Inside:

Frontier case moving ahead...See /3

Grizzles advance... See /1B

Moose numbers up...See /4B





TOWERGATE

Mayor: 'Someone is reading my email'

by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER— Someone has been reading Mayor Orlyn Kringstad's official email without his permission and the city council here, on Monday, authorized him to investigate the matter in hopes of determinCity to investigate apparent unauthorized email access

apparent invasion of privacy and possible criminal wrongdoing.

The council gave Kringstad the authority to contact the city's website and Internet provider,

ing who is responsible for the known as Tech Bytes, to request es to see where they are being access logs, which might be able to reveal who, or at least whose computer, has been opening his official city emails.

"We can get the IP address-

opened," he said.

Every computer has a unique IP address which should have been recorded on the email server.

"I find it very troubling that this is occurring," Kringstad

Kringstad told the council

See...TOWER pg.8

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP



Grassroots government

by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP-Residents here, on a 27-22 vote, opted to keep the township's levy at \$150,000 for 2020. That vote came despite a recommendation by the town board to boost the township's tax receipts to \$250,000 to help fund a 2020 spending plan totaling \$325,350.

Greenwood Township voters back \$150,000 levy

The township receives about \$78,000 in other tax revenues and is likely to draw down its substantial reserves to cover any funding gap. As of year-end 2018, the township had reserves of nearly \$700,000.

Township Chair Mike Ralston and Treasurer Pam Rodgers made this

Greenwood Township election judge Colleen Lepper registers voters casting paper ballots Tuesday night on the proposed levy. photo by J. Summit

year's budget presentation. Greenwood spending has fallen from \$517,616 in 2016 to \$314,433 in 2018. The change is mostly due to the elimination of the full-

time maintenance position, assessor, and local planning and zoning.

Ralston and Rodgers

See...VOTERS pg. 8

EDUCATION

ISD 696 looking for new leader

Superintendent suggests board begin search for his replacement

by KEITH VANDERVORT

ELY - Acting on a recommendation from Ely school district superintendent Kevin Abrahamson, school board members agreed

Monday night to begin the search for a new administrative leader at ISD 696.

Abrahamson has been at his post here for almost four years and his current contract expires on July 1. He was first hired as ISD 696's part-time



Kevin **Abrahamson**

interim administrator in August 2015, and later named permanently to the position.

In making the announcement at the school board's regular meeting, board chair Ray Marsnik pointed out, "this was Kevin's recommendation."

Abrahamson told board members, "My goal was always to leave before you asked me to. I'm really quite torn about this. This was

See...LEADER pg. 9

OLDIES BUT GOODIES

Vintage sleds, and their owners, gather at Orr

by MARCUS WHITE

Cook/Orr Editor

ORR - The smell of two-stroke exhaust filled the air over Elephant Lake on Saturday as several dozen vintage snow machines and their owners took part in the annual antique snowmobile races at Melgeorge's

Danny Peterson, of Macintosh, brought his 1980 TXL Indy Polaris to Elephant Lake last weekend for a gathering of vintage snowmobiles. photo by M. White

About 80 riders, ranging in age from seven to 83, had come from across the Midwest to show off their skills and their old snow machines to a crowd of around 400 spectators.

One of those riders was Danny

Peterson of Macintosh.

"I came across the races by accident about 10 years ago," he said. "I knew I needed to come back."

See... SLEDS pg. 9





New Fall & Winter Clothing Styles in Stock New Book Titles Daily Upstairs

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Contact The Timberjay

218-753-2950 editor@timberjay.com



2 March 15, 2019 TIMBERJAY Newspapers

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Irish Dance set for Friday, March 15 in Ely

ELY- A traditional Irist Ceili dance will be taking place on Friday, March 15 at the Senior Center in Ely at 7 p.m.

The group dances will include The Waves of Tory, The Haymakers Jig, and other jigs and reels danced in circles and long lines. The couple dances will include waltzes, polkas, and hornpipes. Because the dance floor is linoleum over concrete, it's important to wear comfortable shoes with plenty of cushion. Music and dancing will begin at 7 p.m. Admission at the door is ten dollars per adult with children free. The Senior Center is located at 27 S First Ave. in Ely. More information is available at elyfolkschool.org or by calling 218-666-5990.

The band is called FriendsOnTheRange in honor of the dance association. Carol and Jim will be joined by Joey Lee on flute and pennywhistle, Susan Hoppe on fiddle, Joey Kenig on guitar, and Eli Bissonett on fiddle. All dances are taught. No experience is necessary. Singles are welcome. Ely Folk School is sponsoring the event and the dance is made possible in part by a generous grant from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust.

Reflections of Truth at Mesabi UU, March 17

VIRGINIA- Rev. Suzanne Wasilczuk will speak on "Reflections on Truth: The Sorcerer's Stone, the Scientist's North Star, and the Poet's Muse" at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 17 at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church, 230 7th St. S in Virginia. The building is handicap accessible.

Truth is part of our religious search according to our fourth principle: "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning." For us, science, literature, religion, and social justice are all valuable and venerated tools for truth-seeking. We approach truth with humility.

Road Runners Special Olympic Team

collecting shoes

REGIONAL- The Road Runners Special Olympics team is having a shoe drive to collect new and gently-worn footwear. The collection will run from now until May. Shoes can be dropped off at ERDAC in Eveleth, with any Road Runner athlete or coach, or at door 8 at the Mesabi College in Virginia on Mondays and Wednesdays during the Road Runners' practices. Babbitt area drop-off is at Rural Living next to US Bank. Please call Leola at 218-741-5068, Lynn at 218-780-5916, or Roxy at 218-780-0196 for questions or to arrange shoe pick-up.

GIRLS AND STEM

AAUW hosting annual girls STEM Workshop

ELY- Girls in grades 5 through 8 from the Tower, Ely, and Babbitt areas are invited to participate in an upcoming STEM workshop. The workshop, sponsored by the Ely Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Vermilion Community College in Ely. The event includes lunch and is free to participants. Parents or guardians are invited to attend the closing activity at 1:30 p.m. to learn more about the importance of STEM fields of study.

Students this year will do chemistry experiments, build a simple hovercraft and test it in a wind tunnel, and learn about culvert construction. The STEM workshop provides an opportunity for middle school girls to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in a fun, interactive environment to encourage them to think of these areas as a possible career path. The AAUW provides workshops for girls-only because women are very under-represented in the STEM workforce.

For more information or to register for the workshop, call or text Jeanne Tomlinson at 218-235-8470 or e-mail elystem@gmail. com to receive a registration-permission form. Registration must be completed by Wednesday, March 20. Check-in will be in the VCC Classroom Building from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. on March 23. A parent or guardian must accompany the participant to the workshop registration if the permission form is not completed in advance.

The workshop is made possible in a collaboration between Vermilion Community College and AAUW-Ely Branch with a Tech Savvy grant from AAUW-Minnesota.



Carmen Nelson did an experiment on water physics during the STEM Workshop last year.

NORTHWOODS FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

All-Day Painting Class with Adam Swanson set for May 18

COOK- Adam Swanson will be teaching an all-day acrylic painting class in Cook at the Cook Community Center. The class is appropriate for all skill levels and will be held on Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

To register, contact Alberta Whitenack at 218-666-2153, Shawna Kishel at 218-780-6510, the NWFA Gallery at 218-780-7130, register online at nwfamn. org, or in-person at the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook. Winter gallery hours are Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The fee for the class is \$40 for NWFA members and \$55 for non-members.

Fee payment confirms registration. Payments can be mailed to NWFA, PO Box 44, Cook, MN 55723.

Swanson currently shows artwork at Art Resources Gallery in Minneapolis and Edina; Kelley Gallery in Hudson, Wis., and Woodbury; Lizzard's Gallery in Duluth; Siiviis Gallery in Duluth; and Sivertson Gallery in Grand Marais. To learn more about Adam Swanson, visit adamswanson.com.



ELY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

28th Annual Smile You're in Ely, April 2



ELY-The Ely Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual spring event 'Smile, You're in Ely' on Tuesday, April 2 at the Grand Ely Lodge. The event will consist of a social hour starting at 5 p.m., buffet dinner at 5:45 p.m., door prizes, business $networking\, opportunities, Chamber\, news,\\$ and a special keynote speaker.

Lynne Jensen-Nelson, founder of Conversion-omics, will be the keynote speaker. Jensen-Nelson is a nationally acclaimed speaker and industry expert in active brand management, creating sales training solutions, and developing competitive advantages. Is your business looking for direction on marketing and branding strategies? Have you identified what sets your business apart from your competitors? Jensen-Nelson will provide the tools and tips to answer those questions.

Smile You're in Ely serves as the Ely Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting, but is always open to the entire business community and general public. Ever wonder exactly how the Ely Chamber of Commerce serves both businesses and the community? Join us and find out. We will provide highlights from the past year and the direction we are headed in for 2019.

The cost of the event is \$25 and includes a buffet dinner. Pre-registration is required. For further information or to register, stop by the Chamber office at 1600 E Sheridan St., Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. or call 218-365-6123. The deadline for registration is Thursday,

Business Development Opportunity

Your Website - Everything You Need to Know **About Your #1 Sales Tool**

March 27, 2019, 9 a.m. Grand Ely Lodge

Do you have a website? Is it optimized? Having a website is one thing, having it come up first in searches is another.

Learn about optimizing your website, local searches on the Internet, Google Analytics and more. Session lead by Molly Solberg of MAS Marketing.

Lunch included with this free business development opportunity. Advanced registration required. To register contact director@ely.org or call 365-6123.

Business development provided by the Ely Chamber of Commerce and City of Ely through a generous grant from





Join Dr. Eric Elleby for this <u>free</u> seminar as he discusses:

- How to talk to those close to you about end-of-life care options
- How to determine your wishes for end-of-life care
- Who you want to make these medical care decisions for you if you could not speak for yourself - POLST/Advanced Directives



Tuesday, March 26th 5:30 PM 131 5th Street SE



Lower Level of the Pioneer Building in Cook All Welcome, Refreshments Will Be Served

Commerce: Check Frontier's service claims in Ely

Sens. Klobuchar and Smith call on FCC to investigate the company's questionable business practices

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

REGIONAL - Pressure continues to build on Frontier Communications over its service quality and business practices.

Officials with the Minnesota Department of Commerce are recommending that the state's Public Utilities Commission investigate whether Frontier Communications has lived up to commitments it has made to state regulators to improve broadband access to its Minnesota customers. And it has pointed to Ely as a good test case for such an inquiry.

Those recommendations are included in a 529-page report issued in January in response to an ongoing investigation of the company by the state's

Public Utilities Commission. The *Timberjay* has previously reported on other findings and recommendations in the report.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith called on the Federal Communications Commission to begin an investigation into the company's business practices. The senators were reacting to a recent Star Tribune report that Frontier has received over \$100 million in federal grants intended to improve rural broadband in Minnesota, even as it has come under fire from customers around the state for sub-standard Internet quality, continual billing errors, and shoddy maintenance of its telecommunications infrastructure. Those funds were intended to subsidize improvements in Internet service, but DOC officials say it's unclear if the funds have been used effectively due to Frontier's poor documentation.

The PUC ordered the DOC investigation last spring in response to reporting by the Timberjay in late 2017 that highlighted the poor service quality provided by Frontier and its local affiliate, Citizens Telecommunications, or CTC-Minnesota, in northern St. Louis and Lake counties. The DOC investigation revealed that similar problems are widespread among customers in Frontier's service territory in Minnesota.

Frontier and CTC, operate in the state under what's known as an Alternative Form of Regulation, or AFOR, as opposed to the more traditional regulatory rules which are tied to return on investment. As part of approval of an AFOR plan, companies must make certain commitments regarding service quality. As part of approval of its AFOR plan in 2015, Citizens committed to upgrading Internet speeds in Ely, Ranier, and several other communities, to as high as 40 megabytes per second (mbps).

But has the company delivered on that promise? State regulators say that Frontier has provided too little documentation to know the answer. That's why they want the PUC to require that Frontier document whether it's kept its word- and it suggests starting that investigation in Ely. DOC investigators, in their January report, recommend that Frontier be required to submit the following information:

1) The number of residential and business customers it has

2) The number of customers that have a Frontier Internet service product.

3) The number of customers, including the names and addresses, that receive download speeds of nearly 40 mbps. The DOC suggests that state officials should contact a test sample of the names to confirm the information provided by Frontier.

4) The number of customers in Ely who are receiving service at a minimum of 10 mbps download and one mbps upload.

DOC officials are recommending that all of the commu-

See **FRONTIER...**pg. 5

CITY OF TOWER

Clerk grievance over alleged data breach aired

Keith's union alleges unfair treatment, release of information from closed session

Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- A grievance by Tower City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith was the subject of considerable discussion and public input during the city council meeting held here on

Keith filed her grievance against the city council in February. The city's grievance committee met on March 5 to hear the complaint, but adjourned the meeting until March 14, to gather further information.

The Keith grievance included two parts, one addressed

the allegation that confidential information had been leaked from the closed meeting to the *Timberjay*. The second was that the council, because of actions taken by Kringstad, had singled out Keith by performing an employee performance review that was actually an investigation, therefore violating a portion of the union contract that called for promoting peaceful relations.

Keith's union representative Erik Skoog said the council was singling out Keith, treating her differently from other employees. Keith, however, is the only city employee under the direct supervision of the city council.

The alleged release of information from the closed session to the newspaper is also part of a complaint against Mayor Orlyn Kringstad, written up by Councilor Kevin Fitton, that is currently under review by the city council.

At Monday's council meeting, Timberjay Publisher Marshall Helmberger took issue with that claim, and noted that Fitton and others raised the allegation without talking to either Kringstad or himself. "Had they done so, they would have learned that this allegation is entirely false," said Helmberger.

"That this entire falsehood

has become the basis for a meritless grievance by the clerk-treasurer is even more troubling," he said. "I attended last week's meeting of the grievance committee and was shocked by what I witnessed." Helmberger noted that the chair of the grievance committee is Steve Altenburg, who Helmberger noted has filed his own "frivolous" action against the mayor. "That he would be allowed to vote on this grievance is astonishing," said Helmberger who urged the council to appoint a different resident to fill that spot on the grievance committee. Council members on the committee are

Steve Abrahamson and Brooke Anderson.

Data request

In related action, the council appointed Steve Abrahamson to serve as a temporary data practices officer to review a data request from the Timberjay regarding Keith. At the conclusion of last week's grievance committee hearing, Keith's union representative Erik Skoog strongly implied that the council had agreed to investigate allegations against Keith. The Timberjay has requested confirmation of that, since a decision to hire an

See GRIEVANCE...pg. 5



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IKE of Minnesota, Inc.

OPINION

ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;"

"CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW...

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

The establishment bellows

Claims that the Democrats are moving too far left are ignorant of history

The predictable mantra from the mainstream media pundits is right on schedule as the Democratic presidential candidates stake out their positions ahead of the 2020 primary season. "The party is moving too far left," say the Washington pooh-bahs. These folks usually have no idea of what voters outside the Washington, D.C. cocktail circuit are thinking, which is why the election of Donald Trump in 2016 quite literally blew their minds.

They deem policy prescriptions like free public collegetuition,a\$15minimum wage, and Medicare-for-all as somehow new and radical shifts for the Democratic Party.

These, of course, are folks who don't know their history.

Think free public college tuition is radical? Just ask a baby boomer who went to a public university in the 1950s, 1960s or 1970s. Tuition technically wasn't free, but it was so cheap that it might as well have been.

Think a \$15 minimum wage is radical? Adjust it for inflation, and the minimum wage today would be close to \$11 an hour to equal the minimum wage adopted as long ago as 1968. And had the minimum wage kept pace with the actual growth in productivity and the overall economy, it would be sitting at about \$18 an hour today, according to the Economic Policy Institute. The current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour is a reflection of the radical turn in American politics that began in the

If you think Medicarefor-all is going too far, keep in mind it was that former radical Harry S. Truman who first pushed for a single-payer universal health care system in the U.S. In fact, single-payer health care was a Democratic Party objective for years. They opted to create Medicare for seniors only after earlier attempts to provide the benefit to everyone faced opposition from the medical profession and other special interests. The failure to include the entire U.S. population in Medicare is the main reason that Americans today spend twice as much as the average advanced nation on health care for health outcomes that rank close to Third World

levels, particularly for the nation's poor.

Those who suggest that the policies popularized by Independent Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in 2016, and which have now been adopted by many Democrats, are somehow extreme or un-American have it wrong. Far from radical, they represent the very same domestic policies that previous generations grew up viewing as the norm. When baby boomers think about the good old days, or when politicians talk of bringing back the middle class, we need to remember how America had once built a middle class that was both the envy of the world and the engine for our economy. We operated like most other democratic socialist countries at the time. We taxed the wealthy and corporations and redistributed that income by investing in higher education to improve our workforce, building the interstate highway system and the schools that educated the baby boom, and by ensuring that workers were paid a fair wage for their efforts.

We operated under the notion popularized by the late Sen. Paul Wellstone, who liked to say that "we all do better when we all do better." It was a philosophy that focused on the common good, and that's a thread deeply woven throughout America's history.

The truly radical turn in American domestic policy began in the 1980s, when the Republican Party, followed by the Clinton Democrats, all but abandoned the policies that had helped build the middle class in favor of tax cuts for the wealthy and debt for the rest of us. All but free public college tuition skyrocketed. Health care costs threw millions into poverty and bankruptcy. And workers, especially on the low end of the income ladder, continuously lost ground even as CEO salaries hit the stratosphere.

Suggesting that such policies have deeply harmed the country isn't radical. It's an historical truth, and it's one that Americans need to remember as an all-too comfortable establishment resists those who seek only to return us to the America we used to



Letters from Readers

Landwehr promoting PolyMet talking points

Tom Landwehr's hiring as executive director of Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters became especially concerning after reading his post-hiring interviews.

His statement that our need for copper and nickel should lead us to mine them here betrays a lack of economic sophistication. If we really need a supply of minerals, we would buy them cheaper on the global market from areas that have much higher quality ore bodies than those we have remaining. We might have large ore bodies but they're low grade. Should a woman with a 200-pound boyfriend be jealous of a woman with a 400-pound boyfriend? Hardrock mining is Minnesota's 400-pound boyfriend.

An honest appraisal would lead to the conclusion that our existing taconite industry and our proposed copper mining industry are welfare programs for northern Minnesota. For all of my working life our industry has survived on tax breaks, subsidies, and protective duties. If you deduct the value of our ore shipped out of state at the value assigned by the mining industry when they take their fifteen-percent depletion allowance, mining is a net liability to the State of Minnesota.

As a miner who received a good little bit of the financial pampering in Minnesota I could be a little more supportive but I lived through some of the hard times and in the early sixties ended up working for a machinery manufacturer near East Moline, Ill. I sympathize with the consumers of steel that pay the price for our mining industry. Our brothers and sisters in the United Auto Workers have to sacrifice for our prosperity. If you buy a John Deere tractor or a Polaris ATV, you are forced to subsidize our mining industry.

The problem is not that Landwehr is opposing Twin Metals. The problem is that Tom Landwehr is promoting sulfide mining by repeating Polymet PR talking points.

Bob Tammen Soudan

Don't let competition hurt Ely papers

Mayor Novak: The city and the citizens of Ely are lucky to have two great newspapers covering the news in our area. Publishing small town newspapers is a tough business right now and there is no guarantee either paper will long survive (see link below).

The city should keep that in mind next year when the council decides on letting the contract to publish public notices. I hope that the city does not use competition to drive down the cost to the lowest possible number. The mayor and city council of Ely have a well earned reputation for squeezing the nickel so hard they rub the hide off the buffalo. That policy has been a 40-year disaster for our town. Find someplace else to save tax dollars. These newspapers are the best bargain we have.

Link:www.stltoday.com/ news/local/state-and-regional/ town-by-town-local-journalism-is-dying-in-plain-sight/ article_f30bd2f1-e3e9-5df1-8b78-1c14e5f2df83.html.

Hans Olsen

Thoughts on the Easter season

Following is an excerpt from a magazine I get from Ravi Zacharias International

I believe is very thought-provoking now at Easter time and was given permission to reprint it.

It is written by Naomi Zacharias, Director, Wellspring International:

"I recently pondered the question:

Why is it that it had to be the Son who hung on the cross, rather than God the Father?

What came to my mind was this: if you gave me the opportunity to give my life for any one of my children to spare them suffering, I would do it without hesitation - no matter how they were behaving, what they had done or if they would ever appreciate what I did for them. But if you asked me to give my son....to watch him brutally suffer and to give his very life for the sake of another, to be treated with hatred, to have his name slandered, to be subjected to the height of injustice that would cause him excruciating agony?

NO! The Son of God entered into the height of physical suffering on the cross.

But it was the only way for God the Father to enter into ultimate suffering too. Suddenly "for God so

loved the world...." carried a new dimension I had over-

Wellspring International is the Humanitarian arm of RZIM that financially equips existing organizations aiding at-risk women and children, and provides individual scholarships to support education, healthcare and basic living needs.

Marilyn Mueller Lake Vermilion, Tower

We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words. Letters are subject

to editing, primarily for length and clarity.

Letters are a great way to offer your input to the Timberjay's editorial page. We want to know what you think!

The sweet life in the first mining town of Soudan

According to the Almanac of Scarlet, this has been one of the longest winters I have ever known! I'm glad I was able to hold up in my cozy house on the hillside across from the Post Office in Soudan. Bill and I moved here in July of 2017 from James



Street in Ely and have thorough- wishes while we moved in and

ly enjoyed living here. Some of my first memories were the number of kids playing outside (not seen much these days) and folks waving as we drove past their yards. Many neighbors continued to stop by our yard to welcome us with a big smile, handshake, and well

settled. It was very heartwarming. We had moved in a frenzy of packing, dying house cats, and my gut-gripping gallbladder issues. It was a relief to collapse in a chair in this grandma-style house despite being surrounded by mayhem and boxes. Moving to this little town was just what I needed. I used to drive into Soudan

once in a blue moon to stop at the Soudan Store for a handscooped ice cream cone served up by a friendly store clerk. It was always pretty easy to get

into town but I never figured out how to get out until after I had lived here for awhile. I'm not the first person to say that either. It's a rambling town with streets that curve and cooperate with the hills and valleys that eventually lead you back out to Hwy. 169. I could never remember

what street would "get me out" but it was always fun sightseeing and trying. I also greatly appreciate the cleanliness of Soudan and the pride folks have in caring for their homes. It is highly picturesque, seated below the

pine-covered hillside in the wake of the old underground mine where the main street weaves past the old white-steepled Lutheran church so reminiscent of a scene from The Music Man. I often visualize Marian the Librarian briskly walking down the sidewalk there, passing a barbershop quartet in striped cotton suiting.

Until living here, I never really paid attention to the significance of Soudan. I recently

See **SOUDAN...**pg. 5

Housing slowdown sparks more uncertainty over Cook siding mill

by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

COOK—Aslowdown in the housing industry has trimmed growth in the siding sector for Louisiana-Pacific, but that hasn't diminished the expectation of company officials for continued growth in siding sales in the longer term. That's according to the company's most recent presentation to investors.

Growth in the company's siding sector is key to prospects for a new siding plant at the site of the former Ainsworth OSB mill

near Cook. Louisiana-Pacific purchased the former mill site in 2016 with the intent of expanding its siding production capacity, but the company has offered less certainty in recent months surrounding the timeline for that conversion.

The prospects for the new mill in Cook suffered a setback two years ago, when the company decided to convert an existing OSB plant in Dawson Creek, British Columbia, to siding. That's left the company's engineers and available capital budget largely tied up since then,

limiting the progress on conversion at the Cook site.

Company CEO Brad Southern told investors last month that the work at Dawson Creek is largely completed and he expects the plant to begin initial production by the end of March. Still, he said he expects the plant start-up will continue to occupy the company's engineering staff during the start-up phase.

"We're focused on a good start-up," he said. "As far as the next mill conversion, we'll get into that after Dawson Creek is set up. I think we'll be in a position by the end of Q4 to have enough information to know where we're going."

The Cook plant is one of two idled facilities that the company has purchased for possible conversion and it would be a more costly project than the retrofitting of a mill in Val d'Or, Quebec, that L-P bought as part of the same acquisition that included the former Ainsworth mill. The Quebec mill, unlike the Cook site, came with a wood press, which is an advantage since start-up costs would be lower in

Val d'Or. But access to wood has been an issue in Quebec, as has a sluggish transportation sector, which are disadvantages for the Canadian plant.

Canadian plant.

Continued weakness in the housing sector, and the expectation by many economists of a possible recession by 2020, are other potential risks that could impact the timing of any expansion decision. But Southern said other factors are important as well. "A big part of our success will be in our ability to penetrate and grow market share," he said.

${f SOUDAN}$. . . Continued from page 4

read former friend, actor and author Mike Hillman's book, "The Soudan Mine". Mike's great-grandparents were some of the first of 350 settlers to arrive in Soudan back in 1884 after a three-day journey up the Vermilion Trail from Duluth. The town was the site of the first iron ore mine on the Iron Range. It got its name when Cornish miner Captain Elisha Morcom commented to his wife: "It is as dusty and cold here in Minnesota as it is dusty and hot in Africa. Why, this place is nothing but Tower's little Sudan." When the other miners heard the joke, they enjoyed it so much they decided to add the letter "o" for distinction and claim the name for their town. Soudan was where miners raised families and lived more structured lives, while single men preferred the lifestyle nearby Tower had to offer with its many businesses, boarding houses, taverns, and houses filled with

The Post Office and the historic Soudan Store

"soiled doves."

are two prime visiting travels from Winton every places in this little town of weekday and for a half-day on Saturday and is always 454 people (according to the 2018 census). When I friendly and helpful. In go to get my mail I usually the post office here there is even a recycle bin for run into somebody friendly I know, except at night undesired mail, which no when it's quiet, because doubt has kept me from overspending on "cutie in Soudan you can access your postal box 24 hours patootie" clothes from a day. All the boxes are mail order catalogs. keyless entry combination-style, heavy brass with exquisite detailing,

manufactured in the early

part of the century I'd

wager. You don't see these

too often. There's a wheel

with letters on it you have

to turn. In the beginning

I decided to make up a

little saying similar to "fat

chipmunks jumping trees"

to remember the letters of

our combination. I also

have the Vermilion Park

Inn's mailbox to empty,

so I have that memorized

as well, and am quite

pleased that drilling lines

for theater productions

over the years tuned my

memory for this task.

The experience of com-

binations takes me back

to my high school locker

days...and that's always

a kick. Our postal person

The Soudan Store, known as S.O.S. (Soudan's only store) was built in 1892 by the Oliver Mining Co. to house the mining offices. The offices were later relocated to Ely and the building became the Oliver Club, an establishment to offer the miners an alternative to drinking alcohol. "They did serve "near beer", sodas and candy," said Andy Larson, lifelong Soudan resident and local historian. "There was a radio to listen to, a reading room, a pool table, plus cards and even a slot machine," he added. A person had to be sixteen to enter the club and there were monthly membership dues paid. The Oliver Club ran until the mid-1950s, when the end of operations at the Soudan Mine became inevitable. Local residents decided to turn the club into a community store through the selling of shares. Groceries were added, then gas pumps, and the business still offers these luxuries for small town life today....including the ice cream!

Across Center Street is the Vermilion Park Inn-Bed and Breakfast which was the former Soudan Hospital. It was built in 1862 to care for the miners and their families and had a resident doctor who lived in quarters on site. In 1962, when the mine closed, the hospital became a home for people living with mental illness. Following that, it was a bed and breakfast (with previous owners until 2016 when the current owners purchased it). Now under the ownership of Mary Batinich, Tom Burns and his wife, Toni Mancina Genalo, the Inn boasts thirteen beautifully-decorated rooms, a Commons or meeting room, and a brand-new classroom on the lower level. The Inn has hosted cultural events, meetings, and art classes, in addition to offering guests a cozy and comfortable venue. Bill and I have assisted with managing the Inn for about a year-and-a-half and have greatly enjoyed listening to the stories of folks who were either born there, had been hospitalized there, or had mothers who worked there as nurses.

Soudan is near two state parks, hiking/biking/ snowmobile trails, and a beautiful beach and picnic area just down the road. One of the most beautiful trails is right across the road from our place. The town also has a skating rink, ballfields, and the best "dump" I've ever graced! Clean, with a beautifully-wooded entrance, it is easily accessible off Highway 169 and in my experience with "dump authoritarians" at other locations, is hosted by quite amiable attendants! I joke with my husband that going to Menard's and the dump are my favorite

There still are no taverns in Soudan so that's

a boon to my liver, but we do have our "wildlife." Deer frequently wander through the streets and yards and locals have to bolster their fences to protect gardens. That's a common occurrence up here in the northwoods. Stray dogs aren't generally a concern around town. I greet the local canines if I see them strutting up the sidewalk. They were here before I was, and like the other neighbors or kids, seem to know what they are up to.

For the remainder of snow season it is my intention to visit with some of the older lifelong residents here and write the stories of their memories growing up in Soudan. When this happens it will be good reading, just don't hold your breath too long...like my weight loss program these days, patience will bring things about in good time.

Sources: The Soudan Mine by Michael "Iron Mike" Hillman; Oral history by Andy Larson, a life long Soudan resident and historian.

FRONTIER...Continued from page 3

nities cited in Frontier's AFOR plan eventually be surveyed. "But it may be more practical to select a single exchange, such as Ely— as there is more evidence from Ely customers concerning service quality, due to the location of a Commission's public hearing." The PUC held a public hearing on Frontier in Ely last September, one of several held around the state to take testimony from Frontier customers.

rrom Frontier cust **Federal fundina**

Frontier has received considerable financial government assistance, through grants, to help it meet the commitments it has made in Minnesota. While those grants, under the Connect America program, are federal-

ly-funded, the state DOC is obligated to report to the Federal Communications Commission on how effectively recipients of federal broadband funds are using those dollars in Minnesota, particularly in rural parts of the state. Sens. Klobuchar and Smith say the FCC needs answers to that question.

"Access to broadband is a core economic issue, and Frontier has received more than \$100 million in federal funding over the last four years to improve broadband services in rural Minnesota," wrote Sens. Smith and Klobuchar in their March 13 letter to

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai.
Citing the Minnesota
DOC report, the senators
noted that state officials

had found "Frontier's recordkeeping to be deficient, and raised the question of whether Frontier was illegally concealing its discriminatory behavior," by focusing investment in more densely-populated areas

During 2017, CTC-Minnesota spent a total of \$16.6 million in federal grant funds, but provided only the barest description of what those funds were used for. According to the DOC report, CTC-MN reported only that \$11.6 million was spent on Connect America projects, \$2 million on relocation and replacement for road work, \$1.2 million for station connections, \$371,600 for expansion of DSL and broadband capacity, and \$292,000 for expansion of distribution facilities

facilities. Under the federal grant program, recipients of the funding are required to meet certain standards of Internet reliability and speed, such as a speed of 10 megabytes per second download and one mbps upload. But whether Frontier has been able to provide that minimal level of service to customers, and to how many, is unclear. "Frontier has provided insufficient information to determine whether the unserved households that received service funded by Connect America are in fact offered service at those Internet speeds," note the DOC investigators.

DOC officials are recommending that the PUC require Frontier to submit a list of households, including names, email addresses, and phone numbers, where federal funds were purportedly used to serve previously unserved households. In addition, the DOC is recommending that Frontier should be required to submit a statement specifying the Internet access service now available to each household. "This requirement should continue for as long as there is any question on whether Frontier is meeting its obligations to receive [federal] funds," the report concludes.

Next steps uncertain

The PUC has yet to

make a decision on how to proceed given the findings from the DOC, and a subsequent response by Frontier as well as the state's Attorney General. The AG's office is recommending that some of the complaints filed against Frontier, that more appropriately fall under the AG's consumer protection role, should be transferred to the AG's office where they could be included in an ongoing investigation

into Frontier.

Meanwhile, Frontier has taken exception to the findings and recommendations issued by the DOC and is urging that the matter be referred to a contested case hearing for further proceedings.

GRIEVANCE...Continued from page 3

investigator is public data according to Minnesota Newspaper Association attorney Mark Anfinson.

Skoog noted that the *Timberjay's* Feb. 15 story on apparent falsification of city records by the clerk-treasurer was titled "Investigation: City records systematically altered," which Skoog argued was evidence that the newspaper had been informed that an inves-

tigation was underway. Helmberger told Skoog that the word investigation related to the work done by the newspaper, which had spent several months researching public city records for the story and had nothing to do with discussions from the closed session. The Feb. 15 story specifically stated that the investigation was completed by the newspaper and made no mention

of an investigation by the city. As of this writing, the newspaper has yet to confirm that the council has agreed to undertake such an investigation— which is why the newspapers made the data practices request on the subject.

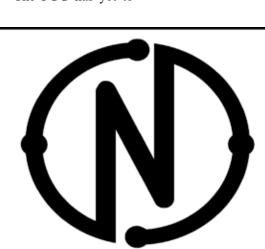
The city's grievance committee is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, March 14. Altenburg did submit a proposal to the council for a formal policy

on how the council would respond to a grievance, with specific steps to follow, though the council took no action at the March 11 meeting. He noted the grievance is between Keith and the council, and the five members of the council can submit evidence orally or in writing by March 14 to address the claim made by Keith.

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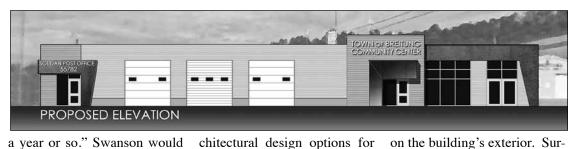
Breitung residents approve a 13.65-percent levy increase

<u>by Steph</u>anie Ukkola

BREITUNG TWP- Residents here at the annual township meeting approved a 13.65 percent levy increase for 2020, with a total levy of \$616,000. The vote passed unanimously among the twenty residents who attended. The changes in the levy include a \$2,500 increase for ambulance subsidy, a \$1,500 increase for cemetery assistance, \$40,000 of loan payments for the town hall improvement project, and \$30,000 to cover the cost of training in a new full-time maintenance supervisor. Dale Swanson, the current maintenance supervi-

sor, said he plans on retiring "in

Increase to help fund township building renovations, maintenance staff transition



a year or so." Swanson would train in the new hire.

Supervisor Tim Tomsich, running unopposed, won his bid for reelection with 60 votes. Treasurer Jorgine Gornick, also unopposed, was reelected with 62 votes. There were 64 voters in total.

Residents selected the least expensive of two town hall ar-

an estimated total of \$766,500. The renovations will include a small building add-on in back for table and chair storage, an office for the fire chief, an additional restroom, a community center with an occupancy of 75-90 people, along with upgrades to the post office, parking lot, mechanical updates, and work

face building modifications were also approved, bringing the grand total to \$910,500. The project should be complete by the end of the year. After learning that the

costs of changing the elected clerk and treasurer positions into a single hired clerk/treasurer position would exceed

\$30,000, residents voted to discuss the issue again at next year's annual meeting. Matt Tuchel and Dan Nylund were advocates for hiring a clerk/ treasurer, citing the township's budget, which is larger and more complicated than most townships, sensitive data, and the intricacies of the job.

Residents recommended that the board assist the Tower-Soudan Historical Society to renovate the historical fire hall building in Tower by giving \$500 to fund a grant match.

Vermilion Lake votes to raise levy to \$36,000

Bruce Swieringa wins contested supervisor seat by wide margin

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER

Managing Editor

VERMILION LAKE TWP-Fourteen residents here voted unanimously to raise their levy for 2020 to \$36,000, an increase of \$5,300 over the current year's levy. The township is planning some modifications to the town hall this year, to add a clerk's office, which could add considerably to the township's expenses.

In his annual report, board chair Phil Anderson said turnover in the clerk position had prompted the decision to add a clerk's office. "Typically, the clerk's office was in the clerk's home," said Anderson. But the recent turnover in the clerk's position had prompted the need for a more permanent location for the clerk's office, so files didn't need to be moved with each change of the clerk. "That also meant we had to change the township's official address, and phone numbers," said Anderson.

Because some of the clerk's records could be considered private data, Anderson noted that the township needs a secure office to house those records. Currently, he

said the township is planning to install a small clerk's office in a portion of the kitchen area at the town hall, which would require the construction of some new walls, installation of a door, and a kitchen redesign.

Anderson said he hopes the township could have the work completed by May so the town hall would be available for rental for graduations or other events. The hall is not currently available for rental because of the large number of files stored in the town hall. Anderson said he's hoping that some township volunteers could pitch in to undertake the construction needed to complete the office.

In related business, township residents voted 56-0 for new town clerk Crystal Alaspa and returned treasurer Steve Lotz 54-0. In the only contested race, Bruce Swieringa outpolled Robert Pratt, 45-13. Alaspa will fill the final year of a two-year term won last year by Steve Peterson, while Lotz was returned for a two-year term and Swieringa will serve a three-year

Treasurer Lotz provided a fi-

nancial update on the township, reporting total revenues of \$66.084 and disbursements of \$76,984, leaving a year-end fund balance of \$162,640.

On the ambulance subsidy, Anderson reported that the Tower Ambulance service was requesting doubling the subsidy with a three-year phase-in. The residents took no action on the information. Of the Tower ambulance service's 475 runs in 2018, 25 were for calls from Vermilion Lake Township.

In other business, the residents also set the cemetery work day for Saturday, April 27, starting at 1 p.m., with an inclement weather date of May 4. The annual township potluck picnic was set for Sunday, Sept. 22 and residents authorized expenditures up to \$600 for the event. The township's 2020 annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, with an inclement weather date of March 17.

Community invited to attend planning meeting for future broadband projects, March 27

TOWER- Community members from Tower, surrounding townships, and Lake Vermilion Reservation are invited to attend a Blandin Broadband Community vision meeting to establish the area's broadband needs and priorities, and to decide on projects to improve Internet access and use in the Tower area. The vision meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 27 at the Tower Civic Center. A light meal will be served at 4:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 5 p.m.

Tower was named one of four new Blandin Broadband Communities, a program that provides planning, technical, and financial support to communities that demonstrate the determination to bring the benefits of a broadband-enabled economy to their communities. These four communities will have access to a special grant fund; projects will have to meet Blandin Foundation standards in order to be funded.

Representatives from Blandin Foundation, IRRRB, and community leaders will be at the meeting to help participants identify our community's strengths gaps, brainstorm project ideas, and prioritize potential projects. Cross-sector and collaborative efforts will be a priority; the greater impact the project can make, the better. Once projects emerge, our area will have the opportunity to apply for up to \$75,000 in total grant

funding over two years. For questions or to RSVP, please contact Stephanie Ukkola stephanie.ukkola@ gmail.com or 715-969-

Embarrrass Township

The 2020 levy proposal was \$154,000, the same as in 2019. No vote was taken on the levy. The annual meeting recessed until Wednesdav, June 12 at 7 p.m.

Kugler Township

Residents in Kugler adjourned their annual meeting and will reopen the meeting in August to set their 2020 levy.

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Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss

Tower-Soudan Elementary celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday at the end of February. Students dressed up like their favorite characters, and all the grades gathered for group read-alouds. Above: Kindergarten teacher Wendy Jordan read about Sneetches. Right: Shaye read to younger students. photos by S. Ukkola

Thank you...

for your vote of confidence.



JORGINE GORNICK



Red Hats' upcoming events, March 24, 31

TOWER- The Northern Red Hats are planning two events in the month of March. First will be lunch and a musical. The group will meet at Adventures in Virginia at noon for lunch, then go to the musical "Bye, Bye Birdie" at the Virginia High School Auditorium on Sunday, March 24 at 2 p.m.

The following Sunday, on March 31, the Red Hats will have another lunch and musical outing. They will meet at the Tower Café at noon for lunch and then travel to Ely for the musical "Cabaret" at Vermilion Community College.

Rides will be shared to both events. New members are always welcome. Call Pam Lundstrom at 218-753-3006 if you are planning on attending one or both events so she can order your tickets and arrange the ride-shares.

Chimpy's Skating Parties

SOUDAN- Chimpy's skating parties at the Soudan Rink are now underway. This weekend, March 16 and 17, there will be skating parties from 12 noon - 2 p.m. This weekend's parties are sponsored by Starkovich Distributing, Brew Pub Pizza Co., and Jordan Rice.

The warming shack regular hours are weekdays from 4 p.m. to closing, and weekends from 11 a.m. to closing. The rink will be open until ice conditions deteriorate. The skating party will be held, good ice or not!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

St. James Lenten Schedule

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church of Tower 2019 Lenten Worship Theme is "The Kiss."

March 17 – "The Kiss of God", Psalms 85:1-13
March 24 – "The Kiss You Do

March 24 – "The Kiss You Do Not Want", Proverbs 27:5-6

March 31 – "The Kiss of A Sinful Woman", Luke 7:36-50

Movie Night on Sunday, March 17 at 6 p.m.

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church is Tower is hosting a free movie night on Sunday, March 17 at 6 p.m. This month's movie is "Samson." Empowered by God with supernatural strength, he endangers his destiny with impulsive decisions that lead to betrayal by a wicked prince and a beautiful temptress. When Samson calls on his God once more, he turns imprisonment and blindness into final victory. [PG-13]

St. Martin's Lenten Schedule

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church is happy to announce their schedule of Lenten activities.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed Friday evenings (beginning March 8) during Lent at 5:30 p.m. A fish dinner will be served after the stations.

The Women's Bible Study continues through Lent, meeting

on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall.

In addition to the Women's Bible Study, Father Nick will be leading a Bible Study on Friday mornings at 8:45 a.m. This Bible Study is open to everyone.

Local students named to President's and Dean's lists at Bemidji State University

BEMIDJI- Abrianna Mellesmoen of Embarrass has earned President's List honors from Bemidji State University at the conclusion of the Fall 2018 semester. To be eligible for the President's List, BSU students must be enrolled for at least 12 credits and earn a perfect 4.0 GPA during the semester. A total of 362 students earned President's List honors from the university.

Nikki Shaw of Embarrass, and Austin Hujanen and Gabriella Suihkonen of Tower have earned Dean's List honors from Bemidji State University in Bemidji at the conclusion of the Fall 2018 semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, BSU students must be enrolled for at least 12 credits and earn a 3.5 GPA during the semester. A total of 797 students earned Dean's List honors from the university.

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 walkins 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 March 18

Monday- Country Sausage Gravy in a Bread Bowl

Tuesday- Breaded Pollock, Baked Potato, Bread Stick

Wednesday- Lasagna, Dinner Roll

Thursday- Hand-Pattied Hamburger on a Whole Grain Bun

Friday- Taco Salad, Corn Muffin.

Week of March 17

Monday

TOPS - Immanuel
Lutheran Church, Tower,

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 March 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.

VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL



The Vermilion Country School Choir (pictured above at the Boundary Waters Choral Festival on March 1) received three excellent ratings at the Minnesota State High School League's Music Contest on Tuesday, March 5. The choir is directed by Karin Schmidt, who noted that this year's scores were higher than the choir has received in past years. photo by J. Summit

Letters from Readers

Notes on this year's Pastors' School

Once again, I attended the Stetson University's Florida Winter Pastors' School from Jan. 29 to 31. Three speakers shared talks each day over the three days of classes.

Amy Butler, D. Min. is the Senior Minister at The Riverside Church in New York City, the seventh Minister and the first woman to hold the position. Her theme was "Embracing a Future We Cannot See: Conversations on Becoming Beloved Community." Amy told about how the church is declining, but not dying, and how many today are spiritual, but not religious. She thinks the church has to go back

to the basics. We have to become a "Beloved Community" by watching how we speak about others, making the church lavish and loving grace, and sharing a vision, not individualism or distance, but intersecting with our world to build bridges and become a church of prayer.

David P. Gushee,

Ph.D. is a Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics and Director of the Center for Theology and Public Life at Mercer University for the past 11 years. His theme was "The Moral Leadership of Bonhoeffer, King and Romero." From his book on 14 influential leaders, he shared background and information about three of them.

Dietrich Bonhoffer was a German pastor who

took up the cause against Nazism. He helped with The Declaration of Barmen Confession and directed the Underground Seminary. He also wrote the book, "Cost of Discipleship" and was jailed in 1943 where he wrote letters to his fiancé who published them later.

Oscar Romero was a Parish Priest who was the Archbishop of San Salvador. He tried to keep the U.S. from supporting the military who were killing many people. He was killed by the military while preparing the Eucharist. He fought for the Dignity, Salvation and Liberation of the people.

Dr. Martin Luther

King Jr. fought for equality and embraced non-violence. King was the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Willie James Jen-

Transfer station

nings, Ph.D. is a systematic theologian at Yale University Divinity School. His theme was "The Book of Acts: Identity, Place and Discipleship." In Jesus Christ a revolution had begun, a revolution of the intimate. The New Family of God, the church grew by the disciples by divine power. The message was that Scripture demands our discipleship to a life that yields to the Spirit. By our belief and faith, we are brought to the redemptive reality of Jesus' life. This is our calling, to be emissaries for the church of Christ to the world and disciples of heaven. **Pastor Doug**

Workman St. James Presbyterian Church, Tower

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, March 27; April 17; May 8Bois Forte Boys/Girls Club 11:00-11:30 a.r

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

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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

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

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous AA - 7 p.m. Mondays, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely WOMEN'S AA - Noon Mondays, St. Anthony

BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church. AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's

Church basement, Ely

Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.

BABBITT AL-ANON

- Thursdays, 7 p.m. at Woodland Presbyterian Church.

CO-DEPENDENTS'

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

ELY FOOD SHELF -Third Wednesday each month, 15 W. Conan St.

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GED - Study materials and pre-test available. Tower by appointment. Call 365-3359, 827-3232, or 1-800-662-5711.

Tuesday Group

ELY - The upcoming Tuesday Group schedule is listed below. All talks are at 12 noon on Tuesday at the Grand Ely Lodge.

March 19 - Denis Miller - The History of Air Conditioning

March 26 - To be announced.

Ely Free Clinic ELY - The Ely

Community Health Center is open every Monday evening from 5:30-7 p.m. in the AFU Building, 111 S 4th Ave. E.

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

Senior Center hosts Smear tourneys

ELY - Smear tournaments are held the first and third Mondays at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. 1st Ave E, starting at 6 p.m.

There is a \$5 entry fee, plus 25 cents per set.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2019



ravens visiting busy investigating

town's curious friends

MINNESOTA TOWNSHIP DAY

Cersine re-elected in Morse

Residents here had a rare contested election Tuesday for town supervisor. Longtime incumbent supervisor Len Cesine was challenged by Terry Cooper for the three-year position on the town board.

Cersine kept his seat by getting 149 votes. Cooper received 59 votes. The total of votes cast,

208, was the most votes ever in a Morse Township election, according to clerk Nick Wognum. Also, 19 absentee ballots were the most absentee ever cast.

Townships around the state held annual meetings Tuesday night to set their own local property tax levies and vote on other various matters associated with township govern-

All agenda items were approved without dissent. The 2020 budget remains the same with a 2020 levy of \$272,730.16. Morse Township has kept its tax levy flat for the past decade, and town board members recommended no change to the existing levy for the next year.

"There was a lot of

discussion at the end about broadband," said township resident Anne Uehling. "The township is exploring and having talks with Frontier Communications as a provider. Town chair Terry Soderberg also reported on the broadband proposal by Isaac Olson to put four antennas on the Ely water tower.

OUR COMMUNITY

Ely Women Who Care group meets March 24

ELY - Area women (and men) can make a difference in this community by joining 100+ Ely Women Who Care to support local

Anyone can join them for their next fundraising gathering on Sunday, March 24, from 4-6 p.m., at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S 1st Ave.

At their last event, in October 2018, 100+ Ely women from all walks of life joined together and voted to contribute more than \$7,800 to Northern Lights Clubhouse, one of Ely's many non-profits serving the community. By joining together and donating a significant sum at one time, the selected charity is able to provide services and programs they may otherwise be unable to afford. To date the group has donated over \$30,000 to local charities.

The event includes a social time where members greet old friends and make new ones. They then get down to business, and using a

process of nominations and votes, select one local charity to receive their donations. For more details and to register,

go to 100ElyWomenWhoCare.org. Please register in advance even if you donated previously. Hard copies of the registration form can be printed from the website and mailed.

Can't attend? Check the website for instructions on how your donation can still be counted as part of the grand total.



The Ely Area Food Shelf recently received a \$2,000 donation from Twin Metals Minnesota to add to their March Food Share Month Campaign tally. Donations of money and food during March receive a proportional match grant from Minneapolis Greater Community Connections. Online donations can be made via a secure donation tool at elyareafoodshelf.org or by mailing to Ely Area Food Shelf, P.O. Box 786 Ely, MN 55731. Food collection boxes are located at Zup's, Ely Northland Market, area churches and the Ely library. Large collections can be made directly to the food shelf by calling 218-235-8527. photo courtesy of Ely Area Food Shelf

Cooking class: Slovenian comfort food

the TIMBERJAY

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by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY - Ely Folk School cooking educator Mary Louis Icenhour taught students to make a Slovenian comfort food during the Ely Winter Festival.

Zlikrofi is a Slovene version of the more wellknown Italian ravioli, meat-or cheese-filled pasta formed into triangles or squares. Zlikrofi can either be boiled or fried before serving. Students learned how to make the pasta dough and two fillings: meat and a spinach/cheese. They made enough to take home at least a dozen that were ready for the pan or pot of boiling water. Mary Louise Icenhour

is an Ely native and retired teacher who loves to share her passion for traditional skills and teaches our Pine Needle Basketry, Apple Strudel, Pasty, and Canning classes and serves on the

Board of Directors.

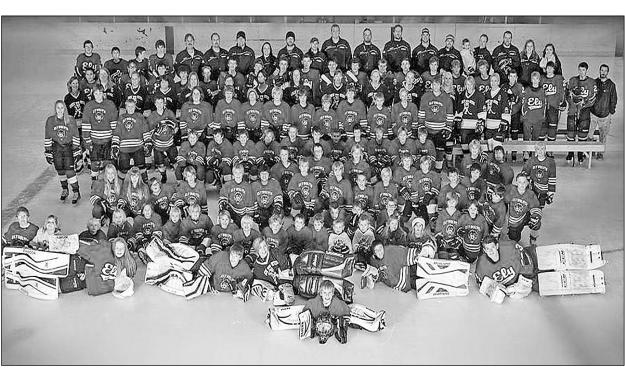


The Ely Folk School hosts a variety of cooking and baking classes throughout the year, many taught by Mary Louise Icenhour and other food experts.

photos by K. Vandervort

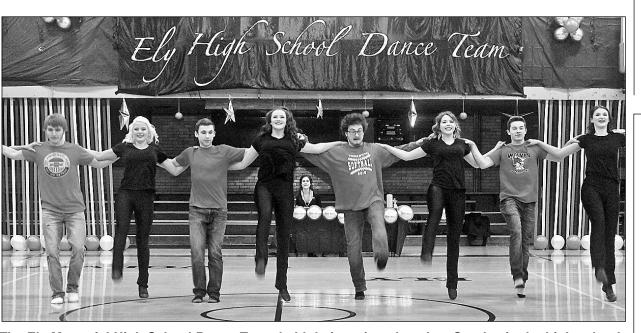


ELY YOUTH HOCKEY



The Ely Youth Hockey Club will celebrate their season with an end-of-year banquet on Thursday, March 21, 5:30-8 p.m. at Amici's Event Center. A lasagna dinner and dessert will be featured along with presentation of team trophies and awards. Selection of 2019-20 board members will also be held. The cost is \$15 per person. All players and coaches eat free. submitted photo

ELY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL



The Ely Memorial High School Dance Team held their spring show last Sunday in the high school gym and included performances by both the fall and winter teams, led by captains Savannah and Madeline Johnson, below. Boys participated in the Boy Girl Dance, above. All routines, including the Mask Dance, bottom, were choreographed by team members. photos by K. Vandervort







Higher Education

Students honored at Mesabi Range

ELY – The 2018-2019 fall semester Dean's List at Mesabi Range College includes the following Ely-area students who earned High Honors (3.75 – 4.0 GPA): Thomas Deyak, Brian Jarvi, and David Shober, of Ely, and Max Posey and Joseph Wenzel, of Babbitt. Trista Miller, of Babbitt, was named to the Honors List (3.5 – 3.74 GPA).

Gabriella Omerza nominated to U.S. Air Force Academy

ELY - U.S. Senator Tina Smith (D-Minn.) nominated Gabriella Omerza of Ely for admission to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

If chosen for an appointment by the academy, Omerza, the daughter of Timothy Omerza, would join the U.S. Air Force Academy class of 2023 and would enter this summer.

"I am very pleased to nominate Gabriella Omerza to the U.S. Air Force Academy," Sen. Smith

said. "Each year, I nominate several talented young Minnesotans to our nation's military academies because of their strong character, academic and athletic achievements, and demonstrated leadership ability. I have no doubt that Gabriella has the ability to excel at the U.S. Air Force Academy and become a successful future leader in our nation's military."

Omerza currently attends Ely Memorial High

Omerza currently attends Ely Memorial High School and participates in swimming as a captain, basketball, track and field, band, and serves as a vice president of the Key Club. She was also president of the National Honor Society.

Each year, Sen. Smith nominates qualified young Minnesotans to the U.S. Service Academies, including the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Yesterday's news, this week

from the archives of

THE ELY MINER

Courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society

March, 14, 1919

Matters of importance

Tuesday evening's meeting of the Ely Commercial Club was certainly of much interest and while it required until midnight to wade through the immense amount of business brought before it, every minute of the time was fully occupied and there was not a lag in the proceedings.

The attendance filled the City Hall to the doors, a large number of ladies being present. The meeting was opened by President Brosich who briefly outlined the business of the evening.

M.N. Koll of Cass Lake, secretary of the Minnesota Scenic Railway Association, was introduced, and in a lengthy talk, told of the excellent work being done by the association. He also took occasion to state that our city would be on the map in all advertising matter to be issued by the association this year and besides the beauty of this country, would be featured in the handsome folder being sent out soon.

He also secured a large number of photographs to be used in illustrating the beauty spots in the immediate vicinity.

In recognition of the good work being done by the association in the past and to help defray the costs of the publication of the folder, the club voted \$200 to the association.

L.J. White told of the meeting of the Wilson highway he and H.J. Merdink attended in St. Paul. This is the highway that begins at Ely and ends at El Paso, Texas.

The Ely Community Center proposition was discussed. Mr. Fox, who has been engaged as director, was present and gave his views. The Community Center plan was discussed from every angle and many excellent ideas were advanced.

The club went on record as favoring the League of Nations by adopting a resolution presented by Captain Geo. T. Ayres.



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

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

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

Community Notices

Your story as art

COOK - Your story matters, so who is this class for? Any person at least 12 years old who wants to play. Artists looking for inspiration. Writers wanting a new perspective on their story and poets with ideas. Humans who need a break from the daily grind. Makers seeking community. The curious. The intimidated. The open-minded.

Join us at the NWFA Gallery in Cook on Saturday, March 30 and Saturday, April 20 from 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Each class will stand alone, and may be attended separately. Attending both will be a deeper experience.

For each day, be guided in creating a visual representation of your story. Use drawing, collage, paint and paper provided (or other materials you bring) to create a finished art piece on canvas, board or paper. This class transcends just the technique of 'how to' draw, paint, etc, by diving into concept, symbolism, representation and metaphor in a fun and stress-free environment!

We will spend some time developing our stories and experimenting with materials. Then continue to learn about composition, visual symbols, drawing, surface treatment, and current artists who are using story.

What is 'My Story'? "Story" may be a memory, fiction, dream, story, idea, poem, opinion, struggle, victory, comedy, tragedy, etc. We can work with anything!

A check confirms the registration for each class. \$40 for NWFA members, or \$55 for non-members for each class plus an additional \$5 supply fee payable on the day of class (minimum of 10 students, maximum of 12).

Need more info? Contact Kris at kmusto@ mcad.edu or 612-325-

Register through nwfamn.org@gmail.com or by calling Alberta Whitenack at 218-666-2153 or Shawna Kishel at 218-780-6510. Checks written to NWFA can be dropped off at the NWFA Gallery in Cook or mailed to NWFA, PO Box 44, Cook, MN 55723.

Winter events at the Cook Library

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 Read-

ing: 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 librar-



Jerel D. Johnson, ABOC Certified 23 E. Vermilion Dr., Cook

EYE EXAMS • 666-2879

Call for Appointment with Dr. Jensen, Optometrist

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.

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.

Dramatic poetry reading at **Voyageurs**

INT'L FALLS - Our natural world inspires many artists and writers from all walks of life. Join local actor and poet, Douglas Skrief, at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center on Sunday, March 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. for a dramatic poetry reading. Free. Recommended for ages 10 and up. This event is part of the park's 2019 Winter at Voyageurs Event Series.

Pancake Breakfast served by Cook Lions

COOK - The Cook Lions Club will be holding a pancake breakfast at St. Mary's Catholic Church (next to the Cook Hospital) on Sunday, March 24 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please join the Lions who serve pancakes, sausage, coffee and juice for a free will donation. Proceeds go the Cook Food Shelf.

McDonald's donates the juice, syrup and butter and Homestead Mills the pancake mix.

Red Hats' events. March 24, 31

TOWER- The Northern Red Hats are planning two events in the month of March. First will be lunch and a musical. The group will meet at Adventures in Virginia at noon for lunch, then go to the musical "Bye, Bye Birdie" at the Virginia High School Auditorium on Sunday, March 24 at 2 The following Sun-

day, on March 31, the Red Hats will have another lunch and musical outing. They will meet at the Tower Café at noon for lunch and then travel to Ely for the musical "Cabaret" at Vermilion Community College.

Rides will be shared to both events. New members are always welcome. Call Pam Lundstrom at 218-753-3006 if you are planning on attending one or both events so she can order your tickets and arrange the ride-shares.

Email your community notices to editor@ timberjay.com

BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS



Fans gathered last week at North Woods for the first round of the playoffs. The team beat South Ridge last Wednesday before ending the season of Mt. Iron - Buhl during the quarterfinal in Duluth on Saturday. The team was to head back to Duluth on Wednesday evening to face Deer River in the Section semifinal. Should the team be successful, they will once again return to Duluth on Friday for the Section final and a chance to earn a spot in the state tournament. More information on page B1. photo by C. Stone

ORR CITY COUNCIL

Council to pursue rental ordinance

that

by MARCUS WHITE Cook-Orr Editor

ORR - The city council here will pursue a short-term rentals ordinance after a public hearing on Monday evening where several local business owners came out to express their opinion on the matter.

The ordinance would just be for shortterm property rentals, Mayor Joel Astleford said. He said the purpose of the hearing was to hear "how the community feels about adding these rules and regula-

Heather Fealy, who runs an Airbnb property in Leiding Township addressed the council on her own property.

"I get a lot of people who come in for a quick overnight stay, usually on their way to the park," Fealy said. "A lot of times they don't know what is in the area. I let them know about tours and trails. I tell them that

there is a grocery store here in town. I also do some small kayak rentals."

many of her clients had

reached out after other

added

She

area hotels, motels and resorts had already been Fealy said she at-

tracts a different type of client that typically rents a hotel room, such as families. While no rules are

on the books in Orr when it comes to shortterm property rentals, Astleford noted that the city's lodging ordinance charges a three-percent tax on all short-term rentals. He said he assumed property rentals would fall into this category, even if the council took no action on a separate ordinance. But not everyone

was happy with the spread of private rentals. "Internet comments

are mainly negative when it comes to Airbnb rentals," John Hess, owner of North Country Inn said. "It's going to hurt the businesses in town. You can't argue about that.' Fealy said Airbnb

property owners have the

right to impose limits on guests and most vet their clients before allowing them on the property. Airbnb, like other paid share services, such as Uber, not only allows

but lets property owners rate who is renting their properties. Ricky Oveson, owner of Oveson's Resort, said the area needs more rental units, especially

during peak times in the

renters to rate their stay,

Councilors were generally in favor of the property rentals. "This area is real-

summer.

ly big for people who like the outdoors," said Councilor Tom Kennebeck. "How many people are entrepreneurial? You can get a different clientele. People are going to be looking at

stores in town. They might even come up and want to try other resorts or properties and keep coming back."

"My opinion is that

these are places you look at when you can't find a hotel," said Councilor Ericka Cote. "It allows different options than a hotel would provide. It can be hard to find or afford rooms if you have six kids or look for a place for a family reunion."

A question remained, however, on how or if the properties would need to be rezoned.

City Clerk Cheri Carter said the county hasn't taken up the issue yet, but cities were starting to catch on with Duluth recently creating their own ordinance.

Following the hearing, the city council voted to continue looking into the matter and develop an ordinance to address the issue.

Crane Lake News by the Singing Teapot Dames



Destin, Florida, is in the 2019 memory banks for one of the old Dames. Texas is now on the agenda until the end of March; then it will be time to return to Minnesota. But first, a visit in the Austin area will allow spending time with old friends and family before returning to "normal life". The Dame is starting to have visions of being in her own home, drinking coffee from her own coffee maker, cooking on her own stove, and sleeping in her own bed. These things are beginning to seem more and more attractive as it has been some time since last do-

ing these normal func-

tions. You know the

old truism about it being

good to be gone but even

better to be back home -

done with us yet-when

Mother Nature is not

it is an honest feeling.

is that final snow going to be? It seems She always has to give us a teaser of warm weather before dumping that last, usually heavy, dousing of cold wet snow. Voyagaire Lodge

will be closed after March 17 until reopening for the summer season in May. After our long winter's nap, we look forward to all our local resorts and businesses opening again, to there being boat traffic on the lake that is not covered by ice. We hope for an early, busy, fun, profitable summer season.

March 17 is also St. Patrick's Day, when everyone claims, or wishes they had, some Irish in their family history. It is the celebration of shamrocks, green beer, Irish music and dancing, and corned beef and cabbage. Unfortunately, we can't all be Irish—as a friend recently statedsomebody has to drive! You may not have

been aware of this, but we have drifted by two notable anniversaries of important life events. First of all, March 6 (1912) was the introduction of the first Oreo cookies to the public in a grocery store

in Hoboken, New Jer-

sey. Today, each Oreo

wafer is baked for exactly 290.6 seconds. Every Oreo contains 90 ridges, 12 flowers, 12 dashes and 12 dots. The cookie-to-creme ration is also exact at 71 percent to 29 percent. The other important birthday, March 9 (1959) was when the first Barbie doll went on display. That makes Barbie 60 years old today. Barbie's full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts; her parents are George and Margaret Roberts, and they are from the fictional town of Willows, Wis. The first Barbie dolls had either blonde or brunette hair and cost \$3, which would equate to about \$24 today. The most expensive Barbie was dressed in a simple black strapless dress with a necklace of real pink diamonds surrounded by white baguette dia-

at auction for \$302,500 that went to cancer re-Condolences to the Congdon family pn the

loss of Robert, who recently passed away. Sandra Bodkin has moved permanently to a new residence but would love mail or compa-

ny. Kara Knutsen and

Jeff Miller recently vis-

ited Sandy at her lovely

monds. She was sold

new home. Her address is Oak Hill Assisted Living, 1971 Northeast First Avenue, Grand Rapids, MN 55744. Her phone number is 218-999-

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.

7586.



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HEALTH CARE

National Doctors Day at Cook Hospital

will mark National Doctors Day. Help celebrate this day, as the Cook Hospital honors our local doctors and recognizes the contributions they have made to individual lives and our community.



Eric Elleby Eric Elleby, M.D.: Dr. Elleby ("You can call me Eric.") is a 2014 graduate of the University of Illinois School of Medicine. He is Board Certified by the American Board of Family Practice. Dr. Elleby was born and raised in southern Minnesota and is an avid Minnesota sport fan, fish-

> Garbisch Bruce

This week we conspeaking with

our dedicated teachers

with a staff person who

is, for the time being,

a one-woman foreign

language department at

North Woods, Ms. Carrie

where did you go to high

school in Cook and grad-

uated from Cook High

School. Go Little Go-

phers! I went to college

at Bemidji State for my

undergraduate degree,

and received a Master's

teachers who were an in-

fluence on you? Please

teacher, Mrs. Lackner,

and Mrs. Christiansen,

my FLA advisor and

teristics did these teach-

ers have that were im-

personable. I felt like I

could talk to them. I also

enjoyed their subject

teach at North Woods?

FACS teacher.

portant to you?

matter.

name a few if you can.

Mr. V: Were there

Ms. C: My Spanish

Mr. V: What charac-

Ms. C: They were

Mr. V: What do you

Ms. C: Spanish I, II

from St. Mary's.

school and college?

Mr. V: Where are you originally from and

Ms. C: I went to

tinue

erman, and enjoys telling



Bruce Garbisch

M.D.: Dr. Garbisch is a 1974 graduate of the University of Minnesota Medical School. He is Board Certified by the American Board of Family Practice and is a member of the American Academy of Family Practice. Dr. Garbisch began practicing medicine in Cook in 1977. Dr. Garbisch is currently the Medical Director of the Cook Care Center, a title he has held since 2004. He was also the Medical Director of the Cook Ambulance from 1998 to

Holmes Matthew M.D.: Dr. Holmes graduated from medical school at the University of Minnesota-Duluth in

GRIZZLY UPDATE

Meet Ms. Carrie Carstens



2011. Dr. Holmes is the current Medical Director of the Cook Hospital. Dr. Holmes grew up locally in Angora and now lives on Lake Vermilion. He enjoys the outdoors, including hunting, fishing and snowmobiling. Nicholas Vidor

M.D.: Dr. Vidor grew up in International Falls and graduated from the University of Minnesota-Duluth Medical School in 2011. Dr. Vidor started his medical career as an EMT and now serves the Cook Ambulance as their Medical Director. He is also the Trauma and Stroke Medical Director for the Cook Hospital. When Dr. Vidor is not covering the emergency room, you can



find him enjoying the outdoors with his wife and daughter.

The Cook Hospital is a 14-bed, acute care, critical access hospital designated as a Level 4 Trauma Hospital and an Acute Stroke Ready Hospital. Our emergency room is fully staffed and open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our dedicated team of doctors is qualified to handle any medical emergency including stabilization and transport to a higher care facility if necessary.

Briefly

Area students earn top honors at

REGIONAL - Here is a list of area students earning top college honors for academics:

University of North Dakota: Alli Sandberg, Cook - Fall 2018 Dean's List Mesabi Range College Dean's List High Honors, 3.75 – 4.0 GPA: Lauren Adamczyk, Cook Hailey Hakkila, Angora David Markwardt, Orr Alice Pederson, Cook

Sasha Strong, Cook

Wi-Fi hotspots available for checkout at Cook Library

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

Hotspot Terms of Use

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

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

Bookmobile schedule

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

> **April 4, 25, May 16** Nett Lake

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

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

Orr - Lake Country ReMax building 1:45 -



2:30 p.m. **Kabetogama –** Town Hall 3:15 - 3:45

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



and also Telepresence Wales, Monaco, and Vat-Spanish, which is broadcast to Cherry, which technically makes me sort of a TV star.

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

Ms. C: I loved Spanish, and I remember wanting to be a teacher when I was in Kindergarten. It always felt like what I wanted to do. When I started learning Spanish and realized how fun it was, teaching seemed like a perfect fit.

Mr. V: What are your

Ms. C: Travel. I have been to thirteen countries. Canada, Morocco, Italy, Spain, France, England, Ireland, The Netherlands, Costa Rica, Northern Ireland,



CARRIE CARSTENS

ican City. I like to read, enjoy writing, swimming (I try to get to the YMCA 3-4 times a week). I am a part-time baker, with a business called Carrie's Confections. I specialize

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

Ms. C: I like the community feel of the school. We know all the kids, families, and even kids I no longer have in class still swing by to chat and ask for help here and there. I actually have a stack of reference letters that I still need to type for kids!

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

Ms. C: I already have a Master's in Education, but would eventually like to get a Master's in Spanish, which would allow me to teach college-level courses at North Woods.

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

Ms. C: I love the lakes. I love being on the water and in the water.

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

Ms. C: Don't procrastinate. Even though I sometimes do so myself.

Mr. V: Do you have a favorite saying or ex-

pression? "Google Ms. C: Translate is evil."

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

Ms. C: I hope they remember me for my sense of humor and as someone who believed in them.

you, Ms. Thank Carstens for allowing us to get to know you better and adding culturally to our diverse little school!

Go Grizzlies! Your Principal, John Vukmanich



the TIMBERJAY

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Adults \$12

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> Scratched the

the account in January, he noticed that messages coming into his inbox were quickly showing they had been opened even before he could do so. In some cases, he said, messages apparently disappeared, as if they had been deleted. Since then, he said, he has spent time with Apple Computer support making sure that his Outlook email program was set up correctly and the messages were not somehow indicating they had been opened without him touching the

that since he started using

computer. "The blue dot indicates that the email is unread," he said. "I was watching my screen and the blue dot would go

Kringstad said he is not having issues with his personal email— only his city account. He noted he does not open up his city email on his phone, so that could not explain what was happening.

Kringstad made clear he wasn't accusing anyone at this point, although the city's clerk-treasurer has traditionally administered the city's email accounts and has often entered passwords on behalf of other city officials, including Kringstad. Kringstad said once he

recognized what was happening he began recording the opening of his email with both his phone and a screen capture program. He said the incoming messages often showed they were read quickly, with the messages sometimes changing from unread to read within just two minutes, while other times it could take up to 20 minutes. He said he also has logs of the times the email appeared in his inbox and when they appeared to

Kringstad said that, according to information from the League of Minnesota Cities, city email is private, although

have been opened.

in some cases, it can be requested to be made public, and that if someone is reading his email, it could be a prosecutable offense.

On Wednesday, Kringstad informed the Timberjay that the intrusions into his city email appear to have stopped since his announcement at Monday's meeting.

Ambulance update

The city's new ambulance will not be ready for delivery until late summer or early fall, said Tower Ambulance Director Steve Altenburg, due to delays at the manufacturer, both with the chassis and fourwheel drive unit. The new unit and asso-

ciated equipment, with a price tag of \$249,788, is set to place a significant dent in the city's cash flow. Altenburg said the ambulance service currently has \$153,000 set aside from past subsidy payments, and the rest will need to come out of the city's ambulance fund. While the city's ambulance fund looks healthy on paper, in reality the city has been using this fund to cover unfunded debt accumulated through past city operations and projects.

This issue came into focus as the city council debated a transfer of funds from the city's general fund to pay off some of the city's outstanding debt. This transfer is done every year as part of the city's annual audit, but this year's transfer was larger than in some recent years and appears to have been intended to partially replenish the city's ambulance fund. While the ambulance fund has accumulated a surplus of close to \$900,000 over the years, most of those funds have actually been spent for other city operations. "It's a benefit to the city, but at some point it needs to get paid back," said Altenburg. With the pending ambulance purchase, "it's a little tight," Altenburg acknowledged. Clerk-Treasurer

Linda Keith gave two proposals to the council, one transferred \$100,000 and the second \$125,000. The goal, she said, was to eliminate as much of the unfunded debt as possible, although the latest installment will still leave more than half a million in outstanding debt, most of it from the harbor project. The council opted to transfer \$100,000, which allows the city to retire the remaining \$63,390 in debt on the Main Street sewer project, with the remaining funds split between the North 2nd and 3rd Street water and sewer project and the harbor project. That would leave \$106,371 in debt remaining on the water and sewer project and \$450,878 on the harbor.

In response to a question by Councilor Rachel Beldo, Keith said that \$250,000 of the harbor debt came when the city unexpectedly had to pay back funds in 2012-2013. Keith said the city may need to look at levying funds to pay back the harbor debt. Such an approach would likely lead to a double-digit increase in the city's levy.

City deer hunt to continue

The council approved a request from DNR assistant wildlife manager Jeremy Maslowski to continue the city deer hunt. The hunt is for archery and muzzleloader hunters, and begins the Saturday after Thanksgiving, after the close of the firearm deer season. The main goal of the hunt is to improve public safety, Maslowski said, as well as reducing garden and ornamental plant damage, deer-auto collisions, and reducing the risk for diseases such as chronic wasting disease.

"We want to modify deer behavior and keep them moving around," he said, noting that the deer are moving across the ice on Lake Vermilion into Tower and Soudan, where they are finding wintertime food sources. The city has already

agreed to oversee the hunt by issuing permits, up to 20 for muzzleloader and 10 for archery hunters. The bag limit for each hunter is five, but most are killing fewer, if any. Last year there were 10 deer taken in the archery hunt, and 19 in the muzzleloader hunt. Ninety percent of the deer taken are female.

"Overall the number of deer in Tower has decreased," Maslowski said, "which is our goal."

Maslowski also talked briefly about the dangers associated with feeding

"Some area cities have imposed feeding bans," he told the council. Deer feeding concentrates deer in specific areas, which increases the risk of disease transmission. The DNR is particularly concerned about the spreading threat of chronic wasting disease.

Harbor update

SEH engineer Jason Chopp told the council that the plat for the Tower Harbor town home project is still being reviewed by St. Louis County.

"We have resubmitted the plat to St. Louis County," he said. But Chopp also noted that the city needed to submit additional information to the county. Keith said the city was still waiting to hear back from the DNR and Frandsen Bank to get the information that is required.

"I am concerned about this," said Kringstad. "It is a project that has been receiving a lot of visibility. We want to make sure we do our due diligence and make sure that no delay is coming from the city. We want to move it along as quickly as possible."

The developers of

1 deadline to give notice closed meeting regarding to the city that they will proceed with construction. But the developers still have work to do on their end, that requires the approved plat, before they can proceed with sales.

the project have an April

Mayor investigation

The council took no action on complaints lodged against the mayor by the ambulance director and Councilor Kevin Fitton. At the last meeting the council agreed to have Kringstad respond to the complaints outlined by Fitton, and then move to mediation if needed.

Kringstad said he had completed a written response and was prepared to read a redacted version of the response at the meeting but was unable to print it out at home due to issues with his printer. Kringstad said he had redacted certain information from the response because it dealt with issues raised in the closed meeting, so was therefore not public.

"We can table this, or I can read the redacted version," he said.

In response to a question from the *Timberjay* after the meeting, as to why he simply hadn't printed out the response at city hall prior to the meeting, Kringstad said that Keith had refused to print out the version with his redactions.

The council opted to table the issue and wait until they got the response in writing. Kringstad also noted

that the item on the agenda still noted "mayor misconduct investigation." At the last meeting, resident Mary Shedd had noted that this was prejudicial and inflammatory wording.

Other business

equipment.

In other business, the council:

employee misconduct from the agenda. It will be rescheduled. Heard from resident Richard Hanson who questioned why Fitton hadn't just talked with Kringstad about the allegations he was making, suggesting most of the issues could be resolved

without need for action at the council table. Hanson also wondered why Fitton was claiming that information from the closed meeting was being leaked, without sufficient proof to make the claim. He could have just sat down with the mayor and resolved the complaints." > Set the city's Local Board of Appeal on Tuesday, May 7 from

6-7 p.m. at Tower City Hall. The council had requested an evening time, instead of the afternoon time originally scheduled. ➤ Received the draft of a new public input policy for council members to

review. Approved a new five-year lease for D'Erick's, at the same lease rate of \$500 per month.

➤ Approved a realignment of Pine Street by the Tower Civic Center. The realignment will close the connection to the parking lot that is closest to the Iron Ore Bar bridge, adding curb, gutter and sidewalk along that section of the road. This will close the "short cut" that cars often take to the civic center parking lot and will also create additional room for parking. It will preserve the parking area that is on the back side of the minipark area. The project also includes repaving the section of Pine Street from in front of the fire hall

> Set the wage for the city's part-time maintenance worker at \$11.50

doors to the bridge.

VOTERS...Continued from page 1

was set at \$297,300, will most likely be about \$58,000 higher, based on actual spending from 2018. While the budget for general government was mostly on track, the township saw increased spending in the fire department, including \$14,000 for turnout gear for new members and new department radios, and \$11,500 in general expenses. The budget adjustments also included an additional \$15,000 in attorney fees, attributed to claims brought against the township by fire department member Jeff Maus.

"We are budgeting two years in advance," Rodgers noted. "And the money we are raising

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noted that the proposed now, we don't see for two has been steadily falling ing's moderator, noted Rodgers said the

Minnesota Association of Townships recommends that townships hold oneand-a-half to two times their annual spending in

"I would like us to stay at the one-and-a-half mark," she said.

The town board proposed levy of \$250,000 would leave the township with an estimated \$575,000 at the end of 2020. They noted that a stable levy at \$250,000 over the next four years would keep the township's fund balance at that oneand-a-half mark.

The township's fund balance was at \$529,449 in 2009, reached a high of \$1,356,052 in 2014, and

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limited the levy in recent

Rodgers said the township taxes paid in Greenwood are significantly lower than taxes paid on a similar property in Beatty, Breitung, or Tower. Greenwood's market value, estimated at over \$470 million in 2016, is over twice as high as that in Beatty or Breitung, and dwarfs the market value in Tower, which was \$26 million in 2016.

At the close of the budget presentation, Lee Peterson immediately placed a motion on the floor to set the levy at \$150,000.

Several in the audience spoke in favor of keeping township reserves closer to one-times the township budget, instead of one-and-a-half.

Supervisor Carmen DeLuca said he would like to see the levy set at \$200,000.

Mike Indihar, who was serving as the meet-

that the \$150,000 levy would leave \$475,000 at the end of 2020, rather than \$575,000.

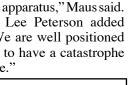
Marilyn Mueller asked why the township had spent an excessive amount on legal fees for the matter with Jeff Maus, which could have been settled for \$380 if the town board followed the advice of the township attorney.

Rodgers noted that the Department of Labor and Industry had ruled in favor of the township in that matter.

Jeff Maus noted that a township such as Breitung, which maintains plow trucks and other heavy equipment, along with a water and sewer system, might need to have reserves as high as oneand-a-half or two times their spending.

"All we have are these buildings and our fire apparatus," Maus said.

"We are well positioned not to have a catastrophe





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Others noted that the issues before votes are taken. A voice vote taken ance on its building and on the question showed slightly more support in

Residents voted, via paper ballot, and the \$150,000 levy passed 27-22.

Township election

The two incumbents each retained their seat in the township election. Supervisor Carmen DeLuca outpolled challenger John Bassing 169-134. Treasurer Pam Rodgers received 167 votes to Carol Maus's total of 136.

Other business

In other business at the annual meeting, res-

➤ Advised the town board to donate \$500 to the Tower Cemetery. Pam Lundstrom noted that Tower and Breitung are both donating \$2,500 this year, and Kugler Township is donating \$250. She noted that many former township residents are buried in Tower.

➤ Advised that township officials attendall the MAT trainings that are available.

➤ Discussed whether or not the town board should move public input on the monthly township meeting agenda back to the beginning of the agenda, so that residents have a chance to comment on

favor. ➤ Discussed whether or not a well is needed by the recreation area. The cost of the project is uncertain. Gene Baland, from the recreation committee, noted the well would provide water for irrigating the sod, as well as flooding the skating rink. The town board will investigate the actual cost of putting in an irrigation

➤ Discussed but took

no action on increasing the per capita subsidy paid to the Tower Ambulance. Several questioned why the ambulance service had not sent updated information, since the latest request is different from the initial presentation given by Ambulance Director Steve Altenburg. A hand count vote showed 25 in favor and 20 against approving the increase at this time. Those who spoke against said they were looking for more information on the ambulance department financials, the costs of the paid on-call program and housing, and the future prospects for transfer runs, since the Virginia ambulance was intending to increase its ability to do transfer calls.

LEADER...Continued from page 1

a very difficult decision. I think that with several things that have occurred, it may be time."

Without going into specifics, Abrahamson said, "We've had some recent things that have probably brought trust into question. I want you to know that I care about this district."

He stressed that he does not want to leave ISD 696 without a leader. "There might be somebody out there that you really like, and you should be able to do that," he said. "If you post and screen and interview and don't find anybody, then maybe we can talk and work something out, maybe month-to-month or for six months, or for another year or whatever."

He added, "I don't want to really say I'll be your default (administrator). I think you need to put some effort into (the search)."

Abrahamson said his four-year tenure as the part-time school superintendent is probably one of the longest terms of service for the top administrator at ISD 696 in his recollection. In fact, it's the longest since the retirement of long-time superintendent Ray Toutloff.

"There is no anger or animosity. I'm not upset with anybody. I think the district is in a good position right now. I think you are in good shape, but maybe it's time," he said. "He did not add any more specifics to his decision.

Marsnik and school board members will discuss the superintendent position at their March study session, scheduled for Monday, March 25 at

"There are a lot of things to think about," Marsnik said. "Do we want to stay with the status quo of a (part-time) position? Do we want to go with a full-time position? Why not take a look at sharing our superintendent with another school district? We can take a look at our entire administrative configuration and see how we want to go forward."

He also said the board has to decide whether to do their own search for a new superintendent or to seek outside help. "For our last search, we received a lot of help from the MSBA (Minnesota School Board Association)," he said. Other school administrative search firms are available to the district.

Board member James Pointer requested that an accounting of each administrator's duties be available for the study

Board member Heidi Mann requested examples

of possible administrative configurations to consider.

"That's the purpose of the study session," Marsnik said. "I'm thinking we will have to appoint a task force committee, after we get board feedback, to keep the process moving forward.'

Board member Rochelle Sjoberg added, "While the budget and finances are extremely important, there are a lot of other aspects we have to consider, not just the bottom line."

Abrahamson had one final comment on the subject. "I don't plan on being a lame duck. I have work to do," he said. "Unless you tell me not to do something, I'm going to continue as if nothing has changed."

Board members unanimously approved posting for the superintendent's position.

Facilities project

Board members received an update from Architectural Resources Inc. (ARI) officials on the facilities project community task force's third meeting that took place on Monday.

Task force members received a lesson in school financing from Greg Crowe, of Ehlers, Inc. who described the numerous types of financing options a school district has available to help pay for a major building and facilities project like the one under consideration at ISD 696.

"Voter-approved bonds are the big sledgehammer in the toolbox for a big project like this where we are financing a project that could cost as much as \$20 million," he said.

ARI designer Katie Hildenbrand highlighted the two concept plans that were presented to the community task force. "This is a full-scope, all-in plan that identifies all of the needs and wants for the school," she said.

Major components under consideration for the facilities project include providing a secure entrance for the school, connecting the three buildings, adding more gymnasium space, expanding and renovating the cafeteria, and improving the locker rooms. "These are the top priorities that we heard, so we identified plans that address each of those," Hildenbrand said.

"We are also considering educational delivery and looking at rearranging existing educational spaces and combining together similar learning areas such as relocating art, and science areas to the Industrial Arts building,' she said. "We are also

looking at providing additional learning commons

Community task force members were also provided with a project budget. "It identifies taking care of the entire district for the next 20 years," she said. "In my experience, it is very rare that everything on the budget (goes through) because there is a significant cost to it."

Both design options came in with a budget of more than \$23 million. That number includes all of the proposed renovations identified above, and also includes additional renovations and repairs like a new roof for the Memorial building, completing the campus-wide building window replacement that was started on the Washington building, demolition of the boiler plant, parking lot renovations and air handling unit replacements.

"The task force will review the budget and help to prioritize exactly what our needs are,' Hildenbrand said. They will meet again in Monday, April 1 and attempt to reach a consensus on what they think the community will support.

ARI officials will identify several financing tiers, from paying for a basic \$5 million project to connect the buildings and

provide a secure entrance, to funding for a complete renovation project that could cost \$20-25 million.

"After that, we hope to be able to present the plan to the community and see what kind of reaction we get," she said. "If we are looking at a fall referendum, we have plenty of time to engage with the community with one or two (public) meetings this spring, and get this put together by the end of

In a related matter, school board members approved, on a 5-1 vote with board member James Pointer voting against, spending \$2,250 for a school enrollment trend projection for the district. John Powers, of Duluth, who has worked for decades in community development, land use and strategic planning, will conduct the analysis. He worked with city of Ely officials in the 1990s on a comprehensive plan.

Community task force members contend an enrollment projection is needed if and when taxpayers will be asked to approve a bonding referendum to fund the facilities renovation project.

${f SLEDS}_{lue{--}}$ Continued from page 1 $\,-\,$

Peterson proudly showed off his 1980 TXL Indy Polaris. He said his '68 Skiddadler was still on its way to the resort.

"My dad bought us a '65 Polaris back in '67," he said. "I've been with it (snowmobiling) since then. You can get places on a snowmobile you can't anyway else." Peterson said whether

it was crossing frozen lakes or seeing wildlife on trails in the back woods, the thrill of riding his snow machine has never

And now his grandkids have all joined him on the trails.

While 2019 marked the thirty-third year of the races at Melgeorge's, the actual event goes back much longer.

"It began more than 33 years ago with my dad (Ted Melgeorge) and his friend Elmer Smith," resort owner Carla Koch said. "The race was originally named for Elmer and was on Pelican Lake."

As the years progressed, Koch said, her family gradually took over the races and 33 years ago, the event made its move to its current location on Elephant Lake.

While Elmer's name dropped off the billing many years ago, his legacy still lives on with an award named in his honor for the best unrestored sled.

The snowmobiles themselves haven't changed much, Koch said, but the size of the event has, going from around a dozen racers and only about 30 spectators in the early years to hundreds of spectators and many dozens of racers.

"We also changed the style," Koch said. "Everyone used to race on the same track, now there are different divisions."

What is defined as "vintage" has also changed with various national organizations adding new years that can be called antiques for the

sake of racing.

Koch said the event at Melgeorge's is different from other antique snowmobile races. She said most places have a race and a party eventually breaks out. On Elephant Lake, she says, it's a party where a race breaks out.

Aside from racing, the event also raises money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Koch said this year the event raised just over \$2,100 for the foundation.

Antique Division Winners

(listed first; then second (where applica-

Rear engine 8 HP and under: Terry Smith, Mora, 1964 Polaris K800; Jeff Udell, Mound, Polaris Sno Traveler.

Rear engine 9 HP and over: Ryan Holman, Orr, 1968 Snowbug; Ryan Rolman, Orr, 1969 Autoboggin.

2 Cycle 9 HP and under: Jack Carlson, Alborn, 1965 Polaris Snow Trailer; Jim Amundson, Chatfield, 1965 Ski-doo

2Cycle 10HP and over: Lee Carlson, Macintosh, 1966 Mustang; Danny Peterson, Macintosh,

1968 Skidoddler.

4 Cycle 9 HP and under: Terry Smith, Cedar, 1965 Arctic Cat D 100.

Classic Division Winners

250-300 CC's Stock Air Cooler: Casey Fenske, Ely, 1971 Arctic Lynx; Todd Carlson, Duluth, 1972 Arctic Cat

250-300 CC's -Modified Air Cooled: Tyler Kehoe, Cook, 1974 Polaris Colt; Wall Holm, Detroit Lakes, 1970 Skiroule.

340-400 CC's Stock Air Cooled: Austin Schelde, Cook, 1977 Polaris TX; Nels Gabrielson, Orr, 1973 Skidoo TNT.

340-400 CC's -Modified Air Cooled: Dale Brunner, Cook, 1973 TXL Polaris: Clint Metz, Isanti, 1976 Polaris Colt.

340-400 CC's - Stock Liquid Cooled: Drew Alberts, Virginia, 1979 TXL Polaris.

440-500 CCs Stock Liquid Cooled: Tom Deere, Elko 1977 John Deere Liquid Fire; Matt Prebarich, Eveleth, 1976 Arctic Cat Z.

440-500 CC's-Stock

Air Cooled: Tom Long, Orr, 1976 Arctic Cat El Tigre; Carey Moore, Onalaska, Wis., 1975 Suzuki 440 Fury.

440-500 CC's -Modified Air Cooled: Jesse Brunner, Cook, 1977 Arctic Cat El Tigre; Jim Lafavor, Hibbing, 1974 Am GPX 440.

500 CC's and up Stock Liquid Cooled -Tom Deer, Elko, 1977 John Deere Liquid Fire.

500 CC's and up Stock Air Cooled -Carey Moore, Onalaska, Wis., 1975 Suzuki Fury; Jacob Holman, Orr, 1976 Pantera.

500 CC's and up -Modified Air Cooled: Tom Deer, Elko, 1975 Rupp Nitro.

Vintage Winners

250-300 CC's Stock: Sawyer Smith, Mora, 1981 Yamaha Exciter 250; Val Megeorge, Superior, Wis., 1980 Yamaha Enticer.

250-300 CC's Modified: Melody Wald, Elko, 1980 Arctic Cat

340-400 CC's modified: Harrison Lafavour, Hibbing.

340 - 400 CC's stock: Scott Gilette, Stacy, 1980 TX Polaris; Danny Peterson, Macintosh, 1980 Polaris TXL.

440-500 CC's stock:

Wayne Schlauderoff, Detroit, 1980 Skidoo

440-500 CC's modified: Tom Deer, Elko, 1979 Arctic Cat Pantera; Andy Brunner, Cook, 1980 Yamaha.



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TUESDAY GROUP

A cultural experience: German exchange student loves everything about living in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT

ELY - "It's been a blast here in Ely." Those were the words used by Finn Liesching, an Ely Rotary Club-sponsored foreign exchange student, as he shared his experiences about his year as a student and athlete at Memorial High School at a recent Tuesday Group gathering.

Liesching is the youngest of four children and hails from a small town in Germany, just 30 minutes from the French border. While he spends his junior year of high school in Ely with the Tom and Heidi Omerza family, his real family is hosting



an exchange student from Mexico.

"It's been such a good time. All the people are so welcoming," he said about Ely. "I can just say it's been awesome to have them as a host family," Liesching said of the Omerzas. "They have really taken me into their family."

Finn Liesching address Ely's Tuesday group. photo by K. Vandervort

Liesching came to Ely in part to hone up on his English skills and to try out American sports, especially American football.

While he grew up playing soccer, the national sport of Germany and most of Europe, Liesching became a fan of American football though watching National Football League games on television. "I tried out for a team and it turned out that I love it." He played for the Ely Timberwolves last fall and started on both he offensive and defensive squads. He was a standout player as quarterback and receiver. "It turned out I wasn't too

bad," he quipped

Downhill skiing is another of his hobbies in Germany. He regularly skis in the Swiss Alps or the Black Forest area.

He was introduced to

66 It's been such a good time Finn

Liesching

American basketball this winter and was a member of the Timberwolves team during their most recent playoffrun."The Omerzas are a basketball family and I didn't really have a choice. It turned out to be quite a good experience.

The team took me in and it has been a lot of fun," he said. Liesching and Eric Omerza are basketball teammates and in a slide presentation he showed off a plethora of memories, from dress-up days and school dances to the Homecoming parade and trips to the Twin Cities.

Liesching reaches new heights while rock climbing, and is a creative photographer utilizing his drone to gain new perspectives.

"I also like baking, especially birthday cakes," he said. "I make lots of cakes."

He also enjoys drawing. "This is a way of calming down," he said. "I like the process of using my hands."

He even tried Minnesota's national sport of curling this winter. He admitted that he didn't think it looked that fun, but he said he really enjoys the sport. "I hope to keep doing it."

Liesching admitted that the cold of winter in Ely was a bit difficult to get used to.

In Germany, there is some snow and temperatures don't get below 32 degrees, according to Liesching. "For the first time, my eyelashes froze. I was surprised by that."

Liesching has volunteered as a teaching assistant in the high school's German class and he also

See FINN..pg. 2B

BOYS BASKETBALL

Driving forward at UMD

Grizzlies draw closer to a bid to the state tournament

by MARCUS WHITE

DULUTH - TheGrizzlies easily advanced to the semifinals of the Section 7A boys basketball tournament on Saturday after routing Mt. Iron-Buhl, 86-53, at UMD's Romano Gym. North Woods was set to face Deer River on Wednesday evening as the Timberjay went to press, with the winner to compete in the section championship on Friday

night. North Woods easily outpaced Deer River in their single meeting this season, on March 1, so the top-seeded Grizzlies would appear to have the advantage. With Saturday's win, the Grizzlies head into their Wednesday night rematch with the Warriors at 23-2 on the season. Fourth-seeded Deer River enters the game at 14-13 following their 65-57 win over Chisholm last Saturday. The action is set to begin at 5:45 p.m., back at Romano Gym.

"We just need to keep our focus on the next game and expend our energy on the defensive side of the ball and on rebounding," Head Coach Will Kleppe said. "Deer River has some size and strength so we will have to match their physical play and keep the tempo of the game in our favor."

In Saturday's contest, the Grizzlies took control early, scoring 50 points in the first half to carry a 50-35 lead into the break.



The Rangers never recovered as the dominating North Woods defense held them to just 18 points in the second frame, while scoring 36 more of their

Junior forward Trevor Morrison and freshman guard T. J. Chiabotti led the way for the Grizzlies, scoring 21 points apiece, while senior guard Chase Kleppe added 16 points.

If the Grizzlies win over Deer River on Wednesday evening, they will return to Romano Gym on Friday to face the winner of the match between Lakeview



During last week's win against South Ridge, at left: Darius Goggleye up for two under the hoop; Above: Cade Goggleye shoots up a three-pointer. photos by C. Stone

Christian and Cook County. Tipoff for the final game will be at UMD at 7 p.m.

The Grizzlies were the runners' up at the two previous state tour-

The team is currently ranked sixth in the state by the Minnesota Basketball

Heartbreaking end for Ely at the buzzer

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

DULUTH - TheTimberwolves' season came to a heartbreaking end here on Saturday as a bucket at the buzzer gave Lakeview Christian Academy a 62-60 win in the quarterfinal round of the Section 7A boys basketball tournament.

Ely had largely dominated the contest throughout, reflecting a marked change from the two teams' previous meeting this season, which LCA won handily.

"It was a difficult loss especially since we outplayed them for almost the entire game," said Timberwolves Head Coach Tom McDonald. Ely had led from early on and was staked to a six-point lead with less than three minutes to go in the game. It was the final two minutes that proved Ely's undoing. however, as the Lions converted a series of Ely turnovers to close the gap as the seconds ticked down. With the game suddenly knotted at 60 with just seconds remaining, the Lions found themselves with the ball.

"We played so well defensively the entire night but in the last possession the ball landed in their player's hand after we blocked two shot attempts in the last seconds," said McDonald. "He hit the shot right before the horn went off."

Playing in the final basketball match of his high school career, senior guard Patrick Vanderbeek led the way offensively once again, with 21 points and five assists. Junior forward Dylan Fenske notched a double-double with 19 points and 13 rebounds,

See WOLVES...pg. 2B



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EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Ely AAUW branch rallies for ERA passage

ELY - The American Association of University Women, Ely Branch, has joined with ERA MN to push for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment to the state constitution.

Four Ely women, representing AAUW, traveled to the state capital on International Women's Day last Friday to join in the ERA rally and to lobby legislators with a goal to get an equal rights amendment on the Minnesota ballot for the Nov. 3, 2020 statewide election.

The amendment reads: "Equality under the law shall not be abridged or denied on account of gender." The bill has passed the House, but is being held up in the



GOP-led state Senate.

Caroline Owens, AAUW public policy chair, who attended the rally along with members Linda Sutton, Kay Vandervort, and Autumn Cole, said, "Most people assume equal rights is already the law of the land and there are a variety of non-discrimination laws already on the books. However, without codifying equal rights in the

Ely AAUW members. from left, Autumn Cole, Caroline Owens, Linda Sutton and Kay Vandervort rallied for passage of the Equal **Rights Amendment in** St. Paul last week. submitted photo

constitution, there is no real mechanism to ensure equal rights for all."

The AAUW's work on equal rights is part of an overall campaign for equality that includes pay equity activities. Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District has made strides over the last year in promoting equal work for equal pay. The district has moved from the bottom in the state to fifth in pay equity.

Locally, 86 businesses have signed an affirmation of their support for equal pay for equal work, according to Owens. That number is up from 50 businesses who signed the affirmation in 2018.

TIMBERJAY Newspapers

For residents interested in more information on equal rights and the pay equity campaign, representatives of ERA MN will present a program at Tuesday Group on April 2, and at Rotary Club on April 3.

ERA MN will join AAUW-Ely Branch, for presentations at Unhappy Hour on Tuesday, April 2 at Northern Grounds from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Northern Grounds is discounting selected beverages 21.5 percent that day, the average loss in wages women encounter due to wage discrimination.

BROADBAND

Ely broadband coalition considers wireless plan

by KEITH VANDERVORT

ELY - Members of the Ely Area Broadband Coalition heard an update on several pending projects during a recent meeting. The ad hoc committee was formed to work with area stakeholders in an effort to collaborate on providing broadband service throughout the Ely area.

The coalition's steering committee and the city of Ely are currently

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considering a proposal from Isaac Olson, and his internet service provider business, Treehouse Broadband, to bridge the rural broadband divide in the area through a fixed wireless system utilizing the Ely water tower as the point of contact.

Through a cluster of directional antennas, leased from the city and mounted on top of the water tower, wireless access could be provided to most of the city of Ely, Shagawa Lake area, Town of Morse, and point-topoint links to surrounding towers and hills for more service, Olson said during the EABC meeting, in a telephone conversation. He noted that wi-fi service could reach out as far as five or six miles from the water tower.

"Right now, we're working on contracts and partnerships for tower access, backhaul, billing, support, consulting, etc., and still have a few months before we can get to the point of connecting cus-

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tomers," he later told the Timberjay in an email.

If approved, the system could be in operation later this year. As many as 20 customers could be in service in the first three months. "We are committed to a five-year timeline for Treehouse Broadband to grow into servicing the Ely area," he wrote in his proposal.

Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski said the next step for the Treehouse Internet project is to have the plan reviewed by the city's projects committee as well as the Ely Utility

In a separate project, the city of Ely continues to work to develop a broadband loop in the downtown district with Consolidated Telephone Company, or CTC, of Brainerd. "They are showing increasingly intense interest in that project," Langowski told the EABC coalition steering committee

City officials still waiting to hear from Frontier Communications on the feasibility of a joint-use agreement for the utility poles in the downtown district to install the fiber lines. "We are looking at using Frontier's fiber lines as well, to build some redundancy into our system, which is actually a good idea," he said. "However, we need to get our own fiber installed before we start talking redundancies and who else we loop in with."

This spring, Langowski will be looking to the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation for funding help for the downtown fiber loop project. "Our intention is to apply for funding for at least half of the cost to install fiber on poles," he said.

For the other half of the project cost, the city is looking at other financing options, "or anybody who would like to donate some money to the cause." He noted that the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools is pushing the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners to take a leadership role in highspeed fiber development. "I'm considering going directly to the county to ask for funding help," Langoswki said. "We need two or three funding partners to get the project brought down to a level where our lease revenues for the fiber will cover our debt service. Obviously, we don't want to borrow more money than we have funds to pay back."

The city is reportedly looking at a tax abatement general obligation bond. "Whether it should be a 15-year or 20-year bond is what we are looking at as well," he added. "What would be great is if we could do a shorter term (bond), borrow the money, get the project built, have the revenues cover the bond (payments), and then expand the system beyond that."

Langowski told the steering committee that St. Louis County has been "very interested" in the Ely broadband project since the beginning. "Maybe St. Louis County will figure out a way to help us. They have been looking at our project since day one. They are looking at what our solution will be. Maybe we are able to figure out some sort of hybrid (financing) option. We'll keep pushing on it."

Blandin grant

Blandin Foundation offered a second round of grant funding this year and the Ely Area Broadband Coalition received another \$50,000 in match funding to help support broadband-centric economic development projects.

Funding for several new projects from the Blandin grant was approved by EABC steering committee.

➤ Zach Huberty, of Hak Ely, will receive funding to launch a social networking application, called meetup.com, to match local businesses looking to market their events and services with an established community of users.

➤ Arts in Ely is seeking funds to develop a collaborative website to showcase and promote the Ely arts community. The project has been in the development stage for the past year and they are looking for financial assistance to finish their website.

➤Incredible Ely has a number of projects in the works, including Elyite 2.0 that builds upon the original web presence by implementing an open directory that supports business listings and volunteer opportunities. The organization is also looking to develop a Google local listing for businesses so Ely-area businesses have a Google search presence. A Community Building Skillshares effort to support economic growth in the area is also being planned.

➤ Installation of improved and expanded wi-fi connections at the Ely Public Library and the proposed pocket park on Chapman Street are also receiving funding.

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FINN...Continued from page 1B —

helps out volunteering at the Ely Area Food Shelf.

He is planning to attend college and may pursue a career in law, "after I tour the world and return to visit Ely," he said.

The Ely community is also hosting exchange students from Norway, China and Ukraine this school year.

WOLVES...Continued from 1B —

while senior guard Trevor Mattson added 13 points and notched eight rebounds Senior forward Collen Seliskar tallied five rebounds.

The Wolves will lose eight seniors to graduation this year, including two of the team's most consistent scorers, Vanderbeek and Mattson. "I think we have enough returning players to be successful, but it depends on how much they want to work on their skills in the off-season," said McDonald.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Colors of Minnesota with Ryan Schroeder at area libraries

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present Colors of Minnesota with Ryan J. Schroeder, a free 45-minute program being offered for ages 3-6 in Cook at North Woods ECFE on Thursday, March 21 at 6 p.m.; at Ely Public Library on Monday, March 25 at 1 p.m.; and at Babbitt Public Library on Monday, March 25 at 6 p.m.

Every state has colors, people just view them differently. Did you know that

Salad luncheon fund-

raiser for Road Runners

on Thursday, March 21

VIRGINIA- Come enjoy the

Road Runners' annual salad luncheon

on Thursday, March 21 from 11 a.m.

state competitions. Salads, rolls, des-

- 1 p.m. at Our Saviors Lutheran

in Minnesota the color of rain is purple? Or that when Minnesotans see blue, they see a land of 10,000 lakes? Or that instead of playing Duck, Duck, Goose, kids in Minnesota play Duck, Duck, Gray Duck?

Join author Ryan J. Schroeder as he explores the state of Minnesota and the colors that surround us. Through a reading of his book, "Colors of Minnesota," and a discussion as to how he chose which objects to



represent which colors, his presentation will entertain and engage children as they learn more about colors and the state of Minnesota.

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



in **Embarrass**

EMBARRASS- Matt Hoffland will be presenting a concert on Sunday, March 17 at the Evangelical Free Church in Embarrass at 10:30 a.m.

Hoffland is a singer/songwriter, dramatist, and worship leader from Rib

Everyone is invited to attend this

in Gilbert. There will be discussion of the group's summer rides. Guests and newcomers are always welcome. Questions, call Director Fred Godec, 218-929-1553 or Road Captain Dan Peliska, 218-780-4509.

20 at 6 p.m. at the Wandering Pines

inspirational concert.

Church, 1111 8th St. S in Virginia. Funds raised will help the team attend

HOGS motorcycle group to meet March 20

GILBERT- The HOGS (Harley

COMMUNITY EVENTS

serts and beverages will be served.

5-12, and kids age 4 and under are

Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for kids age

Owners Group) monthly social gathering will be on Wednesday, March

Obituaries and Death Notices



Neil R. Mavo

Neil Russell Mayo, 37, of Cloquet, died on Thursday, March 7, 2019, in his home, after a hardfought battle with cancer. Funeral services were held on Thursday, March 14 in Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Cloquet. Arrangements were with Atkins-Northland Funeral Home in Cloquet. The family would like to thank the doctors, nurses, and staff of Essentia Oncology, Mayo Clinic and Caring Edge Hospice for the excellent and compassionate care given to Neil.

He was born on July 21, 1981, in Virginia, the son of Thomas and Katherine Mayo. Neil was a 1999 graduate of Tower High School and graduated from Hibbing Community College in 2004 with a business degree.

Neil was employed at Northern Communities Credit Union for 12 years. He was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower and was the drummer for the Dirty Apes band. Neil loved spending time at the cabin on Duffy Island on Lake Vermillion.

Neil is survived by his wife, Bethany; children, Hendrix, Aili and Charlie; parents, Tom and Katy Mayo; brothers, Aaron (Becky) and Thomas Jr.; in-laws, Debra (Bill) Kucera and Dennis (Kristi) Johnson; aunts and uncles; 11 nieces and nephews; numerous extended family and friends, including his Northern Communities Credit Union family; and his beloved cat, Colonel.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Richard James Mayo; and grandparents, Archie and Babs Larsen and Thomas and Bertha Mayo.



Rita J. Myntti

Rita J. Beron Myntti, 92, of Duluth, died on Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at the Hospice at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth from complications of a fall. A celebration of Rita's life will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 12 at the Benedictine Health Center Chapel in Duluth, with visitation prior to the service. Burial will follow at the Scandia Cemetery in Duluth. Arrangements are by the Cremation Society of Minnesota. Memorial donations may be made to the Hospice at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth; the University of Evansville in Evansville, Ind. (Office of Development); or Mercy Corps in Prescott, Ariz.

The family would like to thank Dr. Luke Midlo, Dr. Kruti Patel, and the extraordinary staff at the Hospice at St. Luke's Hospital. The family would also like to thank Rita's wonderful friends and the loving staff at Westwood and Marywood of the Benedictine Living

Community of Duluth. Rita was born to Raymond and Gilberte (Lachance) Beron on April 7, 1927, at home, in Proctor. She graduated from Proctor High School in the class of 1945. Rita married Donald C. Myntti on Nov. 26, 1947, at St. Rose Catholic Church in Proctor. Yvonne McDonald, of Proctor, and Sigurd Olson Jr., of Ely, were attendants. Over their married life, Rita and Don had five children and moved 25 times, cross-crossing the United States following Don's mining and naval careers.

Rita married at the age of 20 before she finished college, always with the knowledge that she would finish when time permitted. After accumulating credits toward a degree from several institutions, she finally received her Bachelor's Degree, summa cum laude, in 1990 from the University of Evansville in Evansville, Ind. She was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi honor society that year. In May 2006, at the age of 79, Rita graduated with a Masters of Liberal Studies from the University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD).

Rita worked as a professional model, travel agent, and stockbroker, but her twin passions were painting and writing. She wrote travel articles, children's stories, and three novels (under her maiden name Rita J. Beron): The Monet Deception (2000), Family Voices (2003), and The Breath of the Dragon (2010). She was a member of the American Association of University Women, and various opera, book and public affairs discussion groups. She was also a member of the Kitchi Gammi Club, University for Seniors at UMD, and she volunteered at the Damiano Center and the Salvation Army.

Her greatest joys in life were her husband. children, grandchildren, and new great-grandson. Her friends universally describe her as elegant,

kind and intelligent. Survivors include her husband of 72 years, Donald of Duluth; four daughters, Dr. Cynthia Myntti and her husband Dr. Norbert Hirschhorn of London, England; Valerie Myntti and her husband Frank Sherman of Ely; Andrea Myntti-Groom and her husband Michael Groom of Mabank, Texas; and Laura Myntti of Madison, Wis.; one son, Charles Myntti of Da Nang, Vietnam; one brother, Richard Beron of Proctor; seven grandchildren, Patrick Groom, Agatha Venters, Rebekah Sherman-Myntti, Ivie Myntti, Kirsi Myntti, Beron Selkregg and Mills Selkregg; one great-grandchild, Charles Venters; and beloved relatives, Steve Myntti and John Prola.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and brothers, Raymond and

Warren A. Carlson

Warren Aldrich Carlson, 86, of Kugler Township, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 9, 2019, at St. Raphael's Health and Rehabilitation Center in Eveleth. A Celebration of Life will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 15 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower with Pastor Liz Cheney officiating. A gathering of family and friends will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will be in Lakeview Cemetery in Tower at a later date. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia.

He is survived by his children, Connie (Mark) Maki of Buhl, Jon Carlson of Soudan, Cindy (Ken) Macdiarmid of McGregor, Michael (Cara) Carlson and Eric Carlson, both of Tower; grandchildren, Sheila, Amber, Shannon, Jared, Brennan, Brooke, Marty, Michael and Ava; ten great-grandchildren; brother, Roy Carlson of Ely; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Albert Dietz Jr. Albert "Al" Dietz Jr., 75, of Ely, passed away on Sunday, March 10, 2019, at the Boundary Waters Care Center. He was a devout Catholic and his faith sustained him as he lived courageously and hopefully with lymphoma. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Wednesday,

Catholic Church in Ely. Family arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely. He is survived by his

March 13 at St. Anthony's

sister, Caroline Dietz-Carlson (Johan Carlson); brother, Michael Dietz (special friend Tammy Sellner); and many friends.

Paul V. Thesenvitz

Paul Vernon Thesenvitz, 65, of Embarrass, passed away on Saturday, March 9, 2019. Paul's family would like to thank the staff at Essentia Health St. Mary's Hospital and Dr. James Montana of the Essentia Health Ely Clinic for their exceptional care and compassion. Paul will be laid to rest at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Duluth and a memorial service will be held later this year. Please consider sending memorial donations to the KI Sawyer Heritage Air Museum in Marquette, Mich.

He is survived by his loving wife of 41 years, Dee Dee; daughter, Laura (Jeff) Stella; grandsons, Paul and Jack; sister, Nancy (Jon) Kusler; brother, Dale (Judith) Thesenvitz; niece, Kitty (Brad) Hofman; and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Allen D. Kemppainen

Allen D. Kemppainen, 61, of Iron, died on Thursday, March 7, 2019, in his home. A Celebration of Life will be held from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday, March 16 at the Clinton Town Hall. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his children, Nathan (Sara) Kemppainen of Iron and Kate (Adam) Rice of West

Jordan, Utah; granddaughter, Natalie Kemppainen; siblings, Doug (Barbara) Kemppainen of Hill City, Linda (David) Petersen and Bonnie Kemppainen (Jeanne Pons), both of Virginia, and Dawn (Mark) Olson of Tower; lifelong friend, Brenda Bowman; and numerous extended family and friends.

Harry O. Holter

Harry Oscar Holter, 88, of Cook, passed away on Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at the Cook Care Center. Funeral services were held on Saturday, March9atTrinityLutheran Church in Cook. Military honors were accorded by the Cook VFW Post 1757 Honor Guard and the Orr American Legion Post 480 Honor Guard. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Donald E. Church Donald E. Church,

87, of Ely, passed away surrounded by family and friends on Friday, March 1, 2019, after a lengthy illness. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 15 at Ely First Lutheran Church. Visitation will be for one prior to the service at the church. Private burial will be at a future date. Memorials are preferred to the family. Arrangements are by Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Frances; children, Elaine (Wayne) and Edward (Margie); grandchildren, Sara (Ben), Emily (Mike), Zachary (Gretchen) and Dylan; great-grandchildren, Carter and Caylee; sisters, Mary, Shirley, Roberta (Cliff) and Lucille (Bob); and several nieces and nephews.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for supporting me in the Greenwood Township Election. **Carol Maus** please text or call 218-410-9815.



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4B March 15, 2019 TIMBERJAY Newspapers



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Moose estimate at 4,180, a sizable jump over 2018

DNR researchers say the latest evidence is a sign the population has stabilized

by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

REGIONAL – DNR wildlife officials announced this week that the northeastern Minnesota moose population appears to be stable, and that's a positive development after noted declines ten years ago suggested the population might be crashing.

State biologists pegged the latest population estimate at 4,180 moose, a sizable increase over the estimate of 3,030 last year. Wildlife officials noted that the two estimates remain within the margin of error, but this year's results do suggest that there may well be more moose out on the landscape than last year. The estimates are

developed each year based on an aerial survey conducted in mid-January.

According to the latest moose data, the DNR believes (with 90-percent confidence) that the moose population in the region is somewhere between 3,250 and 5,580. That compares favorably to last year's estimated population range of between 2,320 and

Tower area DNR wildlife manager Tom Rusch said the numbers may be less important than the trend. "You like to see the point estimate going in an upward direction, but I think the bigger picture here is it's encouraging to see eight years with a stable moose

See MOOSE...pg. 5B



A cow and calf make their way across a ridgetop in northeastern Minnesota. Courtesy MNDNR



PINE GROSBEAKS

Say goodbye for the season

Winter may still be lingering, but for our favorite feeder bird, spring is here

It may still seem like winter here in the North Country, but to one of my favorite winter visitors, spring has already sprung and, sadly, that means they're quickly disappearing from our yards and bird feeders.

For folks who feed birds in our area, the pine grosbeak is pretty much the gold standard come winter and this has been a particularly good season. From the reports I've seen and heard, pine grosbeaks have been

abundant this year at most feeders, and that has certainly been the case at our house where we've had as many as two dozen at a time. It's hard not to fall for these beautiful and gentle birds, with their soft and pleasing call. For me, and I know for many others, they represent a highlight of winter

in the North Country, and are a pleasure largely reserved for those of us who live near the southern edge of the boreal forest.

Pine grosbeaks are largely confined to boreal and sub-arctic parts of North America and rarely venture from regions dominated by conifers, whose seeds make up a good portion of their winter diet. Here in far northern Minnesota, we're within the normal winter range

of pine grosbeaks, but they only venture as far south as central and southern Minnesota during the occasional irruption year. The rest of the time, they're a luxury reserved for those of us who spend winters in the true North Country.

The roughly robin-sized pine grosbeaks generally arrive in our area about mid-October, but they initially rely on natural foods, like pine, spruce, and balsam fir seeds, as well as

fall fruits, before they start making an appearance at bird feeders. In my experience, they start appearing tentatively at feeders in late November or early December before showing up in larger numbers by about mid-December. They're generally a fixture at our feeders from then until the end of the second

week of March, when they start heading back north to their breeding territory, which starts about 200 miles northeast of here in northern Ontario. A few isolated, non-migratory populations of these birds are also found at high elevations

MARSHALL

HELMBERGER

Among the migratory population found here, the pinkish males usually head north first, followed by the females within a week or so. Like most birds, the pine grosbeak's natural Above: A male pine grosbeak sits while cracking open a black oil sunflower seed, their favorite food at most area

Below: An immature or female pine grosbeak feeds on crab apples, another favored food. The immatures and female pine grosbeaks are recognized by their orange to golden coloration around the head and chest, and can be difficult to tell apart due to significant variability.



clock is governed mostly by day length, and by the time we reach the equinox next week it will be spring as far as they're concerned, which means it's

time to head north. Once there, they'll pair up for the breeding season, during

which they form quite strong monogamous pair bonds. While they are not known to mate for life, the mated pairs have their own identical flight call, which helps them to stay in contact,

See GROSBEAKS...pg. 5B

Dutdoors in brief

Try to limit use of salt

REGIONAL - Too much salt isn't just a problem in our diet, it's also a big problem for our environment. So as we work to keep sidewalks and driveways safe from ice and snow, we also need to think of our drinking water and fish populations.

When spring eventually arrives, the de-icing salt that Minnesotans use by the ton each winter runs into storm drains and into rivers, groundwater and lakes.

"Every bit of salt we put down on our sidewalks ends up in our water, one way or another," said Lucie Amundsen, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Duluth regional public information officer. "The best practice is to simply use less. You can do that by shoveling snow first and then applying sand or poultry grit. Salt should be used only when it's truly needed to melt an ice patch."

These best practices are essential given that it takes only one teaspoon of salt to pollute five gallons of water permanently. There is no feasible way to remove chloride once it gets into the water. Researchers are finding increasing amounts of chloride in our Minnesota waters. Salty water can foul wells and create a caustic environment for freshwater fish and other aquatic wild-

However, there is some good news when it comes to reducing our salt habit. Scattering salt lightly, leaving about three inches of space between grains, will still effectively remove ice. It only takes a coffee mug full of salt (about 12 ounces) to treat a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares (roughly 1,000 square feet). Also, a frequently missed step is sweeping up any extra de-icer product that is visible on dry pavement. It is no longer doing any work and if left on the ground will only be washed away into local waters. And good newsit can be reused the next time your walk requires de-icing.

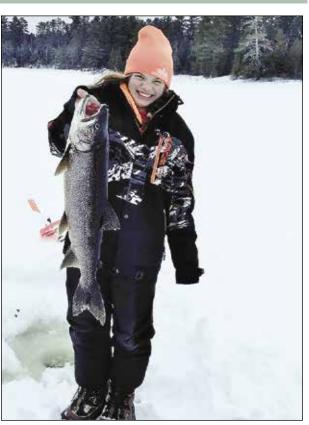
Why it matters

When salt (sodium chloride) concentrates in water, it immediately stresses the creatures in that environment. Aquatic insects, such as mayflies, feel the impact first. They're sensitive to chloride and die with little exposure. When the mayflies are gone, it eliminates a prime food source for fish, like trout.

Also, some fish and amphibians lay their eggs in the water. Eggs exposed to chloride have poor success rates, endangering future populations of these species.

from NOAA weather

Fishing reports



Jennie Nelson, of Embarrass, caught her first lake trout (30") on Saturday while fishing with her Dad and friends on Lac LaCroix. submitted

Outdoors briefly

DNR to host deer open house

TOWER - Anyone with an interest in whitetail deer management in northern St. Louis and Lake counties is invited to attend an open-house style meeting on the subject on Wednesday, March 26, at the Tower Area DNR office located on Hwy. 169 near the west to Tower. The meeting runs from 5-7 p.m.

The meeting, one of a series to be held around the state, will give residents a chance to discuss deer and deer management with DNR area wildlife managers. The meetings do not include formal presentations, so people can

arrive any time during the scheduled meeting times. For those who prefer to talk on the phone, people are welcome to call their area office. The main number for the Tower Area Office is 300-7800.

In addition to discussing general concerns about deer, individuals can ask DNR staff about the current winter severity index, the 2018 harvest, or get a preview of the updated **DNR** Chronic Wasting Disease Response Planthat will be formally released in April, and discuss changes

GROSBEAKS...Continued from page 4B

even with other grosbeaks in the vicinity.

If you'd like to attract pine grosbeaks to your house in winter, black oil sunflower seeds are your best bet. They like to feed best on the ground or on large open platform feeders.

Unlike their cousins, the evening grosbeaks, which have been in a notable population decline in much of North America in recent decades, the pine grosbeak population remains pretty healthy. And that's a good thing, because I don't even want to think about winter in the North Country without my flock of pine grosbeaks to brighten each day. At least by the time they leave in mid-March, we know that winter's retreat can't be too far behind.



- PUMPS
- WELLS
- HYDRO-FRACKING

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LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

Saturday

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The past several moose survey results suggest that fears of a crashing moose population may have been premature. While the future of the species in Minnesota remains in question given the warming climate, it appears that the moose is holding its own in the region, albeit at lower numbers than 15 years ago, when the region's moose population peaked at just over 8,800 animals. "In the short to medium term, we're likely to keep seeing moose in the forests, lakes and swamps of northeastern Minnesota," said Glenn DelGiudice, DNR moose and deer project leader. "But their long-term survival here in Minnesota remains uncertain."

The moose population appeared in good shape in the region up until 2010, when the survey suggested a population dip from 7,840 animals in 2009, to 5,700 one year later. That downward trend appeared to accelerate until 2013, when an estimate of 2,760 prompted the DNR to suspend the moose season and undertake more intensive research on the species in hopes of learning the causes of the decline.

It now appears that the 2013 estimate may have been an outlier, since estimates rebounded into the low-4,000 range the following year. And numbers since have held remarkably steady ever since. The 2018 estimate was the lowest since the 2013 survey, but this year's robust rebound suggests last year's estimate was probably on the low side.

Plentiful moose in quality habitat

The latest survey results continue to show robust moose numbers in areas with good habitat and low deer densities. And it's increasingly clear, both from research and anecdotal observations, that forest fire is key to moose success. Rusch said that was apparent during one day of this year's aerial survey when researchers flew over some of region's largest recent burns, includ-

ing Pagami Creek, Kekakabic, and Ham Lake. "In one day, on just eight plots, we counted 185 moose. That's phenomenal," said Rusch. "Those big fires have had population level ramifications.'

Rusch said survey results over large clearcuts have shown less dramatic results, even when they are designed to mimic the disturbance caused by fire. "We can't fly big cuts and find this number of moose," he said.

Big burns take about three years to recover, but once regrowth becomes available above the snow, the survey results show that moose take advantage in big numbers.

"It makes you all fired up to see that," said Rusch, who notes that it demonstrates that in the right habitat moose can still do very well in Minnesota, at least for now.

Exactly why moose benefit so much from fire hasn't been proven, but biologists think the answer is pretty straightforward. Rusch said fires undoubtedly clear the land of parasites like winter ticks, which can be a major burden for moose. Over time, tick numbers can build up, but a hot fire can virtually wipe them out across a large area, probably for years.

Fire also kills off land snails, which facilitate the transfer of parasitic brainworms from deer to moose, according to Mike Schrage, a Fond du Lac band biologist who has documented the affinity of moose for fire. The land snail is what's known as an intermediate host, notes Schrage, who spoke to the Timberjay about his research

The snails ingest the brainworms, most likely from deer scat, and then spread the disease when moose accidentally consume the snails while browsing vegetation. Each time a fire rolls through, it clears the landscape of the snails that make the spread of the deadly brainworm possible and it can take many years for the brainworm transmission to begin again.

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Finally, fire tends to release a lot of nutrients into the soil, and that means regenerating growth is likely highly nutritious for moose, which improves their ability to fight off disease, or fend off predators like wolves."We're talking about an 800 to 1,000-pound animal that makes its living on leaves and twigs," said Schrage. The quality of that forage makes a huge difference.

Causes of the decline

After several years of intensive research of GPS-collared moose in the region, DNR biologists have concluded that there's no one factor behind the population decline. Instead, it's a combination of factors, including relatively high predation from the state's robust wolf population along with a host of diseases caused mostly by parasites, such as brainworm, winter ticks. and liver flukes.

Whitetail deer are known to be carriers of both brainworm and live flukes and moose success appears increasingly to be linked to lower whitetail density.

According to DelGuidice. moose reproductive success and adult survival have the greatest impact on the annual count and dynamics of the moose population over time.

"We know from our research that adult female moose are getting pregnant," DelGiudice said. "The problem is there aren't enough female moose that are successfully producing calves and raising them to one year. That's a significant challenge in our efforts to maintain Minnesota's moose population."

The DNR's detailed field research has shown that wolf predation has consistently accounted for about two-thirds of the calf mortality and one-third of the adult mortality. In some cases, injuries suffered during predation attempts not the predation itself – ultimately killed the adult moose. In others, sickness or disease likely made the adult moose more vulnerable to predation, according to researchers.







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PUBLIC NOTICES

ORR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING February 11, 2019

regularly scheduled meeting of the Orr City Council was held Monday February 11, 2019, at the Orr

Mayor Joel Astleford called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Mayor Joel Astleford Councilor Lloyd Scott Councilor Tom Kennebeck Councilor Bruce Black

Councilor Ericka Cote

Clerk/ Also present: Treasurer Cheri Carter; Maintenance Supervisor Paul Koch; Assistant Maintenance Rocky Hoffman; Liquor Store Manager, Charles Nieman; Ambulance Finance Officer Gray; Ambulance Assistant Director Leesa Gray; and Marcus White, Timberjay;

Agenda Item I was added to the agenda: Request from City of Fairmont Airport for

Motion by Bruce Black, second by Lloyd Scott, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of Minutes of Regular Council Meeting of January 14, 2019; and expenditures in the amount of \$43,692.16. All in favor. One (1) Absent. MOTION CARRIÉD.

Motion by Tom Kennebeck, second by Lloyd Scott, to approve travel and training request for ambulance personnel Ericka Cote, Dennis Cote, Wendy Deatherage and Brooke Cote to attend Long Hot Summer EMT reimbursement for Jim and Leesa Gray while attending Arrowhead EMS Conference. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Tom Kennebeck, second by Lloyd Scott, to approve training and travel request for Maintenance Supervisor Paul Koch to attend Minnesota Rural Water Association 35th Annual Water & Wastewater Technical Conference in St. Cloud. All in favor. One (1)

Absent. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Bruce Black, second by Tom Kennebeck, to approve purchase of new water heater for the Municipal Liquor Store from Ferguson Enterprises in the amount of \$1,127.07. The old water heater stopped working and was disposed of. All in favor. One (1) Absent. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Bruce Black. second by Lloyd Scott, to approve purchase of a vacuum body spine immobilizer, vacuum KED extrication device, and vacuum c-collar for the Orr Volunteer Ambulance. It was discovered the power supply for the LP15 could not be upgraded as previously approved by council. The funds for the LP15 upgrade will be used instead for the vacuum body spine immobilizers. All MOTION CARRIED.

There was discussion on whether the Council should allow and regulate shortterm vacation rentals in the City. Pros and cons were discussed. Before making a decision, the council would like to hear public input and comment. A public hearing on the matter was scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., at City Hall.

Motion by Bruce Black, second by Tom Kennebeck, to approve a "Policy Relating to City of Orr Water Meter Installation and Maintenance" as broken water meters are no longer covered by warranty. All in favor. One (1) Absent. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Bruce Black, second by Lloyd Scott, to approve transfer of \$296.00 from the Liquor Store checkaccount to cover bank service charges and credit card fees for 2019. All in favor. One (1) Absent. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Tom Kennebeck, second by Lloyd Scott, to Application Building Permit from Kathryn Christiansen. All in favor. One (1) Absent. MOTION

Motion by Tom Kennebeck, second by Bruce black, to approve request from City of Fairmont Airport for a transfer of entitlement funds in the amount of \$150,000 to be repaid in July 2021. All One (1) Absent. in favor. MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Liquor Store: Liquor Store Manager Chet Nieman reported in spite of a slow start, January ended up being a good month compared to last January. Business from snowmobilers is starting to pick up. Chet was requested to start obtaining quotes to replace the compressors in the cooler and A/C unit.

Water Sewer: Maintenance Supervisor Paul Koch reported the pump at the DNR lift station needed to be replaced. The injector pump at the water plant also needs to be replaced. The recent cold snap caused two frozen water lines under residential houses.

Airport Manager Rocky Hoffman reported an inventory of 1,049 gallons of Jet A, and 917 gallons of 100LL. The beacon is not working and the fuel pumps are in need of repair. City staff will check with MnDOT on grant availability and update the airport's CIP to prioritize these projects.

Ambulance: Finance Officer Jim Gray reported they have responded to 16 calls this vear to date. They currently have 10 EMTs and 6 EMRs on staff. Two of the EMRs are taking additional training to get their EMT certification. Parts had to be ordered from DSC Communications to repair the power supply for the internal radio antenna at the ambulance garage. Ambulance personnel could receive radio calls but could not respond from the garage. Arrangements are being made to bring the 2016 rig to Minneapolis for its routine maintenance inspection.

Community Center: There have been three rentals scheduled for February.

Fire Department: No Report

Tourist Information Center: Clerk Cheri Carter reported because of the weather, the meeting with VNP Superintendent Bob DeGross has been rescheduled to

February 20th. One of the overload sensors burned out on the heat register in the office. Jeff Purdy is looking

Comments from Council/ Visitors: None

Comments from Mayor: The grant submitted to the CDBG for fire hydrants and chemical usage scales was approved.

Motion by Bruce Black, second by Lloyd Scott, to adjourn. All in favor MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 7:50

Respectfully submitted, Joel R. Astleford, Mayor Cherk J. Carter, Clerk/

CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

Treasurer

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333. The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business ASSUMED NAME: Goose

Painting PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 3414 W 2nd St., Duluth, MN 55807

NAMEHOLDER(S): Dirk Vermeulen, 3414 W 2nd St., Duluth, MN 55807

I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if

Dated: February 27, 2019 SIGNED BY: Dirk Vermeulen

under oath.

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Published in the Timberjay, March 8 & 15, 2019

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For additional information, call Jackie at 218-365-4695 Ext 126

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Approximate end date: Oct. 16, 2019 Due Date: Review of applications will begin April 1, 2019. Will remain open until filled. Please submit a letter of interest, resume, current copy of licensure. Online application can be found at www.nettlakeschool.org

James J. Varichak, Superintendent Nett Lake Schools, 13090 Westley Drive Nett Lake, MN 55772

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Answers

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CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME Minnesota Statutes, Chapter

333. The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business. ASSUMED NAME: Golden

Birch Communications PRINCIPAL PLACE BUSINESS: 3414 W 2nd St., Duluth, MN 55807 NAMEHOLDER(S): LaReesa Sandretsky, 3414

W 2nd St., Duluth, MN 55807 I, the undersigned, certify

that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

Dated: February 27, 2019 SIGNED BY: LaReesa Sandretsky

Published in the Timberjay, March 8 & 15, 2019

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

PROJECT NO: VCAC18-01 OWNER: CITY OF ELY BIDS FOREST RD 601 TO KABUSTASA RD TRAIL TRAIL **IMPROVEMENTS**

VERMILION RIVER BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION including the approximate quantities:

Trail Improvements (4.4 miles total length): Clearing and Grubbing; Remove Pipe Culverts - 48 Aggregate Base (CV) Class 5 - 670 Cu. Yd.:

18" CAS Pipe Culvert - 352 24" CAS Pipe Culvert - 20

Lin. Ft.: 48" CAS Pipe Culvert - 136

Random Riprap Class III -456 Cu. Yd.; Wire Fence Design 60V-9322 - 80 Lin. Ft.; Silt Fence, Type PA - 60 Lin. Ft.;

Erosion Control Blanket -350 Sq. Yd.; Turf Establishment.

Bridge Construction (185foot span, 12-foot width, steel overhead truss bridge): Structural Concrete (1G52) -30 Cu. Yd.: Structural Concrete (3B52) -

27 Cu. Yd.;

Pounds: Reinforcement Bars (Epoxy Coated) - 2860 Pounds; Structure Excavation - 1

Reinforcement Bars - 1820

Lump Sum; Slope Preparation - 1 Lump Sum; Pedestrian Bridge

(Superstructure) - 1 Lump Sum: Aggregate Backfill (CV) - 33

Geotextile Filter Type 7 -520 Sq. Ft.; Random Riprap Class III -

Bids will be received by City of Ely, City Clerk/Treasurer, Ely City Hall, 209 East Chapman Street, Council Chambers Second Floor, Ely, Minnesota 55731, until 1:00 P.M. local time Monday, April 1st, 2019.

The information Bidders, Form of Bid, Form

of Contract, Plans and Specifications, and Forms of Bid Bond, Performance and Payment Bond, and other contract documents may be examined at Benchmark Engineering, Inc. (8878 Main Street, Mountain Iron, MN 55768).

Copies may be obtained at the office of Benchmark Engineering Inc. upon payment of \$60.00 (non-refundable, sales tax includ-Electronic documents are available from QuestCDN Project No Engineering, Benchmark Inc. 2 Advertisement for Bids 6181941 for a non-refundable cost of \$20.00.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informality or to reject any or all bids.

Each Bidder must deposit, with their bid: security in the amount, form and subject to the conditions provided in the Information for Bidders. The bid should be in a sealed envelope with the project name, bid date and time clearly labeled on the

tive to wage rates shall apply on this project. Contractors will be required to submit payroll reports. No Bidder may withdraw their

All applicable state laws rela-

bid within 35 days after the actual date of the opening

Harold Langowski City Clerk/Treasurer Published in the Timberjay, March 8 & 15, 2019

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by Linda Thistle

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SUPPORT GROUP-MS 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.

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

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 toll-free 1-888-647-RAAN(7226).

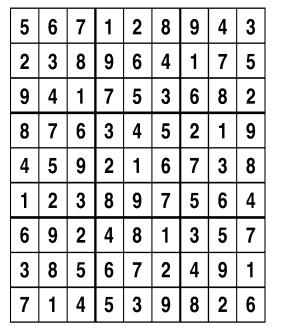
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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer



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Super Crossword

2 Great Lakes 41 LP speed

51 Thinnest 92 Marshy inlet 94 Thrills, coin

- 52 Beddy-bye garb
- **55** Palme boxing champ Max (Cannes
- 12 Fruit discard prize) 16 Bit of fiction 56 Author 19 Neighbor of
 - Deighton 57 "You bet!"
 - 58 Joyous hymn
- 60 Camera 23 Polar bear's
 - since 1924 64 Big — (large 112 Sri — German
 - gun) 66 Eminent
 - senior member 70 LAX guess
- 71 Dog sound 73 Pig sounds 29 "Shakedown"
 - **74** Tac 75 Author Levin 76 It might
 - be next to a napkin
- amounts of holder 80 Hurls boron 37 List-limiting 82 Tropical fish 83 "Around —
- abbr. 40 Dietary unit 84 Prefix with 43 Actor Bana
- 44 Sit for a photo
- **45** Cold person's
- bumps
- 48 Chose (to) **50** Bestows

38

56

95 196

- of "Troy"

19

23

26

50

70

76

82

101

107

112

120

127

130

- hazard 86 N.Y.-to-L.A. dir.

31

46

|77

87

40

65

- 87 Part of
 - 89 Exhaust 90 Watchful
- USMA: Abbr. 133 Reduced

parts ..."

person

32 33

57

- - DOWN

24

66

78

89

103 |104

113

72

83

197

102

108

121 122

128

131

67

73

98

132

105

124

1 Like a quilt

20

41

42

- tribe 3 Little dent 4 Verbalize
- informally 98 Flight hub in East Boston **5** Fissures 101 Often-twisted
- 6 Always, to a treat poet 102 TT carmaker 7 Sideline cry
- 105 Bucharest's 8 Actress Besch or
- **106** A, in Spain Andersson 107 Thanksgiving
- 9 Working without -110 Individual
 - **10** Be fallible 11 Relating to
 - kidnevs **12** Big bird dog
- 114 Mineo of film 13 Prefix with linear
 - 14 "- Beso" 15 High-IQ club
 - **16** Definitively
 - 17 Holy smoke? 18 Got on, as a
 - "square one" bus
 - that hints at 21 Indefinite this puzzle's
 - 24 "Cross my
- 128 Best Actress
- 130 Toping type

 - through, as

34

- an album,
- heart" 30 Kingdoms
- 32 Exhaust
- a sound

- 33 Skip over, 34 Cell buzzer
- 35 Carried out
- 36 Like coated
- 39 Design on
- 38 Eau de (cologne)

say

21

43

|79

110

52

90

114 | 115

- cupcakes 37 Yolk holder
- 77 Wrestler's restraining move
 - **78** Mu pork 79 Make

14

35 36

- 123 Aussie bird operational 124 Fabled bird again
- 125 "My Sal" 81 Exchange 85 Origami bird
 - 126 Nobelwinning poet Andric
- 88 Bit of foliage 16 17 22

25 29 44

93

106

117 | 118 | 119

92

116

100

125 126

129

133



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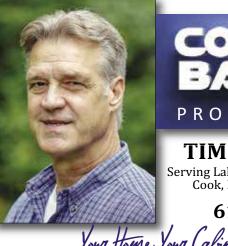
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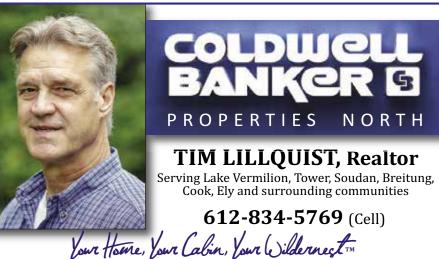
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