Timberjay Holiday Schedule

Dec. 21- regular deadline Dec. 28- news and ads needed by Friday, Dec. 21 at 10 am

Jan. 4- No paper published





CITY OF TOWER

Council takes new shot at town home project

Revised tax abatement schedule likely to be rejected by developers

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

TOWER- In a long and contentious meeting on Monday, the city council here may well have ended its involvement in the long-planned town home project at the city's harbor by approving yet another tax abatement schedule that developers are highly

well lead to litigation.

The council took its action just two weeks after a majority of the council rebuffed an effort by the mayor and city clerk to kill the deal outright and seek a new project. Instead, the council had asked attorneys for the city and

likely to reject. The action could the developer to discuss the tax abatement proposal to address a claim by City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith that state statute limited the interest rate on the abatement plan to two percent over the prime interest rate, rather than the 12 percent interest rate that an investor in the project

is seeking in order to take on the financial risk of installing public infrastructure - risk that the city is seeking to avoid. On Nov. 26, Keith informed the council that city attorney Chris Virta had told her the abatement plan could not legally proceed given the purported statutory limit on

interest rates.

The city had originally agreed to fund 100 percent of infrastructure costs but later reneged on its commitment, demanding, instead, that the developers front the money.

See... TOWER pg. 10

SEASONAL CELEBRATION







A large crowd filled the Tower-Soudan Elementary School gymnasium on Sunday, Dec. 9 for the annual Tower-Soudan Area Singers concert, "The Many Moods of Christmas," that featured a wide selection of holiday songs, both old and new. Santa and Mrs. Claus made an appearance, along with Frosty the Snowman. At left, 10-day-old Emma Purkat had her

first visit with Santa Claus. Rolf Anderson, above, directed the program, accompanied by Julie Horihan and Ellie Larmouth on piano. photos by J. Summit

BROADBAND

Orr Internet almost online

by MARCUS WHITE Cook/Orr Editor

ORR - Residents here and on the eastern shores of Pelican Lake will soon be able to access the Internet after the Orr City Council approved plans late last month to allow Back40 Wireless, a Jackson, Minn.-based company, to deploy wireless broadband throughout

"We have more bandwidth than potential customers in Orr," company RELATED

- ➤ Midco customers hit with outages Page 3 ➤ Businesses endure
- lack of service Page 3 ➤ Editorial: Rural connectivity Page 4

owner Troy Rasmussen said in an interview with the Timberjay.

The company, which until now has primarily served southwestern

See...ORR pg. 9

Could broadband work start next summer in city of Ely?

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY - If financing falls into place, the city of Ely could start construction on a downtown high-speed fiber project by next summer. The Ely Economic Development Authority received a positive progress report on the much-needed economic development tool for the community.

Harold Langowski made the hopeful prediction in remarks to authority members. In discussions with Brainerdbased Consolidated Telecommunications Co., or CTC, last week, he said that the downtown highspeed Internet project is moving forward. "From Third Avenue West to

See... ELY pg. 9

CITY OF ELY

Conditional use permit OK'd for Ely Community Center

by KEITH VANDERVORT

Ely Editor

ELY – Parking issues around the Community Center dominated a public hearing here last week before the city's planning commission voted unanimously to grant a conditional use permit sought by the

Sale of 1930s landmark set for Friday

city of Ely as it prepared to close on the sale of the city landmark on Friday.

A Minneapolis couple, Africa and Jimmy Yoon, propose to develop a Korean cultural and educational center at the Community Center. The city council accepted their \$30,000 offer for the abandoned building which has been vacant for about four years. The building has been rezoned and the real estate transaction is on track to close by the end of the year. The conditional use permit is required for the activities planned by the Yoons' K America Foundation in the historic

See... PERMIT pg. 11





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GOMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTIGES

Holiday Happenings across the region

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.

Ruby's Pantry, Dec. 22 at Babbitt Municipal Center

BABBITT- Ruby's Pantry will be open at Babbitt Municipal Center, 71 South Drive, on Saturday, Dec. 22. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Distribution starts at 10 a.m. and goes until 11:30 a.m. \$20 in cash buys an abundance of food, no checks please. There are no income or residency guidelines. Bring two large plastic containers. Ruby's Pantry is held the fourth Saturday of each month. This event is sponsored by St. Pius X Catholic Church. Volunteers are always welcome.

Ely Field Naturalists to meet at Hak Ely on Wednesday, Dec. 19

ELY –The Ely Field Naturalists group will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 19, beginning at 6 p.m., at their new home in the Hak Ely maker space at 41 E Chapman St., above the NAPA store.

Ely Field Naturalists have been a part of the development of this maker space during the last year. "The layout and potential of this space will be on show for our end of 2018 Winter Solstice gathering of current Ely Field Naturalist members and anyone else interested," said coordinator Bill Tefft.

Participants are encouraged to bring a solstice tree ornament to decorate the tree to grace the Resource Center windows overlooking the intersection of Chapman and 1st Ave. through the transition from 2018 to the New Year.

The Ely Christmas Bird Count and other CBCs will be discussed and plans will be shared by those who will participate and anyone with interest. "The resources and plans for the Resource Center (maybe we need to explore another name) and Hak Ely will be shared and built upon your interests," he said. Master Naturalist courses, presentations, access by members, equipment, training, field trips, contributions and more will be part of the 2019 formula.

"The meeting is being held in a big space that we hope to fill with curiosity, excitement and expectation of experiencing some unexpected things," Tefft said. "We hope that all ages will attend. No one should feel a need to leave their kids at home."

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen theme for this Sunday at Mesabi Unitarian

VIRGINIA- On Sunday, Dec. 16, Rev. Suzanne Wasilczuk will present "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen." An old Christmas carol beckons us to rest, to find comfort and joy in this time of unrest. More recently she has come across the phrase "rest assured" in a variety of places. Where is our assurance? Where is our rest? The service is at 10:30 a.m. at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church, 230 7th St. S in Virginia. The church is handicap accessible.



Thanks to the generosity of Fortune Bay's guests and employees, The Salvation Army in Virginia received nearly \$5,000 to help fund their Toys for Tots program. The Ticket In Ticket Out promotion raised over \$2,500 and that amount was matched by Fortune Bay. \$500 was then split between the Nett Lake and Vermilion Youth Programs. The next quarter's promotion will go to area food shelves and then the United Way's Buddy Pack program will be the recipient of the following quarter's promotion. Pictured, left to right, are Fortune Bay's Sammy Richter, Salvation Army Major Brenda Pittman and Steve Skogman. submitted photo

Fortune Bay promotion raises over \$5,000 for area children's Christmas needs

VIRGINIA — All one has to do to get into the spirit of the season is take a quick glance into the chapel at the Virginia Salvation Army.

It is here where you'll see a festive scene, complete with a nicely-lit Christmas tree, stacks of gifts throughout the spacious floor plan, and a staff that knows the true meaning of Christmas.

And thanks to the forward thinking of Fortune Bay Resort Casino Events and Promotion Manager Sammy Richter, the floor will become even more festive as he handed out a check for nearly \$5,000 to help buy even more presents for needy families in the area.

"The support has been overwhelming," said Steve Skogman of The Salvation Army. "We continue to have gifts come in every day. People are more generous and we couldn't do this without the help from companies like Fortune Bay. We really appreciate all that Fortune Bay has done. This is fantastic."

The monies raised by Fortune Bay came when Richter broached the idea of guests putting their smaller "Ticket In, Ticket Out" change into a container on the casino floor. Basically, that meant people who would cash out with a quarter or a few dollars would put that ticket into the container.

The concept seemed to catch on in a hurry as the box filled up with tickets during the course of the promotion. Once the promotion ended Nov. 30, Fortune Bay matched the donation, bringing the tally to over \$5,000, but \$500 was given to the Nett Lake and Vermilion Youth Centers. Next quarter's plan is to raise money for area food shelves.

"It was amazing to see the generosity of our guests," said Richter of the recently concluded promotion. "While many of the tickets were less than a dollar, we had one guest put in a ticket of \$300. I couldn't believe that one, but that person obviously believed in what we were doing."

And in a nutshell, that meant helping the Salvation Army help those people who need it most. Major Brenda Pittman said they have been taking applications for Christmas assistance for the past five weeks. She said that on Dec. 17 and 18, they'll be giving out 350 food boxes.

"We then plan on helping out 150 of those families with toys on Dec. 20," said Pittman, who transferred to the Virginia office from Minneapolis two years ago. "They'll come in and shop for the toys they

While the gifts vary, Pittman said the big ticket items will be boys and girls bikes. One generous giver stopped by last week to donate 60 brand new bikes.

"We have plenty more upstairs so nearly every family who needs a bike will get one," said Pittman. "The giving this year has been wonderful." Skogman attributed that to more

public relations for The Salvation Army programs this year compared to 2017. He said at this point last year, the well-known kettle ringing program was at \$7,000.

"However, this year it is already at \$17,000," said Skogman. "We are just really impressed with how things have been going."

That same sentiment is shared by Richter.

"I'm still on a high from the generosity shown by our guests, which in turn was matched by Fortune Bay," said Richter. "They say Christmas is a magical time of year and we certainly feel blessed to play a small part in making that happen."



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Local businesses hit hard by extended outage

CenturyLink left two rural businesses without phone or Internet for well over a week

bv Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

VERMILION LAKE TWP— This past September, Jeff Carlson was enjoying the peak of the season at his Arctic Cat dealership located between Tower and Virginia on Hwy. 169. The hunting season was just ramping up and business was brisk as hunters were shopping for new four-wheelers or ordering parts or service to get their rigs set for the season.

On the Friday just ahead of the grouse opener, after a very strong sales day, he headed home for the weekend optimistic for an exceptionally good month.

Monday, his good month turned to disaster, thanks to his local phone provider, CenturyLink.

He arrived at work that day to find he had no working telephone or Internet, essentially cutting him off from his customers. He used his cellphone to

report the outage, even telling the customer service representative that the trouble was likely to be found at a junction box about a quarter-mile away, which had been the cause of past outages.

On the other end of the line, he found mostly disinterest.

It was the beginning of an

If I add up the hours that I spent on hold, it cut my productivity in half.

Ryan Childs

11-day experience in epic frustration as CenturyLink customer representatives, often speaking in broken English, made up stories and promises time and again, simply to get Carlson off the line as quickly as possible. For some of that time, customers

Right: The Harold's Arctic Cat dealership in Vermilion Lake Township was among two local businesses hurt this fall by an extended communications outage. M. White

couldn't call him, although he eventually had his calls rerouted to his cell phone. But even if customers managed to get through to him, he mostly couldn't help them since all of the Arctic Cat parts information and diagnostic tools are accessible only online. The impact to his business was immediate as sales virtually vanished. Over the next 11 days his sales totaled just one percent

"If it would have been in July, I probably would have shut things down and took a vacation," said Carlson. "But for me, September is peak season."

service cut out.

of the business he had done on

the Friday before CenturyLink's

Carlson, at least, had company. Just up the road,



Ryan Childs, who operates R/C Auto, a full-time car and small engine repair business, had lost his phone and Internet on the same day. He hasn't added up the lost business and lost time, but he said there's no doubt it was considerable. "For me, the main problem was productivity," he said. "If I add up the hours that I spent on hold, it cut my productivity in half. I'm a sole proprietor. If I'm not here or able to work because I'm stuck on

hold nothing gets done."

Childs said his experience with CenturyLink has been trying for years, and outages are common, but rarely have lasted 11 days in the past. "They've been horrible," he said. "I'm the last one on this line and I've been on a temporary connection for five years."

Adding to his frustration

See OUTAGE...pg. 5

Midco customers hit with several outages in recent weeks

by KEITH VANDERVORT

REGIONAL-The Ely and Tower areas have been hit with three major interruptions to Internet, phone and cable TV service from Midco since early November. All of the outages lasted several hours and disrupted numerous commercial and retail business in the area as well as numerous residences. The outages were reported to be caused by cuts to the fiber network, but not necessarily anywhere near the Ely area.

In early November, a cut to Midco's fiber network happened just outside of Ely, near

the Ely Golf Course. The outage lasted as long as eight hours for customers in the Ely and Babbitt areas. "I was told that the outage occurred somewhere between here and Babbitt," said Ely City Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski, "and they only place that anybody was digging was near the Golf Course.' Lake Country Power was

reported to be working in the area that day.

Another Midco daytime outage was reported on Nov. 25. Facebook posts from Midco

"Nov. 25 at 9:53 a.m. - Elyarea customers: Services are currently unavailable due to a fiber cut in your area. A crew is on its way to investigate and resolve the problem. We apologize for this inconvenience and will work to get things back up and running as quickly as possible.

"Nov. 25 at 1:40 p.m. - Ely customers: Services have been intermittent in the area - and may continue to be so while on-site teams investigate and troubleshoot. We look forward to bringing full resolution to the issue as soon as possible. Thanks for your patience."

The most recent Midco outage in the Ely area occurred last Thursday. That outage began in early afternoon and lasted the rest of the day. A Midco Facebook post read:

"Dec. 6 at 9:30 p.m. -Attention Midco customers in Ely/Babbitt: We have contractors on site and working hard to splice fiber and repair the cut causing the service outage. We sincerely apologize for the disruption to your services – we know it affects your daily lives, and we appreciate your patience as the crew works hard to get your services back up.'

The *Timberjay* reached out to Midco for comment on the recent outages, and they provided the following by email:

"At Midco, we know our customers expect connectivity when they need it. Unfortunately,

there have been recent service outages near Ely. Interruptions in November and December were triggered by three separate instances of contractors cutting the fiber of the underlying provider we use to connect to Ely. We know these interruptions are an inconvenience to our customers, and we sincerely apologize. We have elevated awareness of the severity and frequency of these outages to the underlying provider, and we will continue to stress the importance of service reliability for our customers." Jon Pederson, Chief Technology Officer, Midco.

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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Rural connectivity

We're building an information superhighway without rural exits or on-ramps

Over the past decade, the state of Minnesota has invested hundreds of millions of dollars to improve telecommunications, particularly broadband capacity, in rural parts of the state. Here in northeastern Minnesota, that money has gone to install hundreds of miles of fiber optic cable to communities across the region.

Those projects involve huge price tags and they invariably attract headlines that suggest that our political leaders are taking the disparity between urban and rural connectivity seriously. You can think of that fiber as a kind of superhighway, with the capacity to move incredible volumes of information, just like regular superhighways can facilitate the movement of huge numbers of cars and trucks.

There's just one problem. We've forgotten to install the on and off ramps. The city of Orr, as we report again this week, has at least three separate fiber optic cables running right through town, but no one can get Internet. We report on the frustration of two local business owners in Vermilion Lake Township, who have fiber running right past their businesses, but who still must operate on Internet speeds that barely allow them to navigate the web— and that's when their service is actually functioning.

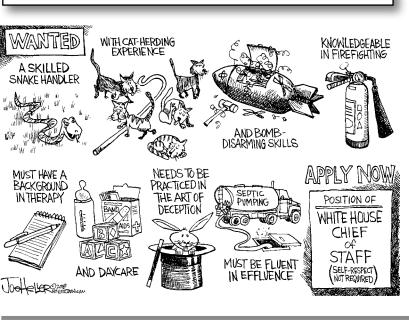
The missing link in all this has been the corporately-owned service providers, companies like Frontier and CenturyLink, which have failed to uphold their role in the process. Bringing real and reliable broadband connectivity to rural Minnesota is, in theory, supposed to be a public-private partnership. The state or federal government provides the backbone of the system, while the local service providers like Frontier and CenturyLink are supposed to build the on and off ramps so local residents can begin to tap into that information superhighway that runs past their door.

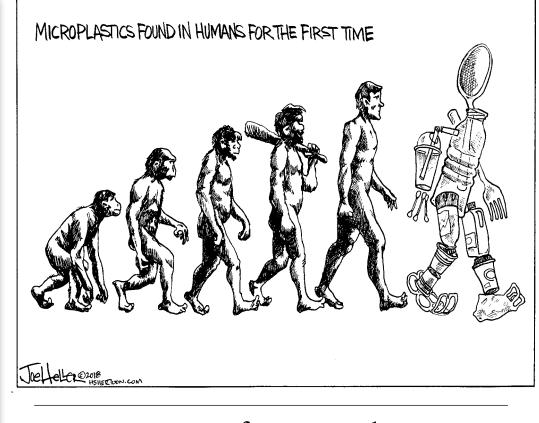
While we've been critical of Frontier Communications in the past, the company has, at least, begun to make some upgrades to allow faster speeds in some parts of the region than have been available before. We'll give credit where it's due. It's been a much more frustrating experience for customers of CenturyLink, such as those who live in Orr, given the company's near-abandonment of parts of its service territory in northern Minnesota.

A partnership can only work when all the partners are willing to pull their weight. We certainly don't want to discourage the Legislature from investing in bringing fiber to our region. The backbone is a critical part of the solution. But it has to be paired with strict and enforceable commitments by the local service providers to utilize that backbone to bring the level of service now possible to homes and businesses in our region. These service providers are regulated utilities and the Legislature needs to start addressing the lack of investment and follow-through that we've seen from some of them. If the Legislature can't or won't use enforcement mechanisms, they should explore incentives to encourage other providers to do the job. Ely is currently working with Brainerd-based CTC to facilitate fiber connections to downtown businesses. Orr is now turning to Back40 Wireless for a similar project, using a wifi signal. These are all hopeful developments which should be provided financial support where needed.

If CenturyLink or Frontier can't do the job, the state should provide the resources needed to enable such organizations to expand the reach of their service.

These days, high-speed Internet isn't a luxury. It's absolutely necessary for economic development and community growth in our region. State and federal officials have done a generally good job of laying the backbone for broadband. But until a solution is found to connect that backbone to the residents and businesses who want and, in many cases, need improved Internet access, the job of connecting rural Minnesota remains undone.





Letters from Readers

Rukavina's letter reflected our experience as well

Thankyou, Tom Rukavina, for your letter to the editor published in the Nov. 30, 2018, Timberjay. We had a similar experience with staff and personnel at the Mayo Clinic. Every day we encountered people who were different from us. Some were parking valets, some were other Mayo staff including technicians, housekeepers, nurses, pharmacists, and physicians. In fact we observed that many of the physicians and health care staff appeared to be ethnically different from the two of us from "the Range." It seemed that every one of these employees valued their jobs and were exceptional in what they did.

We could point to many examples where these employees regularly went above and beyond their job descriptions. Each seemed to take their job seriously and made an effort to be friendly and helpful at every turn. They too, like our own forebears, had come here seeking a better life with more opportunities. Most all of them, particularly the doctors, spoke flawless English but perhaps with an accent

with an accent.

Most all of us are not really all that far removed from an immigrant experience in our own families. It might by now be a number of generations. Besides the indigenous people who were here already, our ancestors came here searching for a better life. They made better lives for themselves and also for us.

By now so many of those cultures have blended together that we tend to forget that we have had some differences in the past. There are new and different people among us now. Are we going to deny them the opportunity for a better life?

Sally Koski PhD, RN
David Kess

We appreciate the Greenwood fire department

At the October 2018 Greenwood Town Board meeting, the board voted to pay the fire department safety officer while he is in Florida part of the winter. Folks, it is required that we pay him because he continues to work, although he does so REMOTELY. Many of his duties do not require him to be onsite and can be accomplished offsite. Increasingly people have the ability to work remotely. The CNBC website featured a May 30, 2018, study finding that 70 percent of professional people globally work remotely at least once a week; 53 percent of professionals globally do so at least half the week. Also, the safety director is considered a FLEX-EMPLOYEE which means he can choose when and where he works. I understand this week he forwarded to our town clerk a final version of the fire department SOG's. Furthermore, he was already wintering in Florida when his contract was negotiated.

Not surprisingly, John Bassing objects to the pay. The fire department officers do not allow themselves to be bullied and manipulated by Bassing and the cabal, so they become a target. Remember: When it is 20-below at 2 a.m. and a fire call comes in, it is our fire department officers and members who respond; not the John Bassings of the world.

Thank you, Greenwood fire department. We appreciate your service.

Steve Rodgers Greenwood Twp

Tower's lunch lady deserves a raise

I can really sympathize with the Tower-Soudan school cafeteria cook's struggles, whom you featured in a recent issue of the *Timberjay*. She has

worked hard for many years, has a great relationship with her clients (the children), and provides a valuable service where she has to be on her feet the entire shift. Food service, no matter what the setting, is usually taken for granted by administrators, whether it be a school, rest home, or hospital. She needs wage and benefit instice

Personally, I have cooked, baked, bussed and washed dishes, and did the buying for food operations, and it never is only an eight-hour day.

Once, I worked at a "church camp" in Brimson that turned out to be pretty much a front for a right-wing political group. They didn't pay anything into an employee's Social Security because you had to sign on as a "contractor", and your days were often 10, 12 and 14 hours long. They had no workers' compensation coverage for you because, once again, you are a "contractor." I found, however, that they paid their guest speakers quite well, and gave them free lodging and meals.

It sounds as if the hard-working lady at the elementary school has tried to be diplomatic and tactful long enough, and she unfortunately has incompetent union representation. I hope she eventually gets the treatment and wage/benefit justice she deserves.

Mark Roalson Hoyt Lakes

We want your letters!

The *Timberjay* encourages letters to the editor. You can submit letters by mail at PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790, or email letters to marshall@timberjay.com.

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

Titanic memories of my trip to northern Ireland

In my last column I told you I'd had the privilege of traveling to Ireland in early September for nine days filled with amazing experiences. This trip was indeed the icing on my cake, largely due to the passion I have for my Celtic ancestry. I left off



in Dublin where a friend and I had joined the rest of the fifteen-person tour group, led by Mary Batinich of Lake Vermilion, who had departed the States two weeks earlier and toured Scotland and Wales.

and Wales.

After two nights in Dublin, we departed the

Harding Hotel and boarded a chartered tour bus and headed north to Belfast, located in a lough (sea inlet) which leads out to the Irish Sea. We stopped at a few interesting places on the way, the most fascinating being Knowth, one of Brúna Bóinne's three great megalithic passage tombs/ancient burial sites in Ireland. Knowth consists of one large mound surrounded by smaller mounds. These sites were built by an ancient culture who revered the earth, nature and

their ancestors, who they buried in these structures. I was amazed how the huge carved stones that encircled the large mound came to rest there. The tomb is located on high ground and there are no other large boulders in view. This was before John Deere, flatbed trailers and heavy equipment! Information at the site states the tombs are associated with the people of the Goddess Danu, a race of supernatural beings who according to tradition ruled Ireland before the coming of the

Celts and afterwards retreated into the fairy mounds and forts. All cultures have myths and beliefs. It was another experience where I question how advanced we earthlings of today really are. We hiked the area for a couple hours, breathing in the fresh Irish air and enjoying the super-green surroundings before boarding the bus to continue to Belfast, the largest city in Northern Ireland. Belfast has been occupied

Belfast has been occupied

See IRELAND ...pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Greenwood fire department saves residents money

Some people in the township are constantly complaining about the fire department. One former supervisor has mentioned that his goal is to eliminate it. The residents of Greenwood are incredibly lucky to have a highly rated fire department. I had a conversation with the chief and assistant chief recently and they explained that our fire department is listed as an ISO 7 Class which is the highest class a fire department can be without fire hydrants. A class 10 fire department is the lowest. By having a class seven, we are receiving a discount on our insurance.

I contacted my insurance agent who explained that all companies are different, but the discount generally ranges from 20-percent to 40-percent on our homeowners insurance. I am receiving a 28-percent discount. I had a neighbor check and they are receiving a 25-percent

I researched insurance cost averages by zip code at www. insurance.com. The average listed for a \$300,000 home value, with a \$1,000 deductible and \$500,000 liability is \$1,628. A 25-percent discount would be \$407. For a \$500,000 home, the average is \$2,528. A 25-percent

discount would be \$632.

At a levy of \$150,000 (which is for everything, not just the Fire Department), the amount that Greenwood taxes per \$100,000 of taxable market value is \$31.73. So, for a \$300,000 market value the tax amounts to \$95.19 and for a \$500,000 home, the tax amounts to \$158.65. Looking at what our insurance savings is, clearly we are coming out ahead. Even if the levy doubled, the savings is more than the property tax we are paying.

If the township were dissolved or the fire department folded into a fire district, what is left? We have a nice building and property. Would we then become unincorporated? Would we become a target of annexation? With our market value, I would think we would be. Greenwood has the lowest taxes of any of the towns and cities on the lake. Why would we want to eliminate the benefit that the fire department brings to us?

I applaud the Greenwood Fire Department. I have come to know several of the people in the department. Everyone is positive, dedicated and professional. I appreciate all you do for the community and am so lucky to work with you!

> Pam Rodgers Treasurer **Greenwood Twp**

The many faces of Donald Trump

CELEBRITY CULTURE Trump's star-power status is a product of media manufacture; first as a TV showman, then a politician, and finally a master manipulator of news infotainment. A carnival-like atmosphere increased network ratings by drawing attention to a court jester who defeated primary opponents to gain a following of "loyal lemmings."

CRUDE CHARLATAN The Great Pretender claimed self-made success after receiving millions from his wealthy father. Phony claims of knowledge and intelligence made him a super snake-oil salesmen. An elixir of belief over fact duped millions of disgruntled voters seeking easy solutions. If it looks, walks and quacks like a duck, it's a duck!

CORRUPT CHARADE Deception, pretension and travesty made Trump our first fake President ever elected. A spectacle, ridiculous and rude, berates and browbeats reporters speaking truth to power. Scorn and ridicule is heaped on those who question something claimed true, when it is clearly not.

CALCULATED CHAOS Personal attack, lying and distraction by a coarse and crass imposter creates division, disorder and confusion. Preying on civic dereliction and an inattentive citizenry, he targeted scapegoats for their problems, excoriated critics and attacked political correctness.

CRONY CORPORATISM Money is the only measure of all things valued for Trump, his family and political friends, at public expense. Tax cuts for powerful corporations and the rich brought deeper division through income inequality. His laughingSTOCK increases daily the world over.

CONGRESSIONAL CARAVAN An army of Democrats is in town rattling the White House gates. Civility, civic duty and common cause makes democracy possible; critical thinking, commitment and citizen activism makes it work. As Lincoln said, "You can fool all of the people some of the time, some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time."

Harold Honkola Tower

Don't sugarcoat the G.H.W. Bush record

I'm responding to Lynn Scott in the last Timberjay. Glad to hear he is angry at what the current fellow is doing but I would like to add that I don't think the elder Bush should be given accolades. In fact he did many things that people should

working class neighborhoods in Panama. He supplied the Contras with weapons and training that killed tens of thousands of Nicaraguans. He killed soldiers that were retreating from Kuwait in what is known as the highway of death on his way to destroying Baghdad. You described him as honorable but I'm afraid you haven't been paying attention which is easy to do because the media usually doesn't go against U.S. foreign policy and generally keeps us in the dark. Bush was a mass killer and should be tried as such even though he is gone. To put the flag at half mast for someone such as him is an insult to anyone who is paying attention. To watch all the old and new Democrats shower him with kind words should tell us that both the Democrats and the Republicans are in it together and that the U.S. is nothing more than a business, and a corrupt one at that. He and all that came after him from either party have kept us in continual war. The U.S. has no threat against it from any of their victims, only chances to steal more of their resources for the corporate interests that control their puppets in Washington. Steve Johnson

be floored about, resulting in the

deaths of probably many hun-

dreds of thousands. He bombed

IRELAND...Continued from page 4

since the Bronze Age (3000 BC-1200 BC). How could I even comprehend that? Soudan, Minnesota, in contrast, has been occupied only since the Taconite Age (Fictitious, late 1800's)! Ireland is SO ancient. We drove along the shore of the lough, past Titanic Studios (where Game of Thrones, the popular TV series, is partly filmed!) on our way to the Titanic Museum.

One of the travelers in our group had an uncle who died in the sinking of the Titanic so we added it to our tour and I was glad of it. The Titanic was built at Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast in 1909 (launched 1911). The six-floor museum is built on the site of the former shipyard and resembles four hulls pointing skyward. It is uniquely impressive with its jagged aluminum exterior that catches the light and greatly resembles ice. One of the most impressive sights in the museum was the full-scale replica of the ship's original oak grand staircase. Of course, me being Scarlet, I have always given a damn about grand staircases! On a serious note, there are so many mostly sobering thoughts about the Titanic. While reviewing the list of the names of those who perished, I saw two sisters with the surname Jussila, a name in my father's lineage, and I wondered if they might be related. I felt a chill thinking about those poor sisters. After seeing the museum and heating up our credit cards with lovely Irish purchases in the gift shop, we headed into the city center to learn more about the history of Belfast and tour a couple more

When I was a high school girl in the 1970's there often was coverage of the conflict in northern Ireland on the six-o'clock news. Known as the "Troubles," I recently learned. The period of conflict from 1969 to 1998 between Catholics and Protestants made Belfast one of the world's most dangerous cities. In conversations I had with our Irish bus driver, Mick, these tensions still run deep but more silent these days, yet never forgotten. Mick felt compelled to bring our group to the city of Derry, known as the "cockpit of the Troubles." It is an important part of Northern Ireland and the only remaining completely intact walled-city in the country. It took more imagination than I had to see the worn rock walls from 1619 and imagine how frightening it would have been to live there in the past during times of siege between warring clans, Viking waterway invasions, and the religious Troubles.

Our driver, Mick, having lived through times of tension, shared his memory about Sunday, January 30, 1972. It was there in Derry, when 13 unarmed civilians were shot dead by British paratroopers during a civil rights march in an event known as Bloody Sunday. He took us to the street where it happened. On that sunny day it seemed so peaceful and serene. The violence in Derry eased in the 1990s and gradually moved to Belfast. Before we departed the city Mick showed us the Peace Bridge that was built and opened in 2011 on the River Foyle to commemorate the Bloody Sunday event and to help link the divided east and west

populations of Derry. We left the tragedy and tensions behind and traveled further west and north to sheep-friendly County Antrim to stay in a whitewashed stone bed and breakfast on the coast where we would relax for the evening. Travel partner Julie and I found our room on the second floor of the rambling old B&B. We dropped our suitcases on the floor and flung open our shutter-style windows to reveal the straw colored long grass blowing in the

sea breeze, rolling tree-free hills that met the dark blue ocean as it slammed on the craggy cliffs and rocks below. There were no screens on the windows and no mosquitos either. I chuckled at the vocals of the sheep calling on a nearby hillside..."Maaaa, maaa." Julie and I headed down to the pub for camaraderie and

The next morning after a hearty breakfast in the sunny dining room, with a rainbow in the sky adrift out over the sea, we headed off to see the Giant's Causeway. I've never seen anything closely resembling it! It's a formation on the shore made of 40,000 hexagon-shaped basalt pillars of varying heights, like steps. They were formed by volcanic activity sixty million years ago, although Irish folklore says the causeway was built by giant Finn McCool to be used as stepping stones to cross to Scotland to fight big man Benandonner after the two hurled one too many insults back and forth. Benandonner is said to have been angered and torn up most of the walkway to Scotland leaving what remains today. Fun stuff! After a busy day and sensory overload we sat in the pub...again... and sipped, then listened to a female Celtic

guitarist sing her beautiful songs. The next day, we'd head off down small country lanes to see castles, poets' graves, charming picture book towns. and other very Irish things. It was my intensifying hope to find some Irish sweaters ON SALE; after all I still had room in my suitcase while others in the group were buying extra luggage to carry burgeoning amounts of treasures. But WAIT this will all be part of my final column about traveling in Ireland. Scarlet heads to the Aran Isle of Inishmore by ferry, purchases a magenta fascinator (hat) in a shop in Ballina, finds sweater-sale heaven, and sucks down some mead at Bunratty Castle near Shannon, while steering

clear of the dungeon. Again I must say it is so enlightening to see how other cultures live, to see where historic events happened and, in the case of Ireland, to have experienced things mystical. To travel for just nine days is like the saying about eating one potato chip...just a taste that leaves you wanting more!

Wikipedia and other online sources used for information not born of Scarlet's head.

OUTAGE...Continued from page 3

during his most recent outage were the continual promises that he received from customer service representatives when he would call to plead for help. "Every day, I was told it would be fixed by that night, but when you hear that ten days in a row you get to feeling pretty hopeless."

Carlson said his experience was exactly the same. He tried calling multiple times a day but had a hard time even getting connected to an actual person. And when he did manage to get through, they would listen for a moment, then offer to connect him with the person who they said could really help him. Invariably, that was the cue for them to disconnect

"They just knew if they could get you off the phone, they wouldn't have to deal with you again. It wouldn't have been so bad if someone had given me an honest assessment."

The situation was maddening, said Carlson, because as a business, he pays more than \$200 a month for his phone and Internet, and the company justifies the higher cost by claiming that he's at the top of the priority list when outages occur. "I can't imagine how long it would have taken for a A week into the

residence," he said. outage, Carlson said a CenturyLink technician did finally show up to assess the problem. And just as Carlson had tried to tell customer representatives several times before, it turned out it was a problem at the junction box up the road. Carlson thought his ordeal was finally at an end, until the technician came back and confirmed the problem and told him he'd have to order parts in order to make the repair. Four days later, with his business still virtually shut down, the technician finally completed the repair.

Childs, dealing with his own frustration, said he eventually reached out to a regional manager for CenturyLink to complain about his lack of service, and about the years of sub-par service he had experienced. He said the manager sympathized but told him that the company was unlikely to invest much more in upgrading service, or staffing sufficient technicians, in northern Minnesota given the limited number of potential customers.

Childs, like Carlson, had only recently obtained the lowest level of DSL service from Century Link. Up until two years ago, Carlson notes, he essentially had no Internet capability other than dial-up, which was all but useless for accessing the web. That's the primary reason he held onto his microfiche reader, which he was able

to use for some parts infor-

mation during the outage.

"People sometimes laugh that I still have this old thing, but I'm glad I do,"

he said. Childs said his closest neighbor to the north is in Frontier's service territory and has much better Internet speeds than he can access from CenturyLink. Perhaps most frustrating to Childs was to watch the installation of fiber optic cable along Hwy. 169, which passed right through his property, and then to learn that he would not be able to access it. "I've got a fiber optic cable running though my yard and I'm sitting here with 2.5 meg top speed."

Childs said he doesn't blame the local technicians, who he's gotten to know quite well over the years given his frequent outages. "They're nice guys, but they're so overworked," he said.

CenturyLink woes continue in Orr

While Childs is justifi-

ablyfrustratedoverhisslow Internet in Vermilion Lake Township, CenturyLink customers in Orr are still waiting for any kind of Internet and have been for years. "We're considered an unserved area here," said Orr City Clerk Cheri Carter during an interview with the Timberjay just over a year ago. "When new people come into town, they're told they can't get Internet." As of late last year, CenturyLink was telling residents of Orr that they were upgrading capacity and would be able to offer at least basic DSL service by the following summer. Now, more than a year later, Orr residents and businesses still haven't seen the promised upgrade. By rights, residents in Orr should have Internet like a rocket ship. It was actually one of the first communities in the region with a

fiber optic connection, and

the capacity of the fiber

backbone has only grown

over time. "We have Paul

Bunyan, Century Link, and Frontier, all running fiber down the highway," Carter

noted last year. The situation just confirms what Childs heard from the regional manager when he called about his outage in September. Lack of resources, overworked staff, and little interest on the part of the company in making the investments needed to bring reliable broadband connections to residents and businesses in the region. "We're certainly communicating on a thread here," he said. CenturyLink has

faced challenges to more than just service quality. The company, in late 2017, agreed to settle a lawsuit filed by the Minnesota Attorney General over misleading sales and billing practices.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY

Christmas Card Contest winners announced

TOWER- Congratulations to the winners of this year's Timberjay Christmas Card Contest. The following students from Tower- Soudan Elementary have been recognized for their award-winning artwork and awarded small cash prizes. Watch for these drawings, along with many others, in the Dec. 21 Timberjay.

Winners listed in order, first, second, third:

Kindergarten- Josilanay Feather, Gus Larson, Ivy Russell

Grade 1- Deniko Dupree, Nolan Lenci, Brielle Schultz

Grade 2- Katie Larson, Serah Ross, Jade Drift and Ava Redetzke

Grade 3- Eva Larson, Matthias Boshey, Claire Jonas

Grade 4- Thomas Aldrich, Kellin Pratt, Hayden Klassy

Grade 5- Rena Buckanaga, Chloe Adkisson, Elsie Larson

Grade 6- Greyson Reichensperger, Alexus Childs, Cole Schuster.



ASSISTED LIVING

Vermilion Senior Living celebrates the holidays

by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- "I have a great staff," said Vermilion Senior Living's on-site LPN Emily Sipila, "and this is the nicest place I have ever worked."

There were a lot of nice things being said about the new management and staff at Tower's assisted living facility during their open house on Dec. 11.

Residents and visitors enjoyed lunch, treats and holiday music. The favorites of the day were the traditional cut-out Christmas cookies, which had been decorated by the residents the day before. The open house was only one of the many holiday events planned for the site's dozen or so residents. The Immanuel Lutheran Choir is visiting next week, as are students from Tower-Soudan Elementary. Managers said they expect two or three new residents to move in later this month.

"We were just assessed by the state in November," said site administrator Demetrius Bray. "We had an excellent survey. We passed with flying colors."

Vermilion Senior Living took over management at the former Golden Horizons last May. Since then, the staff has worked to bring everything in the facility up to code, as well as reaching out to area clinics, hospitals, and county social services to make sure patient care is well coordinated.

Bray said the results of this latest state assessment are the best of any of the other assisted living facilities he has worked at. While the majority of

the residents have family in the area, some do not. Staff said that visitors are welcome anytime, and that residents enjoy meeting new friends. Lori Tomsich, of

Soudan, was visiting her aunt, "Auntie Dada," Linda Rankila, who is

98. She is a frequent visitor and enjoyed sharing stories of Linda's earlier years in Embarrass. "She was my mom's oldest sister," Lori said, "and she never had any children of her own. But she was such an important part of my life growing up."

Residents at Vermilion Senior Living can keep pretty busy. The facility offers three activities every day, including a daily news and exercise session, games, crafts, movies, bingo, and social time. Church services are held on Sundays.

Jason Mekalson, regional manager, said the location of the facility is wonderful.

"Our residents look out the window and see nature," he said. The facility is located on the hill overlooking the north side of Tower. Deer are frequent visitors, and some are so tame they will walk right up to respatio. Last fall, a black bear visited, something the residents were still excited to talk about.

The community can now keep up with goings-on at the assisted living on Facebook, as

opportunities. The facility is owned

and operated by Partners Senior Living Options which is based in Royalton, Minn. The public is always welcome to stop in

well as see employment to Vermilion Senior Living at 1232 Birch Street N in Tower for a tour. An appointment isn't necessary, but a call prior to visiting (218-753-7788) is recommended so that a full tour can be arranged.



idents sitting out on the Stephanie Ukkola brought her son Eddie to visit with the residents.



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

Above: Jason Mekalson visits with resident Linda Rankila and family member Lori Tomsich. Right: Pictured (from left) Jason Mekalson, regional manager; Demetrius Bray, administrator; Bill Jacobson, kitchen manager; and **Emily Sipila, LPN.**



Sunday: 8 AM-3 PM

YOUR HOLIDAY FOOD HEADQUARTERS!

Left: LPN Emily Sipila visits with a resident as they watch the three deer browsing right outside the large picture windows.

photos by J. Summit

HOLIDAY GIVING

Last chance to donate to Operation Santa

All donations needed by Dec. 17: many gifts are still needed!

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 that 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

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.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY

School holiday concert on Thursday, Dec. 20

TOWER- Tower Elementary invites the public to a holiday concert on Thursday, Dec. 20 at 1 p.m. in the school gym. Elmentary students will perform a variety of holiday favorites under the direction of Michelle Anderson. This concert also includes the elementary band. The band students are under the direction of Mr. Kevin Ryks.

NE Range Elementary Concert, Dec. 18

BABBITT- Northeast Range Elementary invites the public to a holiday concert on Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 1:30 p.m. in the school auditorium. This concert is under the direction of Mr. Kevin Ryks.



Elementary music teacher Michelle Anderson worked with students who were getting ready for the Dec. 20 program. photo by Max Helmberger

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.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

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. The movie is rated PG.

Chimpy's Skating Parties Dec. 15-16

SOUDAN- Thanks to the special efforts of rink supervisor Tom Poderzay, Chimpy Tuominen is happy to announce the first weekend skating parties at the Soudan Rink on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 16 from 12 noon - 2 p.m. Party sponsors are Starkovich Distributing, and

Brew Pub Lotzza Motzza

Children of all ages are welcome to stop by for skating fun and food. Loaner skates are available in the warming

Blue Christmas Workshop at **Immanuel. Dec. 18**

TOWER-Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower is hosting a Blue Christmas Workshop on Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. A Longest Night/Blue Christmas service may provide

a time and place of solace

during the often fran-

tic days surrounding the

celebration of Christmas.

We come together seek-

ing healing and room to

share grief, sadness, lone-

liness, or confusion when

these emotions often feel

out of place during the

holidays. Everyone is

welcome to attend this worship service.

St. Martin's Catholic Church **Christmas/New Year's Mass** Schedule

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church is happy to announce their Christmas and New Year's schedule: Confessions

heard one half-hour before all Masses. If these times do not work for you contact the rectory. The Christmas Mass

schedule is: Christmas Eve at St. Martin's at 4 p.m. and at Holy Cross (Orr) at 7 p.m.; Christmas Day at St. Mary's (Cook) at 1 a.m. The Solemnity of

Mary is celebrated each year on Jan. 1. Our Mass schedule is: New Year's Eve at St. Mary's (Cook) at 5:30 p.m.; New Year's

Day at Holy Cross (Orr) at 10 a.m. and at St. Martin's at 5 p.m.

St. James Advent Services

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

Transfer station

Soudan Canister Expanded hours year-round

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

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For info: 1-800-450-9278

Winter hours now in effect 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Hwy. 77 Canister

Recycling canisters available daily at the Greenwood Town

Hall. For info: 1-800-450-9278

AEOA Senior Dining Menu

ion 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 ap-

preciated the day before. or morning of, but walkins 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. 17

Monday-Sausage in Country Gravy in a Bread Bowl

Tuesday- Lasagne, Dinner Roll Wednesday- Turkey

Dinner Thursday- Taco Sal-

ad, Corn Muffin Friday-Pizza, Mixed

Week of Dec. 24 No School All Weekno lunches served.

Week of Dec. 17

Monday

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

Breitung Town Board-1 p.m. on Dec. 18

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.

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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-5 pm Friday 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.

Longest Night Service set

ELY - Grief and pain don't stop just because it's Christmas. In fact, many people feel terribly alone, depressed and adrift as they face the holidays after a death or pain such as divorce or job loss.

A Longest Night Service will be held on Thursday, Dec. 20 at 6 p.m. at Ely Presbyterian Church, 226 E. Harvey St.

During this Longest Night Service, some will gather to acknowledge their pain and turn to the Light in a time of sorrow and darkness. Others gather to find a bit of quiet during this busy time of the year. All are welcome.

<u> librar</u>

Wednesday, Dec. **19 - 4 p.m. -** Accidental Ensemble - Give yourself a break from the hectic pace of preparing for the holidays and stop by the library to relax while listening to this talented local group.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2018



the birds simply fly

the TIMBERJAY

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Lawmakers hear about veterans, broadband, other local issues

Joint Powers' legislative session a sounding board for Ely residents

by KEITH VANDERVORT

Ely Editor

ELY –Within a week of speaking to federal, state and county lawmakers about an urgent need for transportation services for veterans in the Ely area, an effort has grown roots by the local VFW Post to address the issue.

Veterans' issues were just one of the hot topics discussed recently at the annual legislative session of the Ely Joint Powers Economic Development Board. The ongoing need for area-wide high-speed Internet, continuing struggles with the Ely drivers license bureau's attempt to implement the new statewide license and permit system, and even the Winton Post Office upheaval were on the table for discussion.

Newly-elected 8th District U.S. Congressman Peter Stauber, State Sen. Tom Bakk, State Rep. Rob Ecklund, St. Louis County Commissioner-elect Paul McDonald, representatives from Minnesota's two U.S. Senators, and other elected officials were in attendance at the annual meeting.

VFW Post 2717 Commander Mike Pope described the increasing difficulty experienced by as many as one in three veterans in the area to have a reliable way to get to the Ely Veterans Affairs Outreach Clinic and downstate VA hospital for medical treatment.

Within a day of the meeting, he was contacted by Dan Welsand, transportation coordinator for the Hibbing office of the Disabled American Veterans non-profit group and proceeded to get the ball rolling on the project. "The DAV has promised to get us a vehicle by the end of the year," Pope said, "but we also need volunteer drivers to help drive the vehicle."

According to Pope, a seven-passenger Ford Flex SUV will be provided to the local VA Clinic by the end of the year to be used to transport patients to and from the Ely clinic and to shuttle veterans to Virginia to pick up a ride to the VA Hospital in Minneapolis.

"Getting the vehicle was the easy part. We need to get dedicated volunteers to drive the vehicle," Pope said on Monday. "We don't want the vehicle just sitting in the parking lot with nobody to drive it, especially now in the winter."

Pope's effort to help area veterans, (he is also the Northern Minnesota coordinator for Team Rubicon) is an extension of the message he conveyed at the recent Veterans Day celebration at Ely schools when he urged those in attendance to connect with veterans. "This is another way for the community to give back with action and not just words," he said.

Ely's VA Clinic is open three days per week and has about 10 appointments per day. 'We have guys coming from Babbitt and Tower and sometimes they need help getting to the clinic here in Ely," he said. "According to the information I got from the VA, about one-third of those need somebody to give

Volunteers must first be cleared to drive. That requires proof of insurance and age (over 18), and participation in an occupational health assessment and volunteer services orientation by the Minneapolis VA, according to Pope. "The DAV will provide a

vehicle and take us to Minneapolis for the orientation," Pope said. "It won't cost a thing other than the time required to go through the process." Volunteers can also speed up

the clearance process by as much as six weeks by providing a printout of their driving record. Those with medical conditions such as sleep apnea or high blood pressure will also be required to provide medical clearance from a physician, Pope

For more information, contact Dan Welsand at 715-398-2416 or 218-204-0693 or by email at Dan@ davmn.org. To learn more about the at the Echo Trail, and run west to program, go to www.davmn.org.



U.S. Congressman-elect Pete Stauber huddles with Ely Mayor Chuck Novak at a recent legislative session hosted by the Ely Joint Powers Economic Development Board. photo by K. Vandervort

"We've got guys who need rides and it's going to take volunteers," Pope said. "If we have enough, you may be asked to only help out once or twice a month. If you can do more, that's great, too."

Broadband

Ely Mayor Chuck Novak and Town of Morse Clerk Nick Wognum spoke of local initiatives underway to provide broadband access to all area residents.

"Everybody is supporting it with money here and money there," Novak said. "But here at the local level we can't get it. The stumbling blocks are just too onerous to get

He described a recent proposal sponsored by Blandin Foundation where grant money is being utilized for as many as six projects to promote and build high-speed internet throughout the Ely School District. A feasibility study was completed, with matching money from the city of Ely, city of Winton, town of Morse and ISD 696, to finance a plan to make the new technology a reality in the Ely area.

"We need to progress on that," Novak said. "The township has taken the initiative, because everybody is tired of waiting, to move forward and speed things up."

Novak described the frustration of area residents when the area's one and only cable provider has a distant outage that affects everybody in the community. "We have only one run up to here. We need some redundancy." He also noted that the all-but-defunct Lake Connections initiative is just waiting for a buyer.

"We can pass all the bills in the world supporting this, but if the local communities that need the money to build the infrastructure can't get to it, its worthless to us. A lot of it goes to the current providers and they end up with veto power to override the projects that come out of our communities," Novak said.

He said the need for high-speed Internet is for economic development reasons. "I suggested last year that down at the Capitol maybe we ought to throttle down the state legislature to point-nine meg for a day so they really realize what we are talking about. Maybe that would work in Washington, too."

Wognum described Morse Township's solo effort to provide high-speed Internet to township residents. "In Ely you have choices, whether to go with Midco or Frontier. In the township we don't have a choice, it is Frontier or nothing," he said. "We are looking at what can have the maximum amount of benefit for the least amount of money." Frontier will be developing

a new fiber line that exits on the east side of Ely and heads up the Echo Trail, according to Wognum. "At first we decided on a smaller project, but then decided to do a bigger project."

Phase One includes new fiber from Ely and travels along Highway 88, up the Echo Trail to Passi Road and even Hartley Point Road. The

estimated cost is \$507,000 and will benefit as many as 270 homes. Phase Two will start with fiber

Burntside Ridge Road and Van Vac Road, with another fiber run on West Wolf Lake Road with remote installations. The estimated cost will be \$629,000 and will benefit 192 homes.

Bakk didn't come right out and promise money for the town of Morse project, but showed interest in the project.

Ecklund also voiced support for the project. He said he is set to author another broadband bill in the State House next year. "We are trying to accomplish true border-to-border broadband," he said.

Winton Post Office

Winton Mayor Kathy Brandau and Clerk Anne Jackson described their community's months-long challenge of replacing the closed Post Office with the placement and construction of cluster boxes for residents to retrieve their mail.

Brandau said they are looking for funding for the construction of a canopy over the cluster boxes and improved lighting for the area.

Stauber said that despite the assistance from Rep. Rick Nolan's office in making the transition easier for the new House member, he had not heard of the Winton Post Office issue before. "He gave us a list of constituent services issues," he said, "but this was not on the list. From my standpoint, it doesn't seem like a

lot of money to keep your mail dry.' Jackson asserted that the postal service is "an identifier for a community and the people who live there." She also stressed the safety of residents getting their mail in the

snow and ice. Bakk encourage Winton officials to look to the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board for funding for the canopy project.

Ely License Bureau

Larry Reedy, who owns and operates the Ely License Bureau with his wife Penny, and the deputy registrar service, described the challenges they continue to have with the technology problems associated with the new Minnesota Licensing and Registration System.

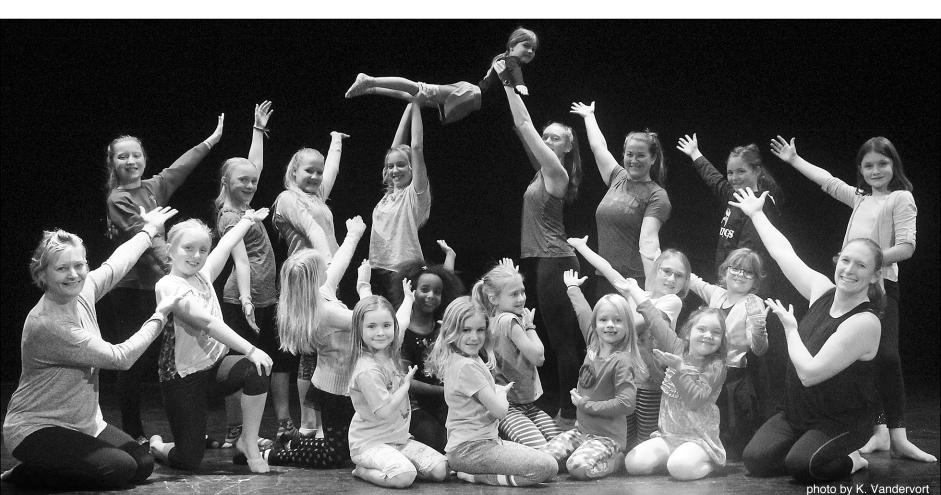
"Last year, when legislation was passed to help us out, we were so hopeful," Reedy said. "It got to the governor's desk and he vetoed it. Some 16 months after the rollout, the system has improved minusculey and there are some improvements, but for the last four months we have been at a standstill."

Reedy said he has received just three paychecks in the last 16 months. "We're a privately-owned business and we are at your mercy. Our fees are paid based on what you allow us to charge. We can't charge more because we live in Ely," he said. He told the legislators that he is

dipping into his own police pension fund to make ends meet and to keep the local license bureau open. "Something's got to happen. We work for the state of Minnesota and you failed us. We're just not making it," he said.

Ecklund could only say that a plan is being worked on to fix the license bureau issues, but he could not provide specifics. "The whole system needs to be fixed, and fast," he said.

SUPPORTING THE ARTS



Dance Company performs on Sunday

ELY - The newly-formed Reflections Dance Company here will be hold a showcase on Sunday, Dec. 16, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Vermilion Community College Fine Arts Theatre.

The group, numbering more than 40 dancers, has been holding classes since the middle of October, and the students will give the community a chance to see what they have been working on.

The pieces are previews of the new dance production that will be held in August 2019.



The RDC Showcase is open to the public with a free will donation. There will be refreshments after the show.

Interested dancers can sign up for the winter session of classes that begin on Sunday, Jan. 6, with Ballet I, Ballet II, Jazz, Contemporary, Acro/Tumbling I, Acro/Tumbling II, and the Company class.

Instructors include Molly Olson, Brooke Lund, and Therese

More information can be found on the Reflections Facebook page. Reflections Dance Company is a non-profit organization supported by Northern Lakes Arts Association.

MRS. CLAUS PARTY



Caden Fitzgerald, 3, of Ely, is all smiles in his "Merry Rex-Mas" sweatshirt while visiting with Mrs. Claus Saturday at the Mrs. Claus Party, sponsored by the Ely Chamber of Commerce and held at

Amici's Events Center. photo by K. Vandervort

OUR COMMUNITY



Archery in Ely school

ELY - The End of the Road Archery Club in Ely joined the fourth and fifth-grade students at Washington School to teach them about archery.

The instruction took place during Mr. Peterson's gym classes. The students learned safe handling of the equipment, proper shooting technique, and range rules to stay safe.

Various members of the club and students of Ely, Abigail Johnson, Gabriel Pointer, Shane Spangler, and Gabe Mann, assisted in the instruction of the younger

The club, which is open to students in grades 4-12, meets twice a week and will begin competition in January. There are 22 Ely students enrolled in the club.

For more information, call 218-365-7710 or email endoftheroadarchers@gmail.com.

Christmas Light Run/Walk set

ELY – A free running/walking event, hosted by LynnAnne Vesper, Keith Nelson and Debbie Hultman will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 18 from 6:30-8 p.m.

Meet at Northern Grounds and run/walk a short or medium course through town showcasing all of the

Christmas lights. Enjoy food, drinks and fellowship at Northern

Grounds when finished. Participants should wear lots of reflective clothing

Yesterday's news

from the archives

of the Iron Range Historical Society



A photo of residents at a Winton boarding house. courtesy of the Iron Range Historical Society



A 1918 World War I Army funeral in Ely.

Crane Lake News by the Singing Teapot Dames



It's Christmas season! And what a wonderful season it is. It is time to contact old friends, renew friendships and enjoy our special traditional foods.

It appears all ethnic groups have their specialties. Lutefisk is a dish loved by some and not appreciated by others. What is lutefisk?

Lutefisk is dried whitefish (normally cod, but ling and burbot are also used) treated with lye. The first step is soaking the stock fish in cold water for five to six days (with the water changed daily). The saturated stock fish is then soaked in an unchanged solution of cold water and lye for an additional two days.

This may not sound very appealing but it is tradition for many! It is said that lutefisk was invented because some "fumbly person" happened to drop lye on a piece of dried, soaked fish and thus discovered that the dry fish was edible if disguised with other foods, such as potatoes, cream sauce and butter.

Lutefisk prepared from cod is somewhat notorious, even in Scandinavia, for its intensely offensive odor. Conversely, lutefisk prepared from pollock or haddock emits almost no odor. The taste of well-prepared lutefisk is very mild, and the white sauce is often spiced with pepper or other strong-tasting spices. Does this make you want to run out and buy some?

Another traditional holiday food is Potica. Known as Potica (poh-TEET-sah) among Slovenians and povitica (pohvee-TEET-sah) among Croatians, this sweet or savory pastry is made with yeast-raised dough that is rolled or stretched out thinly and then spread with a filling. It is then rolled up jellyroll-style and baked as a log.

Throughout history, all social classes prepared potica when celebrating festive occasions. The filling of the cake was a symbol of the family's social status. The wealthier families used expensive fillings such as walnuts and cream, and the poor could only afford to fill it with herbs or lovage (hard bits of fat).

The Dames admit they like potica but will pass on the lutefisk!

Parties abound at this time of year. In addition to all the yummy ethnic offerings, another staple for the buffet table is the deviled egg. A whole egg contains a wealth of nutrients. One egg provides vitamins, minerals, good fats, high-quality protein and other essential nutrients. Eggs contain about 21 essential amino acids that the body needs for proper functioning, growth and repair. And you thought you ate them because they tasted good!

Mark Dec. 16 on your calendar. It is the annual children's Christmas program at Crane Lake Chapel. Everyone is invited to come out and support the kids of our community. A pot luck lunch will follow the program which begins at 11:30 a.m.

Don't forget to send in your Christmas 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.

the Dames As informed you, dear readers, 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 to Sandy at 218-757-3233.

Until next week the Teapot Dames are sing-

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

Community Notices

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 Fellow-

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. Resgistrations will be taken over the phone by calling the agency at 1-800-662-5711 ext.

CHRISTMAS TIME



COOK - The holiday season came here last Friday night with the annual celebration of the Cook Country Christ-

Events were held across town including a movie showing for kids at the Comet Theatre downtown. At the community center, kids could tell Santa what they wanted as gifts, provided they weren't on his Naughty List!

Northwoods The Friends of the Arts provided crafts while the Friends of the Park provided a light dinner.

Left: Santa Claus listens to children as they tell him their holiday gift idea. **Below: Artists from**



Meet Mrs. Jeani Swenson

Principal John Vukmanich interviews a selection of educators and coaches at the North Woods School

Hello Grizzlies families! This week we feature Mrs. Jeani Swenson, one of our seasoned veterans in the elementary at North Woods.

Mr. V: Where are you originally from and where did you go to high school and college?

Mrs. S: I am originally from East St. Paul, and I went St. Paul Johnson High School. We had really good hockey teams. I went to Bethel College and received a degree in Elementary Education with a Kindergarten endorsement.

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

Mrs. S: I still remember Kindergarten. It was all about play time, nap time and holidays. My oldest brother actually was a math teacher at my high school, and he was a strong influence on my choice to go to college and become a Mr. V: What charac-

teristics did these teachers have that were important to you? Mrs. S: My peer

group really liked my brother as a teacher. He was charismatic and went beyond the classroom to build strong relationships with his students. He was a coach as well. Mr. V: What do you

teach at North Woods?

Mrs. S: Kindergarten, but I have also taught first grade and

second grade at North

Mr. V: Most of the



teachers interviewed so far are relatively new. You've been in education for a while. What has your path been so

far?

Mrs. S: I started in Willmar in 1979 teaching Kindergarten. Because of my husband's job, we moved several times. We moved to Brooklyn Center where I taught Kindergarten. Then we were in Iron River, Mich. teaching Kindergarten. We ended up eventually in Fosston, then Mahnomen, Bagley, and Clearbrook. Then we moved to Cook. I started in Cook teaching Indian Ed, and then taught Title I and subbed in Orr. In a rural community, teachers stay forever, so I had to take what I could find until I became full time. I have been

teaching for 39 years!

fession?

your hobbies?

choose teaching as a pro-

my passion. I love them

and I am drawn to them.

have changed over the

years. We love to travel.

Mr. V: Why did you

Mrs. S: Kids are just

Mr. V: What are

Mrs. S: My hobbies

Lake Vermilion is so

Mr. V: What is a piece of advice you'd

SWENSON We've travelled all over the United States and overseas. I love antiques and used to own an antique shop in Fosston. Now that I live on the lake. I love kayaking and boating.

JEANI

Mr. V: What is something you really like about North Woods? Mrs. S: We are a

community. I enjoy the staff and we support Mr. V: What is a

professional goal for you? Mrs. S: To finish

my career well. I am at a stage where I am winding down, but want to always give my best until the end. Mr. V: What is

something you love about northern MN? Mrs. S: The lake.

fabulous. It's like living an adventure right here.

give your students? Mrs. S: Be kind. Kindergarten kindness

Mrs S. Make good

pression?

Cook, MN is one of our priorities! 24 Hours A Day Mr. V: Do you have a favorite saying or ex-





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

Mrs. S: That I cared about them and loved them, and that we had fun while learning.

Thank you, Jeani, for letting us get to know you a little better, and thanks for all that you do for our little ones at North Woods Elementa-

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Go Grizzlies!

Your principal, John Vukmanich

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NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



FIELD TWP - The North Woods School inducted three new members to the National Honor Society last Wednesday (Dec. 5) evening. The three new members, Olivia Fultz, Brynn Simpson and Cole Thiel, were treated to the full pomp and circumstance of the traditional NHS candle lighting cermony. Following the swearing in ceremony, the whole group posed for a photo, above, before a small reception was held for students and their families.

Above - From bottom to top:

Row 1, L-R: Kylie Parson, Olivia Niska, Nicole Roy, Neiva Smith, Sasha Strong

Row 2, L-R: Cole Thiel, Lauren Arvila, Brynn Simpson, Regan Ratai, Nicole Olson, Tyler Kiehm

Row 3, L-R: Olivia Fultz, Trevor Morrison, Chase Kleppe, lan Sherman, Parker Jones, Karlyn Pierce, Clayton Janssen, Jakob

Row 4, L-R: (2 girls behind Cole Thiel) Anna Trip, Kristen Cook Row 5: Rebecca Triska, Alanna Rutchasky, Samantha Fultz, Bria Chiabotti, Madison Antikainen, Claire Beaudry, CeCilia Martinez, Bethany Cotten

At right: Olivia Fultz, Brynn Simpson and Cole Thiel recite the National Honor Society pledge before being formally inducted into the organization.

photos by M. White



ORR CITY COUNCIL

Council sets 2019 levy

by MELISSA ROACH

Staff Writer

ORR-City Councilors here voted for five-percent levy increase for 2019 on Monday. Councilors combed through the city general fund and department expenditures and revenues, assessing the city's financial forecast for the coming year. Year-to-date the city's general fund has seen \$287,481.44 in revenue; yet has expenditures totaling \$312,257.37.

Councilor Black said, "Looking at the numbers, I think we should go with a five percent increase." The council looked at numbers drawn up for a three percent increase or a five-percent levy increase. Black said, "Our numbers were kind of short in the sewer fund, and if anything goes wrong there, we're

screwed." Astleford Mayor

the five percent increase. levy With the increase, the 2019 budget projects general fund revenue at \$308,801.88 and

expenses at \$306,603.30. Budget discussion included new Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB), that City Clerk Cheri Carter described as requiring the city to forecast PERA obligation accounts "until basically the employees die... the city needs to put on their books the cost of the paying the employees out for the rest of their retirement." The difficulty in projecting age factors makes it "almost impossible."

The council also approved a change in the health insurance plan for full-time city employees. The current plan will not be offered in 2019, and the city's insurance agent Jimmy Johnson has recommended Blue Access Gold Plan 637. Estimat-

agreed and recommended ed monthly premium of about the Community \$4,222.89 and increase from the current monthly premium of \$3,950. The city has six full-time

employees. Other increases the council approved for the budget include a wastewater debt service increase for each resident from \$8.55 to \$9.05, as the USDA loan payment will increase a thousand dollars as of Jan. 1. The fire department is budgeting \$250,000 for a new truck, although department supervisor Dallas Johnson said the hopes are to obtain grant funding for the large purchase expense and it is not reflected in the overall general budget.

In other business, the council:

➤ Approved purchase and installation of a new furnace for Airport Administration Building garage from Marty Yourczek at \$2,900.

➤ Heard from Stan Day from KBFT 89.9

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Calendar. The radio station is looking to spread services out among the community to have events listed with the sta-

tion calendar. ➤ Approved wage increase in Laura Manai's annual salary to

\$31,200. ➤ Approved a resolution designating Orr City Hall as a polling place for 2019.

➤ Approved renewal of liquor, wine, club or 3.2 license for Oveson's Pelican Lake Resort and

➤Approved a 2019 cigarette licenses for Norman's and Pelican Bay Foods.

➤ Approved of donation to Orr Ambulance. Mayor Astleford read a letter from Gary Rolloff in thanks and praise for the department.

➤ Approved request from fire department to purchase a heater for Ranger from Five Seasons Sports at \$1,280.

the TIMBERJAY



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Ely School Board approves nine-percent levy hike

ELY - The Ely School Board, on Monday night, approved a nearly nine-percent property tax levy hike for the next year for residents in ISD 696. The Payable 2019 Levy of \$1,811,459 is \$149,092, or 8.97 percent more than last year's levy of \$1,662,367.

No taxpayers questioned the levy increase or even spoke at the Truth-in-Taxation public hearing, held at the beginning of the regular board meeting.

Superintendent Kevin Abrahamson noted that the 2018 levy revenue is just 20 percent of the total district revenue of \$8,320,289.

The fiscal year 2019 budget adopted by the Ely School Board in September shows a \$234,842, or 2.9-percent, increase from the current revised budget. Revenues of \$8,320,289, are outpacing expenditures of \$8,246,428, showing an anticipated surplus of \$122,493.

The board approved the maximum levy amount in September, which would have been close to an 11-percent increase, according to it under nine (percent) and barely did.'

The career tech levy of \$16,650 is new in the Payable 2019 Levy. "Iknow this is a small amount, but this is an example (of the levy increase)" he said. "We were eligible to levy more in this area, but that is one of the areas where we cut back. We do have a couple of courses that qualify under career and tech so we decided to be a bit conservative and not levy the maximum we could under that."

Other notable local levy increases from 2018 to 2019 include: voter approved operating referendum, \$12,693; equity, \$11,618; operating capital, \$11,316; Q Comp, \$6,722; and long term facilities maintenance \$15,745. Deferred maintenance shows a levy decrease of \$1,560. Abrahamson listed reasons

forthelevychange."Adjustments to the levy happen when actual numbers are known," he said. "We had an increase in enrollment that we did not project," he said, "so the actual dollars that came in were more than budgeted. There are times when you under-levy in a certain category; the state allows you to make that up the following year. If you over-levy, then you have to levy less. The state sets those guidelines for us."

State equalization calculations change the aid/levy split on an annual basis, he said.

Abrahamson compared the revenues from the local levy for 2018 and 2019. The Building/ Land Lease shows an increase of just over \$19,000. "That is paying on the amount that was borrowed to do the work on the (ice) arena years ago," he said. "This includes the arena improvements, and remodeling of the floor." That amount increased from \$68,754 in 2018 to \$87,775 in 2019.

Ice arena operating costs show an increase of about \$10,000, from \$68,500 in 2018 to \$78,830 in 2019.

A decrease in the tax levy of

almost \$10,000 is the result of a health benefits policy change for employees 65 years of age and older and retiree insurance. "That decreases the costs to the district as well as the cost to the retiree, and that helped with the tax levy," Abrahamson said. "The re-employment or unemployment insurance decreased based on the prior year actuals

being lower than budgeted."

Taconite tax adjustment decreased from \$50,477 in 2018 to \$47,558, or bout \$3,000. "That means that taconite production went down," he said. "This is not additional revenue for the district. This replaces revenue that would have been collected from property owners." Production credits are based on local mines' prior three years of production.

Long-time board member honored

Board Chair Ray Marsnik presented a plaque of appreciation for service to outgoing board member Scott Kellerman at his last board meeting for the district.

Kellerman was first elected to the Ely School Board in 1996 and chose not to seek reelection "I could write a book,"

Kellerman said. "There were very highs and very lows, but overall it has been worth it. It is bittersweet to leave, but now is the time."

Marsnik, who has served on the school board for 17 years, told Kellerman that he enjoyed working with him.

Other business

In other business, the school board:

> Changed the date of the December study session to Monday, Dec. 17, at 6 p.m.;

➤ Approved criteria for awarding a varsity letter for club activitites as recommended by the athletic director;

➤ Approved the World's Best Workforce Report and Summary;

➤ Approved the professional services proposal from Architectural Resources Inc. for \$28,500 and will discuss next steps for the facilities renovation project at the December study meeting;

➤ Rescheduled the fiscal year 2018 audit review for the January 2019 regular meeting; > OK'd meal reimburse-

ment rates for district staff travel for 2019 at the same rate since 2012 as \$10 for breakfast, \$15 for lunch, and \$25 for dinner;

➤ Went into closed session to discuss pending litigation with legal counsel concerning salary adjustments for teacher pay from 2017.

Incoming governor will have huge surplus to work with and 0.5 percent, respective-

by Marcus White

Cook-Orr Editor

ST PAUL - Incoming DFL Gov. Tim Walz will have \$1.5 billion extra dollars to work with as he prepares his first budget in the coming months. The good news could be shortlived, however, with the Office of Management of Budget also forecasting a slowdown in growth across the state in the next five years, which could impact future budgets.

It's a remarkable

turnaround from the \$6.2 billion deficit faced by Gov. Mark Dayton when he assumed office in 2011 from Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty. The current economic

outlook, released earlier this week, points to Minnesota's strong job wage and job growth, outpacing the national unemployment rate by nearly one percent.

'The state continues to add jobs at a steady pace, driving the unemployment rate well below the U.S. rate," the report stated.

"Together, high demand for labor and low unemployment continue to support growth in total Minnesota wage income and wages per worker." The state did trail the

rest of the nation in overall job growth by about one percent in the past 12

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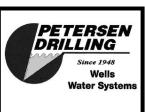
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Uncertainty overshadows success

Signs on the horizon suggest that the longstanding growth in the state's economy will slow over the next few years, potentially shifting the state's job market in the future.

"In 2020 and 2021, growth slows to 1.1 percent



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ly," the report forecasts. "As slow labor force growth constrains job gains, we expect employment growth to decelerate to less than one-half percent in the years of our planning estimates." Global factors could

also slow growth in Minnesota. The report said current relations between the United States and China could have major impacts on the state, driven by the uncertainty of prolonged economic tension.

Minnesota has generally been a strong exporting state, according to the budget office, with exports to foreign countries totaling more than \$23 billion in 2017.

A strengthened dollar generally leads to slowed international purchases of American-made goods, such as locally produced taconite, since currency exchanges will make the cost of obtaining products

more expensive. This can lead producers to seek the products from countries with cheaper currency. Even if the economic

situation in the state does sour in the coming years, the Office of Management and Budget predicts that if Walz and the Legislature maintain the status-quo, the state will continue to see surpluses well into the future. Those would diminish slowly as time goes on with fiscal year 2023 projected to have a surplus of just over \$400

The December forecast is just a prelude for budget talks and proposals ahead of the upcoming legislative session. Final budget negotiations won't get underway in earnest until the 2019 forecast, due in late February or March.

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Grand Rapids history program begins on KAXE/KBXE

R E G I O N A L -Northern Community Radio, KAXE 91.7, KBXE 90.5, announces a local radio series about the unique history of Grand Rapids, the logging industry and the Blandin Paper Company.

Historian and producer Don Boese tells the story of how a remote wilderness outpost in the 1870s became a prosperous town with a world-class paper mill.

The first Euro-Americans arrived in the forested wilderness of Itasca County in the 1870s.

In those early days, the site that became the town of Grand Rapids was at the base of a three and a half-mile stretch of unnavigable rapids on the Mississippi River.

It was the jumping off point for timber cruisers, loggers, and homesteaders who came on steamboats up the river from Aitkin.

By 1900 the vast forests had been logged over. Town leaders like Dan Gunn were searching for a new economic future, a quest that led them to harness the power of the Mississippi and build a paper mill in 1901.

Don Boese introduces us to Dan Gunn, Charles Blandin, and many other characters and events that took Grand Rapids from a remote logging outpost to a 20th century paper mill town

Don Boese is the author of eight books dealing with local history in Itasca County including "John C. Greenway and the Opening of the Western Mesabi," and the main source for this series,

Don Boese is a Grand Rapids historian.

submitted photo

"Papermakers: the Blandin Paper Company and Grand Rapids, Minnesota."

Listen this winter as KAXE/KBXE highlights Grand Rapids and Blandin Paper Company history with Don Boese. The programs air Monday and Tuesday mornings at 8:45 a.m. and online anytime at www.kaxe.org. Tune in live at 91.7FM in Itasca, Aitkin, Cass, and St. Louis counties; and 103.9 in Ely.



ORR...Continued from page 1

Minnesota, began in 2014. The company's original goal was to provide Internet access out in rural farm fields where neither WiFi or cell phone data can typically be accessed.

Since then the company has moved into residential services and has been nearly tripling in size every year with about 1,000 current customers across seven counties.

"We're a small family-based company," Rasmussen said. "We pride ourselves on taking care of the customer and being accessible. We strive very hard to give customers what they pay for."

The cost of the new

Internet service in Orr will be \$60 per month for speeds of six megs download and two megs upload. The company also requires an initial installation fee of \$150 and customers will also need to have their own wireless router to be able to connect to the Internet. The \$150 covers a radio hookup that is placed on the exterior of a customer's house much like a small satellite dish. But rather than beaming signals from space, the signal will be coming from much closer- the Orr water tower.

The Internet signal itself is relayed through a broadcasting radio that

is connected to one of Back40's partners, CTC, out of Brainerd which provides the actual Internet signal.

Where other companies have been promising high speed Internet access to Orr for more than a year, Rasmussen has told city councilors the first customers will be online by the end of the year, with more to follow in the first part of 2019.

While the company's base of operations, such as billing and phone support, will remain in Jackson, the company has brought on local resident John Paul Metsa to be its eyes, ears and face-to-face contact

on the ground.

Metsa originally conceived of the program and asked Back40 to make the proposal earlier this fall.

Rasmussen said customers in Orr can expect a higher level of service than afforded by big telecommunications companies. He said whenever a customer has an issue they can call and speak with a real person without being put on hold for long periods of time.

He notes that the owners of the company post their personal cell phone numbers on the company's website.

A customer can call at any time, even in

the middle of the night, Rasmussen said, and talk with a real person. While he admits the leap from the southwestern corner of the state to the far northeast is the largest geographic expansion the company has done, he said 90 percent of customers who have had problems in the past with equipment and signal can usually have most of their problems solved with a quick phone call. Metsa will come in for the 10 percent of calls that require a more hands-on approach, as well as serve as an in-person point of contact in the community.

As for the future, Rasmussen said if more customers sign up than the company's initial radio transmitter can handle, it is a simple addition of more equipment to allow more people to access the network.

He also noted that the company is looking to expand beyond Orr, but exactly where, when or how is still very early in the planning stages.

More information on the new service can be found on the Back40 website at https://www. back40wireless.com/ or by calling 507-800-1836.

ELY ... Continued from page 1

about Seventh Avenue East is our primary project scope. We are looking at the city owning the fiber and then leasing back to a provider such as CTC," he said.

CTC has a contract with Northeast Service Cooperative (NESC) and they would provide all the customer service, according to Langowski. "That is the direction we are going. It does sounds like NESC is quite interested in participating in the installation of additional fiber."

It appears that Frontier Communications is not interested in extending the reach of the existing fiber capacity in Ely. "A couple of weeks ago, I posed the same offer to them," Langowski said. "They showed me what service they provide to our downtown right now. It would be simplified if they could lash the fiber lines to their existing poles. It looked promising but that came back with a no. They are not interested."

Frontier Communications is working on a separate project with the town of Morse to provide Internet service to the Echo Trail, Burntside Lake north shore and Van Vac Road areas. Township officials all but left the Ely Area Broadband Coalition to make their own solo deal.

Langowski is hopeful he will have some concrete answers within the next month. CTC is proposing to have symmetrical service up to one gig of download and upload speeds, he said. "Of course, that will be at a higher price," he added. "High speeds and a little bit more reliability is what we're hoping for. That is something yet to be discussed with them. I know we have had outages on another provider's lines at least three times in the

Langoswki said that several factors will be studied in the coming

last month and a half."

months concerning the broadband project, including costs, lease terms and debt service, and filling the gaps in the service area.

"At a certain point, we are going to need lobbying, I believe, to the IRRRB for the last piece of funding to get the project to work," he said. "The staff I talked to down there are very excited."

He also noted that strong buy-in from local business owners will be a key piece to making the project a reality. "Do you want this? We will put it in, but you need to sign up and committo it. That may be the next step to all this."

While disappointed that Morse Township went their own way in providing Internet service to their residents, Langowski said the township project could be successful with funding not available to Ely. "I think they're eligible for some Border-to-Border funding because they are in an 'unserved' area, but it takes a lot of work to get to that point. The clerk there said they are still weighing their options," he said.

He speculated that CTC could be interested in the future in extending their service area to include the Morse project. "Right now [CTC] is

focused on doing the downtown project with us, and potentially how that could grow, and if it can be successful at a rate that sustains the debt on however we fund it."

Langowski predicted that the downtown highspeed fiber project will be in good standing with the commissioner of IRRRB for funding. "We'll need their funding as that last piece to make this work," he said. "If we go down to the state and say we have no money to put into this, we will be like every other community, county and township in the state of Minnesota who are making the same ask."

making the same ask."

He added, "Right now, with the schedule we are looking at, we could put this together and be under construction next summer. If we go the other route and try to get the money from the state, I have no hope that we would have this in the next year or two years. I think IRRRB is ready to support us on this."

The Ely Economic Development Authority unanimously passed an Iron Range Broadband Resolution calling on St Louis County to "take the lead in developing and finalizing a regional, multi-community

approach to spurring broadband deployment, including organizational development, legal

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MEDIA RELATIONS

Publisher takes issue with false comments by Tower ambulance director

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— During public input at the city council meeting here on Monday, *Timberjay* Publisher Marshall Helmberger took issue with false and potentially defamatory comments made by city Ambulance Director Steve Altenburg regarding Helmberger's recent reporting on the city's ambulance department.

Altenburg had engaged in a 46-minute long harangue against Helmberger at the council's Nov. 26 meeting, in which he accused the reporter and publisher of misquoting him, lying about ambulance run data, and distorting financial figures.

While Altenburg offered no documentation of his claims, Helmbergerprovided the council with copies of city records and ambulance run reports that documented his reporting and he asked for one of the council members to verify the numbers to confirm the accuracy of his reporting.

"I don't core if he wants to

"I don't care if he wants to call me a jerk," said Helmberger. "That's fine. If he wants to take me to task because I have actually incorrect numbers in the paper or am misreporting something, that's fine. I believe in accountability for myself as well as for everybody else. But when you make false claims—and he had the information to know what he was saying was not true—to show that kind of disregard for the facts, that's a serious issue."

Helmberger said

Altenburg's defamation would normally be an issue between the newspaper and Mr. Altenburg. But he noted that the city had become a party to Altenburg's wrongdoing when city officials allowed him to video-record the Nov. 26 council meeting, which was dominated by his tirade, and post it on the city's website.

"You do need to address

this," said Helmberger. "You need to figure out whether or not you're going to deal with issuing a retraction. If we had published something making disparaging comments about anybody and that they came back and gave us information that said that's not right, we would be obligated to print either a correction or a retraction. It's incumbent upon the city to do the same thing in this situation."

Some city council members were clearly surprised to learn that Altenburg had begun video-recording council meetings. Helmberger made his com-

ments as part of his broader comment on the misinformation that Altenburg has provided to the council over the past year and a half. Helmberger noted that Altenburg had originally sold the switch to paid-on-call service as a net profit generator, when he later acknowledged that his plan would likely reduce department margins.

Helmberger noted that

Altenburg had also sold the switch based on significant increases in the number of emergency calls. At the Nov. 26 council meeting, Altenburg stated that the department had had five years in a row with 20-percent increases and accused Helmberger of "lying" when he reported the actual numbers and noted that the trend was flat.

Helmberger cited emergen

Helmberger cited emergency runs, which have been steady or slowly declining since 2016, when the service responded to 361 emergency calls. They declined to 353 in 2017 and appear likely to fall below that

in 2018. Through the end of November, the department had responded to 327 emergency runs, which should put the final numbers around 350 or slightly higher. Total runs in November were down significantly, with just three transfers and 17 emergency calls.

Helmberger noted that

ambulance department spending has jumped dramatically in 2018, with \$298,000 spent through Sept. 30 according to city budget data. That compares to \$240,000 through all of last year. And Helmberger said those numbers don't include \$54,000 in equipment spending approved last month, or an anticipated \$100,000 in additional expenses anticipated through the end of the year. Those expenditures will likely push total ambulance spending over \$450,000 this year, not including the purchase of a new ambulance. Helmberger said that while revenues are up due to the increase in the number of transfers, the department's overall margins appear likely to diminish significantly with the paid on-call service and he said that's likely to impact the department's ability to purchase ambulances down the road.

Altenburg said the department had shown rising numbers in the past and said runs had doubled in the time that he's been on the ambulance crew. "We are spending more, but we're still making a profit."

making a profit."

Mayor Josh Carlson said the program is not set in stone and could be adjusted if necessary. He added that the department had to do something to relieve burnout among the department's volunteers.

Council approves ambulance purchase

While the paid on-call staffing plan may not be set in stone, the council took action to ensure that Altenburg's request for a new ambulance was approved prior to a new council taking over. The council approved the purchase of an ambulance from Lifeline, otherwise known as 94 Services, at a total price of \$243,994, including a Stryker cot. According to Keith, the city had received another bid, from Fire Safety USA, for \$258,367, although copies of the actual bids were not provided in the council packet.

TOWER...Continued from page 1

The developers and the city later agreed to develop a tax abatement plan under which the developers would finance the infrastructure and be reimbursed through a portion of the property taxes collected on the property wealth generated by the project. The city had proposed a plan to include abatement of 100 percent of county taxes and 65 percent of city taxes for ten years, but town home project general manager Jeremy Schoenfelder told the city that the arrangement would not cover all the costs of repayment. The council subsequently agreed to boost the city's abatement to 75 percent, which Schoenfelder

agreed would make the

plan viable, assuming St.

Louis County went along.

At the Nov. 26 council

meeting, however, Keith

claimed the plan violated

state law for providing an

excessive interest rate and

Mayor Josh Carlson cited Keith's claim in his bid to end the project and issue a new Request for Proposals.

Schoenfelder was present via speakerphone at the Nov. 26 meeting to present the developers' side of the case and he ultimately convinced three councilors not to kill the project. On Monday night, however, city officials did

not allow Schoenfelder,

who was expecting to

speak again on the issue,

the opportunity to do so.

Keith told the council that she had tried to put the attorneys for the city and the developer in touch, but never heard back from the developers until late on Wednesday, Dec. 5. Tower mayor-elect

Orlyn Kringstad, who is in the process of divesting himself from the town home project, urged the council to hear from both sides.

"I think this discussion

is going to be a sham unless you bring Mr. Schoenfelder onto the phone. I think there's more to this story," said Kringstad. "This becomes a one-sided discussion if Jeremy is not included."

"What's to discuss?" asked Councilor Lance Dougherty.

"Why don't you want Jeremy in this discussion?" responded Kringstad. Carlson responded

angrily. "Relax! We're going to let the council decide what's going to happen here," he said.

Carlson said the council erred when it agreed to renegotiate the

carrson said the council erred when it agreed to renegotiate the abatement plan. "At the end of the day, our responsibility is to do what's best for the city. Their bottom line doesn't or shouldn't mean anything to us. If it works, it works. If it doesn't, it doesn't."

Carlson said he was willing to contact Schoenfelderif the council

wanted to hear from him, but no one responded.

Dougherty asked if Keith had any more information about her claims regarding debt and allowable interest.

Carlson jumped in.
"Going back to the last
meeting, Jeremy was right.
Okay. You can, in fact, do
that."
Keith offered an expla-

nation. "By statutory definition, it's not a debt, it's an arrangement. The statute applies to debt, specifically. Arrangements are outside of that... if this were a debt, it would be prime plus two [percent]."

In fact, Keith mis-

stated the facts yet again. Minnesota Statute 475.55, Subd 1(a) specifically states: "Interest on obligations issued after April 1, 1986, is not subject to any limitation on rate or amount." That is reiterated in guidance from the League of Minnesota Cities, which states in Chapter 23 (Debt and Borrowing) of its current Handbook for Minnesota Cities: "The interest rates on bonds are not subject to any statutory limitation." Instead, the handbook notes that rates are determined by what the market will bear.

That's a point that Schoenfelder said he was prepared to make to the council had he been allowed to speak. Schoenfelder, who spoke to the *Timberjay* on Tuesday, said his attorney, Kelly Klun, of Ely, had reached out to the city's attorney immediately after the Nov. 26 meeting and that the two had already conversed and concluded there was no statutory limit on interest rates, as Keith had purported.

"My concern with the whole thing is we had a deal two meetings ago, and then an issue was brought up about maximum interest rates. I found out that it was not a concern, and that Chris Virta was not a part of bringing up that concern. That is what I was expecting to have talked about at the council meeting."

The council, apparently unaware or unconcerned that Keith appears to have invented her claim regarding interest rates in a bid to derail the town home project last month, agreed to adopt a new tax abatement plan produced by Keith. Keith's plan effectively a poison pillprovided for 75 percent tax abatement from the county and 62.5 percent abatement by the city, which is less than the city's original proposal. The council gave the developers until Friday, Dec. 14 to sign off on the new tax abatement plan and the rest of the development

agreement. Schoenfelder, who said he's yet to see the agreement, acknowledged that he's unlikely to sign it based on the changes to the abatement plan that the council approved. "My guess is I'm not going to accept it. Then, I'll have to decide whether to bring something up in a legal action. There's only so much I can do when it appears the municipal partner doesn't want to continue."

continue."

Keith offered a new explanation for the interest rate confusion, arguing that the tax abatement agreement was not supposed to indicate an interest rate, not that there was a limit on the rate in question.

TEDA loan

In related business, the council agreed to transfer responsibility for the loan from the Tower Economic Development Authority that had been issued to Tower Vision 2025 and Tower Harbor Shores LLC in 2017 solely to Tower Harbor Shores. But that decision came

representing himself as an "independent investigative journalist," that the loan was a giveaway to Kringstad (who handily defeated Altenburg in the Nov. 6 mayor's race), engineered by Timberjay Publisher Marshall Helmberger, who was president of TEDA at the time. Altenburg, in a written "report", called the terms of the loan, which were approved by TEDA, "ridiculous," suggesting that it violated the authority's loan guidelines because it contained no collateral and that loan funds were paid out on at 100 percent based on paid invoices, rather than 50 percent. "If that is not corruption, I'm not sure what is," he wrote.

after nearly 20 minutes of

recriminations, accusa-

tions and theatrics, mostly

by Ambulance Director

Steve Altenburg, now

as technically in default because the developers had missed an interest payment of \$196.95 in May. Kringstad said Keith had informed him of the missed payment just last month and had been assured by the new owners of Tower Harbor Shores that the missed payment would be made up by the end of December. Keith said the loan was also irregular because she had mistakenly paid out \$126,000, rather than the \$125,000 that was the agreed-upon amount. She said the loan would have to be reissued because of that but claimed she didn't know who would be signing for the new grant.

Keith said the loan

signing for the new grant.

Kringstad said
Schoenfelder would have been able to address that had he been allowed to take part in the discussion.

take part in the discussion.

Keith also claimed that the developers had failed to provide her with sufficient invoices to cover the disbursals. "I still don't have the total invoices in dollar amount to close out the IRRRB grant," she said. "The IRRRB is expecting me to give them \$250,000 in receipts [to close it out!"

close it out]."

Yet IRRRB officials confirmed on Tuesday that the grant was closed out and paid in full as of Aug. 24, 2017. Grant administrator Chris Ismil noted that the agency had

been willing to pay out 100 percent on invoices in order to "infuse cash" into the start-up project. He said all of the receipts and needed paperwork had been submitted on the project more than a year ago and that he has long had all the necessary documentation. "We wouldn't have paid it out if we hadn't," he said.

When offered an opportunity to respond, Keith cited the IRRRB website, which still lists the TEDA grant in active status, despite its being closed out last year.

The loan to the developers was a pass-through of a \$125,000 IRRRB grant to TEDA to help finance early-stage costs, like architectural work, engineering, and marketing, for the town home development. Kringstad, Helmberger, and investor Lars Hanstad had met with IRRRB officials in early 2017 to seek an IRRRB loan to the developers to cover an identified funding gap. The IRRRB opted to funnel the loan through TEDA, with repayment going into a revolving loan fund for the city's economic development authority for help with future projects.

IRRRB officials were well aware that the loan would be unsecured, since the project would have no assets until sales had begun. Keith acknowledged that the IRRRB officials had indicated in a phone call with the agency that the loan would not require the usual collateral and that the IRRRB would reimburse 100 percent of the paid invoices presented by the developers as they expended funds on the project. After two full initial payments, the city council agreed to allow interest only payments on the loan until the project actually got underway, at which time proceeds should allow repayment of the principal. Carlson said the city

had no choice but to go ahead and transfer the loan to Tower Harbor Shores. "There's really nothing we can do," he said.

The *Timberjay* will have more on the Dec. 10 city council meeting in its Dec. 21 edition.

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PERMIT...Continued from page 1 ___

A representative of the potential buyers, Wayne Kangas, of Hibbing, referred to himself as an "ambassador" for the K America Foundation at the hearing, and explained the Yoons' request. The conditional use

permit will allow the future owner to conduct a destination-based cultural camp and activities center, including educational programming, overnight accommodations in a dormitory setting, food service, and entertainment for participants as outlined in the K America business plan. The CUP also sets conditions of operation for the property, including parking restrictions and other limits to ensure that the center is compatible with a residential area.

The proposed the camp is still years away from opening, and will require as much as \$3 million in building renovation and rehabilitation.

The public hearing was lightly-attended and discussion centered on parking. Doreen Steklasa, in a letter to the commission, noted: "With the Post Office and a large rental unit on the 100 block of Harvey Street, parking is already at a premium."

Anne Kaskinen, a nearby property owner, said she supports the request for the CUP, but asked to add a particular condition: "There shall be parking by cars and pickup trucks only on Harvey Street between Central Avenue and Second Avenue." To further clarify this, Kaskinen suggested language stating that no buses or large commercial charter vehicles shall park or stand waiting in this area."

"I'm looking at not impacting the neighborhood by having large buses sitting outside the Community Center building all weekend while they have their camp. A lot of people, in the summertime, actually come all the way down to Harvey Street and some of the avenues to park because there is timed parking downtown. They look for a place to park all day long and that is right in front of my house. I just don't want to see it further impacted." Planning commission

member George Burger, who is also a sergeant for the Ely Police Department indicated that parking restrictions would be better served by referring to city ordinances already in place.

City Attorney Kelly Klun said the city ordinance actually does cover the restrictions of large vehicles parking on city streets, except for sufficient time to load and unload. "The city ordinance should alleviate that concern," Klun said.

Planning commission member Mike Banovetz questioned the Ely Police Department's diligence in enforcing the city's parking ordinance. "Is that something that Anne can rely on?" he asked Police Chief John Lahtonen, "or is that something that you only do when Anne calls in to complain?"

Lahtonen said the Police Department would respond to those complaints.

"I don't want to sound like a whiner, but I guess I will if I see it impacting our parking," Kaskinen said.

No other residents chose to speak in favor or against the granting of the

conditional use permit. Kangas said that

specific concerns on the be for children during the volume of traffic or potensummer," Kangas said. "Adults may come on the tial parking congestion were too early to address. weekend or for a short "It is too hard to define period of time." "Logistically, the how it will play out," he said. "The K America busing idea sounds good Foundation wants to be

on paper, however, there is a higher likelihood that they would be driving up here with their children," Banovetz said. "There will be an increase of parking and traffic just for that reason. I'm not convinced that the busing idea will alleviate the parking concerns."

Burger said that following parking rules in any city is everyone's responsibility, to "pay attention to the signs and follow the appropriate laws."

Parking for staff and "Ideally this would employees at the cultural

center is still under consideration, according to Kangas. "We are open to what works for the community," he said.

Mike McCoy, who owns the house just east of the Community Center on Harvey Street, offered to sell his property to the Yoons so they can tear it down and develop a parking lot.

Banovetz, who said he lived in Korea for two years just about five years ago, asked Kangas what kind of culture they will be teaching the Korean youth. "Korea is evolving tremendously, in fact the Korean culture is almost gone. It is a very hip-hop country right now."

Kangas replied, "It

is still a very traditional culture. We honor that and blend in and honor our traditions in their

experience."

The planning commission voted 6-0 to grant the conditional use permit.

KELLY KLUN Attorney At Law

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the least invasive when it

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where people are bussed

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cultural center and then

Kangas on how many par-

ticipants would be involved

in attending the cultural

center. "Is it possible that

parents would be staying

over for some period of

time with their children at

this camp?" he asked.

picked up later.

He described scenarios

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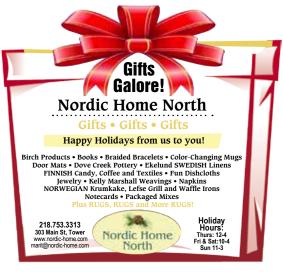




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BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies sweep opponents in second week

Team finds its stride amid growing pains and a sidelining injury

by Marcus WHITE

Cook-Orr Editor

NASHWAUK - The North Woods boys basketball team made quick work of both of their opponents this week. The Grizzlies easily downed Nashwauk-Keewatin on Tuesday evening, 88-61.

Early in the season,

Head Coach Will Kleppe said the team would need to find its stride to cope with the graduation of some of its strongest players last year. But even with one of their senior players out on injury, the Grizzlies seem to have found their mark on the court.

"Trevor Morrison is out until after Christmas

break from a hand injury," Kleppe said. "Ian Sherman and Darius Goggleye have done outstanding jobs filling in." Goggleye would put

up 24 points in Tuesday's game, while his older brother Cade added 25 of his own as the Goggleye brothers single-handedly accounted for two-thirds

of the team's total offense.

T.J. Chiabotti also had a big night, putting up an additional 20 points to help the team cruise to a win.

While the team was up by 11 points at the end of the first half, Kleppe said it was after the break when the magic truly happened.

"Last night in the second half, we came out "We got to the free-throw line many times. That was the difference in the

very aggressive," he said.

Last Saturday, the Grizzlies headed to the Twin Cities to face Mayer Lutheran at Hopkins High School.

game."

Again the team came out on top, with a final See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B

score of 59-46.

Cade Goggleye again led the team with 25 points. adding six rebounds. The younger Goggleye, posted 12 points of his own with another six rebounds.

Sherman and Chase Kleppe rounded out the team's scoring with seven

Wolves down Silver Bay

Defense key in huge 72-33 win for Ely at home by MARSHALL HELMBERGER all Ely from the start. "We lowest point total of the

Managing Editor

ELY-Tough defense was key for the Timberwolves on Tuesday as they manhandled Silver Bay 72-33 to even their early-season boys basketattacked the basket well on the offensive end and just pulled away from them," said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald.

But defense was key and it allowed the Wolves season so far.

Junior forward Dylan Fenske proved a major factor with 27 points and eight rebounds, while senior guard Patrick





Above: Dylan Fenske goes up for the shot while a Silver Bay defender tries to bring him back

Left: Patrick Vanderbeek evades Silver Bay's Mason Olman.

photos by J. Greeney

Sports

BOYS B-BALL

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

Monday Dec. 17 North Woods hosts Esko, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday Dec. 20 North Woods at Lakview Christian, 7:15 p.m.

Friday Dec. 21
Ely at Lake of the Woods, 6:30 p.m.

GIRLS B-BALL

Monday Dec. 17 North Woods at Wrenshall, 7:15 p.m.

Ely at Chisholm, 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday Dec. 18 North Woods hosts Barnum, 7:15 p.m.

NE Range at Fond du Lac, 6:30 p.m.

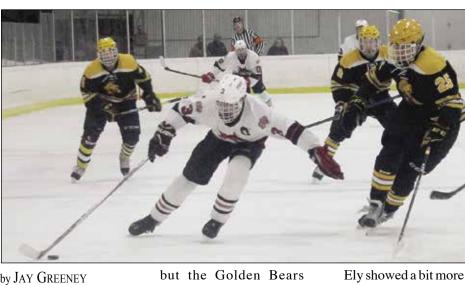
Friday Dec. 21 Ely hosts Two Harbors, 7:15 p.m.

Friday Dec. 14 Ely at Moose Lake, 6 p.m.

Saturday Dec. 15 Ely hosts Southwest Christian, 3 p.m.

Friday Dec. 21 Ely at Lake of the Woods, 6 p.m.

Wolves looking for a win



Timberwolves' offense continued to struggle on Tuesday, managing a disappointing 17 shots on goal in a 7-1 loss to a combined Eveleth-Gilbert Area team.

The

Ely, still winless, put the second period. the first shot on goal,

dominated the rest of the way, peppering Ely goalie Chase Sandberg with 25 shots in the opening period. Two connected with the back of the net to give the Golden Bears a 2-0 lead. They padded their lead with three more goals in

offense in the second stanza, with nine shots on goal, but none put points

on the board. Ely didn't give up, however, as they held Eveleth-Gilbert to just ten shots in the final period.

The Golden Bears added

another goal early in the

Nick Mattila advances the puck.

photo by J. Greeney

period, before Ely's Luke Olson put one in the net with an assist from Nick Mattila to narrow the margin to 6-1. The Golden Bears would add one more goal before the final buzzer to wrap up scoring. For the game Chase

Sandberg kept 49 of 56 shots out of the goal for a .880 save percentage. The Wolves managed just 17 shots on goal for the contest.

In action last Friday night, a late Wolves' rally came close against May-Port, but ultimately fell

scorers with 18. short. May-Port won 7-6 in a hard-fought contest. The Patriots jumped

out to a four-goal lead See HOCKEY...pg. 2B

Nighthawks struggle against Golden Bears

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER been our first win," said Managing Editor

BABBITT- The Northeast Raneg girls struggled with a tall and bruising Eveleth-Gilbert squad on Tuesday, falling 56-27 to the Golden Bears. "They're big," said Northeast Range Head Coach Paxton Goodsky, who watched his team fall behind early and lose ground throughout the match.

Nighthawks senior guard Shayler Lislegard led scoring for Northeast Range with ten points, while junior Casey Zahnow scored seven and Makaya Bodas added six.

Eveleth-Gilbert's Audrey Delich led all

In Monday night m action, the Nighthawks let one get away as they

fell to Silver Bay, 48-46. "That should have

Goodsky. "It's hard when you shoot ten-of-29 from the free-throw line and lose by two." The Mariners, meanwhile, shot nine-of-13 from the charity stripe.

The Nighthawks fell behind early, but rallied in the second half on the hot hand of senior Sophie Lenz, who connected on three treys in the second half. Lislegard led for Northeast Range with 17 points, followed by Zahnow with 13, and Lenz with 12, including four three-pointers. In action last Friday,

cold shooting proved deadly for the 'Hawks as they fell to Chisholm 53-41. "Ithink our defense was very good, but we just didn't shoot that well," said Goodsky.

Lislegard led the way, with 21 points, followed by Zahnow with 11.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

A pair of losses for the Grizzly girls basketball team on the road

by MARCUS WHITE

Cook-Orr Editor

CHERRY — Even with two back-to-back road losses, all eyes will be on Bria Chiabotti in the coming games as she nears the 1,000-point mark. The senior is only 16 points off of the career mark coming out of the Grizzlies' 81-49 loss here Monday night.

Grizzlies Head Coach Robbie Goggleye is looking for improvement from his girls squad. "I wasn't the happiest," he said following the game. "We didn't carry the ball very well against Cherry. We had a lot of turnovers."

Kate Stone led the team Monday with 15 points, followed closely

by Alanna Rutchasky with 13 points. Chiabotti added three points.

The Grizzlies lost a heartbreaker to South Ridge on Saturday, falling 75-73. Chiabotti had a hot hand from beyond the arc, connecting on eight treys enroute to a 26-point afternoon.

ReganRataihadagood outing as well, putting 15 points on the scoreboard. Brynn Simpson rounded out the top scorers with eight points.

The Grizzlies head into a much more forgiving schedule before the Christmas break according to Goggleye. They host Fond du Lac on Thursday evening and travel to Wrenshall on Monday.

They're back home to host Barnum on Tuesday.

Goggleye is confident his team can win if they practice hard.

"Those are all beatable teams if we show up to play our games," he said. "We just need to handle pressure better. We need to apply it as well and we need to have more consistent scoring. We're missing a lot of easy shots."

Goggleye said he has

been running practice drills on shooting, dribbling and passing along with running half and full court trap practices.

Thursday's tip-off against Fond du Lac was set for 6 p.m.

Wolves downed at I-Falls

I-FALLS— A cold second half for the 2-2 Timberwolves proved the difference as the Ely girls basketball team fell 68-39 to the Broncos. "We had a very competitive first half," said Head Coach Darren Visser. "We were down by nine at the half

but our cold shooting caught up to us in the second half."

Overall, Visser said his team had its moments. "Our girls worked very hard defensively to keep us in the game but Falls had different players come off the bench and hit key shots for them to gain a lead that we were not able to respond to," he said.

Junior guard Erika Mattsonhada good night, with 16 points and six rebounds, while junior Brielle Kallberg tallied 14 points and nine boards.

WOLVES...Continued from 1B _

Vanderbeek scored 20 points and tallied five assists. Senior guard Trevor Mattson posted six assists and five rebounds.

Tuesday's big win was a nice follow-up to Ely's 81-42 win over Hill City last Saturday. "I thought we played well defensively and we really did a nice job on the offensive end," said McDonald. Fenske posted

a career high 33 points and notched seven rebounds, while Vanderbeek scored 30 points and posted five assists. Mattson added seven rebounds to round out the major stats.

The Wolves played well but lost narrowly to a tough I-Falls squad last Friday, 72-67. "I thought we competed well and kept ourselves in the game," said McDonald. The game

came down to the final seconds. "We had a chance to tie with a three-pointer with about five seconds left, but missed," said McDonald.

Vanderbeek led scoring for Ely with 23 points and added six assists. Fenske posted 22 points and nine rebounds.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

points apiece.

The team now heads into one of its toughest weeks of the season, facing Ely on the road on Friday night.

"We have a big section opponent in Ely," Kleppe said. "That is one that is certainly going to demand a good game. I expect it to be from both teams. Going

into the Christmas break, we have three formidable games to deal with."

On Monday the team hosts Esko before heading back on the road to face

Lakeview Christian next Thursday.

While Kleppe is pleased with the direction the team is going, he said there is still room

for improvement if the 4-1 team wants to finish the calendar year with a winning schedule.

"We have to develop more consistency in our shooting," he said. "We need to focus more on defense and be more efficient on offense."

Tipoff in Ely is at 7:15 p.m.

HOCKEY...Continued from page 1B

before Ely posted backto-back goals from Nick Mattila and Luke Olson. May-Port finished the first period with a goal to take a 5-2 lead into the second.

May-Port opened the second period with a goal before the Wolves followed with two of their own from Austin Meskill and Luke Olson's second of the game, leaving the score 6-4 going into the

CUT AND MAIL

final period.

Things got interesting in the third stanza as the Patriots scored at the 1:03 mark to take a commanding three-goal lead. The Wolves' Nick Mattila took it upon himself to make it a game. He scored at the 7:11 and 12:32 minute marks to make the hat trick and leave Ely just one goal back. That would be all the scoring, however, and

May-Port took the win.

Senior Tyler Housey was in goal for Ely as he defended 13 of 20 shots for a .650 save percentage. The Wolves outshot May-Port with 33 attempts.

It was a well played game from the penalty box as each team committed just one infraction for a total of two minutes.

The Wolves traveled to Two Harbors Thursday

to take on North Shore. A strong third period gave North Shore a 6-2 victory. North Shore is a combination of Two Harbors, Cook County, and Silver Bay

high schools.

The Storm drew first blood in the opening period, but Ely's Nick Mattila scored just 1:11 into the second and evened the score. A goal by North Shore just two minutes later gave them a 2-1 lead going into the final period.

The Storm scored early and often in the third as they put four goals on the board before Mattila scored the final point of the game.

Ely goaltender Tyler Housey allowed six goals on 31 shots for a .806 save percentage. Ely had just 22 shots on goal.

The penalty box cost

the Wolves six minutes on three penalties whereas the Storm were guilty of four infractions good for eight minutes.

Next up for 0-6 Ely will be a road trip to Moose Lake with a 6 p.m. start. They host Southwest Christian on Saturday in a 3 p.m. matinee.

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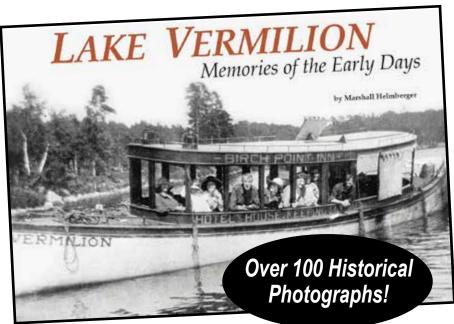
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December 14, 2018 **3B** TIMBERJAY Newspapers

Obituaries and Death Notices



Patricia Olson

Patricia "Patsy" Olson, 93, a longtime resident of Tower, died on Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2018, at St. Michael's Health and Rehabilitation Center in Virginia. She went home to be with Jesus. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15 in Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower with Pastor Liz Cheney officiating. Visitation will begin one hour prior to the service at the church. Spring interment will take place in Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Family services provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in

Patsy was born on

Aug. 17, 1925, in Tower, the daughter of Jimmy and Jennie Peyla; she graduated from Tower-Soudan High School in the class of 1943. Patsy met the love of her life at her father's Arrowhead Garage, where she regularly gassed up Elton Olson's Bridgeman-Russell delivery truck. They were united in marriage on June 25, 1949, at Grace Lutheran Church in Ely and made their home in Tower. She was an active member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, serving in the Lutheran Church Women, teaching Sunday School and release time for school-age children, singing in the church choir, and was a member of the Tower-Soudan Community Choir.

She was a member of the Homecraft Club and the Tower Women's Civic Improvement Club. Her favorite was the "Birthday Club", a group of close friends who met at each other's homes to celebrate their birthdays and their friendship.Pasty's passion and ministry was baking, which she so lovingly did for her family, friends, and needy families in the community. Patsy and Elton looked forward to their many trips to California to visit daughter Sally and family, making stops along the way to see other relatives and old friends. Most

of all, Patsy thoroughly enjoyed her calling of homemaker, and it was obvious how well she took care of her family. Julie and Sally were blessed to grow up in such a loving, Christian home.

Patsy is survived by her daughters, Julie (Darwin) Mickle of Tower and Sally (Gene) Averill of Woodland, Calif.; grandchildren, Jennie (Jeff) Erickson of Hoyt Lakes, Patrick (Katie) Mickle of Tower, Michael (Kristin) Jakes of Roseville, Calif., and Savannah (Scott) Matthews of Woodland, Calif.; great-grandchildren, Dylan Erickson, Austin Erickson, Tristan Erickson, Cole Erickson, Troy Matthews, Paul Matthews, Faith Mickle, Jude Matthews and Hunter Jakes; extended family and a host of friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband of 55 years, Elton; brother, Jim "Sonny" Peyla; and grandson, Luke



Loretta Hendrickson

Loretta Hendrickson, 85, longtime Tower resident, died on Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018, at Diamond Willow Assisted Living in Mt. Iron. She passed away peacefully, with her loving family by her side, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Private family services will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soudan with Pastor Liz Cheney officiating. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

She was born on April 30. 1933, in Elv. the daughter of George and Viola (Tanttari) Maki. She grew up in Ely, graduating from Ely Memorial High School in 1951. Loretta was united in marriage to Paul Hendrickson on Feb. 14, 1952. The young couple lived in Winton and Ely until 1955, when they moved to Tower to live in the new home Paul

had built for his family.

thing to resisting the temp-

tation to jump right into

celebrating Christmas.

They resided there until Paul's death in 2012, after which time Loretta lived in Golden Horizons in Tower. She moved to Diamond Willow in Mt. Iron in June 2017 to be closer to her family.

Loretta was a dedicated homemaker, raising five children, and sewing for her four daughters. She was an active and devoted member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soudan, the Tower Homecraft Club, and she sang with several choirs and choral groups on the Iron Range. Her greatest joy came with being a wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. The loving example she set for her family is a legacy.

Loretta will be greatly missed by her five children, Donna (David) Manos of Hermantown, Gail (Dana) Waldron of Virginia, Beth (Michael) Grahek of Mt. Iron, Karen (Rick Newton) Wellander of Soudan and Gary (Sharon) Hendrickson of Blaine; 12 grandchildren, Danette (Lance) Seboe, Jeremy (Jen) Waldron, Christopher (Carrie Ann) Manos, Gina (Mike) Hill, Amber (Andy) Salmela, Nicole (Chris) Strahm, Ashley (Justin) Morken, Heather (Kenny) Larson, Adam (Christina) Grahek, Ryan Hendrickson, Whitney Hendrickson and Shawna (Ben Hodgkins) Wellander; 18 great-grandchildren and a new great-granddaughter expected in January 2019; brother, Jack Maki of Glendale, Ariz.; sister, Vivian (Aaron) Northey-Glenn of Shoreview; numerous nieces, nephews, and faithful friends.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 60 years, Paul; parents, George and Viola Maki; sister, Lois Markun; brother, Clinton Maki; and son-in-law, Michael Wellander.

Nickolas Przybylski

Nickolas Przybylski, 85, of Ely, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018, at the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital surrounded by his family. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will be at a later date in the Ely Cemetery. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his

loving wife, Carol, his best friend of 66 years; children, Linda (Jim) Frisell, Nikki (Ed) Seliskar, Kevin (Sherry Renfro-Miron) Przybylski, Bob Przybylski, Barry (Nancy) Przybylski, Connie (Charlie) Thompson and Todd Przybylski; grandchildren, Brendon (Laura Holter) Zorman, Jere (LaVerne) Murphy and Keith (Kari Lekatz) Zorman; Bryan (Lisa) Seliskar and Jake (Melissa) Seliskar; Nick Przybylski and Lindsay Przybylski; Billy (Amanda Madigan) Przybylski, Ean (Samantha) Przybylski and Anna Przybylski; Zack Przybylski and Alex Przybylski; and Austin (Linzie) Przybylski; three great-granddaughters and eight great-grandsons; brothers, Alex Przybylski and Dan (Donna) Przybylski; sisters-in-law, Susie, Eunice and Shirley; and numerous nieces and nephews.



John N. Viken

John Norman Viken, 85, of Ely, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018, in the loving arms of his family at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Silver Bay, after a long goodbye due to Alzheimer's disease. A celebration of John's life will be held at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15 at The Front Porch Coffee & Tea Co. in Ely. The Front Porch was a great source of inspiration and fellowship for John. A tremendous thank you to Doug and Nancy, who treated him like family. A gathering will also be held in the Minneapolis area at a later date to be announced in the near future.

John's family would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all the compassionate caregivers working at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Silver Bay. Their highly skilled, attentive, and loving care for John and all the other veterans living there was

a great source of comfort.

The family would also like to thank David Wiley of Ely for the care he provided John. He was a tremendous source of support for Judy as she continued to care for John at home as long as possible.

The family would also like to thank Northwoods Partners, Lisa Porthan, and the entire Ely community for their support of John and Judy, for helping to make Ely more Alzheimer's- and dementia-friendly.

Memorials in John's memory may be made to one of the following organizations, Alzheimer's Association (www.alz. org), Northwoods Partners in Ely (www.northwoodspartners.org), or The Spiritwood Foundation in Ely (www.spiritwoodfoundation.com).

John was born Norman John Viken Jr. on March 22, 1933, in St. Paul, to Norman and Loraine Viken. He was a protective big brother to his two younger sisters, Cindy and Sandra. John enjoyed hanging out with the "neighborhood gang" of lifelong friends. He started following in his father's professional photography footsteps as the photographer for the school newspaper and yearbook, graduating in 1951 from Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis.

John graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1953 with an Associate's Degree, before joining the United States Army. He served his country in a guided missile brigade during the Cold War and was stationed in Germany for the majority of his service.

Afterwards, he attended Macalester College and graduated in 1958 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. John and Judy Sherwood were united in marriage on Dec. 30, 1961, in Fargo, N.D. They settled in New Hope, a suburb of Minneapolis, where they raised their two sons, Eric and Kevin. John worked for IBM as a salesman and as a stockbroker for Reynolds & Co. before finding his true passion as an entrepreneur. He first opened a small photo store in downtown St. Paul, before starting up Photo Fast, a high-quality photo-finishing lab in Golden Valley. His other business ventures were Passport Pictures, Photo First (hospital baby pictures), portrait photography, and Wrap-it Up (packaging and shipping store). He finished out his career managing the Summit Equipment photo equipment brokering company.

John was always interested in and an early adopter of technology as evidenced by being ahead of the curve on computers, early cellular car bag phones, hybrid and electric cars. John enjoyed spending time with his family at the lake, on road trips, car camping, ski trips, and taking his sons on fishing trips. He was a Vikings fan.

Construction was one of John's passions! He reveled in generating ideas and following them through to fruition. He completed endless projects on his businesses, and on the family home in New Hope. He especially enjoyed building and working on their retirement home, and completed this project with the help of skilled Ely contractors and his sons. He delighted in observing, photographing and discussing construction projects. He regaled those around him with his infectious sense of humor. He loved music and was a wonderful dancer.

In 1998 John retired and moved full time to Ely, joining Judy, who had retired two years earlier. John volunteered and contributed to the establishment of the North American Bear Center. He and Judy enjoyed the active Ely community and its close connection to the outdoors and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. John drove into town daily to buy the newspaper, survey the goings-on, do some shopping, and ultimately stop by his favorite community gathering spot, The Front Porch coffee shop. There he loved to chat with fellow patrons and read the paper. Copious amounts of coffee and food were enjoyed by John over the

years at The Front Porch. John is survived by his wife of 56 years, Judy; sons, Eric Viken (Elizabeth Raduege) of Duluth and Kevin (Julie) of Roseville; grandson, Jonathan Viken of Duluth; sisters, Cindy (Quentin) Brinkworth and Sandra (Darlys) Every; and many nieces, nephews

and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Norman John Viken Sr. and Loraine (Zimbrick)

Letters from Readers

Advent: Centuries of eager longing crammed into four short weeks!

Many Christians will rightly say, "Keep Christ in Christmas!" A few years ago, a priest friend of mine added, "Keep Christmas out of Advent." And then this year as it seemed like more and more people were celebrating Christmas even earlier, he said jokingly but with some truth to it, "I'm glad people are getting Christmas out of the way before Advent. That way Advent can be properly

celebrated." I think there is some-

Advent is the short fourweek liturgical season the Church gives us to prepare for the coming of Christ. Advent means 'arrival' or 'coming'. In general, it was the arrival or the coming of a king or someone very important. For Christians, that makes sense, as we are preparing for the arrival of our King, our Savior, the There is a reason why the Church gives us the season of Advent before

Christmas. She wants us to get some sense of the longing and the expectation that our Jewish ancestors experienced, and therefore appreciate the significance of the birth of Jesus. In a word, we cram centuries of eager expecta-

tion into four short weeks.

For centuries, the Jewish people were without a true king. They had no one to lead them. They had no one through whom God could bless them. They were dominated continually by foreign nations, the Babylonians, the Persians, the Greeks, and finally the Romans. At the time of the first century, they were heavily taxed, their Jewish religious leaders were taking advantage of them. They were an oppressed people...Yet they held onto hope!

You see, a thousand years earlier, the prophet Nathan promised to King David that his son will have a throne that lasts forever (2 Sam 7:13). That promise seemed to be broken centuries later when there was no visible king leading

Israel. Yet the proph-

ets proclaimed that the

promise was still somehow valid. Isaiah promised that, "A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse" (Is 11:1). Jesse was the father of King David. Isaiah was promising that a new Davidic King would come. Isaiah also prophesied, "The virgin shall bear a son and shall call him Emmanuel," meaning 'God is with us' (Is 7:14). The Jewish people held onto these prophecies that the promise of Nathan to King David was still valid, that God would make things right, that he would to save them.

raise up a Messiah, a king We will only truly appreciate Christmas if we appreciate the longing and expectation that anticipated the birth of Jesus Christ.

You only appreciate water

after you are thirsty, food

after you are hungry,

warmth after you are cold. Even while society begins celebrating Christmas earlier and earlier, resist that temptation. Consider singing Advent hymns instead of Christmas hymns. Use an Advent calendar in your home counting down the days to Christmas. I've seen some very creative ones. Spend time in silence, in prayerful expectation, reading the Scriptures, especially the Old Testament prophe-

cies and psalms of eager longing and expectation. Do some small acts of self-denial and charity for others. In these ways, we will truly appreciate the great gift of Salvation that is offered to us through the birth of Jesus Christ. A blessed Advent to all!

Father Nick Nelson, Pastor of St. Martin's, Tower; St. Mary's, Cook; Holy Cross, Orr

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4B December 14, 2018 TIMBERJAY Newspapers

Jutdoors Our lives in the Northwoods

RECORDS

National champ jack pine found at VNP

by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK— When it comes to the big trees of the North Country, the jack pine rarely gets any respect. Forget the towering grace of a white pine or the massive girth of a 300-year-old red pine— the jack pine is "old" at 75, with a scraggly form and a stature that rarely warrants a second look.

But a jack pine not far

from Namakan Lake just this side of the Canadian border, got a second look from a pair of wildlife researchers, Tom Gable and Austin Homkes, who happened upon the tree while studying wolf packs in the national park. Gable and Homkes later went back for a second look and they confirmed what they had already suspected - that the tree would likely set a new state record. It turns out, however, that it did even better that that. The tree recently made its debut on the

list of the largest tree for each species in the entire United States, as documented by the American Forests National Champion Tree Registry.

America's largest trees are determined by a point system, with points awarded for trunk circumference, height, and spread of the crown. In this case, the champion jack pine (pinus banksiana) measured in with 82 inches around the trunk, a height of 73 feet, and a crown spread of 39 feet for a total of 165 points.

Right: A view from below the new reigning national champion jack pine, which is growing at Voyageurs National Park. photo by Tom Gable

It's impressive... at least for a jack pine. The state record red pine, by contrast, tips the scale at 245 points, with a circumference of 115 inches and a total height of 120 feet. It's found on Dora Lake in Itasca County. The state record

See JACK PINE...pg. 5B



Outdoors briefly

Wildlife in winter program to be offered by Shute sancutary staff

ORR- You can learn about the different mammals and birds that live in the North Country and how they survive the winter months during a special two-part program hosted by the Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary. The educational program will be held from 7 p.m.-8 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 18, at the sanctuary's new Visitors Center and Gift Shop in the old Ferrellgas office located along Hwy. 53 at the south entrance to Orr. The program's in-field portion is set for Saturday, Jan. 19, from 8 a.m.-10:30 a.m. at the sanctuary grounds, located at 12541 Nett Lake Road.

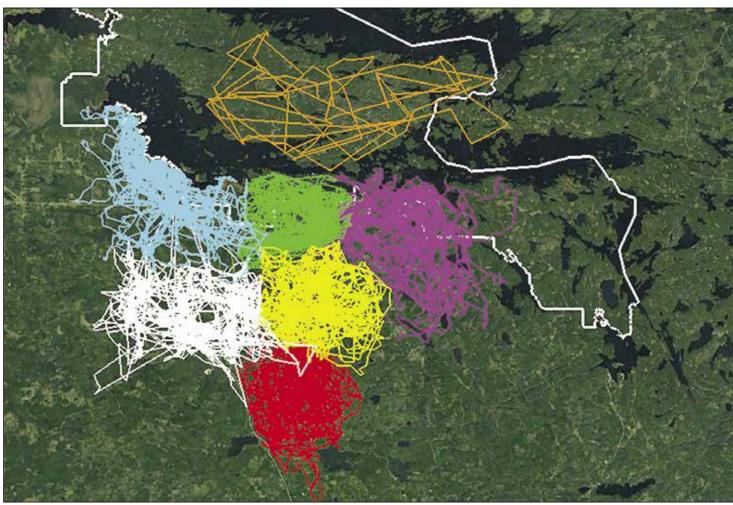
Snowshoeing is a great way to stay active during the winter months as well as an excellent means of exploring hard to get-to locations at the sanctuary. You will snowshoe down onto the property of the sanctuary guided by Vince Shute staff members. You will learn how to identify bird species seen on the hike and any tracks made in the snow by common mammals, such as bobcat, wolf, pine marten, snowshoe hare, or red squirrels. You'll learn about how some animals, including bears, use hibernation to survive winters in Minnesota. You will also learn about the different adaptations that animals that remain active in the winter deploy in order to survive. The cost of the program is \$15/person and you must pre-register as soon

Call 218-757-0172 to reserve your place for this fun and informative program.

DNR proposes to strengthen bear tooth sample requirement

REGIONAL - Bear hunters who are successful in 2019 and after would be required to submit a bear tooth sample to be eligible for the upcoming year's bear hunting license lottery under a new rule proposed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The DNR has for many years required hunters to submit bear tooth samples. In response to low compliance, the agency two years ago began mailing letters reminding hunters to send the samples. The proposed rule would give hunters an incentive to follow the legal requirement, and the DNR would stop sending the letters.



WILDLIFE RESEARCH

A picture tells the tale

Graphic developed by Voyageurs researcher goes viral on social media

by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

OYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK-An image that caught the imagination of social media has drawn attention to ongoing wolf research here. Tom Gable, a PhD student with the University of Minnesota who has been studying wolves at the park since 2015, created the colorful graphic, showing lines of travel by GPS-collared wolves across several packs in and around the national park boundaries.

Gable posted the graphic to the Facebook page he maintains to educate the public about his research and since then it's gone viral, drawing over 350,000 views. His page can be found by searching Facebook for Voyageurs Wolf Project, which is a joint effort between the park and the university.

The graphic provides a great example of how images, rather than words, can help to demonstrate the intense territorial nature of gray wolf packs, as they use the natural landscape and scent to establish their own "picket fences" otherwise invisible to humans.

It's an example, as well, of how wolves sense their world, said Gable. "These packs all know where these borders are," he said. "We rely so much on our sight, but wolves are experiencing the forest mostly with

A colored image showing the travel habits of GPS collared wolves in and around Voyageurs National Park.

Right: A map of existing wolf packs and their approximate boundaries in and around VNP.

Overall, things have remained remarkably stable since 2014.

Researcher Tom Gable

their nose and they can detect so much more than we can. It's really mind-blowing."

The wolf packs clearly patrol their borders on a regular basis, laying down scents to communicate with rival packs and help clarify their borders. In a number of cases, said Gable, natural features, like the Ash River or large bays on some of the park's big lakes, also to help to define the boundaries

While the wolves generally stay within the confines of their territories, incursions into neighboring territories though rare- do occur, and that's when wolves sometimes



kill each other.

While competitive, the wolves mostly seem content to operate within their existing territories. While the borders of the different packs have shifted at times, back and forth, Gable said he's impressed mostly at their stability. "Overall things have remained pretty stable since 2014," he said.

In fact, research data from the late 1980s and early 1990s suggest that the pack boundaries have remained remarkably stable over a much longer period than that, said Gable. "It's uncanny how similar those territories were then as they are today," he added.

Back in those days, wildlife biologists were limited to the old-style VHF transmitters that required researchers to travel across their study areas to pains-

takingly gather location data on their subjects. These days, the collars include GPS and upload data to a satellite several times a day, giving researchers the ability to track their subjects in nearly real time.

All of which provides far greater detail on movements and habitat utilization than in years past. "We have 13,000 locations for each of those wolves," noted

Gable and his research partner Austin Homkes GPS one wolf in each pack in order to track the pack's movements, so the graphic is a pretty close, but not exact, representation of the movements of the entire pack. Gable said he also keeps the image relatively low resolution, since a detailed examination of

See WOLVES...pg. 5B

See TOOTH...pg. 5B

from NOAA weather

TRAPPING

Pelt registrations limited

Low prices, fewer trappers among the reasons

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Low fur prices and fewer trappers may account for yet another year of low fur registrations at DNR area offices in northeastern Minnesota.

Marten registrations fell again, with just 97 pelts registered in Tower from the six-day marten season, which ended Nov. 29. That compares to a previous six-year average registration of 144.

Fisher registrations were up just slightly, with 23 recorded in Tower. Including registrations in Hibbing and Eveleth, a total of 53 fisher pelts were registered, far below the 179 pelts registered just five years ago.

Fisher numbers have been of particular concern to DNR wildlife biologists, as they have declined noticeably in recent years.

An apparent expansion in the range of the bobcat population may also be a factor, since female fisher and their young are known to be vulnerable to predation by bobcats. Winter severity used to keep bobcat populations at very low levels in northeastern Minnesota, but the species appears to be one of the beneficiaries of milder winters.

Ely

12/03

12/06

Bobcat registrations were down significantly, however, with only eight of the cats registered across all three of the DNR stations in northern and central St. Louis County. Those represent preliminary numbers, however, as a second registration for bobcat and otter is set for Tuesday, Jan. 8, from 3-6 p.m.

Only 151 trappers had pelts to register, which is down significantly from the six-year average of 238 trappers.

Fishina reports

Ely area

The ice fishing season in Ely is off to a slow start perhaps due to the lack of sufficient ice cover on area lakes. Most lakes are sporting from six to ten inches of ice which would normally allow for four-wheeler or sled traffic, but some parts of the lakes have much less ice, warranting a judicious amount of caution. As always, consider no ice to be safe and always check the ice thickness as you travel about.

With that being said, some of the early ice anglers have been catching some decent walleyes and

others have been targeting panfish on some of the smaller lakes. Most anglers have reported that their best walleye action has been on minnows fished under a bobber, or "dead stick" if you prefer, while the pan fishermen have been using tiny jigs tipped with either wax worms, or small soft baits on a jig. The early pike bite has been slow, with only a few folks managing a couple of smaller pike on Birch Lake. Suckers fished suspended or dead ones fished right on the bottom have been the best option.

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

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST









Tuesday



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5	22	16	0.01	0.2"	12/05	20	15	0.03	0.4"	12/05	21	14	0.01	0.1"	12/05	21	12	0.00		12/05	21	14	0.00	0.1"
6	22	11	0.03	1.3"	12/06	21	11	0.00		12/06	21	9	0.03	0.6"	12/06	14	-6	0.01	0.3"	12/06	20	6	0.02	0.5"
7	11	-11	0.01	0.1"	12/07	11	-13	0.06		12/07	9	-7	0.00		12/07	16	-6	0.01	0.2"	12/07	10	-13	0.00	
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ls			23.77	22.3"	Totals			26.03	16"	Totals			30.70	21.3".	Totals			NA	NA	Totals			28.25	13.0"

JACK PINE...Continued from page 4B

white pine, found in far southern Minnesota, has a circumference of 214 inches and rises 103 feet with a crown spread of 84 feet, for a total of 338 points.

Gable said the big jack pine is located about 50 meters off the shoreline of Namakan Lake, but you're not likely to notice it from the water. "For a jack pine, it's a big one, but compared to other trees it doesn't stand out against the rest of the forest," he added. "The thing was just so robust, with a big crown. That's what made it really stand out."

While the jack pine may not be the stately symbol of the North Country to many, it's probably a more apt symbol than its larger and more shapely cousins. Up here, we're close to the northwestern edge

of the range of both white and red pine. The jack pine, by contrast, is a true tree of the North Country. with a range that runs from Quebec to the Yukon. In the U.S., it's really only found in Minnesota, northern Wisconsin and Michigan. Perhaps its somewhat bedraggled form is a more appropriate symbol for the hardscrabble nature of life in the cold North.

${f TOOTH...}$ Continued from page ${f 4B}$

Biologists use the tooth samples to determine the age of each harvested bear and to ultimately estimate how many bears live in the state.

"These tooth samples help the DNR gather enough data for a good population estimate, and we will no longer have to pay the cost of mailing the letters," said Paul Telander, DNR wildlife section

The change is the only new proposal in a rule package that moves dozens of temporary wildlife rules that have been in effect for several seasons to permanent status. Because the rules are already in effect, hunters won't notice a difference when they become permanent.

An example of a temporary

rule that would become permanent is sandhill crane hunting, which has been open in northwestern Minnesota by temporary rule since

A copy of the draft rules and more information about how to comment is available online at mndnr.gov/input/rules/wildlife.

WOLVES...Continued from page 4B

high-resolution images could reveal the location of sensitive areas, like denning sites, that he would prefer to generally keep under wraps.

The packs, whose territories range from 40-70 square miles, but can be significantly larger, typically include about five wolves. And while whitetail deer are seen as their primary prey in much of Minnesota, Gable has recently

demonstrated that beaver make up a surprising percentage of the diet of wolves in Voyageurs, at least in summer. That's particularly true for the two packs that divide up the Kabetogama Peninsula, where beaver populations are extremely high.

For wolves that live primarly in the park, most likely die from natural causes, which could include

attacks by other wolves. For the packs he studies that range outside the park, however, humans do create some mortality that can affect individual wolves and pack dynamics. "We've certainly had several wolves poached during the course of our study," he said.





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PUBLIC NOTICES

Telecommunications Facility

Eco-Site, Inc. has submitted a request to the FCC to register a proposed approx. 195' tall Self- Support telecommunications tower with no marking or lighting system to be located at 8881 Highway 73, Angora, Minnesota, 55703; coordinates of 47 45 37.32 N, 92 52 9.32 W. Interested parties may review the application by going to the FCC's Antennae Structure Registration (ASR) website and entering the ASR application # A1121209. Members of the public may raise environmental concerns about the proposed structure by filing a Request for Environmental Review with the FCC. The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file such requests online and instructions to do so can be found on the FCC's Environmental Request page (http://www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) or send to: Ramon Williams, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Requests should also be sent to: FDH Infrastructure Services, ATTN: Richard Brainerd, 6521 Meridien Drive, Raleigh, NC 27616. In order for your comments to receive full and timely consideration, they should be received at the addresses above within 30 days of the date of this notice and reference FĆC ASR file #

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 14, 2018

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Vermilion Lake Township Notice of Filings

Filings for the following offices will open on Saturday, January 1, 2019 and close on Saturday, January 15, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Supervisor 3-year term Treasurer 2-year term Clerk 1-year term Filing fee: \$2.00

Candidates: File Affidavit of Candidacy at the CLERK'S OFFICE – BY appointment only . Call 218-780-7717 to make arrangements.

Steve Peterson, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 14 & 21, 2018

FIELD TOWNSHIP FILING NOTICE

Affidavits of candidacy may be filed with the Field Town Clerk at 9998 East Lind Rd., Angora from Tuesday, January 1, 2019, through Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 5 p.m. for the offices of:

1 Supervisor - 3-year term 1 Treasurer - 2-year term Filing Fee \$2.00.

Please call the clerk to make an appointment to file your application, 218-666-2487.

The clerk's office will be also be open Jan. 15 from 1-5 p.m.

Pat Chapman, Clerk, Field Township

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 14 & 21, 2018

EMPLOYMENT

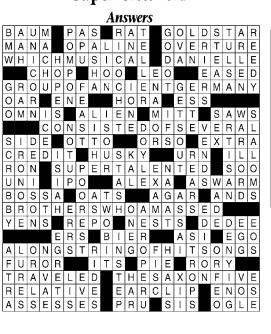


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MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION INDEPENDENT **SCHOOL DISTRICT 707** Nett Lake, Minnesota 55772-8122

REGULAR MEETING November 12, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brandon Benner, Chairman Beverly Steel, Vice-Chairman Jane Villebrun, Treasurer Tara Geshick, Clerk Marilyn Geshick, Director Shane Drift, Director ALSO PRESENT:

Christine Hampson,**Business Mnar** Corinne Whiteman, Secretary

Jim Varichak, Supt./Prin.

ABSENT: None

Chairman Benner called the

regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 707 to order at 8:09 a.m.

The temporary replacement,

Shane Drift was sworn in after the meeting was called 19-043 Motion was made by T. Geshick and seconded

by Villebrun to approve the

agenda with one addition,

increasing Paraprofessional

time and adding it to number 5 to the action agenda. MOTION CARRIED 19-044 Motion was made by Villebrn and seconded T. Geshick to approve the October 8, 2018 regular

19-045 Motion was made by Steel and seconded by Villebrun to approve the bills in the amount of \$47,954.16 (list attached). CARRIED 6-0-0

meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-046 Motion was made by Steel and seconded by M. Geshick to approve the October 31, Financial Report. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

Superintendent /Principal report was given: The Halloween Parade was

well attended. We hired 2 people to teach (STEM) Science and Math. Loretta Rankila will be teaching Math and Josh Gillson will be teaching Science. The funding is coming from the UMD grant, they will be teaching once a week, and up to 20 visits. The UMD program, purchased additional equipment to enhance Science. They purchased a Camera Projector, for Telepresence. We will have to send UMD a thank you. Conferences will be tomorrow, we are hoping they will be well attended. There will be LIEC elections tomorrow. This Wednesday will have a Telepresence with Chisholm on Peer Review Evaluation. A quarterly meeting is coming up with North Woods to discuss 6th grade transition. Anvone have anv ideas or suggestions please let me

Technology Report was reviewed.

The Truth & Taxation meeting on December 10, 2018 will start at 5:30 p.m.

19-047 Motion was made by M. Geshick and seconded by Drift to approve of hiring Lance Kingbird, Adrian Jones, Brian Whiteman, Sr, as Fill - in Type III drivers. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-048 Motion was made by M. Geshick and seconded by Villebrun to adopt the

Returns of Votes of School District General Election. MOTION CARRIED Roll Call Vote Brandon Benner Beverly Steel Yes Shane Drift

Resolution Canvassing

Yes Jane Villebrun Yes Marilyn Geshick Yes Tara Geshick 19-049 Motion was made by M. Geshick and seconded by Drift to adopt the Resolution Authorizing Issuance of of Election Certificates

Roll Call Vote Brandon Benner Yes Beverly Steel Shane Drift Yes Jane Villebrun Yes Marilyn Geshick Yes Tara Geshick

and Directing School Clerk

to Perform other Election

MOTION

Related Duties.

CARRIED 6-0-0

19-050 Motion was made by M. Geshick and seconded by Drift to approve the Drug Testing List. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

19-051 Motion was made by Steel and seconded by M. Geshick to increase time for Paraprofessional Lisa Squires, for Learning MOTION Readiness. CARRIED 6-0-0

Discussion on Red Lake

School Visit. The visit is rescheduled for November 28th. 2018 and will be leaving at 8:00 a.m. 19-052 Motion was made

by Villebrun to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 a.m. Published in the Timberjay,

Dec. 14, 2018

EMPLOYMENT



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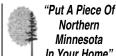
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ORR AA and AL-ANON meet Tuesdays, AA at 8 p.m. and Al-ANON at 7 p.m. Holy Cross Catholic Church, Orr.

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

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

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

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

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

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102 Bar brew, in

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said ..."

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107 End of the

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115 Uproar

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116 "— a go"

117 Tart's cousin

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- **27** "Yoo- —! 28 Zodiac sign
- before Virgo 30 Relaxed
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- part 2 37 Boating tool
- 38 Suffix with butyl 39 Jewish round
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- curve 41 Old Dodge
- models 43 Foreigner 46 Glove worn
- at first base 48 Logging
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- part 3
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part 5 94 Has an itch 95 Towed-away car, maybe

86 Gel in a lab DOWN 88 Extra details 1 Audi rival

- 96 Wren dens?

- the spot!" 3 Mythical
- beast

- 2 "Yeah, that's
- 4 Picchu

- (Inca site)

- - 42 Covered with
- 31 Yucky stuff
- 32 Slam into
- 29 Beguile

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- screen
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- **36** Villa d'—
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- 85 Second-rate
 - 125 Loudness: Abbr.

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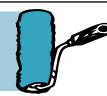
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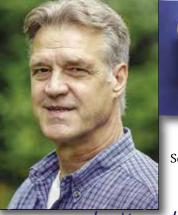
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