received non-life-threatening injuries and the bear was later killed when it charged at a state conservation officer about 200 yards from where the attack occurred.

Black bear attacks on humans are very rare anywhere in the world, including Minnesota. And because black bears usually enter hibernation in late October, spending the winter in a mostly sleepy state and not venturing outside, they are seldom seen during winter months. Bears usually spend winter in some sort of den, in piles of leaves or under uprooted trees and live off their fat reserves until spring.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT



Kayla Larsen, of Ely, decorates a ginger bread boy ornament while participating in the recent Santa Day event at the Grand Ely Lodge. photo by K. Vandervort



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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wolves fall to Agates, again

Ely easily outpaces Chisholm in Monday night action

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

TWO HARBORS – Ely jumped out to a ten-point lead early in the first half of Tuesday night’s rematch with Two Harbors. But it was all Two Harbors after that, as the Agates, led by junior forward Tori Bott, went on to win 57-49. It was Ely’s second loss of the season to Two Harbors as they fell to 3-3.

Ely watched in frustration as their early lead slowly evaporated before the half. A Two Harbors’ trey as the halftime buzzer sounded sent Ely to the lockers trailing 31-26.

Ely started the second half with a strong run and tied the score 35-35 with 10:50 left in the game. But Two Harbors dominated the rest of the way, outscoring Ely 20-4 over the next eight minutes to put the game away.

Erika Mattson led offensively for

Right: Senior guard Shayla Zaverl moves up the court while pressured by a Chisholm defender.

photo by J. Greeney

Ely, pouring in 22 points, and connecting on three of four from outside the arc. Shayla Zaverl added 12 points while Lida Dodge notched eight points.

But the Wolves just couldn’t

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



BOYS BASKETBALL

Top-ranked Grizzlies outpace Ely

Battle of the unbeaten goes to North Woods

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

FIELD TWP— The Grizzlies showed why they’re the top-ranked Class A boys basketball squad in Minnesota here on Friday as they downed the previously unbeaten Timberwolves 87-58. It was a game marked by exceptional performances, particularly by Grizzlies senior forward Tate Olson, who led all scorers with 33 points, and Ely junior guard Patrick Vanderbeek, who sank nine three-pointers on his way to 29 points.

“It was a good win against a good section opponent,” said Grizzlies Head Coach Will Kleppe. “Vanderbeek scored at will against us but we did an excellent job of limiting the rest of Ely’s team. Tate, Cade, and Brendan carried us despite some unusual foul trouble for the three of them.”

Both teams came into Friday’s tilt undefeated, and they guarded their perimeters with a vengeance, forcing much

See **BOYS...pg. 2B**



Left: North Woods senior Tate Olson goes up high for an easy lay-up. Olson had a big night against Ely last Friday, scoring a game-high 33 points.

photo by M. Helmburger

Above: Ely’s Carter Gaulke grimaces as he looks for an opening under heavy pressure from the Grizzlies’ Cade Goggleye. photo by C. Stone

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lady Grizzlies improve to 5-1

Edge Wrenshall 66-60, easily outpace Fond du Lac

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

FIELD TWP— The Grizzlies held off a late rally by Wrenshall to notch their fifth win of the season on Monday, 66-60.

The Grizzlies used a strong first half to cinch the win despite being outscored by the Wrens 32-26 in the second half. The Grizzlies steadily built their early lead and took a 40-26 margin into the break.

Junior guard Bria Chiabotti led scoring for the Grizzlies, who had three players in double figures. Chiabotti hit seven from the field, including a three-pointer, and hit four-of-five from the foul line, good for 19 points. Sophomore center Sasha Strong notched 13

points, including a trey, while Regan Ratai tallied ten points.

Brynn Simpson added eight, Hanna Sandberg tallied five, and Kennedy Wardas added four.

In action last Thursday, the Grizzlies downed Fond du Lac 70-54. Bria Chiabotti had another big night, pouring in 18 points, including two from outside the arc and six more from the key.

While the Grizzlies led the whole way, Fond du Lac kept the game within reach, thanks to a big night from Kayla Reynolds, who scored a game-high 23 points. The Grizzlies led by nine at the half, and slowly padded their margin late in the game. Kate Stone added 13 points, while Hanna Sandberg added 12. Brynn Simpson added seven and Regan Ratai added four.

With two wins on the week, the Grizzlies improved to 5-1 as they head into the holiday break. They’ll be next back in action at the Esko Coaches Classic, set for Dec. 28-30.

Left: Freshman guard Brynn Simpson grabs a loose ball during last Thursday’s game at Fond du Lac.

photo by C. Stone



Sports week

Boys bball

Dec. 28-30
North Woods Holiday Tournament

Dec. 28-29
Ely Holiday Tournament

Girls bball

Wednesday, Dec 27-28
NER at Holiday Tournament
Ely at Hoops for Hope Tournament

Thursday, Dec. 28-30
NW at Esko Classic

Hockey

Dec. 28-30
Ely at North Shore Tourney, TBD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Quick start fuels Grizzlies' rout of Floodwood

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

FIELD TWP— The Grizzlies jumped out to a 20-0 lead against Floodwood and never looked back en route to an 89-46 drubbing of the Polar Bears on Tuesday. “We used a lot of full court pressure and created a

lot of turnovers,” said North Woods Head Coach Will Kleppe. “We had a good rotation and were able to go into the bench early. That gave a lot of players minutes,” he added. Such is the routine for North Woods these days, as the number one-ranked Class A team has come to consistently dominate

opponents, at least in the season’s early-going. The Grizzlies won big despite a relatively slow night offensively for a team that has averaged 95 points a game so far this season. Cade Goggleye had a good night, putting up 23 points, while Trevor Morrison added 15 and Brendan Parson notched 14.

Tate Olson, whose big night last Friday spurred the Grizzlies’ win over Ely, had a relatively quiet night, with nine points. Also scoring for the Grizzlies were Tanner Lokken, with eight, Isaiah Squires and Darius Goggleye, both with six, and TJ Chiabotti and Chase Kleppe, with three apiece.

The undefeated Grizzlies have a few days off before hosting their annual holiday tournament Dec. 28-30. They’ll be back in regular action on Monday, Jan. 8.

BOYS...Continued from page 1B

of the scoring to the outside. Indeed, Ely sank 13 from beyond the arc, for 39 of their 58 points. Most of the rest of their scoring came from the foul line, as they sunk 12 of 19 free throws. The Wolves picked up just four two-point field goals on the night, as the Grizzlies largely kept them out of the paint.

Vanderbeek had the hot hand for the Wolves, connecting on nine treys. Carter Gaulke scored nine, five of them on free throws, while Adam McDonald sank five from the line and added a three for eight points. Junior guard Trevor Mattson added eight points, while Eric Omerza added three.

The Grizzlies’ Olson found more success working inside, but still connected on five treys for nearly half of his total points. Yet Olson had plenty of scoring help, which made the difference for the Grizzlies. Also contributing were senior Brendan Parson, who notched 17 points, including three from outside the arc, and junior guard Cade Goggleye, who tallied 16, including five three-pointers. Tanner Lokken added ten, while Chase Kleppe tallied six, and Isaiah Squires, added five.

The Grizzlies jumped to an early ten-point lead and steadily built their margin through much of the game. Ely managed to close the gap to ten just before half, but the Grizzlies responded with back-to-back treys as time ran out, to take a 36-20 lead into the break.

The Grizzlies padded their lead early in the second half, until Ely mounted its last effort at a rally at the eight-minute mark. Vanderbeek, for a time, couldn’t miss from the outside and Ely closed to within 11 points. But that was as close as they would get. Olson and Goggleye responded once again with a series of treys, and as the remaining minutes ticked down, it was clear Ely had lost the momentum.



Ely's Carter Gaulke looks for help under heavy pressure from North Woods guard Cade Goggleye. photo by M. HelMBERGER

“I thought we competed well at times against North Woods,” said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald, “but their athleticism got to us on both ends of the floor.” McDonald noted that the Grizzlies’ inside defense was tough to penetrate. “They pushed us out into areas where we couldn’t generate any offense. And they have too many weapons offensively and we just couldn’t contain everyone.”

McDonald’s observation was borne out in the final results. While Olson had a big night, the Grizzlies still had four players in double

digits. With so many weapons, it’s hard to know who might be able to contain the Grizzlies’ offense, which has averaged 97 points a game so far this season. “They are number one in the state for a reason,” said McDonald.

With the win, the Grizzlies improved to 5-0, while Ely slipped to 3-1.

The Grizzlies are off until the North Woods Holiday Tournament, set for Dec. 28-30. Ely is set to host Upsala on Dec. 28.

ELY GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

contain Tori Bott, who tallied 35 points for the Agates.

In other games, Ely used a quick start on Monday to easily outpace Chisholm, 59-35. The Wolves managed the win despite troubles on the court. “Foul trouble plagued us but people stepped up,” said Ely Head Coach Darren Visser. “Tonight was a night where a lot of different people came through big

for us. I feel that our team is starting to develop a chemistry that allows us to overcome different situations,” said Visser. “It was a great team win.”

The Wolves got a double-double performance from Shayla Zaverl who poured in 25 points, and tallied 11 rebounds and five assists. Erika Mattson notched a double-double of her own, with 15

points and ten rebounds.

Ely will enjoy a week’s break over the holiday. They’ll next play two games in their Hoops for Hope tourney on Dec. 27 and 28. First game is 7:15 p.m. while game two is either 2 p.m. or 3:15 p.m. depending on the outcome of their opening game.

Sports briefly

Nighthawks fall to Vikings

B A B B I T T — The Nighthawks kept it close for half a game, and then Cook County blew it wide open to take a 83-40 win back to Grand Marais. The Vikings racked up 55 points in the second half and the winless Nighthawks couldn’t keep pace.

Senior guard Quintin Pecha had a hot hand, with a season-high 24 points, but he didn’t have much help. Brett Rosendahl added eight points, and Dillon Gorsma and Austin Erickson had four points apiece.

The Nighthawks have an extended break over the holidays. They’re back in action on Friday, Jan. 5, against the Timberwolves, in Ely. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

Two losses for Ironmen

COON RAPIDS – It was anyone’s ball game, but when the buzzer sounded, the Ironmen found themselves on the short end of a 94-91 final in the opening round of a weekend tournament here. “Great game Friday,” commented Vermilion Head Coach Paul McDonald. “Had our chances.”

Indeed they did, as they went back and forth from start to finish with Dakota Tech, swapping leads an astonishing 24 times. Both teams shot the ball well and limited their turnovers. The Ironmen had three starters foul out of the game which didn’t help close out the game.

Demetrice Mitchell led the Ironmen with 27 points and a team leading 14 rebounds followed by

Bradlee Lewis who added 24 points to go with ten rebounds. Glenn Smith gave them a boost coming off the bench to score 15 points while Denario Jackson led the team with nine assists.

The Ironmen ran into a hot shooting Rams team for their Saturday afternoon game. Anoka-Ramsey held a ten-point lead at halftime and went on to win 101-85.

“Anoka-Ramsey shot the lights out from three,” said McDonald. The Rams were 20 of 37 from three-point range for a 54 percent shooting average compared to 11 for 31, or 35 percent, for the Ironmen.

“Played hard all weekend,” added McDonald. “Good first half of the season for us.”

The Ironmen will have a two-week break and then host Ridgewater on Friday,

Two losses for VCC women

Jan. 5 at 3 p.m. COON RAPIDS – VCC squared off with Rochester on Friday to start a two-day tourney. Despite playing one of their better games of the season the Yellow Jackets won 87-60.


“Great team effort again against a solid team,” said Vermilion Head Coach Krystal Brodeen. “Had three girls in double digits.”

VCC was led by Kira Abernathy who had 20 points. Daysha Davis came off the bench to score 15 points while Wynter George added 13 points to go with four assists.

Saturday afternoon’s contest was a step back for the Ironwomen. Horrible shooting got the best of them as they lost 60-39 to host Anoka-Ramsey.

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from Cook Hospital



Winning Artist • Victoria Olson • Grade 6

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from Cook VFW



Winning Artist • Jordan Herdman • Kindergarten

Happy Christmas Wishes to You!

from D'Erick's of Tower



Artist • Kasen Dostert • Grade 1



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Obituaries And Death Notices



Peggy A. Connor

Peggy Ann Kletschka Connor, 68, passed away on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017, at her home. Funeral services were held at the Nett Lake Government and Services Center on Friday, Dec. 15. Kevin Land was the officiant. Military honors were performed by the Bois Forte Honor Guard, Cook VFW Post 1757 and Orr American Legion Honor Guard Post 480. Casket bearers were Stan Day, Jeff Isham, John Day, Kenneth Villebrun, Peter Connor and Lawrence "T-John" Connor. Arrangements

were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Peggy was born to Amos and Dorothy (Porter) Quaderer, on June 13, 1949, in Cook. She had a long career with the military. Peggy began her career in the United States Army on July 11, 1969. She later enlisted in the United States Naval Reserve on Jan. 10, 1974. Her subsequent assignments included Naval Air Reserve Unit, Alameda, CA (Jan 1974-August 1976); Chief of Naval Reserve, Recruiting Branch Manpower Division, New Orleans, LA (August 1976-March 1977); Naval Reserve Support Office, Naval Support Activity, New Orleans, LA (April 1977-April 1979); Naval Reserve Readiness Command Region Sixteen, Minneapolis, MN (May 1979-March 1982); Naval Air Reserve Unit, Alameda, CA (April 1982-May 1985); Office of the Director of Naval Reserve, Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, DC (June 1985-November 1987); Personnel Support Activity Detachment, Naval Training Center, Great

Lakes, IL (Dec 1987-December 1991); Personal Support Activity Detachment, Naval Air Reserve Center, Minneapolis, MN (Jan 1992-March 1995); and again at Naval Reserve Readiness Command Region Sixteen, Minneapolis, MN (March 1995-March 1996). Petty Officer First Class Connor was authorized to wear the Navy Good Conduct Medal (5th Award); Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal; National Defense Service Medal (2nd Award); and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with Hour Glass). Peggy retired honorably from the U.S. Navy in 1996.

Since her retirement, Peggy had made her home in Eveleth and Nett Lake. She enjoyed traveling to different casinos to watch the shows. Peggy loved to craft. She was a talented lamp maker, and adorned each lamp shade with various beads. Peggy was a member of the Bois Forte Bear Clan. The military and her heritage were important aspects of her life and she spent many hours col-

lecting information for a Native American Veterans Memorial Book.

Peggy is survived by her son, Patrick (Annette) Connor of Orr; foster parents, James and Demaris Davenport and family; siblings, Richard (Arlene) Kletschka of Flandreau, S.D., Ricardo (Barbara) Kletschka of Owatonna, Roger (Mary) Kletschka of Ringgold, Ga., Dorothea Kletschka of Nett Lake, Cindie Broshears of Tower, Pamela (Jim) Gersemehl of Mankato, Robin (Kevin) Nordberg of Hutchinson and Roxanne (Scott) Tolzman of North Mankato; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Peggy was preceded in death by her husband, James Connor; mother, Dorothy (Dooda) Glende; stepfather, Donald Glende; fathers, Amos Quaderer and Richard Kletschka; brothers, Rodney Quaderer, Patrick Kletschka and Gregory Kletschka; aunts and uncles; and her beloved cat, "Catdog" whom she lost about a year ago.

Lorraine Klobuchar

Lorraine Volk Klobuchar, of Eveleth, formerly of Ely, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017, in her home. A celebration of Lorraine's life will be scheduled at a later date. Cards or memorials may be sent to Family of Lorraine Klobuchar, 2032 Chippewa Shores, Ely, MN 55731.

She is survived by her son, Kyle Klobuchar, currently serving in the military in Texas; ex-husband and friend, Rick Klobuchar; and six sisters, Patty (Jay) Fortner of Isle, Mary Crystal (Newton) Nickerson of Ely, Donna (Bernie) Scufsa of Cottage

Grove, Kathy (Jim) Meier of Babbitt, Stephanie (Bruce) Danielson of Plymouth and Francine (John) Hanson of Ham Lake.

George D. Zembal

George D. Zembal, 63, of Ely, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017, at Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital. Funeral services were held on Saturday, Dec. 16 at Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely. Family arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

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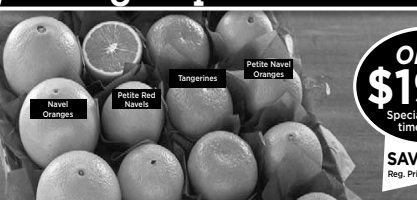
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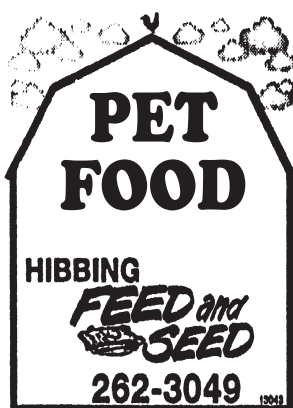
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CONSUMER TIPS

Tips to save energy and money during the holidays

REGIONAL- The Minnesota Department of Commerce recommends several simple ways to conserve energy and save money this holiday season:

- Ask for and give energy-efficient gifts, such as ENERGY STAR® home entertainment equipment, appliances, and computers that are efficient and environmentally friendly. Check out the ENERGY STAR Holiday Gift Guide.
- Replace incandescent decorative lights with high-efficient LED (light-emitting diode) bulbs for your indoor and outdoor holiday lights. LEDs use up to 90-percent less energy. Learn

more about the energy savings from LEDs at the U.S. Department of Energy. And recycle your old lights—visit the Clean Energy Resource Teams website for LED information, including recycling locations and utility rebates.

- Use timer controls when decking your house in holiday lights. Timer controls allow you to automatically turn lights on and off at specific times.
- Plug your lights and electronics into a power strip and turn it off when electronics and lights are not in use. Even when not in use, plugged-in devices draw small amounts of energy.
- Turn down your ther-

mostat if you're going to be away from home for the holidays. Install a programmable thermostat to control the heating and cooling of your home year-round.

- Entertain efficiently. When guests arrive, turn down your thermostat a few degrees, because the combination of the oven and stove, hot food, and warm bodies will help keep your home comfortable.
- Save energy in the kitchen. Simple actions in the kitchen, such as using the right-sized pots on stove burners and using the oven light to check on a dish's progress to prevent heat loss instead of opening the oven door, can save energy.

➤ Maintain your home heating system. You can save money and increase your comfort by properly maintaining your heating system—have your system inspected annually, clean or replace furnace filters once a month or as recommended, eliminate trapped air from hot-water radiators once or twice a season, and more.

- Cover leaky windows. Install clear plastic film ("shrink wrap") to the inside of your window frames to reduce drafts.
- Maintain your fireplace. Close your fireplace damper when a fire is not burning and install airtight doors to prevent warm air from escaping up the

chimney.
For more energy-saving suggestions, read the DOE's "12 Days of Energy Savings" (<https://energy.gov/articles/12-days-energy-savings>) and Commerce's Home Energy Guide (<https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/your-home/energy-info/home-energy-guide/>). Minnesota Energy Tips is provided twice a month by the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources. Contact the division's Energy Information Center at energy.info@state.mn.us or 800-657-3710 with energy questions.

SAFETY TIPS

Use your generator safely this winter

REGIONAL- Generators are critical during severe weather events, when the power can go out, as well as for bringing power to remote job sites, and in disaster recovery and emergencies. As we move into the upcoming "snow season", a time when homeowners' electricity can go out due to snow and ice, the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI), an internation-

al trade association representing small engine, utility vehicle and outdoor power equipment manufacturers and suppliers, reminds home and business owners to keep safety in mind when using generators.

- Take stock of your generator. Make sure equipment is in good working order before you start using it.
- Follow all manufacturer's instructions. Review the owner's manuals for your equip-

ment if possible (you can look manuals up online if you cannot find them) so you can operate your equipment safely.
➤ Have the right fuel on hand. Use the type of fuel recommended by your generator manufacturer.
➤ Ensure portable generators have plenty of ventilation. Generators should NEVER be used in an enclosed area or placed inside a home or garage, even if the windows or doors are

open. Place the generator outside and away from windows, doors, and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.
➤ Keep the generator dry. Do not use it in wet conditions.
➤ Only add fuel to a cool generator.
➤ Plug in safely. If you don't yet have a transfer switch, you can use the outlets on the generator. It's best to plug in appliances directly to the generator. If you must use an extension cord,

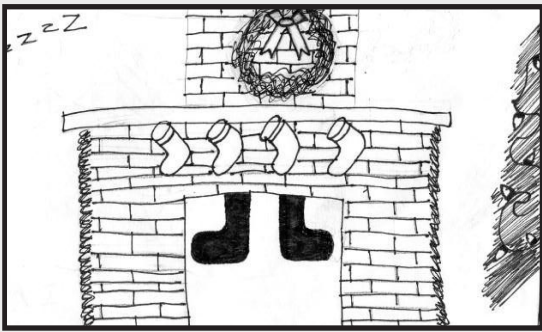
it should be heavy-duty and designed for outdoor use.
➤ Do not use the generator to "backfeed" power into your home electrical system.
➤ Install a battery operated carbon monoxide detector in your home or business.
For more safety tips for outdoor power equipment, visit <http://opei.org/safety-tips/>.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas!
from Lamppa Manufacturing



Winning Artist • Colt Kvistad • Grade 5

We Wish You A Cozy Christmas
from Lumber Orr Hardware



Winning Artist • Helen Koch • Grade 6

Merry Christmas to You!

from Melgeorge's Elephant Lake Lodge



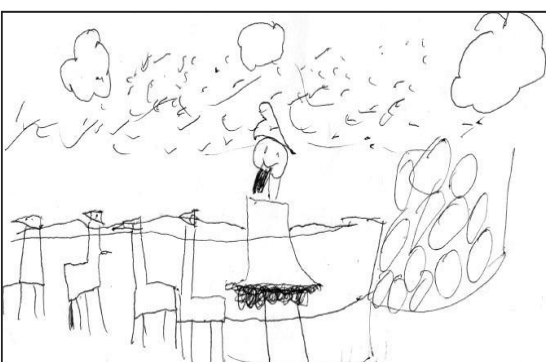
Winning Artist • Rebecca Koch • Grade 2

Have A Cozy, Merry Christmas!
from Nordic Home North



Winning Artist • Eva Larson • Grade 2

Celebrate Merry Christmas Like Santa!
from Norman's One Stop



Winning Artist • William Flores Leander • Grade 1

Have a Spirit-Filled Christmas
from Northwoods True Value



Winning Artist • Xena Hannine • Grade 1

Joy To The World This Christmas!
from Orr Municipal Liquor Store



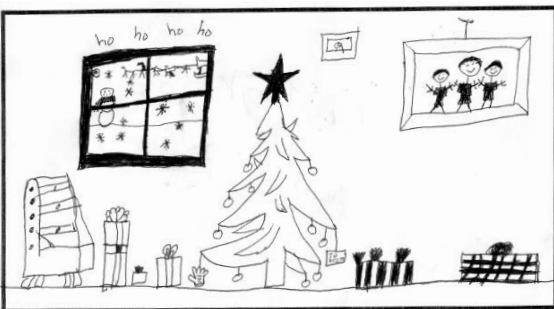
Winning Artist • Addy Hartway • Grade 6

We Wish You A Merry Christmas
from Northern Pine Embroidery



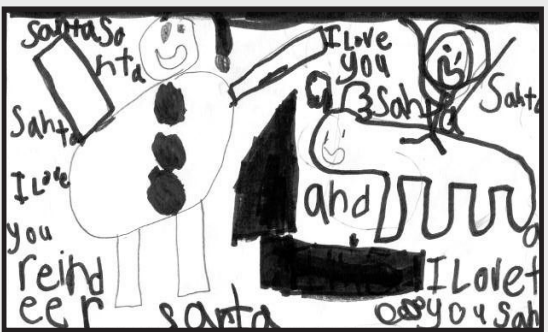
Winning Artist • Arlene King • Grade 2

Santa and His Reindeer Wish You
a Magical Christmas!
from North Star Credit Union



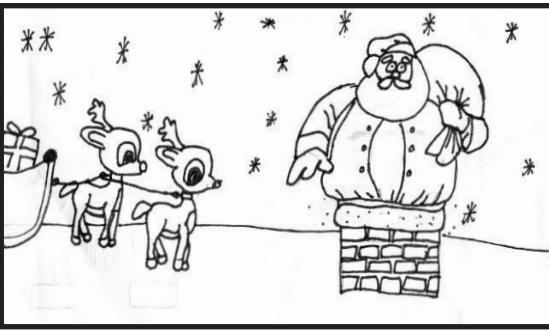
Winning Artist • Blaze Markwardt • Grade 4

Ho Ho Ho...Merry Christmas!
from Pelican Bay Foods



Winning Artist • Ellie Sherman • Kindergarten

Merry Christmas from Santa & All!
from Oveson's Pelican Lake Resort



Winning Artist • Cadence Nelson • Grade 6

Merry Christmas All Around!
from ReMax-Lake Country



Winning Artist • Lilee Harrenstein • Grade 2

COOK LIBRARY



The Cook Public Library held their 3rd Annual BFF Gingerbread event. This year the group made a village. The candy-frosted village will be on display until the end of December. photo by M. Roach

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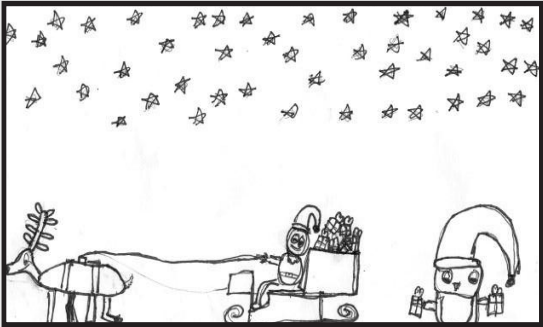


Artist • Julia Tuchel • Grade 6



Artist • Isaac Tuchel • Grade 2

Have A Great Sleigh Ride! Sleigh Ride!
from Rolando Noyes Construction



Winning Artist • Rogelio Noyes • Grade 4

Happy Holidays to All!

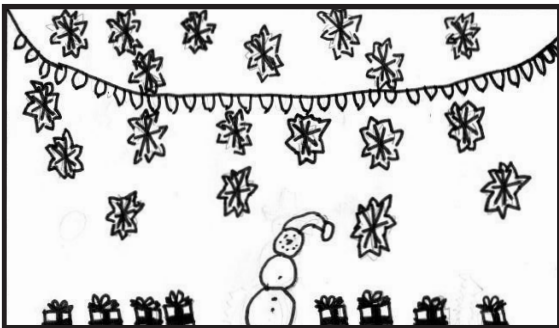
from Tower - Scenic Rivers Health Services



Winning Artist • Chloe Adkisson • Grade 4

Joy to the World

from Sulu's Espresso Cafe



Winning Artist • Presley Chiabotti • Grade 3

Delight In Christmas Blessings!

from Sandberg Construction



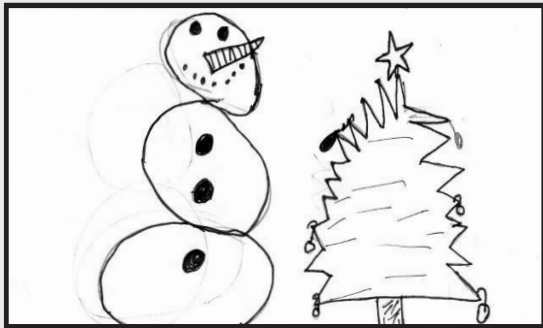
Winning Artist • Cooper Long • Grade 1

Have a Happy Little Christmas!
from The Timberjay



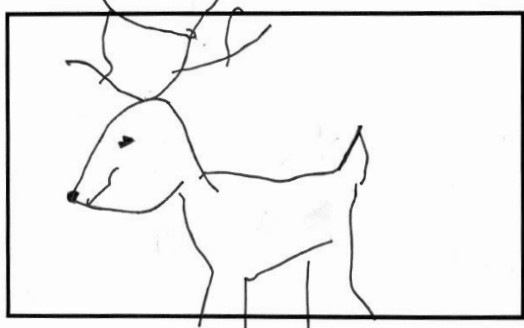
Winning Artist • Nailee Moyer • Grade 1

Have a Warm, Safe Holiday Season!
from Tim Johnson-State Farm



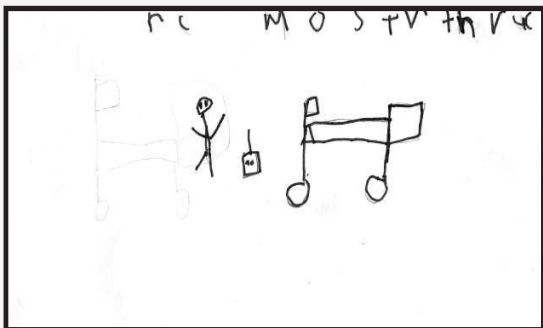
Artist • Merilee Scofield • Grade 3

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Winning Artist • Destiny Koivisto • Grade 2

Music Is In The Air At Christmas!
from Tower-Soudan Agency



Artist • Kooper Dostert • Grade 1

Merry Christmas to YOU!

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Winning Artist • Rena Buckanaga • Grade 4

Have a Holly Jolly Christmas
from The Vermilion Club



Winning Artist • Thomas Aldrich • Grade 3

Wishes for a Happy, Healthy Christmas
from Vermilion Fuel & Food

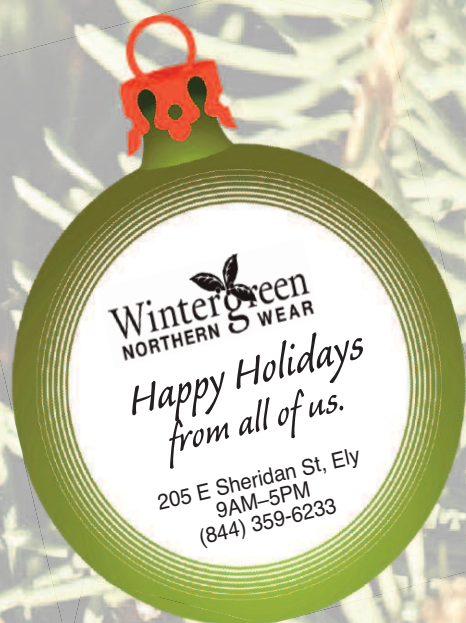
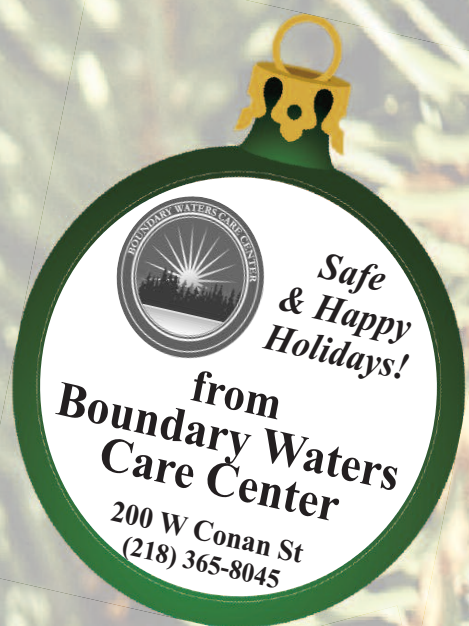


Winning Artist • Melia Lund • Kindergarten

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Fine Local Businesses:





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Our lives in the
Northwoods

RESEARCH

Rainy River headwaters mostly pristine

Study finds some of the state’s highest water quality, but warns the region is vulnerable to changes in land use

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — A detailed new water quality analysis has confirmed what most residents of the North Country have known for years — that the sprawling headwaters of the Rainy River contain some of the purest water in Minnesota. At 2,954 square miles, it’s also one of the largest watersheds in the state. It’s home to more than 1,200 lakes, over 400 streams and encompasses the vast majority of the 1.1-million acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The watershed’s undeveloped nature — 85 percent is under state

and federal ownership — is a key reason for the prevalence of high water quality, according to the researchers. Because forests and wetlands dominate the landscape, the streams monitored showed exceptional biological, chemical, and physical characteristics. Beginning in 2014, researchers with the state’s Pollution Control Agency, with assistance from local soil and water conservation boards, local lake associations, Vermilion Community College and the Natural Resources Research Institute undertook the effort to examine 62 different stream sampling sites and measure more than 60 lakes in the watershed. Their findings and conclusions make

up the bulk of the 377-page report, just published by the MPCA. “Today over 99 percent of the Rainy River-Headwaters Watershed is undeveloped and utilized for timber production, hunting, fishing, hiking, and other recreational opportunities,” states the report. “The immaculate waters found within this watershed not only produce some of the highest quality fisheries in the state but also offer visitors many scenic and natural views.” According to the research, the exceptional water quality within the watershed is due largely to the existence of the vast forests and wetlands

See **RAINY...**pg. 9B



The lakes and rivers of the Rainy River headwaters are exceptionally clean according to a new report by the state’s Pollution Control Agency. file photo

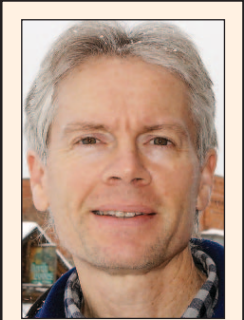


HOLIDAY FUN

Tis the season, to count birds!

118th annual Christmas Bird Count offers plenty of options for local enthusiasts

REGIONAL — Dust off your binoculars and pull out your long Johns. The Christmas bird count season is nigh. This year marks the 118th consecutive bird count, a tradition begun by the National Audubon Society in 1900 as an alternative to New Year’s Day bird “shoots,” which were common entertainment at the time. Instead of shooting birds, Audubon members started counting them and over the years their efforts have become one of the largest and certainly longest-running citizen science projects in the world. Now expanded across the globe, it annually gets tens of thousands of birders, including many here in the North Country, out into the field every year between mid-December and early January. For area birders, the North Country offers plenty of opportunities to take part in a CBC. First up is the Ely count, set for this Saturday, Dec. 23. The Cook count is set for Saturday, Dec. 30, which is followed by the famed Isabella count, set for Sunday, Dec. 31. Finishing up is the Eagles Nest area count, set for Thursday, Jan. 4. (see accompanying chart for contacts on the count coordinators). The Eagles Nest count may be centered in Eagles Nest Township, but each count encompasses a 15-mile wide “count circle,” centered on a specific point. The Eagles Nest count circle includes a large swath of Embarrass as well as Breitung Township, and anyone interested in covering these areas should contact count coordinator Beth Urban at eturtlemoon@frontiernet.net. Ely-based ornithologist Bill Tefft, who helps with the Eagles Nest count, said they are particularly interested in finding people to cover the Tower-



MARSHALL
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Above: A male pine grosbeak eats sunflower seeds. Good numbers of northern finches are in the area this winter, and are showing up at area feeders.

Below: A hairy woodpecker grabs a piece of suet.
photos by M. HelMBERGER



Bird counts galore

- **ELY** — Saturday, Dec. 23. Contact Norma Malinowski at normarj@frontiernet.net.
- **COOK** — Saturday, Dec. 30. Contact Julie Grahn at 218-666-2450 or jg.grahn@gmail.com.
- **ISABELLA** — Sunday, Dec. 31. Contact Steve Wilson at 218-753-6110 or clevergrayjay@gmail.com.
- **EAGLES NEST** — Thursday, Jan. 4. Contact Beth Urban at 218-365-5047 or eturtlemoon@frontiernet.net.

WILDLIFE



DNR: Tests show no sign of CWD in wild deer

REGIONAL — No chronic wasting disease was detected in more than 11,000 precautionary samples from deer that hunters harvested this fall in north-central, central and southeastern Minnesota, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. “This is good news for Minnesota,” said Lou Cornicelli, wildlife research manager for the DNR. “The results lend confidence that the disease is not spread across the landscape.” In all, 7,813 deer were tested in the north-central area, 2,529 in the central area and 1,149 in the southeastern area outside deer permit area 603, the CWD management zone. Researchers still are submitting samples from cooperating taxidermists so final results will be updated online at mndnr.gov/cwdcheck as they become available. Given no deer with CWD were found in north-central and central Minnesota, the DNR will narrow surveillance next fall to areas closer to the farms where CWD was detected. A fourth precautionary surveillance area will be added in fall 2018 in Winona County because CWD recently was detected in captive deer there. Precautionary testing in north-central and central Minnesota became necessary after CWD was found in multiple captive deer on farms near Merrifield in Crow Wing County and Litchfield in Meeker County. It also was conducted in the deer permit areas directly adjacent to southeast Minnesota’s deer permit area 603, the only place in Minnesota where CWD is known to exist in wild deer. Minnesota’s CWD response plan calls for testing of wild deer after the disease is detected in either domestic or wild deer. All results from three consecutive years of testing must report CWD as not detected before the DNR stops looking for the disease.

Fishing reports

Ely area

More and more anglers are heading out on the ice recently and have been met with moderate success. Ice anglers and spearers have been racking up some impressive catches of northern pike from the areas local waters. Most have been working near shore waters in depths from six to twelve feet. Pike have been readily hitting dead or frozen sucker minnows and smelt fished right on the bottom. It appears that they aren’t interested in chasing live bait as they are vacuuming them up from the lake bed.

Walleye fishermen have had some decent catches recently, although many are stating that a good number of those caught are undersized fish and are reluctantly releasing them. Some of the keepers though are of good size fish up to twenty inches. Buckshot

spoons or jigs tipped with a minnow head or minnows on a dead stick have been paying off.

The crappie bite has been slow to materialize, but a few folks have been connecting with some slabs in the thirteen inch range. This fishery should improve as the winter season wears on.

The ice conditions vary widely, with some open water still being reported. Best places are the shallow, protected bays. While most people are using common sense, there are exceptions, as there are the few with total disregard for safety that are driving full size vehicles out on ten inches or less of ice. There are no fish out there worth risking your life for. Every year there are reports of lives being lost through the ice. Go out, have fun, but please exercise caution, and return safely.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

| Friday | | | | | Saturday | | | | | Sunday | | | | | Monday | | | | | Tuesday | | | | |
|--------|----|----|-------|-------|----------|----|-----|-------|-------|--------|----|----|-------|-------|--------|----|----|-------|------|---------|----|----|-------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 2 | | | | | 7 -9 | | | | | -2 -16 | | | | | -9 -19 | | | | | -6 -20 | | | | |
| 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. |
| 12/11 | 20 | 28 | 0.03 | 0.9" | 12/11 | 14 | 12 | 0.06 | 1" | 12/11 | 18 | 4 | 0.10 | 0.9" | 12/11 | 19 | 3 | 0.00 | | 12/11 | 18 | -1 | 0.04 | 0.8" |
| 12/12 | 23 | 14 | 0.02 | 0.1" | 12/12 | 16 | 4 | 0.00 | | 12/12 | 20 | -3 | 0.02 | 0.1" | 12/12 | 12 | -4 | 0.00 | | 12/12 | 20 | -5 | 0.00 | |
| 12/13 | 19 | 8 | 0.06 | 1.3" | 12/13 | 8 | -15 | 0.05 | 1" | 12/13 | 17 | -3 | 0.07 | 1.3" | 12/13 | 19 | 12 | 0.29 | 4" | 12/13 | 17 | -4 | 0.00 | 0.2" |
| 12/14 | 20 | 1 | 0.03 | 0.7" | 12/14 | 15 | 10 | 0.15 | 3" | 12/14 | 20 | 14 | 0.07 | 0.7" | 12/14 | 14 | 10 | 0.04 | 1" | 12/14 | 19 | na | 0.10 | 2" |
| 12/15 | 19 | 5 | 0.02 | 1.0" | 12/15 | 12 | 8 | 0.03 | 0.5" | 12/15 | 14 | 0 | 0.01 | 1.0" | 12/15 | 10 | 5 | 0.01 | 0.5" | 12/15 | 17 | 6 | 0.00 | |
| 12/16 | 14 | 3 | 0.00 | | 12/16 | 9 | 3 | 0.03 | 0.5" | 12/16 | 12 | -1 | 0.00 | | 12/16 | 19 | 1 | 0.00 | | 12/16 | 13 | 1 | 0.00 | |
| 12/17 | 22 | 3 | 0.01 | 0.2" | 12/17 | 17 | 10 | 0.00 | | 12/17 | 20 | 4 | 0.00 | 0.2" | 12/17 | 27 | 19 | 0.00 | | 12/17 | 20 | 4 | 0.00 | 0.4" |
| Totals | | | 28.66 | 21.6" | Totals | | | 35.69 | 25.0" | Totals | | | 29.32 | 32.1" | Totals | | | NA | | Totals | | | 30.32 | 21.1" |

STURGEON...Continued from page 8B

Soudan area.

CBC participants count all the birds they see on that day within the count circle.

Some birders spend the day skiing or snowshoeing through the woods. Others drive the backroads, and still others count the birds at their feeders from the comfort of their living room.

While the count is open to all and is free of charge, all participants will want to contact the count compiler ahead of time so they know where you plan to count, or can assign you a count area. Many

count groups have a get-together at the end of the day to share snacks or a meal, swap stories of their adventures, and tally their birds.

In any of the CBC count circles, organizers can tally birds seen on the count day, as well as birds seen within the count circle during the count week. Anyone within the count circle can call count organizers with unusual birds they might have spotted during the count week.

So far, the winter season has been a good one for northern finches, according to Tefft. “Pine grosbeaks appear to be around in good

numbers,” he said. There have also been numerous reports of modest flocks of crossbills, which are feeding on spruce and red pine cones. “We know that across the state, there were reports of white-winged crossbills as well,” said Tefft. Redpolls have also been showing up at feeders a bit earlier than usual this year.

Red-breasted nuthatches, which are known to be highly cyclical in the area, appear to be experiencing an up year, noted Tefft.

So get outside and enjoy the winter season!

RAINY...Continued from page 8B

that dominate the region, along with the relative lack of human development. Those few stream stretches showing water quality impairment, are generally limited to lower reaches, in areas of more intensive land use by humans. The stressors that appear to lower water quality include recent forest cover changes, along with urban or industrial development or the draining of wetlands. Key impairments that researchers documented in lakes or streams include high levels of sediment affecting water clarity, E. coli bacteria, and mercury in fish tissue, likely caused by fossil fuel burning and airborne deposition.

But with the exception of mercury, which is a widespread issue, impairments were the rare exception, notes the report. “The majority of the water bodies within this watershed had exceptional biological, chemical, and physical characteristics that are worthy of additional protection,” states the report’s authors.

Watershed approach

The study analyzed each of the nearly three-dozen smaller watersheds that make up the Rainy River headwaters. Those watersheds stretched from the Seagull River in the far east, to the Lake Kabetogama watershed in Voyageurs National Park.

The analysis included testing

of water quality parameters as well as the biological health and diversity of the aquatic systems represented in the streams and lakes.

Biological tests conducted by the study’s participants identified numerous sensitive fish and macroinvertebrate species in many of this watershed’s drainages and this is an indicator of good water quality, note the researchers.

Of 60 lakes tested, only one — Blueberry Lake, near Ely — failed to meet the eutrophication standards. Blueberry is a shallow lake with a relatively large catchment area, where nutrient levels and algae growth were quite high. The report notes that Shagawa Lake, in Ely, also shows the effects of urban and industrial development, but that the overall water quality is still within tolerable limits.

According to their findings, the highest quality streams, based on aquatic life, habitat, and water chemistry are: Bezhik Creek, Denley Creek, Little Isabella River, Mitawan Creek, Snake River, Jack Pine Creek, Cross River, Moose River, and the Stony River.

Impaired streams included the Ash and Blackduck rivers which flow to Kabetogama Lake and Voyageurs National Park. The Blackduck, a small sub-watershed that flows from Blackduck Lake, was the only stream identified as not supportive of aquatic life or

recreational use. Blackduck Lake maintains good water quality, but a combination of extensive timber harvesting and some potential impact from a cattle operation has eroded banks, increased the levels of E. coli to hazardous levels, reduced clarity, and significantly reduced oxygen levels downstream from the lake. The MPCA intends to conduct more research in the watershed in hopes of developing strategies to address problems on the river.

While the study found that water quality in the Rainy River headwaters is generally good to excellent, the Blackduck River impairment is evidence of the high sensitivity of that water quality to human activities. “A continued vigilance is necessary to monitor areas where developmental pressures are or will be expected to occur,” stated the study’s authors. “Point and non-point pollutants are affecting water quality and quantity in select drainages. A combination of stressors, including urban/industrial development, forest cover change, draining of wetlands/lakes, and the damming of streams, are likely contributing to the reduction of sensitive species in some stream reaches.”

You can read the full report at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-ws3-09030001b.pdf>.

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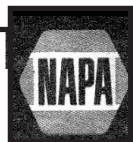
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ELY CO-DEPENDENTS MEETING- Fridays at noon-St. Anthony's Church Classroom 3-Use west side entrance. For more information go to coda.org on the web.

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

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

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BED OF FISH

ACROSS

- 1 Santa — (desert winds)
5 Heroic tales
10 "iZombie" network
15 Marathoner's statistic
19 Promote
20 Horror, e.g.
21 Prefix with gram or liter
22 Strong — ox
23 Start of a riddle
25 "That is to say ..."
26 Piper's garb
27 AWOL part
28 Pat lightly
30 Short literary sketch
32 Riddle, part 2
38 Jailbird
39 Poet's "always"
40 German's "one"
41 Suffix with suc- or lact-
42 Riddle, part 3
51 Starting point
52 Ike's inits.
53 Cell stuff
54 Government loan agcy.
55 Runway user
56 Clumsy sort

- 58 Dollar pts.
60 He beat Romney
64 Riddle, part 4
70 "Look, I did it!"
74 Ostrich kin
75 Bohea, e.g.
76 That, in Chile
77 Oil gp.
78 Riddle, part 5
83 '90s-'00s boy band
84 Thrice-spun-off TV show
85 Wimbledon unit
86 Swimming (in)
91 Sue Grafton's "— for Evidence"
93 Mind-reading ability
95 Lilted syllable
97 "Hägar the Horrible" creator Dik
98 Riddle, part 6
104 Pitching whiz
105 Ballpark fig.
106 Prefix meaning "equal"

- 108 End of the riddle
118 Merit the best score, maybe
119 Half of hexa-
120 See 45-Down
121 Lacking width and depth, for short
122 Els of golf
125 Riddle's answer
129 Baseball team count
130 Actress Tierney
131 Plants used in first aid
132 Borscht vegetable
133 Anti-DUI org.
134 More sneaky
135 Flirty laugh
136 Probability

DOWN

- 1 Slanting
2 Like free banking
3 Acoustic
4 Rock's Perry
5 "I" problem
6 Chapel seat
7 Hotel's kin
8 Set of beliefs
9 Roomy car
10 "No need to share all that," in texts

- 11 That bloke
12 School pupil, in France
13 Actresses Bloom and Danes
14 Fancy shoes
15 George of "Star Trek"
16 "... true statement, correct?"
17 Dog or cat breed
18 Went inside
24 Ida, borderer
29 British TV network, with "the"
31 Tiny self-propelled machine
33 Clicked-on graphic
34 Bart Simpson, to Marge
35 With a sharp image, briefly
36 — -do-well
37 Long ditch
42 Marge Simpson, to Bart
43 — -Magnon
44 Prefix with day or week
45 With 120-Across, 65 and older, e.g.

- 46 Sledding site
47 Work like —
48 Cherished by
49 Ramble on
50 Verboten act
57 Feudal lands
59 Cubs hero Sammy
61 Galaxy buy
62 Pal of Larry and Curly
63 Jets' gp.
65 Conifer with toxic seeds
66 Apple choice
67 Sipped on
68 Sex cell
69 Down vote
70 Earthy color
71 Muscles below pecs
72 Handyman's initialism
73 Nixon's veep
79 Actress Annabella
80 Not make the event in time, say
81 Other, in Chile
82 Delhi wear
87 Concave pan
88 Stupefy
89 NBC skit show since '75
90 Kin of "Psst!"

- 92 Secondary details
94 Elegant
96 Voting 69-Down
97 Cordon — (chicken dish)
98 Particles composed of quarks
99 South Pacific region
100 Soho locale
101 Left-leaning
102 Ring around a castle
103 Pa. hours
109 Surrendered
110 Listless feeling
111 Yummy morsel
112 Edge shyly
113 Abbr. at LAX
114 1990s fitness fad
115 "— a drink!"
116 Looked at provocatively
117 Swift homes
123 Wrath
124 Acoustic organ
126 "So fancy!"
127 Peace gesture
128 Nationality suffix

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

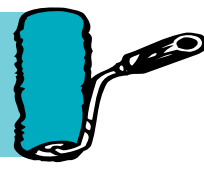
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| 27 | | | | | | | | 28 | | 29 | | | 30 | | | 31 | | | | |
| 32 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | 38 | | | | | 39 | | | | | 40 | | | 41 | | |
| 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | | | | 47 | 48 | | | | 49 | | | | 50 | | | |
| 51 | | | | | | | | 52 | | | | 53 | | | 54 | | | | | |
| 55 | | | | | | | | 56 | | 57 | | 58 | | 59 | | 60 | | 61 | 62 | 63 |
| | | | | | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | | | | 68 | | | 69 | | | | | |
| 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | | 74 | | | | 75 | | | | 76 | | | 77 | | | | |
| 78 | | | | 79 | | | | 80 | | | | 81 | | | 82 | | | | | |
| 83 | | | | | | 84 | | | | 85 | | | | | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | |
| | | | 91 | | 92 | | 93 | | 94 | | 95 | | 96 | | 97 | | | | | |
| 98 | 99 | 100 | | | | | 101 | | | | 102 | | | 103 | | | | | | |
| 104 | | | | | 105 | | | | 106 | | | | 107 | | | | | | | |
| 108 | | | 109 | | | | | | 110 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 118 | | | | | | | | | | | 119 | | | | | | | | | |
| 121 | | | | | | 122 | | | 123 | 124 | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 133 | | | | | | 134 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 135 | | | | | | 136 | | |

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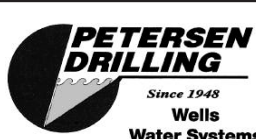
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PUBLIC NOTICES

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Court File no. 69HI-PR-17-122**

**NOTICE AND ORDER FOR
HEARING ON PETITION FOR
DETERMINATION OF
DESCENT OF PROPERTY**

Estate of:
Ritamae Marie Perry,
Decedent

A Petition for Determination of
Descent has been filed with this
Court. The Petition represents
that the Decedent died more than
three years ago, leaving property
in Minnesota and requests the
probate of Decedent's last will, if
any, and the descent of such
property to be determined and
assigned by this Court to the per-
sons entitled to the property.

Any objections to the Petition
must be filed with the Court prior
to or raised at the hearing. If
proper and no objections are filed
or raised, the Petition may be
granted.

IT IS ORDERED and Notice is
further given, that the Petition will
be heard on January 17, 2018, at
1:30 p.m. by this Court at the
Hibbing Courthouse, 1810 E.
12th Avenue, Hibbing, MN 55746.

Notice shall be given to all inter-
ested persons (Minn. Stat. 524.1-
401) and persons who have filed
demand for notice pursuant to
Minn. Stat. 524.3-204.

Notice shall be given by publish-
ing this Notice and Order as pro-
vided by law and by mailing a
copy of this Notice and Order at
least 14 days prior to the hearing
date.

HON. DAVID E. ACKERSON
District Court Judge, Probate
Division

Amy Turnquist
Court Administrator
By: Stefanie Higgins
Deputy Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Angela E. Sipila
Sipila Law Office LLC
108 South 5th Avenue, Suite 1
Virginia, MN 55792
Attorney Lic. No.: 024501X
Phone: 218-741-5000
Fax 866-675-0629
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*Published in the Timberjay,
Dec. 22 & 29, 2017*

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#132777 SUSAN LAKE 12.2 wooded acres w/ mature
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