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The **TIMBERJAY**



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\$1⁰⁰

TWIN METALS PROJECT

Old memos shed new light on leases

Suggest Trump administration ignored record in reissuing permits

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
 Managing Editor

REGIONAL— A treasure trove of historical federal documents, obtained by the *Timberjay*, is shedding new light on whether the Trump Interior Department improperly reinstated two federal mineral leases on the Superior National Forest that are now the subject

of ongoing litigation. The documents, including more than a dozen detailed memos dating back to the mid-1960s, provide extraordinary insight into the negotiations between representatives and supporters of mining interests and federal officials in the Johnson administration over a proposal by the International Nickel Company, or INCO,

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to begin copper-nickel mining about ten miles southeast of Ely.

They bolster the legal arguments of the Obama administration, which concluded that the federal government had no legal obligation to grant a

renewal of the leases to INCO's successor, Twin Metals, when it applied for reauthorization in 2013. Twin Metals is wholly owned by the Chilean copper giant Antofagasta.

The Obama administration opted against renewal of the leases in December of 2016, citing the environmental risks

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SOUNDS OF THE SEASON



The Ely Community Christmas Choir Concert performed Sunday at Washington Auditorium. School band teacher Sarah Mason, below left, directed the annual holiday event. The Christmas Concert Orchestra featured saxophone payers Jessie Dunn and Maude Dammonn, below right. photos by K. Vandervort



COMMUNITY

Renovations underway at cultural center

by **JODI SUMMIT**
 Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER— Renovation work at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center (LVCC) building on Tower's Main Street is underway once again, thanks to a \$268,000 grant from the IRRRB.

The LVCC board spent the last year working with Architectural Resources of Hibbing to develop the detailed plans needed to preserve the historic building, and safely tie the building and roofline into the newly-constructed additions. H & B Limited of Ely is acting as the overseer of the renovation project. When finished, the cultural center will have a full basement, auditorium, lobby, and a third-floor reading room. The center, once completed, will host cultural and community events.

John Bowe, of H & B Limited, has been involved in the renovation project since its very beginning.

"We saw an article in the *Timberjay* back in 2009 looking for people interested in helping restore the old St. Mary's Church," he said. "We had driven by the church that summer and noticed the

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HEALTH CARE

Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital looks to the future

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
 Ely Editor

ELY— It's been a very good year for the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, which saw revenues and profits jump dramatically in the first year under new chief executive Michael Coyle.

About two dozen



shareholders of the Ely Health and Hospital Foundation, which serves as the umbrella organization for the hospital, attended the facility's

annual meeting here on Monday and heard an upbeat financial assessment and audit report by Caryn Goettsch, senior audit director at RSM US LCC.

According to Goettsch, the hospital's net worth jumped from \$7.623 million at the end of the 2017 fiscal year to

\$8.58 million in 2018. The hospital's fiscal year runs from Oct. 1-Sept. 30.

The hospital's improved financial position was aided by a \$568,000 operating profit in the latest fiscal year, a sharp improvement from the \$106,000 operating loss last year. Total operating revenue

increased 15 percent from \$16.59 million last year to \$19.01 million in 2018. "That shows a very strong financial position to be in," Goettsch said.

"A lot of good things happened this year," she added, "including adding more volume statistics,

See... **ELY** pg. 10



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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES



Holiday Happenings across the region

Tower Holiday Craft Show, Dec. 8

TOWER- The annual Tower Holiday Craft Show will be held on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center. This show features many talented area crafters and bakers, offering a wide selection of holiday gifts.

Stopby for homemade baked goods, gifts for all ages, craft items, coffee an', and more. Get your holiday shopping done close to home and support local crafters and vendors.

The show is sponsored by Friends of Vermilion Country School. Contact Jodi at 218-753-2950 with any questions.

Cook Country Christmas on Friday, Dec. 7 starts at 4 p.m.

COOK- Celebrate Cook's Country Christmas on Friday, Dec. 7 from 4 to 7 p.m. There will be a free movie, dinner, farmers market, crafts, sleighrides, holiday music, and a special visit from Santa.

"The Muppet Christmas Carol" will show at the Comet Theater at 4 p.m. A farmers market will be open at the Cook Community Center starting at 4 p.m. Santa will arrive at the Community Center at 5 p.m. Visits with Santa can be captured with a free photo taken by photographer Becky Smith. Each child will receive a treat bag from Santa's elf. A free light supper of sloppy joes or hot dogs, chips, cookies and a beverage will be served by the Friends of the Parks. Northwoods Friends of the Arts will have several craft tables set up to create a holiday craft. Free sleigh rides will be provided by Mike Hanson between 5 and 7 p.m. At 6 p.m. holiday music will be presented at the Cook Public Library with Zachary Scott Johnson.

Enjoy this family-centered evening downtown at the Comet Theater, Cook Public Library, and at the Cook Community Center sponsored by Friends of the Parks, Northwoods Friends of the

Arts, and the City of Cook with financial support from the Timberwolves Snowmobile Club, VFW Post 1757, VFW Post 1757 Auxiliary, Cook Lions Club and Cook Fire Relief Association.

Nelmark Homestead open Friday and Saturday, Dec. 7-8 from 10 - 4

EMBARRASS- With Christmas less than a month away it is time to find items to fill the stockings. There are many items available at the Embarrass Nelmark Homestead at reasonable prices, created and crafted by community artisans. Old-time memories can be experienced and captured on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 7 and 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you're not in the market for stocking stuffers or collectibles, there will be an amazing selection of freshly baked holiday goodies available on Friday to add to your taste enjoyment, including homemade candies, fudge, tea rings, Christmas coffee cakes, potica loaf, cinnamon and braided rolls, wild fruit jams and jellies, relishes, dill and sweet pickles, including beet pickles, spicy salsas, rhubarb preserves, cardamom biscuit (pulla) sprinkled with sugar crystals and other ethnic breads, "limpu" rye bread, artisan breads, and other yummy delicacies.

The Nelmark is located on Hwy. 21 across from Timber Hall.

Tower-Soudan Singers Christmas concert set for Sunday, Dec. 9 at 2 p.m.

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Area Singers will once again return to the Tower-Soudan Elementary School gymnasium for their annual holiday concert on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 2 p.m.

This year's concert is titled "The Many Moods of Christmas." The concert will feature all kinds of



Virgie Hegg Lights of Love underway

REGIONAL- The Annual Lights of Love fundraising campaign is underway in Cook, Orr, and Tower. Lighting ceremonies were held this past weekend, including an outdoor tree lighting in Tower (see above) with a gathering at the Tower Civic Center sponsored by the Tower Soudan Civic Club and Lake Vermilion Cultural Center.

Lights of Love raises money to help support hospice care in our local communities. Donations support local hospice patients and their families with comfort care, last wishes, and needs not covered by insurance. VHHP works with the Essentia Health East Range Hospice Team. For more information, contact 218-749-7975 or 877-851-2213. Questions can also go to VHHP program director Becca Bundy at 218-780-5423 or vhhpdirector@gmail.com.

Above: The Tower-Soudan Area Singers gathered outside the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center and sang carols for the lighting of the tree. Below: A group of bell ringers played a selection of holiday favorites during the event. photos by J. Summit



familiar carols, sacred pieces, and fun popular Christmas tunes. The concert will also feature solos by Jay Machie, Kathy Siskar, Dale Horihan, and a duet by Linda and Ryan Bajan. Mr. and Mrs. Claus, along with Frosty the Snowman, have offered to stop by to greet the audience.

Refreshments will follow the concert with a freewill offering. Rolf Anderson will direct and Julie Horihan will accompany. Come share in the joy of the holiday season through the beauty of live music performed by dedicated local musicians. You

won't be disappointed.

Ice Candle and Holiday Gathering on Saturday, Dec. 15 in Embarrass

EMBARRASS- A display of candles in memory of loved ones will take place at the Embarrass Cemetery on Saturday, Dec. 15. The evening will begin with a holiday gathering at the town hall from 4 to 6 p.m. Coffee an' Christmas goodies will be served along with crafts for the kids. Come and enjoy the holiday spirit in our community and the beauty

of ice candles.

We will be taking donations of Christmas cookies or bars for the Ice Candle and Holiday Gathering. Please consider donating cookies or a pan of bars to this worthy event, it will be greatly appreciated by all who attend. Volunteers are also needed to help place ice candles at the cemetery that afternoon. This is a fun time for everyone to get involved, even Santa will be stopping by! Call the clerk's office at 218-984-2084 if you have any questions or wish to volunteer.

Cookie sale and dessert social at First Lutheran in Ely, Dec. 8

ELY- First Lutheran Church, 915 Camp St. in Ely is hosting a Christmas cookie sale and dessert social on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 1-3 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Cookies are \$7/pound and dessert and coffee is \$3. There will be a bake table, craft table, and silent auction for two quilts (one queen size, one full size).

Funds raised will be used for kitchen remodeling.

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MINING

Groups file lawsuits over PolyMet permits

Coalition of environmental organizations allege the DNR failed to follow law when it issued permits

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— A coalition of seven Minnesota environmental groups filed lawsuits on Monday seeking to overturn the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' recent approval of permits for the state's first copper-nickel mining operation.

The groups, including the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Water Legacy, Friends of the Boundary Waters, and the Center for Biological Diversity, are also asking the state's Court of Appeals to throw out mining rules developed by the DNR, arguing that they are too vague to be enforceable. The lawsuits target the recent decision to issue a number of permits, including a permit to mine, to PolyMet for its proposed NorthMet copper-nickel operation near Hoyt Lakes.

"The courts must hold the DNR accountable to the law or PolyMet's permits will be a blank check paid for by the clean water, health, and pocketbooks of Minnesotans," said Kathryn Hoffman, MCEA's chief executive officer.

A joint press statement issued by the groups contends that permits for PolyMet's proposed mine do not protect people downstream from pollution the mine would generate.

"The department arbitrarily rejected less risky alternatives for managing mine waste," states the release. "The permits allow PolyMet to threaten water downstream for hundreds of years after mining ends, fail to address concerns of engineers who fear the mine's proposed waste dam is dangerous and fail to protect Minnesota taxpayers from being stuck with up to \$1 billion in cleanup costs."

According to the environmental groups, the state permits

also fail to define how long PolyMet will be allowed to mine nor describe PolyMet's exact mining and closure plans. They say Minnesota rules require final design plans to be submitted before permits are issued, but the state agency's permits allow PolyMet to develop the open-pit mine and submit plans for closure later. "The permits do not establish any standards for the approval of these future plans and the public will not be able to comment on them," according to the press statement.

"There is a myth in Minnesota that we have tough regulators. Just the opposite," said Paula Maccabee, advocacy director and legal counsel for Water Legacy. "The DNR has granted PolyMet a permit to mine admitting that its design and operational details are not 'firmly in place.' At the very least, with Minnesota's first proposed sulfide mine, we should demand that no permits be issued



The former LTV taconite processing plant is slated to become the processing facility for PolyMet if operations eventually commence. file photo

unless and until PolyMet shows us, and an unbiased administrative judge, that they know what they're doing."

The groups are appealing a number of DNR decisions, including the agency's decisions to issue a dam safety permit in addition to the permit to mine. The groups are also challenging

the DNR over its decision not to order a contested case hearing, which would have allowed environmentalists to raise their concerns about impacts and financial assurance through a formal administrative process. The groups had requested such

See POLYMET...pg. 5

VERMILION LAKE TOWNSHIP

Altenburg makes "bizarre" appearance before town board

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

VERMILION LAKE TWP— Township officials here were astonished this week after Tower's ambulance director and fire chief Steve Altenburg appeared at Monday's town board meeting to criticize the township's handling of its records, to raise questions about firefighter training, and to allege that the situation was being intentionally "suppressed" by Timberjay publisher Marshall

Helmberger.

Altenburg's presentation came just one week after he delivered a 46-minute-long harangue against Helmberger at a Tower City Council meeting. Altenburg told the council he is upset by reporting and recent editorials in the Timberjay that have raised questions about the ambulance service's shift to a paid on-call staffing model under Altenburg. Helmberger had also penned an op-ed just ahead of the recent general election that expressed concern about

Altenburg, who was then running for Tower Mayor. Altenburg lost that race by a wide margin to Orlyn Kringstad.

Prior to his presentation, Altenburg set up video recording equipment and suggested that he might be posting it online. In a written statement he provided to the town board, Altenburg appeared to address Helmberger personally and somewhat threateningly, even though Helmberger was not in attendance at the meeting. "I guess transparency is fine as

long as it's not in your own backyard. No worries, Marshall, the Internet and I are here to help."

Altenburg provided no information regarding his specific concerns about the fire department, other than to claim that there are a "host of questions regarding the actual number of active firefighters, actual trained/certified Fire 1 and Fire 2 staff and, the ability of those firefighters to actually use the equipment to fight interior fires."

Altenburg also criticized the department for having "extreme-

ly old and outdated equipment that is not safe and should not be in service, including vehicles parked around the area that are still listed as active fire trucks."

Fire Chief Steve Lotz said he's yet to receive any inquiry from Altenburg about the issues he raised, and said he was unsure what Altenburg was referring to. He said the fire department does maintain a second 4x4 brush rig in cold, indoor storage during the winter, but

See ALTENBURG...pg. 5

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OPINION

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Editorial

Leadership at IRRRB

Gov.-elect Walz should ask Mark Phillips to continue as the agency’s commissioner

As he begins the process of staffing his administration, Gov.-elect Tim Walz will have plenty of decisions to make. But when it comes to selecting the head of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, Walz should have it easy. Reappointing Mark Phillips is the obvious choice.

Phillips confirmed that he has applied to continue in his current role, which is great news. Phillips has 30-plus years of experience in development and finance, having worked in government as well as in the private and nonprofit sectors. Prior to his appointment as IRRRB Commissioner, Phillips served as Commissioner of the Department of Employment and Economic Development. He’s held top positions with Minnesota Power, Kraus Anderson, and Northeast Ventures, a Duluth-based venture capital group.

Experience matters, but so does vision and an understanding of how resilient economic development really happens. Fortunately, Phillips combines all of these qualities, and that’s helped him be an effective leader at the IRRRB.

Phillips understands the connection between community and economic development, which is why he’s been willing to invest substantial funding in community projects that have the potential to make the region’s communities more desirable places to live.

Phillips recognized that the old model, of trying to lure large employers to the region, had proven ineffective time after time, and he wasn’t willing to simply continue down an unproductive path. Instead, he’s focused efforts on boosting homegrown businesses and investing in amenities like mountain biking trails, enhanced community entrances, or the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center. It’s actually the most successful and widely-used approach to economic development in the world, based on the proven idea that if you create communities where people want to be, the jobs inevitably follow. And it has the added

value of enhancing the quality of life for everyone who calls our area home.

Phillips understands that economies grow best from the grassroots, and that agencies like the IRRRB can and must provide the broad-based support to help that effort along. Under Phillips, the agency has, for the first time, recognized that providing affordable childcare is a critical workforce development challenge, as well as a quality of life issue, that needs funding assistance. That’s an important shift in mission.

At the same time, under Phillips, the agency has begun to provide some funding support to the local foods movement, another sign of the agency’s progressive new vision. We have advocated for years, for example, that reinvigorating local food production, has the potential to generate new economic activity and keep more of the region’s food dollars circulating in the area economy.

Even as he has shown a willingness to try new approaches, Phillips hasn’t lost touch with the importance of the region’s basic industries, like taconite mining and the timber industry. As a former Minnesota Power executive, he recognizes that major industries remain important employers in the region and need support as well, especially at a time when such industries are experiencing significant technological changes.

At a time when the region is increasingly divided on environmental issues, such as over the future of copper-nickel mining or the construction of new oil pipelines, Phillips is someone who can bridge that divide because he’s willing to listen. He’s earned respect from all sides for his experience and the fact that he seeks to solve problems and create opportunities, rather than push an agenda.

Among the long list of appointments that Gov.-elect Walz has on his plate, this one should be the easiest. The Walz administration couldn’t do better than to keep Mark Phillips at the helm of the IRRRB.



Letters from Readers

Thanks to all the volunteers and visionaries in Orr

This message is to thank the wonderful people who have turned the abandoned school in Orr into a vibrant, usable entity. The Bazaar held on Saturday was overwhelming. If you missed it you missed an eye-opener. My “thank you” to Wendy Purdy, Chairman of the Orr Center Board of Directors, and the entire Board for making Saturday memorable. The decorations chaired by Ruth Huisman were outstanding. You knew you were in for a special day from the warm welcome by charming Debbie Scott to the wonderful crafters strategically situated throughout the building. The Thrift Shop is an adventure I will gladly visit all year.

I sincerely hope this will be an Orr Christmas tradition.

Thank you to all the visionary leaders and volunteers who have made this building transition possible.

My best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas,
Ruth Carlson
Crane Lake

Trump again shows his colors

When asked about any regret he might be feeling over past remarks he’s made about the late President George H. W. Bush, Donald Trump chose to ignore the question, refusing to respond (after all, Bush had the temerity to call Trump a “blowhard” - imagine anyone thinking that!). Unbelievable! All he had to do was admit to having a basic human emotion - regret - that we all feel from time to time. How hard should that have been? Once again, this shameless fraud has shown himself to be a petty, small-minded, vindictive little man, incapable of showing, when the occasion arises, even the most basic decency. George H. W. Bush certainly had his faults, but I’ve never heard anyone describe him as

anything less than honorable and decent, terms unlikely to ever be attached to the name of Donald Trump. Bush was truly everything Trump isn’t, which will almost certainly be the verdict of history.

Lynn Scott
Soudan

Where does Trump’s true allegiance lie?

When Trump went to Europe to visit the WWI Memorial he denied a request to also visit the WWII Memorial. Why? Because his favored side lost? When some people compared Trump’s border detention to the WWII concentration camps Trump blustered in denial.

Janet Schultz
Sturgeon Twp

Exercise free speech if you are able

It seems to me that Steve Rodgers is asserting that Greenwood Board Chairman Mike Ralston is not capable of conducting the meeting in an orderly fashion unless the public input is at the end. There was no issue for previous boards. The history is, the board voted to have the meeting agenda on the Greenwood website the Thursday before the meeting so the public would have an opportunity to send correspondence or speak in person on matters to be considered by the board. Why? To provide input to their elected representatives, before they vote, not after. Just ask Supervisor Carmen Deluca—he campaigned on open government and transparency. Deluca offered the motion to move public input. No reason was given for moving it, there was no discussion by the board, just a 5-0 vote to move it. From the Greenwood website, “the opportunity to comment is always granted at the meetings.” Not really, only if Ralston says so or doesn’t cut you off. Is it only granted for those that agree with Rodgers or Ralston and bad for the

“whiners”? Would I be safe to believe that the right to free speech does not sit well with them? I have not seen Rodgers shy away from the sign-up sheet to speak at the meetings. I do find it odd that Rodgers puts his name last on the list, leaving the 14 numbered spaces above his name empty. Freud would understand better than me. More history, the right to free speech applies to EVERYONE. From the earliest days of our Nation, criticizing government officials without retribution has been a hallmark of the freedoms our Founders determined as essential to our democracy. At the same time, those who serve in public office deserve respect and must be able to conduct the public’s business in an orderly manner. When these two principles are in conflict, which one prevails? That’s one of the questions the U.S. Supreme Court was asked to consider in the case *Lozman v. City of Riviera Beach, Florida*. In the Court’s majority opinion, Justice Kennedy wrote that the right to complain to or ask the government for help without fear of punishment or reprisals is “one of the most precious of the liberties safeguarded by the Bill of Rights.” Indeed, many consider it not just our right as US citizens, but also our duty, to complain to government officials at all levels about their actions and policies. After all, we are a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. This duty to petition, complain, and otherwise get involved in our government dates back to the founding of our nation with Thomas Jefferson warning, “All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent.” So, is it patriotic to criticize your government? If we look to Jefferson for guidance, then it seems so. (This letter referenced Marks Grey law firm for the above legal content.)

Jeff Maus
Greenwood Twp



Nelson Mandela showed how we all can bring change

“We don’t have to accept the world as it is. We could do our part to seek the world as it should be.” These words attributed to Nelson Mandela can bring images of huge, global changes and simultaneously address the daily possibilities of making life better for those around us.



BETTY FIRTH

Some version of these words, such as “Be the change you wish to see in the world,” have been attributed to Mahatma Gandhi and quoted by Paul Wellstone, Barack Obama, and many others including myself, in an earlier column. Brian Morton of the *New York Times* thought

that phrase sounded more like a bumper sticker than Gandhi, so he researched and found the following words to be the closest to Gandhi’s actual words that he could verify: “If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him. We need not wait to see what others do.”

Nelson Mandela certainly did not wait to see what others would do. He was an ordinary

person in many ways, but he did extraordinary things, and the many names he was given reflected aspects of his being and his destiny. His birth name, Roliblahla, given by his father, is an isiXhosa name that means “pulling the branch of a tree”, but colloquially means “troublemaker”, and he grew to become a committed troublemaker in the name of equality and justice. On his first day of school, he was given the Christian name Nelson by his teacher, a common

practice influenced by British colonials who couldn’t easily pronounce African names. In later life South Africans of all ages called him “Tata,” a term of endearment meaning “father.” He also is referred to as “Khubu,” the abbreviated form of “grandfather,” also meaning “Great One.” After his death he was affectionately referred to as Madiba, his clan name, that reflected respect for his ancestors.

See **MANDELA ...pg. 5**

Letters from Readers

A thoroughly enjoyable evening

We thoroughly enjoyed a wonderful performance of "A Tiny Miracle with a Fiberoptic Unicorn," at times hilarious and at times heart-wrenching. We are grateful for the opportunity to be introduced to this very unique Christmas play.

Many thanks to all who worked so hard to put it on. It is really a production that demands a lot of time and talent. We have all of that in our little town. Congratulations to Director Greg Mann and his assistant Vince O'Connor and to the intergenerational cast of old and new Elyites!

Ely has a wonderful tradition of community theater — plays, musicals, and dance productions. Hopefully the community-at-large will continue to support this tradition, and the efforts of the artists, by attending performances.

The arts are "one of the reasons we live here"!

Emily and Elton Brown Ely

I praised Cook Hospital but did not back annexation

In the Nov. 30 edition of the *Timberjay*, Steve Rodgers comments on my alleged "recent" support for Greenwood Township joining the Cook

Hospital District. I'm sorry to disappoint you Mr. Rodgers, it was a year ago and I wasn't in support.

At the Oct. 10, 2017, township meeting I addressed the board on the subject of the attempted annexation by the Cook Hospital District after having a heart attack at the end of September and receiving excellent care in the ER in Cook. Unfortunately, I was misquoted in the minutes as well as in the press.

If you listen to the recording of that meeting you will hear me say, "I understand, trust me on this, I fully realize we're being strong armed on this and I don't like it anymore than anyone else in this room does."

A bit later in the recording, you'll hear me say, "I'm not speaking for or against, we do have a situation with the ambulances, the only advanced life support ambulances come out of Virginia." I went on to suggest that given the aging population in Greenwood Township we might consider at least talking to the district.

I have learned since that time that Ely has life support transportation and significant improvements are being made in both Tower and Virginia ambulance services.

Certainly, there needs to be improvement made in the process of keeping the Cook Hospital viable, but having that facility 15 minutes away from the Township is a definite plus for

us. It would be a shame to lose it.

We all have a constitutional right to express ourselves, even if Steve Rodgers has declared those expressions "nutty". But within that Constitution is the right to question the actions of government at all levels and to redress of our grievances, a process Steve Rodgers certainly appears to be "disenchanted" with.

Rick Stoehr Greenwood Twp

What about "respect and 'serve'?"

Thursday, Nov. 29, was a colorful example of St. Louis County government in action. That is the evening that they held their annual Truth in Taxation meeting in Virginia.

County Administrator Kevin Gray gave an excellent presentation of the county's 2019 budget and explained many priorities, goals and highlights of it. It was well worth the time for anyone interested in knowing where our tax dollars are going.

The lone sour note was by Commissioner Frank Jewell, who got his nose out of joint. A number of questions and comments were fielded from the audience, and when it looked like the discussion was idling down, I raised my hand with a question. I noted that I had heard that St. Louis County was toying with the idea of employing an Environmental Sheriff for the new year, and I asked if anyone knew what this was going to

cost. No one could come up with a number, but said that this cost would come from the Environmental Trust Fund - if I got that right.

I continued on that this sounded like a brainchild of the Environmental Services Department who, through two revisions of their Septic Ordinance in recent years, brazenly asked for virtual police powers to run their operation.

Well, I hadn't even gotten warmed up when Commissioner Jewell cut in and complained that I was taking too much time and there were others who wanted to speak, too. I wrapped up my comments promptly and ... low and behold, not another single person had anything to say.

So much for my robbing time from others who were itching to speak. Not to be dissuaded, the good commissioner went on to say that my topic was out of order anyway, since funding for this proposed Environmental Officer would not be coming out of the general levy. To his credit, Chairman Keith Nelson pointed out that any questions or discussion of funds expended by the county were, indeed, appropriate at this budget meeting. While all of the other officials present were quite cordial, maybe this one commissioner had his thumb in his ear and didn't hear that this was a meeting for the public.

Now this may sound like a novel idea, for an Environmental Sheriff, but this has been tried

and tested already - 20 years ago - and was a colossal failure. The county spent well over a quarter million dollars (maybe closer to a half), did nothing to help the environment and destroyed practically every iota of good will and cooperation between the citizens and county government. I wanted to caution county leaders to think twice before embarking on a similar course again.

The excuse forwarded for this new Environmental Officer was that things sometimes are getting hairy for these county bureaucrats when dealing with irate citizens. Really?

I would offer that basic life principles remain constant; in this case, what goes around, comes around. They walk all over citizens for the past 25 years and now they think they're going to be met with a smile and a cup of tea? Instead of squandering more money on an Environmental Sheriff, use it for education. As long as there are still some at the highest level of county government who have ants in their pants and can't sit still for 15 minutes to listen to comments and concerns of citizens at a meeting called for this very purpose, we have a bigger problem than a little dribble from someone's septic mound or an old mattress thrown in a ditch. Maybe the course could start with defining such elementary terms as "respect" and "serve".

Jim Hofsommer Markham

MANDELA...Continued from page 4

try. The name he was given at 16 when he went through the traditional Xhosa rite of passage into manhood was Dalibhunga, which means "creator or founder of the council" or "convener of the dialogue." He certainly lived up to that name, working as an activist throughout his life, providing leadership in the African National Conference, (ANC), co-founding the ANC Youth League (ANCYL), organizing, teaching and encouraging others even while in prison.

Mandela enjoyed the physical freedom of a child growing up in a rural environment, but when he became aware of the concept and privilege of "whiteness" and the discrimination against "blackness," he was very troubled and determined to fight for what was right. From the age of 12, when his father died, he lived with Thembu Regent Jongintaba Dalindyebo, Acting King of the Thembu people, who groomed him for leadership, let him attend council meetings, and sent him to the best schools. He ran away to Johannesburg, and saw firsthand the ugly urban

reality of severe racial laws and restrictions. He earned a bachelor's degree and a two-year law degree, opening the first black law office in South Africa with Oliver Tambo. By 1952, Mandela's activism had aggravated the government so much, they put him under a banning order, meaning he could not attend public meetings nor talk to more than one person at a time. He was arrested numerous times and spent 27 years of a life sentence in prison, finally released in 1990 after pressure on the South African government from supporters around the world.

Mandela worked closely with President F.W. de Klerk's government to draw up a new constitution for South Africa. After both sides made concessions, they reached agreement in 1993, and would share the Nobel Peace Prize that year for their efforts. In 1994, Mandela was elected president, promising to serve only one term. Dennis Parker, Director, ACLU Racial Justice Program, said in 2013, "Combining an undying intolerance of inequality and a steely

determination with warmth, a sense of humor, forgiveness and an almost other-worldly grace, Mandela led the negotiations that allowed for a peaceful transition to a government which, for the first time, included all South Africans." When apartheid ended, it was feared that the oppressed would become the oppressors, seeking revenge against the whites who had ruled so mercilessly. But Mandela said, "As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison."

What is not as well known is that Mandela accomplished something no other head of government had ever done. As the first president of post-apartheid South Africa in 1996, through the new constitution, he brought protection from discrimination based on sexual orientation. Chapter 2, Section 9 of the Bill of Rights reads: "Everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law." The term "equality" is defined in subsection 3: "The state may not

unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds, including race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, color, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language, and birth." The new Constitution led to the end of a ban on gay men and lesbians serving openly in the South African military and paved the way for a 2005 court ruling that legalized same-sex marriage.

When Dennis Parker traveled to South Africa with a team of other civil rights attorneys to share their experiences working to further civil and human rights, they learned that the South African Constitution's protections of basic civil rights were far more extensive than the U.S. Constitution's, and that "this broad scope reflected the broad, pioneering vision of fairness and inclusiveness advocated so effectively by Mr. Mandela."

Throughout this year, there have been celebrations around the world of the 100th anniversary of Madiba's birth. and I

was lucky enough to participate in one in Duluth on Sunday, the conclusion of a series of events organized by Gerri Williams, who had lived in South Africa for three years during her work with the American Foreign Service. It was a small gathering in the AME church, with speakers and prayers, historical and present-day videos, South African drumming and singing, and dancing the Madiba jive with others present. (If you're not familiar with the Madiba jive, do Google it and enjoy the dancing around the world in his honor.)

We celebrated his life and vision and especially his clear understanding that the only way to make real progress is to work together, to do something every day to help others, and to operate out of love, understanding, and compassion, not hatred and indifference. We could all learn from his strength, faith, and resilience with the attitude that carried him through life. "I never lose. I either win or I learn."

POLYMET...Continued from page 3

a proceeding earlier this year, but the DNR rejected that request at the same time it issued its permits for PolyMet back on Nov. 1.

The flurry of legal filings provoked a sharp response from the pro-mining group, Jobs

for Minnesotans, which called the action "one more attempt to delay a critical project for the state of Minnesota that has demonstrated it can meet or exceed regulatory standards." The group argues that the DNR made

the right call in advancing the project. "This project is Minnesota's first opportunity to supply essential metals, such as copper and nickel, to the green economy and other critical components of our modern world."

But J.T. Haines, an attorney and organizer with Duluth for Clean Water, said the plan sacrifices water quality that Duluth residents rely on. "With over 1,300 signatures and a majority of elected officials, Duluthians openly

requested a contested case hearing on this permit. That hearing should have been ordered. The process fails all the time with sulfide mining, and we don't want to be the next example of communities harmed by downstream

pollution."

Other organizations joining in the lawsuit include Friends of the Cloquet Valley State Forest, Save Lake Superior Association, and Save Our Sky Blue Waters.

ALTENBURG...Continued from page 3

the vehicle is deployed as needed for wildland fires in the warmer months. The truck is a late-70s vintage vehicle, but the department has upgraded its pumping equipment in recent years.

The department, which is funded primarily by an annual fire levy of approximately \$11,000, has managed to acquire usable equipment by utilizing surplus equipment from the DNR and the federal government and obtaining federal grants. The department used FEMA grant funds to purchase a new main engine in 2006 and obtained new turnout gear for all its members in 2010. The department has prioritized replacement of its aging water tender and outdated

SCBA and applied for federal grants to purchase a new tender and SCBA. Helmberger and Lotz combined in developing all of the department's FEMA grant requests, saving the cost of hiring a grant writer.

Altenburg has never inquired about training records before, either to Chief Lotz or to Helmberger, who has been the department's training officer for the past 20 years. Altenburg gave no indication who was raising questions, although similar issues have recently been raised by Bob and Carol Pratt, the parents of Tower City Clerk Linda Keith, who is close to Altenburg.

Bob Pratt was recently appointed to the Vermilion

Lake Town Board to fill a vacancy after he lost his bid for the seat during the township election in March. Carol Pratt, in recent months, has begun writing stories on the town board for the *Tower News*, and township officials have expressed concerns about the accuracy of that reporting. "It's pretty slanted," said board chair Phil Anderson.

Altenburg also complained that some township employee files were being stored in safes in the private homes of township officials, since Vermilion Lake, like many small townships, does not maintain clerk office hours or have office space within its small town hall. Altenburg also complained that the

township is maintaining historical records, some dating back to the township's founding, in old locked freezers, to ensure protection from fire. According to Lotz, who is also township treasurer, the donated freezers are used for storage of old records and the units are secured in a locked building at the township's cemetery. Altenburg gave no indication of the reason for his concern about the township's longstanding practice, other than to suggest that it did not qualify as a best practice.

Board chair Phil Anderson said he was taken aback by Altenburg's appearance, which he said appeared to track innuendo raised in a recent

Tower News story. "It was pretty bizarre to have somebody who doesn't even live in the township come in and stir things up," said Anderson, who suggested to Altenburg that it appeared he was doing so to "take the heat off himself over his own performance."

Altenburg said Altenburg complained at length about Helmberger and the *Timberjay*. "We told him he was talking to the wrong people," said Anderson.

Altenburg had previously appeared at a Vermilion Lake board meeting to advocate for an increase in the township's subsidy for the Tower ambulance. "But that never came up," said

Anderson. Altenburg, in his written statement, described himself as an "investigative journalist," but acknowledged when asked by Anderson that he doesn't work for any publication.

Anderson said he was turned off even before Altenburg made it into the town hall. He said before coming into the building, Altenburg was standing near the door smoking and that he flicked his cigarette butt into the parking lot when he was finished. "If he comes back here, the first thing I'd tell him is to go back out in the parking lot and pick up that butt," said Anderson.

TOWER-SOUDAN

Would you like to have better broadband?

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

TOWER- Tower-Soudan area residents and community leaders met this past Thursday at the Tower Civic Center to learn about broadband internet and the possibility of our community connecting to it.

The Tower Economic Development Authority (TEDA) is seeking 10-12 community members to be on a broadband committee to develop and implement a community-based project to spur broadband adoption and use. Local examples are the Ely 10-Below Coworking Center and the

Cook Library's hotspot loan program. Our community is eligible for a \$75,000 grant, requiring a 25 percent cash or in-kind match, to use towards this project. The committee will also oversee completion of a feasibility study, eligible for a \$25,000 grant, requiring a 1:1 match.

Broadband is essentially fast internet. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) defines broadband as 25 mbps downloads and three mbps uploads; mobile data is not a substitute because of the high cost and data limits. To simplify, you need fast downloads to watch videos without

lags but uploads can be slower. The state of Minnesota's broadband goal is for all Minnesota businesses and homes to have access to at least one provider of broadband with download speeds of at least 100 megabits per second and upload speeds of at least 20 megabits per second by 2026.

High speed broadband is all around us. The majority of Lake County has broadband; Babbitt and Aurora have broadband; broadband runs right through Tower but is inaccessible to our residents. Tower and Soudan are underserved, meaning we have fast internet, but it doesn't meet the 2026 goals,

and outlying areas of Tower, Soudan, and other townships are completely unserved with slow connections or no internet at all.

Rural communities need broadband. Bill Coleman, from Blandin Foundation, said that 70 percent of homebuyers will not buy a home without access to broadband. Many workers and businesses operate out of the home via the internet, and will not move to areas with poor service.

The Tower-Soudan community needs broadband for tele-health, to speak with medical professionals remotely, residents noted. They also

know that our students from grade school to college need better internet to access online learning opportunities and that our schools can't compete with other schools that have better access.

Broadband is essential for businesses whose POS systems crash when the internet is out, and for businesses who are paying their workers to stare at their computer screens waiting for browsers to load.

If you are interested in joining the steering committee please call Stephanie at 715-969-7728 or watch for the next meeting notice posted in the *Timberjay*.

BREITUNG

Breitung moving forward with grant applications for \$1.15 million town hall improvement project

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

BREITUNG- The township has a new plan to increase handicap accessibility to the Soudan Post Office and town hall building, and to relocate facilities and offices. The township has submitted a grant request to CDBG that estimates the total cost of the project at \$1.15 million. The township is requesting \$125,000 from CDBG, \$250,000 from IRRRB, and will put in \$775,000 of township money.

The entire project would

include a level access into the post office entrance, a new accessible entrance to the town hall, remodel of the existing bathroom, construction of a new ADA-compliant bathroom, replacement of storm sewer in parking lot, remodel of current fire hall to a community center, plus infrastructure, utilities and parking lot redesign.

Some of the work including in the plans has already been completed or is underway: the relocation of maintenance department to Surface Building, fire department relocation to former maintenance

garage, police department relocation to Surface Building, and replacement of the town hall roof. These components total approximately \$100,000 of the total expected township cost of \$775,000.

The township is expecting to hear from IRRRB after Dec. 10 whether they will receive grant funding. The township will find out about CDBG funding late January.

Other business

In other news at their Nov. 28 meeting, the township:

► Will advertise for skating rink attendants. Attendants must be at least 16 years old or 14 with adult supervision.

► Will renegotiate payment with Bougalis and Sons who did the Church Street sewer project. Bougalis is asking for \$50,120. The township plans to hold back \$13,000 including retainer, and uncompleted work. The project was not completed due to snowfall.

► Will review fire department's revised membership application, organizational chart, probationary firefighter job description, and firefighter job description.

► Approved the Soudan Frozen Water Service Ordinance. The new ordinance will require a certified contractor to thaw frozen water lines.

► Accepted wording for the ballot question on whether to appoint a clerk/treasurer and reviewed a timeline for voting and onboarding if the question were to pass.

► Acknowledged a petition to vacate a sidewalk on Ely Island.

► Set the next township meeting for Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 1 p.m.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

St. James Advent Services

TOWER- The St. James Advent Theme this year will be "The Colors of Christmas."

Week 2. A Blue Christmas - What happens when Christmas doesn't go according to plan? How do we handle it when circumstances rob us of the joy of the season? How do we respond to a "blue Christmas"?

Week 3. A Gold Christmas - What was the most valuable gift that was given in the story of the wise men? And what can we learn from the gifts that were given?

Week 4. White Christmas - Zechariah (the father of John the Baptist) declared certain prophecies about the coming Messiah and how He would fulfill the dream of a "white Christmas" for Israel. What were these prophecies, and how did Jesus fulfill them?

Ladies Christmas Luncheon at Immanuel Lutheran, Dec. 12

TOWER- The Immanuel Lutheran Ladies Christmas Luncheon, hosted by the Women of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower, will be held Wednesday, Dec. 12 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$12 per person. Meal includes hot roast beef sandwich, mashed potatoes, green beans, beverage and dessert. There will also be entertainment and games. We hope to see you there. Please sign up as soon as possible by calling Immanuel Lutheran Church at 218-753-2378 or Jan Brown at 218-290-4928.

St. James Movie Night, Sunday, Dec. 16 at 6 p.m.

TOWER- Come to St. James on Sunday,

Dec. 16 at 6 p.m. for a showing of "The Nativity Story." This movie is powerful, timeless, and visually magnificent, The Nativity Story is "a beautiful telling of one of the world's most familiar stories" (Dean Richards, WGN-TV, Chicago). It was the cruelest of times. Under Herod's torturous reign, families struggled to survive, and yet, in the midst of utter turmoil, a young woman's faith was put to the test. Join Mary and Joseph on an incredible journey of hope and discovery. Epic in its scope, yet intimate in its portrayal of this historical family, this "wonderful film" is "a family feature that will be cherished for years to come" (Bill Zwecker, Chicago Sun-Times), rated PG.

St. James Christmas Eve Service

TOWER- St. James will have its Christmas



Levi Clemenson had fun at a family Early Childhood event at the Tower-Soudan Elementary School earlier this fall. For more information on upcoming Early Childhood events, contact Mary Larson at the Tower-Soudan School, 218-753-4040. photo by S. Ukkola

Eve Service on Monday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. The Theme for the service will be "Led By The Star" from Matthew 2:1-12. The service will be followed by a "Birthday Party for Jesus" in the Fellowship Hall downstairs.

Tower-Soudan Women's Bowling

Week of Nov. 14
Team rankings: Vermilion Club (60-28), Broten Construction (50-38), Jeanne's Cards (46-42).
Week of Nov. 7
Team rankings: Vermilion Club (54-26),

Jeanne's Cards (46-34), Broten Construction (42-38).
Week of Oct. 24
Team rankings: Vermilion Club (52-12), Jeanne's Cards (40-24), Broten Construction (36-28).

Cook VFW
Open Daily at Noon
CLOSED on TUESDAYS

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

Event Rentals Welcome
218-780-6709

Pull-Tabs Sold Daily
Lic. 00390

Sunday FREE Pool

Thursday Bingo
Early Bird 6 p.m.
Progressive Prizes

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

Take-Out 666-0500

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
BETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS

Northwoods Transfer Station 9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt Winter Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm Tue: 9:30am-3pm Wed: 11am-5pm	Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd., Cook Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm
County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm	Soudan Canister Site 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun 8am-5pm
Embarrass Canister Site 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30-4:30pm Thu: 10am-5pm	Aurora Transfer Station 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm Sat: 8am-noon
Household Hazardous Waste Facility 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

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

Angel Tree

Embarrass Vermillion Federal Credit Union will be partnering with our communities to help up to 120 local children, ages 0-17, in need. We will be hosting three Angel Trees, which will be available in our Tower, Embarrass, and Aurora offices. This project will run November 1st through December 17th. Community members can stop in and choose an Angel from the tree, shop from their wish list, and return it to us unwrapped. Also accepting donations of new warm blankets to donate to each child. We will take care of the wrapping and the distribution of the gifts. Everyone is welcome to participate!

Thank you for your help in making a child's Christmas a little bit warmer & brighter!

EMBARRASS VERMILLION FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

"NOT FOR PROFIT, NOT FOR CHARITY, BUT FOR SERVICE"

Aurora • Tower • Embarrass

HOLIDAY GIVING

Donations still needed for Operation Santa

All donations needed by Dec. 14: toys, gift cards, clothing, and cash welcome

TOWER- This year's Operation Santa toy drive is officially underway. Operation Santa is a local fundraiser which purchases Christmas gifts (toys, gift cards, and warm winter items) for children whose families use the Tower Food Shelf. Last year we served over 150 area children, and this year our list is already longer than that!

We have received many generous donations, but much more is needed to make sure every child in our community receives gifts and warm clothing this Christmas season.

We are in great need of board games for children and teens, art supplies and craft kits, sporting goods, and toys for all ages including preschoolers and infants. We also need gift cards (Target or Walmart, valued at \$10 or \$15, for the teens on our list).

The effort is organized by *the Timberjay* and the Tower Soudan Civic Club, with help from many area groups, churches, organizations, and individuals. If your group or church is planning to donate this year, please contact Jodi at 218-753-2950. (This helps with planning!)

Lake Country Power's Operation RoundUp® program has once again made a very generous donation to the Tower Soudan Civic Club (formerly the Tower Women's Club), to help cover the cost



of purchasing warm items for the children.

If you purchase a toy that uses batteries, please also send a spare set!

We also accept gently-used holiday decorations and gifts for the adults who use the food shelf. Wrapping paper, tape, and bows are also needed.

Donations can be dropped off at *the Timberjay* in Tower, and will be distributed at the food shelf on Dec. 18.

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 – 1:30 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.

Homebound seniors can sign up for meal delivery. To register for the new Meals on Wheels, or for more information, please call AEOA Senior Nutrition at 218-735-6899.

Week of Dec. 10

Monday-	Pulled Pork Sandwich, Baked Beans
Tuesday-	Rotini with Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread Stick
Wednesday-	Tater Tot Hot Dish, Dinner Roll
Thursday-	Hand-Pattied Hamburger on a Whole Grain Bun
Friday-	Chicken Sandwich, Vegetable Soup

Week of Dec. 10

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

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

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 10

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Dec. 18

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

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 14

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

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

Vermilion Country School Board- Next meeting is Thursday, Dec. 20 at 4:45 p.m. Meetings posted online at vermilioncountry.org.

TS-LV EVENTS BOARD

Christmas Gift Wrapping Event, Saturday, Dec. 15

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Area Events Board is having a Christmas Gift Wrapping Event on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center. In addition to gift wrapping, the board will be serving sloppy Joes, chips, cookies, and bars. There will be a free will

offering for this event. All profits will go to the Lakeview Cemetery Association.

Helping the cemetery association is the board's way of saying "thank you" to the people of Tower-Soudan and Lake Vermilion for helping us with the Fourth of July events and our Snow Bocce Ball

Event this past year.

Come and visit, enjoy yourself, eat, listen to Christmas music, and watch our artistic, creative wrappers make your gifts look beautiful. We will also have a running train model display that day at the civic center. For questions, please call Pam at 218-753-3006.

BREITUNG POLICE DEPARTMENT

October 2018

Calls: 160
Arrests: 0
Citations/formal charges: 10
Monthly mileage: 1,839 (Tahoe 1,274, Explorer 565).



October Police Report

Breitung Police Chief Dan Nylund

conflict management and mediation, implicit bias, community diversity, and cultural differences. Chief Nylund and Officers Sanderson, Burger, Battin, and Nyman attended yearly mandatory training.

Squads

Current end of the month mileage for the Gold 2012 Chevy Tahoe (Tower) is 74,998. Cur-

rent end of the month mileage for the 2017 Ford Explorer is 15,659.

Winter driving tips

The Breitung Police Department reminded drivers to focus on safety. When the chilly temperatures of winter set in, will your vehicle be ready for the cold? When inclement weather hits, such as heavy rain, snow, or ice, are you prepared to drive in those conditions? Planning and preventative maintenance are important year-round but especially when it

comes to winter driving. Every vehicle handles differently, this is particularly true when driving on wet, icy, or snowy roads. Take time now to learn how your vehicle handles under winter weather driving conditions. Before driving clean off snow and ice from the windows, the forward sensors, headlights, taillights, backup camera, and other sensors around the vehicle.

Citations/formal charges/ arrests

- (1) 5th degree assault – citation issued
- (1) Obstruct Ambulance Personnel – citation issued
- (7) Speeding - citations issued
- (1) Vehicle registration violation – citation issued.

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, Dec. 12; Jan. 2

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

• You Are Invited To The •

LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Hosted by the Women of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower, MN

Wednesday, December 12 • Noon
Fellowship Hall • \$12 per person

Meal includes:
Hot Roast Beef Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes,
Green Beans, Beverage and Dessert

...PLUS...
Entertainment and Games!

Register by December 5.
Call Immanuel Lutheran Church at 753-2378.

We Hope To See You There!

Resolution Number 2018-015 MAYORAL PROCLAMATION REMEMBERING THE LATE HERBERT R. LAMPPA

WHEREAS, Herbert Lamppa, in individual who has cared deeply and strongly for this community and is virtually embedded in the infrastructure and growth of this community; and

WHEREAS, Herbert Lamppa has lived for 70 years in Tower, during which time he has established a sincere advocacy for many of the topics and issues the City of Tower has faced throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, Herb was no stranger to City Hall and the Tower Community and served as County Commissioner and a teacher for many years; and

Whereas, Herb can be credited with much of the progress and developments that fill the City of Tower's history; and

WHEREAS, it was with great disappointment and sadness that elected officials and city staff learned of Herb's passing Wednesday, the 14th day of November, 2018.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF TOWER, does hereby honor Herbert R. Lamppa for his many years of civic participation, recognizing his tireless efforts on behalf of not only the City of Tower but Saint Louis County. The City Council and City of Tower hereby declare November 14th as Herbert Lamppa Day in the City of Tower.

Call to Subscribe
(218) 753-2950
www.timberjay.com



the TIMBERJAY

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Libraries

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

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
AA - 7 p.m. Mondays, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St.

WOMEN'S AA - Noon Mondays, Ledgerock Community Church, Ely - use 15th Street entrance.

BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church.

AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.

BABBITT AL-ANON - Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian Church.

CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely.

ELY 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.

Ely Library

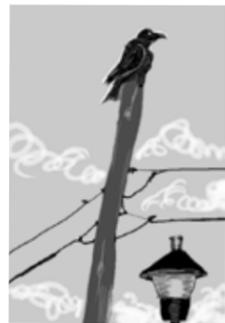
Preschool Story time - every Friday morning at 11 am.

Monday, Dec. 10 - 3 p.m. - Friends of the Library Book Discussion - for adults. The title for this month is "The Catcher in the Rye," by J.D. Salinger. You do not need to be a member of Friends of the Library to attend.

Thursday, Dec. 13 - 3:30 p.m. Minnesota singer/songwriter Zachary Scot Johnson presents a holiday show of favorite songs and lesser known gems that will delight the whole family. Zachary also shares stories about the songs and his own experiences within the music industry. This program is made possible by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Friday, Dec. 14 - 11 a.m. - A special story time with an artistic craft led by Ely-area artist Sarah Guy-Levar.

Breathing Out
by Cecilia Rolando © 2018



looking from above enjoying his privilege
envious view

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY

The economic hangover of sulfide mining

Editor's note: This column was posted by Peter Marshall, on the Friends of the Boundary Waters blog on Aug. 27, 2018, at www.friends-bwca.org.

Too often, the issue copper sulfide mining in northeastern Minnesota is overly simplified as a debate between those who want to see economic development in the area and environmentalist who want to keep northeastern Minnesota in a pristine, natural condition.

It's not that simple. There are many reasons to keep sulfide mines from opening in Minnesota. One of the big reasons is that these mines would hurt the economy of the region.

Forget all emotional appeals to why we need wilderness. Throw out your sentimental attachment to birch trees, to granite shoreline and thousands of miles of cold, pristine waters. Based on numbers, on cold analysis and projections, opening sulfide mines in the Superior National Forest would be detrimental to the economy.

Economic impact of mining

Last month, a study out of Harvard

University analyzed two different cases concerning the proposed 20-year moratorium on mining and mineral leases on 234,328 acres of federal lands within the Superior National Forest. This is commonly known as "the withdrawal."

In the first case, the proposed withdrawal is put in place. In the second scenario, sulfide mining is allowed in the Superior National Forest.

The conventional story many have been led to believe is that mining would produce more economic growth. It would make the region rich.

It would make some people rich, but not the people who live in the region., or the state.

By looking at these three factors:

►Employment and income generated by mining

►Employment and income generated in the outdoor recreation industry

►Income associated with in-migration, that is, people moving to the area because of its natural beauty, etc. (its "amenity value").

The researchers arrived at three main conclusions:

►Mining would bring an initial, but short-term growth in employment and income associated with mining activity.

►Over time, these initial benefits would be outweighed by the negative impact mining would have on the recreational industry and on in-migration.

►This would lead to a boom-bust cycle that would leave the region worse off economically than it would be under the withdrawal.

Economists examined 72 different income scenarios, representing a range of growth parameters consistent with historical data, previous studies of the region and the academic literature. All scenarios point to the boom-bust cycle of employment and income. In 69 of the 72 income scenarios they considered, the withdrawal of mining from the area would lead to higher incomes than if mining were permitted, in many cases by a large margin.

Their findings are consistent with the academic literature on boom-bust cycles in extractive industries and the literature on the value of outdoor recreational amenities to regional economies.

Wilderness economy

It can be hard to convince people of the value of wilderness. It can be difficult to convey

just how important clean water is. Such appeals usually hit the wall of "jobs, jobs, jobs."

Protecting northern Minnesota from sulfide mining is about protecting jobs.

As more research comes out and more people take a technical look at the economic value of wilderness, it's apparent that supporting wilderness is supporting a strong, stable economy. As the authors conclude:

We find that, over the 20-year time horizon of the proposed withdrawal, introducing mining in the Superior National Forest is very likely to have a negative effect on the regional economy. Our calculations omit some factors, notably the negative effect of mining on real estate values, that would strengthen this conclusion. We reviewed the relevant literature and conclude that our findings are consistent with the literature, most notably the history of boom-bust economies associated with resource extraction that leaves the local economy worse off. We encourage the U.S. Forest Service to consider carefully the full economic effects of the proposed withdrawal over the entire 20-year period included in the proposal.

OFFSHORE ADVENTURERS

Freemans paddle while sailing to the Bahamas

ATLANTIC SEABOARD - Ely-area environmental advocates are sailing along the Atlantic coast this fall and winter and last month they found themselves on the Intercoastal Waterway near North Carolina.

"We love sailing, but we are paddlers at heart," David Freeman said on a Facebook post. "Ever since we started thinking about getting a sailboat in 2013 we have envisioned having kayaks that we could paddle around remote anchorages and wild coastlines from our floating home, propelled by the wind."

They experimented with strapping kayaks and canoes along the deck of their first sailboat, but it was not ideal and would have been dangerous in big seas.

"After five years, we are excited to start paddling a compact, inflatable, tandem kayak called an Innova Kayak Solar," Dave said. "It folds into



a small backpack and weights about 35 pounds so we can easily store it inside. With a little practice I think we will be able to have it inflated and be ready to hit the water in 10-15 minutes."

They went out paddling for the first time last Thursday. "I am sure we will be out paddling again soon. I haven't seen Amy grin so much in a while," he said.

The explorers

restocked supplies in Fort Lauderdale over Thanksgiving before heading to the Bahamas on the next leg of their journey.

OUR COMMUNITY

Ely AAUW aids education for women, girls

ELY - The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Ely Branch is conducting a shoe drive fundraiser through Jan. 15, 2019, to raise funds for local area, educational programming for women and girls.

AAUW Ely will earn funds based on the total weight of the pairs of gently worn, used and new shoes collected, as Funds2Orgs will issue a check for the collected

shoes. Those dollars will benefit mission-based educational projects serving the Ely community.

Anyone can help by donating gently worn, used and new shoes at designated local drop boxes, with any AAUW Ely member, or by calling 218-365-6802 to arrange drop off.

Drop boxes are currently located at The Pebble Spa, Gators Grilled Cheese Emporium, and Vermilion Community

College, Office CL135.

All donated shoes will then be redistributed throughout the Funds2Orgs network of micro-enterprise (small business) partners in developing countries where economic opportunity and jobs are limited. Funds2Orgs helps impoverished people start, maintain and grow businesses in countries such as Haiti, Honduras and other nations in Central America and Africa. Proceeds from the shoe sales are used to

feed, clothe and house their families.

"We are excited about our shoe drive," said Pam Brunfelt, AAUW Ely Branch president. "We know that most people have extra shoes in their closets they would like to donate to us and help those less fortunate become self-sufficient. It's a win-win for everyone," added Lucy Diesslin, AAUW Ely Shoe Drive Committee Member.



the TIMBERJAY

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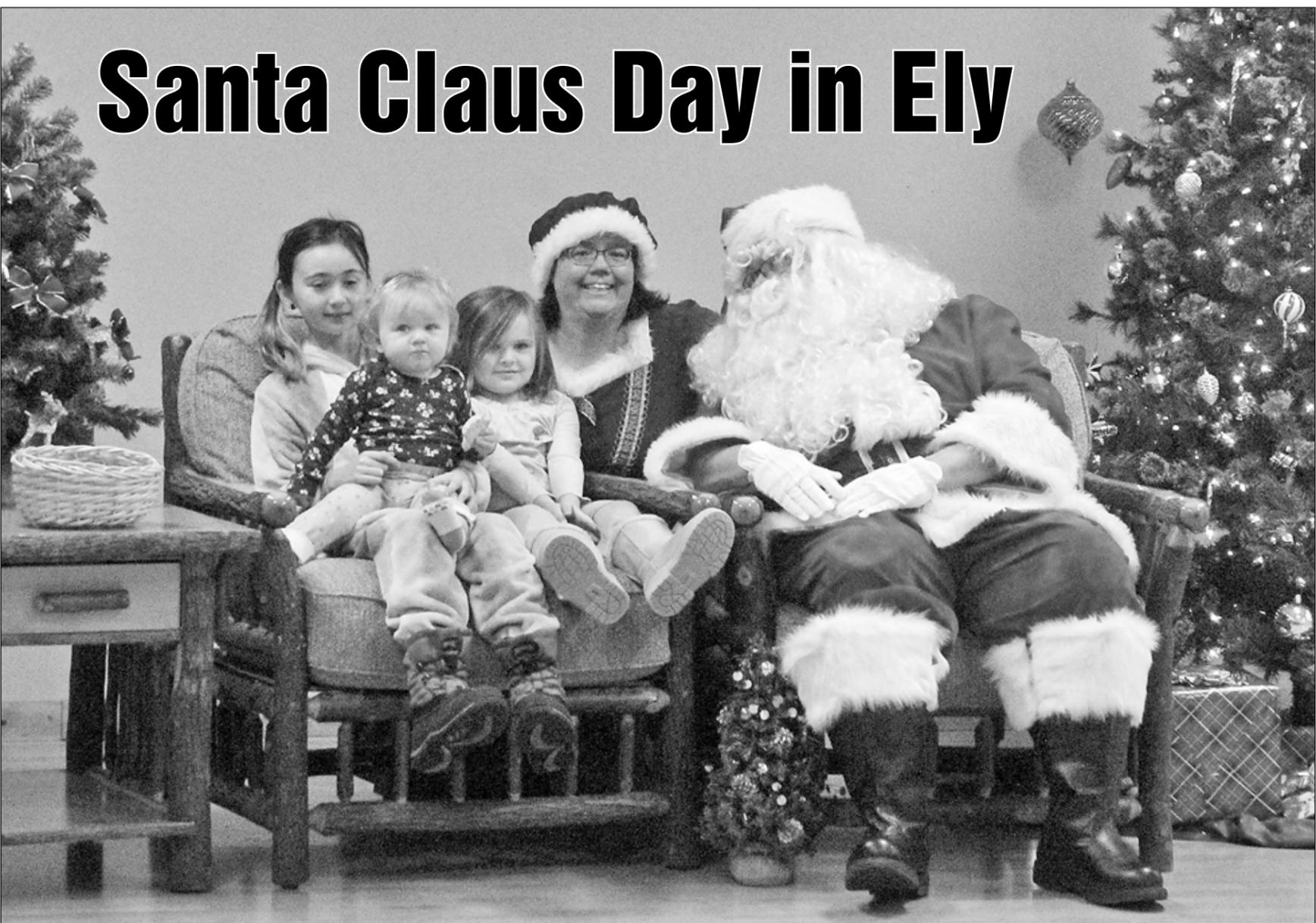
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SEASONAL HAPPENINGS

Santa Claus Day in Ely



Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus had pictures taken with Ely-area children by Tara Kay Photography last Saturday during Santa Day at the Grand Ely Lodge. Shown are Lovella Carlson, and Raya and Wynter Waldemarsen. photos by K. Vandervort



Rylee and Logan Larsen, above, play a game of Giant Jenga. Jovie Kiesler, right, tastes a Christmas cookie.



ELY VFW POST 2717 ESSAY CONTEST



Ely VFW Post 2717 Commander Mike Pope, honored the recent winners of the Patriots' Pen Essay Contest. From left are Lauren Rehbein and Lily Dirks, who won \$20 prizes, and Abigail Johnson, the overall winner. submitted photo

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
BETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS

Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

<p>Northwoods Transfer Station 9384 Hwy 21 N. Ely/Babbitt Winter Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm Tue: 9:30am-3pm Wed: 11am-5pm</p>	<p>Aurora Transfer Station 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm Sat: 8am-noon</p>
<p>Embarass Canister Site 7530 Koski Rd., Embarass Hours Sat: 12:30-4:30pm Thu: 10am-5pm</p>	<p>Soudan Canister Site 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun: 8am-5pm</p>
<p>Household Hazardous Waste Facility 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm</p>	<p>Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm</p>

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

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

Community Notices

Carol and the Belles at First Baptist Church of Cook, Dec. 15

COOK - Come experience the joy and true meaning of Christmas as portrayed by the children of our community and surrounding area. "Carol and the Belles" will be presented at the First Baptist Church of Cook on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 5 p.m. and on Sunday Dec. 16 at 10 a.m. The production begins at 10 a.m. but you are invited to a coffee time in the fellowship hall at 9:30. The 50's style musical set at the local Drive Inn is filled with vibrant songs and delivers the truth of God's Word regarding the birth of Jesus. The script and story feature an exuberant cast (young AND old!) preparing for a "Rock and Roll TV Special" that results in a beautiful Nativity scene. Following the Saturday performance, there will be a Feast and Fellowship time in the lower auditorium. ALL are welcome to attend one or both of these performances. You won't want to miss it. The children invite you, too.

Grocery delivery services offered to Cook residents after Zup's fire

COOK - Registrations are being taken here for a grocery delivery service following the fire at Zup's Grocery. The program, offered by the AEOA, is for seniors 60 years of age or older. Registrations will be taken over the phone by calling the agency at 1-800-662-5711 ext. 6899.

Gingerbread and volunteer appreciation at Cook Library

COOK - Come and help build a gingerbread village at the Cook Library. Sweet treats and frosting will fill the library on Thursday, Dec. 13 at 4 p.m. during the after school library club. All children are welcome to participate; those under 10 years need an adult helper. Creations can go home or stay at the library.

The gingerbread creations will be followed at 6 p.m. by a volunteer appreciation gathering featuring snacks and drinks for the public.

Readers and Rappers book club meets Dec. 11

COOK - Readers and Rappers Book Club will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 1 p.m. in the community room at the Homestead Apartments in Cook. The group will be discussing "Stones from the River" by author Ursula Hegi. Sue Gustafson will be moderating. Club members are asked to bring cookies to share. Readers and Rappers welcomes all who love to read. "Only Child" by Rhiannon Navin is the book selection for January.

Bookmobile schedule

Visit your library on wheels, the Arrowhead Library System Bookmobile.

Thursday, Dec. 20

Nett Lake - Community Center 9:30-10:15 a.m.

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

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

Kabetogama - Town Hall 3:15 - 3:45 p.m.

For further information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, write or call the Arrowhead Library System, 5528 Emerald Ave., Mt. Iron, MN 55768 218-741-3840, or check our website at www.alslib.info.



SNOW CITY



It's the Holiday Season in Orr



ORR - The holidays were in full swing here last Saturday for the annual Snow City Festival. Events around town rang in the Christmas season whether it was breakfast, buying arts and crafts, or standing outside for a chance to see Santa and Mrs. Claus ride their sleigh through the Orr Center parking lot and drive. Inside, kids and adults alike were treated to warm treats and craft.



Clockwise from top: Santa and Mrs. Claus greet festival-goers; the Orr American Legion provides a color guard for the beginning of the holiday parade; Bigfoot waves from behind a giant Teddy bear; a family of snowmen wave from the back of an ambulance; kids pick up candy thrown from floats. photos by M. White.



Crane Lake News by the Singing Teapot Dames



If you went to the Orr Christmas Craft extravaganza last Saturday, you had a special treat! There were lots of exhibitors with lots of great offerings to tempt your Holiday preparation plans. This year saw a new and improved setting at the Orr Center with room for all the participants. Thank you to all who participated in this special day. Santa even made an appearance with a parade to

include "something for everyone". Way to go, Orr!

The closing of Herberger's in Virginia earlier this year has put a crimp in shopping plans for Christmas buyers. Here's hoping that something similar finds its way to our area soon. On that note, Zup's is planning on opening a larger, improved grocery store in May! Thank you, Matt and Zup's family, for being so loyal and supporting the people of our area. One can order most everything online in today's world, but online grocery shopping has not made its way to us yet!

Thanksgiving was the official beginning of the Christmas season, even though some stores have had Christmas decorations up since Halloween. How many

parties, pot lucks, family gatherings and celebrations are you juggling this month? Be careful with your celebrating as many of these joyful occasions include the consumption of alcoholic beverages. Have you ever wondered if there is a state leader for alcohol consumption, not only at Holiday time, but just in general? Bet you can't guess who they would be or what the amount is. The U.S. Healthy People 2020 government initiative set the target alcohol consumption for Americans at 2.1 gallons or less per capita per year. According to statistics, Americans are drinking more than this per year, on average. The states of Nevada, Delaware and New Hampshire rank as the top three states where alcohol consumption is the highest per capita.

Nevada consumes 3.46 gallons per capita, while Delaware's residents consume 3.72 gallons per capita. The No. 1 spot on the list goes to New Hampshire, with per capita alcohol consumption at 4.76 gallons per year, on average.

Randy and Gail Daniels have returned from a fabulous vacation in Florida. Their tans look great. The vacation was greatly needed as now RD and Gail will begin their winter job of hauling wood seven days a week.

Jake Ulen was home for a brief visit but is back in Rochester's Mayo Clinic for another surgery. Jake has had twelve surgeries, so let us hope this will be the beginning of the final surgeries. We are all praying for Jake!

Kara Knutson and Jeff Miller hosted a Vi-

kings football game party on Sunday afternoon. The party was great with fellowship, food and fun - however the Vikings lost. The fans, all Viking fans, could not pull their team through for a victory. Even the dogs were rooting for the Vikings but the New England Patriots were the victors.

Crane Lake's college girl Sabrina Francke will be home for a month of vacation from college life in Hawaii. Word is that Sabrina is doing well. She likes College and life in Hawaii. Let us hope that the weather will not be too unkind for Sabrina; there may be a great difference in temperatures.

Recent reports conclude that two glasses of wine daily help you lose weight and is good for your heart. One of the Dames will live to be 100 or more with great heart

health while being as thin as a reed!

Don't forget to send in your tradition. Everybody has something that makes Christmas Christmas to them, so please share. Who knows? You may be the inspiration for someone else's new tradition.

As the Dames informed you dear Readers last week, beginning in January the Dames will publish the birthdays of readers. So send in your birthdays or anyone else you would like included. The Dames promise not to publish ages!

Let us hear from you! Send news by e-mail to info@thelakecountry.com, by fax at 218-757-3533 or by phone to Sandy at 218-757-3233 and it will be added.

Until next week the Teapot Dames are singing off.

Bear River to host annual Christmas gathering at historic church

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

On Dec. 14, the community will gather at the little white church on the banks of the Bear River for the 23rd annual "Hanging of the Greens" worship service. As we get ready for Christmas, we often find ourselves

getting caught up in all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Sometimes we lose sight of why we are celebrating in the first place. The "Hanging of the Greens" worship service provides a way to stop and prepare ourselves for the real reason for the season - the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

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

rather "what they mean for us today."

At 7 p.m. on Friday evening, Dec. 14, the Bear River Lutheran Church will begin to wear its Christmas apparel. We will make the sanctuary ready for the birthday of the King much as we would make it ready for a banquet with a royal host, by dressing it with its best apparel. We are mindful that, though it is not Christmas yet, it will be here very soon. Preparation for this beautiful season is not something that should be done for us. It is something that we should do ourselves. On this night of the Hanging of the Greens, each individual and family will share in the furnishing of the Bear River Church for the celebration of the birth of Christ.

While we sing together and decorate the church, not only will we explain the history of the symbols of these special seasons, but we will dedicate these symbols to the glory of God. Come and join with us as we prepare our church - and

ourselves - for the wondrous celebration of the birth of our Savior. Following the service, "Coffee ands" will be shared.

Celebrating Jesus' birth will continue throughout the Advent Season during our weekly 10 a.m. Sunday worship times. Christmas Eve Candlelight Services will be held on Monday, Dec. 24 at 4:30 p.m. (Christmas Day will be a day for you to celebrate at home with friends and family.)

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

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

ARTS

NWFA has local artists reception next week



Wanda Parks poses with her artwork. photo by L. Garbisch

COOK - The Northwoods Friends of the Arts honors artists Wanda Parks and Jodi Feist with a reception on Wednesday, Dec. 12 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. The NWFA's December exhibit began Thursday, Dec. 5 and shopping continues each Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Saturday mornings 9 a.m. - 1p.m. until Dec. 29.

Paintings by Jody Feist from Cook are colorful and uncommonly interesting.

"As an artist I get the honor of trying to duplicate the beauty that God shows each day," Feist said.

Psalm 19:1-3 "The heavens declare the glory of God. The skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the end of the world."

"In my painting I am trying to copy the splendor that God has made," Feist said. "I see it all around me. I hope you enjoy!"

Wanda Parks is a local artist from Virginia.

Parks received training in commercial art after high school but considers herself self-trained. For years she did very little art work because of working and raising a family. When she began again she worked in pen and ink. Now Wanda uses the ink along with watercolor, some colored pencil and air painting with water mixable oils. Since retirement she has become more involved with art work. Look for her wildlife portraits, and pet portraits. She takes consignments.

NWFA is a non-profit organization and gallery exhibiting for about 40 artists. It is dedicated to encouraging arts in all forms in education and performances in the region of Cook. The popular gallery and organization opened in 2010 on Cook's main street next to Dream Weaver Spa and Salon. For more information you may contact NWFA by email at nwfamn.org@gmail.com or see the website at www.nwfamn.org.

GRIZZLY UPDATES

Meet Mrs. Breann Stanzell

This week's interview candidate is Mrs. Stanzell, a fairly new face to North Woods in her second year at our school. Mr. V: Where are you originally from and where did you go to high school and college?

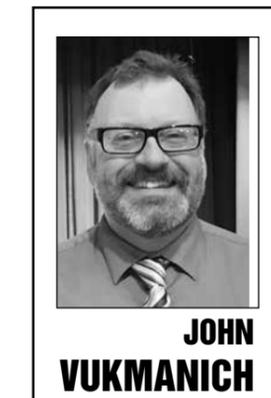
Mrs. S: I grew up in Britt and went to high school at Virginia. My undergraduate degree is from St. Cloud State in Theatre, with a minor in Business. My Master's Degree in Special Education/Elementary Education from Western Governors University.

Mr. V: Were there teachers who were an influence on you? Please name a few if you can.

Mrs. S: Lori Ismil was a personal influence on me at Virginia High School. Brenda Whitworth at St. Cloud was a Theatre teacher. She was an influence on me for sure. Otherwise, education sort of found me.

Mr. V: What characteristics did these teachers have that were important to you?

Mrs. S: Mrs. Ismil at Virginia High School was unfailingly kind and was the best listener. She



JOHN VUKMANICH

truly, genuinely cared about every kid. I have never met someone like her. Ms. Whitworth at St. Cloud State University was really tough on us, but she also cared. She knew us really well and held us accountable.

Mr. V: What do you teach at North Woods?

Mrs. S: Elementary Special Education. I primarily work with the students who have behavior difficulty.

Mr. V: Why did you choose teaching as a profession?

Mrs. S: I was living in the Minneapolis area and needed a job. I became a paraprofessional at a school and worked with very challenging students with behavior



BREANN STANZELL

issues. Then I became interested in teaching. I just sort of jumped in.

Mr. V: What are your hobbies?

Mrs. S: Reading, drawing, painting, writing, sewing, and if I had more time, theatre.

Mr. V: What is something you really like about North Woods?

Mrs. S: I like the smaller atmosphere. It's very cohesive and feels like a family.

Mr. V: What is a professional goal for you?

Mrs. S: Right now I am trying to find better solutions for student non-compliance. It's really tough to figure out how to get all of my students to participate all the time at the level

I want. I have high expectations for them and know when they can do better.

Mr. V: What is something you love about northern MN?

Mrs. S: I like the changes in seasons! I love tropical weather, but could never handle Christmas without snow. I lived in the metro area, too, and appreciate the lower cost of living here and the smaller communities.

Mr. V: What is a piece of advice you'd give your students?

Mrs. S: Your challenges in life don't define you, the way that you respond to those challenges does define you.

Mr. V: Do you have a favorite saying or expression?

Mrs. S: Yes, it is very faith-based. "Who am I to judge the world when even Jesus could love the unholy."

Mr. V: What do you hope that your students will remember you for?

Mrs. S: That I always cared about them. No matter how they were acting. No matter what.

the **TIMBERJAY**

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Orr Canister Site 4038 Hwy 53 Winter Hours Tue, Thu: 9am-noon Sat: 8am-noon	Portage Canister Site 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Winter Hours Tue, Sat: 1pm-4:30pm	County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77 Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm
Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm	St. Louis County Environmental Services Department 1-800-450-9278 Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle
Household Hazardous Waste Facilities 5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia Tue, Sat: 8am-1pm		3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing Sat: 8am-1pm

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MEMOS...Continued from page 1

that a sulfide-based copper-nickel mine posed to water quality in the 1.1 million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness located directly downstream from the proposed mine site. The decision all but ended work on the Twin Metals project, since the federal leases were integral to its success.

This past May, however, the Trump Interior Department ordered that the leases be reinstated and justified that unprecedented action by claiming that the prior administration had committed "legal error" when it determined that the government had discretion over whether to renew the leases.

Daniel Jorjani, a former legal counsel for the conservative Charles Koch Foundation now working for the Trump Interior Department, had issued the new opinion late last year, arguing that the terms of the original lease guaranteed that Twin Metals had the right to one more ten-year renewal. Jorjani argued that the federal government had no choice but to renew the claims given the language in the original leases, known as MNES 1352 and MNES 1353, which were first issued to INCO in 1966.

A number of Minnesota businesses and environmental groups filed suit against the decision in June, and the case is now before a federal judge appointed by President Trump.

Documents clarify negotiations

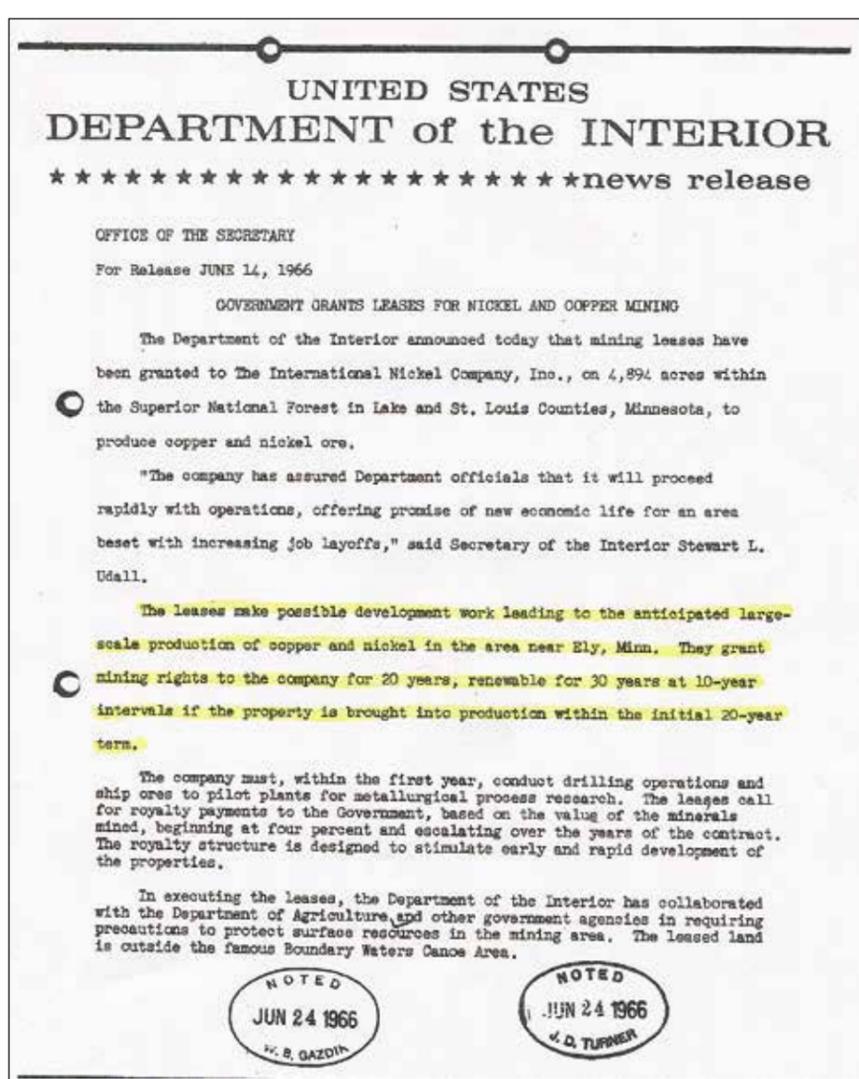
The collection of federal records was released by the government to plaintiffs as part of discovery in the ongoing lawsuit and they have since been obtained by the Timberjay. The documents are comprised mostly of memoranda written by federal officials with the Department of the Interior in 1965 and 1966 documenting their discussions with Congressman John Blatnick and representatives of INCO as they negotiated the terms of the mineral leases.

The discussions and agreements described in the memoranda suggest that the Trump administration may have a difficult time defending the validity of the legal opinion under which Interior officials made their decision.

The memoranda describe sometimes tough negotiations, with INCO representatives arguing for enactment of two 50-year leases that would provide them greater opportunity to recoup the estimated \$2 million investment the company anticipated in order to finalize its exploration and develop a mine plan.

The company and the federal Bureau of Land Management had tentatively agreed on a 50-year term back in the mid-1950s, but the BLM never approved the leases after press coverage at the time suggested they amounted to a sweetheart deal. Talks between the company and the agency related to mineral leases subsequently ceased for nearly a decade, although INCO did maintain short-term prospecting permits in the affected area.

Interested in the project was rekindled in 1965 as word leaked out that U.S. Steel planned to perma-



These documents and more, dating back to 1966, are available for review on the Timberjay's website, www.timberjay.com.

nently close the Pioneer Mine, Ely's last iron mine, within a year or two. Rep. John Blatnick, who represented the Eighth District at the time, hoped that a copper-nickel mine could provide jobs for at least some of the miners who would be laid off with the shuttering of the Pioneer. That concern was echoed by then-Ely Mayor Joseph Purcel, who led a local delegation to Washington to push for progress on the copper-nickel front. Purcel attended at least one of the meetings in Blatnick's Washington office to discuss prospects for the INCO project with federal officials and company representatives.

While the Johnson Interior Department was amenable to the mining proposal, memoranda from that time show that the federal officials, by then, had no interest in providing a 50-year lease to INCO. Charles Stoddard, the BLM director at the time, noted at a July 7, 1965 meeting in Blatnick's office that the agency could not justify a 50-year lease given that the agency traditionally offered nothing longer than 20 years. Companies typically had a preferential right to renew their leases, which meant they, in effect, had a right of first refusal on subsequent lease renewals, if the federal government decided that renewal was in the public interest.

INCO held out for a better deal. In that same July meeting, INCO Chairman Henry Wingate told federal officials "that if the leases were for 20 years, or less, that the Department could forget about INCO."

BLM representatives, including Stoddard, told those at the meeting that the agency supported the project and would offer lease renewals if production was underway. But they objected to a 50-year lease since it would only require actual mineral production in the 49th year of the lease. "Mr. Stoddard stated that the BLM was subject to more political pressure than any other

Table titled 'LEASE CHANGES IN PROPOSED LEASES'. It compares 'Old - 1956' and 'New 10/7/66' terms. The table includes rows for Term, Royalty, Rent, Minimum Royalty, Additional Royalty, Overriding Royalty, Renewal, and Property and Fair Price Class. The 'New' terms generally offer shorter initial terms (20 years) and lower royalty rates compared to the 'Old' terms (50 years).

agency, and it was necessary for them to do something to demonstrate that they are performing in the best public interest," noted a July 12 memorandum produced by J.D. Turner, the Chief of the BLM's Branch of Mining. Turner quotes Stoddard telling the group that BLM customarily required lessees to begin production "prior to the 5th, 10th, or 15th lease years."

By August, it appeared that INCO had agreed to drop its demand for a 50-year lease. An Aug. 18, 1965, memo from R. E. Spratt, the BLM's Assistant Chief of Conservation, describes a follow-up meeting in Blatnick's office. Quoting one of the participants, Spratt states that, "the meeting was on a friendly, cooperative basis, and that INCO has agreed to accept the standard lease form, to drop the 50-year [lease term], and is now wanting to negotiate royalty terms."

INCO, in exchange for agreeing to drop its demand for a 50-year lease, then wanted the government to lower the royalty amount from the rates that the company and the government had agreed to in the 1950s. Negotiations over royalties consumed the next several months.

By October, the lease was close to complete, except for an agreement on royalty terms. In an Oct. 5, 1965, memo titled "Proposed Preference Right Lease to International Nickel Co.," Director Stoddard described efforts at "re-

negotiation" of the proposed 1954 lease "into conformity with the regulations and policies of the department and to gain the best possible assurance that the company would begin productive operations during the primary term."

Blatnick continued to pressure the agency to move quickly, particularly on royalty rates, which by October was the last sticking point to an agreement. Some officials within the Interior Department were unconvinced of the justification for a reduction in royalties, which delayed any final decision. On Oct. 14, a handwritten note by Harold Duncan, then Chief of the Conservation Division, described a phone call from Blatnick's office urging him to support the company's proposed royalties. "I said nothing warranted me to okay a change over the royalty rates agreed to in 1956," Duncan wrote.

Duncan reiterated that opinion in a lengthy Oct. 29, 1965, memorandum, citing the history of the 1950s-era negotiations that led to the original royalty terms.

W.T. Pecora, then director of the Geological Survey, concurred with Duncan in a Jan. 10, 1966, memo stating his opinion that the company had provided no justification for adjustment of the royalty rates.

But by the end of January, it appeared that political pressure had won over the department. A Jan. 30, 1966, document outlines the differences between the unexecuted

1950s-era lease and the new one that the company was seeking. In addition to the change in royalty rates, the document notes that the term of the lease was changed from 50 years to 20 years, with rights to renew at three ten-year intervals with no change in terms "unless not in production [in] the 1st 20-yr. term on either one lease or the other." The lease did allow the secretary to grant a ten-year extension under certain circumstances, but that the mine would have to get underway during the extended period.

By early summer of 1966, the lease was finalized and the Department of the Interior issued a press release announcing the leases on June 14.

Then Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall praised the leases, which he said offer "promise of new economic life for an area beset with increasing job layoffs."

The press release notes that the leases "grant mining rights to the company for 20 years, renewable for 30 years at 10-year intervals if the property is brought into production within the initial 20-year term."

Nearly 53 years later, no copper-nickel has been produced from the leases, although the BLM and U.S. Forest Service did allow INCO and its successors to renew the leases in 1989 and 2004 despite the lack of production. Related legal opinions, produced by both the Reagan and Obama Interior Departments, concluded that renewal of the leases was discretionary on the part of the government, due in part to the company's failure to begin production within the initial 20-year term.

Jorjani opinion questioned

In his legal opinion issued Dec. 22, 2017, Daniel Jorjani argues that INCO's renewal rights were never contingent on the start of mineral production. Instead, Jorjani claims that the requirement to begin production within 20 years related only to the federal government's right to adjust royalties.

"Rather than conditioning the right of renewal upon production, [the lease] sets forth the degree to which the BLM may readjust the terms, conditions, and royalty rates during lease renewals, and creates an incentive for early production by limiting BLM's discretion during the first three lease renewals if production has begun," states Jorjani in his legal opinion.

Nothing in any of the memoranda produced by the government supports Jorjani's novel claim. Instead, Jorjani's argument runs directly counter to the discussions detailed in government memoranda as well as the 1966 government press release which clearly linked the company's rights to future lease renewals to the beginning of production within the initial 20-year term.

In addition, it runs counter to the Jan. 30, 1966, lease comparison which describes the lease terms, the rights to renewal, and royalty rates as separate provisions. At no point in any of the documents is it suggested that the production requirement stipulated in

the lease refers only to the government's right to adjust royalties.

Jorjani's legal argument, if believed, suggests that INCO representatives were remarkably shrewd in their negotiations with the government. In effect, Jorjani claims that the company — apparently without the government's knowledge — negotiated a guaranteed 50-year mineral lease with escape clauses (options for renewal) for the company at 20 years, 30 years, and 40 years, but with no similar right for the government.

And that in compensation for obtaining even more favorable terms than the 1950s-era lease, the government also granted INCO a substantial reduction in royalty rates.

The negotiations outlined in the government memoranda point to exactly the opposite conclusion as they indicate that INCO wanted lower royalty rates in compensation for agreeing to an initial 20-year term with a production requirement.

An Oct. 5, 1965, memo produced by Interior's Duncan notes detailed discussions on the question and indicated that INCO expected to get something for agreeing to a shorter lease term.

He said company representatives made it clear that "if INCO relinquished its right to a 50-year lease for a 20-year lease, that they expected a cut in the proposed royalty... by at least 50 percent." Had the company and federal officials believed that the government was granting INCO an automatic right to a total of 50 years of mineral leasing, without a production requirement, the company's rationale for lower royalties would have vanished.

Other claims in Jorjani's legal opinion are equally suspect. In it, he states that Twin Metals has consistently maintained its right to automatic renewal of the two federal mineral leases.

In fact, the company has stated the opposite. Its 2014 43-101 technical report contains the following in an assessment of potential risks to the project: "Subject to applicable laws and regulations, BLM has discretion as to whether to issue or renew any prospecting permit and any preference right lease, as well as discretion with respect to the terms and conditions to be included in any such prospecting permits and preference right leases. Issuance and renewal of prospecting permits and preference right leases also are subject to review by the United States Forest Service under applicable federal law."

Legal proceedings

The memoranda obtained by plaintiffs are almost certain to serve as key exhibits as the lawsuit before District Court Judge Trevor N. McFadden, filed by affected businesses and environmental groups, proceeds. As currently scheduled, plaintiffs will present briefs arguing for summary judgment by Jan. 16, 2019, with responses from the government and rebuttal by plaintiffs anticipated in February and March. If the schedule proceeds as currently ordered, a decision could be expected by early summer.

ELY CITY COUNCIL

Ely moves ahead with skate park, more housing

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Two new city projects to kick off the new year, constructing a new skate park and adding more market rate housing, were authorized by the Ely City Council Tuesday night in an abbreviated meeting.

Council members breezed through a light agenda in less than 30 minutes at their second-to-last meeting of 2018.

A new skate park

to be built near the Ely Rec Center has been on the wish list of the Park and Recreation Board for several years, but obtaining bids for the project has been a challenge, according to Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski. “As you recall, we have asked for bids for construction at least twice before, with no luck.”

Local contractor Rock Country Masonry has agreed to take on the budgeted \$30,000 project

for a down payment of \$100. Park and Rec Board members recommended awarding the bid.

“The owner and an employee, I believe, are avid skate-boarders,” Langowski said, “and this will be an exciting opportunity to get a little skate park here. They will schedule to start work in the spring.”

Mayor Chuck Novak noted that specific data on the project was not supplied to the council

in the agenda packet for members to consider prior to the meeting. “I would ask that background information be provided for the council to study on agenda items,” he said.

Council members unanimously accepted the bid.

Novak asked the council to consider a recommendation from the Housing and Redevelopment Authority to consider the construction of additional market

rate housing in the city. “We’re looking at getting plans together for more town homes, to look at the bid documents, and to study the actual architectural drawings and see what we can do,” he said. “We’ll also look at what bonding needs to be passed.”

Novak noted that the demand for more housing existed when the first town homes went up. “When we opened the doors, we filled every one of them and

there has been a waiting list ever since. I know of some folks who are just waiting to put their house up for sale when they have something else to go into.”

Langowski said the housing study, published a few years ago, may require some updating. “I think a lot of the numbers may have changed a bit, and in a positive direction in terms of our housing stock. Houses are selling here. It has become a demand-driven market.”

ORR CITY COUNCIL

Orr City Council approves wireless high-speed Internet project

by MELLISA ROACH
Staff Writer

ORR — Residents in Orr should soon have the ability to obtain high-speed Internet access as a result of special city council action here last week.

The council, after some deliberations and

investigation voted to approve a proposal by Back40Wireless to install wireless transmitters on the city’s water tower.

The agreement allows the company to install and maintain their transmitting equipment on the city-owned tower, which it will use to connect customers within

line-of-sight of the tower to high-speed Internet. In exchange, the city will receive internet services at no charge for all its municipal buildings.

Representatives from the company Back 4 0 Wireless approached the city council with its proposal earlier this year. With city

officials now convinced that the proposal has merit, the council held a special meeting to expedite installation of the new equipment.

Councilors did add a few requirements to the agreement, including that electrical work be completed by a licensed and insured electrician.

Additionally, the company will not be permitted to weld its equipment to the water tower, but must use clamps or some other kind of fastener. Mayor Joel Astleford voiced his trust in city maintenance supervisor Paul Koch, “As long as Paul oversees the electric,

and he’s good with it.” Councilor Lloyd Scott said he would like Koch to oversee the whole installation.

The council offered no timeline for installation, but company officials had earlier indicated that they would like to have the system installed by the end of the year.

TOWER...Continued from page 1

stained-glass windows. We had gotten out of our car and peeked in. They were great little windows.”

John and his partner Rosemary Shepherd are professional stained-glass restorers.

“At that point we were just curious,” he said. “But we’ve been involved ever since. This is a very worthy project.”

The historic St. Mary’s Church building

was moved onto its new foundation on Main Street in 2015, and the additions to the building, which will provide space for a cultural center, were framed in the following year. But since then, progress has slowed while fundraising and logistical details were hammered out.

The project ran into some “hiccups,” Bowe said, due to underlying conditions of the 130-plus

year-old building that weren’t apparent until after the church had been moved.

The LVCC board then started working with ARI Architects of Hibbing, to develop a workable plan for the restoration.

“The whole process took longer than we hoped,” said Bowe, “but now it is happening.”

The work, which was awarded to Hammerlund Construction of Grand Rapids, includes stabilization of the building, accessibility work, new footings and foundation walls, floor and stairway framing, exterior wall and roof sheathing, work on the bearing walls, roof joists and rafters, new exterior building wrap, construction of the cupola, and the remainder of the interior wall framing.

As some may have noticed, the work also includes some “strategic” demolition, to address code and accessibility



The historic St. Mary’s Church building was moved to a new foundation on Main Street in Tower in 2015 to be used for the new home of the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center. photo by J. Summit

issues.

Bowe said the cement and foundation work should be completed soon, and then the exterior of the building will be closed in. Interior carpentry work will continue through the winter.

“Hammerlund is doing a great job,” said Bowe.

This phase of the project does not include shingles and the completion of the roof.

“The board had hoped the generous grant from the IRRR would cover the roof cost as well,” said board member Elaine McGillivray. “The reality is, with any restoration

project, the costs to bring an old building up to code, and in this case meld the old St. Mary’s building with new construction, was higher than expected.”

LVCC has already received some generous private donations to help with Phase 1 of the project (as well as work done previously) and is now seeking donations to help with Phase 2, which will include completing the roof, siding, and entrances. The restoration of the 17 stained glass windows continues. Bowe said about two-thirds are already restored and in newly-built frames.

“The stained-glass

windows are the gems of this project,” he said. “They are a great example of stained-glass of that era. We haven’t been able to find who designed them, but they appear to have been installed at the same time the building was constructed, over 130 years ago.”

Bowe said the windows were in pretty good condition, considering their age. “There was just typical wear and tear, and material deterioration from age,” he said. The restoration process includes taking all of the stained glass pieces apart and reassembling them, replacing pieces of glass as needed. Each window is also being built into a new wooden frame. Most of the windows will be reinstalled in their original location, except for some on the wall of the building that is now an interior wall. Those windows will be relocated in the new part of the building. Bowe is also working to restore the original millwork. The restored windows, millwork, and new fishtail siding will all be installed once the exterior construction work is completed.

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ELY...Continued from page 1

like more services provided by the hospital due in part to the addition of your general surgeon, and increasing other outpatient services as well as outreach to the community."

Coyle's first annual report to EBCH Foundation shareholders is the culmination of a lifelong love of the Ely area, especially the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

He related his experiences trekking to the BWCAW as a Boy Scout leader while attending school in Duluth. "Several years ago, my wife and I decided that when a job opened up anywhere near Ely, we would drop what we were doing and move here," he said. "Mr. Fossum, being here for 20-plus years, was kind enough to retire and that opened up the job."

Coyle thanked the shareholders for their part in the success of the hospital. This year marks the seventh year of a structural change approved by them. Instead of electing members to the hospital's board of directors, they are elected to the foundation, which remains independent of direct hospital control in the event of a merger or integration. This model makes it easier to transfer control of the facility to another organization, such as Essentia, which runs the Ely Clinic.

"We are independent and remain locally-owned," Coyle said. "We are not managed by anybody or owned by anybody. That is really important to us."

EBCH is a 21-bed critical access hospital that receives reimbursement as a percentage of costs, according to Coyle. That differs from larger hospitals that are reimbursed according to the volume of care. "It is important that we remain as a critical care status [facility], because we get reimbursed a little bit different. Even though we have lower volumes, we can still keep our doors open," he said.

With 100 employees at EBCH, the facility generates an annual

payroll of \$6.15 million. With benefits, the payroll reaches almost \$8 million, according to Coyle. "We have very low turnover, I mean extremely low turnover. We have a wealth of knowledge and experience. There are people here with 30 or 40 years of service."

Coyle credited the "fantastic" year in 2018 to the fact that "we weren't afraid of trying new things," including the hiring of a new general surgeon. "We're going to be offering things like sedated dentistry in the very new future. A lot of things that you don't typically see in a critical care hospital, you will see here in Ely."

He offered some statistics to measure the growth at EBCH in the last year:

- Inpatient Days in the hospital, increased from 651 to 786 days.
- Hospital Occupancy Rate, increased from 5.1 percent to 6.2 percent.
- Patient Admissions, increased from 249 to 275.
- Surgical Procedures, increased from 319 to 406.

A very visible and none-too-popular decision two years ago to end birthing services at the hospital will not be reversed, Coyle said.

"Delivering babies is an important part of every hospital when you have the ability and resources to do it," he said. "Research

shows that for a physician or nurse to be competent in that, they should be doing as many as 200 deliveries a year."

EBCH was averaging about 21 births a year when they terminated the service. "That is not nearly enough to be competent," he said. "Only 10 percent of all critical access hospitals in the United States deliver babies."

Coyle credited the positive financial growth in the last year to people "having faith that we are providing amazing care." He stressed, "Our goal is to help you not go other places."

The EBCH Foundation pays for the cost of annual flu shots so they can be provided to the Ely community free

of charge. Last year more than 1,500 flu shots were dispensed. "We just didn't do this in Ely," he said. "This year we also went to Babbitt and Tower, and for the first time we went out to businesses because we understand that every business owner can't shut down just so their employees can come to our clinic."

Coyle described a list of new services implemented at EBCH in the last year, including adding a surgeon, constructing a new hospital pharmacy, adding a new ultrasound machine, hiring a new emergency room supervisor and an ER management service, and developing a strategic plan, updated hospital logo and patient engagement surveys.

He also told share-

holders to look ahead to 2019 for many new changes at EBCH.

"We will have a new 128-slice CT machine in our building in January or February," Coyle said. "There is only one other like it in the whole country, and that is at Ohio State University. There is nothing this machine can't do. We are completely renovating that department to make it comfortable for the patient, while having the latest and greatest equipment available."

Other changes planned for 2019 include:

- Launching a new master building plan to make the facility more efficient.
- Increasing the

number of specialty providers and surgical procedures

- Launching a new website.
- Acquiring new cardiac rehabilitation monitoring equipment
- Upgrading the IT infrastructure and wireless systems.
- Increasing community engagement programs.
- Administering a community health needs assessment.

Coyle has been on the job for about 10 months following the retirement of administrator John Fossum.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Mattson scores 1,000th point in Greenway match

Ely junior scores 30 points to help Timberwolves topple Raiders

ELY— Timberwolves junior point guard Erika Mattson hit a major basketball milestone on Tuesday as she scored her 1,000th point and a double-double to lead Ely to a 56-31 win over Greenway in their home opener.

Mattson poured in 30 points in the game, along with ten rebounds and five assists, suggesting she's going to be a force to be reckoned with over the next two seasons.

Mattson had some help

from junior Brielle Kallberg, who notched a double-double of her own, with 11 points and 16 boards, while freshman Ande Visser tallied eight points and seven rebounds. Senior Lida Dodge added five points, while Winter Sainio tallied seven boards.

For the Wolves, it was a nice recovery from their 75-61 loss to Two Harbors on Saturday. Mattson again led the way in the losing effort, scoring 29 points

and 10 rebounds for another double-double. Kallberg was right behind with 24 points and 15 boards for her second straight double-double. But the dynamic duo couldn't quite carry the team, as all other Ely players added a total of just eight points in the match.

"Overall, I feel we have played fairly well," said Head Coach Darren Visser. "Our

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



Junior Erika Mattson runs by Greenway defenders.
photo by J. Greeney

BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies open season strong

North Woods wins two and loses one at home before heading out on the road for Twin Cities match up

by **MARCUS WHITE**
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP— After last year's state tournament run, the Grizzlies boys basketball team is back in action with a promising start after going 2-1 in a season-opening home stand. On Tuesday, they thoroughly dominated Bigfork, taking an early lead and never looking as they posted an 86-33 win over the Huskies.

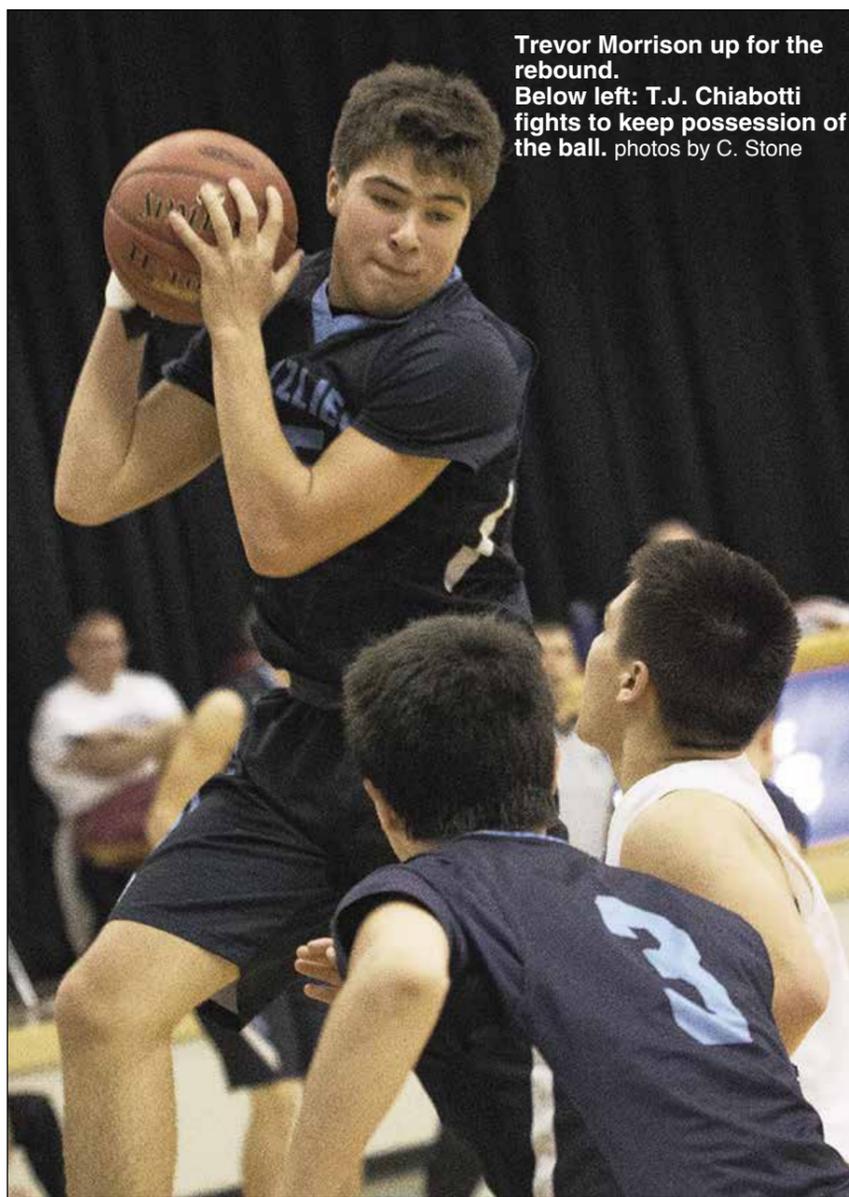
Seniors Cade Goggleye and Ian Sherman both had big nights, posting 21 points apiece to lead all scorers. Sophomore Darius Goggleye also saw double digits, adding

another 13 points.

Bigfork's Liam Prato led scoring for the Huskies, with 17 points. No other stats were immediately available from the game, which improved the Grizzlies to 2-1.

In earlier action this past week, the Grizzlies struggled against visiting Cass Lake-Bena, falling 61-44 on Saturday. The Panthers were looking for revenge after the Grizzlies beat them in the semi-final round of the state Class A tournament last March. The game also suggested that the Grizzlies will

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



Trevor Morrison up for the rebound.
Below left: T.J. Chiabotti fights to keep possession of the ball. photos by C. Stone

Sports week

BOYS B-BALL

Saturday Dec. 8
North Woods at Mayer Lutheran 3:15 p.m.

Ely hosts Hill City, 2:45 p.m.

Tuesday Dec. 11
North Woods at Nashauk, 7:15 p.m.

Ely hosts Silver Bay, 7:15 p.m.

Friday Dec. 14
Ely hosts North Woods 7:15 p.m.

GIRLS B-BALL

Friday Dec. 7
NE Range at Chisholm, 7:15 p.m.

Monday Dec. 10
NE Range at Silver Bay, 6:30 p.m.

North Woods at Cherry, 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday Dec. 11
NE Range at Eveleth, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday Dec. 13
NE Range at Cook County, 6:30 p.m.

North Woods hosts Fond du Lac, 7:15 p.m.

HOCKEY

Friday Dec. 7
Ely hosts May-Port, 7 p.m.

Tuesday Dec. 11
Ely hosts Eveleth-Gilbert, 7 p.m.

Wolves drop opener

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

TWO HARBORS— Season-opening jitters appeared to get the better of the Timberwolves on Tuesday night as they fell to the Agates 59-41 in boys basketball action. "We really struggled from the start and just could not get anything going offensively," said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. "We trailed 30-24 at the half and just did not have a good night shooting."

The Wolves shot just 11 of 38 from the near court, and five of 22 from beyond the arc for an overall shooting percentage of just 27 percent. They did only marginally better from the charity stripe, connecting on four of nine opportunities. "It's hard to get a win shooting like that," said McDonald.

"We will definitely need to shoot the ball better to compete against anyone on our schedule."

Ely junior Dylan Fenske had a good night, with 14 points and five rebounds, while senior Patrick Vanderbeek tallied 13 points. Senior Collen Seliskar posted nine boards on the night.

On a bright note, McDonald said the team played pretty tight ball, allowing just eight turnovers in the game. "So it wasn't a sloppy game in terms of throwing the ball away," he said.

The Wolves hit the road on Friday, Dec. 7, to take on the Broncos in International Falls. They'll host Hill City on Saturday, with a game time of 2:45 p.m. They'll host Silver Bay on Tuesday, with tip-off at 7:15 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Hawks can't hold off Grizzlies

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

B A B B I T T — Grizzlies senior Kate Stone had a strong outing as she helped lead her team to a 70-33 win over Northeast Range in the Nighthawks' season opener last Thursday.

The Grizzlies were up against a young and inexperienced Northeast Range squad, and it showed as they took an early lead and just kept building.

Stone had plenty of help from senior Bria Chiabotti, who tallied 12 points on the night, while junior Kennedy Wardas added eight and eighth-grader Hannah Kinsey tallied six. Junior Coley Olson and senior Hanna Sandberg added

five apiece.

For the Nighthawks, senior Shayler Lislegard scored 16 points to lead her team in the losing effort. Junior Casey Zahnow added ten and senior Sophie Lenz added three.

"We're kind of just figuring things out right now," said Nighthawks Head Coach Paxton Goodsky. "We have kind of a limited roster."

The Grizzlies will play Cherry on the road next Monday, Dec. 10. Tipoff is 6:30 p.m.

Northeast Range went on to play South Ridge, that story can be found on page 2B.



Shayler Lislegard dribbles out from under the basket while Bria Chiabotti plays defense.
photo by C. Stone

HOCKEY

Ely falls behind early

by JAY GREENEY
Sports Writer

ELY - The Timberwolves are still looking for their first win of the hockey season after falling 6-1 to Wadena-Deer Creek in their home opener on Saturday.

Ely outshot the Wolverines 15-14 in the first period, but the Wolverines made two of theirs count as they jumped

to an early lead. The Wolverines would add one more in the second period and put the pressure on with three more in the final period. The Wolves' Luke Olson finally put Ely on the scoreboard with just 2:22 left for a 6-1 final.

It was a clean game with just four total penalties, three of which left Ely skaters in the box for a total of six minutes.

Ely goalie Chase Sandberg stopped 31 of 37 shots in the outing. Ely, now at 0-3, hosts May-Port on Friday, Dec. 7. Eveleth-Gilbert then comes to town on Tuesday, Dec. 11. Both games start at 7 p.m.

Jason Skube fends off Wadena's Wyatt Murray.
photo by J. Greeney



BEAR CENTER

American Bear Association opens new visitors center/office in Orr

by MARCUS WHITE
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR - The Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary has been operating out of a new home here for the past few months. Since August, visitors to the sanctuary have been welcomed at what was both the old Ferrellgas office and the original home of the Timberjay on Hwy. 53 south of town.

The American Bear Association, which owns the sanctuary, has had the building for three years, but only recently began moving into the new space.

"This was the first year the plans solidified," Association Director Steph Horner said. "We wanted somewhere on the highway to attract people and grab their attention."

Previously, the sanctuary rented office space at the Orr Center.

While the new center hasn't had its official grand opening yet, Horner said they're hoping to cut the ribbon next May. In addition to offering administrative offices, the new center has a small classroom and will offer some souvenir items for sale in its small gift shop. The association does operate a small gift shop on the bear sanctuary grounds, but the new one will be much more visible to the general public on Hwy. 53. The sanctuary itself is located about 15 miles west of Orr on County Road 23, then another mile or so north on a narrow gravel road, a location that has regularly confused potential sanctuary visitors who aren't familiar with the area. Horner said the sanctuary will be adding a shuttle service from the visitors center on Hwy. 53 to the grounds next year.

The association is also planning



Steph and Ryan Horner.
photos by M. White

educational programs and other uses to better serve the association's mission. The first program will be held next month when Horner will offer a Friday evening educational session followed by a field hike on snowshoes the following morning during which Horner hopes to show participants a wild bear in its winter den.

"If the program does well, we'll add more programs focusing on more animals in northern Minnesota."

The sanctuary has been open since 1995 when the American Bear Association assumed ownership of the property formerly owned by Vince Shute, who had begun feeding bears at his former logging camp back in the 1970s. The site eventually attracted large numbers of bears, as well as people who came to watch the bears. Since taking over the site,



the association shifted the feeding operation to healthier fare, ended handfeeding of bears, and built a protected viewing platform to keep humans and bears separate.

More info on upcoming programs at the sanctuary can be found at www.americanebear.org or by calling 218-757-0172.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Hawks downed at South Ridge

SOUTH RIDGE—Shayler Lislegard scored 26 points for the Nighthawks on Monday, but it wasn't enough as Northeast Range fell 69-40 to South Ridge.

Nighthawks Head Coach Paxton Goodsky said his team showed some progress in their second game of the season after dropping their season opener 70-33 to North Woods.

"We stayed pretty

close in the early going," noted Goodsky, as South Ridge led just 29-20 at the break.

Lislegard didn't get much offensive help from her teammates, although Sophie Lenz and Natalie Nelmark added four points apiece. The Nighthawks head to Chisholm on Friday, with a 7:15 p.m. start. They'll be back on the road on Monday, with a 6:30 p.m. start at Silver Bay.

Bigfork takes out Grizzlies

BIGFORK - After two strong showings against Chisholm and Northeast Range, the Grizzlies fell in a close-game here, 54-47.

Senior Regan Ratai led the pack with 12 points. Brynn Simpson, Alanna Rutchasky and

Kate Stone all shared a piece of the team points with eight a piece.

Senior Kia Tower from Bigfork had the biggest night, however, scoring a huge 25 points. Brianna Haley added 12 points for Bigfork as well.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

have some adjusting to do after losing some top senior players from last year's team.

"Some of the roles we are filling from last year's squad will take some time to develop," said Head Coach Will Kleppe said. "We are going to have to be patient. When our team finds its roles, we will start to build our confidence."

Freshman T.J. Chiabotti led the way against the Panthers, pouring in 16 points, including four three-pointers. Senior Chase Kleppe followed with four buckets for eight points, while Darius Goggleye added seven points and Trevor Morrison added six. Cade Goggleye tallied five points.

Cass Lake junior Jarell Jacobs led all scorers

with 18 points.

The Grizzlies had a much better outing in their home opener on Thursday, as they dominated South Ridge enroute to a 74-26 victory. Senior Dylan Chiabotti led with 15 points, while Morrison followed with 14 points. T.J. Chiabotti tallied nine points, Ian Sherman added eight and Darius Goggleye scored six. Kleppe tallied five points along with eight boards and four steals, while Cade Goggleye notched four points, nine assists, and five steals.

The Grizzlies will have their first road game this Saturday against Mayer Lutheran. That game will be played in the Twin Cities at Hopkins High School. Tipoff is scheduled for 3:15 p.m.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

team does not have much varsity depth so we are working hard to get the younger players ready to help on varsity. Our older girls have done a great job of being strong leaders and helping our younger players develop quicker."

In their season opener, the Wolves easily outpaced Nashauk-Keewatin, 67-37, as Mattson poured in 34 points to kick off her outstanding start to the season. Mattson shot a phenomenal 83 percent from the front court and

a machine-like 67 percent from three-point territory.

Kallberg added ten points and 11 rebounds starting her streak of three straight double-doubles to start the season. Meanwhile, Dodge and Sainio each tallied eight points, and Sainio added nine rebounds to her total.

The Wolves were set to play International Falls on Thursday before a ten-day break. They'll be back in action at Chisholm on Monday, Dec. 17, with a 7:15 p.m. start.

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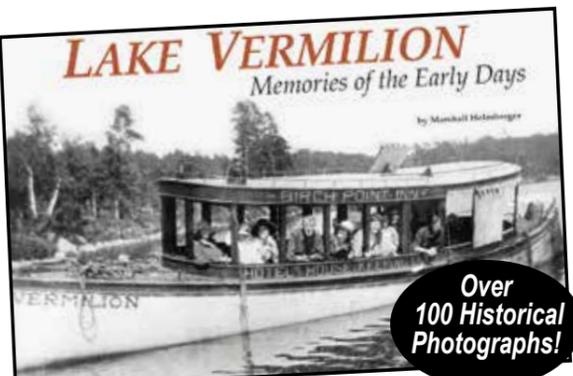
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MPCA issues new discharge permit for Minntac tailings basin

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — After years of effort and controversy, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has issued a new discharge permit for U.S. Steel's Minntac tailings basin that agency officials expect will land them in court.

The MPCA released the new permit for the 8,700-acre tailings basin late last Friday, and it has already come under fire from environmental groups for its failure to establish meaningful discharge limits for the massive facility. The basin, located about five miles north of Virginia, contains billions of gallons of water with elevated concentrations of a wide range of pollutants, including chlorides, sulfate, manganese, suspended solids, and specific conductance, the result of years of use and reuse at Minntac's adjacent taconite processing plant. The new permit replaces the company's previous permit, which expired more than a quarter century ago.

The basin has discharged and seeped polluted water into the Dark River and into the Sand River, a major tributary of the Pike River, for years. It has also contaminated groundwater outside the boundaries of U.S. Steel's ownership. Under the newly-issued permit, the company will be allowed to continue those discharges for years to come.

The permit, if enforced, would require the company to improve the water quality within the tailings basin over time, although the MPCA and the company have agreed in the

past to such improvements through so-called Schedules of Compliance, with little or no progress to show for it. The permit also requires the company to complete installation of a pumping station at its outlet to the Dark River, which will return discharging water to the tailings basin in an effort to reduce contamination within the Dark River. The company had agreed to install the pumping system back in 2011 but the project was never completed. Under the terms of the permit, the company will have another 18 months to complete installation of the system.

The pumping system will help to alleviate surface discharges to the Dark River, but will not address underground seepage nor will it help to improve overall water quality within the basin. U.S. Steel installed a similar system at its Sand River discharge, which reduced, but did not eliminate, contaminated discharges there.

The new permit gives the company two and a half years to submit a plan outlining how it intends to reduce the level of contamination within its tailings basin and allows the company ten years to reduce sulfate levels in the basin water to 357 milligrams per liter. Modeling done by the MPCA suggests that reducing sulfate from the current levels of over 1,000 mg/l in the basin could allow Minntac to lower groundwater sulfate levels to a level that would meet federal drinking water standards of 250 mg/l. Most ground and surface waters in the region naturally contain less than 10 mg/l of sulfate according to widespread testing.

EPA loosens oversight

The ability of the MPCA to issue its latest permit highlights the difference in the Environmental Protection Agency's approach to industrial pollution under the Trump administration as compared to previous presidents. In the final weeks of the Obama administration, EPA officials were highly critical of a draft version of the permit issued by the MPCA, suggesting that the proposed permit failed to address discharges from the basin to both surface and groundwater as required by the federal Clean Water Act. "The permittee acknowledges that approximately 3,000 gallons per minute, or 4.3 million gallons per day are discharged from the tailings basin via subsurface seepage to the Sand and Dark River watersheds. The MPCA appears willing only to regulate the portion of the discharge to the Dark River that passes through Monitoring Station SD001..." wrote Kevin Pierard, who oversaw water discharge permitting for the EPA's central region, in a Dec. 21 comment letter.

"I think the big story here is that the EPA is missing in action," said Paula Maccabee, legal counsel for Duluth-based Water Legacy, who has closely monitored the Minntac permitting. "The EPA has totally abdicated its responsibility to protect Minnesota's surface water under the Clean Water Act. This is a new and extremely troubling development."

The MPCA did not respond prior to press time to questions related to the new Minntac permit.

Cook Hospital to host meeting on mental health services on Dec. 13

by MARCUS WHITE
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK — Reducing stigma and increasing support services will be among the many suggestions considered at a Thursday, Dec. 13 meeting at the Cook Hospital on improving access to mental health care. The meeting is a follow up to a roundtable on the subject held in August.

"Our ultimate goal is to create a mentally aware community," Director of Nursing Nichole Chiabotti said. She added that societal stigmas around mental health have impacted how and when an individual seeks help.

The Cook Hospital took on the project as part of a team of other regional

hospitals across northeastern Minnesota following a summit in Duluth last May. At their August roundtable, community leaders from both the city, county, hospital and school district came together to begin brainstorming how best to address the issue locally. Next Thursday's meeting is a follow-up to those discussions.

Ideas include everything from handing out resource cards at area institutions, such as churches and libraries, to increasing collaboration between EMS and other area services as points of contact. Chiabotti said the next step is to create focus groups to assess the best ways to implement the suggestions.

Current local mental health services in the Cook

area include a behavioral health counselor shared by Scenic Rivers' clinics in Cook and Tower.

A 2015 study by the National Rural Health Resource Center said nearly 17 percent of St. Louis County residents residing outside of Duluth, who were in need of mental health services, did not seek care, with the leading cause being that patients did not think their condition was serious enough. Other common reasons included nervousness about seeking help and fear that insurance would

not cover the costs.

The same survey also noted that 68 percent of adults with a diagnosed mental illness or condition have an underlying physical health condition as well.

Those interested in attending the meeting should contact the Cook Hospital at 218-666-6251. The meeting is from noon to 2 p.m. in the hospital's large conference room.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Rob Ecklund listening session on Dec. 12 at the Crescent in Cook

COOK- Join State Rep. Rob Ecklund (3A) at the Crescent Bar & Grill on Wednesday, Dec 12 at 6:30 p.m. for a listening session before the new legislative session begins in January. All are welcome. Hosted by Northern Progressives.

Vermilion Senior Living Open House on Tuesday, Dec. 11 in Tower

TOWER- The community is invited to a Christmas Open House at Vermilion Senior Living on Tuesday, Dec. 11 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Vermilion Senior Living is the assisted living facility located at 1232 Birch St. N in Tower.

Everyone is invited to come meet the staff and residents, and spread holiday cheer. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and door prizes will be drawn at 1:45 p.m. Any questions, call 218-753-7788.

Ruby's Pantry, Dec. 13 in Cook

COOK- The next Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution will be Thursday, Dec. 13 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the old Cook School. Registration begins at 3 p.m. with a \$20 cash donation at the door. Volunteers are asked to please arrive at 3 p.m. Please bring your own containers. Ruby's Pantry is now offering online registration at rubyspantry.com starting Friday, Dec. 14 for the January distribution, \$21 donation at sign-up. Ruby's Pantry is sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Alango. For more information, contact Amy Vitta at 218-666-2220.

Moving Beyond Chaos at Mesabi Unitarian, Dec. 9

VIRGINIA- On Sunday, Dec. 9, Rev. Eric Northard will present "Moving Beyond Chaos." We are now well into the holiday season. All of the rush and chaos this season brings is well upon us. How can we find meaning while navigating the many stresses this season can bring?

The service is at 10:30 a.m. at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church, 230 7th St. S in Virginia. We are handicap accessible.

Pets lost in Lake County house fire

REGIONAL - Authorities are investigating a house fire east of Babbitt that killed several pets. Area firefighters responded to a reported home on fire along Kelly Trail, just before 1 p.m. on Tuesday.

The Lake County Sheriff's office says no one was injured, but the homeowner reported several pets were killed in the fire. The house is a total loss, authorities said.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Holiday music at area libraries

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present Holiday Music with Zachary Scot Johnson. Join us for an hour of family-friendly merriment at Cook Public Library on Friday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m., at Ely Public Library on Thursday, Dec. 13 at 3:30 p.m., and at Babbitt Public Library on Thursday, Dec. 13 at 6 p.m.

Zachary Scot Johnson is a singer/songwriter who tours nationally. His hit YouTube channel, the-songadayproject, has over 2,000 consecutive days of recordings over six years without a missed day and has 40 million views. You'll hear both well-known and lesser-known music performed on guitar, keyboard, violin, mandolin, banjo, ukulele and more.

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at www.alslib.info, follow us on Twitter @ALSLibraryNews, or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo.

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WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Public support high for proposed elk restoration

Proposal could return wild elk to portions of St. Louis, Carlton, and Pine counties

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Public support for the restoration of wild elk populations in portions of St. Louis, Carlton and Pine counties appears to be high according to survey data generated by two University of Minnesota researchers.

The surveys were part of

a broader look at the potential for restoring wild elk to three separate study areas, including a portion of southeastern and east-central St. Louis County. That study area extends from Makinen to Cotton, and east to Brimson, encompassing much of the Cloquet Valley State Forest and a small portion of the Superior National Forest. The restoration effort is a

partnership project between University of Minnesota, the Fond du Lac band, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. The Minnesota DNR and county land departments have also been providing assistance. Funding for the project comes primarily from the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources.

According to the survey

results, overall public support for the elk restoration is extremely high across the study areas surveyed, ranging from 81 percent in Pine County to 75 percent on the Fond du Lac Reservation. The researchers sent out 4,500 surveys and received a nearly 60-percent overall response rate, including a 67.5-percent response rate from landowners within the study areas.

Public support is just one aspect of overall study of the restoration proposal. "The second part of our feasibility effort is measuring habitat suitability in our three different study areas," said Mike Schrage, a biologist with the Fond du Lac band. That work got underway in 2017, with a University field crew assessing

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



HARD WATER SEASON

Anglers hitting the ice

Ice thicknesses vary, so anglers urged to use caution as they venture out

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The fish are biting, more or less, if you can get to them.

While the region has had snow on the ground for a month now, the early winter season has so far lacked the kind of extended sub-zero temperatures that anglers rely on to give them access to their favorite fishing holes.

"I'm not fishing Big Bay just yet," said Cliff Wagenbach, a longtime Lake Vermilion guide. He's been out on the ice regularly, fishing just outside the mouth of Greenwood Bay, where he said there's generally 5-7 inches of ice. "That's plenty for four wheelers," he said.

So far, he said, the fishing has been good during the usual "witching hour" between 4 and 5 p.m. Other than that, said Wagenbach, fishing has been fairly slow in the 15-16 feet of water he's been working.

Wagenbach normally prefers to fish the deeper waters of Big Bay early in the hard water season, but he's not comfortable venturing out onto the ice there just yet given the recent temperatures. "Most fishermen are still kind of working their way out," he said. "I'd like to

“Just because you see some fool sitting way out there doesn't mean he didn't just get lucky.

Cliff Wagenbach

get out on Big Bay, but I'll let someone else be the first. I'm too old to fall through the ice."

Most smaller lakes in the Ely area have had decent ice since the middle of November, and fishing has been "very steady," according to fishing guide Steve Foss. He said most smaller lakes are capped by 6-10 inches of generally clear and hard ice. "There's a few inches of snow on that ice, but not enough to produce widespread slush," said Foss. "Lake travel is generally good."

While fishing has been decent, Foss said a more predictable weather pattern would help to boost fish activity. "All these little snow fronts that blow through every other day or so have kept us from a period of stable high pressure," he said.

Above: Steve Foss, of Ely, poses with a recent catch, a 39-inch northern pike caught on an Ely area lake.



Foss said he's been finding pike in the green vegetation or along weed edges, while wall-eyes and perch have generally been set up along the edges of deeper basins during the day, moving into shallower water toward dusk and after dark.

This is the first hard water season since the new zone-based northern pike regulations went into effect, so anglers will want to be mindful of the change in rules. The new rules establish a two-pike limit, while anglers must release all pike from 30-40 inches, with only one allowed over 40 inches. For spear fishermen, the limit is two pike, and only one over 26 inches.

The new regulations, adopted by the DNR last May, are intended to protect the region's still-healthy population of medium and large northern

pike.

The DNR is also advising anglers to remain cautious while traveling on the ice given the relatively mild temperatures. "Every year, unexpected falls through newly-formed ice lead to tragedy," said Adam Block, a DNR conservation officer. "Of the six ice fatalities in 2017, five occurred during the early ice season of late November and early December."

The DNR advises that people should stay off of lakes until there's at least four inches of clear ice and that people should check the ice thickness at least every 150 feet as they travel.

"In addition to checking conditions locally and being

See **ICE FISHING**...pg. 5B

Outdoors briefly



Permits needed to harvest a Christmas tree on national forest

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — For North Country residents, cutting the family Christmas tree from a nearby national forest is part of their holiday tradition. The public is allowed to harvest a Christmas tree or gather balsam boughs on national forest lands, but Forest Service officials are reminding everyone that a permit is required to do so. Permits range from \$5 to cut a single Christmas tree to \$20 to cut balsam boughs for personal use and are available for purchase at any Superior National Forest district office.

Bough-gathering permits should be obtained from the Forest Service office closest to the area where you plan to collect. A "personal use" permit for gathering balsam boughs on the Superior National Forest allows for enough boughs to make approximately five door-size wreaths. If you plan to harvest a larger amount of boughs, a commercial permit is required.

Fourth-grade students may obtain a free Christmas tree permit through the "Every Kid In A Park Program," an initiative to get kids and families out into national forests and parks. Fourth-grade students can go to the "Every Kid In A Park" website, complete some online activities, and print a voucher good for a special Fourth Grade Pass which can be picked up at participating federal offices, including on the Superior National Forest. In addition to enabling fourth graders to receive a pass that allows free access to federal lands, the pass (or the printed voucher) also allows fourth graders to get a free permit for their family to harvest a Christmas tree on a national forest.

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Fishing reports

Kab-Nam area

Fishing reports are non-existent as the park service is still advising no travel on the big lakes. Most are waiting for some colder temps and thicker ice, but a few have ventured out only to find numerous cracks and heaves limiting their travel. Ice thickness varies greatly throughout the lake with water beginning to show as cracks open up. No reason at this point to push

it and put others in danger attempting a rescue. Check the Voyageurs National Park service website and Facebook page for the most up to date conditions.

No hunting reports this past week. We do have approximately 4-7 inches of snow which makes for a beautiful walk in the woods!

Be safe and we'll see you soon!

Courtesy Gateway General, Lake Kabetogama



ELK STUDY...

Continued from page 4B potential elk forage in the study areas. The group is now focused on mapping of suitable habitat and attempting to determine if survey respondents

living in potential future elk range are among those supporting the effort.

The group will issue a final report on its findings to the LCCMR in June.

Outdoors briefly

Use de-icers sparingly to protect water quality

REGIONAL—As the first snow of the season arrives, Minnesotans start thinking about clearing snow and ice from pavement — sometimes with salt. But when the snow melts or it rains, the salt, which contains chloride, runs into storm drains and into nearby lakes, rivers, and groundwater.

We scatter an estimated 365,000 tons of salt in the metro area each year. But it only takes a teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water. There's no feasible way to remove chloride once it gets into the water, and we are finding increasing amounts of chloride in waters around the state. Salty water harms freshwater fish and other aquatic wildlife.

Scatter patterns

Though no environmentally safe, effective, and inexpensive alternatives to salt are yet available, smart salting strategies can help reduce chloride pollution in state waters. You might think more salt means more melting and safer conditions, but it's not true! Salt will effectively remove snow and ice if it's scattered so that the salt grains are about three inches apart. A coffee mug full of salt (about 12 ounces) is all you need for a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk

squares (roughly 1,000 square feet). Consider using a hand-held spreader to apply salt consistently, and use salt only in critical areas.

And sweep up any extra that is visible on dry pavement. It is no longer doing any work and will be washed away into local waters.

Additional tips for limiting salt use:

► Shovel. The more snow and ice you remove manually, the less salt you'll have to use and the more effective it can be.

► 15 degrees F and below is too cold for salt. Most salts stop working at this temperature. Use sand instead for traction, but remember that sand does not melt ice.

► Slow down. Drive for the conditions and make sure to give plow drivers plenty of space to do their work. Consider purchasing winter (snow) tires.

► Hire a certified Smart Salting contractor. Visit the MPCA's Smart Salting webpage for a list of winter maintenance professionals specifically trained in limiting salt use.

► Promote smart salting. Work together with local government, businesses, schools, churches, and nonprofits to advocate for reducing salt use in your community.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
16 7	23 11	25 11	25 11	25 16

Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
11/26	19	11	0.01	0.1"	11/26	18	8	0.00	0.2"	11/26	18	9	0.01	0.1"	11/26	16	7	0.06	0.3"	11/26	17	9	tr	0.2"
11/27	18	11	0.02	0.8"	11/27	16	8	0.01	0.5"	11/27	15	7	0.03	0.5"	11/27	16	9	0.01	0.3"	11/27	17	9	0.00	
11/28	18	11	0.00		11/28	15	10	0.00	0.5"	11/28	15	10	0.02	0.2"	11/28	25	12	0.00		11/28	16	11	0.00	
11/29	24	11	0.04	1.4"	11/29	23	10	0.09	1.0"	11/29	24	11	0.12	1.5"	11/29	27	21	0.13	1.5"	11/29	24	11	0.30	2.0"
11/30	27	24	0.05	1.1"	11/30	26	23	0.08	1.0"	11/30	26	23	0.13	1.5"	11/30	30	25	0.08	1.0"	11/30	27	14	0.04	0.8"
12/01	43	25	0.00		12/01	29	23	0.00		12/01	31	24	0.00		12/01	27	21	0.00		12/01	30	23	0.00	
12/02	25	22	0.00		12/02	25	21	0.00		12/02	24	21	0.00		12/02	27	21	0.00		12/02	26	22	0.00	
Totals			23.72	20.7"	Totals			26.03	14.6"	Totals			30.63	20.1"	Totals			NA	NA	Totals			28.23	12.4"

ICE FISHING... Continued from page 4B

prepared with an ice safety kit, anyone recreating on hard water should wear a life jacket," Block said. "It's the one piece of equip-

ment that increases your odds of not drowning from cold water shock, hypothermia or exhaustion should you fall through the ice."

Wagenbach agrees with the advice. "Just because you see some fool sitting way out there doesn't mean he didn't just get lucky."

We wish you a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

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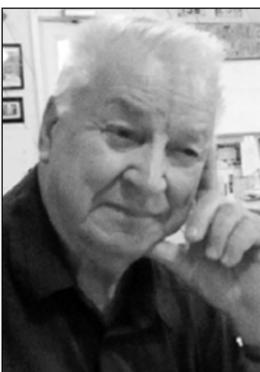
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Obituaries and Death Notices



Roy A. Pedersen
Roy Alvin Pedersen, 82, of Cook, passed away on Monday, Nov. 26, 2018. A private family service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Roy was born to Alvin and Lillian (Anderson) Pedersen on April 4, 1936, in Duluth. Roy grew up in the Silverdale community. He attended Silverdale School and Orr High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1954 and served honorably for four years as a Gunner's Mate. He served on the USS Marshall and one of the last two battleships, USS Iowa and USS Sierra. He was stationed

in San Diego, Calif., and Norfolk, Va. He traversed the Mediterranean Sea many times, sailing as a proud Navy man to Denmark, Sweden, and wherever duty called him. After being honorably discharged from the Navy, Roy gained employment as a truck driver. He worked for KGM for 20 years, after which he was self-employed, owning his own semi. He retired in 1996.

Roy enjoyed fishing, hunting, going to auctions, garage sales and the thrift shop. He was a perfectionist at keeping his trucks and cars sparkling clean. He was nicknamed "WW" (wash and wax) by his fellow employees. His favorite hobby was chatting with friends and family at McDonald's, which he jokingly called "his office".

Roy is survived by "the love of his life", Kathleen Snell; son, Jeffrey Pedersen; daughter, Michelle (Kevin) Cheney and grandson Dylan; special daughter, Leah (Steven) Geray and grandsons Henry and Drayke; special son, Jacob

(Kristen) Snell; special nephews and niece, Mike Manick, Rick Manick, John "Weasel" Manick, Dan (Linda) Manick, Dave (Sandra) Manick, Bill Manick, Robert Manick, Joe (Michelle) Manick and Sandra (Dave) Georgeson; and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Vivian Manick; and brother-in-law, John Manick.

Betty J. Youngren

Betty Jane Youngren, 90, of Lino Lakes, formerly of Embarrass, passed away on Friday, Nov. 30, 2018. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 7 at Mueller-Bies Funeral Home in Lino Lakes. Visitation is at the funeral home from 10-11 a.m. Private interment will be at West Pike Cemetery in Pike Township.

She is survived by her children, Carol Hannula, Jeffrey L. (Wanda), Vickie (Brad) Rolf, Lynette Youngren (Matt Longerbone), Carl (Mary Shamp) and John (Kathy McClure); many grand-

children, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren; nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

LeRoy B. Roos Sr.

LeRoy Bernard Roos Sr., 92, of Makinen, died on Friday, Nov. 30, 2018, at his daughter's residence in Aurora under hospice care. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 7 at Palo Congregational Church in Palo with Rev. Jerry Kosanovich officiating. Friends may gather one hour prior to the service. Inurnment will take place at a later date in the Watson Cemetery in Fillmore County. Arrangements are by Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Aurora.

Survivors include his children, LeRoy Jr. (Sharon) of Iron, Jann (Jesus) Hernandez of Virginia, Jill Ersbo of Aurora, Randy (Roberta) of Cherry, Robert of Rochester, Dick (Michelle) of Eyota and Sally (Michael) Hunter of Tower; 15 grandchildren;

many great-grandchildren; siblings, Ethel Hall of Stewartville, Betty Hellickson of Preston and Ruby (Kenneth) Bushman of Roscoe; and several nieces and nephews.

Lowell C. Svedberg

Lowell Charles Svedberg, 69, of Virginia, originally of Cook, was escorted home by the angels on Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018. Funeral services were held on Thursday, Dec. 6 at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Virginia with Pastor John Brooks officiating. Interment was in the Cook Cemetery. Memorials are the preferred way to honor Lowell's memory, and may be directed to Lutheran Social Services Westgate Residence in Virginia. Family services provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his siblings, Douglas (Carla) Svedberg of Hardin, Mont., Doyle (Ilona) Svedberg of Cook, Faith (Norm) Skur of Virginia, Vickie (Gerry) Tucker of Iron and Deanna

(Arlen) Westin of Red Wing; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends.

LeRoy A. Hartleben

LeRoy A. Hartleben, 87, of Ely, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 25, 2018, at Carefree Living in Ely. Per LeRoy's wishes, there will be no service. Private burial will be at the Ely Cemetery. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley; children, Wayne (Elaine), Peggy (Dean) Erzar and Curtis (Jackie), all of Ely; sister, Betty of Greeley, Colo.; grandchildren, Terry (Emily), Tracy (Mark), Sara (Ben), Travis (Shanna), Hillary (Eric), Emily (Mike) and Alicia (Van); 10 great-grandchildren; brother-in-law, Larry (Joyce) Milbrandt and sister-in-law, DiAnn Milbrandt, both of Hankinson, N.D.; and many nieces and nephews.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

KUGLER TOWNSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018, at 6 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall.

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 7, 2018

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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

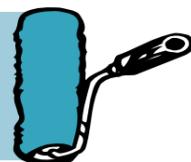
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Answers

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