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The TIMBERJAY

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\$1⁰⁰



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New partners sign on to Ely hospital project

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Twin Cities YMCA, Ely Area Ambulance join partnership

ELY – The new year brought the announcement of a partnership between Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH) and the Ely Regional Community Complex (ERCC) that could lead to the building of an 80,000 square-foot

community facility comprised of wellness amenities and enhanced health programs and services.

Two more organizations signed on to the project this past week.

The YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities and the Ely Area

Ambulance Service signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) to work with the ERCC and EBCH to find solutions to addressing the unmet health needs of the community.

According to Ely Hospital CEO Michael



Coyle, the MOU involving the YMCA is with the ERCC and EBCH, and there is a separate MOU

between the hospital and the ambulance service.

The initiative, in its early planning stages, has two components, according to Coyle.

“Regarding the first part, the hospital is finalizing its master facility plan that will define new

health care services to the community. The second area of the project includes a recreational center, with plans potentially including a pool, indoor track and other amenities,” he said.

Coyle noted that the Memoranda of See... ELY pg. 10

TRAFFIC SAFETY

BUMPS AHEAD!



Rough road becoming an issue between Tower and Virginia

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER — It’s become the talk of residents from Wuori Township to Ely. Hwy. 169, particularly the ten miles between the County Road 21 junction and Hwy 53, is so rough this winter it can shake your teeth out. Or at least filling, as one local resident reported recently on Facebook.

Rough roads in winter are hardly uncommon in the North Country, but the current condition of large stretches of Hwy. 169 this winter is the worst

that many residents can recall.

Lake Vermilion Area Chamber President Troy Swanson, of Tower, posted about it earlier this week on the Tower Mn Facebook page, which he administers, and he struck a nerve with area residents, who weighed in by the hundreds to his question: “How bad is Highway 169 between Tower and Virginia?”

The responses came fast and furious.. “I wouldn’t be surprised to see 500 comments soon...Everybody See... BUMPS pg. 12



About 10 miles of Highway 169 between the County Road 21 junction and Highway 53 are so bumpy this winter that hundreds of local Facebook users have weighed in on the issue. photos by M. White

WHISTLEBLOWER?

Complaint alleges EPA suppressed comments on PolyMet permit

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — A former attorney with the Environmental Protection Agency has told a government watchdog that officials with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Trump administration appointees in the EPA’s Midwest office, may have worked in concert to keep the concerns of EPA professionals over the MPCA’s water quality permit for PolyMet under wraps.

Jeffrey Fowley, who spent his legal career with the EPA office that serves New England, cites unnamed sources within the agency in a Jan. 31 complaint to the EPA’s Inspector General, Kathlene Butler.

Fowley’s report to the Inspector General indicates that career staff in the EPA’s Region V [Midwest] office had concerns that the water discharge permit (known as an NPDES permit) that the MPCA proposed to issue to PolyMet for its proposed copper-nickel mine near Hoyt Lakes, was not in compliance with federal law.

Fowley said he has also been advised that the regional office “cooperated with the state [of Minnesota] in helping to keep such comments off the state record, in ways that seem designed to hide the concerns from the public and even from the Minnesota state appeals court that is expected to review the permit.”

See... EPA pg. 9

HEALTHY LIVING

Mother-daughter duo seek a change to local food production

by MARCUS WHITE
Cook/Orr Editor

VERMILION RESERVATION – A pair of enterprising women on the Bois Forte Reservation are hoping to bring year-round sustainable food production to the Iron Range with the region’s first aeroponics facility.



As with hydroponic or aquaponic systems of food production, aeroponics does not require soil. Instead, the

produce is typically grown in tall hanging baskets that are misted with water that is enriched with oxygen and nutrients.

The aeroponic method requires just 10 percent of the growing space and upwards of half the growing time of traditional veggies, with tomatoes growing in as little as 49

days instead of the traditional 85. “Because it is so efficient, you use less resources,” said Danielle Pieratos, who is undertaking the project with her mother Denise.

To sustain the project, the women are reaching out to locally-owned restaurants

See...FOOD pg. 11



Denise Pieratos



Dani Pieratos



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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Ruby's Pantry held Feb. 14 in Cook

COOK- The next Ruby's Pantry food distribution will be on Thursday, Feb. 14 from 4:30-6 p.m. at the old Cook School. Registration begins at 3 p.m. A \$20 cash donation at the door buys an abundance of food. Volunteers are asked to please arrive at 3 p.m. Please bring your own containers. Ruby's Pantry is now offering online registration at rubyspantry.com starting Friday, Feb. 15 for the March distribution with a \$21 donation at sign-up. Ruby's Pantry is sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Alango. For more information, contact Amy Viita at 218-666-2220.

Ruby's Pantry held Feb. 23 in Babbitt

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

Sisu Heritage Annual Meeting on Sunday, Feb. 24

EMBARRASS- Sisu Heritage, Inc. will hold its annual meeting at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 24 at the Embarrass Town Hall, 7503 Levander Rd. Agenda items include the president's and other committee reports, election of four board members, and approval of the 2019 budget.

The business portion will be followed by members of The Farmstead Artisans, speaking on The Nelimark Museum: History and Hospitality. They will present the history and current mission of this little gem of a destination in Embarrass. Some regular visitors to the museum will also speak - about why they come and the value of this community gathering place.

There will be door prizes and coffee and an' will be served. All Sisu members are encouraged to attend. Interested residents of surrounding communities are invited to attend and to consider joining Sisu Heritage. Membership is just \$10 a year. Call 218-984-3024 with any questions.

Best of Ely Chili Cookoff on Saturday, Feb. 9 at Whiteside Park

ELY- On Saturday, Feb. 9 from 12-3 p.m. enjoy different chili recipes prepared by local chefs and restaurants. Sample the chilis, vote for your favorite and then enjoy a full bowl. One caveat is that each chili recipe must include a dried bean product, a food shelf staple. Cost is \$7 per person and the cookoff will be held at Whiteside Park, 700 E Sheridan St. in Ely. For questions, contact Cheryl Boyes at Cheryl.boyes@elyareafoodshelf.org or 218-235-8527.

"We Are All Scientists" at Mesabi UU on Sunday, Feb. 10

VIRGINIA- On Sunday, Feb. 10 at 10:30 a.m. at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church, Rev. Eric Northard will present "We Are All Scientists."

Science surrounds us in the world and helps us understand the world around us. During this service we will celebrate Darwin Day in honor of Charles Darwin and celebrate the many great things that science has brought and continues to bring to the world. Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church is handicapped accessible and located at 230 7th St. S in Virginia.

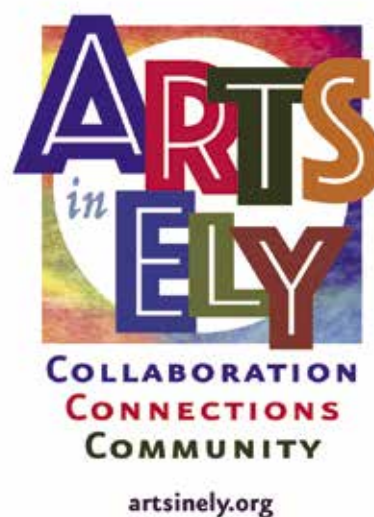
LOCAL ARTS

ARTS in Ely launches online arts directory

ELY- Do you need to find a musician for an upcoming wedding? Do you want to find a place to exhibit your paintings? Do you know where in town you might get art supplies? Would you like to find an artistic mentor? Does connecting with other creative folks appeal to you? Help for answering any questions like this is now available.

ARTS in Ely is a collaborative group of artists, art organizations, and art supporters and businesses that came together beginning in October 2017. Since then, the group has been working on various exciting ideas as well as making one of its big dreams for the community come true—an online arts directory!

The online arts directory will go 'live' on Tuesday, Feb. 12. The arts directory will feature Ely artists, art organizations, art businesses, and venues for exhibits or performances. Residents and visitors to Ely will find it useful to find others doing similar work, seek out new art work on exhibit, places to buy art supplies, see what art classes



are offered or ways to get involved with local arts groups. Listings in the directory are free and there may be more directory options available in the future. A lot of research has gone into developing the directory to make it user-friendly and also protect individual information.

If you would like to sign up for the directory but may have some

questions, please join representatives from ARTS in Ely at the Ely Public Library on Tuesday, Feb. 12 from 4-5:30 p.m. You can also go directly to the website to sign up at ARTSINELY.ORG. If you are involved in any way with creative arts in Ely, then this directory is for you and ARTS in Ely wants to provide you with a free listing!

The mission of ARTS in Ely is to cooperate to nurture ARTS in Ely, promote art creation, experiences and collaborations. The purpose of ARTS in Ely is to nurture and develop the arts community with resources, connections, and support and to promote economic growth through networking, marketing and outreach.

If people are unable to attend the launch at the library on Feb. 12 but have questions, they can contact Keiko Williams at 365-2639 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays.

Students play with Mesabi Orchestra on Feb. 16 in Ely and Feb. 17 in Virginia

REGIONAL- The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra will perform on Saturday, Feb. 16 at 2:30 p.m. at Washington Auditorium in Ely and on Sunday, Feb. 17 at 2:30 p.m. in Virginia's Goodman Auditorium.

Sheila Wilcox, a strings instructor in Virginia, Eveleth and Gilbert, and her students in grades 9-12, will join the MSO for a Tragedy and Comedy concert.

The Mesabi Chamber Ensemble, also directed by Wilcox, will send a few of its members to the performances.

The program is wide-ranging and eminently enjoyable. One of Rossini's greatest hits, the overture to The Barber of Seville, will make the audience chuckle even if they

don't know the story of the jolly tongsorialist and his bride.

Beethoven's overture to the opera Coriolanus lies at the other end of the comedy/tragedy spectrum. It was composed for the opera, which was based on a much earlier Shakespearean play. In either case, the eponymous general dies whether by his own hand or that of another. Jean Sibelius' Andante Festivo is almost a painting, despite the "absolute music" nature of its title.

Borodin's In the Steppes of Central Asia is a painting in every sense, a chance for the audience to let their imagination roam free. The imagination will definitely be kicking up its heels with all the dancing in here: Brahms' Hungarian

peasants, Gliere's Russian Sailors, Saint Saens' incomparable Delila at the Bacchanale.

Buy tickets online at www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org, or at the door. Kids get in free with a ticket from their music teacher.

This concert is made possible, in part, through a grant from Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust. Operating support is made possible, in part, by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

NWFA Cook Writers Group meets on Saturday, Feb. 9

COOK- One of Northwoods Friends of the Arts most popular events is the monthly Writers Group that meets at NWFA Gallery on the second Saturday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m.

Under the leadership of Dr. Ellie Larmouth, this group is open to anyone who enjoys writing

and spending time with others who share an interest and passion about writing words of meaning, whether prose, poetry or non-fiction. Prompts are sometimes given during the meeting and everyone writes together for a few minutes and then shares what they have written.

NWFA Gallery is located at 210 S River St. next to Dream Weaver Spa and Salon in Cook. Contact at nwfamn.org@gmail.com or Facebook or the website, www.nwfamn.org.

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FUNDRAISERS

World's largest snowmobile fundraiser hits the area

Fortune Bay a partner in effort to raise \$1.2 million this year for ALS research

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

FORTUNE BAY — The largest snowmobile fundraiser in the world made a swing through the Lake Vermilion area this past week as part of their ongoing effort to raise \$1.2 million this year for the fight against amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

More than 250 participants in the event, known as the Black Woods Blizzard Tour, have each raised a minimum of \$1,500 to take part in the three-day snowmobile tour of northeastern Minnesota. "But many have raised far more than that," noted Mike Stephenson, director of marketing and communications for the ALS Association in Minnesota and the Dakotas.

Stephenson said many of the participants in the ride raise as much as \$10,000-\$15,000 on their own every year to support the organization.

The money raised pays for research for a cure for this tragic disease, which typically kills those it afflicts within two-to-five years of diagnosis. In addition, said Stephenson, the funds help the more than 600 individuals afflicted with ALS, and their families, purchase medical equipment and other services to help to ameliorate some of the debilitating effects of the disease.

The event, which celebrated its 20th anniversary this year, has grown tremendously since four individuals came up with the idea of a snowmobile ride to raise money. "Back in 1999, four

gentlemen decided to ride around Lake Superior," said Stephenson, "and they raised about \$15,000."

The following year, with support from Black Woods Bar & Grill, a total of 38 riders raised \$46,000. In the last two years, however, the growing number of participants raised \$1 million annually, with a goal this year of \$1.2 million. Besides being the world's largest snowmobile fundraiser, it's also now the largest ALS fundraiser in the U.S.

Since its founding, the event has raised just under \$10 million for ALS research and help for victims. Fortune Bay has been a partner on the event since 2001, and hosted more than 300 event participants this past week. "Fortune Bay truly



Just a few of the more than 300 participants in this year's Black Woods Blizzard Tour, who spent last Thursday night at Fortune Bay. Now in its 20th year, the event raised just over \$1.2 million this year, a new record. photo by Brian K. Anderson

See FUNDRAISER...pg. 5

RECREATION

BWCAW permit fiasco leaves business owners steamed

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

REGIONAL — Last week's collapse of the U.S. Forest Service's new online Boundary Waters permit reservations system has put the federal agency back in the hot seat with dozens of resort owners and area outfitters who had hoped to line up permit reservations for the coming season when the system went live on Jan. 30.

For now, the Forest Service has offered no date certain when a workable reservation system will be up and running, which has sparked plenty of anxiety for area businesses that rely on

serving wilderness users for their livelihood.

"We don't have the old system and we don't have their new system," said Betsie Vosburgh, owner of Vosburgh Custom Cabin Rentals on Moose Lake. "They left us with nothing."

Forest Service spokesperson Kris Reichenbach said the Forest Service and its reservations contractor, Booz Allen Hamilton, or BAH, were working to get an improved system up and running as quickly as possible. "I don't think any of us want to put a tentative date out there," said Reichenbach. "We want to make sure we've identified any

other problems and the system is ready to go."

Reichenbach said the Forest Service will give the public and businesses that rely on Boundary Waters reservations plenty of advanced notice before the system goes live.

Outfitters and resort owners have expressed displeasure for months with the change in the reservation system, which eliminated the use of a lottery to allocate the limited number of motor use permits issued between May and September each year. Local resort owners, especially, feared that too many of the permits would be snapped up within minutes by users with

faster Internet connections than are typically available to most businesses in northern St. Louis and Lake counties.

Instead, the new system all but collapsed within minutes of going live and was quickly shut down by the Forest Service. The agency has since rescinded those permits that some users were able to obtain in the hour before the Forest Service shut the system down.

Jason Zabokrtsky, owner of Ely Outfitting Co. said he and his staff logged on to the new reservation system promptly at 9 a.m. last Wednesday, when it was scheduled to go live. "We used two computers and started

the process and almost immediately, the initial site screen froze," he said. "There was some information on the first page, but most of it was blank," he said. "We did get one permit reserved on each computer by 9:45 a.m. But by just after 10 a.m. we were notified by the USFS that the entire reservation server was shut down."

Zabokrtsky was clearly frustrated by the system failure, and he questioned why the Forest Service hadn't done more to test the new system with outside users. "The USFS has blamed server issues for the failure on

See PERMITS...pg. 5

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OPINION

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e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

School facility planning

Ely taxpayers should monitor the ongoing discussions with interest

As the Ely School District enters into a school facilities planning effort beginning on Monday, taxpayers in the community would be wise to keep their eyes wide open to ensure against a phenomenon we call “project-creep.”

Folks in Ely should keep in mind that the impetus for this new facility planning effort was a \$500,000 state safety grant designed to help fund a joint entrance and connection between the Memorial, Industrial Arts, and Washington buildings. That’s all positive and Ely officials deserve credit for going out and attracting those funds.

Yet the funds quickly sparked discussion of far grander initiatives, with total price tags that would obviously dwarf the school safety grant and require additional taxpayer funding. As we reported last week, Katie Hildenbrand, of Architectural Resources, the consultant hired to assist with the planning effort, said the district’s choices will range from “doing nothing” to bulldozing the campus and starting over with a \$60 million new school facility.

That comment should prompt taxpayers in Ely to sit up and take notice. While we don’t anticipate the current planning effort will result in a \$60 million remake of the Ely campus, we’ve seen stranger things happen over the years and want to be sure that the taxpayers in Ely are paying close attention.

Architects and other paid consultants can be very good at leading communities in a certain direction. We’ve seen it before in Tower-Soudan, Cook, and Orr, where representatives from both ARI and Johnson Controls, Inc., working together, framed the school district’s strategic planning discussions in a way that many felt led to a pre-determined outcome. There is a built-in conflict of interest with many consultants, particularly when the

consultant helping to design “the plan” is in the running as the contractor who would be hired to implement the plan. In the case of JCI and the St. Louis County School District, back in 2009, the planning contract between the company and the school district actually required the district to use JCI to implement the plan they were hired to develop. That gave JCI the ultimate incentive to push for a big facilities project.

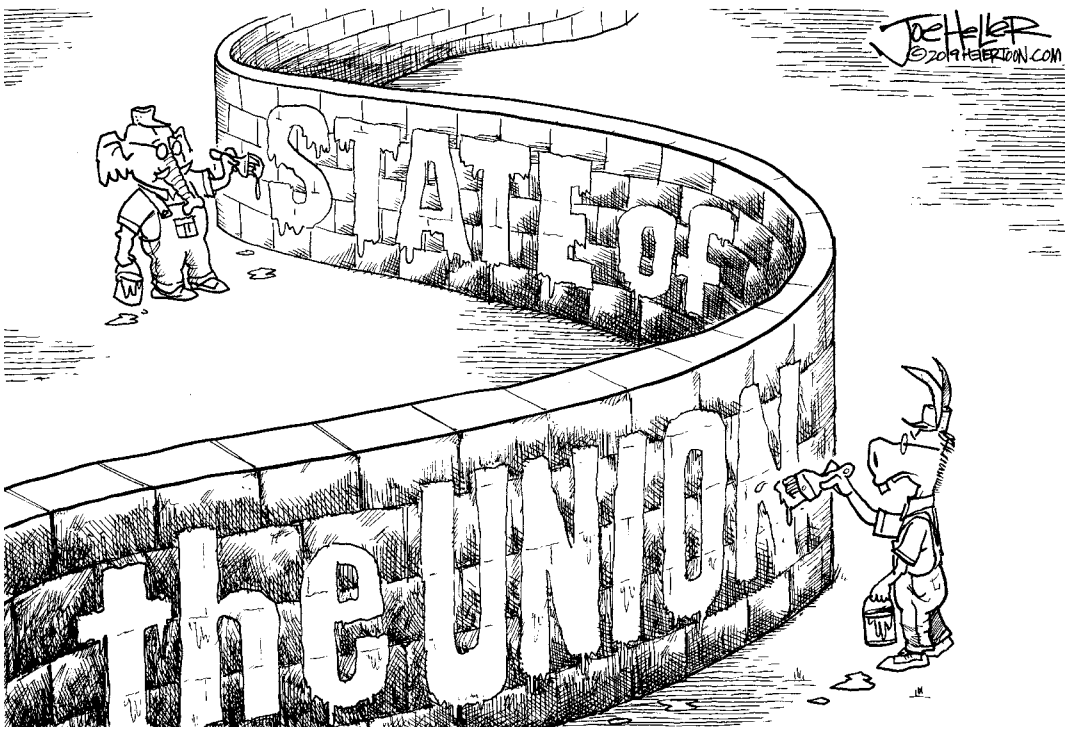
Fortunately, the Ely School’s current contract with ARI does not include any such requirement, although it does provide the district a modest financial incentive to stick with ARI through subsequent stages of project development. That’s not uncommon, but it probably doesn’t qualify as best practice.

Some districts have taken steps to protect themselves from such conflicts by hiring consultants for planning purposes who will not be allowed to oversee implementation of the results of their plan. That helps to ensure that the eventual recommendations aren’t tainted, even unconsciously, by the financial considerations of the consultant.

This is not to say that all ideas for facility improvements don’t deserve to be on the table. Yet, major and expensive school facility initiatives should be driven by the community, not by outside consultants, as we saw with the St. Louis County Schools.

The latest facilities planning effort in Ely is already prompting discussions of a fall referendum, so it’s readily apparent that some school officials are envisioning a significant project.

It is, obviously, too early to judge the merits of any plan that might arise out of this process, but we will certainly be watching closely as the discussions proceed. Whenever big public projects are under consideration, those who would pay the bills need to be paying attention.



Letters from Readers

Rodgers letter needs correction

This letter is a response to the Feb. 1 *Timberjay* letter from Pam Rodgers. There were several corrections that are needed. I will address a couple.

When Ms. Rodgers works remotely in those few cold winter months, that had to be set up. It did come at a cost to the township. It was not free.

The reason the deputy clerk earned more was because, unlike the treasurer, the clerk has scheduled hours each week. The clerk needs to have the office open for three days a week, 20 hours total. So when she is gone those days, the deputy clerk needs to fill in. The treasurer, on the other hand, is not required to have scheduled hours at the township. She needs to have her work finished monthly.

I touched on a couple of corrections that were needed. There were more.

Mary Richard
Deputy Clerk
Greenwood Twp

Campaign letter hurts and demeans

As I sit here in tears, writing this letter, I wonder what have I done to offend Pam Rodgers.

The letter to the editor she wrote- a campaign letter- seems to hurt and demean people.

I could rebut things she has said about myself and others..... but, considering the source I will not.

I know who will not get my vote for treasurer.

Sue Drobac
Greenwood Twp Clerk
Greenwood Twp

Bassing is not a friend of Greenwood fire department

In response to former town board member John Bassing’s comments regarding the fire department, I would like to set the record straight.

Mr. Bassing states that while he was a Greenwood Supervisor, he rewrote the Paid on Call Guidelines (POC) and the

Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs). Nothing could be farther from the truth. The fire department recognized that the current documents, which were called bylaws, were out of date and needed to be revised. This process was started in August 2015. John Bassing was not involved in these draft versions. The current board chairperson was sent copies as changes were made. The first draft version was presented at the November 2015 town board meeting.

John Bassing started to make comments on the documents after the November meeting, which a town board member has the right to do, but not one comment was positive.

It appeared his agenda was to micromanage the fire department with no firefighting knowledge. He resisted us moving the firefighter relief association to PERA, which it now is and working great. He felt he knew better than the members did regarding attendance and training without ever consulting with various working members. He chose to consult with two neighboring departments rather than the members of Greenwood township. His attempt to micromanage these documents resulted in a significant amount of communication with the township attorneys, costing the residents unnecessary legal expenses.

John Bassing was not a friend of the Greenwood Township fire department while being a supervisor and still is not. The current town board members are not interested in micromanaging the fire department but are only interested in what is best for the residents of Greenwood Township. John Bassing is not the guy you want representing you.

Ed Borchardt
Greenwood Twp

Should an economic system only serve wealthy Americans?

Time is a limited resource! Lose a day of work and it’s gone forever. Waste your time in small, frivolous and “fun”

things and you lose it to do big, important and serious things. Doing the latter can really be fun, even enjoyable. The wall, government shutdown and Trump wastes valuable time when we have serious work to do.

Eighty percent of Americans live from paycheck to paycheck while the top one percent have more wealth than the bottom 90 percent combined. Economics involves production, distribution and consumption of goods and services, but tells little about who gets what, when and how much of its benefits. Workers produce wealth, but it’s distribution is obscenely skewed to the 1% and per capita they consume the lion’s share.

Should an economic system only serve the rich or should it work for all?

Corporate capitalism is the engine for accumulating wealth to consolidate power in the billionaire class, produces extreme income inequality, externalizes the costs at public expense, depletes a healthy environment and disrupts a stable climate. Economic indicators cite corporate earnings, stock quotes and GNP without regard to public well-being.

Threats to public health and safety, depressed wages and educational needs, poverty and malnourishment, environmental damage and squandered resources, including time lost and never regained, diminishes all past accomplishments. Blaming others, fighting among ourselves and insatiable pursuit of pleasure drains civic vitality.

Few see silence as a political act, but it is complicity to misrule, injustice and our own demise. If life is politics, then silence, ignorance and indifference gives consent to corruption and decay. A no decision is a decision, not voting is a vote and inaction partners with apathy to weaken our social contract. A documentary about the late Howard Zinn summed it up, “You can’t be neutral on a moving train.”

Harold Honkola
Tower



Think all politicians are the same? The facts speak otherwise

Although some people believe that all politicians and parties are the same, anyone paying attention would notice radical differences. Bernie Sanders pulled no punches recently when he said, “We are living in a truly unprecedented moment in history, and the actions we



BETTY FIRTH

take now, together, will determine not only the future of our country, but the entire world. Our people must stand together in the fight for economic, social, racial and environmental justice. The bad news is that we have a president who is a fraud, a pathological liar and a racist. The

good news is that the American people are standing up, fighting back and are demanding fundamental changes in our economic and political system.”

President Trump shut down the government for 35 days, holding Congress and the country hostage, because he wants funding for a wall that is unnecessary and unsupported by the American public.

On Dec. 11, at a meeting with Democratic congressional leaders Nancy Pelosi and Chuck

Schumer, President Donald Trump proclaimed, “If we don’t get what we want through you, through the military, or through anything you want to call [yes, he said this], I will shut down the government, and I will be proud to shut down the government for voter security because voters don’t want criminals and people with lots of problems pouring into our country.”

He continued, saying that he would “take the mantle,” as if he were doing something laudable.

That’s the type of person we have as our president. Proud to blackmail the country to get his way and keep 800,000 federal workers struggling without paychecks.

As Bernie Sanders said, people are standing up to his bullying. On Jan. 23, hundreds of people gathered in the Hart Senate Office building, with 33 minutes of silence for the 33 days of the shutdown. This

Letters from Readers

Tower News story needs correction

The Feb. 1 *Tower News* article on Vermilion Lake Fire Department (VLFD), as reported by Carol Pratt, requires clarification and correction. The conversation between VLFD and Pike-Sandy-Britt Fire Department (PSBFD) has focused on possible options going forward, including shared services and training. We have shared some training in the past and are presently participating with a third department, Embarrass Region Fire Department (ERFD) in a grant for an extractor for cleaning turnout gear.

This is not a new idea. The Laurentian North Fire Fighting Water Supply Association (Laurentian North), a coalition of eleven member departments (including VLFD and PSBFD) did a shared services study in 2013. Since VLFD is a township department and PSBFD is an independent non-profit department, a direct merger of the two departments would not be possible as they presently exist. A joint powers board, as was briefly done with Tower and Breitung, is not possible because PSBFD is not a government entity. To create a single entity would likely require creating a new entity, which would take considerable study and time. It was raised in considering the broad spectrum of possibilities.

The article went on to say that there were at least five upcoming retirements. At present, there are no announced or pending retirements. A number of members are eligible for retirement but several have been so eligible for 15 years, yet they remain active.

After reminiscing about the 1980s, the reporter states that “most new firefighters require almost two or three years of training.” While there is no upper limit to the amount of training available, it serves no one to exaggerate basic training requirements. The basic core training consisting of Firefighter I, Firefighter II, and Haz Mat (hazardous materials) consists of 43 classes and three exams, usually two evenings a week plus a few Saturdays, spread out over four months. This is a very significant commitment of both time and effort but it is not two or three years. Note that this training is provided by the department at no expense to the firefighter. Additional training is available for those who wish to respond to medical calls and all manner of specialized training is available for rescue and other special training but it is not required except to perform those specific tasks. Regular ongoing training refreshers are provided by the department.

The reporter goes on to lump mutual aid together with mergers in the same sentence. Mutual aid is not the same as a merger. Mutual aid is the current

condition. The eleven members of Laurentian North have mutual aid agreements with each other. Further, mutual aid is improved greatly with automation. This is the case with St. Louis County’s box alarm system, which is activated when a “structure fire” code is entered into the dispatch system. In the case of Vermilion Lake, mutual aid is dispatched automatically along with the dispatch of VLFD. The mix of departments varies based on the location of the call within the township; north – Tower FD and Greenwood FD, central – Greenwood FD and PSBFD, south – PSBFD and ERFD. Arrangements are reciprocal when set up. And year in and year out VLFD responds to more mutual aid than it requests.

Entirely incorrect is the reporter’s unsupported assertion that a merger “may cause problems for response time . . . especially for residents of the northern part of the township.” There is no factual support for this statement. There has been no discussion of closing or relocating fire stations and there is no reason to believe that cooperating with any neighboring department would cause response times to increase.

The reporter goes on to suggest this might impact an ISO rating. The Insurance Services Office rates fire departments. Response times, equipment, staffing, training, records keeping, and water supply are all rated factors. Water supply

is heavily weighted. When Greenwood FD was tested and obtained a rating of seven this was aided greatly by the attendance at the test of personnel and pumps and water tankers from Greenwood’s then five partners in Laurentian North. How the ISO rating is used by insurance companies is another matter. Every insurance company is different. For some it is a primary factor, for some a consideration, and for some not a factor at all. It is entirely possible that the property owner’s credit rating is more of a factor than the covering department’s ISO rating in determining risk and premium.

The mission of Vermilion Lake Township Fire Department is “to provide the primary coverage area and mutual aid partners, a well-trained, professional organization to prevent or safely minimize losses of life and property from fire and other emergencies, at the highest level with the resources available.”

**Steven Lotz
Chief
Vermilion Lake Fire Dept.**

I urge your support of Carmen Deluca

I urge my fellow citizens of Greenwood Township to re-elect Carmen Deluca to the town board because he has worked tirelessly on behalf of the township and is a strong supporter of our professional fire department.

Let us keep John Bassing on the outside looking in where

he can do the least amount of damage to our township. Now that Bassing is again running for office, he suddenly claims to support our fire department. Since his ouster from the board in March 2018, Bassing attempted to bully and intimidate the fire department at almost every monthly board meeting. Also, I remember a conversation with him at the Vermilion Club meet and greet pizza party when he ran in 2015 where he advocated the elimination of our fire department due to cost. Treasurer Rodgers has recently debunked his assertion by showing the fire department saves each of us more on our homeowners insurance than the township taxes we pay. In 2017 Bassing, when board chairman, recommended settlement of a Jeff Maus lawsuit which cost the citizens of Greenwood Township \$16,000 plus legal fees without a clause removing Maus from the fire department. In December 2017 Bassing even nominated Maus for assistant fire chief, something opposed by Chief Fazio and the rest of the board. It raises a question of whether he was working in the interests of the township.

I hope the citizens of Greenwood township vote for the reelection of Carmen Deluca, someone who works for the interests of our township.

**Steve Rodgers
Greenwood Twp**

POLITICIANS...Continued from page 4

protest and others were supported by the American Federation of Government Employees, the National Federation of Federal Employees, the AFL-CIO, and many other unions including the Teamsters, the Professional Aviation Safety Specialists, Unite Here and Service Employees International Union (SEIU). In the Senate building, they held paper plates, saying, “We want paychecks, not food banks.”

The unions have also filed lawsuits to reopen government. This is the very reason far-right groups calling themselves “right-to-work patrons” have been spending millions trying to break up unions over the last year, telling public sector workers to quit in YouTube videos, Facebook ads, tweets, telephone calls, and door-to-door solicitations. With deceptive names like

“The National Right to Work Foundation,” “The Fairness Center,” and “Freedom Foundation” that harken back to 1984 and Big Brother-ese, they are doing everything they can to destroy the collective bargaining that protects workers.

And where are these so-called patrons when public employees are fighting for the right for work with pay? Nowhere to be seen or heard from. The only rights they’re fighting for are the rights of millionaires and billionaires to pocket the additional \$191 per worker per week that they’re saving by hiring non-union workers.

Last June, these groups bankrolled a lawsuit, *Janus v. AFSCME*, all the way up to the now ultra-conservative U.S. Supreme Court, and those one-percenters got what they paid for. The court majority overturned a 40-year-old precedent so

public sector workers who chose not to join the union no longer had to pay a negotiating fee to cover the cost of collective bargaining and other union services even though federal law still requires unions to provide these services to non-members at organized workplaces. The bogus right-to-work groups thought the costs of representing non-paying workers in grievances would bury the unions, but they were wrong. Recognizing who fought for their rights, public sector union membership dipped only 0.5 percent last year, consistent with declines over the last decade and with declines in the private sector, which is unaffected by the Janus decision.

The National Treasury Employees Union and the National Air Traffic Controllers Association filed a suit together alleg-

ing that employees should not be forced to work without pay. U.S. District Judge Richard J. Leon ruled against them, said it would be “profoundly irresponsible” for him to issue an order that would result in thousands of federal employees staying home from work and not doing their jobs. “At best it would create chaos and confusion,” Leon said. “At worst it could be catastrophic . . . I’m not going to put people’s lives at risk.”

Then President Trump announced a temporary three-week end to the shutdown, claiming a victory in his inimitable way, using essentially the same approach he rejected at the end of December. He won nothing concrete (or steel) during the impasse and the U.S. economy lost \$6 billion. He warned that he would shut down again on Feb. 15 if he

didn’t get what he wanted from Congress and that he will declare a national emergency. However, he may not have the support he assumes. While Republican leaders in the Senate tried to whip up support, one senator after another expressed their concern about the effects on federal workers, saying they could not support another shutdown.

There is a precedent for workers winning. A suit after the 2013 shutdown argued that failing to pay federal workers on their regularly scheduled payday violated the Fair Labor Standards Act. The judge ordered the government to pay double the amount owed to 25,000 workers.

Some delicious reactions of solidarity were triggered by the shutdown. Canadian air traffic controllers in Edmonton, Canada, wanted to support their

counterparts in Anchorage with whom they frequently communicate and “hand off planes.” They decided to send pizzas, and many others followed their example, with hundreds of pizzas crossing the border without the interference of walls. And what next? If you are frustrated or outraged, a website called Americans of Conscience offers a list of actions you can choose from each week to make your voice heard on a variety of topics with suggestions for scripts, strategies and people to contact. For example: If you believe that each citizen must be able to freely and fairly elect those who represent their values, there are suggested actions to bolster your state’s election security in advance of the 2020 elections. Go to americansofconscience.com for more.

PERMITS...Continued from page 3

Wednesday, but the larger concern I have is in the failure to put a permit system together over the past year, without any input from the cooperators, the outfitters and resort owners. We asked but they refused to include us. I’m hopeful the USFS makes this a priority. I want the USFS to succeed.”

Vosburgh, who called the new system “nothing but a big mess,” agreed. “The (USFS) did not listen to us or take our facts into consideration. So that leaves us right now with no reservation system.”

The Vosburghs typically outfit many parties of anglers with motorboats on the chain of lakes and the

few other BWCA lakes that allow motors. “All I ask is that they give us back the lottery system or the two-thirds of the permits they took away from the chain of lakes area back in 2004,” she said.

Ross Petersen has been a fishing guide in the Ely area for the past 18 years and works closely with several resorts in the area. “This permit reservation system is their livelihood,” he said.

“I had doubts that the new USFS permit system would work,” Petersen said. “Even if it did work, my fear was that all the motorized boat permits would be gone in a matter of minutes.”

He noted that the sub-par Internet system in and around the Ely area put the whole region at a disadvantage when it came time to log on to the reservation system. “I figured everyone else not near Ely would get all the permits. From what I heard, that actually happened to a small degree. I think we are lucky that system did crash.”

Petersen was hopeful that the region’s legislators were going to put a stop to the roll out of the reservation system before it went live last week. “Everybody but the Forest Service knew the new system would probably not work. It was a very dumb idea,”

he said.

The fiasco has attracted the attention of members of Congress, including Sen. Amy Klobuchar as well as Congressman Pete Stauber, who sent representatives to a meeting this week between Forest Service officials and area outfitters and resorts, known collectively as “cooperators.”

Forest Service officials and representatives of the private company that designed the reservation system listened to the concerns of just over a half dozen area cooperators during a meeting in Ely this week. They provided an explanation of the technical problems that plagued

the system but left plenty of questions in the minds of business owners now affected by the breakdown.

Zabokrtsky, who took part in the meeting, said he wasn’t satisfied with the contractor’s explanation of what went wrong. He said the contractors cited a defective caching system, but later blamed the collapse of the system on a “cascading problem of other things,” without providing details.

Yet Zabokrtsky questions whether resolving the technical issues will fix the problem. “While the technical issues are serious, the interface issues are appalling,” stated Zabokrtsky. “Many of these failures

could have been addressed before the original go-live date had cooperators been included in a process of beta testing the new system, or at least had the opportunity to view the new system and provide feedback with a reasonable time to fix the problems.”

So will the Forest Service allow cooperators to test the system before it goes live? Reichenbach said the idea is “being discussed.” But she declined to say whether the contractor will face any repercussions for the flaws in the system. “Right now we’re focused on getting it running the way it’s supposed to,” she said.

FUNDRAISER...Continued from page 3

enjoys its partnership with the ALS Association,” said Brian K. Anderson, Fortune Bay’s director of sales and public relations. “I’ve worked with the ALS staff for 12-plus years now and the energy they bring to this event is amazing,”

Anderson added. “They are very passionate about the work they do and work tirelessly to ensure everyone who rides in the event is treated like royalty.”

George Meyer, of Embarrass, is one of the participants who attended

last Thursday’s dinner and program in the Woodlands Ballroom at Fortune Bay Resort Casino. This was his seventh year taking part in the event and he’s motivated by the fact that his brother-in-law and two other friends in the area are

suffering from ALS. “We have to do what we can to deal with ALS,” he said.

The event has attracted some celebrities over the years, including former Twins first baseman Kent Hrbek and former catcher Terry Steinbach, both of

whom lost family members to ALS. Former Twins pitching ace Jack Morris and former manager Ron Gardenhire also took part in the event this year.

Thursday’s cold temperatures did limit participation in the planned

ride from the tour’s start in Proctor to Fortune Bay. Tour organizers ended up trailering some of the sleds and bussing riders to Eveleth. From there, riders took their snowmobiles the rest of the way.

ENJOYING WINTER



Come celebrate Hockey Day in Soudan on Saturday, Feb. 16

SOUDAN- Hockey Day Soudan will be held on Saturday, Feb. 16 at 11 a.m. at the Soudan Hockey Rink. Good Ol' Days will cater with food and beverages. The main game will

be Tower vs. Soudan, but you don't have to be from either to play. No reservations are required, just show up. Players should be 16 or older. The running score is 15-2 with Soudan in

the lead, but Tower has won the past two years. Skills competition will be facilitated by Benny Johnson.

A youth hockey game is set for Sunday, Feb. 17 for kids 15 and un-

der during Chimpy's skating party, starting at noon.

Pictured above: Tower versus Soudan players from last year.
file photo

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Tower ambulance director asks for subsidy increase

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- At the Jan. 29 Breitung Town Board meeting, Tower Ambulance Director Steve Altenburg spoke to the board for the second time about the need for an increase in the Tower Area Ambulance Service subsidy from \$15 to \$30 per person. Each year, the city of Tower and the townships served by the ambulance pay a per person subsidy (based on census data for year-round residents) to help cover the costs of purchasing new ambulances. Altenburg made his argument by showing the board a defibrillator from one of the department's ambulances. He said that this one piece of medical equipment cost \$32,000 and all three of Tower's ambulances are equipped with them. Supervisor Chuck Tekautz said it shouldn't be the responsibility of Breitung

residents to pay for a third ambulance that primarily supports the department's handling of transfer patients (hospital patients who need an ambulance ride to another hospital). Altenburg countered that equipment like the defibrillator is paid for with transfer income and so Breitung residents benefit too. Altenburg also said a third ambulance is necessary because they always need at least two rigs ready to go at any time and if one rig is out for maintenance, it disrupts service. "We were running two rigs at 135 calls back in 1988. How do you expect us to do 359 for patients with the same two rigs? It's gotten to the point where it needs to be expanded," he said.

Township voters will decide on whether or not to increase the levy to support this request at the annual meeting on Tuesday, March 12 at 8:30 p.m.

Board decides against combined clerk/treasurer position

The board has decided against the idea of moving to a paid clerk/treasurer position, due to the increased costs. Chairman Tim Tomsich had estimated the move would cost more than \$30,000 per year, due to the necessity of hiring a part-time deputy clerk/treasurer, and the requirement that the township have an outside audit. Currently the township is allowed to do a self-audit each year.

The board had previously discussed putting the idea up to a vote at this year's annual meeting. The board will take public input on the issue at the annual meeting for possible action in the future.

Other business

In other business, the town board:

► Heard from Dale Swanson, head of maintenance, who reported that city sewers had been cleaned.

► Heard from supervisor Chuck Tekautz who reminded residents to run water if their home has had problems with freezing pipes in previous years.

► Discussed the treasurer's report that showed a negative balance of \$1,313 in the McKinley Park fund. Treasurer Jorgine Gornick said the funds dipped into the negative after the township paid the remaining invoices for last summer's restroom renovations.

► Approved the appointment of the following fire department officers: fire chief, Steve Burgess; assistant chief, Matt Tuchel; training officer, Doug Carter; captain, Trevor Banks; and lieutenant, Matt Tomsich.

► Heard from Burgess that the fire department purchased a

new fire truck for \$90,000 and will spend up to \$15,000 bringing it up to department standards. The truck is now undergoing the renovations and will soon be in service.

► Heard from chairman Tim Tomsich that CDGB will recommend to the county board a \$75,000 grant for renovations to the Breitung Township buildings. This would bring the project's total grant funding up to \$295,000.

► Has been working with the Roy family, JPJ Engineering, and the township's insurance adjuster to resolve the issue of the damage caused by the backed up sewer line.

► Voting will be held from 1 – 8 p.m. at the Breitung Fire Hall on Tuesday, March 12. The annual meeting will be held after the polls close, at 8:30 p.m.

► The next meetings will be Thursday, Feb. 7 at noon and Tuesday, Feb. 26 at noon.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Tower Soudan Civic Club to meet on Feb. 20

TOWER- The Tower Soudan Civic Club will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 20 at

5 p.m. at Sulu's Espresso Café. Please note the change in time. The meeting will be a dinner following by an evening program. Cost for the meal is \$20. Please RSVP to Linda Haugen at 612-

916-1918 by Feb. 17.

The speaker will be Nancy Wagner. She will share information about stamping and creating homemade cards. There will be an opportunity for attendees to participate

in the program and try out some stamping skills. Everyone in the surrounding community is welcome to this meeting.

Little Free Library goes missing

TOWER- The Friends of the Babbitt Public Library are searching for the location of a Little Free Library they established in Tower

in August of 2014. Although the board at the time noted the date of the installation in their meeting notes, they did not record the location. The current board would like to register it, if they can find it!

Please call Lisa Penala at the Babbitt Library, 218-827-3345, if you have any information.

Red Hats to meet on Feb. 14

TOWER- The Northern Red Hat Belles will meet on Thursday, Feb. 14 at the Black Bear Café at 12 noon. Please RSVP by Monday, Feb. 11 to Pam Lundstrom at 218-753-3006. There will be a limited menu to order from.

Chimpy's Skating Parties

SOUDAN- Chimpy's skating parties at the Soudan Rink are now underway. This weekend, Feb. 9 and 10, there will be skating parties from 12 noon - 2 p.m. This weekend's parties are sponsored by Dan & Deb Wiire, and Chuck and Nancy Tekautz.

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

shack.

Chimpy is planning to host skating parties on Saturdays and Sundays, weather-permitting, during the skating season. The warming shack regular hours are weekdays from 4 p.m. to closing, and weekends from 11 a.m. to closing.

Township races on the ballot in Greenwood and Vermilion Lake

REGIONAL- Local township elections are being held in Vermilion Lake, Greenwood, and Breitung.

In Vermilion Lake, Crystal Alaspa has filed for the open one-year clerk seat, and Steven Lotz (incumbent) has filed for the treasurer seat. Robert Pratt (who had been appointed to an open seat last year), and former supervisor Bruce Swieringa both filed for the open supervisor seat.

In Greenwood Township, Carmen DeLuca (incumbent) and John Bassing have filed for the supervisor seat, and Pam Rodgers (incumbent) and Carol Maus have filed for the treasurer seat.

In Breitung Township, Tim Tomsich (incumbent) filed for supervisor, and Jorgine Gornick (incumbent) filed for treasurer.



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Or (218) 753-2950 (ask for Jodi) • email kfitton@vermilioncountry.org
www.vermilioncountry.org

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FOOD SHELF



Above: Aaron and Jacie Raj collected donations. Left: Matthew Zupancich, TJae Banks, and Alex Woitalla served bowls of booyah to those in line. Below: Thomas Aldrich enjoyed his booyah.

Caring kids



St. Martin’s Youth once again hosted a very successful fundraiser for the Tower Area Food Shelf. All the funds raised at the “Souper Bowl of Caring” event on Sunday, Feb. 3 will be donated to the food shelf in March, taking advantage of FoodShare Month, where donations earn matching funds. The fundraiser is by freewill donation, and every year the community is very generous. photos by J. Summit

BREITUNG POLICE DEPARTMENT

December 2018

Calls: 119
Arrests: 3
Citations/formal charges: 5
Monthly mileage: 1,877 (Tahoe: 1,370, Explorer: 648)

Additional shifts: During the month of December Breitung Police Department worked one TZD shift.

Training: Chief Nylund and Officer Sanderson attended de-escalation simulations training.

Squads: Current



December Police Report

Breitung Police Chief Dan Nylund

end of the month mileage for the Gold 2012 Chevy Tahoe (Tower) is 77,733. Current end of the month mileage for the 2017 Ford Explorer is 16,384.

Shop with a cop: Breitung Police Department took four local children from two families to the Mt. Iron Walmart for

the fourth annual Shop with a Cop event. Money used on the event was raised by the Stuff the Ambulance fundraiser held earlier this year in Virginia.

Citations/formal charges/arrests:(1) Speed – citation issued; (1) Second degree DWI

– jailed; (1) Probation violation – detox; (2) Disorderly conduct – jailed

Break-ins reported: Chief Nylund said that there have been a lot of break-ins happening lately and that residents should be mindful to lock up their homes, garages, and other property. He said to keep an eye out for any suspicious activity in the neighborhood, and “if you see something, say something.”

Donate at EVCU or GoFundMe to help with Justin Grothberg’s medical expenses

REGIONAL- Justin Grothberg, formerly of Tower (TS Class of 2008), has been diagnosed with a massive brain tumor. The tumor, on the right side of his brain, is causing significant headaches and cranial pressure. Last week, Justin, who is 29 years old, was seen at the Mayo Clinic, where the doctors determined that the tumor was

cancerous. He is scheduled to undergo surgery on Feb. 8 to remove part of the tumor, and then will undergo chemotherapy and radiation to hopefully shrink the part of the tumor that the surgeons say cannot be safely removed. Friends of the family have started a GoFundMe page to help defray travel, meals, and lodging expenses. Justin has

not been able to work the last couple of months. Justin’s mother Christina Hujanen is still recovering from her own recent battle with stage four cancer and multiple surgeries. She will be travelling with Justin to the Mayo. If you prefer to donate directly to Justin, there is an account set up at Embarrass Vermillion Federal Credit Union un-

der “Justin’s Donation,” and online donations are being taken at www.go-fundme.com (type in Justin Grothberg in the search field). If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to call Darin Alto at 218-780-6309.

AEOA Senior Dining Menu

TOWER- Vermillion Country School and AEOA sponsor a senior dining site at the charter school in Tower. All meals include salad bar, fruit, choice of beverage, and dessert. Reservations are appreciated the day before, or morning of, but walk-ins are always welcome. Take-outs are 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 Feb. 11
Monday- Chunky Chicken Gravy over Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Bread Stick
Tuesday- Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread Stick
Wednesday- Tater Tot Hot Dish, Dinner Roll
Thursday- Pigs in a Blanket (Hot Dog), Baked Beans
Friday- Chicken Sandwich, Vegetable

Week of Feb. 11

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

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

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 11

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Feb.19.

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

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 12

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

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

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at vermillioncountry.org.

Call to Subscribe
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www.timberjay.com



the **TIMBERJAY**

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Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, Feb. 13; March 6, 27

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

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

Transfer station

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

Hwy. 77 Canister
Winter hours now in effect
Thursday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

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

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
AA - 7 p.m. Mondays, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St.
WOMEN'S AA - Noon Mondays, Ledgerock Community Church, Ely - use 15th Street entrance.
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church.
AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.
BABBITT AL-ANON - Thursdays, 7 p.m. at Woodland Presbyterian Church.
CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely.
ELY FOOD SHELF - Third Wednesday each month, 15 W. Conan St.
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION
GED - Study materials and pre-test available. Ely Community Center Thursday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tower by appointment.

In Brief

Tuesday Group

ELY - The upcoming Tuesday Group schedule is listed below. All talks are at 12 noon on Tuesday at the Grand Ely Lodge.
Feb. 12 - Emily Stone - Adventures in Alaska.
Feb. 19 - Tyson Lien - Emerson and Thoreau.
Feb. 26 - Betty Firth and Paul Schurke - An Update on the Ely Folk School and their connection with the Lac La Croix first Nation Ojibwa tribal elders.

Ely Free Clinic open Mondays

ELY - The Ely Community Health Center is open every Monday evening from 5:30-7 p.m. in the AFU Building, 111 S 4th Ave. E.
For more information, call 218-365-5678, or visit their website, www.elycommunityhealth.org, or Facebook page.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2019




big fresh white snow blocks
creatures emerging slowly
freezing sculptors thrive

ETHNIC EATS

Learn to make pierogi

Ely Community Education class set for Feb. 28



Participants in the Ely Community Education class on making pierogi will take home a dozen of the traditional Polish food. submitted photo

Pierogi Trivia

►National Pierogi Day is Oct. 8.
►The largest edible pierogi was made during Indiana's Pierogi Fest in Whiting. It weighed 92-pounds.
►Ten students from a catering school in Wroclaw, Poland were entered into the Guinness World Records Book for making 1,663 pierogi (90 pounds) in 100 minutes. They donated the pierogi to children's homes.
►Poland has its own dedicated pierogi restaurants called "Pierogarnia." You can see them on many street corners.
►At the 2007 Pierogi Festival in Kraków, 30,000 pierogi were consumed daily.

Pierogi are delicate dumplings that use unleavened dough (a dough made without yeast such as flatbread). They are stuffed with endless fillings such as mashed potatoes, farmer's cheese, sauerkraut, cabbage, mushrooms, spinach, or ground beef.

Pierogi are Poland's national dish and enjoyed year around by all ages. "Pierogi have been made in Poland since the 13th century," Kolodji said. "However, claims have been staked by the Poles, Romanians, Russians, Lithuanians, Ukrainians, and Slovaks. Some suggest that the original form came from China through Italy during the Marco Polo expeditions. Others suggest that the

Tartars brought the recipe to the West from the former Russian Empire." She added, "Although nothing is confirmed, one thing we do know is that the word pierogi first appeared in Polish cookbooks and literature in the second half of the 17th century. We also know that back then, pierogi were prepared for holidays such as Christmas, Easter, and weddings. Each holiday had its own designated pierogi flavor."

Part of this tradition is still followed today. For example, most Polish families still enjoy the traditional cabbage, sauerkraut, and mushroom pierogi flavor on Christmas Eve as part of their "Wigilia Dinner."

Ever wonder why they ate vegan pierogi for Christmas Eve? A long-time Roman Catholic Church mandate is that a strict fast and abstinence be observed on the day before Christmas. Although the Church laws have changed, the traditional meal remains meatless and dairy free. (This is also why our cabbage mushroom pierogi flavor happens to be vegan too today).

"This rich history and tradition of making and eating pierogi during so many joyous and celebrated moments in life is why you will still find Polish families today celebrating many holidays by happily slaving around the kitchen table for days making pierogi," she said.

Pierogi appeared in the United States in the early 1900s when thousands of Eastern Europeans immigrated to the States. By the 1940s, pierogi became a staple for church fundraisers in the northeast and upper Midwest. By the 1960s, grocery chains across America and Canada started stocking pierogi in their frozen food aisles where they remain today. "Americans today still consume more than 31 million pierogi yearly," Kolodji said.



the **TIMBERJAY**

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Ely Memorial School

Quarter 2 Honor Roll, 2018-2019

* Denotes 3.5 GPA or above

Grade 6: Noah Anderson, Shealie Bartel, Evelyn Cavalier, *Caid Chittum, *Isabella Davis, *Carena Debeltz, Anna Dunn, Dylan Durkin, Brady Eaton, *Margaret Fetterer, Annabelle Henry, *Jace Huntbatch, Rena Johnston, *Senja Kess, , *Rylee Larson, Anna Larson, Morgan Lassi, *Maija Mattson, *Wyatt Mattson, *Alex Merriman, Anya Moger, *Janae Murphy, Carmen Nelson, *Lillian Rechichi, *Lauren Rehbein, *Garrett Rohr, *Ava Sundell, *Clare Thomas, Henry Zgonc, Kennedy Zupancich.

Grade 7: *Chase Anderson, *Esther Anderson, Colton Bramley, *Lily Dirks, *Kiarstin Eaton, *Samuel Favet, Ryan Fenske, *Bryce Ferdig, *Thomas Homer, *Abigail Johnson, *Samantha Kvistad, *Grace LaTourell, Brielle Lindland, Henry Lowe, *Gavin Marshall, *Samuel Prijatel, *Deegan Richards, *Isabelle Schiltz, Rose Mary Schlosser, *Ava Skustad, Robert Towley, *Sarah Visser.

Grade 8: Joseph Bianco, *Jacob Cochran, Ashton Cook, *Katherine Coughlin, *Rachel

Coughlin, *Margaret Dammann, *Zoe Devine, *Sydney Durkin, *Courtney Eilrich, *Natasha Fulkrod, *Taylor Gibney, Madelyn Gruba, *Gunnar Hart, Jakson Hegman, *Phoebe Helms, Madeline Kallberg, Kole Macho, Gabriel Mann, Tyler Mattila, *Morgan McClelland, *Sean Ogburn, *Cedar Ohlhauser, *Elizabeth Omerza, *Madeline Perry, *Madison Rohr, Levi Shusta, *Juliet Stouffer, *Grace Sundell, Lillian Tedrick *Audrey Thomas, *Kelly Thompson.

Grade 9: *Bryce Fairchild, *Charly Flom, Joseph Foster, *Jon Hakala, *Drayke Hanninen, Matthew Janeksela, *Micah Larson, *Sidney Marshall, *Annikka Mattson, Willow Ohlhauser, *Cora Olson, *Lauren Olson, *Gabriel pointer, *Gracie Pointer, Edward Prijatel, *Abigail Rehbein, *Zachary Robbins, Chase Sandberg, *Katrina Seliskar, *Harry Simons, *Kellen Thomas, Jacob Towley, *Karissa Vanvickle, *Ande Visser.

Grade 10: Lane Anderson, *Riley Bishop, *Madisyn Carlson, *McKenna Coughlin, *Harrison Dammann, *William Davies, *Grace Erickson, *Jasper Johnston, *Cameron Kienitz, *Brock LaTourell, *Sophie

Montana, Gabbrielle Motes, *Katie Pinckney, *Amelia Pluth, *Margaret Renner, *Sydni Richards, Madelyne Roderick, *Jonah Schwamm, *Julia Schwinghamer, *Abigail Thompson, Brynn Vollom, Elsie Vollom, Davis Walsh, Christian Willschau.

Grade 11: *Anna Bercher, Nils DeRemee, Holly Dirks, Andrew Dunn, *Kalyssa Eilrich, *Dylan Fenske, , *Apolonia Homer, Sarah Isbell, *Savannah Johnson, *McCartney Kaercher, Joshua Larson, *Henry Matthys, Eric Mattila, *Erika Mattson, *Jenna Merhar, *Nathan Nettifee, *Luke Olson, *Raif Olson, Eric Omerza, *Brooke Pasmick, Mitchell Peterson, Seann Prigge, *Winter Sainio, *James Schwinghamer, Selina Sun, Destany Walker.

Grade 12: Jessica Anderson, *Dana Crenshaw, *Charles Dammann, *Lida Dodge, Maarja Faltesek, *Zachary Hiller, Tyler Housey, *Madelene Johnson, Jeremiah Kaercher, Adam Knuutti, *Kaitlyn Lakner, Trevor Mattson, *Tim Moskalyk, *Gabriella Omerza, Mackenzie Peterson, *Shane Spangler, *Lucy Stouffer, Logan Synnes, Patrick Vanderbeek, Jasiah Wigdahl.

service up a week.
Truck Day and Home Delivery will be on Tuesday, Feb. 12, and Shopping Day will be on Wednesday, Feb 13.
With the uncertainty of the government going

back into shutdown on Feb. 15, which could possibly delay SNAP/food stamp benefits for March, the Ely organization may be having an extra food shelf week either the last week of February or the

first week of March.
They are still in need of volunteers to help out with their Chili Cook-Off and Feed on Saturday, Feb. 9 at Whiteside Park during the Ely Winter Festival.

Ely Food Shelf to open on Feb.13

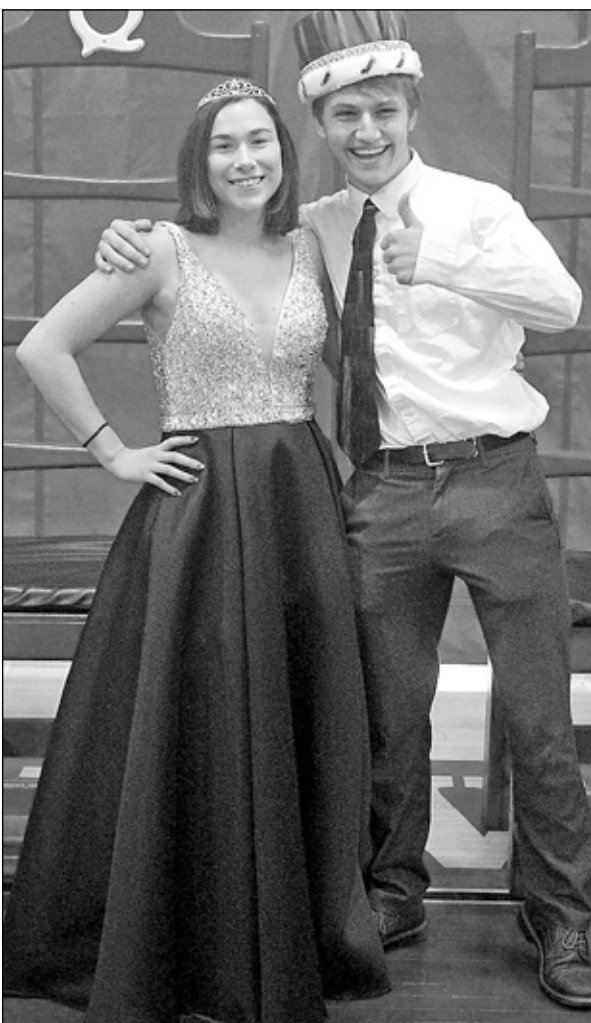
ELY - Due to the recent government shutdown and early issuance of SNAP or Food Stamp benefits, the Ely Area Food Shelf is moving their

ELY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL



Memorial High School sophomores Riley Bishop and Julia Schwinghamer participate in the make-up competition during a Winter Frolic pep rally on Tuesday. photos by K. Vandervort

Winter Frolic



The 2019 Ely Memorial High School Winter Frolic Royalty, left, Jessica Anderson and Alex Motes. Band members Brielle Kallberg and Winter Sainio have fun with their cymbals during the playing of the school song.



The Dance Team, above, performed during the pep rally. Junior Erika Mattson, below, helped decorate the hallways on Sunday. Their class board game theme was Monopoly.



News In Brief

AAUW meets Tuesday

ELY – The local branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 12, at Vermilion Community College, Room CL 124. The program starts at 6:45 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7 p.m.

Dorothy Molter Meusum hosts Whirlwind event on Saturday

ELY - Bundle up Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the annual Whirlwind outdoor winter extravaganza at the Dorothy Molter Museum, 2002 E. Sheridan St.

Enjoy hot cocoa and coffee as you visit interpretive and activity stations related to winter ecology and survival presented by Wilderness and Park Management students at Vermilion Community College. Then, warm up by the campfire! This event is free for all.

Yesterday's news, this week

from the archives of

THE ELY MINER

Courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society

February 7, 1919

High death rate

The Minnesota Public Health Association has been called upon to discuss the wholly inadequate medical and nursing service in the state and the high death rate resulting from it.

In reply, we would say with all sincerity that no other organization in Minnesota realizes the desperate situation more fully than we, or can describe better the exact status of the deplorable conditions. It is quite true that education of the public is required and we have devoted our energies for years to this education, with results beginning to show.

We are bending every effort to organize county public health organizations and are already in touch with 75 of our 86 counties in this matter to instruct people in the need amongst others for prenatal and postnatal medical service. We are conducting a state-wide health tournament dealing with 15,000 teachers and 500,000 children to educate children to educate parents in health matters.

We sent out public health demonstration nurses into 84 counties, and are continuing to send them out. The director of our public health nursing is now making a tour of the state to ensure a future nursing service to include prenatal and postnatal care.

We are financing to a large extent the Public Health Nursing course held at the University, issuing a health journal every week, and supervising health instruction in the schools, all to educate the people to care for their own health and to seek proper assistance when necessary.

But the whole work is handicapped by a lack of funds, not by lack of a cordial and intelligent cooperation, and by a lack of the actual nurses who can do this work. We are seeking legislation to simplify the employment of such nurses by counties, but beyond that is the problem of securing them at all. We shall continue to do all in our power to prevent losses of child life in Minnesota and to improve the medical and nursing service.

Dies in Chicago

Henry Kornfeld, who left here several months ago for Chicago to make his home there after a residence here since the beginning of the town, died suddenly on Wednesday night according to a message received by relatives here yesterday. No cause of death was given, although the statement was made that he was found dead in bed.

WASHINGTON D.C. SENIORS



Spaghetti Dinner

F+U+N+D+R+A+I+S+E+R

ALL-U-CAN-EAT Spaghetti Dinner

Friday, February 8 • 4-7 pm

Ely High School Cafeteria

Spaghetti w/Meat or Veggie Sauce

Tossed Salad/Dressings/Bread Sticks

Cookies/Beverage

Adults \$7 • Students (with school ID) \$6

Seniors \$6 • Children Grades K-6 \$4

Age 4 And Under FREE

Join Us For An Evening of Basketball & Hockey

Boys Basketball vs Mesabi East

B-Squad 5:45 PM, Varsity 7:15 PM

Boys Hockey vs

Moose Lake/Willow River-Varsity 7 PM



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
2019 WASHINGTON DC SENIORS

Community Notices

Winter Reading Programs

COOK - The Cook Public Library is ready for winter, offering programs and events for all ages. The programs kicked off in January and run through March.

Adult Winter Reading:

Curl up with a good book and enter to win prizes during the Winter Reading Program. Prize entry tickets will be given for each book or audio book checked out from the Cook Public Library. This includes items requested from other libraries. Write your name, phone number and prize number on your ticket and turn it in at the front desk. Prize bundles are on display at the library. Drawings for prizes will be held on March 13.

Teen Winter Challenge (Grades 7 – 12):

Check out 25 books or more and get an invite to an all-day Saturday party at the library in March.

Preschool – Sixth-Grade Reading Challenge:

Every time a child checks out a book she or he will receive a mitten cutout to hang in the library window. If 400 mittens are in the windows by March 8, we'll have a pizza party at the library.

Winter Events at NWFA Gallery

COOK - Northwoods Friends of the Arts (NWFA) Gallery winter hours for viewing the exhibits and shopping are in effect now until April: Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

New Painting Class to register for.

"A Study in Light and Color" presented by Thomas Chapman from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16. Open to adults using any media. Bring your own materials. Necessary colors: red, yellow, blue, white and black.

You must register with Tom Chapman at 218-750-4416 or tom@artfromgodsheart.com.

Make a red cardinal pincushion at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook on Thursday, Feb. 14 with

Susan Archbold from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Susan Archbold of Range Print Shop and General Store, will teach a class how to make a Needle Felted Cardinal Pincushion. The kit cost is \$15 paid to Susan when the class begins. Please pre-register for the class with Alberta Whitenack at 666-2153.

Aside from Feb. 16, every Saturday is Open Studio Art Space at NWFA Gallery from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Note the ending time is 12:30 to accommodate transition to the writers group.

Woodcarving for Beginners to Expert meets every Tuesday night at 6 p.m. at the gallery.

Grocery delivery services offered in Cook

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

Empty Bowl event at North Woods

FIELD TWP - North Woods is celebrating their seventh year of Empty Bowl. This year it will be on Friday, Feb. 22, from 4:30-7 p.m. in the North Woods Commons. To switch it up this year students made more bowls on the pottery wheel than ever before, along with decorative plates! You'll want to get to the event early because bowls made on the pottery wheel sell very fast!

This year, Miss Minnesota's Outstanding Teen, Eden Webb, will also be in attendance. She will be providing free autographs and taking pictures. So, be sure to bring the entire family along. As usual, there will be plenty of soups and desserts to choose from. One bowl costs \$10. In return you get a soup meal and get to keep the handmade bowl. All of the proceeds are given to the food shelf. We look forward to seeing you there!

Cook Senior Citizens Club

COOK - The Cook Seniors meet monthly on the first Wednesday at 1 p.m. For more information, call Nancy at 666-2726 or Lois at 666-5578.

Readers and Rappers, Feb. 12

COOK - The book club meets in the Community Room at the Homestead Apartments here on Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 1 p.m.

Shawna Kishel will be moderating "Last Bus to Wisdom" by Ivan Doig.

Cook Farmers Market meetings to begin

COOK - The Cook Area Farmers Market is set to begin its spring meetings to prepare for another fun and exciting season this summer. The first planning meeting will be on Tuesday Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cook Community Center.

Producers of locally grown or gathered veggies, fruit and berries, honey, canned goods, baked goods, art, crafts and other fun stuff are welcome to help the market continue to be a success in 2019.

We will be talking about the upcoming market season, updating our rules, exploring participation in local food nutrition programs like SNAP, discussing the Market's wholesale produce project, and having more than a few laughs in the process.

Most importantly, the market seeks vendors for its summer season in the Cook City Park for Saturdays of fresh locally grown and produced food, fun and community camaraderie.

We think just talking about summer may be a therapeutic way to deal with the polar vortex, but that's just a bonus.

Email your community notices to editor@timberjay.com

READING TIME



Talen Jarshaw, Jack Hampson and Micaden Clines read together. photo by M. White

Books and Bagels

FIELD TWP - It was a morning of breakfast and reading here last Friday.

Students, parents, staff and community

members sat down with elementary students at North Woods School for the Books and Bagels event.

The school's com-

mons area was crammed full of hungry readers taking in the latest books for both fun and education.



Clockwise from top-left: April Ploof and Nathan Ploof; Don Flack and Mya Kinsey; Jim Aune and Luke Cheney; Gage Aune and Ashley Skorseth; Zach Wipf, Nevah Wipf and Lynette Villebrun.

photos by M. White



Crane Lake News by the Singing Teapot Dames



Hope you had a Happy Groundhog Day! With the frigid temps, many were excited to hear that the official groundhog, Puxsutawney Phil, did not see his shadow—thus predicting that winter would soon end. However, before you get too excited, your bubble may burst to learn that his predictions have not been very accurate. Overall, he's been

wrong almost 61 percent of the time! There is a connection between groundhogs and the end of winter. Early February is when a lot of male groundhogs wake up from hibernation to go scope out the females in preparation of mating, which takes place in March. It may be coincidental, but February is also when humans celebrate Valentine's Day. Guess that groundhogs aren't the only species that is thinking of mating during February!

Fortunately, the cold snap has snapped and more normal temps have returned.

That doesn't mean that we won't have continued episodes of cold, but the extremely long stretches of below zero daytime highs seem to

have passed us by.

Cloudy weather is continuing in Destin, Florida. However, the temps are quite warm—in the 60s and 70s—so all the snowbirds are pleading for sun, though not mentioning the temps. Still not as cold as Minnesota—although the time is nearing when all the snowbirds will begin their long flight back to Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan or Canada—which is where many of them seem to have flown from.

Shopping in Destin is reaching a fever pitch. There are several places to visit if that is your mission for the day. Places like SteinMart, Belk, Beall's, The Loft, Marshalls, and Columbia are only a handful of the stores that shop-

pers can seek out. The best thing is that they all have GREAT sales up until March when their new Spring items replace last year's offerings. For a gal who has NO shopping available for hours, one old Dame feels like she's in heaven. Since Herberger's closed in Virginia, there has been little shopping if one is past the teeny-bopper age (and not much even for them). Rumors of what may be going into the Herberger's space in the mall do not sound too exciting to those of us who wear clothing and don't do crafting projects. But we will see—lots of previous rumors turned out to be untrue.

Happy Birthday wishes are sent out to all those having birthdays in February. You share

your month with Tom Brokaw, Garth Brooks, Chris Rock, Ashton Kutcher, Laura Dean, Jennifer Aniston, Arsenio Hall, Jane Seymour, Paris Hilton, and John Travolta. Many happy returns of the day to all.

The Miners Bank in Eveleth has acquired the former Wells Fargo building. Miners has been a mainstay on the main street of Eveleth for many years. Congratulations on the acquisition—we are eagerly awaiting the opening and use of another great building in Eveleth. Thank you to the Hoel family for the loyalty to Eveleth and the downtown area!

Ruth Carlson attended the Celebration of Life that was held for Kathleen Minko. Relatives from as far away as New

York attended the beautiful tribute to a beautiful gal who was well-known in Eveleth and Crane Lake. Margie's Bar was full to the brim after the ceremony, thanks to all those who gathered to share more stories of Kathleen and her life.

Prayers for peace and hope are sent out to all those in our community with health issues or spiritual needs. Your community is behind you.

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

Until next week, the Teapot Dames are singing off!

COOK HOSPITAL UPDATE

Adult Services update and open house at Cook Hospital and Care Center

by JESSICA STEVENTON
Adult Services Coordinator

Hello, my name is Jessica Steventon, I am an LPN and have been honored with the task of taking over the Adult Day Services Program (or Day-Break) at the Cook Hospital and Care Center since May of 2018.

I must be honest, prior to my interview I knew little about the position and what a typical day at ADS looked like.

Did they sit around and do paper crafts all day? Would I be coming home trailing glitter behind me?

I quickly learned all of this was a misinterpretation and misrepresentation of a program that is so important and so vital in this community.

I would like to share what ADS looks like to me, and to have the opportunity to host an Open House to welcome members of the community to get familiar with the program, to ask questions,

and possibly put any preconceived notions to rest.

What I did know of the program was that it was a place for adults to go for part of their day; for some it was a way to give respite to their caregivers in an environment they could feel safe leaving them in so they could tend to their own needs.

Sure, we create, we craft – partially to give items as gifts to loved ones; the other part is to create movement with different areas of the body and the opportunity to express themselves.

What I have learned and have tried to reinforce since taking over the program is that this is a place for independence, a place where we foster creativity, promote socialization, and incorporate individuals into the community.

By having an outing day once a week, people can choose to attend and eat and shop for their personal needs and wants.

We assist people in getting to the pharmacy, making phone calls when they need to, being able to have the assistance and feel safe and secure while taking a shower, providing footcare, and daily exercise.

It doesn't just stop at those items, we do so much more: a monthly multicultural day where participants have brought in items from other countries and we've been fortunate enough to learn about the country and their experience, and hosting an in-house Murder Mystery Lunch where participants got to create their own character, guess who the murderer was and use their "inheritance" to buy items at an ADS auction.

We have fun, we learn, and we take pride in understanding the needs of the participants who attend the program. We understand the aging process and how difficult it sometimes becomes to

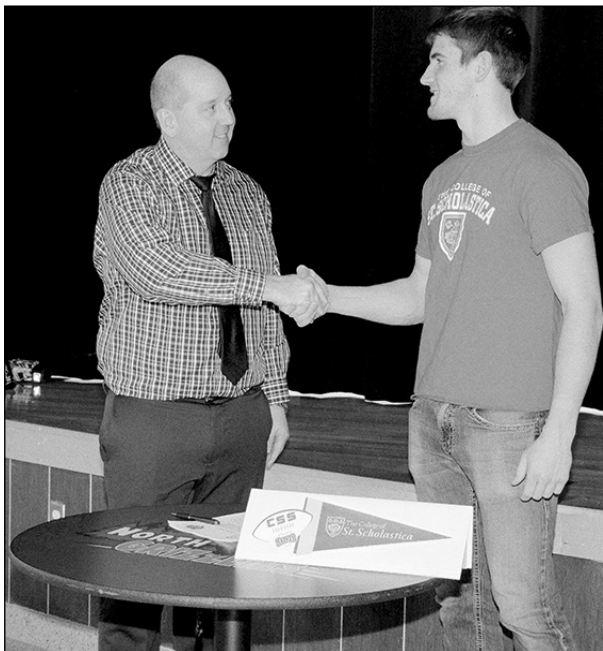
do even simple everyday tasks.

We understand and work with those participants that have a disability. We pride ourselves on being very adaptive to our ever-changing clients from the young adults to the older adults. We adapt to the needs of our clients and pull everyone together into a group setting we call Adult Day Services.

I'm happy to say Adult Day Services is here for you, for a family member or a friend, no matter what walk of life you come from or what your interests are.

Please come join us on Friday, Feb. 22 from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. for the Adult Day Services Open House. We will have food, drinks, vendors, door prizes, a raffle, and displays to see what ADS has been up to and the opportunity to ask questions and get to know our program. We hope to see you there!

Chase Kleppe to play football at College of St. Scholastica



North Woods Senior Chase Kleppe signed to play football this week at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth. Kleppe is seen above shaking the hand of North Woods football coach, John Jirik, who said, "I am very happy for Chase. He chose a school that he wanted to attend for both academics and sports. St Scholastica is lucky to have Chase as a student-athlete. He is a bright, energetic, and hard-working young man who is highly skilled in the game of football."
photo by B. Smith

Wi-Fi hotspots available for checkout at Cook Library

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

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

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

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

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

AROUND COOK

NWFA Best Shot photography competition

COOK - Grab those cameras and start shooting! Enter those shots into the 2019 Northwoods Friends of the Arts (NWFA) photography FUNdraiser. Everyone is encouraged to participate!

You may enter as many photos as you wish, though each entry requires its own entry form. The entry fee is ten dollars per photo. Students may enter up to three photos, entry fee

free.

The photos must be your original photos and must be either 5x7 or 8x10. A white mat with a protective sleeve is provided for each entry and must be used to insure display consistency.

Forms may be procured at NWFA Gallery in Cook next to Dream Weaver Salon and Spa, 210 S River St. and at NWFAMN.ORG.

NWFA Gallery is open Thursday and Fri-

day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Entries must be at the NWFA Gallery by April 27.

The contest exhibit runs through May, ending on May 24.

"Adult" and "Student" are the two contest categories, student being defined as anyone attending elementary or high school or a home school equivalent.

"Originality", "technical merit" and "artistic value" are the criteria judges will use to select category winners.

The People's Choice Award is given to the photographer whose photo received the most votes by people viewing

the exhibit between May 1 and the evening of May 24.

Additional information and entry forms available at the NWFA Gallery and from nwfamn.org or by calling Alberta White-neck, 218 666-2153.



2018 winning photo
submitted photo

Towner hired as insurance agent

COOK- The only independent insurance agency located in Cook recently added Lisa Towner to the team. Lisa is a licensed Accident and Health, Casualty, Life, and Property agent.

Towner, having grown up in Cook, is thrilled to join the team. "It is such a wonderful opportunity to join a growing agency," said Lisa. "I look forward to working with the clients of North Star Insurance Agency and being able to provide the many products and solutions only available at an independent agency."

North Star Insurance Agency is conveniently located in the main lobby area of North Star Credit Union at 24 S River St. "I have always been impressed by North Star Credit Union's ability to serve its members in



Lisa Towner

an upbeat, professional manner," said Towner. "I know one of our goals is to carry these same service standards over to the Agency."

Lisa Towner is a welcome addition to the North Star Insurance Agency and she looks forward to guiding you to better insurance.

Bookmobile schedule

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

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the TIMBERJAY

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ELY

Ely Timberjay remains Ely's official newspaper

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

City attorney directed to clarify the circulation and office of issue questions raised

ELY – *The Ely Timberjay* remains the legal newspaper for the city of Ely while the city attorney and a task group of three city council members investigate state statutes and the city's home rule charter on the issue.

In an effort to save taxpayers in Ely from taxskyrocketing legal publishing costs from another media organization, *The Timberjay* was urged by some city officials late last year to submit a bid for the annual contract to print legal notices.

The Timberjay, a regional newspaper with a main office in Tower, publishes separate editions of the paper in Ely, Tower-Soudan and Cook-Orr.

The Timberjay's bid to publish Ely's legal notices was about half of what *The Ely Echo* proposed to charge taxpayers. The

difference in cost would almost certainly save the city thousands of dollars in 2019. The *Ely Timberjay* has served as the city's official newspaper on several occasions in the past, when the paper maintained a commercial storefront. It stopped bidding on city publishing a few years ago after closing that office but has since cited the Ely editor's home office as the Ely edition's office of issue.

The Echo's owners have pushed back on the awarding of the bid to *The Timberjay* at the Jan. 15 meeting and have argued that *The Timberjay* does not have enough subscribers in the city and does not maintain a business office here to qualify as the city's official newspaper.

Five agenda items pertaining to the issue were discussed by the city council this week.

Mayor Chuck Novak said he heard lots of discussion about the issue over the past three weeks since the council took action to award the bid. "It's a tough decision sometimes that we have to make as elected officials," he said. "We have to pay attention to our oath of office and we have to be very careful when we are spending the taxpayers' money."

He said the city council has to follow state statutes as well as the city's charter, that is voted on by the residents. On the issue of determining the legal newspaper, the charter requires that the lowest bid from a responsible newspaper is to be accepted.

"Just changing the charter is not the simplest task in the world," Novak said. Charter changes can be made by ordinance or referendum approved by at least 20-percent of registered voters. "When it comes to changes with a financial impact, let the people weigh in on it."

In leading up to asking the city attorney investigate the matter further, he said, "That has not yet been determined that there is a conflict between state statute and the city charter. There has been no investigation. The charter has a specific clause that only the council can initiate an investigation, unless in criminal matters. We need to study this matter some

more."

He noted that both bids from the two media companies appear to be flawed. "We won't know that until we have an investigation," Novak said.

The *Ely Echo* General Manager made a request to appear before the city council and he reiterated his company's claim that *The Timberjay* does not have a legitimate business office in the city, and therefore is not qualified to bid for the city's legal publishing contract. He also contested *The Timberjay's* verified circulation report as to the number of subscribers within the city limits and suggested that the paper had failed to submit its annual legal newspaper filing with the Secretary of State, citing a posting on the state website. The Secretary of State's office confirmed on Wednesday that *The Timberjay* has submitted its filing but that the state's website had not been updated to reflect that fact.

Wognum asked the council to rescind their action to award the bid for the 2019 legal newspaper contract to *The Timberjay*, and instead award the contract to *The Echo*.

City Attorney Kelly Klun notified the council that she did due diligence on the matter with *The Timberjay* publisher and provided his responses. "I don't have any particular insight for you other than providing you the information."

"The issue of verification of the (*Timberjay's*)

known office as well as 400 subscribers (in the city) is something that I don't feel at this point I can provide a recommendation," Klun said. "I would like to do further investigation relative to the Secretary of State notification. I understand that it is not on the website, but it should be verified. I feel more due diligence is required."

The Ely Timberjay, in its annual publisher's statement, reported more than 735 paid print circulation as of September 2018 within the 55731-zip code along with another 183 digital subscribers, in addition to out-of-area subscribers. Determining what percentage of those readers are within the city limits would be the issue for the city to determine.

Complicating the matter is the fact that *The Echo's* bid clearly fails to comply with state law, which sets a minimum text size for legal publishing. *The Echo's* stated text size is smaller than allowed by law, which has been an issue in the past. At the same time, city officials have also expressed concern in recent years that *The Echo* has run city display ads significantly larger than necessary, which has added to their cost.

Two resolutions for consideration were presented by new council member Angela Campbell. Novak pointed out that action requested for consideration should be in the form of a motion.

Campbell made a

motion to reconsider the Jan. 15 vote of the city council to award the legal publication bid to *The Ely Timberjay*.

Campbell demanded that her original vote on Jan. 15 to award the legal publishing bid to *The Ely Timberjay* be rescinded.

Novak rebuked her. "Once a vote is called by the chair, it stays on the record. You can't go back. They do that in the U.S. Senate. You can't do it here."

The motion to reconsider the Jan. 15 council vote was passed on a 5-1 vote with Novak voting no. Council member Heidi Omerza was not present at the meeting.

A motion by Jerome Debeltz to publish legal notices in both newspapers until the issue is resolved was defeated on a 3-3 tie.

Council member Ryan Callen said he could not vote for the motion. "Just to save the taxpayers money, we should keep it at just one publication right now," he said. "Why spend extra money? Let's find out what legal (counsel) has to say and then make our final decision." Council member Paul Kess and Mayor Novak also voted against the motion.

A motion to task the city attorney to continue to investigate the matter and to work with a council task group to make a recommendation to the council was passed on a 6-0 vote. The task group members will be chosen randomly by the mayor.

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EPA...Continued from page 1

Fowley and others believe that MPCA officials did not want critical EPA comments included as part of the agency's administrative record, given that the agency anticipated that litigation over the permit was likely. When courts review agency decisions, they rely almost exclusively on the information in the administrative record in formulating their decisions, so scrubbing a record of critical comments could potentially help an agency defend a controversial decision.

According to Fowley, a conversation between then-MPCA Commissioner John Linc Stine and Trump-appointed EPA Region V Administrator Cathy Stepp appears to have been the impetus for the apparent suppression of EPA's written comments.

That's a claim that MPCA officials vehemently deny. "The MPCA did not, at any time, ask EPA to suppress or withhold comments on the PolyMet NPDES permit," said Shannon Lotthammer, MPCA Assistant Commissioner for Water. "We knew that following the public comment process our permitting staff would be making revisions to the draft permit based on public comments, so we recommended that EPA share their comments after that revision. This is not outside the norm of the MPCA-EPA relationship, and has happened with other permits."

The EPA is considered a cooperating agency in the PolyMet environmental review and permitting process, so the lack of EPA written comments during the permit review process was unusual. For years, the agency had routinely provided highly detailed and authoritative comments as the project has advanced. The lack of comments was unusual enough that the MPCA mentioned their

absence in a press release announcing the issuance of the PolyMet permit. An attorney for the MPCA, Michael Schmidt, also informed an attorney with the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy on Dec. 17 that "we did not get any feedback from the EPA on the PolyMet permit."

It turns out, however, that those statements may have been misleading. Emails obtained through a public information request to the MPCA reveal plans for a conference call in April 2018 between staff from both the MPCA and the EPA, during which EPA staff would read portions of the written comments they had prepared but were being told not to submit.

A March 16, 2018, email from the MPCA's Jeff Udd references a phone call with Kevin Thiede, who serves as chief of staff for regional administrator Stepp. "And I just got off the phone with Kevin. He would like to continue with the routine check-in meetings every few weeks as we go through the comments and any permit revisions. He would like to have one the first week of April to walk through what the comment letter would have said if it were sent....."

Fowley said he has confirmed that the April conference call took place and that Udd, attorney Schmidt, and mining program supervisor Richard Clark took part representing the MPCA.

While MPCA officials maintained for months that the EPA had not provided comments on the permit, that position shifted dramatically on Jan. 31, when a news organization, called Inside EPA, inquired about the situation while reporting on Fowley's complaint to the Inspector General.

"Although EPA did not send written comments during the public comment period, EPA staff and

MPCA permitting staff were in regular contact before, during and after the drafting and issuance of the permit," said MPCA's Lotthammer. "There were five meetings," continued Lotthammer, "including an in-person meeting in St. Paul, as well as multiple phone calls. During these meetings, EPA did engage and comment, and MPCA did make changes to the permit based on those comments."

If so, notes Fowley, the MPCA is required to have documented the EPA comments and provided responses to them, something which he said it appears they failed to do.

Fowley concurs that the final version of the permit, released for comment in late summer of 2018, appears to have been an improvement over the initial draft, but said the even the final version "reportedly was still defective."

Fowley, who worked for decades on EPA permit issuance and review of state permits, said the PolyMet permit lacks key components that are normally part of major permits, including calculations of the potential to exceed water quality standards. He said those calculations, which must be done for each type of pollutant, are normally included in the background attachments to a permit but are nowhere to be found with the PolyMet permit. He said given that the mining operation will discharge to small streams, with very limited flow at times, the company's water discharge permits need to be fairly stringent.

MPCA officials have suggested that PolyMet has agreed to voluntary internal measures to limit discharges as necessary, but Fowley said voluntary measures are no substitute for actual water quality standards in part because they likely aren't enforceable at the federal level.

Congressional inquiry

Fowley's complaint to the Inspector General, if verified, bolsters suspicions first raised by Water Legacy legal counsel Paula Maccabee last month after MPCA documents she obtained through a public records request hinted that written EPA comments may have been suppressed by top agency officials.

The documents are consistent with Fowley's contention that EPA officials had several concerns with the permits being proposed by the MPCA, including questions about the water quality standards being applied to the company's water discharge permit. The notes also indicated that EPA officials had expected to provide their usual written comments, yet they never did.

"What happened?" asked Minnesota Fourth District Congresswoman Betty McCollum, who now has oversight over the EPA, in a press statement on the issue last month. "The public deserves to know," she added. "I intend to work with my congressional colleagues on the relevant House committees on this matter, because if the EPA is hiding information related to PolyMet, what other critical information is being kept from the American people? We must ensure that the EPA operates in a transparent manner and that EPA scientists and professional staff can do their job of protecting human health and safety without political interference."

McCollum's public statement came along with a request to the EPA for the comments developed by staff, which were apparently suppressed. McCollum's office said this week that their request letter to the agency is still being formulated.

Maccabee said the latest revelations are disturbing. She noted that the EPA has traditionally

served as a backstop for states that fall too much under the thumb of major industries. That makes the suggestion that the EPA may now be coordinating with state regulators to suppress critical views from its own staff troubling.

Maccabee said it appears that the EPA's career staff are continuing to try to do their jobs even under an administration that appears hostile or indifferent, at times, to environmental protection.

"It seems like the career professionals were playing by the rules," she said. "I think we owe them a debt of gratitude. They did their job despite enormously difficult conditions."

Administrator seen as pro-industry

Cathy Stepp, who President Trump appointed as EPA's Region V administrator in early 2018, is no stranger to controversy.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker appointed Stepp, a longtime home builder, to head that state's Department of Natural Resources back in 2010.

According to Minnesota Public Radio, by the time she left that job seven years later, critics charged she had left her agency "in tatters following a tenure that included declines in environmental enforcement actions, increased fees for state parks, cuts to the agency's science personnel and two incidents of federal authorities intervening after manure from dairy farms began to contaminate drinking water in the northeastern part of the state."

Fowley said some of the same trends are now being seen at the EPA, including a sharp drop in enforcement actions against polluters.

In its first year under the Trump administration, the EPA, in its annual enforcement report, revealed that polluters were fined just \$1.6 billion in penalties in fiscal year 2017 — about a fifth of the \$5.7 billion EPA penalties collected the year prior, under President Obama.

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SEASONAL FUN

2019 Ely Winter Festival is off and running

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - The annual Ely Winter Festival celebrates its 35th year when it gets underway on this Friday, Feb. 8, and organizers say this year's event will offer plenty of traditional favorites as well as exciting new additions. The event runs through Sunday, Feb. 17.

Kickoff activities include Ely skiers, hockey players, ice skaters, dancers, and the Ely High School's percussion section joining forces for a high-energy evening with a parade through the park and the official lighting of the fire cauldron that will burn during the weekend. The event kicks off at 6 p.m. on Friday and cookies and hot chocolate will be available for everyone.

Northern Grounds at 2 W Sheridan St. is the official 2019 Ely Winter Festival headquarters, where those interested can obtain festival information and buy a pin or a t-shirt to support the festival.

The snow-carved reproduction of the official 2019 Ely Winter Festival pin, with an image of a pine marten, is located at the Front Porch Coffee and Tea shop, located at 343 E Sheridan St. Warmer temperatures over the weekend allowed Nancy Scheibe and her crew to create the traditional symbol.

The International Snow-Sculpting Symposium is already



Nancy Scheibe and Emily Ingram carve the 2019 Ely Winter Festival souvenir pin likeness last Saturday in front of the Front Porch Coffee and Tea Co. photo by K. Vandervort

underway in Whiteside Park as 18 teams from Ely and around the world create amazing art from huge blocks of snow. "They finish up their work Saturday night," said EWF committee member Shauna Vega. "This year we welcome a new team from Ukraine, and look forward to the return of Team Argentina, and Team Bon Temps is moving up from amateur to professional."

The Northern Lakes Arts Association (NLAA) is again sponsoring an Amateur Snow-Carving Contest in the park. As many as 15 smaller scale blocks of snow are available and, the carving is just as artistic as the big creations. Judging will be held on Sunday, Feb. 9, in three categories:

- 1) Individuals, adult or student.
- 2) Adult groups, and
- 3) Student groups.

NLAA is also hosting a Downtown Arts Market on Saturday, Feb. 9 at Amici's Ceremony Hall, 301 W Sheridan St., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

With the recent sub-zero temperatures in mind, visitors to Whiteside Park can thaw chilly toes and fingers in the large warming tent, complete with stove.

Ely Flower and Seed created and maintains a skating rink in the park, Vega said.

"Other activities in Whiteside Park this weekend include winter camping demonstrations, the fifth annual Kubb tournament, kicksled demonstrations, and a fat bike tour

of local trails with rentals available.

New activities added this year include a meditation labyrinth in the park, created by Tranquility Wellness Center, and a chili cook-off contest on Saturday noon to 3 p.m. in the park pavilion to benefit the Ely Area Food Shelf.

The windows at dozens of Ely's businesses are filled during the Winter Festival with the work of the community's numerous artists, displayed by the folks at the Ely ArtWalk. "This is the 20th anniversary of this special Winter Festival activity," Vega said. Brochures with a map and descriptions are located all over town.

An Ely ArtWalk artists reception will be held Saturday, Feb. 9 at The Art Corner, 301 W Sheridan St., from 1-3 p.m.

The Winter Festival Community Dance, hosted by the Ely Folk School, will be held Saturday, Feb. 9 from 7-10 p.m. at the Ely Senior Center. Music will be provided by The Bootlicker String Band. Admission is \$10 for adults. Children get in for free. "All the dances will be taught, so don't worry about being experienced. Just come join in the fun," Vega said. This activity is made possible in part by a grant from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust.

"Speaking of the Ely Folk School, nearly 20 classes will be held at the Sheridan Street building during the festival," Vega

said. "Enjoy the Veterans on the Lake fish fry on Saturday, Feb. 9," she continued, "and check out the Hidden Valley Candlelight Ski later that day, beginning at 5 p.m. They'll have hot cocoa and a bonfire."

On Saturday, Feb. 16, the Nordic Ski Club will host kids races and silly fun at 2:30 p.m., a 10K Ski Tour at 3:30 p.m., and 10K and 20K Fat Bike Races at 5:30 p.m.

A new family event, the Ely 4-H Puzzle Derby, will be held Saturday, Feb. 16, at Ledgerock Community Church, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to the first three teams that complete their 500-piece puzzle in the two-hour time slot. The cost is \$40 per team. Lunch and snacks will be available to purchase. Preregistration is due by Wednesday, Feb. 13. Go to www.regonline.com/ely4hpuzzlederby.

Medallion Hunt

As part of the 2019 Ely Winter Festival, the Ely Chamber of Commerce Event and Promotion Committee is hosting the third annual Ely Northwoods Medallion Hunt.

There are a total of ten clues, released at 10 a.m. each day starting Feb. 7, with the final clue posted Feb. 16 to lead hunters to the medallion.

Clues are posted at the Chamber of Commerce

building at 1600 E Sheridan St., on their website page (www.ely.org/medallion-hunt), on the Ely Chamber of Commerce Facebook page and at participating Ely merchants.

The first one to find the medallion will win \$250 in Chamber Bucks.

Each participating Ely merchant will also have Northwoods Medallion Hunt commemorative wooden nickels. For every ten wooden nickels turned in at the Chamber of Commerce, players will receive an entry form for a drawing for four prizes: first place - \$100 Chamber Bucks, second place - \$75 Chamber Bucks, third place - \$50 Chamber Bucks and fourth place - \$25 Chamber Bucks.

No purchase is necessary. Visit participating merchants often to collect a coin - one coin per person at each store per day. For more information about this event, please visit www.ely.org/medallion-hunt.

The Ely Winter Festival and the Ely ArtWalk are funded in part by grants from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council (thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund), the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust, the Ely Chamber of Commerce, Fortune Bay Resort Casino, Miller Hill Subaru, and local merchants, organizations, and individuals.

ELY...Continued from page 1

Understanding "are simply to demonstrate interest among the parties and to create a framework" for further discussion and study.

"It's incredibly encouraging to know the YMCA and Ely Area Ambulance Service are joining the team," Coyle added. "This announcement brings this initiative

to a whole new level of enthusiasm and commitment."

The YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities continues to add to its presence in the Ely area. The organization recently acquired two private resorts, Timber Wolf Lodge and Northern Lights Lodge and Resort on Bear Island Lake, to create a second family

camp in the Ely area. The \$4 million purchase, joins Camp Du Nord on Burntside Lake, which opened in 1960.

"We are excited to partner with the community to help provide programs and services to help everyone realize their potential," said Anita Lancello Bydlon, chief real estate development

officer for the Twin Cities YMCA. "We look forward to discussing as part of the task force work what programs and services best meet the needs of youth, adults, families and seniors in the community."

Coyle said the addition of the YMCA brings a new array of possibilities, and that the shared vision is to add a new dimension of health care offerings to the community, while simultaneously supporting and complementing existing services in the area.

"We are so fortunate to live in a thriving community with an abundance of natural resources attracting new residents and visitors," he said. "We have a responsibility as health leaders to always seek ways to listen to the

needs and expectations of our community, and to provide solutions. We welcome anyone who wants to discuss joining this movement."

The Ely Area Ambulance Service, meanwhile, is looking for a new home. Executive Director Geoff Galaski said that the ambulance company has outgrown its space and is seeking a location to replace its existing facility.

"As we look at the goals of this effort, it's a natural fit with our priorities at Ely Area Ambulance," Galaski said. "In many ways, it will be a health campus with a variety of services to help others get healthy, stay healthy and to care for them when they're not

healthy. We're proud to be part of this inspiring project."

He noted that because the effort is in the beginning stages, additional details are not available. "They will be shared with the community as soon as plans are solidified," he said.

Jeff Sundell, ERCC president, said he is humbled at the incredible momentum building for the regional and community healthy living effort. "It's been a dream for many years, and now with the support of so many community partners, that dream is becoming a reality," he said. "It's a wonderful time for Ely and the surrounding communities. Let's keep it going and get this done."

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TUESDAY GROUP

Ely police officer: Traffic safety is a team effort

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - The state of Minnesota has a huge network of groups and individuals who work behind the scenes to ensure the safety of the traveling public. Sgt. George Burger of the Ely Police Department talked to the Tuesday Group gathering this week about the work that often goes unnoticed by this network.

"We all work together to advance transportation safety and technology," Burger said. "Whether a person is walking on a sidewalk, riding a bicycle, riding in an automobile, train, bus or semi-tractor, there are so many people that put thought and effort into making sure that every person gets from point A

to point B in the safest way possible."

Burger is a 13-year law enforcement professional in the Ely area and a certified drug recognition expert. He regularly attends statewide Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths conferences, and the National Lifesavers Conference.

He is a member of the city of Ely Planning and Zoning Commission and the city of Ely Streets and Infrastructure Committee, as well as serving as the Emergency Management director for the city of Ely.

He started his career in safety as a member of the Ely School Patrol Officer program. "I remember going out when it was pretty cold," he said. "School wasn't canceled but we still had to make

sure the kids got across the street safely."

His presentation focused on the Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths program (TZD). "TZD is a safety program that brings together engineering, enforcement, education, and emergency medical response and care," he said. He asked how many deaths on Minnesota roads would be an acceptable number. "Think of your family members and friends. You wouldn't want them included in that number. Zero deaths are the only acceptable number and we strive to reach that," he said.

The statewide trauma system is available in Ely, Burger said, and that provides assistance when accidents do happen. "Ely has available-use helicopters and even airplanes to

transport trauma patients to a level one trauma center, and the closest one to us here is at St. Mary's Essentia Hospital in Duluth," he said. A hospital in Fargo was also recently accredited as a trauma center.

"Around the Ely area, the leading factors in automobile crashes are from running off the road and intersection crashes," Burger said. "A single vehicle running off the road may be caused by ice or snow, swerving to avoid a deer, or distracted driving."

Burger quoted northeast Minnesota statistics on the leading cause of traffic deaths and severe injuries as alcohol-related causes, distracted driving, excessive speed and lack of seatbelt use. These regional statistics match up closely

with nationwide trends and data, he said.

Speed limits are designed to make the flow of traffic safer, according to Burger. "Last week we all found out the Department of Transportation is increasing the speed limit on Hwy. 169," he said. "That is an engineering aspect. They looked at that data. Did they make the road safer than it was? Engineers claim it is, so that's what contributed to the increase."

Burger voiced the general concern that driving faster on that road, especially during winter, is not necessarily safer. "To me, there are times when you shouldn't be driving at the speed limit because of the condition of the road. Slow down and drive for the conditions," he said.

Signals and signs are being improved to make intersections safer, he said. "Check out the traffic sensor signs at the Y Store intersection. Since those new signs went up, there is a significant decline in crashes in that area."

Road sensors and weather condition stations, like near Robinson Lake, help with monitoring changing conditions on the roads, he said. "It helps MNDOT know when to send out plows and with what material to help keep the road safer," he said.

Seatbelt use has been mandatory in Minnesota since 2009. "Since then we have had 132 fewer deaths, 434 fewer severe injuries, 1,270 fewer moderate injuries and as much as \$67 million avoided in hospital charges," he said.

FOOD...Continued from page 1

in area cities, along with institutions on the reservation, to find out about their food needs.

"We want to have community-based sales," said Danielle.

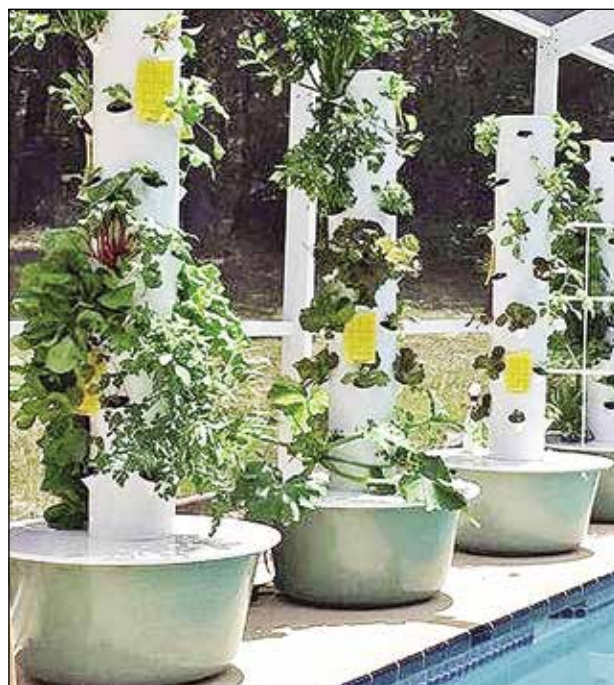
To gauge how to utilize those resources for the community, Danielle and Denise, sent out 52 surveys late last year to figure out what crops would benefit the area most. The survey not only includes sample crops but asks businesses what they pay on average for produce right now, so the project can figure out a fair price point.

Once the surveys are collected in the coming weeks, the two hope to conduct focus groups with community leaders and food business owners to clarify the next steps the business should take.

Getting to this point hasn't been easy. Aeroponics remains uncommon in the Midwest, and that means that some insurance companies and business investors have shied away from backing the project, at least initially.

"No one is doing aeroponics right now," Denise said. "The industry is in its infancy."

That hasn't stopped Denise and Danielle, however, and they have



been working with consultants at the University of Minnesota-Duluth to help the project get off the ground. The closest match to the Pieratos' project is a 40,000 sq. ft. aquaponics facility in Faribault, the first of its kind in Minnesota.

The Faribault company now makes millions in revenues after it had its own slow start.

Denise said, however, even though aquaponics has had success in the southern part of the state, she was advised by UMD and insurance underwriters to keep moving forward with aeroponics because there was less financial

risk involved.

With the startup challenges in mind, the Pieratos family is working one step at a time on their dream to eventually have their own 20,000 sq. ft. facility in the area.

Their first goal is converting a 900 sq. ft. space in an existing building on their Lake Vermilion property and grow to meet their goal as they are able.

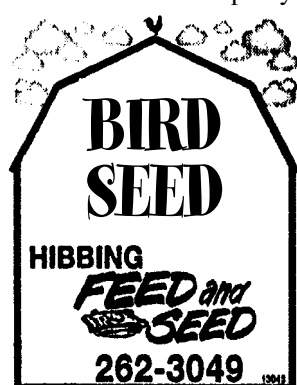
Aside from bringing

Aeroponics is a new year-round sustainable food industry that could be coming to the Iron Range.
submitted photo

another locally-grown option to the Iron Range, Danielle said she and her mother want to address other community concerns such as food insecurity. "It's a human rights issue to access fresh produce in a sustainable way," said Danielle.

They also hope to have education programs centered around their operation that will increase the awareness of healthy-eating options available to the public.

As the company



grows, they hope to increase their efficiency more by utilizing state-of-art management software to determine crop rotations and care. They even plan to bring bees in to the facility to more efficiently pollinate the crops.

Eventually the operation could grow fruits and veggies that have no season in Minnesota, creating cheaper alternatives for both businesses and families to try new and different foods uncommon to local grocery stores.

For now, Danielle

said, they are looking at startup costs of around \$100,000. That's pretty low, she said, since the average cost of full-scale farm equipment and land can be much higher. They will be looking at community-based financing as well as investors who share their business philosophy to come on board.

More information on the projects progress can be found at their website, www.harvestnationinc.com.

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BUMPS...Continued from page 1

wants to vent about it," said Swanson.

Swanson asked folks to rate the road on a scale of one-to-ten, which some responders didn't see as possible. "It breaks the scale," wrote a teenager who goes to school in Virginia, "it's more like 10,000." As in 10,000 bumps.

Others compared the road to an amusement park ride, or said they thought they had a flat tire, before realizing it was just the bumps on the road.

Someone noticed the road's frost heaves are so high that they cast shadows at night from the beams of car headlights.

A young mother said her two-year-old thought he was going to be sick from all the bumps. "Why are you driving so bumpy?" he asked her.

Another responder, a local resident from Soudan, said the road was so bumpy that a filling had popped out of his tooth on his way to work that morning.

There were a few "positive" reviews.

"It is so bad my Fitbit registered 5,000 steps between Tower and Hwy. 53," wrote one woman, though it is doubtful that the bumpy road actually provides any real exercise, except, perhaps, for the hand exercise needed to keep a grip on the steering wheel.

The road gets a lot of traffic pulling trailers, such as for snowmobiling this time of year, and these smaller trailers are having a rough time staying put on the road, forcing people to drive much slower than normal. Someone who was driving a horse trailer said they couldn't go faster than 30 mph, much to the dismay of the cars and trucks behind her.

County Commissioner Paul McDonald agrees that the road needs attention, and soon. He now commutes down to Duluth on a regular basis so is familiar with the issue. He said the bus company that the Ely School uses for basketball games had a very rough ride over the weekend and was planning on writing a

letter to MnDOT.

McDonald said the road is slated to be looked at in 2020. The road is a federal highway, but MnDOT would oversee any improvements.

Daniel Broten, of Tower, noted that the only way to get more attention to the issue was to "have our city and township representatives start hollering!!!! If enough people start squawking, maybe they will move up the date."

The highway is expected to see steadily increasing traffic in future years, especially due to the opening of the new Lake Vermilion State Park and Campground. The portion of the highway between the intersection of County Road 26 (Wahlsten Rd) and the Pike River Bridge was totally rebuilt several years ago, along with a stretch of the highway between Soudan and Eagles Nest.

MnDOT public affairs spokesperson Beth Petrowski said that MnDOT has received many complaints about

the condition of Hwy. 169 between Hwy. 53 and Tower this winter, most specifically the portion closer to Virginia.

"While this highway has historically been rather rough in the winter," she said, "this year the condition of the highway is much worse than is typical."

"We have noticed the poor condition of this area, as well as several other highways this year," said MnDOT District 1 Maintenance Superintendent Chris Cheney. "These highways are exhibiting what is known as 'tenting', which occurs when water enters the transverse joints in the pavement and freezes. As the ice beneath the pavement expands, it causes the pavement to heave on either side of the joint, causing a bump. The bumps or tenting as we call it, typically do not settle until the weather warms up and the ice beneath the pavement melts."

Cheney added that the extremely wet fall, combined with early winter

freeze/thaw cycles, caused more serious tenting this year.

MnDOT has planned a resurfacing project for this area in 2020 to address the

current pavement condition and provide a smoother road. In the meantime, hang onto your teeth!



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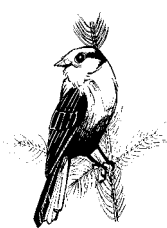
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NORDIC SKIING

Sophomore skier leads team

Ely's Jasper Johnston steals the show at area tournaments

by KEITH VANDERVORT

ELY – Nordic skier Jasper Johnston may be just a sophomore at Memorial High School, but his competitive spirit and determination to do his best every time he trains or races, have helped him to become a leader and pace-setter on what is turning into a strong boys team again this year for the

Timberwolves.

Two weeks ago Johnston stole the show at the Duluth East Invitational, finishing first in both freestyle and classic races among nine other teams, to lead the boys to another top finish. He followed that up last Saturday on his home course at Hidden Valley Recreation Area with another top overall finish

and first-place team win in the Ely Relays Invitational.

Johnston seems to be peaking at the right time as the Wolves head to Sectional and State competition.

“I don’t remember the first time I was on skis,” Johnston said. “My parents said it was when I was about two years old. I do remember, when we lived in Minneapolis

at the time, one summer they got my skis out and I went into the backyard and tried to ski and got mad when I couldn’t make them work.”

He says his strength on the course comes from his motivation. “I just want to do my best, especially since our team is so competitive. I want to help out my team.”

The fact that Johnston

Jasper Johnston refines his technique last week during team practice at Hidden Valley Recreation Area in Ely.

photo by K. Vandervort



has spent so much time on skis, he said, helps him to know how he should feel in terms of his technique. He competes on the Ely cross-country team in the fall, runs distance events on the track team in the

spring, and continues training in the off-season.

“I definitely put in a lot of training over the summer,” Johnston said. “We have ski practice for

See **JOHNSTON**, pg. 2B

BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies keep up momentum

Another pair of home wins keeps North Woods at sixth rank



by MARCUS WHITE

Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP— The victories keep adding up for the sixth-ranked North Woods boys basketball team. They improved to 15-2 on the season with their latest 98-56 win over Wrenshall on Tuesday night.

“We moved the ball well and were able to run the floor more than we had against (previous opponent) Greenway,” Head Coach Will Kleppe said. He added that the team was rotating players frequently in the game allowing several to get double-digit point totals.

Freshman guard TJ Chiabotti led with 22 points, while senior guard Cade Goggleye had 20, and freshman forward Trevor Morrison added 17. Sophomore forward Darius Goggleye added 15 points while senior guard Chase Kleppe rounded out the scoring with ten points.

While Wrenshall has not performed anywhere near the standard set by the Grizzlies this

season, Coach Kleppe said he is keeping his eye on them as a potential underdog in the tournament season after they brought on a transfer student.

William Bird recently joined the Wrens after being benched due to the MSHSL transfer rule and had eight three-pointers on Tuesday night, scoring more than half of the team’s points.

Last Friday, the Grizzlies would notch another win against Greenway, 68-59.

“We attacked the basket better in the second half which got us to the line more,” Kleppe said. “That gave us a little breathing room at the end of the game.”

In this matchup, Morrison led the way for the Grizzlies, notching a double-double, with 24 points and 12 rebounds. Chase Kleppe added 14 points and ten rebounds for the team’s second double-double of the night. Chiabotti added 14 points, while Cade Goggleye had six assists.

The team hosts Littlefork-Big Falls on Friday night. Tipoff is set for 7:15 p.m.

Trevor Morrison goes up to the hoop over a group of Greenway players.

photo by C. Stone

Sports week

BOYS B-BALL

Friday Feb. 8

North Woods hosts Littlefork-Big Falls, 7:15 p.m.

Ely hosts Mesabi East, 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday Feb. 12

North Woods at I-Falls, 7:15 p.m.

Ely at Lakeview-Christian, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday Feb. 14

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

Friday Feb. 15

North Woods at Mesabi East, 7:15 p.m.

Ely hosts Chisholm, 7:15 p.m.

GIRLS B-BALL

Sunday Feb. 10

Ely hosts Eveleth-Gilbert, 2:30 p.m.

Monday Feb. 11

Ely at Fond du Lac, 6 p.m.

Thursday Feb. 14

Ely hosts North Woods, 7:15 p.m.

NE Range at Nashwauk, 7:15 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Nighthawks senior guard hits career high with 1,000th point scored

Shayler Lislegard is third area player to hit the coveted career benchmark while Northeast Range suffers narrow defeat

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER

Managing Editor

BABBITT — The Nighthawks may be struggling this season, but senior guard Shayler Lislegard is having a standout season. She put the capstone on her girls high school basketball career on Monday night before a Parents Night crowd as she scored a game-leading 20 points to top the 1,000 point mark.

It’s a milestone only a handful of girls high school players will achieve, and it’s one that’s well-deserved according to Nighthawks Head Coach Paxton Goodsky. It comes down to hard work, said Goodsky. “She’s usually

the first one in the gym and the last one out and she puts in a lot of time over the summer.”

“She really leads by example

Coach Paxton Goodsky

As a senior, Goodsky said Lislegard is a team leader who other players look up to. “She really leads by example,” he said. “She really shows them

that hard work pays off.”

Despite Lislegard’s strong performance on Monday, the Nighthawks couldn’t quite recover from a slow start against Silver Bay, falling 46-44 to the Mariners.

“We came back in the second,” said Goodsky, “but we had just come out a little too slow in the first half.”

The Nighthawks were set to host Bigfork on Thursday, Feb. 7, and will travel to Nashwauk on Valentine’s Day to take on the Spartans. The Nighthawks will wrap up the regular season at home the following week, with games against Hill City and Ely.



Shayler Lislegard dribbles an earlier game this season against North Woods.

file photo

Wolves no match for Rangers

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER

Managing Editor

ELY— A huge game for junior guard Erika Mattson wasn’t enough to propel the Timberwolves to victory on Monday, as Ely fell to 17-3 Mt. Iron-Buhl, 75-41. Ely fell to 9-8 on the season with the loss.

Despite the loss, Head Coach Darren Visser said he saw a lot to like in his team’s performance against one of the top teams in the section. “Defensively we did a lot of good things. We played real aggressive out of our zone defense and I thought our girls did a great job of bouncing back after being down by almost 20 points to start the game.”

Mattson put up

impressive numbers despite the loss, tallying a double-double with 29 points and 11 rebounds. Senior Lida Dodge added seven more for the Wolves, while Brielle Kallberg tallied five points and seven boards.

“We battled hard with a top caliber team but in the end our turnovers were too much for us,” said Visser.

The Wolves were set to travel to Mesabi East on Thursday, Feb. 7. They’ll host Eveleth-Gilbert in a rare Sunday match-up on Feb. 10, with game time set for 2:30 p.m. They’ll visit Fond du Lac on Monday, with a 6 p.m. start.

NORDIC SKIING

‘Wolves on top at invitational

by JAY GREENEY
Sports Writer

ELY — The Timberwolves Nordic ski teams seem to be peaking at the right time. In their final prep meet ahead of the Feb. 7 sectional contest, the Ely boys took first and the girls took second in a pursuit competition at Hidden Valley.

“We had a great day all around on Saturday,” said Ely Head Coach Paula Anderson. “Everyone skied their heart out and it showed.”

Jasper Johnston continued his dominance as he finished first in both races giving him the overall top finish for boys against a very strong field.

“Jasper is skiing strong and gaining confidence each week which will put him in a good place going into Sections on Thursday,” said Anderson. “The boys team was strong as ever Saturday and they work together as a team extremely well.”

Hot on Johnston’s heels in the freestyle were James Schwinghamer, who finished fourth, followed by Raif Olson, Kjetil Midttun, and Nate Nettifee in sixth, seventh, and tenth place respectively. In the classic portion, Schwinghamer, Midttun, Nettifee, and Olson came in fifth, seventh, eighth, and ninth, behind Johnston’s first place finish.

In pursuit competition, varsity racers participate in a 5.6-kilometer freestyle course and a classic 4.7-kilometer classic course. Team scores are determined by the top four finishers on each team. Nine teams participated in the boys field while ten competed in the girls.

For the girls, Zoe Devine and Kalyssa Eilrich led the way in the freestyle with seventh and eighth-place finishes. The Wolves put four more racers in the top 19 as Phoebe Helms, Julia Schwinghamer,

Cora Olson, and Brooke Pasmick came in 13th, 14th, 16th, and 19th. The classic was a bit more challenging as Zoe Devine was the girls top finisher again, in tenth place. Pasmick, Eilrich, Ana Bercher, Olson, and Helms were next to finish for Ely as they came in 16th, 18th, 21st, 22nd, and 26th.

“Zoe is a strong athlete and so it was no surprise to see her in the top 10 in the results,” said Coach Anderson. “The girls have a shot at second on Thursday...but it will be a nail-biter.”

ELY VARSITY BOY FREESTYLE FINISHERS

1. Jasper Johnston	14:10.2
4. James Schwinghamer	15:08.8
6. Raif Olson	15:17.2
7. Kjetil Midttun	15:30.2
10. Nate Nettifee	15:36.2
15. Gabriel Pointer	16:00.8
23. Ethan Bremner	16:46.4
26. Jon Hakala	16:56.9
29. Micah Larson	17:09.5

ELY VARSITY BOY CLASSIC FINISHERS

1. Jasper Johnston	13:55.7
5. James Schwinghamer	14:17.9

7. Kjetil Midttun	14:25.8
8. Nate Nettifee	14:26.7
9. Raif Olson	14:33.0
16. Gabriel Pointer	15:09.5
20. Ethan Bremner	15:34.5
26. Jon Hakala	15:57.4
35. Micah Larson	16:55.7

ELY VARSITY GIRL FREESTYLE FINISHERS

7. Zoe Devine	18:16.4
8. Kalyssa Eilrich	18:34.7
13. Phoebe Helms	19:02.1
14. Julia Schwinghamer	19:04.5
16. Cora Olson	19:16.6
19. Brooke Pasmick	19:20.3
30. Kelly Thompson	19:55.6
38. Gracie Pointer	20:33.7
41. Ana Bercher	20:41.4
58. Lucy Stouffer	21:44.9
59. Abigail Thompson	21:46.7
72. Annikka Mattson	23:49.0

ELY VARSITY GIRL CLASSIC FINISHERS

10. Zoe Devine	17:45.4
16. Brooke Pasmick	18:07.9
18. Kalyssa Eilrich	18:17.1
21. Ana Bercher	18:26.3
22. Cora Olson	18:31.5
26. Phoebe Helms	18:39.0
28. Julia Schwinghamer	18:48.5
41. Gracie Pointer	19:34.7
44. Kelly Thompson	19:53.2
56. Abigail Thompson	20:47.7
57. Lucy Stouffer	20:48.5
77. Annikka Mattson	23:37.5



Freshman Cora Olson (front) leads junior Brooke Pasmick at Ely Invitational. photo by L. Anderson

BOYS TEAM RESULTS

1. Ely	384
2. Cloquet-Esko-Carlton	367
3. Marshall School	344
4. Mesabi East	340
5. Duluth East	323
6. Grand Rapids	310
7. Duluth Denfield	270
8. Proctor/Hermantown	238
9. Two Harbors/Cook County	45

GIRLS TEAM RESULTS

1. Duluth East	386
2. Ely	351
3. Mesabi East	330
4. Marshall School	324
5. Grand Rapids	291
6. Cloquet-Esko-Carlton	277
7. Duluth Denfield	277
8. Two Harbors/Cook County	219
9. Proctor/Hermantown	186
10. Hibbing	149

BOYS BASKETBALL

Ely edges out narrow win

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY — Cook County shooters came alive in the second half of their Tuesday night match-up with the Timberwolves here, but clutch free-throw shooting in the final minutes cemented the win for Ely, 58-53.

The Wolves took the lead early and held a 29-20 lead as of the break. Cook County gained ground in the second half, as they shot 100 percent from beyond the arc, but Ely was able to hang on to claim their fifth straight win and improve to 12-6 on the season.

They did so despite the fact that Cook County managed to keep Ely’s leading scorer, senior Patrick Vanderbeek who has averaged over 30 points a game in recent weeks, largely under wraps. But juniors Dylan Fenske and Eric Omerza posted big numbers in his stead. Fenske poured in 25 points and added six rebounds, while Omerza just missed a triple-double with 11 points, ten

assists, and nine boards. Vanderbeek added 13 points, while senior Trevor Mattson added seven. “Dylan and Eric did a nice job of scoring for us when they defended Pat so well,” said Head Coach Tom McDonald.

On the road on Monday, Vanderbeek poured in 33 points to lead the Wolves to an 86-40 rout at Cherry. Ely put 54 points on the board in the first half, while holding Cherry to just 22.

“We got out to an early lead and played well,” said McDonald. “We had a season-high 62 rebounds.”

Omerza tallied 15 points and nine rebounds, while sophomore guard Will Davies added 12 points, Fenske tallied ten and Mattson added seven.

It was a tighter contest last Friday at Eveleth, but the Wolves still emerged with a solid 58-44 win over the Golden Bears.

Vanderbeek again led the way, pouring in 31 points as he helped Ely grab an early lead and hold on. The Wolves led 31-21 at the break, and



Collen Seliskar goes for the shot. photo by J. Greeney

kept up the pressure in the second half.

Also scoring for Ely were Omerza, with nine, Mattson with eight, and Fenske and Davis with four points apiece.

The Wolves host

JOHNSTON...Continued from page 1B

most of every week. We run intervals on the trails and run up the hill like a hundred times. Okay, maybe ten times, but it feels like a hundred.”

Johnston admits to being a very competitive person, and he said the strength of his teammates, many of whom he grew up with in Ely, fires that competition. “We are all within a couple minutes of each other on the race course. Having that many people with that close of times is pretty cool. There were four people within 15 seconds at the (Duluth) race,” he said.

Johnston recalled the Sectionals meet last year. “There were three us that were pretty close. We couldn’t really see each other, but we knew that they were there, and that was really helpful to really get going up those hills.”

At just 15 years old, he has called Ely his home for the last nine years. “I love being on this team that is so competitive for a small school,” he said. “Everybody kind of knows each other. You’re better friends with everybody. That would be different at a big school where you wouldn’t really know a lot of the people.”

He said that members of this team, especially this year, hang out together on weekends and spend their off time together. “We’ll go watch movies or something at each other’s house,” he said. “My folks occasionally will have the team over, but some of the other guys live on lakes.” He admitted that he most enjoys going to Raif Olson’s house. “He lives on a lake and in a nice house. And his family always has a lot of food to eat. That’s the best part.”

He’s just a sophomore and has lots of high school experiences to savor, but Johnston has thought about what he wants to do after graduating. “I would like to do something that involves being outside, like with the Forest Service or something like that,” he said. “I don’t want a job where I have to be inside all the time.”

He said he would like to attend a college where he can continue Nordic skiing. “Northern Michigan University (in Marquette) has a really good ski team, one of the best in the country,” Johnston said. “There are a couple of (Ely) kids that are skiing at Colby College in Maine.”

Ely Nordic Coach, Paula Anderson noted that Johnston is having “a really good” year. “He ended last year on a really high note, taking 22nd in state as a freshman,” she said. “I think he really surprised himself. Like everyone else, he just had a great day (at state). It was a harbinger of things to come. He worked really hard over the summer and trained very consistently, putting in a lot of ski-training hours. He’s done everything right and has a lot of natural ability as well.”

Anderson described Johnston as “very laid back” as a competitor. “He handles competition very well as far as dealing with the pressure,” she added.

She has kept an eye on the competition this season. Garrett Becker, last year’s state champion from Grand Rapids, has been in Europe competing in the World Junior Biathlon. “He comes back this weekend and will be at Sections,” she said. “If he’s healthy, he should win at state.” The other, a Cloquet student, is a Nordic-combined competitor and has not participated in all the Nordic meets this year. “He could be fast, too, if he’s healthy,” she added.

“Jasper just keeps getting faster, so we don’t know what he’ll do against these other skiers,” Anderson said. “It has been frustrating for him because he needs that competition to know where he stands.”

The coach said the team this year has very strong leadership. “They are all really good friends. The boys team looks to be pretty competitive at sections. They are going in at a really good spot. There are at least six racers that could score any day. It has really been fun,” she said.

HOCKEY

Mixed results for Ely going into final week

by JAY GREENEY
Sports writer

ELY — A late goal in overtime on Tuesday ended the Wolves’ hopes to avenge their early season loss to the North Shore Storm. The winning goal, with 2:46 left in extra period, put the Storm up 5-4 and dropped the Wolves to 4-13-2 on the season.

After a scoreless first period, the Storm drew first blood to take a 1-0 lead. But the Wolves rebounded on back-to-back goals by Nick Mattila, both on Austin Meskill assists, to take the lead. North Shore evened the score with a goal of their own before Luke Olson put the Wolves ahead with an assist from

Jimmy Zupancich. The Storm would score the final goal of the period leaving the score tied.

The third period started out the same as the first, with some strong goaltending by both teams. Ely’s Olson broke the ice with his second score of the game on a Dalton Schreffler assist, giving the Wolves a one-goal lead. The lead was short-lived as North Shore found the back of the net to tie the score again.

With just under three minutes remaining in overtime the Storm snuck in the winning goal.

The Storm badly outshot Ely, with 55 shots on the net to 29 for the Wolves. Goaltender Tyler Housey did well against the onslaught with a 909

save percentage.

In Bagley last Friday, Luke Olson scored a hat trick, times two, as he put six shots in the net to lead the Wolves to a 9-5 win over the Flyers.

Nick Mattila was first to get on the board, with an assist from Seann Prigge. That was followed by the first of Olson’s goals, with the assists going to Kole Macho and Logan Loe. The Flyers then got on the board before the period ended, leaving the Wolves up 2-1 to start the second.

Olson then put three more on the board in the second period, with assists going to Prigge and Schreffler. Nick Mattila scored his second goal of the night when Austin Meskill notched his first assist of the game, giving

the Wolves a commanding 6-2 lead going into the final period.

Olson opened the final period with his fifth goal, this time unassisted. The Flyers rebounded with two goals, but it was too little too late. Olson scored his final goal, again unassisted, before Austin Meskill finished the scoring for Ely on an assist by Olson and Prigge.

For the game, Ely just outshot the Flyers 37-36. Ely goalie Chase Sandberg stopped 31 shots for a .861 save percentage.

Next up for Ely is their final regular season game as they host Moose Lake Area on Friday with a 7 p.m. start.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Paint a barn quilt on March 27

COOK- Painting Barn Quilts is a popular, lively four-hour class with guided instruction which will take you through the process of barn quilt painting from beginning to completion. You may choose a quilt pattern from the several dozen offered or you may bring your own (instructor will evaluate difficulty level). You will gain knowledge on measuring, layout, taping, and painting as related to barn quilt painting. You will leave with your own masterpiece, ready for hanging, and possibly the inspiration to participate in a Barn Quilt Trail in your own neighborhood.

The class will take place on Wednesday, March 27 from 1 – 5 p.m. at the Doug Johnson Community Center located on Gopher Rd. in Cook. Cynthia Buchholz of the Bittersweet Barn Quilt Company will be teaching the class.

Cost is \$40 for NWFA members and \$55 for non-members, payable in advance to NWFA to reserve a spot in the class. Plus a \$45 materials fee due to instructor at the beginning of the class.

Supplies include a 2' x 2' aluminum composite, over 75 fabulous colors of highest quality Behr exterior paint, and dozens of quilt block patterns to choose from. You may bring your own patterns, but they must be uncomplicated and be drafted to size before class. Other supplies include foam brushes, rollers, aprons, quilters squares, rulers, extension cords, and blow dryers.

To register, call Alberta Whitenack at 218-666-2153 or Shawna Kishel at 218-780-6510. Bring a \$40 check to NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St. or mail to NWFA, PO Box 44, Cook, MN 55723 to register and retain your spot in class.

Croatian Lodge dinner on Feb. 16

EVELETH-CroatianLodge 238 of Gilbert is hosting its annual member appreciation dinner and elections. A buffet dinner with ethnic desserts will be served at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16 at the Rink Sports Bar, 301 Hat Trick Avenue in Eveleth.

Dinner is free for members; guests will be charged a nominal fee. Anyone interested in joining the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 238 is welcome to attend.

Please call Becky Bone at 218-744-1276 or Elana Pfeifer at 218-744-2891 by Sunday, Feb. 10 if you plan to attend.

Blood drives in Ely and Babbitt, Feb. 13 - 15

REGIONAL- Memorial Blood Centers invites all eligible blood donors to roll up their sleeve and give blood. The need for blood is constant

but the supply is not. You may be eligible to donate blood if you are in good health, seventeen years or older (or 16 with parental consent), free of antibiotics for 24 hours (unless taken for preventative reasons) and symptom-free for at least 72 hours following a cold or flu. Walk-in donors are welcome but appointments are preferred. Visit MBC.org to register.

Memorial Blood Centers will be accepting donations in Babbitt on Wednesday, Feb. 13 at the Evangelical Lutheran Church, 28 Acacia Rd., from 1 – 5 p.m.; in Ely on Thursday, Feb. 14 at Vermilion Community College, 1900 E Camp St., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and in Ely on Friday, Feb. 15 at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, 328 W Conan St., from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Blazing trails through the jungle of food regulations, March 1

VIRGINIA-Get help selling food in Minnesota and navigating regulations on Friday, March 1 from noon to 4 p.m. at Natural Harvest Food Co-op.

The workshop will cover approved source, community shared agriculture (CSA), cottage food law, farmers' markets, farm to school, food demonstration and samples, food processing, produce safety, product of the farm, retail, and wholesale. The workshop is recommended for anyone with passion for their local farms and local food who sees potential for local food systems where they live but is confused or intimidated by food regulations. The event is free and open to all. Please RSVP on the Facebook event or by contacting Kelsey Gantzer at kelsey.gantzer@aeoa.org or 218-404-8466.

Obituaries and Death Notices

**James P. Holman**

James "Jim" P. Holman, 81, of Orr, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019, at Essentia Health Virginia with his loving family by his side. A visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 8 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 9 at the Orr American Legion in Orr. Visitation will also be held one hour prior to the service on Saturday at the Legion Hall. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Jim was born to Albert and Ella (Brokaw) Holman on Feb. 10, 1937, in Orr. He grew up and attended school in Orr, graduating from Orr High School in 1956 where he was a star athlete in football, basketball, track and baseball.

Jim and his brother Gordy had a junkyard where Jim developed his love of cars and auto mechanics. If you needed to know anything about how to fix your car or truck, Jim was the one to call. He was a member of the Orr City Council for 38 years, as well as being a volunteer firefighter for 24 years. Jim was united in marriage to Luci Vartmann on May 4, 1974, in International Falls.

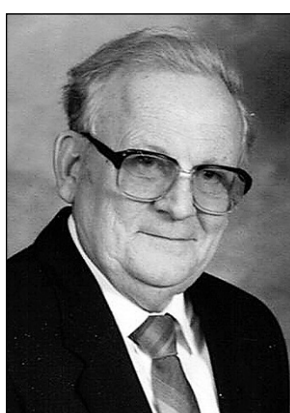
Jim enjoyed all that Northern Minnesota had to offer, spending many days fishing and hunting. He had a natural talent for woodworking, and spent

a lifetime creating toys, rocking horses, and kids' tables and chairs, for his children and grandchildren. His children were his pride and joy and everything he made for them was a labor of love. Jim was a very compassionate and loving person, not only to his own children; he spent countless hours helping the neighborhood kids fix their bikes or work on motors. Jim valued his many friendships; he spent hours in the garage and people would stop by to "reminisce" with him and enjoy a good story. Jim was a man that people and animals were drawn to. One of his most precious friendships was with his dog, Bailey, who spent every waking moment with Jim.

Jim was an endearing and wonderful man. Family and friends admired his perseverance and determination to enjoy life to the fullest, regardless of his disability. He was a man who never gave up, loved with all his heart, and accomplished more than most. Nothing held him back!

Jim is survived by his loving wife, Luci; children, Randy (Kathie) Holman, Brenna (Daniel) Lanigan and Patrick (Jamie) Holman; honorary son, John Hetra; grandchildren, James Holman, Daniel Holman, Jack Lanigan, Brendan Lanigan, Isaiah Johnson and Cecelia Holman; great-grandchild, Landon Holman; and numerous nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Gordon and Robert; and beloved dog, Bailey.

**J. Harold Macomber**

J. Harold "Mac" Macomber, 96, a longtime resident of Tower, died on Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019, in the Lakewood Care Center in Staples. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 13 at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower. Pastor Doug Workman will officiate. A gathering time for family and friends will begin one hour prior to the service at the church. Spring inurnment will take place in Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Mac was born on June 8, 1922, in Farragut, Iowa, the son of James Alonzo and Olga (Hall) Macomber. He served in the United States Army during WWII. Mac married June Johnson on June 13, 1946, in Tower and was employed as an Industrial Arts Teacher in the Tower-Soudan High School for 40 years.

He was an active member of St. James Presbyterian Church, a longtime member and Past Commander of the Nelson-Jackson American Legion Post 245 in Tower, Past Master and Secretary of the Vermilion Masonic

Lodge 197 AF&AM, a member of the Duluth Valley of the Scottish Rite, and a member of the Loyal Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. Mac enjoyed carving, was an avid reader, and enjoyed puttering around the house doing handyman projects.

Mac is survived by his sons, William Macomber of Tower and Thomas (Jeanne) Macomber of Craig, Colo.; son-in-law, Paul Lofquist of Tower; grandchildren, Cade (Brianna) Lofquist, Nathan, Erika and Alyssa Macomber; and extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, June; daughter, Judy Lofquist; and son, James Robert Macomber.

Beverlee R. Lofquist-Hinsa

It is with great sadness that the family of Beverlee Renee Ranta Lofquist-Hinsa announces her passing on Monday, Feb. 4, 2019, at the age of 85, at the Diamond Willow facility in Mt. Iron. A private family memorial will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

Beverlee was born on Aug. 8, 1933, in Duluth. She graduated from Roosevelt High School in Virginia in 1951, and then completed X-Ray Training at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth. In addition to working as an X-Ray Tech at the Eveleth and Virginia Hospitals and for Dr. Siegal at his office in Virginia, Beverlee also worked at a variety of other jobs throughout the years, including The Card Shop, Plaza Hardware, as a hearing tester for a hearing aid company, and

at Iver Johnson's Lumber Company. She was also active in Eastern Star and the Ladies of Kaleva.

Beverlee married Duane Charles Lofquist on Feb. 26, 1954. They raised four children at their house in Midway and at their cabin on Isle of Pines on Lake Vermilion. In 1977, they sold both homes and moved year-round to their place on Birch Point on Lake Vermilion. Beverlee always considered herself a "lake person" and a feisty red-headed Finnlander who was proud of her Finnish heritage. She was a wonderful cook who enjoyed trying new recipes. She enjoyed boating, fished for walleyes and cooked them, but could never partake of that delicacy, as she was deathly allergic to them. She loved to make jelly and bake, especially when the berries and rhubarb were ripe in Northern Minnesota. She also enjoyed sewing, knitting, and later, painting. Beverlee had a great sense of humor; she found fun in playing cards and other games with family and friends.

Duane died suddenly of a heart attack on Dec. 21, 1991. On May 6, 1995, Beverlee married Lawrence Hinsa. They resided at Lake Vermilion and in Harlingen, Texas, for many years. Time spent in Texas continued to expand until they became permanent residents there, no longer just Winter Texans or snowbirds. They still came north some summers and for special family events. In October 2018, due to failing health,

Beverlee moved back up north where she resided with her daughter, Patti Burnett, in Virginia and at Diamond Willow.

Beverlee is lovingly missed by her husband, Lawrence Hinsa of New Hope; children, Patti (John) Burnett of Virginia, Pam of Tower, Perry (Elizabeth) of Ramsey and Paul (Barb) of Tower; sister, Marsha (Ernie) Maki of Virginia; nine grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Beverlee was preceded in death by her husband, Duane Charles Lofquist; parents, Maybelle (Mema) Oja Ranta and Harold (Red) Ranta; and granddaughter, Katy Burnett.

Donald G. Chinander

Donald G. Chinander, 78, of Ely, formerly of Marine on St. Croix, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019, at his residence. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 9 at The Gospel Church. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his children, Gordon Chinander, Robin Lee and Martin (Dawn) Chinander; grandchildren, Jacquelyn Chinander (Sergio), Joshua Chinander (Morgan), Taylor Lee, Trevor Lee, Zach (Angie) Debelitz and Jesse (Ayla) Debelitz; great-grandchild, Pricilla Mena; and brother, Roger (Cindy) Chinander.

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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

WHITETAIL DEER

Winter severity index about average, despite recent chill

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—Despite recent brutal cold and a deepening snowpack, the winter severity index for white-tail deer in northeastern Minnesota remains pretty close to average for mid-winter, according to DNR wildlife officials. “Currently, the WSI ranges from 41-60 in our nine local

deer permit areas,” said Tower Area DNR wildlife manager Tom Rusch. “These are all pretty typical WSI indices for a northeastern Minnesota winter.”

The winter severity index is a gauge of winter’s impact on whitetail deer survival, which includes a point for each day with a below-zero temperature reading and another for every day with 15 inches or more of snow

on the ground. In an average winter, the WSI reaches 110-120 points across the DNR’s Tower work area.

As of mid-week, snow depths across the area ranged from 16-22 inches in northern St. Louis County and 20-30 inches in northern Lake County, according to Rusch. That was before the latest snowfall, which

See WSI...pg. 5B



Left: While winter conditions have been more harsh in recent weeks, the winter severity index for deer remains about average for this time of year.



HAPPY WANDERERS

It’s the Bohemian season

These regular visitors are among our more spectacular winter birds

It’s the soft trilling that typically gives away one of my favorite wanderers of the bird world. The aptly-named Bohemian Waxwings are highly social birds and they stay in touch as they feed or rest through their almost-constant chatter.

They’re fairly common this time of year in our area, usually hanging out in town where they spend their days feeding on the frozen remains of last summer’s fruits. Crab apples are their mainstay in our area come winter, although just about any wild or domestic fruit will do.

Their slightly smaller cousins, the Cedar Waxwings, are found here throughout the year, but the Bohemians breed to our north, in a range that extends from Hudson Bay through the Canadian Rockies and up to Alaska. They take up their winter residence in the North Country, usually starting in November, and can often be found here as late as May.

They spend their winter days here mostly just hanging around, in flocks that seem to range from a dozen to several dozen but can number in the hundreds in the best locations. They do virtually everything together, both feeding and resting as a flock.

Given their social nature, waxwings don’t exhibit the kind of territoriality that most other birds do, particularly during the breeding season. Because of that, waxwings don’t have a breeding song, which most birds deploy to keep rivals from their territory. And unlike many other

species, waxwings don’t return to a favored breeding location year-after-year. Instead, like a number of boreal bird species, they set up house at various locations, often when and where food sources are abundant.

While Bohemian Waxwings are fruit eaters for much of the year, they eat mostly insects during the summer, and often feed like flycatchers—sitting on a perch and flying back and forth to grab flying insects as they pass by. The switch to insects is important for rearing their young, since the rapidly-growing nestlings need the rich source of nutrition provided by insects.

While the waxwings pair up during the breeding season, they seem to like to have a “significant other” during the winter months as well. Think of it as extended courtship, which is maintained by male displays and the sharing of food between the male and female.

Waxwings get their name from the special brightly-colored feathers on their wings, which appear almost wax-like. The Bohemians have more colorful and showy wing feathers, with a mix of yellow, red, and white, while the colorful feathers are limited to red on the Cedar Waxwing.

Waxwings are also distinctive for their almost-velvety appearance, their striking facemask, and prominent crest. They’re definitely worth taking the time to get a closer look. So the next time you hear a soft trilling above your head, stop and look up. You just might see a flock of these handsome wanderers.



Top: A bohemian waxwing with a mouthful of frozen crab apple. Note the bright yellow and white feathers on its wings and the rusty undertail coverts, which distinguish this species from the cedar waxwing, which is also found in our area.

Above and below: Other views of feeding waxwings. photos by M. Helmberger



Outdoors in brief

Fresh powder boosts winter trail conditions

REGIONAL— More recent snowfall has left area recreational trails in their best condition of the winter so far. Several inches of snow fell over the past week and more was forecast to fall as the Timberjay went to press on Wednesday.

The latest snow, combined with cold temperatures, has made ideal conditions for snowmobile trail grooming and trails are now rated as very good to excellent around the area, with anywhere from 15-26 inches of snow on the ground and a 2-6 inch groomed base.

Fishing report

Ely area

Trout action remains steady throughout the Ely area, with the best reports coming in from Burntside Lake as anglers pursue the lake trout there. The lakers are running on the small side with three-to six-pound fish being the norm. Active jigging small spoons, rattling plugs and tubes seem to be the most productive. The white tubes are probably accounting for the highest success rate. When fishing them, it pays to work the entire water column as the strikes can happen anywhere from the lake floor to just under the ice. Some are catching a few lakers using live bait whether they be shiners, rainbow chubs or small suckers. These live bait rigs perform best when fished tight to the bottom. Toft Lake has been producing some dandy rainbow trout up to twenty-three inches. The time of day doesn’t seem to have any bearing on the fishing action. What’s more important is to rule out non-productive holes, and just keep on moving around until you mark the active fish. Depth has been a key factor as most action has come from six-to-twenty feet of water, which helps to eliminate a major portion of the lake right off the bat.

Improved ice conditions have more folks out in search of crappies. Birch Lake heads the list for great crappie fishing as the length of this lake allows anglers to be spread out and explore the myriad of bays and structure along its length. Small minnows on a dead stick work very well, but many more anglers are now finding that small jigs tipped with soft plastics such as Gulp minnows or white or yellow twister tails have been doing the job of bringing fish out of the hole.

Courtesy of Babe’s Bait at Ely’s west entrance.



MARSHALL
HELMBERGER

WSI...Continued from page 4B

forecasters were projecting would drop another 4-7 inches across the area as of the *Timberjay's* Wednesday presstime. More cold weather was also in the forecast, with below-zero readings forecast on all but three nights during the next ten days.






Rusch notes that the depth and duration of deep snow is the most important factor in winter deer survival in northern Minnesota. While snow depth has recently exceed-

ed the 15-inch threshold in the region, that was not the case for most of the first half of winter, when snow was relatively limited and temperatures were generally milder than average.

As the cold weather set in during late January, Rusch said deer have responded by moving into heavy conifer cover, which provides critical shelter during the tougher parts of winter.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
																								
0 -22					7 -13					8 -13					15 2					17 -3				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
01/28	0	-39	0.00		01/28	-4	-43	0.01	0.1"	01/28	-4	-38	0.00		01/28	3	-17	0.01	0.1"	01/28	-2	-43	0.00	
01/29	10	-18	0.03	0.7"	01/29	8	-21	0.01	0.3"	01/29	6	-20	0.04	0.5"	01/29	-15	-26	0.01	0.1"	01/29	-8	-20	0.00	
01/30	-17	-29	0.00		01/30	-20	-33	0.00		01/30	-20	-33	0.00		01/30	-17	-35	0.00		01/30	-20	-33	0.00	
01/31	-13	-38	0.00		01/31	-16	-42	0.00		01/31	-17	-38	0.00		01/31	-8	-38	0.00		01/31	-15	-43	0.00	
02/01	-5	-39	0.00		02/01	-9	-43	0.00		02/01	-11	-40	0.00		02/01	12	-13	0.00		02/01	-7	-43	0.00	
02/02	16	-16	0.00		02/02	13	-14	0.00		02/02	14	-17	0.00		02/02	25	10	0.00		02/02	13	-13	0.00	
02/03	24	13	0.00		02/03	25	10	0.00		02/03	24	9	0.00		02/03	18	10	0.00		02/03	26	8	0.00	
Totals			0.45	44.7"	Totals			0.55	36.4"	Totals			0.58	45.6"	Totals			0.50	NA	Totals			0.89	38.3"

Hit the Trails!



Area Trail Conditions

Taconite Trail

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Arrowhead Trail

Good to Very Good Condition
2-6" base, 15-26" snow on ground
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JANISCH REALTY

JanischRealty.com

COUNTY LAND FOR SALE

St. Louis County tax-forfeited land auction set for Feb. 14; more than 90 properties available

REGIONAL- More than 90 tax-forfeited properties are set to be auctioned off by St. Louis County on Thursday, Feb. 14. The list features more than a dozen waterfront properties, including parcels on Birch Lake in Embarrass, on the Whiteface Reservoir, Leisure Lake in Makinen, as well as four properties from the county's former Lakeshore Lease program. The live auction begins at 10 a.m. at the AAD Shriners Center, 5152 Miller Trunk Hwy. in Hermantown.

The sale also includes recreational land, buildable lots, several homes and other parcels. Some parcels had blighted buildings removed as part of the county's efforts, in partnership with cities and townships, to spur economic development. A catalog with photos, maps, and details about each property, including the starting bid price, is available online at stlouiscountymn.gov/landsales or by calling the Land and Minerals Department at 218-726-2606.

Registration is required

for all bidders and can be done online or by filling out a form, which is included in the catalog or is available at the auction. For convenience, pre-registration in advance of the auction is encouraged.

Anyone bidding or purchasing at the auction cannot have any delinquent property taxes on property they already own in St. Louis County. People who have delinquent property taxes must first pay what they owe and provide proof before bidding or purchasing at the auction.

This tax-forfeited land sale is the first of three to be held in 2019. Additional sales will be held in June and October. Properties not sold at the auction will be available for purchase over-the-counter on a first come, first served basis.

Within St. Louis County there are nearly 900,000 acres of tax-forfeited land, which the county's Land and Minerals Department is responsible for managing. Most of the land is maintained for forest management, however, the county also

encourages the sale of land that is not suitable for management as a way to encourage development and increase the property tax base.

To learn more about the land sale, view parcels available for purchase at the auction or over-the-counter, or to subscribe to receive email notifications about future sales, visit stlouiscountymn.gov/landsales or call the Land and Minerals Department at 218-726-2606.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF ELY NOTICE FOR BIDS PICKUP

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Ely City Council, City of Ely, Minnesota, St. Louis County for the following equipment:

- Pickup:**
- 2018 or newer with warranty
 - One ton
 - Gasoline engine and automatic transmission
 - 4x4 Single Cab, single rear wheels, 8' Box
 - Power windows and air conditioning
 - Snow Plow Prep package
 - Trailer Brake Controller
 - Chrome bumpers
 - White Paint
 - Vinyl Flooring

No bids will be received after any bid has been opened.

Bids shall be directed to the City of Ely and may be filed with the Clerk-Treasurer on or before 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The City of Ely reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities therein.

Bids can be mailed to: 209 East Chapman Street, Ely, MN 55731. Any questions concerning the bids can be directed to Harold R. Langowski, Clerk-Treasurer.

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 8 & 15, 2019

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No. 69VI-PR-18-202
NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR SUMMARY ASSIGNMENT OR DISTRIBUTION OF AN EXEMPT ESTATE,

Estate of
Gale Ferry Edeen

aka Gale F. Edeen
aka Gale Edeen,
Decedent

Notice is given that a petition has been filed requesting that the Estate assets be summarily assigned. The Petition also requests the appointment of Gregory G. Edeen, whose address is 10 Birch Boulevard, Babbitt, MN 55706 as Personal Representative of the Estate in an unsupervised administration. If proper and no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the

Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and if no objections or claims are filed or raised, the Court may issue a decree distributing or assigning the Estate's assets.

It is Ordered and Notice is now given that the Petition will be heard on March 13, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. by the Court at 300 5th Ave. South, Virginia, Minnesota.

Dated: January 24, 2019

BY THE COURT
Gary Pagliaccetti
Judge of District Court

Amy Turnquist/

Court Administrator
Chelsea Opdahl/Deputy

Attorney for Petitioner
Angela E. Sipila
Sipila Law Office LLC
412 1st Street South, Suite 1
Virginia, MN, 55792

Attorney License No:
024501X
Telephone: (218) 741-5000
FAX: (218) 741-5000
Email: ange@sipilaw.com

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 8 & 15, 2019

KUGLER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF MEETINGS

BOARD OF AUDIT

The Kugler Town Board will hold their annual Board of Audit on Tuesday, February 12, 2019, at 6 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall.

REGULAR MEETING

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 12, 2019, following the close of the Board of Audit meeting.

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

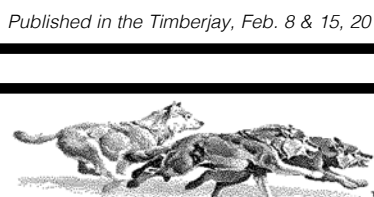
Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 8, 2019

EMPLOYMENT

CITY OF ELY- APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED FOR INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE WORKER

The City of Ely is currently accepting applications for the position of Infrastructure Maintenance Worker. This is a full-time position that includes a benefits package. For more information, please pick up a job description and application at the Clerk's Office at Ely City Hall or on the City of Ely Website, www.ely.mn.us. Deadline for accepting applications is Friday, February 22, 2019 at 4:30 pm. The City of Ely is an equal opportunity employer.

Harold R. Langowski, City Clerk/Treasurer



International Wolf Center

Office and Facility Manager

The International Wolf Center is seeking applicants for the full-time position of Office and Facility Manager at the Ely Interpretive Center. This position will reconcile financial transactions daily, assist the retail department in processing online orders, ensure secure, safe and clean operations of the grounds and facility, and perform various administrative duties.

The ideal candidate will have strong organizational and problem solving skills, administrative office experience, professional attitude, ability to create and manipulate spreadsheets and excellent written communication skills. To apply, submit a cover letter and resume to careers@wolf.org. Salary \$37,000-\$45,000 DOE. Application Deadline: February 16. For job description, please visit: www.wolf.org
1396 Highway 169, Ely, Minnesota 2/15

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Charter School in
Tower

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Or email

kfitton@vermilioncountry.org
218-753-1246

www.vermilioncountry.org
1 Enterprise Dr., Tower, MN 55790

FIELD TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF MEETING & BOARD OF AUDIT

The February Regular Board Meeting and Board of Audit for Field Township will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at the Clerk's residence, 9998 East Lind Road, Angora.

Pat Chapman, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 8, 2019

EMPLOYMENT



Engineering Aide Trainee (Temp) Apply by 2/8/19

Heavy Equipment Mechanic - Virginia Apply by 2/8/19

Equipment Operator Jr. Apply by 2/20/19

www.stlouiscountymn.gov
or call 218-726-2422

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 2/8

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC CITY OF ELY WATER/ WASTEWATER OPERATOR

The City of Ely is currently accepting applications for the position of Water/Wastewater Operator. This position requires a license for the operation of water and waste water treatment facilities. This is a full-time position that includes a benefits package. For more information, please pick up a job description and application at the Clerk's Office at Ely City Hall or on the City of Ely Website, www.ely.mn.us. Deadline for accepting applications is Friday, February 15, 2019 at 4:30 pm. The City of Ely is an equal opportunity employer.

Harold R. Langowski, City Clerk/Treasurer

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 1 & 8, 2019

Super Crossword

Answers

W	E	B	I	N	A	R		P	L	A	C	A	R	D		J	A	M	A	L	
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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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TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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Auto Repair & Garage



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ELY
365-3132

HAIR CARE

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

HOSPICE

VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS can provide help for patients and their families in ways such as: comfort care, massages, last wishes and more. For more information, contact Program Director Becca Bundy at 218-780-5423 or vhhpdirector@gmail.com. This ad is paid for by Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners.

LICENSE BUREAU

COOK AREA LICENSE BUREAU- 221 S. Hwy 53, Cook. Open-M-F 9-5, FastTrack Title Service-MVR-DNR-Limited DL, Dry Cleaning Drop off/Pick up, CDL/Motorcycle/ Drivers Manuals. Now accepting Visa/MC/Discover. Questions call 218-666-6199. tfn

REAL ESTATE

Search ALL MLS listings at www.pfremmerrealty.com. tfn

FOR RENT

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT-for rent in Orr. Call Dennis at Bayview Apartments, 218-780-0200. tfn

STORAGE

RED ROCK STORAGE- Boats, Cars, Household Items. Ideal Location. Many sizes. Also Mobile Storage Containers delivered to your location. www.redrock-storage.com. Call 218-753-2375. tfn

SNOW REMOVAL

VERMILION SNOW MANAGEMENT- Serving the entire Lake Vermilion area. Roads, Driveways & Sidewalks. Free estimates, insured. tj@vermilionsnowmanagement.com or 218-290-0966. Online at vermilionsnowmanagement.com. tfn

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY: Will pay cash for junk cars and pickups. Will pick up. Also, we collect used oil. Call 218-757-3255 or 218-780-2579. tfn

SELIGA CANOES WANTED: We'll buy old Seligas in Good Shape. Turn your classic canoe into cash. Call Steve at 365-6745. tfn

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(behind Jeanne's Cards & Gifts)

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Eileen Kronmiller
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- Trim
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SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

CREDIT REPAIR SCAMS- "Credit problems? No problem!" No way. A poor credit history takes time to repair, no matter what anybody claims. The Federal Trade Commission says no company can remove accurate or timely information from your credit report. Learn more about managing credit and debt at ftc.gov/credit. A message from The Timberjay and the FTC.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED- Handyman or person with construction background to help dismantle a log cabin in March and April. Compensation negotiable. Please call 612-325-4839. 2/15v

PART-TIME CLASSROOM ASSISTANT position working with preschool children in a Head Start Classroom in Ely. Please apply at www.aeoa.org careers tab. AA/EEOE. 2/13

KIND PERSON WANTED to work with people who have disabilities. Embarrass area. Part-time, midnights. Call 218-984-2211. 2/8p

FUNERAL SERVICES

Range Funeral Home

Virginia 741-1481 Hibbing 263-3276

"Friends Helping Friends"

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

3	8	7	1	2	9	5	4	6
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Classifieds run in all 3 editions of the Timberjay.

Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum. Classified ads can be run a second time at half price (private parties only). We now accept payment by Visa, Mastercard and Discover. Call your ad in to 218-753-2950. Display (boxed) classifieds are billed by the "inch"- please call for prices and information on discounts. Call Today – 218-753-2950 or 218-365-3114

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SUPPORT GROUPS

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

ORR AA meets Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church, Orr.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Super Crossword

A SOUND CONCLUSION

ACROSS

- 1 Live online workshop
8 Public poster
15 Malcolm- Warner ("The Cosby Show" actor)
20 14th-century music style
21 Arrives leisurely
22 Belittle
23 Certain frat member receiving his diploma?
25 Sing sweetly
26 Cove
27 Assuage
28 Muddy mixture
29 Met melody
32 Took way too much, for short
34 Gyro bread with lots of extra hidden calories?
37 Heavenly food made from very hot peppers?
41 — garde
42 Sauna stuff
43 Singer Accuf
44 Stew
45 Toon pic
48 San Francisco's — Hill

- 50 Target number of coverage policies?
54 Download for an iDevice
57 Denmark's — Islands
59 High trains
60 Detach, as a lapel mic
61 Randomly mixed stack of Bing Crosby and Bill Haley albums?
65 Folded a line into, say
67 With 24-Down, reduced-cost product
68 Glam rocker Brian
69 Lav
70 Aviary locale
71 Bridge, in France
72 Florida city
74 Fish dish that's a chef's specialty?
77 Rizzo in "Midnight Cowboy"
78 Platform that runs on iDevices
79 Ran easily
80 La. neighbor

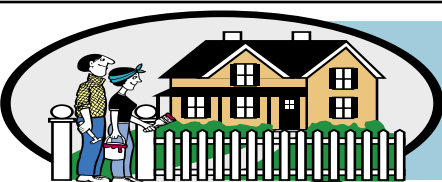
- 81 Brass instrument with a dental product smeared all over it?
86 "O Sole —"
88 Sheepish
89 "— well that ends well"
90 Alias initials
91 Idiot box
95 Provide
97 Hair dye produced in a county in southwest England?
101 Chatty bird with shiny gray plumage?
105 Pirate chant starter
106 Took a train, e.g.
107 Pilot a plane
108 Prefix with skeleton
111 Thin iPods
113 Swiss chocolate brand
114 Sitcom title woman living in a wasteland?
120 Actor Jason
121 Energize
122 Algebra rule
123 Totally love

- 124 Toronto Blue Jays' stadium, before 2005
125 Salzburg site
- DOWN**
- 1 Joking sort
2 Be mistaken
3 Gp. with merit badges
4 Hoosier
5 Verb go-with
6 "Why" singer Frankie
7 Like a very clean film
8 Maven
9 Solitary
10 — -Seltzer
11 Top-level
12 Fluttery tree
13 Tear
14 Stuff in the gene pool
15 "Charlie's Angels" co-star Smith
16 Rudely brief
17 Native New Zealander
18 Of — (somewhat)
19 Lotte of film
24 See 67-Across
28 Glide (over)
29 Belly muscles
30 Groove
31 Fury
33 Mended, as a sock

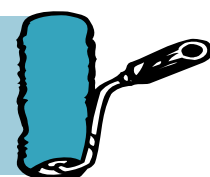
- 35 Works to get
36 With, to Luc
38 "Toodles!"
39 Rebels' yells
40 Sch. in the Big Apple
44 FDR's terrier
45 Reneges
46 — Aigner (fashion brand)
47 Real-estate levy
49 Bundled up, as hay
50 Prefix for an element used in antiseptics
51 Mission to gather intel
52 "— pasa?"
53 Not likely
54 Classifies
55 Ramses II, for one
56 Plaything dragged on a string
58 City in Nevada
62 Mega-meal
63 "Für —"
64 Gear piece
65 Brilliant move
66 Composer Ned
70 Reverse alphabetical order
73 Japanese drama style

- 74 Tossspots
75 New York's capital
76 Singer Piaf
78 R&B's — Brothers
82 San Diego ballplayer
83 One reuning
84 Asian "way"
85 Loc. of Kiev
87 Exceeded, as a target
92 — -Cat
93 Put a stop to
94 — Bo
95 Dodging type
96 Irk
97 Fortright
98 Skye of film
99 California mountain
100 Japan's largest island
101 Zesty dip
102 Vine-covered
103 Group jargon
104 Nervous — (worrywart)
109 "Whip It" rock band
110 City in Utah
112 Iron sources
114 Film director Craven
115 Ballpoint fill
116 La.-to-Ill. dir.
117 Bruin Bobby
118 Agnus — (Mass part)
119 Drs.' org.

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HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



20 and 30 yard
Roll-off Boxes
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demo & garbage



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**UDOVICH GARBAGE
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Fax (218)365-6164
Angie Mikulich
Office Manager/Closing Specialist
VIRGINIA OFFICE
612 13 St S • Virginia MN 55792
Phone (218)741-1515
Fax (218)742-9383
Jodee Micheletti
Owner/Closing Specialist
COOK OFFICE
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Phone (218)666-3174
Fax (218)742-9392
Sharon Maronick
Office Manager/Closing Specialist
www.netitle.com



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Sheldon Sandberg, Owner
Cell: 218-780-7153

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- Garages
- Boathouses
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- Island Work
- Skidsteer Work

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- ✓ Ice Melt
- ✓ Sand-in-a-Tube

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with helpful winter products...
because ice is not our friend.
(unless you are a hockey player)



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M-F: 8 AM-5 PM; Sat: 8 AM-Noon



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SERVICE, LLC
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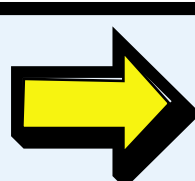
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