

Inside:  
Mayor to be investigated...See /3  
Off to State... See /1B  
Kids ice fishing...See /4B



# the TIMBERJAY



VOL. 30, ISSUE 6 FEBRUARY 15, 2019 \$1<sup>00</sup>

## CITY OF TOWER

# Investigation: City records systematically altered

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

Changes to committee member terms appear to favor clerk’s allies

TOWER— A *Timberjay* investigation has found compelling evidence that Tower City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith has systematically falsified official city records in an apparent effort to limit the ability

of newly-elected Mayor Orlyn Kringstad to make changes in the makeup of city commissions and committees and to remove individuals who have challenged her or her political allies at city hall. A review of city council

minutes by the *Timberjay* finds no evidence that the numerous alterations to the terms of office of commission and committee members were authorized by city council action, as would be required by the city’s charter.

As Clerk-Treasurer, it is Keith’s job to maintain the city’s roster of appointed members to city committees, and Keith provided that roster to city council members in early January, along with other city records,

at the request of Kringstad. The document was also part of the city council packet at the council’s Jan. 28 reorganizational meeting.

See...TOWER pg. 9

## SEASONAL CELEBRATION

# Lighting the way

Volunteers behind Ely’s Winter Festival success

by SCARLET STONE  
Staff Writer

ELY - Northern Minnesota winters can get to feeling long when the sub-zero temps have kept folks inside, but there’s nothing like a festival to lift the spirits and bring people out. That’s what Ely resident and Winter Festival volunteer David Stone gets excited about this time of year. He is the festival’s Honorary Ice Candle Illuminator and one of between 35 to 45 volunteers who have helped with various other tasks this year. Dave moved from Havana, Ill., to Ely in 2015 with his significant other, Barb Jacobson, who is originally from Ely. He

See... ELY pg. 12



Dave Stone, above, lights ice candle luminarias in Whiteside Park during the Ely Winter Festival. Veteran Ely snow carvers Nancy Scheibe, Kit Wilson and Kitty Kennedy took third place with “It Is In the Stars,” at left. photos by K. Vandervort

## COUNTY SCHOOLS

# Superintendent affirms support for Tower School

by MARCUS WHITE  
Cook/Orr Editor

VIRGINIA - St. Louis County Schools Superintendent Reggie Engebritson affirmed her support for the Tower-Soudan School at Tuesday’s board meeting. The move came after South Ridge Board Member Chet Larson questioned the school’s viability at the last board meeting. Engebritson said the district did a cost analysis of the campus and found the Tower School costs the district about \$1.8 million to run. She said, however, that \$800,000 of that was brought in as revenue to the school and the other million are costs the district would incur from staffing and other overhead regardless of whether the school was open or not. Board Member Troy Swanson who represents the Tower area was relieved at the announcement. “There has been a fear from people in the town,” he said. “We just want to make sure there is a school there.” Engebritson said she is aiming to have a 1:14 staff-to-student ratio at the school, and with a 0.5 FTE cut to the school next year along with a projected increase in enrollment to 77 students, that should be where the school lands. She said she doesn’t want to cause angst and worry in Tower every year and said the future of the school will only be evaluated if the number of enrolled students falls substantially. Engebritson used 28 enrolled students as an arbitrary number of when the district may reconsider the

See... SCHOOL pg. 12

## THE GREAT OUTDOORS

# USFS set to reopen BWCAW permit system

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

Rep. Pete Stauber hosts listening session in Ely

ELY — Minnesota’s Eighth District Congressman, Rep. Pete Stauber, hosted a forum at the Grand Ely Lodge on Saturday to give stakeholders the opportunity to express their concerns regarding the recent failure

of the federal permit reservations system for the Boundary Waters. The Forest Service opted to suspend the system on Jan. 30, barely an hour after it went live for the season, when it failed to function as designed.

The U.S. Forest Service anticipates reopening the reservations system for Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness quota permits on Wednesday, Feb. 27. More than 100 people attended the mostly-civil

discussion on Saturday. A few made wild accusations, while others scolded Forest Service officials and complained they knew the new permit system was doomed to failure. Other

See...BWCA pg. 11



Rep. Pete Stauber



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## Contact The Timberjay

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# COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

## DFL outreach officer Ron Harris to speak on Wednesday at Northern Progressives

COOK- Ron Harris, Co- Officer for Outreach for the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) Party and member of the Democratic National Committee (DNC), will be the featured speaker at the Northern Progressives meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Crescent Bar and Grill near Cook.



Harris will talk about how the DFL is working to increase participation in the electoral process and in party affairs, especially by traditionally underrepresented populations.

He will also share what kinds of reforms have been made, and are planned, in how the DNC operates as we look forward to the 2020 election.

He will also answer questions about other aspects of the DFL's action goals and plans.

Harris got his start in politics volunteering for Barack Obama in 2008. He has lobbied for laws that improve people's lives, including universal paid sick time, increased minimum wage, and the repeal of low-level criminal offenses. In his full-time capacity, he serves as the Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Minneapolis.

The Crescent is located just north of Cook at 9257 East Olson Road. Attendees may choose to come early and order from the menu. For more information, contact Leah Rogne, 218-787-2212 or leah.rogne@gmail.com.

## 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 at the Embarrass Town Hall

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 Nelmark 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 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.

## HOCKEY OUTDOORS

# Pond Hockey Championship on March 2 at White Eagle Resort on Lake Vermilion

LAKE VERMILION- The Lake Vermilion Pond Hockey Championship returns to the ice on Saturday, March 2 with some new winter activities bringing fun for the whole family. Once again, the event will be held in front of White Eagle Resort; and this year, in addition to the hockey tournament, there will be opportunities to take a ride behind a sled dog team or hop in a horse-drawn sleigh and cruise a snowy trail. And if you've got youngsters who know how to skate and can hold a hockey stick, there will be a kids' game at noon for children under 12 to test their pond hockey skills. There's no better way to spend a Saturday in the winter, so whether you're competing in the tournament or just looking for some outdoor fun, the ice in front of White Eagle Resort is the place to be.

The hockey tournament was first held four years ago as a simple competition between local teams at the Cook community ice rink. However, three years ago, when a February thaw melted the ice at the local rink just days before the tournament was supposed to begin, the tourney was moved to Lake Vermilion where it's found a great home and drawn several teams from around the Iron Range and as



far away as the Twin Cities. Many of last year's teams are returning to the ice to challenge the reigning champions, The Side Lakers, but this year's contest has also drawn new interest from outside the area.

If you're out for a snowmobile ride that day or even looking to do some ice fishing, stop out in front of White Eagle resort and join the fun. On-ice concessions will be provided by The Crescent Bar and Grill, so there's no danger of going hungry. With plenty of great hockey to watch and several other activities for the

family, the Lake Vermilion Pond Hockey Championship is a great hub of winter excitement.

Teams that wish to register for the tournament should visit [www.vermilionpondhockey.com](http://www.vermilionpondhockey.com). To see photos and videos from previous tournaments, visit our facebook page: [facebook.com/vermilionpondhockey](https://facebook.com/vermilionpondhockey). The registration deadline is Feb. 22, so get those teams together soon!

Story and photo submitted by Jared Bangs

# Songs of Love and Life, March 3 and 10

REGIONAL- Pete Pellinen of Virginia and Peter Kess of Ely will perform a program of vocal music titled "Songs of Love and Life" in Ely on Sunday, March 3 at 2 p.m. at the VCC Fine Arts Theater, and in Virginia on Sunday, March 10 at 2 p.m. at the Lyric Annex. There will be a freewill offering with coffee and to follow each performance.

Pete and Peter are referring to this as a 'senior' recital now that they both have enough gray in their beards to qualify as seniors. They would like to invite their friends and fellow music enthusiasts to join them



Pete Pellinen (left) and Peter Kess (right) will be performing in Ely and Virginia. submitted photo

for an informal afternoon of sharing live music.

The performance will include Peter Kess singing mostly art songs by Mozart, Schubert,

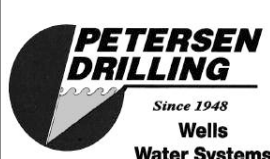
Sibelius and others, and Pete Pellinen singing a Gerald Finzie song cycle, "A Young Man's Exhortation."

This program is

intended to be in the tradition of song recitals held in private salons for the enjoyment of patrons, their friends, and small groups of musicians. Many amateurs and budding musicians would perform music in their living rooms for the pure enjoyment of sharing live music written for the voice by the great composers. And the composers were glad of the extra income that the sale of the required sheet music provided them.

Peter and Pete have sung together in several of the Northern Lights Music Festival operas as well in last year's Mesabi Symphony's "North of Broadway" concert. They will be joined by Susan Germek of Ely and Margie Miller of Eveleth as accompanists.

Susan and Margie will also play piano duo arrangements of Brahms' Hungarian Dances. Pete and Peter look forward to sharing this music, and your company.



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LEGAL PUBLISHING

# Echo gouged Ely taxpayers for legal publishing

Newspaper increased rates by 365 percent over three years; state law limits increases to ten percent a year

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY — When the *Ely Echo* raised its legal publishing rates for the city of Ely by 100 percent in 2018 alone, it not only caught the attention of some city officials, it may have also violated state law, which appears to limit rate increases for public notices to ten percent per year.

For more than two decades, competition between the *Echo* and the *Ely Timberjay* had kept the city's publishing rates in check. As recently as 2016, the *Echo* had bid just \$5 to publish a small sample ad that the city has used each year in an effort to get apple-to-apple quotes from the city's two newspapers.

The *Echo*, not surprisingly, won the business that year, having undercut the *Timberjay's* quote of \$8.58.

But just two years later, after the *Timberjay* had declined to bid in 2017, the *Echo* raised its rates dramatically, charging \$17.40 for the same sample ad. The paper hiked that further, to \$18.27, in their bid submitted to the city in January of 2019. That's a 365-percent increase over the past three years. Minn. Stat. 331A.06, Subd. 2, states that "no newspaper may increase its rates for publication of public notices by more than ten percent per year, as compared to the maximum rate actually charged by the newspaper in the previous year for publication of public

notices."

Concerned about the astonishing rate increases from the *Echo*, some city officials urged the *Timberjay* to offer a bid. The *Timberjay* submitted a bid that was largely in line with previous years. That same sample ad that the *Echo* wanted \$18.27 to publish would cost the city taxpayers just \$8.85 in the *Timberjay*.

The *Echo's* owners and managers have cried foul, arguing that the *Timberjay* can't serve as the city's official newspaper, suggesting that a newspaper can't operate what's known as an "office of issue" from a private residence. "That's what this is really about," said *Echo* general manager Nick Wognum,

in comments to the Ely City Council last week.

"I'll tell you what this is really about," said *Timberjay* publisher Marshall Helmberger. "Money. Let's be honest, this has turned into a gravy train for the *Echo* and they don't want to see it derailed by competition."

The last time the *Timberjay* served as Ely's official newspaper, back in 2014, the newspaper billed the city a total of \$4,766 for legal publishing for the year. In 2018, with its newly jacked-up prices, the *Echo* billed the city just over \$21,000, and that didn't include the cost of printing things like city envelopes and stationery. With the *Echo's* latest rate hike instituted for 2019, the city's taxpayers could expect to

pay more than \$22,000 for the same amount of publishing with the *Echo*.

Taxpayers could expect to pay about \$6,000 with the *Timberjay* based on the newspaper's 2019 quote, a difference of \$16,000.

*Echo* representatives have made several claims to suggest the *Timberjay* can't serve as the city's official newspaper, despite the fact that the paper has served in that capacity on several occasions over the past 20 years.

The *Echo* argued that the *Timberjay* falls short of the state law requirement of having paid circulation of 400 within the city limits.

See PUBLISHING...pg. 5

CITY OF TOWER

# Council authorizes investigation into city's new mayor

Holds closed session for performance review of city clerk-treasurer but takes no action

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- City councilors Kevin Fitton and Brooke Anderson voted to undertake an open-ended investigation into newly-elected Mayor Orlyn Kringstad over a comment he allegedly made in his own place of business about a city employee, prior to taking office. The decision to hire the investigator, from the League of Minnesota Cities, came in response to a one-page complaint filed by city Ambulance Director

Steve Altenburg, who Kringstad defeated in the Nov. 6 general election for mayor.

In his complaint, Altenburg alleges that Kringstad had told Anderson and councilor-elect Rachel Beldo that he was "sexist" and suggested he should be fired.

While two councilors cannot normally approve an action by the five-member council, both Kringstad and Beldo opted to abstain in the decision to investigate the matter. Councilor Steve Abrahamson voted against.

The actual scope of the

investigation was unclear. The issue appeared on the agenda as an employee misconduct allegation, even though the mayor is an elected official, rather than an employee, and is not subject to the council's authority.

The council had initially voted to table the issue. Council member Kevin Fitton, who had gotten the item placed on the agenda, was not present at the start of Monday's meeting. City Attorney Andy Peterson told the council they needed more information before taking action, and at that time, Clerk-Treasurer

Linda Keith told the council she was not willing to comment on the matter.

The council took the matter up later in the meeting, after Fitton arrived.

Fitton at first was not willing to go into detail about the matter and said it had been "dropped into my lap because I'm on the employee relations committee." He said he would like to have a motion to have the council authorize having an independent investigator look into the matter.

Peterson told the council that normally the person who is

being investigated would need to have due process.

Fitton said the complaint needs to be looked into because "there are grounds for it."

Peterson said in his opinion, someone on the council or the mayor is not subject to the public body's authority. He said there is not much the council can do, though they could try to censure a fellow member.

"Whoever this is against, it needs to be brought up now," said Peterson.

See CHARGE...pg. 5

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# Truly Orwellian

Tower to spend money investigating  
the comments of a private citizen

In comments on Monday, while arguing for an investigation into Kringstad, Fitton accused him of “pushing an agenda” and addressing things “that people are unhappy about and trying to make a cause of them.” In other words, Fitton

It takes little imagination to recognize the true desire of this dishonest cabal. Altenburg has already told people in the community that they're "going to run Kringstad out of town," which would leave Fitton as mayor. The only question is, whether folks in Tower are willing to stand up and say "No!"



## Letters from Readers

# Bassing has the best interests of the township at heart

The reason the board put into place the Personnel Policy, revised the Paid On Call Policy and the Standard Operating Guidelines was at the advice of legal counsel so that at some point in time

## States should enroll in NICS

Lately in the Manney's Shopper there are ads where people require you to have a concealed carry permit to purchase from them. Every state should be federally required to be enrolled in the NICS system. No gun shop or gun show in Minnesota can sell you a gun without running you through the NICS, whether the shop knows you or not, there is paperwork required for a purchase.

**John “Skip” Dickinson  
Britt**

Bassing has used  
intimidation tactics

**Steve Rodgers**  
**Greenwood Twp**

Try to keep  
it positive

We will accept no more free letters from candidates in Greenwood or their immediate family members, or letters that primarily attack one of the candidates. If candidates or their supporters want to submit letters attacking others, they can purchase the space at regular advertising rates.

If supporters wish to submit a letter that offers the positive attributes of the candidate(s) they support, we will consider running those on a space-available basis. Letters can be submitted to [editor@timberjay.com](mailto:editor@timberjay.com). Please limit letters to 300 words or less.

# From the head to the toes, it's a barrel of laughs

I turned sixty on Christmas Eve and while some who are older look at me with envy and remark, "Oh, you're nothing but a spring chicken!"...I haven't been feeling it. I gotta be honest, all kinds of issues come forth at this age. In reading I have done, DIET



**SCARLET LYNN  
STONE**

seems to be the culprit of so many bodily ailments. As they compound, it is tough to decide what to deal with first! Which card do I draw? Different issues often require eliminating certain foods to manage the situation. I adhere to the statement, Food is Medicine, yet it seems to be

My entire family traveled north from Missouri for Christmas and stayed at the Vermilion Park Inn in Soudan, where Bill and I still assist with managing. Following the rum balls, roast beef and cheer, the holiday five (a reduced version of the freshman fifteen) brought my doctor to raise her eyebrows and prescribe me a heartier dose of high blood pressure meds. I looked at this growing handful

of pills thinking, this is way too excessive. There's the pink thyroid pill, my wonderful "crab tabs", and the blood pressure mix which now includes a water pill. I'd lost weight during my gallbladder issue back in 2017 but "puffed" after finally being able to EAT again. Damn shame.

About three weeks ago, after talking to a friend who has had great success, I decided to jump onboard the bandwagon of folks doing the popular KETO diet. For those who don't know,

KETO (or ketogenic) is a very low-carb diet where you eat protein and fat (plus non-starchy vegs, berries) and your body switches to using body fat for its fuel supply. That's about the simplest explanation out there. With KETO there is plenty of cheese, meat, bacon, cream cheese...in other words, FAT on the menu. Since I ditched my gallbladder I've been taking digestive enzyme tablets with



# Letters from Readers

## Substantiated facts, not just opinion

As the Greenwood Township election approaches, it appears as though angst is bringing about false and deliberately misleading statements. I wish to rebut both Ed Borchardt's and Steve Rodgers' editorials in last week's *Timberjay*.

Ed stated the draft versions of the Paid on Call (POC) and the Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) were presented at the November 2015 board meeting. The only reference to the SOGs was made by Chairperson Reichel when she stated, "There were no SOGs yet, but they were working with the attorney (Tim Strom) on the bylaws (which

later became SOGs)." Source: Board meeting audio tape of November 2015.

I did not start working on the documents until 2016 when I brought up POC irregularities. At that time, Chairman/Firefighter Rick Worringer made the statement, "I've been on the fire department for two years. They stopped following bylaws and guidelines and were kind of winging it. I agree that wasn't good." Source: *Timberjay* report on Greenwood Board meeting May 2016.

At the October 2016 board meeting, the board motioned to send the township attorney the bylaws which were developed by a committee tasked to do so (of which Ed Borchardt was a member) to review. Source:

Board meeting minutes of October 2016.

On Nov. 9, 2016, Township Attorney, Mike Couri, sent an email to all supervisors and the clerk which read, "I have reviewed the Township Fire Department SOGs and POC guidelines. I do not believe either one of those is ready for adoption and believe both require substantial revision." Source: email 11/9/2016.

I took it upon myself, with attorney advice, to rewrite both the POCs and the SOGs and presented them to the board at its meeting in May 2017. At that meeting, Chief Fazio asked, "If we would be asking for their input on that, so we would have a say in this or is that not really true?" I replied to Fazio and Ed

Borchardt, "You wrote them, and I had to change them because they were not adequate according to the township attorney. He couldn't read them, so he told me what needed to be changed and I changed them." Source: Audio tape of May 2017 meeting.

Mr. Borchardt is entitled to his opinion, but to have an opinion become "fact," it must be substantiated by evidence of which he has none. In reality, his opinion is disproved by the substantiated facts above.

As to Steve Rodgers' editorial, his assertion that I wanted to eliminate the Greenwood Fire Department is simply a lie. Secondly, the Maus settlement deliberations were in a closed board meeting so I cannot speak to those deliberations but will say

the board did vote unanimously in open session to accept the settlement (Carmen DeLuca included). Source: *Timberjay* Feb. 16, 2017. Thirdly, I did not nominate Jeff Maus for the assistant chief position. He applied for the job as allowed for in the Greenwood Township Fire Dept. SOGs. According to the SOGs, there is never a nomination just an application. Source: Greenwood Fire Dept. SOGs.

I support free speech and editorials, but I also support integrity. When statements contrary to researchable facts are made, slander becomes the action void of integrity.

**John Bassing  
Greenwood Twp**

## LAUGHS...Continued from page 4

every meal to assist and I expect I will take them for the rest of my life but I'm not used to eating so much fat. I am already down twelve pounds but as I move through the third week I see it is not the best plan for me. I really do NOT feel good. There are too many acidic foods involved like meat, eggs and dairy and that causes other discomforts. I need to follow a plan that better addresses "gut issues" and focus on moderate eating of vegetables, healing broths and organic meats and fish... in other words, to quote my co-worker, "real food." There is much information about our bodies and what happens after a lifetime of eating processed food, taking too many antibiotics, eating modified grain products, and the list goes on. It is complicated.

My need for immediate change is obviously for health reasons with ominous consequences on the horizon if I ignore the

warning signs. I don't want diabetes, a stroke, or heart attack. I also admit there is SOME vanity motivating me too. Well sure there is. I, want to wear smaller sizes again and all of that, so it's time to stage a full-fledged attack with diet and exercise.

Bill and I dug out my Wii entertainment system from the 1990's and I have been playing with that. But what I'm really excited about is my sis-in-law sending me a link for YouTube's Jane Fonda Walk routines (designed for "autumn hens" vs. "spring chickens"). I checked it out right away and am delighted to be able to do a routine that mimics walking a mile and not have to leave my living room! Plus it is set up in two versions, for beginners and more advanced. Jane, being Jane, does talk throughout, encourage and offer health tidbits. At the end she praises my good effort and invites me back. I like that. So between Jane

and the Wii I've got some good things happening in the exercise department. Aside from diet and exercise there are even more health-related things to deal with.

In a recent trip to the dentist for my annual teeth cleaning and check-up, I learned I now have a very large cavity that may require the tooth to be pulled. In my life I've spent lots of time in the chair maintaining my teeth so it is sad to lose one even if it's not located right in the front of my string of once pearly whites. If they must pull it I'll be doing my pirate routine until I cut into my traveling fund and have a bridge put in. The alternative being... teeth wandering around like men in a hardware store. A bright spot in the dental experience was the hygienist, nicknamed "Angel Hands," who gave me the most gentle tooth cleaning I have ever experienced in my life. I praised her. Then she pulled out her sharp

periodontal probe and measured my gum pocket depths and kindly told me those are getting deeper too. Welcome to the heavy maintenance decades. I'm now going to require two dental cleanings a year to keep the choppers intact it appears. It doesn't end here.

My eyes are now on the barely-good-enough-to-donate-to-science list I think! Our entire family suffers from extreme nearsightedness and I have astigmatism. A couple years ago I saw flashes of light and a gray curtain in the side of my right eye. I immediately saw my ophthalmologist who informed me I had a tear in my retina and had to dash to the cities to have it fixed or risk complete detachment and possible blindness. That was patched up, but now I have a group of "floaters" hanging out in there. I told a friend about it and she laughed and said, "Ya when I used to lay in the grass and look at the sky

it was clear and blue, but now with floaters it looks like a swarm of sandflies above me!" The amazing brain does adjust and I don't notice my floaters so much. At Thanksgiving, I sent two pairs of older prescription glasses off to a place I found online to have new lenses put into the old frames. The frames were fine and I liked them and figured I'd save a few bucks. Because of the holidays they didn't get back to me until the new year. From the moment I put them on they weren't right. I never usually struggle with a new pair of glasses but couldn't get used to these. I took them in to a shop along with my new prescription and tipped the technician just to see what was wrong with the lenses. It turned out the pupillary measurement was not correct. I called and spoke to the tech who said he would redo them and have now sent them back with still another accurate pair for reference. Let's hope

he doesn't screw them up again. Meanwhile, I have been wearing odd sorts of glasses I find in my dresser and desk drawers and I've been making do. There are glasses all over the house. This current pair I'm wearing has the lined bifocal and it is a brutal dealing with "the line". Years ago it was all that they had but I sure am looking forward to a progressive set of lenses again.

I realize I do have SO much to be grateful for despite all of the above-mentioned. Bill often will say, "Honey there are people out there that have things a lot worse than we do." So true, so very true.

*Scarlet Stone welcomes your comments and can be reached at her new email: scarletstone60@gmail.com*

## CHARGE...Continued from page 3

Fitton said the complaint had been made only a few days after Kringstad took office, and said that Kringstad was "already voicing opinions on wanting to get rid of the ambulance director, who was his opponent in the election. Fitton said the complaint alleged that Kringstad had met with council member Brooke Anderson and council member-elect Rachel Beldo, before the new council was seated.

"He was already voicing opinions on wanting to get rid of the ambulance director/fire chief," said Fitton.

Fitton also said there were a variety of "other inter-related issues that are not part of the complaint," although he refused to elaborate.

Council member Steve Abrahamson wondered how something that had been said before they were on the council was even something the council should be considering.

"It's not even appropriate to even be talking about it," Abrahamson said. "If in fact he did say that, he wasn't a council member."

Fitton said there were other issues in the complaint that hadn't been raised yet, although a review of Altenburg's complaint does not include any other claims.

Peterson said it was up to the council if they wanted to review the information in the complaint. Fitton then read the six-sentence complaint, which reiterated Kringstad's alleged

comment.

The letter went on to state that Altenburg felt that slanderous comments were made against his character, and requested an official investigation to insure him due process.

Beldo asked if all of the issues that need to be cleared up were in the letter, or if there were issues beyond that. Fitton said that he was concerned about more than just the comment alleged in the complaint. "It was more a constant pattern of things that were going on in term of already pushing an agenda and thoughts and things that are related towards trying to drag through the last few years of things that people are unhappy about and trying to make a cause of them."

Fitton said there was the issue in the complaint, but in the course of it, "we will also find a whole series of other things that come up as well."

"We would start with this official complaint with the investigator," Fitton said.

Tower resident Steve Wilson spoke up from the audience. "I am bothered by the amount of innuendo being thrown around in this accusation," Wilson said. "You are asking the council to act on your innuendo."

Wilson said he did not know if Kringstad had said those things or not, but that if he did, it was before he was mayor. "I don't want my taxpayer dollars spent on some expensive investigation of something someone allegedly said before they were a council member because there

is not a council member here who doesn't have some hidden agenda that they came to this council with. To me it sounds like a colossal waste of money."

The meeting then spiraled momentarily out of control.

*Tower News* commentator Anthony Sikora, who was also video recording the meeting, noted that this was not the public input portion of the agenda. He then stated that the council was discussing an agenda item that had been removed from the agenda.

Richard Hanson, a former city council member in Tower, urged Sikora not to talk, which prompted Sikora to loudly and angrily tell Hanson to "Shut up!"

Sikora then stated three times that Hanson "had no mind," and angrily told him to "Shut up!" a second time.

Sikora also took after Wilson telling him "you should be out of order because you are not in public input."

Abrahamson said that if they wanted to have an argument they should go outside.

Kringstad again reminded the audience about meeting decorum. The meeting then came back under control.

A motion by Fitton, seconded by Anderson, to hire an investigator was put on the table.

Kringstad acknowledged that he had met with Anderson and Beldo prior to taking office but said it would have been out of character to make the remark attributed to him.

Fitton clarified that the complaint said he had accused the ambulance director of being sexist.

Anderson, softly, commented "to me that is how it went."

Kringstad said if there are accusations and complaints being sent to the investigator, that he needs to be given all the information at the same time.

At that point, Fitton gave Kringstad the copy of Altenburg's complaint.

### Closed meeting

The council took no action after reconvening after over an hour in closed session for Clerk/Treasurer Linda Keith's employee performance evaluation. City attorney Andy Peterson, along with the city clerk/treasurer and her union representative were in the closed meeting. Fitton noted that the council needed to set a new closed meeting because "it was classified wrong."

Peterson told the council they would need to summarize the conclusions from the review at the next regular meeting.

The council took off an agenda item that dealt with the city reorganization.

### Helmberger responds to Fitton's remarks at Jan. 28 meeting

Former TEDA chair Marshall Helmberger spoke during public input. He again brought up the issue of the city posting video on the city's website that contains inaccurate and defamatory remarks. He noted that Fitton had accused him of violating

the state's data practices act because he used his business email to conduct TEDA business. Helmberger noted that it is perfectly legal for public officials to use their own email, and there is also no city policy against it.

"The bottom line is that I acted perfectly legally," he said. "There is no evidence or basis for accusing me of violating state law."

### Other business

In other business the council:

➤ Accepted the retirement of maintenance foreman Dave Bjorgo, effective April 30. The council also approved payment of his 2018 longevity pay, \$11,670 for 15.5 years of service, to be paid quarterly in 2020. This pay can be used to offset medical insurance and other medical-related expenses.

➤ Approved hiring current maintenance worker Tom Gorsma as maintenance foreman, and advertising for the open maintenance worker position. Gorsma was hired about a year ago when Bjorgo was promoted to fill the spot held by Randy Johnson. Bjorgo said that Gorsma was a good choice to fill the spot.

➤ Heard an update from SEH engineer Jason Chopp. Kringstad asked about the status of the final plat for the harbor project. Chopp said SEH was responding to some final questions from St. Louis County, and once they were submitted to the county and reviewed, the plat should be finalized.

This is the final step needed before the developers can create their own CIC plat, which is required before sales of the units can begin.

➤ Heard from Kringstad about guidelines adopted by previous councils that require agendas for upcoming Monday meetings be posted by noon the previous Friday, and that approved minutes are posted online within 48 hours after council approval. In recent months, agendas have been posted well after the Friday noon deadline and city minutes were not posted for months at a time.

➤ Passed a motion that the clerk should have meeting minutes within 72 hours, or a week at the most (if the clerk is going to be out of the office or engaged in special projects) after each meeting, so the council can review them while the meeting is still fresh in their minds.

➤ Passed a motion to have the clerk draft a resolution requesting that the MnDOT accelerate the improvements to Hwy. 169.

➤ Approved pay estimates to three different contractors for work on the Lamppa building, the harbor project, and the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center building.

➤ Approved hiring Marilyn Hannan, of Cook, for the open paid on-call EMT position.

➤ Approved installing new LED lights in the civic center.



## BREITUNG

## Breitung moving ahead with building renovations

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA  
Staff Writer

BREITUNG- Scott Sosalla and Mike Petrich from Architectural Resources Inc. (ARI) presented their first draft for renovations to the township's buildings to the town board at a special meeting last Thursday. The town board spent an hour and a half working with Sosalla to make adjustments, both to save money and to better meet the township's needs. The renovation plans in-

clude changes to the entire fire hall building and post office, along with the adjacent surface building where the police station is now housed.

The post office can look forward to new wall, ceiling, and floor coverings, LED lighting, new boxes, a new loading dock, a handicap-accessible ramp, an automatic door opener, and an awning.

The fire hall, which will be moved to the garage area between the post office and the office area (former main-

tenance garage space), will receive new wiring, wall coverings, possibly a floor finish, and possibly new overhead doors (or they may be able to reuse the current ones). The fire hall would have three bays and one regular door.

The fire chief will have his own office, and the clerk and treasurer will continue to share an office but will have a records storage room, a service counter, and windows.

The current fire hall area will become a community

room, with an estimated capacity of 75 people. The room will have a serving kitchen, a storage room for tables and chairs, and two ADA-compliant bathrooms, as well as an automatic door opener.

Other options under consideration for this building are plumbing updates, a sidewalk, an outdoor patio area, and renovations to the exterior stucco.

The police and maintenance building will have walls and doors installed near the entry to control traffic flow to the

police department offices. The police may get a fenced-in impound lot as well.

The entire project will cost about a million dollars. The township will receive \$295,000 in grant funding from IRRRB and the county's CDBG program that will be applied toward this project. The township hopes to have the work completed by the end of this year.

The next township meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 26 at noon.

## Vermilion Country School Honor Roll

**A Honor Roll**

Preston Tyndall-Robich  
Alexander Dorman  
Jaicee Krings  
Jacob Dorman  
Alyssa Pratt  
Andrew Sauls  
Jacob Karasti

**B Honor Roll**

Brody Anderson  
Alyssa Costello  
Maverick Simleness  
Kelsie Walker  
McDazway Dunkley  
Dakota Hanninen  
Mahlia Schuster

TOWER- The following students were named to the second quarter honor roll at Vermilion Country School in Tower. VCS is a grades 7-12 public charter school.

## Northeast Range Honor Roll

BABBIT- The following students were named to the second quarter honor roll at Northeast Range High School in Babbitt.

**A Honor Roll**

**Grade 12**  
Taina Koivisto  
Sophie Lenz  
Mikayla Mellesmoen  
Mersadies Stordahl  
**Grade 11**  
Carolyn Desilets  
Jolie Langevin  
Shelby Nelson  
**Grade 10**  
Dillon Gorsma  
Oskar Koivisto  
Alexia Lightfeather  
Phoebe Morgan  
James Zupancich

**Grade 9**

Audrey Anderson  
Erin Backe  
Markus Maki  
Natalie Nelmark  
Hannah Reichensperger

**Grade 8**

Rachael Kratz  
Jennie Nelson  
Alice Wolter  
Jonathan Zaitz  
**Grade 7**  
Abby Koivisto  
Allie Larson  
Hailey Lindquist

**B Honor Roll**

**Grade 12**  
Chloe Aase  
Jacob Bjork  
Heidi Houghton  
Kellsie Konstenius  
Chelsea Larson  
Shayler Lislegard

**Grade 11**

Kayla Johnson  
Tracker Koivisto  
Lara Poderzay  
**Grade 10**  
Anne Barich  
Niisa Honkola  
Ariel Kalinowski  
Kaleb Kappes-Bliss  
Willa Koivisto  
Sadie Theel  
Ethan Zaitz  
**Grade 9**  
Aili Bee  
Rylee Dusich  
Amara Lampton  
Joscelyn LaSart  
Thia Lossing  
Rylan Poppenhagen  
Kaya Sawyer  
Jenna Smith

**Grade 8**

Conner Berhow  
Morgan Bush  
Zoey Cameron  
Kolton Kari  
Layne Kaufenberg  
Logan Meskill  
Tori Sawyer  
Emily Westvik  
**Grade 7**  
Natalie Backe  
Edee Flug  
Aubree Gerlovich  
Zander Lislegard  
Mikko Maki  
Ruby Milton  
Wesley Sandy

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

## Chimpy's Family Fun Night on Wednesday, Feb. 20

TOWER- Tower-Soudan Community Education is hosting a Family Fun Night on Wednesday, Feb. 20. Fun Gym Time may include rolling globe, tightrope walking, spinning plates, bounce house and more at the Tower-Soudan School in the Gym and Flex Room from 2 - 4 p.m. Food will be provided. Parents are encouraged to attend. Activities are available for ages pre-schooler and up. All participants need to fill out a registration form before participation.

## 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.

so Café. Please note the change in time. The meeting will be a dinner followed 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 Pennala at the Babbitt Library, 218-827-3345, if you have any information.

## Mardi Gras family night on March 1 at St. Martin's

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church invites you to join us for Mardi Gras 2019 to be held in the church social hall on Friday, March 1. Festivities get underway at 5:30 p.m. and run until 9 p.m. This is an open house style event—you can come when you want, and leave when you want! Fun for the whole family. Admission is by freewill donation.

Each person receives a ticket for entry into the door prize drawings. Drawings will be held throughout the evening at 6:30, 7, 7:30, 8 and 8:30. You must be present to win one of the door prizes. A prize will be given for the best costume.

We learned much from last year's event and have improved this year's celebration. There will be a kids' activity area (cake walk, bean bag toss, and a table of stuff to keep them busy and occupied). The piñata will be back again this year – breaking of the piñata is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Each child receives a treat bag when they come in.

Bingo will begin at 6:45 p.m. Cost for bingo

is \$5 for 10 games. There will also be ping pong, foosball, cribbage, bean bag toss, and dice games.

We hope that you will join us for a feast before the start of Lent. Some of the items you will find on the menu are jambalaya, appetizer meatballs, wings, Mardi Gras meringues, strawberry beignets, meat and cheese tray with crackers, plus more.

## Defensive driving refresher course, March 6 or April 1

SOUDAN- Defensive driving refresher courses will be held on Wednesday, March 6 and Monday, April 1 at the Soudan Fire Hall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The four-hour refresher course is offered for drivers 55 years of age and older who have previously completed an eight-hour beginner's course and who need to re-certify to continue receiving a discount on their car insurance. A certificate of completion will be given to participants to continue the ten-percent car insurance discount. Check your certificate or check with your car insurance agent to learn when you need to recertify. Dana Waldron is the instructor for the class offered under AARP. Class fee is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Payment can be made to the instructor on the day of class. You must pre-register so organizers

can plan accordingly for class space and materials. Please text or call Leone Graf to pre-register at 218-343-3744. If no answer, please leave a message with your name and spelling, phone number, and the class you are interested in.

## Passing the family cabin on to the next generation, class on April 24

TOWER- If your goal is to pass on the family cabin to the next generation, planning ahead is crucial. Kelly Klun from the Klun Law Office in Ely will help you determine how the cabin will best fit into the family's future. A cabin trust is just one estate planning tool that can be utilized to help maintain and pass on the family hideaway. Learn about the specific trust provisions that could provide future instruction to your family on important issues such as taxes, maintenance, insurance, ownership, and a potential sale. Learn about the preparation of an estate plan and how it should be thought of as a priceless preventative tool. Learn the process of taking the next step of developing an estate plan that protects both your family and your private hideaway.

This estate planning class will be held Wednesday, April 24 in the library at the Tower-Soudan Elementary

ry at 4 p.m. You must pre-register so organizers can plan accordingly for class space and materials. Please call or text Leone Graf to pre-register at 218-343-3744. If no answer, please leave a message, with how to spell your name and the class you are interested in and its date.

## Estate planning class set for Feb. 27 or April 10

TOWER- Kelly Klun from the Klun Law Office in Ely will lead participants through key factors to drafting and personalizing wills and trusts, preparing probate documents, creating documents for long term health care, drafting a durable power of attorney, and preparing health care directives.

This class will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 27 and April 10 in the library at the Tower-Soudan Elementary at 4 p.m. You must pre-register so organizers can plan accordingly for class space and materials. Please text or call Leone Graf to pre-register at 218-343-3744. If no answer, please leave a message, with how to spell your name and the class you are interested in and its date.

## Cook VFW

Open Daily at Noon  
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**Happy Hour**  
Daily 4-6 p.m.  
**All Beer & Drinks**  
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## Thank you from St. Martin's Youth

We would like to thank all those who attended our 'Souper Bowl of Caring' - Booyah Dinner on Feb. 3. We collected \$1,222 from the free will donations; this money will be given to the Tower Area Food Shelf in March, when they are able to receive matching funds. It was great to see so many community members attend our event!



TOWER VS. SOUDAN HOCKEY

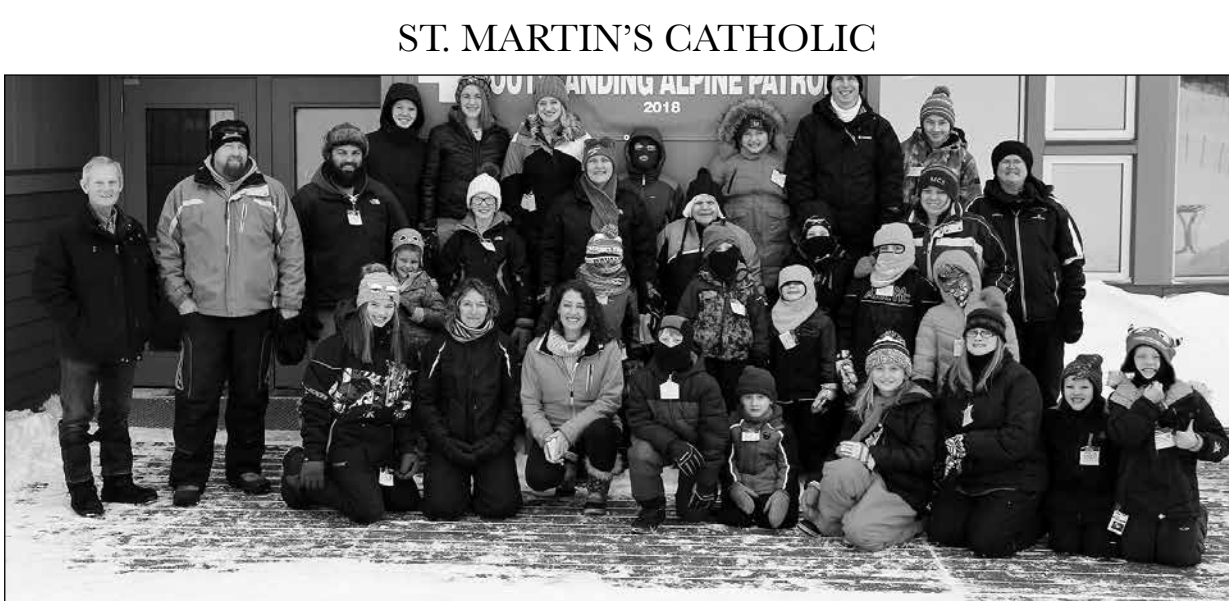
Two days of Tower vs. Soudan hockey games in Soudan, Saturday and Sunday

SOUDAN- Hockey Day Soudan will be held on Saturday, Feb. 16 at 11 a.m. at the Soudan Hockey Rink.

The main event is the Tower versus Soudan hockey game. Tower team players are asked to wear a dark-colored jersey, and Soudan players should dress in a white jersey.

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. Players who are not from either Tower or Soudan will be placed on one of the teams, so everyone is welcome to play.

A youth Tower versus Soudan hockey game is set for Sunday, Feb. 17 for kids 15 and under during Chimpys's skating party, starting at noon. There will be two games, starting at 1 p.m., one for players 10 and under, and the other for players 11-15. A soft puck will be used, so just bring your skates and hockey stick. Players from all areas are welcome, and will be assigned to one or the other team. Food is being sponsored by Tower-Soudan Joint Powers. There is no Chimpys party on Saturday.




Above: Families from all three area Catholic parishes enjoyed a day tubing with Father Nick (pictured below riding up the hill on a tube). photos courtesy of Dawn Bogdan, of Cook

BIWABIK- Last Sunday, a fun-filled afternoon was shared with Catholic families from St. Mary's Church of Cook, Holy Cross Church of Orr, and St. Martin's Church of Tower with Father Nick Nelson at the helm! It was a great day of tubing and fellowship at Giants Ridge in Biwabik. The weather was great and lines were short. A good time was had by all whether it was tubing out on the hill, warming up inside with hot chocolate, cider and games during the day, or sharing the taco dinner provided by the generous ladies of our group of parish families. These local parishes feel truly blessed to have Father Nick to lead them in their faith while having a little fun as well!



THE NEWS OF THE WEEK FROM MS. VERA MILION

Dear Hearts,

May hap this should be printed on the front page, in large type and maybe a box as a warning!

If one more person asks, "Is it cold enough for you?" I will not be responsible for my actions!

What do YOU think, wrapped up as if you were off to explore Antarctica, "Yes, it is cold, and enough is ENOUGH!"

While we have all sorts of stoves, heaters, furnaces, we are COLD, COLD, COLD.

And in addition to frostbite, Hilda has sprained an ankle- in addition to chattering teeth, I must listen her moans, groans, and "I'm dying, I'm dying."

A neighbor who has some sort of medical expertise arrived via dog sled to check out Hilda's alleged injury.

"Hmmmm, I am a bit stymied here!" He hauled a large book from his kit and flipped through the pages pausing now and again.

"Well, from the symptoms, it doesn't seem to be Cyathostomins or Habronema. It could be Strongyloidiasis westeri but that is only a serious threat to young foals in warm and moist areas. And it certainly is not warm, and Hilda is positively not young!"

Hilda ripped the book from his grip and screamed, "Diseases of the Elder Equine!" Do I look like a horse? Don't say another word...get out."

Hilda, earlier, in her life, played for a ladies baseball team in Texas and has maintained her throwing arm!

The book got him just as he ran out the door! He is pressing charges, his lawyer said, for 'grievous injury'!

Oh well, who hasn't been sued these days.

We tried to think what is different these days—we came up with

nothing.

To alleviate any sort of angst or worry, we got down our ragged coverless copy of the "Minnesota State Guide to Winter Endurance Survival."

The first chapter is entitled, "What are you doing here...move to Honolulu!"

The second chapter is entitled, "If you can't afford the move, here are some potables to keep you warm!"

**Mocha Coffee Mix**

1-1/4 cups instant coffee granules

7 cups dry milk powder

5-3/4 cups powdered chocolate drink mix

1/2 cup confectioners' sugar

1-3/4 cups powdered non-dairy creamer

Mix it all together and store it in an airtight container. When the need hits you, stir four tablespoons into a cup, add boiling water and enjoy. A glob of whipped cream never hurt ANYONE!

We also tried this little German treat:

**Gluehwein!**

3/4 cups water

3/4 cup white sugar

1 cinnamon stick

1 orange

10 whole cloves

1 bottle red wine

In a saucepan, combine the water, sugar, and cinnamon stick. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer.

Cut the orange in half and squeeze the juice into the simmering water. Push the cloves into the outside of the orange peel, and place peel in the simmering water. Continue simmering for 30 minutes, until thick and syrupy. Pour in the wine, and heat until steaming but not simmering. Remove the clove-studded orange halves.

Serve hot in mugs or glasses that have been preheated in warm water. Cold glasses will break.

Stay warm and read books— TV news will just make us crazy!

**Ms. Vera Milion**

Bookmobile Schedule

<b>Wednesday, March 6, 27</b>	
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](http://www.arrowhead.lib.mn.us)

Transfer station

<b>Soudan Canister</b>	
<i>Expanded hours year-round</i>	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>8 a.m. - 5 p.m.</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>8 a.m. - 5 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>8 a.m. - 5 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8 a.m. - 5 p.m.</b>
<b>For info: 1-800-450-9278</b>	
<b>Hwy. 77 Canister</b>	
<i>Winter hours now in effect</i>	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>12 p.m. - 5 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12 p.m. - 5 p.m.</b>
<b>Recycling canisters available daily at the Greenwood Town Hall. For info: 1-800-450-9278</b>	

AEOA Senior Dining Menu

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

Reservations are appreciated the day before, or morning of, but walk-ins are always welcome. Take-outs 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. 18**

Monday- No School, no lunch served

Tuesday- Breaded Pollock, Baked Potato, Bread Stick

Wednesday- Chicken Alfredo, Bread Stick, Green Beans

Thursday- Taco Salad, Corn Muffin

Friday- Pizza, Cole-slaw

Week of Feb. 18

**Monday**

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

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

**Tuesday**

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

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

**Wednesday**

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

**Thursday**

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

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at [vermilioncountry.org](http://vermilioncountry.org).

Call to Subscribe

(218) 753-2950

[www.timberjay.com](http://www.timberjay.com)



the **TIMBERJAY**

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Libraries

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

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

Support groups

**AA - Alcoholics Anonymous**  
AA - 7 p.m. Mondays,  
First Lutheran Church,  
915 E. Camp St.  
**WOMEN'S AA** - Noon  
Mondays, St. Anthony  
Church basement, 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 encoun-  
ter 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 upcom-  
ing Tuesday Group  
schedule is listed below.  
All talks are at 12 noon  
on Tuesday at the Grand  
Ely Lodge.  
**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.  
**March 5** - Finn  
Liesching - Ely's  
Rotary Foreign  
Exchange Student  
**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 infor-  
mation, call 218-365-  
5678, or visit their  
website, [www.elycommunityhealth.org](http://www.elycommunityhealth.org), or  
Facebook page.

**Breathing Out**  
by Cecilia Rolando © 2019



one's spirit opens  
filling with hearts and flowers  
best of winter days

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Gardner Trust offers arts grants



ELY - The first Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust arts grant cycle of 2019 has an application deadline of Wednesday, March 27. "This will be another competitive year for grants and scholarships," said Keiko Williams, the Trust's executive director. "The Trust has spent a couple years updating its financial and investment policies in order to preserve the endowment for future years. This means that our total budget will be a little leaner this year and that will make the grant rounds more competitive."  
Youth Grant applicants are reminded that they need to schedule a Grant Review Meeting with Keiko in order to go over their draft application. This will help the individual youth to make their applications as compelling as possible. Youth Grant applicants must call or email Keiko by Friday, March 1 to schedule their Grant Review Meeting.  
Artists and groups can apply for grants in the following four categories:

- encourage developing and established artists with funding of up to \$1,000 to take advantage of an impending, concrete opportunity.
- Organization Project Grants support activities in the fine arts and for the Ely Public Library. Grant support is intended to make it possible for organizations to present or produce a fine arts activity.
- Youth Grants are awarded to Ely school students in grades 6-12 who have an interest in and demonstrate high motivation in the fine arts. The youth grants of up to \$750 can be used for workshops, classes, lessons or mentorships.
- Operational Funding Grants fund high-quality, established Ely area organizations that produce or present fine arts activities or provide services to artists.


➤ Scholarships can be awarded to students majoring in one of the disciplines of fine arts or library science. Students must be graduates of Ely Memorial High School and be in the third or fourth year of college studies or in graduate school.  
Individuals and organizations that would like to have a draft application reviewed can contact Keiko by mid-March. The office is open for any who would like to stop by, usually 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday.  
Grant forms and eligibility requirements are available on the Gardner Humanities Trust website at [www.gardnertrust.org](http://www.gardnertrust.org). Those without Internet access can contact Keiko by phone at 218-365-2639 or email at [info@gardnertrust.org](mailto:info@gardnertrust.org) to have an application mailed to them.  
The deadline for applications will be noon on Wednesday, March 27. Completed applications can be mailed to the Trust office at P.O. Box 720, Ely, MN 55731 or dropped off at the Ely City Hall, Clerk's Office, at 209 E Chapman Street.

OLD-FASHIONED ICE HARVEST



The annual "Ice Ball" last Saturday at the Steger Wilderness Center successfully harvested enough ice to last for the entire 2019 activity season at the center. A team of about 25 invited volunteers braved an initial early morning temperature of 33 degrees below zero using mostly hand tools to remove over 100 blocks of 20-inch thick ice. A team of four draft horses, owned in part by Lisa Ringer of Long Lake, pulled the ice-loaded Wilderness Center wooden sled up the steep road to the ice storage cave. photos courtesy of Mike Gilgosh





**the TIMBERJAY**

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## OUTDOOR COMPETITION

# Ely resident part of national champion snow-sculpting team



**Adam Turner, Jaymie Stocks and Heather Friedli stand in front of their winning sculpture on Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019.** photo courtesy of Team Dino Fight

## Jaymie Stocks helps win title at Wisconsin competition

ELY – This city's own Jaymie Stocks is part of the new national snow sculpting team. They faced many hurdles to gain the trophy.

When the No. 1 snow-sculpting team from Minnesota was bumped from the national competition over the political theme of its entry, a runner-up team was pressed to compete and took first place recently in Wisconsin.

No one was more surprised than they were.

"It was totally unexpected for me," said Heather Friedli, of St. Paul. "I had my hands over my face. I was crying when I walked up on stage to get my award."

To compete in the annual snow-sculpting competition in Lake Geneva, Wis., participants must first win in their home state the year before.

Last year, Friedli and her teammates, Stocks, and Keith Pederson, of St. Paul, didn't even place with their butterfly-themed sculpture called "Metamorphosis."

Dusty Thune's team won first with "Ascension," and two other teams won second and third place at the state competition held during the St. Paul Winter Carnival.

So this year, Thune, of St. Paul, was set to compete in the U.S. National Snow Sculpting Championship in Lake Geneva. Except the organizers weren't too fond of his planned sculpture's theme, which took a dim view of President Donald Trump. When Thune refused to change it, he was banned from the competition.

The second- and third-place teams couldn't go to Lake Geneva, so organizers called up Stocks to see if her team, Dino Fight — named for a previous dinosaur sculpture — could take Thune's place.

They accepted, with less than a month to plan. They were also down a team member, as Pederson couldn't go.

It was the first of many obstacles the team would face before winning the championship.

Friedli wanted a former snow-sculpting rival, Adam Turner, to join their team, but he had moved to Arizona. That didn't matter to him. He hopped on a plane and came up to help out.

Then came the frigid "polar vortex," which cut a precious day off their 3½-day sculpting schedule.

"It was minus 27," Friedli said. "Our eyelashes were freezing together while we were sculpting."

After that, Friedli's car got a flat tire. Then a pipe in their hotel froze and caused them to scramble to get their gear out before their room flooded. Then came the injuries.

Friedli cut her finger with a saw. Stocks stabbed her thigh with a chisel. Turner came down with the flu.

"So many things happened! It was epic!" Friedli said.

But the team persisted, crafting a cylinder of snow 8 feet across and 9 feet high with saws, axes, files, shovels and other implements.

The team's sculpture, titled "Arise from the Storm," seemed to embody the struggles they had endured to finish. It was a graceful heron preparing to take flight from a stormy sea.

"Heron brings hope," she said. "We wanted to talk about how even though life gives you all these trials, you can rise up from the storm."

On the last evening before judging, Friedli walked up onto a balcony and looked over all

the sculptures. At that moment, she thought they had a chance to win.

"Unlike a lot of the sculptures, ours was fine art," she said. "It was a different product than a lot of the others happening here. It set us apart."

The sculptures are judged by the artists themselves in such a way that they are unable to vote for themselves. Friedli said her team got a near-unanimous vote.

As the temperature suddenly rose to near 40 degrees Saturday, the judging ended just before the heron's wings fell off. "I felt like it was the mic drop of snow sculpture," Friedli said, laughing.

With a national win under their belts, and the organizers planning a world competition next year, Team Dino Fight could go on to be world champions.

"If that's the case, we will be the team representing Minnesota in the world competition," she said.

*This story by Deanna Weniger was originally published in the St. Paul Pioneer Press. It is reprinted here with permission.*

## Higher Education

### Bremner honored at UW-Madison

MADISON, WIS. - The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2018-2019 academic year.

Ely student Aidan Bremner, enrolled in the College of Engineering, was named to the Dean's Honor List.

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester.

### Ely students make Dean's List

ST. PETER - The 2018 Fall Semester Dean's List at Gustavus Adolphus College includes two Ely students, Susan Cook and Emma Thompson. The list comprises students who have earned a 3.7 grade point average (based on a scale in which 4.0 = A) or higher for the semester ending in December 2018.

Gustavus Adolphus College is the oldest Lutheran college in Minnesota. It was founded in 1862 by Swedish immigrants and named for Swedish King Gustav II Adolf.

### Kellogg honored at WSU

WICHITA, KAN. - Wichita State University recently announced that Ely student, Courtney S. Kellogg, is one of more than 3,000 students who were on the WSU dean's honor roll for fall 2018.

To be included on the dean's honor roll, a student must be enrolled full time (at least 12 credit hours) and earn at least a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

WSU enrolls over 15,000 students and offers more than 60 undergraduate degree programs in more than 150 areas of study in seven undergraduate colleges.

### Hasz honored at UW-Stout

MENOMONIE, WIS. - Ely student Ethan Hasz received the University of Wisconsin-Stout Chancellor's Award for the fall 2018 semester.

The award is presented to students who have a grade point average of 3.5 or above.

Hasz, is a sophomore studying for a Bachelors of Fine Arts degree in industrial design.

UW-Stout is Wisconsin's Polytechnic University, with a focus on applied learning, collaboration with business and industry, and career outcomes. Enrollment for the fall semester was 8,748.

## In Brief

### Recipe box painting challenge aids Boundary Waters Choral Festival

ELY - Dave Wigdahl, owner of the POTLUCK Kitchenware store, located at the corner of Chapman Street and First Avenue East, is holding a fundraiser to benefit the Boundary Waters Choral Festival.

Calling it "The Great Recipe Box Paint-Off," the local music booster hopes to raise funds for the annual choral festival, scheduled for Friday, March 1 at Washington Auditorium.

He said all artists using all media are participating.

The "blank canvas" 4x6-inch wooden recipe boxes, provided by POTLUCK Kitchenware, are limited to the first 36 participants. They can pick up the boxes until Saturday, Feb. 16 at the store.

"Boxes are to be decorated however you like, using any media - painting, pen and ink, chip carving, wood burning, decoupage, or fabric," he said. "Your ideas, your choice."

Decorated boxes are to be returned to POTLUCK by Monday, Feb. 26. The entries will be displayed in the windows of the store until March 1 where participants can vote on the best boxes and bid on the boxes for purchase.

"Boxes will be displayed at the BWCF Concert on March 1 for final bids, and will be sold and picked up that evening," he said

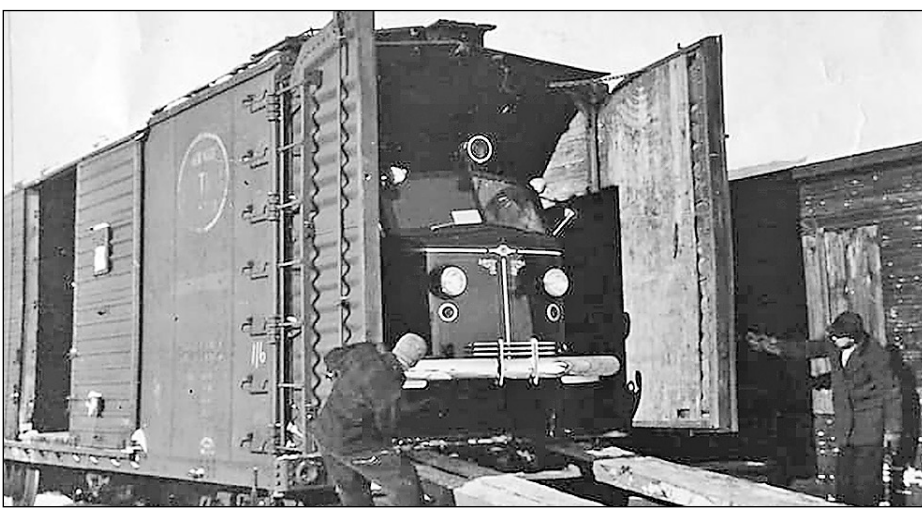
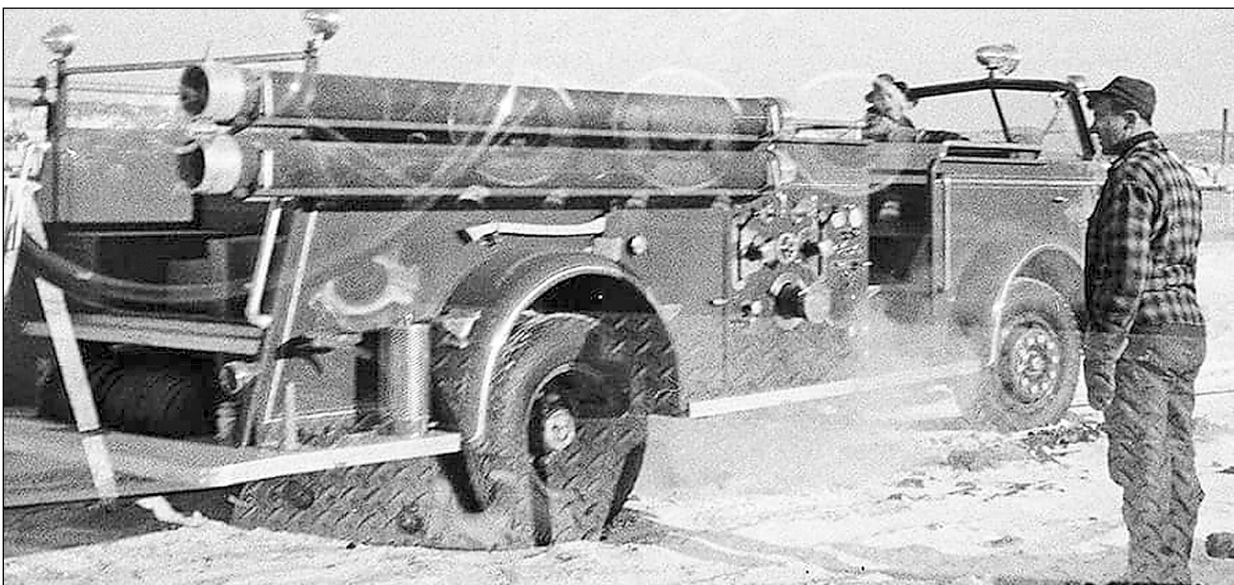
The rules are few and simple: All boxes should include "Ely, MN" and be signed and dated by the artist.

"All boxes are donated by POTLUCK Kitchenware and remain the property of POTLUCK for re-sale, gift baskets, fundraisers, and all proceeds go to the BWCF 2019," Wigdahl said.

Prizes for the artists of the top three fund-raising boxes sold are POTLUCK gift certificates: 1st Prize \$50, and 2nd and 3rd Prize \$25.

For more information, call 218-235-6135 or 218-365-7436. Email [dwigdahl@gmail.com](mailto:dwigdahl@gmail.com), or [PotluckVintage@gmail.com](mailto:PotluckVintage@gmail.com).

## OLD CITY OF ELY FIRE ENGINE



These photographs from the Ely Fire Department archives recorded when a brand new 1947 American La France fire truck arrived to town by train and joined the fire department's fleet of vehicles.

submitted photos

Donald C.  
**Gardner**  
**Humanities**  
**Trust**

*We are now accepting*  
**2019 Arts Grant Applications**

for Individual Artists, Project & Youth Grants, Scholarships & Operational Funding

Updated grant applications and guidelines are available online at [www.gardnertrust.org](http://www.gardnertrust.org)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS: 12:00 noon on Wed., March 27**

*Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Keiko Williams, Executive Director, by mid-March for help and review of their applications.*

**Call 365-2639 or email [info@gardnertrust.org](mailto:info@gardnertrust.org)**

*Youth Grant applicants must contact Keiko by March 1 to schedule a grant review meeting.*



# 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.

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.

## 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.

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



Four generations of Syvilla Shermer's family along with extended family and friends. photo by M. Helmberger

# Syvilla Shermer celebrates her 95th birthday

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**ORR** - More than 100 people turned out at the American Legion hall here this past Sunday to celebrate the 95th birthday of a true force of nature. Syvilla Shermer made stand less than five-feet tall, but for decades she has been a towering presence in the community, serving as the unofficial commanding general of just about every community initiative in Orr.

"Everybody has to do what they can with

themselves," said Syvilla, who learned early—thanks to nine children—how to manage a small and sometimes unruly army. As her kids grew, she turned her attention to Orr, her adopted hometown, where she was a driving force behind numerous efforts to engage and bring economic progress to the tiny community.

Born in 1924 in Nebraska, Syvilla married her husband Clinton, who was known to everyone as "Nick," and the couple ran a dairy in California and Oregon before buy-

ing a farm in Gheen in 1959. In those days, the train depot in Orr was still a lively place, dispensing passengers and mail each day, Syvilla remembers. The train no longer hauls passengers or the mail, and the depot is now the home of the T. Patten Café. The Orr General Store closed nearly a decade ago and the Orr School closed not long after.

Growing up on the farm, Syvilla's children recall a no-nonsense mother who expected a lot and usually got it. While many mothers in

those days used "wait 'til your father gets home," to coax unruly children to behave, Syvilla's kids recall it was just the opposite at their house.

Their mother's disciplinary ways didn't leave any permanent marks and Syvilla has been fortunate that all of her children live within 30 miles of their home, although her oldest, Dennis, age 70, now heads to Arizona in the winter. A few of her kids have left for work in the Twin Cities over the years, but always made a point of getting back home as

soon as a new job opportunity arose.

It was family who discovered Syvilla at home five years ago after she suffered a massive stroke. At the time, doctors said she wouldn't recover, but five years later she's going strong and shows few signs of her previous stroke. Having reached the ripe old age of 95, she now has a new mission. "I'm going to live to be 100," she told the assembled crowd. "And you're all invited to the party!"

## KNOWLEDGE BOWL

# Students put their knowledge to the test in competition

by MARCUS WHITE  
Cook-Orr Editor

**FIELD TWP** - When one thinks of winter sports, students sitting in classrooms competing for the prize of top academic team doesn't always come to mind. But that's what happening in Room 203 at North Woods every Friday during senior lunch.

North Woods is one of 30 northeastern Minnesota schools 'fielding' a team to compete to see who really does know it all.

Unlike traditional sports, a school can field multiple Knowledge Bowl teams — in fact, North Woods has four.

Aside from their weekly practices, teams in the area meet in Mt. Iron at least three times a season to determine who has enough points to gain a coveted spot in the regional tournament.

"It's very fun, it's entertaining, you get to

compete about what you know, and you get to meet people," said varsity player Parker Jones.

Varsity player Anna Trip said the team's greatest achievement has been making the regional tournament the past two years in a row.

The team has their sights set on their final meet next Wednesday in Mt. Iron. Snowy weather meant their second appearance was cancelled.

According to the rules, their score from the Feb. 20 meet will be averaged with a prior score to determine their ranking.

Coach Julie Holien said she estimates the team will need to score at or above 90 points in the upcoming meet to have a viable run at this year's regional tournament. About 205 points are up for grabs at a meet.

Only 18 of the areas 80 teams are chosen for the tournament based off an aggregate ranking



Coach Julie Holien reads questions to members of the North Woods Knowledge Bowl team. photo by M. White

from-the-robin meets.

Those 18 teams will then face off several times, with the winners selected to go on to the state tournament held in Brainerd. Each team has up to five players, though only four can compete at a time.

Meets are made up of five rounds, one written and four oral. Holien said the oral rounds of the competition are where

students' ability to recall their classroom knowledge shines through.

"There are no visual clues in oral rounds, it's a whole different skill set," she set. "It's not about just getting 'A's' in class, they really need to know it."

Generally, a team will face two other teams at a time, which could include teams from their own school.

Teams have 15 seconds after "buzzing" in using special strips connected to automated timers. Teams can "bump" the questions by answering before the whole question is read in anticipation of what a reader might say.

Trip said everyone should join, and that it was just a misconception that players need to be outstanding in school.

# Crane Lake News by the Singing Teapot Dames



Finally the weather has let up some, although the rumor is Minnesota has gotten tons of

snow. Dave Lang went to Crane Lake to plow for his parents and had to move 20 inches of snow all over to even get close to the house. Thanks, Dave! Of course, after the work was done, he and family also enjoyed some snowmobiling on the lake. It wasn't ALL just work.

A long weekend is coming up for some people. Presidents' Day is upon us. So, when you forget and go check the mailbox on Monday,

you'll remember why there's nothing there!

Mike and Linda Lang visited Duncan, South Carolina and Zelda Bruns, formerly of Myrtle Lake. Zelda was happy to see old familiar faces and anxious to show them her new home. Good conversation and great food was enjoyed, so much so that Zelda is now visiting with the Langs for a few days before returning to South Carolina.

Get well wishes are sent out to Sandy Bodkin,

who is recovering in Duluth at St. Mary's Hospital. We all forward happy thoughts and prayers for a good recovery. Sandy is well known and loved in the community.

Did you make use of your "plastic money" for Valentine's Day to send flowers, candy, or some expensive gift to your "honey"? Did you know that your credit card identifies the issuer of the card? The first six digits of each credit card number denotes the credit

card network to which the number belongs. Discover is the fourth largest credit card brand in the U.S., behind Visa, MasterCard and American Express, with nearly 44 million cardholders. No matter which card or cards you carry, they all diligently keep track of what you owe them! One thing this old Dame can't figure out is why, when a charge is made, it shows up immediately, but when a payment is made, you need to wait three to

four days to see it applied to your bill!

Stay warm, stay healthy, and keep shoveling!

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!



LIVING KINDLY

# North Woods students urged to be kind to one another

by **MARCUS WHITE**  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP - North Woods educators had a simple request of girls in grades four-through-nine this week: Be kind.

Counselor Jill Stark and Title I teacher Kristi Sopoci brought the KIND Campaign to the school for two, two-hour sessions meant to curb bullying among the students.

Sopoci said she first heard of the anti-bullying campaign in a women’s magazine, and then again on a morning news program last year.

“As a girl growing up, there were always

mean kids,” she said. “We know this stuff happens here (at North Woods). I have two girls here. I want them to have a good day at school.”

As part of the program, students watched a documentary on the experiences of girls from around the country. Afterwards, they were asked to write out one apology, one pledge, and something positive.

The apologies were then given among the students in private. Some of the pledges and kind words were read aloud for the group, while others were saved for when the students are ready to give them in private.

“The program points out that every girl has been on both sides,” Sopoci said. “The junior high students were really receptive - they really took the time to write stuff out.”

Sopoci added that even if they were only able to reach one student to let them know they weren’t alone, or that there was more to the world, the program would have been a success.

“I hope they stop to think before they speak, to avoid regrets or something hurtful,” Stark said.

The KIND Campaign began in 2009 with documentarians Lauren

Paul and Molly Thompson at Pepperdine University, after they spent several months telling the stories of girls bullying around the country.

Since then, resources have been available to schools around the country to create anti-bullying programs for girls.

Stark and Sopoci said they are on the lookout for similar programs for the boys at the same grade level, but no plans are underway just yet.

They said they plan to look at following up with some of the participants from this week, and possibly create a kindness club at the school.



**The acoustic folk-duo, Pushing Chain, performed at the Cook Library last Friday. They took questiond from the audience on what it takes to be a musician in the region.**  
photo by C. Phillips

GRIZZLY UPDATE

# Meet Mr. Dave Fazio

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

This week’s “teacher of the week” is Mr. Dave Fazio. Mr. Fazio has taught in the district for many years, and has hinted that he might be thinking about riding his Harley into the sunset in the next couple years. Mr. Fazio is a larger-than-life man with a booming voice, but a kind heart. While the subject that he teaches is probably the one that strikes the most fear into the heart of the student, Mr. Fazio has tried to make it relevant for several generations of students.

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

Mr. F: I am from Hoyt Lakes. I graduated from Aurora/Hoyt Lakes (The Blackhawks) in 1981, prior to the consolidation with Biwabik that now forms Mesabi East. I graduated from St. Cloud State with a degree in Math Education and what they called Micro Computers. I also have a coaching license. I played hockey at SCSU on a college scholarship and was a defenseman for the Huskies.

Mr. V: Were there



**JOHN VUKMANICH**

teachers who were an influence on you? Please name a few if you can.

Mr. F: I had many great teachers. Mr. Sjoberg taught history and Mr. Gillach was a gym teacher who taught me a lot.

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

Mr. F: Their interpersonal relationships. They made school enjoyable by having good relationships with us. It’s the same way now, try to get along with the kids, and learn to learn while teaching them to get along with people.

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

Mr. F: Grades 7-12 Math. I have taught every class depending on the



**DAVE FAZIO**

year from basic Pre-Algebra 7 up to Calculus.

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

Mr. F: One, I loved being around people, and second, I had taken lots of math and computers, so I had lots of background in it. I decided not to work in computers and chose math.

Mr. V: What are your hobbies?

Mr. F: Fishing, hunting, travel, cards, motorcycles, old cars, sports. MN stuff.

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

Mr. F: The staff and students are dynamite. It’s a nice community. I had many of the teachers here as students, too. It’s great that they came back.

Mr. V: What is a pro-

fessional goal for you?

Mr. F: To always try to vary my delivery to reach as many kids as possible. I take my own tests and review my lessons constantly.

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

Mr. F: The seasonal variety. I still like winter although not the cold as much.

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

Mr. F: “Learn how to learn and you can do anything you want.”

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

Mr. F: Imagination is a preview of life’s coming events.

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

Mr. F: For being flexible enough, but holding them accountable, and teaching them to persevere.

Thank you Mr. Fazio for working with our students at North Woods and for giving us a little more insight into what makes you tick.

Go Grizzlies!  
**Your Principal,  
John Vukmanich**

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

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**the TIMBERJAY**

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MINING

# Groups seek stay in PolyMet dam permit

## Cite latest collapse of tailings basin dam that killed hundreds in Brazil

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — A coalition of environmental groups, a long-time Minnesota state senator, and the Fond du Lac band are calling on the Department of Natural Resources to reconsider the tailings basin dam permit the agency recently approved for PolyMet, after yet another collapse of a similar type of dam, this time in Brazil.

The environmental groups and tribal officials recently asked the DNR to put a stay on the dam permit, but the agency has, so far, declined to do so. Critics of the mine plan say the method of dam construction, known as the “upstream method,” is widely considered the least safe method of tailings basin dam construction. According to National Geographic, which has reported on the Jan. 25, 2019 collapse of a dam at the Corrego de Feijao mine in Brazil, it’s an inexpensive method of dam construction largely confined to Third World countries these days. The Brazilian dam collapse has reportedly killed at least 157 people, with nearly 200 still reported missing.

The latest dam collapse comes just over three years after a similar collapse buried villages near another Brazilian mine, killing dozens, and it has prompted the mining company involved, Vale S.A., to announce that it was suspending operations at ten mines and decommissioning 19 mine waste dams using the upstream method of dam construction. In 2014, the collapse of the Mount Polley tailings

basin dam in British Columbia flooded thousands of acres with toxic mud and sludge.

Environmentalists in Minnesota say the DNR has ignored the advice of experts in allowing PolyMet to use the same methods here in Minnesota.

DNR officials, however, say it’s still too early to determine what caused the latest dam collapse and argue that there are differences that should make

“The NorthMet facility was found to meet every factor of safety for dam stability.

Bruce Richardson  
PolyMet spokesperson

the PolyMet dam safer than the one in Brazil. “The permitted PolyMet tailings dam, does include “upstream” construction methods, acknowledges DNR Assistant Commissioner Jess Richards. “However, there are important differences compared to the typical construction methods in Brazil.” Among them, notes Richards, is that the PolyMet dam will be built on relatively flat terrain, rather than the mountainous conditions typically found in Brazil. “And PolyMet will use a “ring-dike” basin design compared to the typical “valley” or hillside designs in Brazil,” said Richards. “Plus, Minnesota puts strict limits on the rate

that tailings can be deposited to ensure adequate time for drying. It is our understanding that the tailings placement rate may not be as restrictive in other countries.” Finally, Richards notes that the “ratio of surface area to height is also much greater for PolyMet than a typical dam.”

But such arguments don’t convince critics of the project. “This is yet another example of the DNR brushing aside concerns about how the dam will be built and failing to require less dangerous alternatives,” stated the coalition of Minnesota environmental groups in a joint press statement issued Jan. 31. “Two-thirds of global mine tailings dam collapses involve an “upstream construction” dam.”

State Sen. John Marty, DFL-Roseville, said he strongly supports the request for a reconsideration of the dam permit. “Defenders of PolyMet say ‘we have strong mining regulations, so such a tragedy could never happen here.’ But they are wrong,” he said. “The PolyMet mine waste dam could fail. In fact, Minnesotans should know that one of the engineers who analyzed the PolyMet plan for storage of mining waste described it as a ‘Hail Mary type of concept’ that ‘will eventually fail.’”

Kathryn Hoffman, CEO of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, said the tailings dam plan is “obsolete and dangerous.”

“The disaster in Brazil has once again shown that PolyMet’s plan to store sulfide mine waste

tailings behind an unsafe dam begun in the 1950’s is a risk that Minnesota can’t bear,” she said.

PolyMet spokesperson Bruce Richardson, however, stated that the tailings dam “was one of the most studied aspects of the entire NorthMet project during its 14-year environmental review and permitting process.”

Richardson said the dam safety was reviewed by independent experts and some enhancements were incorporated into the design as a result of input from those experts. That includes the addition of a rock buttress and additional monitoring stations. “The NorthMet facility was found to meet every factor of safety for dam stability,” he said.

PolyMet will be utilizing and expanding an existing tailings basin, originally built more than 50 years ago by LTV. “There are many more active and much-larger iron-ore tailings basins (of similar design) in Northern Minnesota that have existed for decades as well,” Richardson said in a statement.

According to Jess Richards, the DNR is still considering requests to put a hold on the PolyMet dam permit as it undertakes a review of the latest Brazilian dam collapse. Yet Richards argues that his agency has already studied the PolyMet plan in depth. “DNR’s analysis of the PolyMet tailings dam as well as other mining facilities in Minnesota has been informed by technical analysis of past dam failures that have occurred in Brazil and Canada over the past few years,” said Richards. “In fact, DNR hired

both Minnesota dam safety experts, as well as one of the investigators of the Mt. Polley dam failure in Canada, to evaluate the proposed PolyMet tailings dam. Their expert input was invaluable and directly led to improvements in the PolyMet design that was ultimately permitted by DNR.” But Paula Maccabee, Advocacy Director for WaterLegacy, notes that some of the DNR’s experts raised concerns about the dam design. “We are only learning now that DNR’s own consultants called PolyMet’s tailings dam plan ‘inherently unstable and irresponsible,’” she said.

Maccabee called on new DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen to immediately make available all of the documents analyzing PolyMet’s tailings dam. “Minnesotans are tired of secrecy when our precious natural resources and human health are on the line,” she said.

Water Legacy and the other members of the environmental coalition, including the Fond du Lac band, have appealed a number of PolyMet’s permits to the state Court of Appeals. In addition, the groups are challenging the provisions of a federal land exchange completed last year between PolyMet and the U.S. Forest Service. That lawsuit was recently reinstated by the judge overseeing the case after efforts to enact the exchange into law failed in Congress.

## PUBLISHING...Continued from page 3

“Our circulation is actually higher today than it was the last time we served as official newspaper for Ely,” said HelMBERGER. “Where were the complaints about circulation then?”

HelMBERGER called the *Echo’s* argument “a farce.” “By the *Echo’s* own interpretation, they couldn’t serve as official newspaper of Winton because they don’t have enough subscribers within the city limits. But there aren’t enough households to even meet the law, in places like Winton, Orr, or Tower or Cook for that matter.”

The circulation language in the statute is largely dismissed by lawyers familiar with the issue because, as written, it leads to absurd results.

“When an interpretation of the law leads to absurdity, lawyers recognize that they have to look at the underlying intent,” HelMBERGER said. “In this case, it’s quite clear that the Legislature is trying to ensure that councils not use a little-known paper in an

effort to limit the public’s awareness of what’s going on. Both the *Timberjay* and the *Echo* easily meet the criteria for a newspaper with sufficient circulation to comply with that intent.”

While the *Echo* has questioned the *Timberjay’s* bid, Mayor Chuck Novak said that both bids had raised questions. The *Echo’s* 2019 bid appears to be out of compliance 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 the effect of making its bid appear cheaper.

Yet city officials have had concerns in the past couple of years that the *Echo* has not only increased its rates dramatically but has run city display ads noticeably larger than the specifications set by the city, adding to increased costs to city taxpayers. An example of the discrepancy in the size of the notice text is demonstrated elsewhere on this page.

“I asked [Nick] Wognum why the city of Ely ad was larger in type

size,” Mayor Novak told the *Timberjay*. “He said that I didn’t tell him what size to make it.” But, in fact, the city does provide a set text size in its sample ad and asks the newspapers to bid based on those specifications.

At the Feb. 12 Ely City Council meeting, new council member Angela Campbell attempted to introduce two resolutions for council action, one to rescind the Jan. 15 council action declaring the *Timberjay* as the city’s official paper for 2019, and the other to direct the city attorney to investigate the matter.

Mayor Novak corrected her and indicated the call for the actions should be made in the form of a motion. He also rebuked her effort to rescind her original Jan. 15 vote supporting the *Timberjay*, which was a unanimous vote.

“I respect Angela, but I think her inexperience in government is showing here,” HelMBERGER said. “When you take the oath, you’re supposed to represent the public interest, not private, special interests.”

Following a motion to revisit the legal newspaper issue at their Feb. 12 meeting, city council members directed City Attorney Kelly Klun to investigate the state statute language on “home office”

issues and work with a task group of three city council members to make a recommendation to settle the matter.

The *Timberjay* vacated their previous business office, located in the basement of the Frandsen Bank building, in 2016.

“Our previous office was out-of-the-way and we determined with our editor that it was just as easy to have him work from a home office,” HelMBERGER said. “There’s nothing in the law that suggests a home office can’t meet the criteria of the law. We have a legal right to make a home office our office of issue.”

The *Timberjay* maintains a home office, business telephone number, Internet access and post office box (No. 718) in Ely. The editor is available to the public six days a week, except on Wednesdays when that week’s edition is prepared for printing at the *Timberjay’s* Tower office. Ely Editor Keith Vandervort suggests that people call ahead at 365-3114 if they want to stop by the office, since he is frequently out on assignment.

Klun may have a recommendation to make at the next council meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 19.

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Council of the City of Ely, St. Louis County, Minnesota, until Tuesday, January 15, 2019, 2:00 P.M. for doing legal printing and display advertising for the City of Ely, Minnesota for the year 2019.

City Clerk/Treasurer

pub date

Above: The sample ad from the city of Ely’s bid solicitation, showing the text size specified by the city.

Below: A 2018 city of Ely hearing notice as it appeared in the Ely Echo, showing the considerably larger text size.

### PUBLIC HEARING

The Ely Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday August 15th at 6:45 pm in the 2nd Floor Board Room of City Hall to gather public input in consideration of a request made by Don Baltich 608 West Shagawa Road Ely MN 55731. Mr. Baltich requests that the City of Ely vacate a gravel roadway which separates his homestead parcel from his adjacent garage parcel.

The City of Ely has no objection to this request and there are no City utilities or infrastructure impacted. The property owner will pay all fees involved should this request be approved by Planning & Zoning Commission.

All interested parties may submit communication to Planning and Zoning, 209 E Chapman St, Ely, MN, 55731, 218-226-5475, pzadmin@ely.mn.us, or in person at the public hearing. Ely Echo 7/28/2018



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TOWER...Continued from page 1

But the roster that Keith provided to council members included more than a dozen alterations of terms for members of certain committees, at least when compared to the official city minutes from reorganizations over the past two to three years.

The *Timberjay* provided Keith an outline of its findings and provided her an opportunity to comment. She did not respond as of presstime.

Among the more troubling of the alterations are the ones to the city's Planning and Zoning Commission, which has a wide range of oversight duties for the city.

According to official minutes from the city's 2018 reorganization, the following individuals were listed as members for various terms. Those names and the end dates of their terms are as follows:

- Victoria Meloche (2018)
- Kevin Fitton (2019)
- Steve Abrahamson (2020)
- Morgen Carlon (2019)
- Steve Altenburg (2020)

Yet in the official roster that Keith provided to councilors in early January, Altenburg's term had been extended from 2020 to 2022, while Fitton's term was extended from 2019 to 2020. Both Altenburg and Fitton have been closely aligned with Keith in the internecine battles that have waged at city hall for the past several months.

While key Keith allies saw their terms extended, others saw their terms shortened. Former Mayor and now-City Councilor Steve Abrahamson's original appointment to a three-year term continuing through 2020 had been shortened to 2019 in the roster that Keith provided to councilors. Abrahamson, who is a real estate appraiser and broker, is easily the most knowledgeable and experienced in zoning issues of any member of the commission, and has sometimes challenged Altenburg, who has chaired the committee for at least the past two years.

At the same time, Keith appeared to have extended Morgen Carlon's term from 2020, to 2021 and a new member, Jolene Herberg, was listed with a five-year appointment running through 2023. The standard term for the commission has been three years in the past and it's unclear when, or if, the council altered that schedule. The council had accepted Herberg's application to the commission in November to fill the remaining term of Meloche, who had resigned due to health reasons. Meloche's term expired at the end of 2018 and should have been up for reappointment at the city reorganizational meeting last month.

The pattern of alterations is particularly troubling since they appear politically motivated to cement Keith's influence over city operations. While neither Carlon nor Herberg have appeared involved to any extent in the city's political infighting, they are both direct subordinates of Fitton at the Vermilion Country School, which raises questions about his possible undue influence over them during their service on the commission.

City of Tower Reorganization 2018 Planning & Zoning	
Business Owner	Victoria Meloche (2018)
Council Rep	Kevin Fitton (2019)
Resident	Steve Abrahamson (2020)
Resident	Morgan Carlon (2019)
Resident	Steve Altenburg (2020)

Above on left: The 2018 Planning and Zoning Commission terms as established by the city council in January of 2018 as reflected in the Jan 22, 2018 reorganization minutes. Above on right: The Planning and Zoning Commissions roster as presented to the city council by Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith in January 2019. Note the alterations in the terms, extending terms for Altenburg, Fitton, Carlon, and Herberg, while Abrahamson's term was shortened.

Tower Economic Development Authority	Joan Broten (Resident) (2017)
2 Members shall own Businesses within Tower, 2 Shall be residents of Tower, 1 At Large Member and 2 Council Rep	Brad Matich (Council Rep) (2018)
	Marshall Helmberger (Business Owner) (2019)
	Brooke Anderson (Council Rep) (2020)
	Marit Kringstad (Resident) (2021)
	Steve Peterson (At Large) (2022)
	Victoria Meloche (Business Owner) (2022)

Above on left: The 2017 Tower Economic Development Authority terms as established by the city council in January of 2017 as reflected in the Jan 23, 2017 reorganization minutes. Above on right: The TEDA roster as presented by the Clerk-Treasurer to Mayor-Elect Kringstad in November upon his request. Note the alterations in the terms, switching Helmberger's original three-year term to a one-year term expiring at the end of 2017. Terms of other TEDA members were also changed, apparently by Keith, including the terms of Marit Kringstad, Victoria Meloche, Steve Peterson, and Joan Broten. Neither Keith nor the council had the authority to alter these terms once established since they are governed by state law.

A review of 2018 minutes by the *Timberjay* found no city council action or authorization for the changes to the terms of members of the planning and zoning commission, which raises questions about Keith's authority to make the changes. Appointments to city commissions is clearly within the purview of the city council, not the clerk-treasurer, which means the alterations by Keith could well be construed as illegitimate or false.

Minn. Stat. 609.43, Subd. 4, titled Misconduct of Public Officer or Employee, makes it a criminal act, subject to fines and possible imprisonment, for a public official to knowingly falsify an official record.

More questions

The apparent falsifications most fraught with potential legal implications are those made to the terms of the Tower Economic Development Authority, which it appears were altered in early 2018 in order to conceal an intentional violation of another state law, Minn. Stat. 469.095, Subd. 5, which generally prohibits city councils from removing members of an economic development authority before their term has expired.

In January of 2018, Mayor Josh Carlson removed then-TEDA president and *Timberjay* publisher Marshall Helmberger, in apparent retaliation for critical coverage of city decisions in the *Timberjay*. At the time, city officials had purported that Helmberger's term had expired, but official council minutes from the Jan. 23, 2017, reorganization show that Helmberger was appointed to a three-year term on TEDA, expiring at the end of 2019. Yet city officials switched Helmberger's term with TEDA member Joan Broten, who was appointed in 2017 to a one-year term according to city minutes. The falsification of Helmberger's and Broten's terms, was confirmed by an earlier roster that Keith had provided to mayor-elect Kringstad

back in November, which falsely indicated that Helmberger's term had expired in 2017 and that Broten's would continue through 2019.

Economic development authorities are considered independent bodies under state law and city councils can only remove a member for cause, such as inefficiency or neglect. Such removals require due process for the affected member, including a filing of written charges and the opportunity for a formal hearing. City officials never cited a cause for Helmberger's dismissal other than the claim that his term had expired and they never conducted a hearing as required.

If city officials coordinated these alterations, they could be subject to possible criminal prosecution for potentially multiple violations of state law.

Minn. Stat. 609.43, Subd. 3 makes it a gross misdemeanor when a public official or public employee "under pretense or color of official authority intentionally and unlawfully injures another in the other person's, property, or rights" (emphasis added). As a member of TEDA, Helmberger had legal rights to due process before being removed from office.

Subdivision 2 of the same statute makes it a crime for a public official or employee to commit an act in their official capacity that "is in excess of lawful authority or knowing it is forbidden by law to be done in that capacity." Falsifying the term of Helmberger's appointment suggests that city officials were aware that he couldn't lawfully be removed without a proper reason but did so anyway.

If city officials coordinated their actions to remove Helmberger, that could also constitute a violation of state conspiracy laws, which make it a crime for individuals to act in concert in the furtherance of a separate violation of the criminal code.

Other TEDA terms appear to have been altered as well. A comparison of city minutes from the 2017 reorganization to the official commis-

City of Tower Reorganization 2019 Planning & Zoning	
(Resident) Vice Chairman (Council Rep)	Steve Altenburg (2022)
Resident	Kevin Fitton (2020)
Resident	Steve Abrahamson (2019)
Business Owner (And/or Resident)	Morgen Carlon (2021)
	Jolene Herberg (2023)

City of Tower Reorganization 2017 Business & Economic Development Tower Economic Development Authority	
Chairman (Business Owner)	Marshall Helmberger (2017)
Vice Chairman (Resident)	Joan Broten (2019)
Treasurer (At Large)	Steve Peterson (2018)
Secretary	Terri Joki-Martin
Council Rep	Brad Matich (2018)
Council Rep	Brooke Anderson (2020)
Resident	Marit Kringstad (2019)
Business Owner	Victoria Meloche (2020)

sions roster provided to council members by Keith earlier this month shows that Meloche's original appointment through 2022 had been altered to 2020. Marit Kringstad's original appointment through 2021 was shortened to 2019, while Steve Peterson Sr.'s original appointment through 2022 has been altered to 2021.

Mayor Kringstad had made note of the apparent discrepancies in the TEDA terms during the council's Jan. 28 meeting, but Keith dismissed the concern.

"We had adjusted terms, I know," Keith told the council. "We had so many departures, and then we had some of them that were wrong, which coincided with when the councilors were done. We had them off before they were off their term."

But Keith gave no indication of who made such "adjustments" nor how systematic altering of terms was consistent with state law, which specifically sets the terms for members of an EDA.

Under state law, it appears the council would lack the authority to alter TEDA terms, and, in either case, a review of official minutes from all of 2018 found no record of such action by the council. Keith clearly lacks any authority to make the alterations on her own.

Further, the appointments made in 2017 were consistent with the terms of council representatives on TEDA, so Keith's claim that they did not align was untrue. Councilor Brad Matich was appointed through 2018, which marked the completion of his term on the city council. Councilor Brooke Anderson was

appointed through 2020, which marks the completion of her current term. The other 2017 appointments to TEDA all appear consistent with the length of terms spelled out in statute, so any change in terms would actually violate state law.

Other commissions affected as well

Alterations are also apparent in the terms and status of some members of the Gunderson Trust Board as well as the Forestry Board. On the Gunderson Trust, Keith appears to have removed all references to terms, suggesting that the current make-up of the trust board is continuing, rather than term-limited.

The altered roster also eliminates one of the two council representative positions on the trust board. The terms of both former councilor Lance Dougherty and former mayor Carlson had been set to expire in 2018, allowing the incoming council to make two new appointments to the trust board, but the alteration indicates only Dougherty's term is set to expire, while Carlson now appears to have a continuing term as a resident rather than a council representative.

Gunderson Trust board member Sheldon Majerle challenged the roster as presented by Keith during the council's Jan. 28 reorganization, noting that both Dougherty and Carlson had served as

the two designated council representatives on the board, and that both their terms had expired in 2018. Keith contended that the trust board only calls for one council representative, two forestry board representatives, three residents, and one at-large member, and that Carlson was serving as a resident rather than a council member.

"You are right that both Lance and Josh were on, but Josh was put on as a resident," said Keith.

Majerle, later in the meeting, read from the trust's authorizing court order, which confirmed his statement that the trust board is supposed to be comprised of two council members, two forestry board members, and three at-large members, who are supposed to serve three-year terms.

Keith tried a new story, however, suggesting that the trust board already has two council representatives, since councilor Brooke Anderson is also on the trust board as one of the two representatives of the forestry board.

"Then we have an open spot," said Majerle.

"We don't have any more spots," said Keith, implying that Anderson was filling two seats at once.

Kringstad sought clarification. Majerle said he was reading what the lawyer had drafted and the court had agreed to in 1991 when the trust was established.

"I also thought that was changed in that second set that was adopted in 2001," said Keith.

"Do you have a copy of that?" asked Majerle.

"I said I would get them," responded Keith.

Yet city minutes as recently as 2017 clearly outline that members of the trust board are appointed to three-year terms and that the makeup of the board is consistent with Majerle's contention. City minutes also confirm that both Dougherty and Carlson were appointed in 2015 to three-year terms on the trust board as "council representatives." Contrary to Keith's claim those terms both expired at the end of 2018, which should have left both up for replacement at the 2019 reorganization.

It's unclear if the current city council will take actions to address Keith's apparent falsifications. An effort to conduct a performance review of Keith in a closed session last week did not result in any calls for an investigation and, to date, the council has taken no steps to correct the term dates in the documents provided by Keith.

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HEALTH CARE

# Ely Shopko pharmacy business set to close

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – The Shopko Hometown retail store here remains on the “go forward” list of operations that will remain open for now, but the pharmacy portion of the business will close within a matter of weeks.

The Ashwaubenon, Wis.,-based retailer announced last week that it is closing up to 70 percent of its stores, after it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in January.

In all, Shopko identified 250 stores around the nation that will close or have already closed. Until last month, Shopko said it operated more than 360

## Ely Community Pharmacy growing to serve more customers

stores in 26 states.

Michelle Hanson, a Shopko public relations spokesperson confirmed to the *Timberjay* last Friday that the Ely Shopko Hometown is one of 120 top-performing stores that will remain open. “I can tell you that Ely made the list of stores released this week that will stay open,” she said. “However, Shopko is exiting the pharmacy business all together, and that includes the Ely Shopko pharmacy. I do not know when it will actually be closed.”

Liquidations at the closing stores will be

carried out in phases. Closings are expected to begin on March 17, with all of these stores closed by May 12. Most stores’ last day will fall on a Sunday, according to Hanson.

In a letter to customers, Shopko says its remaining stores will be open during restructuring. Gift cards, warranties, credits and returns will continue at the open stores.

Some prescription customers here have already had to switch pharmacies when Shopko announced months ago it would not cover the Platinum Blue prescription

program through Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

The Ely Community Pharmacy (ECP) experienced an uptick in business because of the change and has since taken steps to expand their services. The ECP is owned and operated by the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital.

ECP is preparing to meet the needs of the Ely community because of the impending Shopko pharmacy closure by adding staff, installing a second checkout and exploring the possibility of expanding hours to include Saturdays, according to Ely hospital

CEO Michael Coyle.

ECP is now open 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. “Our goal is to expand our hours and be open on Saturdays to better meet the needs of Ely and our surrounding service area,” he said. “It is very important to us that the needs of the community are met to the best of our ability.”

Prescription patients will need to give their permission to have their records transferred from Shopko to ECP. The number of prescription fills at ECP has jumped recently from 150 per day

to as many as 400 per day.

“Our second check-out window is up and running now,” Coyle said. “We are adding more staff members and hope to be open on Saturdays starting in early March.” We don’t have drive-thru access, but delivery by mail is available. We are also considering an in-town delivery service, but we don’t know if that is feasible.”

He also pointed to a smart phone app, “RefillRx,” that can be downloaded to make prescription ordering more convenient. “You get a text when your order is ready.”

ISD 696

## School calendar adopted

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY— The school board here voted 5-1 this week to adopt the calendar as developed by school administrators with input from teachers and staff. There are 180 teacher days and 172 student contact days built into the schedule for the 2019-2020 school year, which begins in September.

School starts on the Tuesday after Labor Day and ends on Friday, May 29, 2020. Graduation is scheduled for Saturday, May 30.

A Christmas vacation of eight days and two week-ends starts after school on Friday, Dec. 20, 2019, with school resuming on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2020, giving students 12 days of school break.

Board member James Pointer said he heard from “a number of families” who wondered about the school calendar format because Christmas “was so late in the week.” Christmas Day falls on a Wednesday in 2019.

“They wondered about coming back on the Thursday and Friday (after New Year’s Day) then having another weekend off,” Pointer said. “Is there any thought to making that so we have three (consecutive) weekends off to extend Christmas vacation?”

He suggested taking away some of the four-day weeks later in the school year to make up the two days added to the Christmas break. Two four-day weeks are scheduled in February, one in March, two in April and one in May.

Anne Oelke, K-5 principal, pushed back on the suggestion of having two full weeks and three weekends off at Christmas. “Having that transition back (Thursday and Friday after New Years Day) is nice to get the kids back into a routine,” she said.

In other business, the school board heard from the Washington Elementary Student Council who requested hot water in their building’s bathroom sinks, painting murals on the step risers in their building, and asked for cafeteria staff to wear hair nets “to keep all the hair out of our food.”



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## CITY OF ORR

# Orr Council to consider regulating short-term rentals

by **MARCUS WHITE**  
Cook/Orr Editor

ORR - The council here will hold a public forum next month on whether the city should enact a policy governing rental properties within the city.

The forum is set for 6 p.m. on Monday, March 11, one hour before the council's regular monthly

meeting.

City Clerk Cheri Carter said the city has received several calls from parties interested in acquiring properties in the area to use as seasonal rentals.

Carter included a draft ordinance in councilors' packets Monday evening.

Short-term rentals would be defined as renting of a room or entire residence for a period of less

than thirty days and not an established business.

The proposal would also see the city require a \$125 permitting fee for a short-term rental permit that would expire yearly. Permits would not be transferable.

"Maybe in the whole scheme of things, this is something we need put in," Maintenance Supervisor Paul Koch said.

"If we don't do it, we will be behind it and we'll be trying to catch up," Councilman Bruce Black said.

The consensus among the council was that the permits are a good idea but they wanted to hear from city residents before proceeding.

Carter said she would send notices in the next round of utility bills.

A search of the largest short-term rental site, Airbnb, did not show any current properties listed within the city of Orr.

In other business, the council:

► Approved transferring their federal airport allotment of \$150,000 this year to the Fairmont Airport since Orr does not have a major project planned for 2019. The

allotment will be recouped in July 2021.

► Approved travel requests for some EMT volunteers to attend training.

► Approved a new water heater for the liquor store.

► Approved a request for purchases for the EMS service.

## BWCA...Continued from page 1

stakeholders offered solutions to make for a smooth transition to a new way of doing things.

"We deeply regret the difficulty this has caused, and I want to thank the members of the community who are working with us to make this transition to an online reservation system successful," said Superior National Forest Supervisor Connie Cummins. "Our goal is to ensure the reservation system provides a fair and open means for the public to visit the Boundary Waters and support the local businesses that depend on this special place."

The BWCAW is one of more than 3,500 facilities across the country that utilizes Recreation.gov to manage their permit reservation processes. Within the national reservation system, customers can simultaneously apply for and secure a reservation for a permit.

"The BWCA reservation system failure has already had a massive impact on business owners and families across Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District and beyond," Stauber said. "Since the website crashed, my office heard from countless outdoor enthusiasts along with outfitters who are concerned with their ability to provide timely customer service and the harmful impact this crash could have on Northern Minnesota's local economy."

When asked what he hoped to accomplish at the hour-long listening session, Stauber replied, "The BWCA is a crown jewel not only in the state of Minnesota but this entire nation and internationally as well, so we have to get it right. We have outfitters in need in Minnesota. That's their livelihood. Many here feel like the Forest Service

was not listening to them. I think the Forest Service representatives heard that loud and clear."

The online system, which has been in existence for about a decade, was expanded this year to include permits for motor use on certain high-demand lakes. Those permits had previously been allotted through a lottery, but Forest Service spokesperson Kris Reichenbach said agency staff felt the lottery was no longer necessary since those seeking reservations can now see permit availability instantly with the online program.

A panel of speakers who joined Stauber in the discussion included several outfitters: John Fredrickson, Ginny Nelson, Jason Zabokrtsky, and Bob LaTourell.

Ely Mayor Chuck Novak, Ely Chamber of Commerce director Eva Sebesta, Superior National Forest Supervisor Connie Cummins, and Malony Glossa, a deputy forester for the eastern region, were also part of the panel.

Local BWCA fishing guide Ross Petersen said the new system that operates on a first-come, first-served premise is discriminatory to poor and rural people. "If you don't have high-speed Internet, and this was very clear during this last fiasco, you are not going to have the same access to permits as the people in the metro areas and the people who

have access to high-speed Internet."

He also complained that the Forest Service did not take any input from local stakeholders "until the new system couldn't be stopped."

Dan Waters, owner of Ely's Canadian Waters, Inc., who claimed he was the oldest outfitter in the building, said he doesn't expect anything to change. "For 55 years, there has been very little that the Forest Service has done that has come from suggestions of outfitters and cooperators, and I don't look for that happening this time. You are looking for a quick answer again and it's probably going to be an abortion of a fix."

He asked for the Forest Service to listen to the people who depend on the BWCA for their livelihood. "I wouldn't have your job for a million bucks," Waters said.

Nancy McReady, president of Conservationists with Common Sense, repeated her request to have Ely considered as a location for a call center for the Forest Service permit reservation system. "We have some pretty good workers here that have a good record and we could really use some good jobs here," she said. "There's gotta be some way to address the issue rather than taking away the lottery."

Many other citizens expressed their distrust

of the Forest Service and believed the lottery system should return.

Former St. Louis County Commissioner Mike Forsman said he has no faith that the Internet-based reservation system will be successful.

He also addressed that with the lottery system, at least 38 percent of those who obtained permits didn't show up to use their permits on the specified date and entry point. "That 38 percent purposely don't show up," he said. "This comes from the environmental community that typically have the permits and they're trying to keep people out of the Boundary Waters. They get those motor permits and they don't show up. They don't want motors in the Boundary Waters."

He said the issue won't change with the Internet permit reservation system. "I'll guarantee that you'll have another 38 percent that don't show up because they are bought by the environmental community that has more money than anybody in this room," Forsman said. "They can buy as many permits as they want and they don't have to worry about that poor person whose dad or grandpa used to fish on Basswood Lake, or Moose Lake or the Chain of Lakes."

Stauber said he's concerned about the economic impact the BWCA has on the Ely community. "The shutdown of the

BWCA online permit system has economically impacted local businesses who rely on the hundreds and thousands of tourists who come out every year to enjoy the Boundary Waters," he said.

About 150,000 tourists enjoy the Boundary Waters annually which brings in \$57 million in revenue according to one recent study.

"Those of us who live here know that we had restaurants that closed last year and never reopened. 'I don't know how we got here but we have another MNLARS (state drivers license) system on our hands,' Novak said. "Where was the field testing? All I see is the reactive. Where is the proactive? Our economy today is based on tourism. We have a government that is supposed to work for us. Basswood Lake used to be our playground. Now we are restricted from going to our playground."

The Forest Service's Glossa tried to offer reassurance. "The entire community here in Ely, and our cooperators, are a big part of how we do business out here," Glossa said. "We are going to have some beta testing with our cooperators to make sure we are addressing some of the issues that they see. We are working with a technical team that we've got to fix this."

Forest Service officials were asked about a back-up plan if the re-launch of the reservation system does not work, and how a second possible government shutdown, that could happen on Friday, Feb. 15, will impact the process. Glossa said the new system won't go live without new testing and training.

"We have the opportunity of prior-year funding to continue to support the system and we are committed to doing that. We will find a way to continue to support this system even if we are furloughed," she said.

"Working to rebuild your trust is going to be a daily thing," she said. "Our highest priority in the entire region is to make this go."



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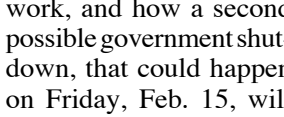
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## ELY...Continued from page 1

always wanted to live in the North Country and for years would watch the Winter Festival on the web cam that is located at Whiteside Park.

This is his second year lighting the ice candles and he plans on doing the job until he is an "old timer," he says.

Shauna Vega, director of the Ely Winter Festival, is sure happy to have Dave's assistance. "He's so enthusiastic and ready to help wherever we need him," she said.

This is the 17th Annual Winter Festival and Snow Carver's Symposium and the event is still going strong.

Every year snow carvers gather in Ely's Whiteside Park to demonstrate their skills, have big fun and trade knowledge with other snow carvers. This year there are 17 carver groups traveling from as far as Argentina and Thunder Bay as well as many local participants, and unlike past winters,

this year the weather conditions were excellent for their craft.

The carving started on Feb. 7 and ended on Feb. 10 with the Carver's Brunch held at Grand Ely Lodge.

"No monetary awards are given," said Vega. Instead a People's Choice Award certificate is given, which follows symposium rules. This year the awards went to the two-team collaboration of Blue Sky Designs from Duluth and team Von Scotty of the Twin Cities for their carving titled "Pooling Our Resources."

They were each awarded certificates and custom-designed mugs from local potter Wade Pharr.

If you're in Whiteside Park this weekend at around 5 p.m., look for Dave Stone in his parka with his propane torch in-hand making the rounds to light the over one hundred ice candles. "It takes me about one and

one-half hours to light them all," Dave says, adding, "but that depends on how many people I stop to visit with."

The ice candles were made this year by the volunteer efforts of the Ely Law Enforcement Club and Julie Nester and her helpers. They were created by filling balloons with water, then setting them into the snow to keep the round shape. Before they are completely frozen the balloon is popped, remaining water is drained and some carving is done to the tops to widen them.

Then Dave takes over. With a set of barbecue tongs in hand, Dave lights a two-inch wax pillar candle and places it inside each ice luminaria. "That was Barb's idea to use the tongs," Dave admits.

Over the course of the festival, 600 to 800 pillar candles are needed. Once lit, they burn for six to seven hours and are replaced the next evening.

Dave's efforts in the

park certainly do not go unnoticed. "It's great listening to the kids ooh and ahh when they see me light the candles." He leaves a trail of magical brilliance behind him as he works his way through the park. "It's me giving them a Disneyworld or fairyland and it's great to see the kids just mesmerized," Dave said.

This year he hasn't been spending quite as much time in the park because he also works full time at Piragis Northwoods Company as the Gear Room Manager, another job he is thrilled to have.

For Dave, living, working and being a part of Ely is a dream come true.

The snow sculptures will remain on display in Whiteside Park until they melt or in the unfortunate case of pranksters "monkey-diddling" with them.

*Dave Stone is the brother-in-law of Timberjay staffer, Scarlet Stone.*



Snow carvers braved bitter temperatures and brutal wind chills last Friday afternoon at the Ely Winter Festival. photo by K. Vandervort

## SCHOOLS...Continued from page 1

future of the school.

Chris Koivisto, the board member for Northeast Range in Babbitt, applauded the decision as well. Koivisto, along with Swanson, was the school's biggest backer in the previous two meetings.

He said what works for Tower will work in Babbitt since the two schools share several program links as well as many students from Tower moving to Northeast Range for high school.

The move also had resounding support from the rest of the board, including Larson.

### Union complaint

Prior to the regularly-scheduled meeting, the board heard a level three

grievance from the Local 70 International Union of Operating Engineers. A level three grievance is when a party feels district administrators have failed to address an issue lodged against them.

The grievance, signed by every member of the district's custodial staff, alleges that Engebritson is circumventing union collective bargaining rights by creating a head custodian position that is not unionized. The new position would be a district-wide position and would oversee all of the school buildings.

With many custodians retiring in coming years, the district has indicated they will move away from each building having its own head of maintenance.

Scott Marsyla, the union's local business representative, said the staff and the union want the district to include the new position under the union contract since it is within its jurisdiction to have all engineering and custodial staff as members.

Marsyla said the union had been working with Engebritson, but said in response to their complaint, only minimal changes had been made to the position which ultimately still did not satisfy the requirement for the position to be unionized.

The new position would require a boiler's license, one which Marsyla said a new employee would be better off earning through the union since the training is offered

for free and will also allow current employees to train a new operator on how each building works. The union pointed to a series of incidents nationwide, including a deadly one in Minneapolis, where improperly-trained boiler operators had mismanaged the system causing boilers to explode.

The board has 20 days to respond to the complaint.

Marsyla said the union will take the district to arbitration if the board

does not respond the way the union hopes.

In other business, the board:

► Will consider closing the fitness centers at North Woods and Cherry. Combined the two facilities only have 19 paying members and the district is losing \$30,000 to keep the doors open after hours. The Cherry program was set to close anyway for construction this summer. The board will reconsider the closure once construction

at Cherry is complete.

► Engebritson said she is negotiating with the county to get a third School Resource Officer into the district. She said the county's initial offer was to split the program cost 50/50. Board members instructed her to try for a better deal. Koivisto asked whether Northeast Range could utilize the Babbitt Police to augment the sheriff's visits.

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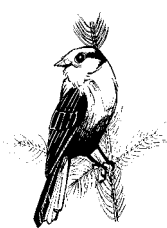
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# SPORTS

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## SPORTS FAMILY

# From a dream to a family legacy

The Goggleye family dominates the basketball court from Orr to North Woods and everywhere in between



The Goggleyes from left to right on their home court at North Woods: Brynn, Maya, Bryce Chosa, Darius, Cade, Darnell, Robbie, Jerry and Gerald. photo by M. White

by MARCUS WHITE  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP - When Gerald Goggleye took to the basketball court in Orr four decades ago, he couldn't have known his family would be a local mainstay in the sport for years to come.

"My dream was to go to the state tournament," he said.

In seventh grade, Gerald tried to make the team, but realized he had much more work to do, so he took that summer to keep practicing before donning the Orr uniform the following season.

For Gerald, his time on the high school court would come to an end after his junior season, when family life came first. It wasn't an easy decision, but it set the stage in ensuring

his family would always have a name in the game. "I would wake up wishing I had played again," Gerald said. "I passed it on to the boys and I always told my wife I was going to do something for my grandkids."

**"Dad had a lot of influence on me**

**Jerry Goggleye**

The game never left him.

"After high school, I still wanted to prove I could play," Gerald said. "I played every weekend and these boys followed me."

A few years later,

Gerald's eldest son, Jerry, was ready to keep his father's legacy going.

"Dad had a lot of influence on me," Jerry said. "I started in third grade in Nett Lake, then played for Orr. I played with the sixth graders when I was in fourth grade."

Not long after that, a third Goggleye, Robbie, who currently coaches the North Woods girls team, followed what was becoming a family tradition.

"I just loved the game," Robbie said. "I played defense. That was my enjoyment. I started out coaching here when the schools combined."

Even though both of his sons had taken up the game, Gerald said his work life kept him from fully being there for them. He

See **GOGGLEYE...**pg. 2B

## NORDIC SKIING

# Ely boys on to State!

Boys team, plus two girls, qualify for state meet at Giants Ridge on February 14

by JAY GREENEY  
Sports Writer

BIWABIK - The Ely boys dominated the Section 7 Nordic ski competition this past Thursday at Giants Ridge, finishing all four team members in the top ten to advance to the state tournament.

Timberwolves standout Jasper Johnston took first in the classic race and finished in third place overall, while teammates

James Schwinghamer, Kjetil Midttun, and Gabriel Pointer finished sixth, eighth, and tenth respectively. Raif Olson finished in the 11th spot.

"Jasper skied a couple of great races," said Ely Head Coach Paula Anderson. "The soft and cold conditions in the first race didn't work quite in his favor."

As a team, the Ely boys outpaced their next-clos-

est rival, Duluth Marshall, by 13 points and were set to compete in the state competition, beginning at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 14, after the *Timberjay's* Wednesday deadline. The *Timberjay* will post an update on the state competition at timberjay.com.

The girls, meanwhile, missed their own trip to state by just four points,

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



**Clockwise from top: James Schwinghamer enjoying the trail; Raif Olsen in the snow; Ana Bercher chased on the trail.** photos by L. Anderson

## HOCKEY

# Wolves lose final game

by JAY GREENEY  
Sports writer

ELY - The Wolves finished their regular season on home ice on Friday, but Moose Lake Area spoiled the homecoming, winning 7-4.

The Rebels took a first-period lead when they opened the scoring just four minutes into the contest. Ely's Justin Nyman evened the score on assists from Nick Mattila and Luke Olson. An Austin Meskill goal, assisted by Olson, put the Wolves up top for a time, but the Rebels put two in the net in quick succession to take a 3-2 lead at the end of one.

The Rebels held Ely scoreless in the second, while adding two more to pad their lead to 5-2.

The Rebels scored first in the final period, to jump to a 6-2 lead before Olson and Jeremiah Kaercher scored back-to-back goals on Mattila assists to cut the lead in half. That would be as close as the Wolves would get as Moose Lake Area would add one more

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

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Battle of the bears leaves Grizzlies in the dust



by MARCUS WHITE  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP - Hesitation and second guessing foiled the Grizzlies in what should have been a win Tuesday night as the Eveleth-Gilbert Golden Bears topped North Woods, 61-46.

"We just didn't play to our potential," said Head Coach Robbie Goggleye.

**Kate Stone working through Amara Wilcox's defense to get to the hoop.** photo by C. Stone

"It was a winnable game. We were only down by six at the half but got stuck on

**"We have to be more consistent**

**Coach Robbie Goggleye**

points for eight and a half minutes in the second."

The team, now 8-13, was also without the services of senior guard Bria Chiabotti, who was sidelined due to illness.

Senior forward Kate Stone led the way offensively for the Grizzlies, with 17 points. Senior guard Alanna Rutchasky would add 12 more.

It was a similar story on Monday, as the Grizzlies fell 72-45 at Deer River.

"We had some trouble with playing a bigger team," Goggleye said. "They dominated us."

Chiabotti, who was still healthy at the time, led the Grizzlies with 17 points. Rutchasky tallied seven points while Stone added six.

Goggleye said their

next match-up, against Ely, will be an uphill battle, although it's a game that could be won. Goggleye said the team needs to refocus as it enters the final leg of the season.

"We have to be more consistent. It's been the story all year," he said. "We need to get back to playing basketball. The seniors are down to their last couple of games. We don't want to make a mistake. We just need to get back into the game and not be scared and not second-guess ourselves."

Crucial points have been missed, said

Goggleye, from the team either hesitating for a split second or adding an extra dribble.

The result has been costly turnovers.

The Grizzlies were to face Ely on the road Thursday night, with a 7:15 p.m. start. They'll host Red Lake on Saturday night, with a 7:30 tip-off. They wrap up their final week of the regular season with a home match-up with Littlefork-Big Falls on Tuesday and a Thursday night road trip to Floodwood. Tip-off for both games is set for 7:15 p.m.



# GOGGLEYE...Continued from page 1B

said that was remedied when his eldest grandchild, Darnell, was born.

“I put a ball in Darnell’s hand before he could walk,” Gerald said. “I told my wife I was going to start it all over again. If they play ball, I want to watch.”

Darnell would become the first of the third generation to make his mark on the court, though this time it would be for the North Woods Grizzlies.

During his time, Darnell set the all-time scoring record for the team, a feat surpassed by his own brother, Cade, earlier this season.

“I had to keep it going,” Darnell said. “I knew they (grandfather and father) wouldn’t quit. I tried to model myself after them.”

And soon his brothers, sisters and cousins followed.

“When we got Darnell playing, it was a chain reaction, that’s what everyone wanted to do,” Gerald said.

Soon Cade, the Grizzlies’ current star player, was bringing in points, eventually eclipsing Darnell’s success. “When I first started, I watched my brother grow up with it,” Cade said. “I’ve always wanted to do better than him.”

The sibling rivalry extends to the home

as well, where Darnell admits he likes to still get under Cade’s skin about his performances on the court.

The success hasn’t been limited, however to Cade and Darnell, cousins Darius Goggleye and Bryce Chosa have also made marks on the team.

“It’s kinda cool,” Bryce said of playing with

“I had to keep it going”  
Darnell Goggleye

his cousins

“There is expectation to do well,” Darius said. “These two, (Darnell and Cade) are good, so I feel I have to do well also. You have to work hard. Right now I am working on defense.”

The hard work shows in the family training schedule.

“Forus it never stops,” Robbie said. “It starts the weekend after the state tournament. We take three weeks off in August for a vacation.”

With so much basketball in their family life, Robbie added, they try and make rules to keep some time open for other topics of conversation at the dinner table.

“We have a rule. I

can’t talk about a game until after the night is over, especially if it is a bad night,” Robbie said.

While the family’s dominance on the court has, so far, been limited to boys basketball, that may soon change with fifth-graders, Maya and Brynn, both of whom are already playing the game. “I’ve been watching Cade for a long time,” Brynne said. “I also watch how Darius worked on defense, and how Bryce handles the ball. I just want to be better than all of them.”

Robbie said watching his daughters take to the court was a big reason he took the coaching position with the girls team when it came open several years ago.

For now, though, Gerald is watching his grandchildren play, regardless of their grade or skill level. For him it’s a point of pride.

“I never thought it would come down to them all playing basketball,” he said. “I am very proud of them all. As a grandparent, I have a lot of pride because of what they have accomplished.”

He said all he and his sons can do is try and point them in the right direction and hope it all works out.

For the future, he said, “I’ve got one more grandkid; he’s two and he’s shooting before he can walk.”

## BOYS BAKETBALL

# Wolves end winning streak

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

ELY— Mesabi East ended the Timberwolves’ latest winning streak at five games this past Friday, downing the Wolves ,69-46. A 19-2 run for the 8-7 Giants in the final ten minutes of the match took Ely out of the running.

“We kept it close until the last nine minutes,” said Ely Head Coach

Tom McDonald, whose team fell to 12-7 with the loss. “They defended us very well and shot the ball very well against us,” said McDonald.

Junior Dylan Fenske led the way offensively for the Wolves, with 13 points, followed by senior guard Trevor Mattson, with 12. Junior Eric Omerza recorded seven rebounds.

Tuesday night’s scheduled match-up with

Lakeview Christian was postponed due to snowy roads. The Wolves were set to play a make-up game on Thursday afternoon, in Cotton.

The Wolves will be back at home on Friday night, hosting Chisholm, and will face the Rangers next Tuesday, in Mt. Iron. Tip-off for all three games is set for 7:15 p.m.

# Grizzlies maintain dominance

by MARCUS WHITE  
Cook-Orr Editor

I-FALLS— The North Woods boys continued their dominance of the basketball court, putting two more wins in the books this week. On Tuesday, the Grizzlies took their winning streak on the road, defeating the Broncos, 84-58.

“They were a good physical match up for us,” said Head Coach Will Kleppe. “We were pleased with the way we moved the

ball and our defense on the perimeter was very good.”

Junior forward Trevor Morrison led the team in scoring, pouring in 30 points. Senior guard Cade Goggleye added another 21 with freshman guard T.J. Chiabotti adding 11 more.

Last Friday, the Grizzlies would have their biggest win of the week, sending Littlefork-Big Falls packing, 113-32.

Morrison again led the scoring with 24 points and 11 rebounds for a dou-

ble-double. Cade Goggleye wasn’t far behind with 22 points and nine assists.

Sophomore forward Darius Goggleye added 18 points with six rebounds, while senior guard Chase Kleppe had 15 points. Chiabotti contributed with 13.

North Woods stays on the road, taking on Mesabi East this Friday. Tipoff is 7:15 p.m. They’ll be back home on Monday against Fond du Lac, with a 6:30 p.m. start.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Wolves have back-to-back wins

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

ELY - The Timberwolves girls improved to 12-9 on the season after big back-to-back wins, over Fond du Lac and an overtime win over Eveleth-Gilbert.

At Fond du Lac on Monday, junior guard Erika Mattson scored 31 and posted eight rebounds to lead Ely to a 62-45 win. Brielle Kallberg posted a double-double with 12 points and 15 boards along with eight steals. Senior Lida Dodge tallied 11 points.

“I feel our team continues to improve and get stronger as a team, which is what you always want at the end of the season,” said Ely Head Coach Darren Visser.

On the weekend, Mattson and Kallberg combined for 52 points to lead the Wolves to a 65-58 overtime win against Eveleth-Gilbert. Mattson posted one of the most impressive outings of her career, pouring in 34 points and grabbing 19 rebounds for a double-double. Kallberg notched her second straight double-double with 18 points and 12 boards.

Dodge added seven points for the Wolves.

Coach Visser said the latest performances suggest the team is peaking at the right time. “Having a couple of closer games lately, like Eveleth-Gilbert, has been good for preparing us for the playoffs,” he said.

The girls were set to host North Woods on Valentine’s Day and they’ll be at Northeast Range next Thursday before wrapping up their season at home in a 5:45 p.m. match-up with South Ridge.

# NORDIC...Continued from page 1B

but will send Zoe Devine and Kalyssa Eilrich as individuals. “Zoe is a strong and natural athlete and I expected her to qualify,” said Anderson. “Kalyssa worked very hard all year to make it.”

Devine finished fifth overall while Eilrich finished sixth in the freestyle competition and 12th overall.

“Sections went well in spite of some brutal conditions in the morning,” said Anderson. “I’ve never seen conditions that difficult. Skiers were quite spent after the first race and this affected the girls in the second race I think.”

Both teams competed in a 5.2-kilometer freestyle race and a classic distance of 5.3 kilometers. Team scores were determined by the top four finishers of each squad.

The Ely boys and girls squads will each have their core skiers coming back next year so the future looks bright for the teams.

## ELY VARSITY BOY INDIVIDUAL FINISHERS

3. Jasper Johnston	19:01
6. James Schwinghamer	20:28
8. Kjetil Midttun	20:47
10. Gabriel Pointer	20:46
11. Raif Olson	20:55
24. Nate Netiffee	23:16
33. Ethan Bremner	23:28
16:09.8	
17:15.3	
17:09.8	
17:54.9	
17:49.1	
17:49.4	
18:48.4	

## ELY VARSITY GIRL INDIVIDUAL FINISHERS

5. Zoe Devine	23:22
12:00.8	
12. Kalyssa Eilrich	23:53
23:00.4	
19. Phoebe Helms	25:57
22:35.5	
20. Brooke Pasmick	26:33
22:17.6	
36. Ana Bercher	28:19
22:49.8	
37. Cora Olson	27:24
23:47.8	
38. Julia Schwinghamer	27:57
23:38.8	

## SECTION 7 BOYS TEAM RESULTS

1. Ely	377
2. Marshall School	364
3. Cloquet-Esko-Carlton	360
4. Grand Rapids	359
5. Duluth East	323
6. Mesabi East	319
7. Duluth Denfield	269
8. Proctor/Hermantown	224

## SECTION 7 GIRLS TEAM RESULTS

1. Duluth East	381
2. Grand Rapids	352
3. Ely	348
4. Marshall School	332
5. Mesabi East	330
6. Cloquet-Esko-Carlton	273
7. Duluth Denfeld	273
8. Proctor/Hermantown	267
9. Two Harbors/Cook County	204
10. Hibbing	198

# HOCKEY...Continued from page 1B

goal before the final buzzer sounded.

It was a penalty-filled game as Ely spent 10 minutes in the box on five

infractions. The Rebels committed eight penalties good for 16 minutes. The Wolves took advantage of the power play as they

scored on three-of-eight opportunities.

Ely’s playoff match-ups were not available as of presstime.

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ELY SCHOOLS

# Ely school facility committee gets down to work

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – Members of the Ely School District’s Community Task Force held an inaugural meeting this week to begin planning a way forward on renovations to the school campus. The district has hired Architectural Resources, Inc. of Hibbing, to consult on the planning effort and a possible eventual project that could connect the three campus buildings here and provide for safe and secure school-day access. School Board members brought in members of the community to help with the planning process, which could be funded in part by a school bond referendum this fall. The school district has also received a \$500,000 state school safety grant which would be earmarked for the work. The building connection and secure entrance

project could be just part of a facilities plan that could include infrastructure upgrades, learning space and cafeteria/kitchen renovations, the addition of a new gymnasium, and other improvements. “We are here to review the existing school facilities and use the community to help direct any improvements and what would be an outcome that we would like to look at as far as educational delivery in this facility,” said ARI designer Katie Hildenbrand who is working on the Ely school project with ARI architect Kevin Piron. Members of the Ely community task force who attended the meeting on Monday include Paul Ivancich, Warren Nikkola, Paul Maki, Celia Domich, David Wigdahl, Misty Merhar, Ross Petersen, Mary Groeninger, Ely teacher Chelsea Blomberg, school facilities director Tim Leeson, Ely schools princi-

pals Anne Oelke and Megan Anderson, and Ely school board members Tom Omerza and Heidi Mann. Hildenbrand recapped the outcome of a recent all-day listening session with teachers and staff and listed some strengths and challenges from that stakeholders’ input. “The strengths identified include the quality and dedicated teachers and staff, fantastic students, small school atmosphere, a very supportive community, the updated heating plant successfully completed through a referendum in 2011, and the auditorium space and the arts community is very popular,” she said. The list of challenges included: next-century learning and changing education delivery not present in Ely schools. Others indicated that existing cafeteria space is small, noisy and in a poor location, the facility is

aging, and more STEM (science, technology, engineering math) space is needed. In addition, the facility is not secured during the school day and travel between buildings requires going outside. Insufficient gymnasium space and an unused, vacant pool were also raised as concerns. “The task force is here to identify a vision for the school’s future,” Hildenbrand said. “This is your school and your community and it really needs to support how you guys are educating your kids. We are here to listen and to present opportunities and ideas. We will help guide you through an assessment of your existing space, and identify options for putting a plan together and then help you come to a consensus to bring back to the school board on the wants and needs of the district.” She put the whole process of the task force into a one sentence objective, “We are

here to develop a thoughtful, cost-effective long-term solution for the Ely School District that the taxpayers and residents will support.” Following a quick history of the Ely school buildings and their improvement and maintenance over time and an assessment of the existing facility conditions by the architect, task force members broke into small groups to begin to prioritize their vision of a functional school campus. Subsequent meetings will be held on the following schedule: Feb. 25, Scheme and Dream; March 11, Plan Development; and April 1, Reaching a Consensus. A fifth meeting may be held in early April if needed. Meetings are scheduled from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Memorial school library. They are open to the public.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Boundary Waters Choral Festival on Friday, March 1 in Ely

ELY- High school singers once again take the stage at Ely’s Washington Auditorium on Friday, March 1 at 7 p.m., for this year’s Boundary Waters Choral Festival. This annual event gives area high school students the chance to sing as part of a larger festival choir, as well as to participate in a full day of workshops, rehearsals, and specialized choral instruction with college music professors from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. The performance is free and open to the public, but freewill donations are welcome to help cover the expenses. This is the 10th year the choir festival has been held, and each year the event has grown in professionalism and style. Most of these students are in school choirs that may number fewer than 20 singers. Singing in a large choir is a once-a-year opportunity for them. Special guest this year is Grammy award-winning singer-songwriter Carrie Newcomer. The BWCF Choir will perform three of her compositions: “Room at the Table”, “Lean In Towards the Light”, and “A Gathering of Spirits”, the theme song for this year’s BWCF. The choral students from



Carrie Newcomer

Ely Memorial, Eveleth-Gilbert, International Falls, Mt. Iron-Buhl, North Woods, and Vermilion Country High Schools will spend the day rehearsing the festival music selections, which they have been practicing as individual choirs, and by the end of the day, under the direction of Dr. Matthew Olson, they will become one unified 125-voice choir in a performance you will not want to miss. This will be Olson’s sixth year as festival conductor. As the talent of the students has grown year to year, he is able to select more difficult and beautiful music for the

group to perform. The concert will include individual choir performances; most will sing the two selections they will be performing the following week at the Minnesota State High School League Choral Music Contest. Then the choral students from all six schools will combine into a 125-voice “festival choir.” “It takes a village to offer an opportunity like this to our area choral students,” said festival organizers Mike and Billie Rouse. “We wish to thank the Mesabi Symphony Orchestra for their kindness and willingness to be our fiscal sponsors.” This event is made possible through the generous contributions of its major donors: the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council thanks to appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature’s general and arts and cultural heritage funds, the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust, Essentia Health Community Contributions, Dr. Crystal Chopp, Northshore Mining, Lake Country Power, MN Power Positively Powerful, Shopko, Adventure Inn, as well as countless private donations.

### DFL Listening Session Set for Saturday, Feb. 23 in Ely

ELY – Area Democrats will hold a listening session on Saturday, Feb. 23, from 5-7 p.m. at Vermilion Community College classroom CL 128. The gathering is open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

Members of the Board of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party’s St. Louis County Operating Unit 03 will be present to visit with area residents and hear their post-midterm election ideas and concerns.

The meeting is sponsored by the Outreach Committee of the county unit that covers northern St. Louis County, including Cook, Orr, Tower, Ely, Babbitt and surrounding townships.

“We want to give an opportunity for people in the northern part of our very large district to have a voice,” said Leah Rogne of Gheen, a board member. “We want to hear about what’s important to DFLers and to help keep people engaged as we look forward to the important elections in 2020.”

“Our district runs all the way from Kabetogama to Hermantown and rural Duluth,” Rogne said. “We want to extend organizing activities to our local areas in the north.”

Bob Miller, chair of the Organizing Unit, will be at the meeting. The area DFL Outreach Committee includes Leah Rogne, Melissa Roach of Bear River, Bob Miller of Hermantown, and Carol Orban of Ely.

For more information, contact Carol Orban at 218-365-3346.

## Mesabi Orchestra on Saturday, Feb. 16 in Ely and Sunday, 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 tonsorialist and his bride. Buy tickets online at [www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org](http://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.

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# Outdoors

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## INSECT PESTS

# Arctic outbreak likely took a toll on emerald ash borer

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— There’s a silver lining in the most recent cold snap in Minnesota. While most people found the cold temperatures an inconvenience, for some of the state’s invasive insect pests, the cold likely proved deadly. According to forest health specialists with the Department of Natural

Resources, the recent outbreak of the polar vortex, which pushed brutally cold air temperatures all the way into southern Minnesota, likely killed off a significant portion of the emerald ash borer population in the state. The invasive pest has devastated native ash forests elsewhere in the United States, and it’s been gaining an ever-larger foothold here in Minnesota as winters have grown warmer.

Emerald ash borer larvae overwinter under the bark of ash trees. The larvae, like many overwintering insects in cold regions, generate chemicals to prevent their cells from freezing when temperatures dip, just as salt helps thaw ice and snow even in temperatures well below freezing. But such defenses against the cold

See **OUTBREAK...**pg. 5B



## Outdoors in brief

### County board okays AIS funds for 2019

REGIONAL — More funds are on the way in the fight to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. The St. Louis County board, this week, approved the distribution of \$657,000 in state funds for eight projects and initiatives in the county, including ongoing watercraft inspections, decontamination, and education on several northern St. Louis County lakes, including Burntside, Shagawa, Pelican, Kabetogama, and Vermilion. The bulk of the funding, totaling \$378,000, was awarded to the North Soil and Water Conservation District to manage much of the work in cooperation with local lake associations.

Other awards included:  
➤ \$75,000 to Wildlife Forever for marketing efforts aimed at public education.  
➤ \$36,000 to Vermilion Lake Association for continued watercraft inspections and cleaning, and early detection and response efforts.  
➤ \$16,000 to the Burntside Lake Association to expand training of boat inspectors and various public outreach efforts.  
➤ \$60,000 to Community Action Duluth to continue eradication efforts on non-native phragmites in the St. Louis River.

➤ \$15,000 to Canasia Township to fund inspections and public education on Pike Lake and Caribou Lake.  
➤ \$10,000 to the City of Duluth for maintenance and outreach related to the CD3 (Clean, Drain, Dry, Dispose) station at Munger Landing on the St. Louis River.

Additionally, St. Louis County will hold \$50,000 in a reserve account to address urgent needs that may arise. Each year, through the AIS Prevention Aid Program, the state Legislature gives funding to counties based on a formula that factors each county’s share of watercraft trailer launches and watercraft trailer parking spaces. Of Minnesota’s 87 counties, St. Louis County has the second highest number of watercraft trailer launches (166) and the highest number of watercraft trailer parking spaces (1,173).



**Nett Lake students Kariah Ragsdal, Jaيدا Lambert, Nazhoni Connor, and Rose Knott were fishing with guide Cecil Beatty.**

photos by S. Ukkola

## NON-TRADITIONAL LEARNING

# Taking a (bunch) of kids fishing

Area elementary students learn the ropes of angling through the ice

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA  
Timberjay staff writer

LAKEVERMILION- It may have been snowing and blowing outside on Tuesday, but inside the warm confines of several Everett Bay fishing shacks, fifth and sixth-graders from Nett Lake and Tower-Soudan elementary schools enjoyed a break from the usual classroom fare to learn about ice fishing. The morning started out slow with just a few nibbles, but there was more than enough to keep the kids entertained as they played with bait, looked down the holes and monitored any fish activity on the electronic graphs set up in some of the holes. The kids were spread out among seven icehouses, all maintained by Fortune Bay Resort Casino, which the kids were using for the morning. The guides and supervisors told stories of what fishing was like when they were kids, sitting freezing on a bucket, possibly with



**Tower students Bobby Swartz, Zach Poderzay, Greyson Reichensperger, and Ro Noyes were fishing with Denny of Denny’s Guide Service.**

a tent, or maybe not, to protect you from the wind and the cold. These kids fished in comfort in warm icehouses, with folding chairs, and wood paneling. Chris Johnson, from the 1854 Treaty Authority, told the kids about how Native Americans would ice fish in the past. Johnson said the natives would lay down on the ice and cover themselves with a hide and speared the fish through a hole in the ice. The light coming from the sides of the hole illuminated the water well enough to see the fish as they swam by. Most kids said that this was their first time

ice fishing or they had been ice fishing only a few times before, though some said they’ve ice fished a lot. Hannah Aldrich from Tower Elementary was one of the first kids to get a real bite and she hauled in a modest-sized whitefish just before lunch. While it was Hannah’s first time ice fishing, she said she fishes often in the summer and that she caught the most fish at at ADAPT fishing event last summer. Ice Fishing Day was sponsored by the Lake Vermilion Guides League and Fortune Bay Resort Casino. Zup’s Grocery of Tower donated the lunch.



**Above: Hannah Aldrich smiles big after pulling in a nice whitefish.**



**Left: Sadi Spears of Nett Lake was patiently waiting for a fish.**

## Fishing report

### Kab-Nam area

Fishing is hit or miss right now. Some did ok catching just enough for a fish fry but most found fishing to be tough regardless of their location. Now that the ice road has made some progress it is possible to bring

wheel houses and portables to move around a bit on your own. With just over two weeks left in the walleye and pike season some have begun seeking out the jumbo perch Kab has to offer but most have turned their attention to the incredible snowmobiling we have in the area.

Trails are still in prime condition with the park service making progress every day getting the trails on the lake in great shape for the upcoming extended Presidents Day weekend. Off trail riding is still tricky with the deep snow and slush but for the adventurous

it can be extremely rewarding. Check with NPS ([www.nps.gov/voya/planyourvisit/winter-ice-and-trail-conditions.htm](http://www.nps.gov/voya/planyourvisit/winter-ice-and-trail-conditions.htm)) for the most up to date trail conditions as well as organized outdoor activities within the park and with the Voyageur Trail Society ( <http://www.snowmobilevacation.com/>

[trail-conditions.html](http://www.snowmobilevacation.com/trail-conditions.html) ) for all snowmobile trail conditions. Also check both on Facebook as they are updated quite frequently. We also have great snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Courtesy Gateway General Store, Lake Kabetogama



# OUTBREAK...Continued from page 4B






have their limits. "When temps get to -30° F, 70-90 percent of larvae may be frozen," says Rob Venette, a USDA Forest Service research biologist.

The extreme cold doesn't have much of an effect on Minnesota's native forest pests, which are well adapted to cold winter temperatures. The eastern larch beetle, for example, can survive down to minus-56 degrees F as larvae and minus-43

degrees F as adults. In addition, many adult larch beetles overwinter under the snow line, which insulates them against low air temperatures, according to the DNR. The eastern larch beetle has become a major pest for tamarack in northern Minnesota, having wiped out hundreds of thousands of acres of tamarack forests in recent decades—and it will take more than cold to stop it.

## LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
																								
14 -10					19 -5					15 -6					15 -4					13 -4				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
02/04	21	5	0.07	1.7"	02/04	21	6	0.09	1.7"	02/04	19	5	0.08	1.2"	02/04	9	5	0.32	3.5"	02/04	20	3	0.12	1.7"
02/05	6	-13	0.03	1.5"	02/05	6	-19	0.05	1.5"	02/05	5	-16	0.06	1.2"	02/05	5	-13	0.07	2.0"	02/05	4	-19	0.16	1.5"
02/06	6	-14	0.05	2.3"	02/06	6	-19	0.10	2.3"	02/06	6	-19	0.07	1.4"	02/06	10	-14	0.07	1.5"	02/06	6	-18	0.12	2.3"
02/07	13	4	0.08	3.6"	02/07	13	3	0.14	3.6"	02/07	11	4	0.06	1.2"	02/07	7	4	0.19	4.0"	02/07	13	4	0.20	3.6"
02/08	5	-9	0.06	2.1"	02/08	4	-11	0.15	2.1"	02/08	4	-4	0.08	1.5"	02/08	-6	-9	0.16	1.5"	02/08	4	-13	0.17	2.1"
02/09	1	-32	0.00		02/09	-2	-37	0.00		02/09	-4	-31	0.00		02/09	1	-32	0.00		02/09	-3	-35	0.00	
02/10	6	-32	0.00		02/10	3	-31	0.00		02/10	2	-31	0.05	1.0"	02/10	10	-32	0.00		02/10	2	-34	0.00	
Totals			0.74	55.9"	Totals			0.98	47.6"	Totals			0.98	53.1"	Totals			1.31	NA	Totals			1.66	49.5"

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## Grief education and support group begins Feb. 25

VIRGINIA- Aneight-week grief education and support group will begin Monday, Feb. 25 from 6-8 p.m. at the Peace United Methodist Church, 303 9th Ave. S in Virginia. There is no cost for the group. The group meets every Monday evening until April 15.

Experiencing the death of a loved one can be a very difficult experience. Learning about the grief process and having support from others can help a great deal. Please consider reserving your spot to participate in this eight-week grief education and support

group. It is open to anyone in the area who has experienced the death of a loved one.

For questions or to register, please call 1-877-851-2213 or 218-749-7975 by Friday, Feb. 22.

This program is sponsored and facilitated by Essentia Health St. Mary’s East Range Hospice.

## Naloxone training and distribution, Feb. 26

REGIONAL- Naloxone training and distribution will be held Mesabi Range College on Tuesday, Feb. 26. The Virginia campus trainings are at 10 a.m. and 12 noon in the theater. The

Eveleth campus training is at 2 p.m. in the North commons. Naloxone can save a life by reversing opioid overdose. These training events are free and open to the public, faculty, staff, and students.

For more information, contact Desiree Schneider at [desiree.schneider@mesabi-range.edu](mailto:desiree.schneider@mesabi-range.edu) or Jana Blomberg at [blombergJ@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:blombergJ@stlouiscountymn.gov). This event is supported by St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services, Rural Aids Action Network, and the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, funded in part by the State of Minnesota.

## Learn about 500 years of Christianity at Mesabi UU, Sunday, Feb. 17

VIRGINIA- On Sunday, Feb. 17, learn about Christianity During Late Antiquity (313 to 476) and the Early Middle Ages (476 to 800) with Rev. Ellen Taube. This is the long-awaited encore to Taube’s 2017 presentation on the first 300 years of Christianity. The service time is 10:30 a.m. at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church, 230 7th St. S in Virginia. The church is handicap accessible.

## Virginia AAUW meets Feb. 21

VIRGINIA- The Virginia area chapter of American Association of University Women (AAUW) will hold their February meeting at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 21. The meeting begins at Canelake’s Candy, 414 Chestnut St. with a tour, demonstration, and information about the local candy maker. Business meeting and lunch will be directly afterwards at La Cocina. The Virginia area chapter of AAUW is open to all area women with an AA or higher degree.

# 2018 28th Annual Lights of Love

On behalf of the VHHP Board of Directors, we wish to say thank you to all those who contributed to the 2018 campaign. We have successfully raised over \$5,600. We had trees and Lights of Love signs in three communities once again this year: Cook, Orr and Tower. A big thank you to the volunteers who came together in each of these communities to provide cookies, coffee and cider, caroling, and made donations and memorials.

VHHP is here to help hospice patients and their families. If you would like more information about VHHP, who we are and what we do, please email at [vhhpdirector@gmail.com](mailto:vhhpdirector@gmail.com). Our annual membership drive will begin in May. Watch for more details to come out about our next event! Spring is around the corner!

### In Honor Of

Harlan Hanson  
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Frances Scofield  
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by Helen Hanson  
by Sally Oberstar  
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by Lois Jacobi  
by Rob & Rhonda Joki  
by Mary Batinich  
by Rolf & Laurie Anderson  
by Barb Hegg  
by James Rackensock

by Muriel Simonson

### In Memory Of

Deceased Auxiliary 1757 Members  
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Roger Novak, Carol Ann Pohto, Jim Backman, Dave Lehtinen, Jim Kirk  
Ward, Leone & Paul Conklin  
The Miles & Kuharski Families  
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Dennis Hanson  
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Robert Delich  
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Ray Scofield  
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Our Mothers – Dorothy Anderson & Marian Garbisch  
Harold Fuson, Helen & Clarence Folstad  
Family & Friends who have gone before us

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Lois Vidmar  
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by Joyce & William Fromel



# Obituaries and Death Notices



## Kay E. Salo

Kay E. Hochstetler Salo, 76, passed away on Friday, Feb. 8, 2019, at Essentia Health Virginia Care Center. A funeral service was held on Tuesday, Feb. 12 at Pike Apostolic Lutheran Church. Arrangements were with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

Kay was born on May 2, 1942, in Soudan. She lived in Tower and Buhl for most of her living days. She had a love for Jesus, cooking, her many fat cats and little dogs. She was always available for her family and friends, especially her grandchildren, whom she loved dearly. Kay had a propensity to make friends wherever she was. One could always find her chatting in doctors' offices, elevators and grocery lines with an ever-ready hello and a life story.

She had innumerable special friends, including, Kenny Paulson, Jane of her State Street Apartment family, "adopted" daughter Katie Petrosky, and too many more to mention.

Kay is survived by her sister, Viola (Don) Salo; sister-in-law, Diane Salo; brother-in-law, Willie Salo; daughter, Lisa (Paul) Neari; sons, Jon (Kari) Salo and Michael "Bucko" Salo; stepbrothers, Ronnie

and Raymond Hill; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Henna Thompson; stepfather, Emil Hill; sister, Jean Thompson; ex-husband, Casey Salo; son, Randy Salo; and grandson, Casey Martin.



## Mark F. Abramson

Mark Forrest Abramson, 55, of Britt, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019, at his home. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 15 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Mark was born to Forrest and Carol (Kyllonen) Abramson on Oct. 22, 1963, in Cook. Mark grew up and attended school in Orr, graduating from Orr High School in 1982. Soon after graduation, Mark attended Lake Superior College, graduating with a civil engineering degree. He went on to work for Abramson Construction, later named KGM Contractors, as a Project Manager and Head Estimator. He remained with the company until his

retirement in 2013.

Mark met and married Holly Nakari in August 1986. Though the couple parted ways, they remained friends. Mark met Julie Stahlberg who would become his partner in life. Sadly, she passed away in 2007.

Mark enjoyed spending time on Lake Vermilion with family and friends and traveling to places like Mexico and Florida. The thing Mark most enjoyed was the people around him. Some of Mark's most treasured times in life were coaching his sons, who played hockey for Chisholm and Cook. Although Mark enjoyed his pastimes, his favorite "hobby" was working.

Mark was a very intelligent man with a heart of gold. He cared about everyone and would give the shirt off his back to help someone out. "The point of the matter is" Mark will be missed by many.

Mark is survived by his parents, Forrest and Carol Abramson; sons, Travis (Bethany) Abramson and Justin Abramson; grandchildren, Aviana Abramson, Sylas Abramson and Raiden Abramson; brothers, Gary Abramson and Kerry Abramson; sister, Michelle Gunderson; and his cat, Puddins'.

Mark was preceded in death by his love, Julie Stahlberg; sister, Karla Abramson; and uncle, Russ Keranen.

## Gloria M. Stella

Gloria M. DeRosso Stella, 85, of Babbitt, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019, at Solvay Hospice House in Duluth. A Funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday,

Feb. 15 at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Babbitt with Rev. Fr. Bill Skarich as celebrant. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will be in Argo Cemetery in Babbitt. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her husband, Frank Stella of Babbitt; sons, Michael (Shirley) of New Prague, James (Carol) of Hoyt Lakes and David (Kyle) of Babbitt; grandchildren, Kari, Mike, Lindsey, Katie, Jeffrey and Joey; nine great-grandchildren; and brother, Gordon DeRosso of Spring Hill, Fla.

## Eugene M. Johnson



Eugene "Gene" Morris Johnson, 81, of Amery, Wis., passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019, at his home in Amery. Funeral services were held on Saturday, Feb. 9 at First Lutheran Church in Amery. A private family interment will take place at a later date at the Amery Cemetery. Arrangements were with Williamson-White Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Amery.

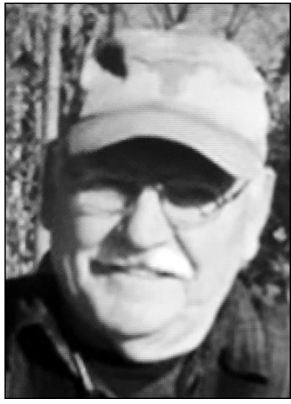
Gene was born at home on Feb. 26, 1937, in Tower, to his parents, Walter and Teresa Johnson. He attended Embarrass Public

Schools in Embarrass and graduated from high school in 1955. Gene received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Minnesota-Duluth in 1959 and his Masters of Arts from UMD in 1963. He was united in marriage to Wanda Pederson in 1959 and the couple made their home in Amery where they raised their three children, Craig, Paul and Sarah. Gene began his teaching career at Amery Public Schools in September 1959 and retired from teaching in May 1990.

Gene loved the outdoors and environment - trees, plants, birds and animals. He especially liked working in his yard, gardens, and shrub/flower beds, planting and giving away flowers, especially dahlias and gladiolus. Gene devoted time to managing his woods and conservation plots, planting trees, wildflowers and cutting firewood. He enjoyed fishing local lakes and Lake Vermilion, camping/fishing trips to Canada, and traveling in his campers. Gene also enjoyed visiting with and spending time with family and friends.

Gene is survived by his loving wife, Wanda; children, Craig of Fairmont, Paul of Menomonie, Wis., and Sarah (Mark) Crane of Nashua, N.H.; grandson, Matthew (Kara) Kobernick of Nashua, N.H.; brothers, Larry (Debbie) of Two Harbors and Reinhold (Pat) of Tower; sister-in-law, Evelyn Johnson of Aurora; and other family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Teresa Johnson; and brothers, Albert, Walter Jr. and Richard Johnson.



## Melvin R. Luloff

Melvin R. Luloff, 79, of Lake Vermilion-Cook, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019. A memorial visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 22 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook, with Military Honors at 6:30 p.m. by the Cook VFW Post 1757 Honor Guard and Orr American Legion Post 480 Honor Guard. The family would like to thank the Cook Area Ambulance Service and Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade for their heroic efforts and kindness; the family would prefer donations to these organizations in lieu of flowers.

Melvin made his home on Lake Vermilion in Cook. He was a general building contractor in the Twin Cities and on Lake Vermilion. He loved hunting turkeys and pheasants and adored his Springer Spaniels.

Melvin is survived by his wife, Nancy; children, Dan (Cindy), Susie (Todd) DeRenzis, Jim (Jennifer) Erickson and Cindy (Kevin) O'Connell; eight grandchildren; sister, Susan; beloved dog, Zeus; and many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by five of his siblings.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## CITY OF ELY Council Minutes January 15, 2019 Regular Meeting Ely City Council – City Hall, Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER- Mayor Novak Called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 5:30pm.

2. PRESENT: Council members A.Forsman, Kess, Debeltz, Omerza, Callen, Campbell, and Mayor Novak  
ABSENT: None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Debeltz/Campbell moved to approve the minutes from January 2, 2019 Regular Meeting. Motion Carried Unanimously.

## 4. ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS TO AGENDA:

A. Addition 8.A. Annexation Task Group  
B. Addition 9.B.i Hiring of New Firefighter  
C. Addition 9.E.i Vang vs City of Ely (Closed Session)  
D. Addition 11.B Pay Estimate #7 for the 17th Avenue East/7th Avenue East/ Water Tower Supply Line Project for \$16,859.41 to Casper Construction Inc.  
E. Addition 13.C Document for Request for in kind services from the City of Ely for the Ely Winter Festival  
F. Addition 13.G Residential Rehab Loan for Ryan and Michale Callen for \$4500.00 for 110 W Conan St to replace sewer lines in basement and in basement floor to meet point of sale ordinance pending proper paperwork and fees and to direct Attorney Klun to work with the applicant and to proceed with the loan processing.  
G. Addition 13.H 2019 Legal Newspaper Bids  
H. Addition 13.I Selection of Acting Mayor  
Items A-H were added without objection.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT  
A. Council Members Committees for 2019  
Airport- Kess, Budget – A.Forsman, Novak, Kess, Cemetery – Debeltz, Insurance- Omerza, Gardner Trust- Campbell, Employee Relations – Omerza, Debeltz, Campbell, Fire – Callen, HRA – Novak, HPC – Campbell, Library

– Omerza, Park & Rec – Omerza, Planning & Zoning – Callen, Police – Debeltz, Projects – Novak, Callen, Sanitation- A.Forsman, TAB – Debeltz, Liquor & Tobacco – Debeltz, Utilities – A.Forsman, Alternate – Callen, RAMS – Kess, Mesabi Trails – R. Skraba, Community Joint Powers – Novak, CGMC – Omerza, Hwy #169 Task Force – Callen, Lodging Tax Board – Kess, Events Coordinator Board- Ross Peterson, Ely Area Ambulance Board - Novak

6. CONSENT AGENDA:  
A. Debeltz/Campbell moved to waive readings in entirety of all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda. Motion Carried Unanimously.

7. REQUESTS TO APPEAR: None

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:  
A. Standing/Special Annexation Task Group  
Debeltz/Callen moved to direct the Clerk Langowski to schedule a joint meeting with the Town of Morse and the Ely City Council to discuss Annexation. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Other Committee Reports  
Omerza stated that the League Legislative Polices will be passed at the league meeting this week.

Kess stated that the RAMS Annual Dinner was last Thursday.

Mayor Novak discussed the Event Coordinator Bureau. They are going to license the Ely Marathon and Wendy will pay a license fee to the Event Coordinator Bureau to have the Marathon. Ross Peterson is going to take Mayor Novak's position on the Event Coordinator Bureau.  
Ellen at the Chamber will be the Events Coordinator and any new events will go through her and she will bring them to the Event Coordinator Bureau and the Bureau will decide.

9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:  
A. Clerk-Treasurer  
B. Fire Chief

i. Hiring of New Firefighter  
Callen/Debletz moved to hire Justin Akins as a new firefighter pending background check, drug test and physical. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Chief Erchull stated the fire department is now at full staff with 35 fire fighters.

C. Library Director  
Library Director Heinrich gave an update of the upcoming events at the library which can be located on the Library Website.

D. Police Chief

E. City Attorney  
i. Vang vs City of Ely  
Debeltz/Callen moved to close the meeting after open forum to discuss the settlement proposal for Vang vs City of Ely per MN Statute 13D. Motion Carried Unanimously.

F. City Engineer

10. COMMUNICATIONS:  
Matter of Information  
A. Correspondence from the St Louis County Youth in Action

11. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT:  
A. City and EUC claims for January 15, 2019 – \$755,134.48  
B. Pay Estimate #7 for the 17th Avenue East/7th Avenue East/ Water Tower Supply Line Project for \$16,859.41 to Casper Construction Inc.  
Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the Claims for Payment items A and B. Motion Carried Unanimously.

12. OLD BUSINESS: None

13. NEW BUSINESS:  
A. Omerza/Campbell moved to approve Tour of Minnesota requesting camping in Whiteside Park June 17th and 18th. Motion Carried Unanimously.  
Langowski stated the Tour of Minnesota is a week-long bicycle tour that started 40 years ago and visits different parts of the state each year. This year they are starting in Grand Rapids and plan on staying in Ely for 2 nights. There will be 200 riders, friends and family that will stay in hotels or camp in the park and also eat, shop and recreate in Ely. The

school will provide access to showers for the bikers that are camping.

B. Debeltz/ Callen moved to approve the request from Grand Ely Lodge to plow both Pioneer Mine Parking lots for the Northland 300 snowmobile group that will be staying at the Grand Ely Lodge from January 23-27, 2019. Motion Carried Unanimously.

C. Debletz/Omerza moved to approve the request for in kind services from the City of Ely for the Ely Winter Festival. Motion Carried Unanimously.

D. 2019 Committee Seats  
Debeltz/ Callen moved to approve the following committee appointments:

Airport Commission: Mike Popesh- renewing- Term Expiring 1/31/2022  
Cemetery Committee: Gail Shedly – renewing – Term Expiring 1/31/2022  
Gardner Trust: Becky Zientek – renewing – Term Expiring 1/31/22  
Heritage Preservation Commission – Phil Hyde – renewing - Term Expiring 1/31/2022  
Library Board – Tom Conaway – New Application- Term Expiring 1/31/2022  
Planning and Zoning – Mike Banovetz & Jerritt Johnson – Renewing – Term Expiring 1/31/2022  
Police Commission – Mike Banovetz – New Application – Term Expiring 1/31/2022  
Telecommunications Advisory Board – Judy Niemela & Irene Hartfield – renewing – Term Expiring 1/31/2021  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Omerza/Debletz moved to approve renewing Warren Nikkola's term for the Ely Utilities Commission, term expiring 1/31/2022. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Omerza/Kess moved to approve the new application for Mauro Caruso to be appointed to the Ely Utilities Commission term expiring 1/31/2022. Motion Carried Unanimously.

A.Forsman/Kess moved to approve the new application for Michael Banovetz to be appointed to the Ely Utilities Commission term expir-

ing 1/31/2022. Roll Called  
A.Forsman - Yes, Kess – Yes, Debeltz – Yes, Omerza – No, Callen – No, Campbell – No, and Mayor Novak- No, Motion Fails 3-4

Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the new application for Anthony Colarich to be appointed to the Ely Utilities Commission mid-term expiring 1/31/2021. Motion Carried Unanimously.

E. Callen/Omerza moved to approve the 2019 EUC Water, Sewer and Electric Rate Recommendations of \$1.00 per month on the Water Fixed Charge, No increase on Sewer rates, and a 1% increase across all categories for Electric. Motion Carried Unanimously.

F. Debeltz/Callen moved to approve the State of Minnesota Grant Contract PO ID 3000006898 FY2019 for \$250,000.00 for the Pattison Street and Camp Street Project. Motion Carried Unanimously.

G. Omerza/Debeltz moved to approve the Residential Rehab Loan for Ryan and Michale Callen for \$4500.00 for 110 W Conan St to replace sewer lines in basement and in basement floor to meet point of sale ordinance pending proper paperwork and fees and to direct Attorney Klun to work with the applicant and to proceed with the loan processing. Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Callen abstaining.

H. 2019 Legal Newspaper Bids  
As required by the City Charter Chapter 12 Section 12.01, we have solicited bids to designate a legal newspaper of general circulation in the city. Bids were received from The Timberjay and The Ely Echo. The low bid is based on the cost per lower case alphabet for the legal ads and the cost of the sample display ad. The Timberjay's bid was \$0.1857 for the Legal Print Ads and \$8.85 for the Sample Display Ad. The Ely Echo's bid was \$0.3516 for Legal Pring Ads and \$18.27 for the Sample Display Ad. The Charter requires the bid to be awarded to the lowest responsible

bidder.  
Kess/Campbell moved to award the 2019 Legal Newspaper bid to The Ely Timberjay as the low bidder. Motion Carried Unanimously.

I. Selection of Acting Mayor  
A.Forsman/Campbell moved to elect Omerza as acting mayor. Motion Carried Unanimously.

14. OPEN FORUM: None

Mayor Novak recessed the meeting at 6:12pm.

Mayor Novak closed the meeting at 6:24pm to discuss the settlement proposal for Vang vs City of Ely per MN Statute 13D.

Mayor Novak opened the meeting at 6:33pm

Debeltz/Omerza moved that the City Council agrees with the Leagues offer to settle the lawsuit with Vang, Motion Carried Unanimously.

15. ADJOURN  
Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting at 6:35pm

Casey Velcheff, Deputy Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 15, 2019*

## CITY OF ELY EUC Rates Public Hearing January 15, 2019 - City Hall, Council Chambers

Call To Order:  
Mayor Novak called the EUC Rates Public Hearing to order at 4:30pm.

PRESENT: Council members A.Forsman, Kess, Debeltz, Omerza, Campbell and Mayor Novak  
ABSENT: Council member Callen

Purpose:  
Ely City Council will hold a public hearing for discussion and to hear public comment on the Ely Utilities Commission's proposed rate increases on water, sanitary sewer, and electrical services.

Mike Banovetz stated that he endorses the rate increases.

Langowski discussed the rate increases. The electric

rate for 2019 will be a 1% increase across all categories. The Water Rates will increase \$1.00 per month on the fixed charge. The Sewer Rate will not increase for 2019. The rates will go in effect for the February 2019 billing after they are approved at the Council Meeting tonight.

Adjourn  
Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting at 4:37pm.

Casey Velcheff, Deputy Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 15, 2019*

## CITY OF ELY Public Hearing Minutes January 15, 2019 - City Hall, Council Chambers

Call To Order:  
Mayor Novak called the EUC Rates Public Hearing to order at 5:00pm.

PRESENT: Council members A.Forsman, Kess, Debeltz, Omerza, Callen, Campbell and Mayor Novak

Purpose:  
Ely City Council will hold a public hearing regarding considering Vacating four portions of City Owned Property in the plat of First Re-Arrangement of Kapsch Gardens.  
a portion of Pattison Street lying East of 14th Avenue to 17th Avenue in the plat of First Re-Arrangement of Kapsch Garden Tracts and, a portion of James Street lying East of 14th Avenue to 17th Avenue in the plat of First Re-Arrangement of Kapsch Garden Tracts and, that part of 15th Ave E in the plat of First Re-Arrangement of Kapsch Garden Tract.

Mike Loe stated he would like to get this taken care of to plot off some lots for potential future housing.

Adjourn  
Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting at 5:02pm.

Casey Velcheff, Deputy Clerk  
*Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 15, 2019*



PUBLIC NOTICES

**CITY OF ELY Council Minutes January 23, 2019 Special Council Meeting – Morse Town Hall**

CALL TO ORDER  
Mayor Novak called the Special Council Meeting to order at 6:00pm.

PRESENT: Council members A.Forsman, Kess, Debeltz, Omerza, Callen, Campbell and Mayor Novak

ALSO PRESENT: Town of Morse Supervisors Terry Soderberg, Leonard Cersine, and Robert Berrini, Town of Morse Clerk Nick Wognum, City of Ely Clerk/Treasurer Harold R Langowski, City of Ely Attorney Kelly Klun

ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS: The meeting was called by the Ely City Council to discuss the offer made by the Town of Morse dated December 2th, 2018. Mayor Novak started by going over some recommendations made by the Council task force from January 14th,

2019.

The City of Ely asks for additional clarification from the Township on the definition of “heavy industrial type use” in the annexed parcels. Mayor Novak stated that the intent of the annexation was for residential and other non-industrial uses. The Township will ensure that the Ely zoning ordinance definition defining industrial use meets their requirements.

The current offer by the Township concerning the area adjoining Boundary Street, known as Ledge Rock/Ross Petersen has some issues. In the current offer it would leave five parcels as an island within the annexed area. We are certain that the State will not allow this to occur. The Town of Morse will look into options for this area.

The Township will contact these property owners to ask if they would like to be annexed. The Township does not believe they will all want to be annexed. The Township stated that if one of the five parcels does not agree to annexation than a

different option is needed. The Township discussed having the five parcels remain Township and have an agreement written up allowing 8th Avenue East to extend through the strip of land. All of the parcels currently have City water, sewer, electric and are accessed by a City maintained street. Clerk Langowski also noted that if any of these parcels have a fire call the City fire department will likely use the City hydrants to respond.

There was no change proposed by the City on items 2-7 on the response. This included parcel ID 465-0021-04990 20 acres (County), 465-0021-05000 40 acres (County), 465-0010-00350 48.42 acres (City), 465-0020-04724 8.5 acres (City), 465-0010-04734 2.4 acres (Township to be given to City), and 465-0020-05090 80 acres (City). All to be annexed into the City of Ely.

Mayor Novak asked why the Township now wants an additional 88.98 acres near the golf course in addition to the 40-acre biosolids property. Supervisor Berrini stated that the Township is no longer interested in the biosolids location.

Clerk Langowski had spoke to Land Commissioner Mark Weber earlier in the week and was told that the county may now be interested in some sort of land swap for the 60 acres of tax forfeited land. The biosolids 40 may be a possible swap to the County. Langowski will follow up with the County.

Councilor Kess is reluctant to give City owned property to the Township without an equal value trade. The Council would require that any land given near the golf course would be restricted to ensure the golf course would continue to lease at the current \$1 per year

rate the City charges. The Township leases the club house property at a higher rate due to St. Louis County requirements to ensure the golf course does not have to pay taxes.

The Township agreed to amend their offer from 15% of shared taxes to 10% shared taxes for 10 years for the “Ledge Rock” 40 and the 60 acres from St. Louis County. This would start once the first lot is sold within this area.

Concerning the 1973 agreement, it would be amended to say no further annexation allowed on all city boundaries without mutual agreement of both governmental entities (including unanimous vote of the Town of Morse Board) or a majority of at least 51% of adjoining property owners petition for annexation.

In review Clerk Langowski stated that the Town of Morse will provide additional comment concerning industrial type use, the Town of Morse will contact the property owners along Boundary Street to discuss annexation, the Town of Morse will deed the 2.4 acres to the City, and a map will be developed by the City showing what the new boundaries of the City would be to better define the issue of future annexation.

Mayor Novak offered that we could look at possible tax abatement and deferral for the properties along Boundary Street to bring them into the City limits. This would transition them over time to the current City tax rate from their current lower Township rate.

Mayor Novak stated that the City Council will consider these items at the February 5th meeting and a future meeting will be scheduled with the Town of Morse to finalize an agreement.

ADJOURN  
Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting at 6:55pm without objection.

Harold R. Langowski

*Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 15, 2019*

**CITY OF ELY ORDINANCE NO. 330, 2nd Series**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ELY, MINNESOTA, ADDING TO THE ELY CITY CODE, CHAPTER 20, SECTION 20.13.31, ENTITLED VACATION OF A PORTION OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY IN KAPSCH GARDEN TRACTS

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELY DOES HEREBY ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. A new Section shall be added to Chapter 20 as Section 20.13.31, of the Ely City Code to read as follows:

SEC. 20.13.20 VACATION OF A PORTION OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY. The City of Ely shall vacate the public rights-of-way legally described as:

a portion of Pattison Street lying East of 14th Avenue to 17th Avenue in the plat of First Re-Arrangement of Kapsch Garden Tracts, and

a portion of James Street lying East of 14th Avenue to 17th Avenue in the plat of First Re-Arrangement of Kapsch Garden Tracts, and

a portion of Boundary Street lying East of 14th Avenue to 17th Avenue in the plat of First Re-Arrangement of Kapsch Garden Tracts

SEE ATTACHED EXHIBIT A (Exhibit A can be found at [www.ely.mn.us](http://www.ely.mn.us) –

Ordinances)

Said parcel contains 0.45 acres.

SUBJECT to the reservation of utility easements in favor of the City of Ely.

SECTION 2. Effective Date: Pursuant to Section 3.08 of the Charter of the City of Ely, Minnesota, the adoption of this Ordinance is effective immediately after final adoption and publication.

First Reading: February 5, 2019

*Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 15, 2019*

**CITY OF ELY ORDINANCE NO. 331, 2nd Series**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ELY, MINNESOTA, ADDING TO THE ELY CITY CODE, CHAPTER 20, SECTION 20.13.32, ENTITLED VACATION OF A PORTION OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY, LOCKHART STREET

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELY DOES HEREBY ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. A new Section shall be added to Chapter 20 as Section 20.13.32, of the Ely City Code to read as follows:

SEC. 20.13.20 VACATION OF A PORTION OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY. The City shall vacate the public right-of-way described as:

that portion of Lockhart Street running directly adjacent to Lots 6 through 15 and Lots 63 through 70, Block 7, Chandler Addition to Ely

See attached Exhibit A. (Exhibit A can be found

at [www.ely.mn.us](http://www.ely.mn.us) – Ordinances)

Said parcel contains 0.37 acres.

SUBJECT to the reservation of utility easements in favor of the City of Ely.

SECTION 2. Effective Date: Pursuant to Section 3.08 of the Charter of the City of Ely, Minnesota, the adoption of this Ordinance is effective immediately after final adoption and publication.

First Reading: February 5, 2019

*Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 15, 2019*

**CITY OF ELY Public Hearing January 15, 2019 - City Hall, Council Chambers**

Call To Order:  
Mayor Novak called the public hearing to order at 5:15pm.

PRESENT: Council members A.Forsman, Kess, Debeltz, Omerza, Callen, Campbell and Mayor Novak

Purpose:  
Ely City Council will hold a public hearing regarding considering Vacating a portion of City Owned Property on Lockhart Street: a portion of Lockhart Street running adjacent to Lots 6-15 and Lots 70-63, Block 7, Chandler Addition to Ely

No comments from the public or council on this vacation.

Adjourn  
Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting at 5:16pm

Casey Velcheff, Deputy Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 15, 2019*

EMPLOYMENT



# Now Hiring!

If you are a people person who loves the outdoors, we want you on our team!

The North American Bear Center is searching for people to fill our sales associate position for our 2019 season. We are interested in applicants with a positive attitude, who have experience working with the public. Hours will include early evenings and weekends. Driver's license and high school diploma are a must, along with the ability to pass a background check. If you are interested, stop by the North American Bear Center (located just west of Ely off HWY 169) to pick up an application Mon-Fri between the hours of 9am-2pm or email your resume to [director@bear.org](mailto:director@bear.org). 2/22



## 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](mailto:careers@wolf.org). Salary \$37,000-\$45,000 DOE. Application Deadline: February 16. For job description, please visit: [www.wolf.org](http://www.wolf.org) 1396 Highway 169, Ely, Minnesota 2/15

## AMBULANCE DIRECTOR-CITY SAFETY OFFICER

The City of Cook seeks a qualified, energetic person to serve as our Ambulance Director-Safety Officer.

This full-time position manages all duties of the Cook Area Ambulance Service, serves as City Safety Officer and Coordinator of Emergency Management.

**Major areas of accountability include:** Daily operations, legal compliance, purchasing, budgeting, recordkeeping and reporting. Position is responsible for managing all staff and vehicle/equipment/building and grounds maintenance.

**Candidate must possess:** a High School Diploma or equivalent, current EMT-B certification as approved by the state's EMSRB, at least two years of field experience providing emergency medical services, a Valid Minnesota Class D driver's license and must have attended an emergency vehicle driving course approved by the licensee. Completed NIMS (National Incident Management System) 100/200/ 700/800 series or ability to obtain.

Normally serves Monday through Friday daytime call. Response time requirement applies. The position is under the direct supervision of the Ambulance Medical Director and City Administrator.

**To learn more about the Ambulance Service and the position, refer to the city's website at [www.cookmn.us](http://www.cookmn.us).**

Full pay range equals \$15.87 to \$21.36. Starting wage depending on qualifications. This position is eligible for Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) benefits, health insurance, long-term disability insurance, sick, vacation and holiday pay. For a full employment application packet, please contact the Cook City Hall by calling 218-666-2200 or stopping by 127 South River Street – Cook, MN. Application packets are also available online at [www.cookmn.us](http://www.cookmn.us). Applications are due no later than Noon on Monday, March 11, 2019. 2/22

## 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](http://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

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



## Equipment Operator Jr. Apply by 2/20/19

[www.stlouiscountymn.gov](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov) or call 218-726-2422

*Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 2/15*

## 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](http://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*

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



## OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

### Care Center

PT Nursing Assistant (\$1,500 sign-on bonus)  
Casual Restorative Nursing Assistant  
Casual RN or LPN

### Hospital

1 PT Registered Nurse (\$4,000 sign-on bonus)

### Activities

1 PT Activities Assistant

### Dietary

Casual Dietary Aide/Cook

### Business Office

Casual Secretary / Receptionist

### Rehabilitation

FT Occupational Therapist

### Imaging

2 Full Time Radiologic Tech  
Casual Radiologic Tech (weekends only)

### Environmental Services

Casual Housekeeper & Laundry Aide

**TO APPLY:**  
[www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/](http://www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/)  
More Info? Contact Human Resources  
**218-666-6220**  
[humanresources@cookhospital.org](mailto:humanresources@cookhospital.org)

The Cook Hospital & Care Center offers competitive pay and benefits including PERA retirement, Health and Dental coverage, Life and LTD.

# 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

**Langevin Auto & Truck Repair**  
*Full Service Auto Repair & Garage*



Hours: 8 AM-5 PM M-F  
2 Miles South of Tower  
**218-749-0751**



**NAPA PARTS CENTER, INC.**  
45 E. Chapman Street  
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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto:tj@vermilionsnowmanagement.com) or 218-290-0966. Online at [vermilionsnowmanagement.com](http://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

Call  
**753-2950**  
to subscribe  
to the  
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## BUILDING SERVICES

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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](http://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.aeo.org](http://www.aeo.org) careers tab. AA/EOE. 2/15

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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](http://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

### BANDS TOGETHER

#### ACROSS

- 1 Not meant to be heard by the audience, in a way  
8 Blend in  
13 Maker of stringed instruments  
20 Author Huffington  
21 Nary a soul  
22 In a group  
23 Give a nonnative a smooch?  
25 Causes of sudden fear  
26 Env. alerter  
27 Small drink  
28 Make up for  
29 Defeat Dorothy's dog decisively?  
34 Trip to an underworld river?  
39 Singer Buddy  
40 Egg  
42 Stools, say  
43 Actress Mendes  
44 Certain Siouan  
45 "The Jerk" actor M. — Walsh

- 47 "Well well!"  
48 Use a pool  
49 Specialty of Windy City bakeries?  
52 Uses Dixie diction  
54 Door turner  
55 Expire, as a subscription  
59 Ballpark fig.  
60 New princess of '81  
63 One who doesn't succumb to a potent toxin?  
68 Clean energy org.  
69 Bombard with e-junk  
71 "Zip- — -Doo-Dah"  
72 Hard wood  
73 Glorious state of bliss?  
79 Military units  
82 Prefix with hazard  
83 Achieve  
84 Obi-Wan Kenobi, e.g.  
85 Rob  
88 Desert haven mentioned in the first book of the Bible?

- 94 Guitars' kin, for short  
95 Actor Rob  
99 Bits of matter  
100 Car for a VIP  
101 Mr., in India  
102 Have a cow, with "out"  
103 Ltr. insert  
104 Arrangement  
105 Ruler of the Sunflower State?  
108 Palpitation?  
111 Menu fish  
112 Audiotapes' successors  
114 Cato's 1,052  
115 Main female character  
118 Stuff hauled by Beantown trash collectors?  
124 Not ceasing  
125 Homer work  
126 St. - — (capital of Loire)  
127 Mice and whales, e.g.  
128 "The Rose" singer Midler  
129 Plunder

#### DOWN

- 1 Hard wood  
2 Wk. day  
3 Hi- — (old LP players)

- 4 Moms  
5 Notoriety  
6 Noted berry farm founder  
7 Turn a deaf — (ignore)  
8 Musical artist DiFranco  
9 Barking pets  
10 Doctrine that reality is one organic whole  
11 Ham-handed  
12 Gen —  
13 Certain boxing punch  
14 Not firmly implanted  
15 Pre-liftoff term  
16 Jenna Bush —  
17 "Kinda" suffix  
18 Ballpark fig.  
19 Scale notes  
24 Lay to rest  
28 Skating leap  
29 Ice cream flavor, briefly  
30 Writer Philip  
31 H.G. Wells race  
32 Smart- — (cocky)  
33 At an end  
35 Fashion inits.  
36 Synthpop artist, say

- 37 Sinister  
38 They may be candied  
41 Wombs  
45 Self-conceit  
46 Unruly crowd  
47 Social Security fig., e.g.  
48 Delhi dress  
50 Not only that  
51 Vienna loc.  
53 Crank (up)  
56 — upswing  
57 Meat stamp letters  
58 Wk. day  
60 The, in Paris  
61 "The Simpsons" store clerk  
62 Work at as a dilettante  
63 Breathe hard  
64 Leave out  
65 Intermission  
66 Bullfight cry  
67 Apt. units  
70 Stew veggie  
74 Eye covers  
75 Bettor's note  
76 Tatty clothes  
77 Strive (for)  
78 U.N.'s Kofi  
80 Hubbub  
81 Call placer  
84 Actor Parsons  
85 Corn cover

- 86 Stew veggie  
87 Part of PIN  
89 Carve  
90 Somber  
91 In — (as found)  
92 Don of radio  
93 Last year's frosh  
96 "Part II" films  
97 Tightly strung  
98 Squeak (out)  
102 Cereal meal  
103 Breaks up  
104 Add to the batter, say  
106 Charge at  
107 School, in Nice  
109 Writer Horatio  
110 Calf catcher  
113 ESPN datum  
115 — and haw  
116 Greek vowel  
117 Dream-time acronym  
118 Baby's wear  
119 Lyric tribute  
120 Wanna- — (aspirants)  
121 Santa — (hot wind)  
122 Big health supplement chain, familiarly  
123 "I see mice!"

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## Weekly SUDOKU

### Answer

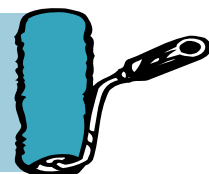
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**Lake Vermilion-\$45,000** 1.35 acres and 360 ft of shoreline on Twin Lakes on Pine Island. **MLS#129212**

**Vermilion River, Buyck-\$50,000** 13.04 acres on the river with 250 ft of shoreline. **MLS#134665**

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## 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.

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](mailto:ange@sipilaw.com)

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

## DEATH NOTICES

### Lucy A. Zahnow

Lucy A. Bernard Zahnow, 70, of Hoyt Lakes, formerly of Embarrass, died on Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019, at Essentia Health-Northern Pines Care Center in Aurora, following a courageous 14-year battle with cancer. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16 at The Evangelical Free Church in Embarrass. Pastor Marlin Bjornrud will officiate. Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15 at Cron-Sheehy Funeral Home in Eveleth and continue on Saturday for one hour prior to the service at the church. Spring burial will be in the Embarrass Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred.

She is survived by her children, Lori Zahnow, Darin Zahnow, Kyle (Jamie) Zahnow, Perry (Rachel) Zahnow, Angela (Brad) Allen, Lisa (Ken) Krueger and Sherwin (Shelby) Zahnow; 11 grandchildren; siblings, Robert (Betty) Bernard, Bernadette (Roger) Showers, Madonna (Dennis) Carlson,

Angeline (Loren) Granberg, Daniel (Lynn) Bernard and William (Laurie) Bernard; brother-in-law, Dale Kangas; sister-in-law, Linda Bernard; numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.

### Newell M. Cederholm

Newell Myron Cederholm, 91, longtime resident of Babbitt, passed peacefully at Solvay Hospice House in Duluth on Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019, a few weeks after celebrating his 91st birthday. He was a caring husband, father and grandparent who always enjoyed time with family. He will be interred at Argo Cemetery in Babbitt this spring with a graveside memorial and celebration of life to follow.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Dolores Bialke Cederholm; children, Bob (Kim) Cederholm, Judy (Brian) Thomas and Janet (Al) Priolo; grandchildren, Scott (Kasey Swiers) Thomas, Lisa (Zack) Anderson, Ross (Tara)

Priolo and Jaclyn (fiancé Jace Romano) Priolo; great-granddaughter, Lettie Anderson; and Kasey's children, Eli and Lena.

### Patricia J. Wickett

Patricia Jean Palmer Wickett, 87, of Virginia, formerly of Babbitt, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019. A family memorial gathering will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her sons, Gregory (Joyce) of Farmington and Douglas of Arizona; daughter, Cheri (Skip) Nelimark of Mt. Iron; grandchildren, Jason, Joshua, Adria, Mathew, Joseph, Acasia, Brittanie and Nathan; step-grandchildren, Ashley and Aaron; several great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

**More obituaries  
on page 7B**