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The **TIMBERJAY**

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TOWERGATE

Email probe goes to county attorney

IP address at Tower City Hall used to download dozens of mayor’s communications

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

TOWER— In a dramatic ending to a marathon session of the Tower City Council on Monday, Mayor Orlyn Kringstad announced he had forwarded his findings on intru-

sions into his city email account to the St. Louis county attorney for possible prosecution.

He said two deputies from the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office, including one with cyber-security experience, have since been assigned to investigate the case.

Just two weeks ago, the city council had authorized Kringstad to look into what appeared to be systematic intrusions into his password-protected city email account. Kringstad had been able to capture some of the instances through screen recordings and videos taken with his cellphone.

Kringstad revealed that during his decade-long career at Honeywell, he had served as the head of the company’s information technology security and he drew on a member of his former team, Kjell Mathiesen, who went on to teach Internet systems and security in Norway. With

Mathiesen’s help, Kringstad reported he had been able to use Internet access codes, known as IP addresses, to zero in on the intruder or intruders. After eliminating IP addresses reflecting times that he accessed his

See... **TOWER** pg. 9

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATH

STEM Opening a whole new world for Ely girls

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

ELY – Ely fifth-grade student Bria Marshall was all giggles as she quickly pulled apart a marshmallow and watched the chemical changes to the sticky substance. “It feels warm as I keep pulling it apart and it is really sticky,” she said. “This is fun.”

Yet it was fun with a purpose as more than 30 Ely area girls in grades 5-8 participated in the annual STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) workshop last Saturday at Vermilion Community College. The annual event was sponsored by the American Association of University Women - Ely Branch, in collaboration with Vermilion Community College, and a grant from AAUW-Minnesota.

It was an opportunity for the girls to explore the possibilities in a field of study that is often dominated by their male coun-

See...**STEM** pg. 11



Ely fifth-grader Bria Marshall, above, pulls apart a marshmallow during a chemistry experiment at the STEM workshop last weekend at VCC. Sherry Abts, right, was one of the instructors. AAUW hosted the event. photos by K. Vandervort



ISD 696

School district begins search for part-time administrator

Ely schools rank high in administrative costs

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

ELY – The Ely School Board this week initiated a search for a part-time superintendent with a goal of having the district’s top administrator on the job by July 1.

Following the unexpected announcement earlier this month that ISD 696’s leader, Kevin Abrahamson, wishes to leave his post after four years, board members gathered Monday night to study the district’s administrative configuration costs and decided to stay with a .6 FTE (full-time equivalent) superintendent and two full-time principals.

The board took action in a special meeting after the study session to advertise nationally for the superintendent position, and will review any applications received by the April 15 deadline.

Prior to Abrahamson’s tenure, ISD 696 employed former principal Alexis Lietgeb as a full-time administrator and maintained two full-time principals. In an effort to save money, in 2015, the district opted for a part-time superin-

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

HEALTHCARE

Grants will upgrade x-ray technology at Cook, Ely hospitals

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
and **MARCUS WHITE**
Timberjay Editors

REGIONAL - Two local hospitals will be upgrading their imaging capabilities after receiving major grants to replace aging x-ray machines. Ely-Bloomenson Community

Hospital will receive almost \$600,000 while the Cook Hospital was awarded \$350,000 for the new technology from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust’s Rural Healthcare Program.

“The new equipment will make clearer images and have less

radiation exposure to staff and patients,” Cook Hospital CEO Theresa Debevec said. “We’re really looking forward to upgrading since it would have been expensive to change on our own.”

Debevec said both of the hospitals x-ray machines will be replaced as soon as May with quotes

being sent out last week.

The grant will cover the entire cost of the equipment, with the hospital spending about \$50,000 of its own money to retrofit existing rooms.

EBCH received \$595,455 for a fixed digital x-ray machine with fluoroscopy and a mobile digital x-ray machine.

The funding is part of a \$14.2 million initiative to upgrade x-ray technology at 49 rural hospitals in the Upper Midwest.

“We are very proud and excited to receive this incredible grant from the Helmsley Charitable Trust,” said Mr. Michael Coyle, Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital

CEO. “These funds will allow us to provide state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment and expanded services to Ely and our entire service area. We are very grateful for this opportunity.”

Walter Panzirer, a Trustee for the Helmsley

See... **GRANTS** pg. 11



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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

4-H presents free program on Bees of Minnesota, April 7 at Olcott Park

VIRGINIA- Calling all youth in grades 6 and up to be a Citizen Scientist!

The first time a survey of Minnesota bees was completed was in 1919 when only 67 species were listed. Luckily, there has been a lot of research since then and scientists suspect there may be closer to 400 species, but to find out we will need the help of citizen scientists like you.

In this workshop you will learn about the life cycle and ecology of native bees, basic bee identification, and make your own bee block to observe bees right in your backyard. These skills will prepare you to participate in the Minnesota Native Bee Atlas, a citizen scientist program.

This is a free program held Sunday, April 7 from 1-4 p.m. at the Olcott Park Greenhouse, 711 9th Ave. W in Virginia.

Pre-registration is required. Deadline to register is Wednesday, April 3. To register, please use the following link for the Google form, <https://goo.gl/forms/618ALeaiB-zYZZch1> or call Nicole Kudrle, 4-H Program Coordinator at 218-749-7120, ext. 7265.

Embarrass Fair Pancake Breakfast, April 6 at Timber Hall

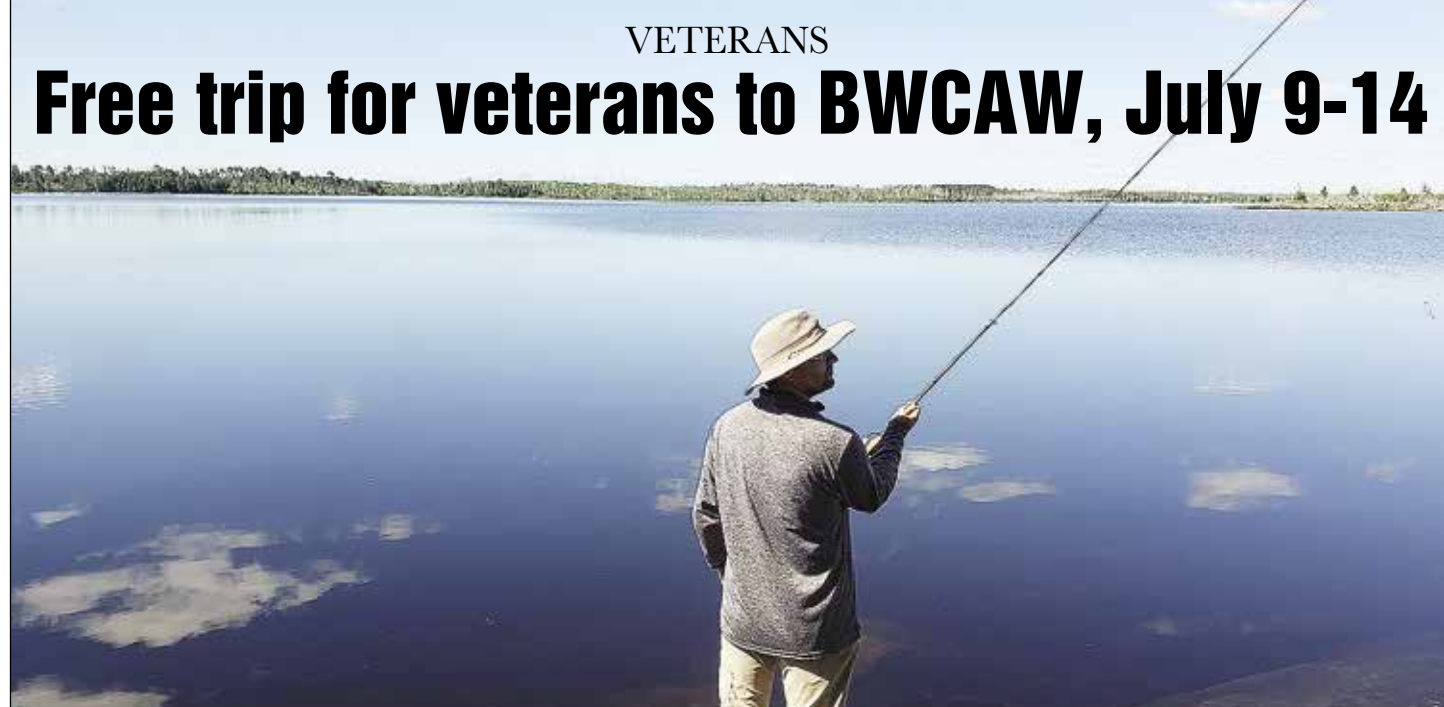
EMBARRASS - Support the Embarrass Region Fair by attending an all-you-can-eat pancakes, choice of ham or sausage links, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee the first Saturday of each month through May at the Timber Hall. The next breakfast is Saturday, April 6 from 8 to 11 a.m. Adults cost \$5, children (6-10 years) \$3, and children under 5 years are free. These breakfasts are sponsored by the Embarrass Region Fair Association.

Learn about Enbridge Line 3 at Mesabi UU, March 31

VIRGINIA- Rita Chamblin will present "Intricate Weaving: A UU Perspective on Enbridge Line 3, How are we called?" at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 31 at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church.

Chamblin is a lay leader who retired to northern Minnesota recently. She's active in opposing Line 3 and through that work became a liaison for Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light in Bemidji. For more information on MN Interfaith Power and Light, like them on Facebook or visit mnipf.org.

Mesabi UU is located at 230 7th St. S in Virginia. The building is handicap accessible.



VETERANS

Free trip for veterans to BWCAW, July 9-14

REGIONAL- The Richard I. Bong Veterans Historical Center is hosting a free trip for veterans to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area on July 9-14.

This will be the second year that the center has offered the trip for veterans who are disabled or dealing with PTSD and other specified traumas. "Last year's trip was amazing, it was one of the better trips I have ever been a part of," stated Executive Director of the Center, Hayes Scriven. "We wanted to give back to the veteran community and we were able to do that in a unique way."

We are aware of the many issues facing veterans today. In an effort to assist in

healing and building healthy relationships within our community, we are offering this BWCA trip for veterans with nothing but fishing, canoeing, and camping the entire time. By bringing veterans into the wilderness away from noises and stress we hope it will help them heal, recover, and just relax.

In order to educate the public, the center relies on veterans to provide their stories and artifacts.

Duane Lasley, a retired Captain with U.S. Army from Duluth, went on the trip last year and is now volunteering his time for the trip. He states, "I was fortunate enough to go on last year's trip and it

was an amazing experience. I am doing what I can to help others enjoy a similar experience."

The center will be taking a small group of veterans up to Ely where they will spend a night at Veterans on the Lake Resort before heading into the BWCA on July 10. The trip is being outfitted by Canadian Waters, Inc. The group will return from their trip on July 13 and spend another night at the resort before heading back into civilization.

Interested veterans can apply for the trip online at bongcenter.org/bwca or by calling the center at 715-392-7151.

Senior Bingo in Tower on Monday, April 1

TOWER- Senior Bingo will be held in Tower on Monday, April 1 at the Herb Lamppa Civic Center in Tower from 11:45 a.m. – 3 p.m. There is a \$10 charge for the bingo party, which includes lunch. All ages are welcome to attend this community event. Lunch is served starting at 11:45 a.m., and bingo begins at 12:45 p.m. Bingo may be cancelled in case of inclement weather (and if the Tower-Soudan School is closed). Call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950 with any questions.



Timberjay Puzzle Book time

Don't miss the Cabin Fever Reliever Puzzle Book that is part of this week's *Timberjay*. We hope you enjoy all the great puzzles. Additional copies are available in many area locations, or at the *Timberjay* office in Tower.

New this year are crosswords created by local businesses with help from the *Timberjay* staff. Spend some time on these crosswords and learn more about these great businesses: Advanced Optical, Cook Hospital, Embarrass-Vermillion Federal Credit Union, Firelight Galleries, Good Ol' Days, Janisch Realty, Laurentian Monument, Northeast Title, Rocks the Jewelers, and The *Timberjay*. There are also plenty of other crossword puzzles, sudokus, crypto fun, word scrambles, and word search (including a word search featuring all the advertisers in this year's puzzle book), plus a couple of pages of puzzles just for kids. Enjoy.

CALLING AREA POETS

Poetic Partnership Spring Conference, April 26-28 in Ely

ELY- The League of Minnesota Poets (LOMP) will hold their 2019 Spring Conference from April 26 to 28 at the Grand Ely Lodge in Ely. This event will be hosted by Story Portage, the Ely Chapter of the League.

Keynote speaker for the conference is poet, writer, teacher, and former Duluth Poet Laureate, Sheila Packa. In addition, Packa will be conducting a workshop after her address. Pre-conference begins at 1 p.m. on Friday, April 26, and includes a poetry reading and book signing at

Northern Grounds at 7 p.m. The registration fee is \$60 for LOMP members, \$65 for non-members, and there's a \$10 discount for registration by April 16. Full information is available at the LOMP website, <https://www.mnpoets.org/>.

The League of Minnesota Poets was established in 1934 "to make Minnesota poetry-conscious, and conscious to its own poets." The LOMP achieves these goals through sponsorship of various poetry contests and sponsorship and participation in readings, collaborations, retreats, and

other events throughout the state.

The Ely Chapter of the League is a part of Story Portage, a 501c(3) non-profit educational organization centered in Ely. Story Portage was created to foster and promote the art of personal narrative—visual, oral, and written—and support literacy programs that enhance the quality of life in Ely. More information about the chapter can be found at storyportage.org.

Calling All Green Thumbs!

Join Scenic Rivers on April 3rd in the lower level of the Pioneer Building in Cook for a discussion about a new community garden initiative in our area. The proposed garden would be located behind St. Mary's Church in Cook. If you are interested in helping to prepare and maintain the garden, please join us and bring your great ideas!

Community Garden Meeting

When: April 3rd at Noon

Where: Pioneer Building, Cook, Lower Level



Scenic Rivers
— Clinics —

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LAKE VERMILION SOUDAN UNDERGROUND MINE STATE PARK

Bill would fund mine shaft repairs, ATV campground

by MARCUS WHITE
 Cook/Orr Editor

SOUDAN MINE— Jim Essig pointed out steel panels in need of repair at the mine shaft here Tuesday morning.

 “This project would keep the mine shafts free of major repair for 80 years,” said Essig, who has served as manager of the Lake Vermilion Soudan Underground State Park for more than a decade. “Some of these steel rails are up to 70 years old,” he said. And they’re beginning to show the effects of time.

 The hoped-for overhaul will be possible if the state legislature passes a \$9.5 million spending bill, authored by Senate Minority Leader Tom Bakk, DFL-Cook, that includes funds for the shaft work as well as a campground to be built for ATV users.

Mine shaft repairs

 A mine shaft fire in 2011 during winter maintenance revealed more extensive deterioration than could be repaired by the park’s onsite staff. Steel beams below the seven-teenth level of the mine were not only deteriorating at a faster than anticipated rate but were concealing wood and debris from the mine’s construction that could catch fire if left in place.

 Previously, park staff undertook most of the maintenance work at the park, but Essig said the shear amount of work and the potential dangers of trying to haul out debris led him to the conclusion that contractors would be better suited for the job.

 Under the proposed plan, contractors will replace nearly all of the steel and concrete beams and clear wood and debris from behind the shaft walls. They would then spray the rock face

with concrete to hold the walls in place.

 According to Essig, the planned work should provide a long-term upgrade to the mine shaft, lasting up to about 80 years.

 Concrete walls above the seven-teenth level do not need repair and the steel cables that raise and lower the mine cars remain in good repair, having been replaced about 30 years ago. Essig said a recent inspection of the cables showed only six-percent wear in that time.

 The project to overhaul the shafts is being done in three phases.

 The first phase, completed in 2012, fixed the damage done by the fire.

 The second and third phases are covered under the current spending bill.

 The second phase will remove and



Park manager Jim Essig inspects a portion of the shaft at the mine’s 25th level. M. White

See **PARK BILL**...pg. 5

MINING

Army Corps issues final major permit for PolyMet

Lawsuits and financial uncertainty remain hurdles for the proposed copper-nickel mine

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
 Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Local reaction was swift on Friday to the announcement by the Army Corps of Engineers that it had granted approval of the Section 404 wetlands permit for PolyMet Mining’s NorthMet copper-nickel mine near Hoyt Lakes. The federal permit was the last major permit that the company needed in order to begin open pit mining operations.

 “It’s time to mine,” said state Sen. David Tomassoni, DFL-Chisholm, whose district includes the proposed mine. “This project will bring hundreds of good-paying jobs and millions of dollars in investment

to our area and will be a major economic boost to the entire state,” he added.

 Other northeastern Minnesota legislators weighed in as well. “The approval of this permit is exciting news today for the people of the Iron Range,” said Reps. Rob Ecklund, Julie Sandstede, and Dave Lislegard, in a joint statement. “This been a long time coming to get to this step, and all along the way, those involved have been extremely diligent in ensuring this project will meet or exceed all environmental standards. The process has been followed, and with this approval, the process can be proven.”

 While supporters of the

project argued that the minerals it may one day produce are critically needed and will be produced with minimal impact to the environment, critics noted that the permit approved March 22 will allow the largest destruction of wetlands ever permitted in Minnesota, encompassing just over 900 acres of complex lowland flowages and spruce and tamarack bogs. “This is critical habitat for threatened species, has been designated as an area of high biodiversity significance, and sequesters millions of tons of greenhouse gases,” said Kathryn Hoffman, CEO of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. “It’s critical that the courts hear chal-

lenges to permits before PolyMet can start digging. Once these wetlands are destroyed, they can never be repaired.”

 It appears likely, in fact, that courts will be hearing any of a number of legal challenges to the proposed mine. A 6,660-acre federal land exchange that cleared the way for the mine is currently in federal court and state courts are expected to hear challenges to a number of mining and discharge permits issued by the Department of Natural Resources or the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

 But financial questions may yet pose the bigger challenge to PolyMet’s plans. An updated financial projection issued one

year ago presented a far gloomier assessment of the project’s profitability than the company’s previous estimates, issued a decade earlier.

 Despite PolyMet’s progress on the permitting front, investors have been decidedly lackluster on the company for years. While the announcement of the Army Corps permit sparked a momentary jump in PolyMet’s stock price, from 68¢ a share to 91¢ a share, the stock price quickly fell back and sat at 72¢ as of Wednesday this week.

 The company has not indicated how it intends to finance the more than a billion dollars in

 See **POLYMET**...pg. 5

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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Financial transparency

City of Tower’s finances appear shaky,
which is why the council needs answers

For the past several years, the finances of the city of Tower have been virtually unknown to the public and were of little apparent interest to members of the city council. Last year, when the city’s auditor laid out the worsening financial picture, the entire council failed to ask a single question, apparently not recognizing that the auditor was trying to raise the alarm.

Those days appear to be over, and none too soon. Tower’s new city council, led by Mayor Orlyn Kringstad, is slowly peeling back the onion on the city’s finances, and the results could well shock plenty of the city’s residents. Those in attendance at this week’s council meeting were certainly surprised when the clerk-treasurer told the mayor she “didn’t have a clue,” how much cash the city actually had on hand.

We suspect that the city is in difficult financial straits, but the city clerk-treasurer has managed to keep the city’s financial woes hidden, in part, by diverting hundreds of thousands of dollars from the city’s ambulance fund to pay the bills. On paper, the ambulance fund has about \$885,000 in surplus funds built up over the past decade or so. But city officials have hinted that much of that has been diverted to cover deficits in other city funds.

It’s not clear how much cash is actually remaining in the ambulance fund, or if there is enough cash remaining to pay for the new ambulance the previous council ordered in December.

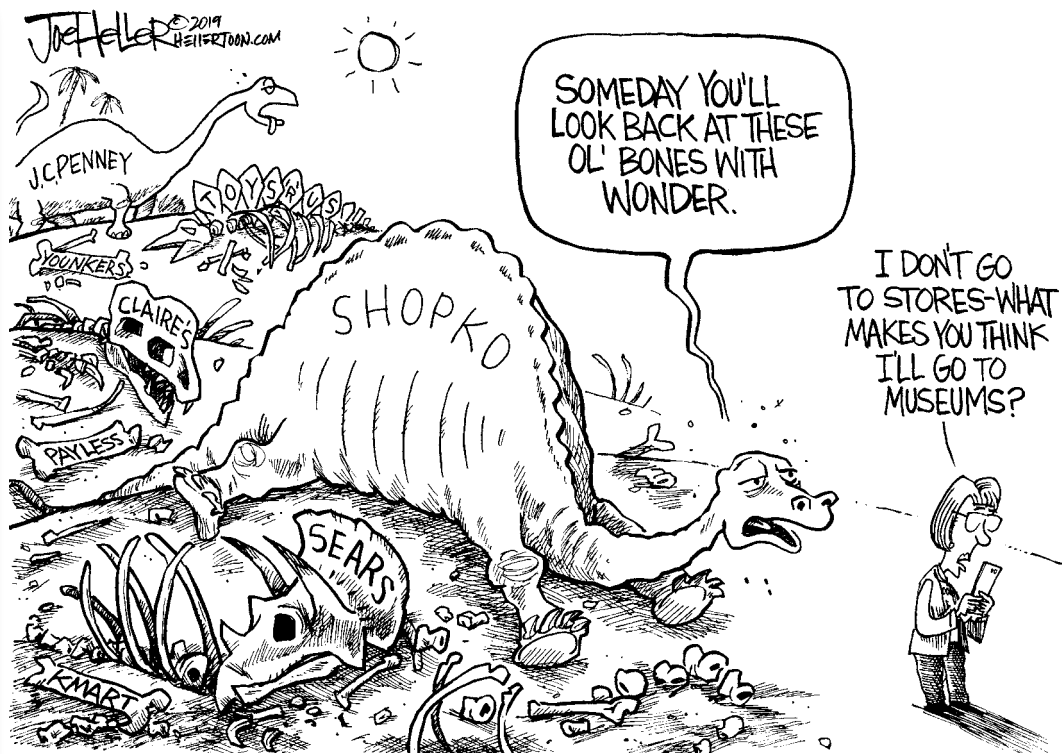
And the days of surplus in the ambulance department appear to be over as a result of the shift to paid on-call, which is the argument this newspaper has been making for more than a year. Under previous ambulance directors, the service routinely socked away \$100,000 annual surpluses, which is the main reason the department has such a large fund balance on paper. In 2018, however, expect the expect the surplus will be much-diminished, even though the paid on-call service was only in place for nine months.

A full-year under the new system could well put the service into the red, particularly since the number of transfers appear to be running well below the ambulance director’s assumptions, at least so far.

It’s no wonder that the director has been rattling the tin cup at every neighboring township in recent months, hoping to convince town boards to back a doubling of the ambulance subsidy over the next three years. The department’s own financial projection showed that the revenues the increased subsidy would generate far exceeded the cost of ambulance replacement over the next several years, yielding a growing surplus. If that fund was truly in a lock-box, that could be justified, but the city clerk-treasurer has yet to show anyone that the township funds aren’t simply being used to cash flow city operations. Until the city provides some financial transparency, township officials would be wise to remain skeptical of any increase in the subsidy.

Transparency is also in order when it comes to the city’s ongoing efforts to sell land. Over the past three years, the city has sold a total of 244 acres of land and it has much more than that currently listed with local realtors. Where is the money from such land sales going? If land is being sold to make new investments in the city, that’s one thing. But if city assets are being sold off simply to fund basic operations, that’s hardly sustainable financial management. The council should certainly seek an accounting of the \$213,500 generated from land sales over the past four years and have a discussion about whether future land sales make sense.

But first the city council and the residents of Tower need to understand the extent of the problem. And that can only come from continuing to peel back the onion. Fortunately, new members of the city council are asking the right questions. Now, we just need some answers.



Letters from Readers

Thanks to Sue Pasmick for keeping our kids safe

Big shout out to swim lesson teacher, Sue Pasmick, and her assistants! For about two weeks each winter they help teach kids to be safe in and around water. Ely and Babbitt area kids (and their parents) are very grateful! Thank you!
Shannon Barber-Meyer Ely

Thanks for pointing out Stauber’s errors

We want to say thank you for your “Rep. Stauber misleads” editorial. It is a good description of the misleading information he is passing on to 1,000s of people. You clarify that the Green New Deal is a set of policy goals with no legislation at this point. We can only hope that some of the Green New Deal goals come to pass in the future.

The Republican scare tactics keep us from advancing the nation’s transition to a carbon-neutral energy future.

We also love to read your articles in the “Outdoors” section. We gain new information every week.

With admiration,
Barb and Doug Veit Bovey

Supporting mining also supports our state’s schools

In 1858, the year of Minnesota’s statehood, and even before that in our territorial days, our founders had the foresight to recognize our land is one of our most valuable assets. They also recognized that the future success of our state would be determined by the opportunities for another valuable asset: Minnesota’s students. These founding Minnesotans thought this was important enough to etch in the Minnesota Constitution.

Originally totaling 8.1 million acres, School Trust

Lands were set aside for the express purpose of generating revenue for our schools. Many of them have been sold and today in northern Minnesota, 2.5 million remain with another million acres of severed mineral rights. Minnesota has a Permanent School Fund with the DNR serving as trustee of the lands. Under the law, the DNR is directed to maximize long-term economic returns while maintaining sound natural resource conservation and management principles. The state Board of Investment in turn invests these funds, and the dividends get distributed to school districts. In 2018, activity on these lands generated over \$33 million to expand education opportunities across the state for more than 856,000 students.

While many Minnesotans may not even be aware of this land or this funding, all of our students benefit from it. Since the funding mechanism is based on population, it’s actually the larger districts in the metro area who receive the biggest benefit. The lion’s share of the funding for the Permanent School Fund comes from mining – a full 80 percent of it historically comes from mineral interests.

When we talk about supporting mining, we’re also talking about everything mining supports. This includes the school children not just of the Iron Range, but of the whole state. I’m committed to improving stewardship and management of these lands to enable our students to have strong opportunities for generations to come.

**Rep. Rob Ecklund
District 3A
International Falls**

Sanders is an inspiration who deserves our support

I would like to thank the *Timberjay* for the historical political perspective in the editorial “The establishment bellows.” The United States

desperately needs to enact the policies you espouse in it: Medicare-for-All, free college tuition, and a \$15 per hour federal minimum wage. Many economists agree that these proposals would bring about a more just and robust economy and better standard of living for 99-percent of Americans.

Unfortunately, the remaining one-percent of Americans will have quite a bit to say about that. They own most of the news media and decide what America will be told and when. They and their minions manipulate the economy. They start wars. They have an incredible advantage in influencing politicians. They hire and fire at will. They decide who receives health care and who doesn’t. Ultimately, they decide who lives and who dies. The one-percent want us vulnerable and afraid, it makes us more pliable. So *Timberjay*, when you reminisce about redistributing the wealth of the rich and their corporations, what you are doing is proposing to take some of their power away from them. I applaud you for that—it is the path to American exceptionalism without a phony red MAGA cap.

Now call me crazy, but I think this Bernie Sanders guy that you mention is on to something. He thinks, like you and I, that the U.S. should not belong to the billionaires. I see that he is running for president in 2020 and that thousands upon thousands of people are already attending his rallies. I will support him because he is such an inspirational leader, speaking truth to power his whole adult life. Sure, he has imitators, but he is the real deal. I will stick with the original.

Resistance is never futile.
**Mike Kuitu
Duluth**

Where the
North Country
Sounds Off!



Whatever happened to honor and integrity in America?

All things being equal, liars and cheats have the advantage in society.

People who are willing to act dishonorably can, and often do, gain the upper hand on others, most often in financial terms although it works the same in personal relationships as well. A liar can



make up stories about people they want to undermine, while an honest person is forced by conscience to hew to the facts. A dishonest person can make promises in business that he or she has no intention of keeping, to the obvious disadvantage of anyone who falls victim. An honest person

can’t do that.

This reality would be devastating for human society if it weren’t for the fact that for thousands of years our civilization built strong disincentives against dishonesty. For centuries, cultures across the world and of every religion, have placed a powerful premium on honor and integrity. To be discovered as dishonorable, whether as a liar, a con, or a philanderer, was to bring shame to yourself, your family, and even your clan. It was that sense of shame that kept our

culture intact by substantially raising the risks associated with dishonorable actions.

So, what happens when the leader of the most powerful country in the world is utterly shameless? It’s a question that we need to be asking because it is, undoubtedly, among the most significant of the many risks posed to the future of American society by the administration of Donald J. Trump.

I’m not going to pretend for a moment that America wasn’t already experiencing plenty of

evidence of the breakdown in our culture at the very top. The increasingly predatory nature of corporate America was an early warning sign that dates back at least to the 1980s. The fraud at the heart of the 2008 financial collapse was the most obvious evidence of the problem. And our political leaders on both sides of the aisle failed us when those responsible for the collapse were allowed to skate away without taking responsibility. It was

See **SHAMELESS...**pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Still concerned about Daisy Bay RV park

I would like to respond to the March 14, PC meeting and Marcus White's "Daisy Bay Expansion Approval" story in the *Timberjay*. I stand by my concerns for pedestrian and bicyclist safety on the shoulder of County Rd. 77.

County Rd. 77 is a no-pass zone due to blind hills and curves. The speed limit is 55, but many drive 60 miles an hour around the curves and up and down the hills. The Pier 77 mini-golf course and cafe is approximately 0.1 mile to the west on the same side of the road as the resort. During the summer, families may want to walk from the resort on the highway shoulder to Pier 77 to play mini-golf, get ice cream, or bicycle to one of the three restaurant/bars in the area.

There will be more cars pulling mobile homes and boat and snowmobile trailers on the highway. Since the current septic system cannot be replaced, septic holding tank/dump station service trucks will also be frequenting the steeply-sloped single road on the property.

Most people don't drink and drive, but there are a few who do. Whatever the reason, if a driver speeds or drives recklessly, I fear for future pedestrians and bicyclists on the County Rd. 77 shoulder.

Yet my traffic concerns for pedestrian and bicycle safety on the County Rd. 77 shoulder was turned into a drunk driving issue and invalidated by Mr. Skraba, Mr. Ecklund, and the commission.

I am still concerned about

pedestrians and bikes sharing the same steep road with vehicles with trailers and septic service trucks coming in and out of the property onto the highway. I still don't know where the proper place was to bring up my concerns. I have learned that it wasn't to the planning commission. I will forward my public safety concerns to MnDOT.

The biggest question I still have, is about the 1/2/2019 county site map regarding the future potential RV site additions of "19 in Tier 2 and 17 more in Tier 3" on an adjacent property not owned by the applicant at this time. This would add 36 RV sites in the future. So the property would have a total of 88 future units. The most frustrating thing for me at the hearing, was finding out that the public is not allowed to ask the applicant questions. After the March 14 hearing, I called and talked with Greenwood Township Chairman Mike Ralston. He has taken on the task of asking questions in regard to this issue.

**Shelley Padgett
Greenwood Twp**

Stauber should quit lying about the Green New Deal

The Green New Deal is a 14-page resolution introduced by Rep. Cortez and Sen. Markey that is basically meant to begin a sane discussion on what steps we need to take to maintain our planet as a decent, livable place. I listened to Rep. Stauber's three-minute, 52-second House floor speech a few times. He read his speech word for word.

That so many lies can be packed into such a short speech is sad. But it points out that a sane discussion cannot be held with this man. Stauber has staked out his position in line with the rest of the NRA/Republicans. He's adopted their tactic of nonstop lying. That's not a surprise.

Fortunately for us (and for the air we breathe), the NRA/Republicans are in the minority in Minnesota and at the national level. Unfortunately, the NRA/Republicans have become a majority in northern Minnesota. Regardless, we need to move forward with the honest representatives throughout the country who have been elected to do a job. We need to accept that Stauber and the NRA/Republicans are not going to all of a sudden become honest and participate in sane discussions. Stauber's goofy speech and the way NRA/Republicans kowtow to nonstop lies illustrate that reality.

**Lee Peterson
Greenwood Twp**

Minnesota's own Banana Republic?

Illogical, incompetent, dishonest, potentially criminal. Sadly, these and other unsavory behaviors have, more often than not, become the hallmarks of Tower's governance. Examples are too numerous to mention here and are already well-documented in local media, but recent examples include apparent attempts to obstruct a major economic development initiative—the harbor project— and meetings of the city's grievance committee.

The committee has three seats, one of which could be filled by a citizen of Tower. Rather than appoint one of the many Tower residents with no apparent conflicts-of-interest, the past council installed a city employee in the position. This particular employee has been a valuable asset to the city in his various roles with the fire and ambulance services, even helping to save my life on one occasion. However, putting him in a position where he would pass judgement on cases involving co-workers is obviously inappropriate.

In the most recent case considered by the committee, this person sat in judgment of a superior's grievance, disingenuously claiming there was "zero conflict-of-interest" because the superior filing the complaint didn't work for him. If that wasn't bad enough, he took the opportunity to turn the hearing into part of a crusade against the sitting mayor, even though he is pursuing a frivolous complaint of his own against the mayor. This despite advice from a respected and knowledgeable past mayor who serves on the grievance committee that his rationale was illogical and inconsistent with past practice, policy, and guidance from the League of Minnesota Cities. That the city employee didn't take the obvious ethical course of action and recuse himself from voting on the grievance complaint is evidence of his continuing obsession with "bringing down the mayor," as he's stated in the past.

Then, in a surprise meeting of the committee last Friday, which the former mayor was unaware of, the two remaining

members continued their crusade unencumbered by any voice of reason. Not surprisingly, they upheld the grievance and recommended an absurd remedy promoted by the local union enforcer, whose bullying style made me, a decades-long union member, ponder whether the few remaining unions should also go the way of the dinosaurs.

You can't make this stuff up. In fairness to the existing council, though, it needs to be pointed out that what ails Tower mostly stems from the actions of the past city council and one or two city employees. It's not too late to salvage Tower's reputation, but it will require that the two holdovers from the last council join the rest of the council in trying to build up Tower instead of tearing it down. If not, Tower risks becoming the municipal equivalent of reputation-impaired governments like Honduras—the original Banana Republic.

Actually, my wife and I visited Honduras in December, and their current government is at least trying to head in the right direction. Which means the Banana Republic title is up for grabs.

If we continue down the path we're on, we may have to change the city's entrance sign to read "Tower - Banana Republic of Minnesota Municipalities."

Let's not go there. We have potential to do so much good and grow and be great as long as we stop undermining good governance and work together.

**Steve Wilson
Tower**

SHAMELESS...Continued from page 4

an eminently teachable moment and we learned all the wrong lessons.

In that sense, one could argue that Donald Trump is a symptom of the pre-existing disease. Yet we cannot avoid the fact that he has advanced our societal illness to a degree from which we may never recover.

To think about how much America has changed in just two years, try imagining how any of the almost daily revelations of dishonor within the Trump administration would have been viewed and discussed by the media and the public under any prior administration.

Imagine if President Obama had questioned the heroism of his 2008 presidential opponent, John McCain, because he had been captured when his plane was shot down over North Vietnam and then went on to spend day after day bad-mouthing him even after his death.

Imagine if George W. Bush had refused to divest himself from businesses he owned and then brazenly directed millions of dollars

in government revenues towards those businesses.

Imagine if President Reagan had ignored the pleadings of his own White House legal counsel and national security officials to approve top secret security clearances for his adult children, who remained connected to their own outside businesses.

Imagine if Jimmy Carter had lied or misled an average of 11 times a day, which is the current running total for President Trump according to the *Washington Post*.

The American constitution has so few real checks on the president's personal and business behavior because our founding fathers simply could not imagine that a president would do any of these things, much less all of these things. They lived in an era when honor still mattered.

I certainly recognize that presidents have lied to us at times in the past. But I also know that presidents have suffered in the public's estimation as a result. When President Clinton's lie about his affair with

Monica Lewinsky was exposed, he acknowledged his shame publicly and apologized to the country in what had to have been the most painful moment of his life. When the White House tapes exposed Richard Nixon for who he was, he had to resign in disgrace.

Trump would have dismissed it all as "fake news," and moved on to the next lie or distraction without skipping a beat. After all, you can't shame the shameless.

If you don't think the world has changed in the past two years, try to imagine Republicans in Congress today telling Trump it was time to go, as GOP leaders did with Nixon back in 1974. And Nixon looks like a Boy Scout by comparison.

Trump's former top campaign officials, his former personal lawyer, and his first national security advisor are all headed for jail for various forms of dishonesty. Half his original cabinet has left under clouds of scandal. Yet none of that matters to his supporters, who seem

blind to the consequences to the nation's soul. While the pending incarceration of all of these individuals is a hopeful sign that all is not lost, does anyone really believe that most of them won't be pardoned before Trump's term is up? Particularly the ones, like Paul Manafort, who continued to lie for the president?

We have a man who views the world like a Mafia don (he calls cooperating witnesses "rats," after all) and the voters gave him absolute power to pardon his henchmen. What a country!

I've never been a Republican, but I certainly remember when things like honor and integrity were seen as values for many within the GOP. It was a party that once claimed to stand for personal responsibility, service to country, and family values. How quaint that all seems in the age of Trump. Today the party is led by a preening, self-absorbed, makeup-wearing man-child who inherited his fortune, faked bone spurs to avoid Vietnam, and

whose notion of family values is probably best expressed in "grab-'em by the ..."

And, if you believe the polls, forty-some percent of the country, and virtually every Republican, says: "Who cares?"

Forget the slippery moral slope. As a nation, we've fallen from the cliff and we'll be facing the consequences of life in a post-moral, post-decency society for generations to come.

Once we allow the guardrails that have kept society more or less on the straight and narrow to be so thoroughly stripped away, the disincentives to any and all forms of dishonesty or dishonor virtually vanish. We humans are quick learners, so it won't take long for such a message to work its dark magic on society, from Washington to every corner of America.

When we say that it's fine for the leader of the country to lie multiple times a day, to bully the less powerful, to dishonor the dead, to pal around with criminals, white suprema-

cists, and dictators, and to pay hush money to porn stars, we can no longer claim any kind of moral high ground. We can no longer pretend that morality or decency or honor has a place in American society. When we don't speak out in opposition to the debasement that President Trump's actions represent to this country and its sense of identity, we dishonor ourselves. When an entire political party is willing to prostrate itself before such a man, it has lost any claim to legitimacy it might have once had.

I know these are strong words, and I don't write them casually. Yet I can truly say that after more than two years of Donald Trump as president, I and many others are sickened by the dishonor that we are all witnessing every single day in the Trump White House.

Who, if not us, is going to stand up for the America we once knew?

POLYMET...Continued from page 3

start-up funding, although it appears likely that the global commodities brokerage Glencore Xstrata will play a major role, assuming the project proceeds. PolyMet currently owes \$243 million in secured convertible and

non-convertible debt to Glencore. That debt was due for repayment as of March 31, but PolyMet announced March 21 that Glencore had agreed to extend the maturity date on those debts to June 30, 2019, to give the company

an opportunity to raise the funds for repayment.

In connection with the extension agreement, the company has also agreed to issue additional purchase warrants to Glencore and to make certain amendments to the existing

exchange warrants held by Glencore, subject to applicable stock exchange approval.

"While our immediate goal is to address the Glencore debt, we are proud to be the first mining company to be fully per-

mitted to responsibly build and operate a copper-nickel-precious metals mine within the world-class Duluth Complex," said Jon Cherry, president and CEO of PolyMet. "Our employees, shareholders, Iron Rangers, labor

and business partners all share in this historic achievement. They have steadfastly believed in, worked tirelessly toward, and provided unwavering support for this project for so long."

PARK BILL...Continued from page 3

replace steel beams with the third phase replacing concrete beams below the seventeenth level as well. It could take two winters to complete the work, said Essig.

The work is important not only to the park, but to the region, Essig said.

"It's a major part of Minnesota history," he said. "It was the first mine in Minnesota."

More than 35,000 people use the mine shafts to access the mine tour more than 2,300 feet below the surface each year.

Nearly all of the equipment used to operate the shafts has been in place and operating since 1924, and Essig said the only failures of the equipment have come from trying to add modern electronics to the mix.

ATV campground

Plans to add a campground to allow ATV users access to regional trails were included in the original master plan for Lake Vermilion State Park when it was created by legislation. Now those plans may come to fruition.

The plan would not allow ATVs to be used in the park since the vehicles are banned within

state park boundaries in Minnesota.

Essig said, however, DNR Parks and Trails staff have contemplated whether camping spaces at state parks could be used by those wanting to recreate outside of the boundaries of the properties.

While selection for the site hasn't occurred, Essig said it would most likely be located on the portion

of the park that extends south of Hwy. 169 and near where the southern park boundary comes close to existing and proposed motorized trails.

With an increase in park visitorship, Essig said placing the camping area on the outskirts of the park makes sense.

He added that officials from the park and the state are hoping to meet with

ATV trail enthusiasts to better develop plans for the campsites.

No timeline for the completion of the campground has been set, but funding would need to be used by the end of 2021 under the pending legislation.

The bill that would grant funding to the projects is currently in a legislative committee.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



Learning all about Lady Liberty

First-graders were studying the Statue of Liberty as part of a lesson about American landmarks. Pictured (clockwise from top left) Macy, Deniko, Lanara, and Nolan concentrating on doing their best job coloring, cutting, and glueing.

photos by J. Summit



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Free smoke detectors for Vermilion Lake Township residents

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Vermilion Lake Fire Department has smoke detectors that department members will install in township residents' homes or cabins, free of charge. If interested, please call Sarah Schmidt at 218-750-2524 or Jake Schmidt at 218-750-1024 to set up an appointment.

All township residents are reminded to check their smoke detectors on a regular basis, and replace batteries as needed!

Equal pay day event on April 2

ELY- April 2 is Equal Pay Day. AAUW and Rotary are hosting Unhappy Hour at Northern Grounds from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2. Northern Grounds is discounting selected beverages 21.5 percent, which just happens to be the pay gap on the Iron Range. The 89 Ely businesses which have affirmed their support of equal pay will be acknowledged. Plus, come and find out the latest information on the Equal Rights Amendment. Everyone is welcome.

St. James Lenten Schedule

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

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

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.

Passing the Family Cabin on to the Next Generation class set for April 24

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

free class will be held on Wednesday, April 24 in the Tower-Soudan Elementary School library at 4 p.m. You must pre-register so we can plan accordingly for class space and materials. Please call or text Leone Graf to pre-register at 218-343-3744. If no answer, please leave a message, with how to spell your name, the class you are interested in, and the date of the class.

Scholarships available from Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners

REGIONAL- Each year Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners (VHHP) gives out two high school scholarships and one college scholarship each in the amount of \$1,000. Applicants must be pursuing a career in a medical field such as nursing, physician assistant, dental, or EMT. High school students from the Cook, Nett Lake, Orr, Tower, and Soudan school attendance areas may apply. Any student with an address that falls in one of the listed areas qualifies. Any previous scholarship recipients now in college are encouraged to apply for the college scholarship as well as any other college student who lives in the same attendance areas.

Applications are due to VHHP postmarked by

Monday, April 15. Applications can be obtained from the North Woods High School counselor's office, by contacting program director Becca Bundy at 218-780-5423, or by emailing vhhpdirector@gmail.com.

High school and college recipients will be notified by mail in May. The college scholarship is mailed to recipients in mid-June and high school recipients will receive their scholarship after successfully completing one semester of college and mailing a transcript to VHHP.

Defensive driving four-hour classes set for April 1, May 1, June 13

SOUDAN- The Defensive Driving 4-Hour Refresher will be held on Monday, April 1, Wednesday, May 1, or Thursday, June 13 at the Soudan Fire Hall from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The four-hour refresher course is offered for drivers 55 years of age and older who have previously completed an eight-hour beginner's course and who need to re-certify to continue receiving a discount on their car insurance. Dana Waldron is the instructor for the class offered under AARP. Class fee is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Payment is payable to the instructor on the

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

Estate planning classes set for April 10 and May 22

TOWER- Local attorney, Kelly Klun, from the Klun Law Office will lead you through key factors to drafting and personalizing wills and trusts, preparing probate documents, creating documents for long term health care, drafting durable power of attorney, and preparing health care directives. Classes will be held on Wednesday, April 10 and May 22 in the Tower-Soudan Elementary School library at 4 p.m. You must pre-register so we can plan accordingly for class space and materials. Please text or call Leone Graf to pre-register at 218-343-3744. If no answer, please leave a message, with how to spell your name, the class you are interested in, and its date.

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SPRING FEVER



Wendy Jordan’s Kindergarten class got in a springtime mood doing watercolor resist paintings of kites during class last Monday. And apparently this seasoned photographer was not quick enough to make sure that all these wonderful faces were showing along with the very colorful artwork. photo by J. Summit

TOWER CITY COUNCIL

Tower City Council updates

TOWER- The Tower City Council met for a three-hour long meeting on Monday. There are separate stories in this week’s paper with updates on the harbor project developer’s agreement, the clerk’s union grievance against the council, the investigation into the allegations of unauthorized access to the mayor’s email account, and the mayor’s response to allegations presented by a council member. But there were also many more counts of regular business on the meeting’s agenda.

In other business, the Tower Council:

- Heard from a Tower resident who asked that the city change the ordinance to allow a few chickens to be kept in city limits. She said the city could decide to not allow roosters or guinea hens, which can be noisy. She also asked that the city move the 30 mph speed limit sign farther east, so that cars are slowed down before they hit the edge of town. “People don’t slow down until they are right at that intersection,” she said.
- Heard a request from Dave Rose to have the city council get help from St. Louis County to review their planning and zoning policy for approving conditional use permits. He detailed the work he had done on planning for a RV park on his property, and said each time he completed the list given to him, additional items were added. “They keep moving the goal-

- posts,” he said.
- The RV park proposal has been controversial with neighbors, and one of them, Joan Broten, said Rose had not assembled all the information that had been requested.
- Linda Keith, who is the city’s planning and zoning director, said they had been following the city ordinance, and started to list items which Rose still had not completed.
- The council agreed to have Councilor Steve Abrahamson and Keith meet with staff from St. Louis County Planning to review the city’s procedures.
- Heard a complaint from Jeff Hill about recent unsafe ice buildup on a corner of North Third Street. The council asked to have the maintenance department look into why it was happening.
- Will have Mayor Orlyn Kringstad, Councilor Rachel Beldo, and Fire/Ambulance Chief Steve Altenburg meet with city of Virginia officials, and fire/ambulance officials, to learn about plans in place to develop a regional fire/ambulance district.
- “There is going to be more and more cooperation between the Range cities,” Kringstad said. “We should be privy to that information.”
- Heard a second request from resident Mary Shedd that the council have a policy on the city’s videotaping of meetings.
- Heard from resident Steve

- Wilson, who was upset that incompetence and dishonesty were becoming hallmarks of Tower’s government. “If we don’t turn this around, Tower will be known as the banana republic of Minnesota.”
- Heard a request from resident Richard Hanson that members of the city council, along with the public, become involved in the effort to bring broadband internet service to the area. A meeting was set for March 27 to discuss the initiative.
- Heard a request from a resident on Mill Point to have a yellow skid loader moved off the roadside. The loader belongs to an individual who happened to be at the meeting, and agreed to move it farther off the road. The item is for sale. The resident also asked if the city had ever considered having a stoplight or four-way stop installed on Main Street. Councilor Steve Abrahamson told him that MnDOT, which controls Highway 169 which is also Tower’s Main Street, would not allow it.
- Heard from resident Joan Broten who spoke in favor of having a RV park developed on the Ross property, near the mouth of the East Two River and Pike Bay.
- Will hold the council’s next meeting on Monday, April 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center to accomodate the increasing audience size at the meetings.

Week of April 1

AEOA Senior Dining Menu

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

Reservations are appreciated the day before, or morning of, but walk-ins are always welcome. Take-outs are available. Seniors age 60 and older who have registered for the program and their partners qualify for special pricing of \$4 per meal, but all ages are welcome at the regular rate of \$5.75. There are no income guidelines.

Meals are served from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. on days when the charter school is open. Call the school at 218-753-1246 ext. 1003 for reservations, or call AEOA at 1-800-662-5711 ext. 7323 for the one-time registration process.

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

Week of April 1

Monday- Chicken Al Fredo, Bread Stick

Tuesday- Chicken Sandwich, Vegetable

Wednesday- Italian Meatball Sub Sandwich

Thursday- Hot Pork Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy

Friday- Hamburger Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Dinner Roll.

Monday

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

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

Tuesday

Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is April 16.

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.

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the **TIMBERJAY**

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Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, April 17; May 8, 28; June 19

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

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

Transfer station

Soudan Canister

<i>Expanded hours year-round</i>	
Monday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wed.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For info: 1-800-450-9278

Hwy. 77 Canister

<i>Winter hours now in effect</i>	
Thursday	12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

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

TOWER BINGO
Monday, April 1

TOWER- Senior Bingo will be held in Tower on Monday, April 1 at the Tower Civic Center from 11:45 a.m. – 3 p.m. There is a \$10 charge for the bingo party, which includes lunch. All ages are welcome to attend this community event. Lunch is served starting at 11:45 a.m., and bingo begins at 12:45 p.m. Senior Bingo is organized by the Friends of the Vermilion Country Charter School. In case of inclement weather school closure in Tower, bingo will be cancelled. Questions, call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950.

Upcoming dates for 2019:

- Monday, May 6
- Monday, June 3

Libraries

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

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
AA - 7 p.m. Mondays,
First Lutheran Church,
915 E. Camp St., Ely
WOMEN'S AA - Noon
Mondays, St. Anthony
Church basement, Ely
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m.
Tuesdays, Woodland
Presbyterian Church.
AL-ANON - Sundays
8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's
Catholic Church in Ely.
For persons who encoun-
ter alcoholism in a
relative or friend.
BABBITT AL-ANON
- Thursdays, 7 p.m. at
Woodland Presbyterian
Church.
CO-DEPENDENTS'
12-step support group,
noon Fridays, St.
Anthony's Catholic
Church, Ely.
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Tuesday Group

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

April 2 - Heather
Allison and Kathleen
Murphy- ERA MN

April 9 - Paya de
Marcken - Conserving
Biodiversity in the
Chaos of the Congo

April 16 - Martin
Kubik - Update on the
PowWow Trail

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 infor-
mation, call 218-365-
5678, or visit their
website, www.elycom-
munityhealth.org.

Play Smear at Senior Center

ELY - Smear tour-
naments 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



assured now of spring
cheerful voices grace the town
lightness of being

WINDOW INTO YESTERDAY

More with Norman Rockwell

by DAVID KESS

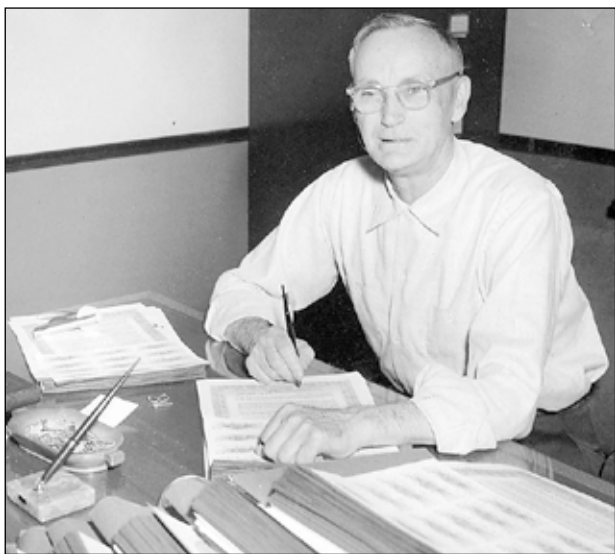
Ely-Winton Historical Society

The appeal of Norman
Rockwell's calendar pic-
tures probably comes from
the ordinary people in them
we can identify with. To
be sure Norman Rockwell
did use many background
scenes typical to New
England but his subjects do
remind us of local people.

Our previous display
featured Ely people— ones
that mirrored those in the
Norman Rockwell calen-
dars in the background.
Ely's senior citizen cheer-
leader Betty Kunstel iden-
tified all the young ladies
in the cheerleading photo
which was a help for us.

This display brought
a number of interesting
comments from the readers
of the article in the local
papers. So with a ready
supply of more Norman
Rockwell calendars,
another round of pictures
seemed appropriate.

This time look for an
EHS baseball team with
coaches George Marsnik
and Matty Stukel. Another
is of Don Miller with the
Ely Junior College band.
It is hard to identify band
members as there are more
“backs” than “fronts”
in the picture! Grandma
Tabacci was a familiar
figure in the 1920's. Look
for her and her dog at the
post office on Chapman
Street. Paula Frey and
Paul Novak were students



Art Knutson, above, a long-time city clerk for Ely, was known as “Mr. Ely.” Len Klun, right, son of swimming coach, Leonard Klun, was an accomplished trumpet player.

photos courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society



Brownell were our his-
torical society before we
actually had a formal one.

Back to Norman
Rockwell—in 1977
President Gerald Ford said
this about him: “Artist,
illustrator, and author,
Norman Rockwell has por-
trayed the American scene
with freshness and clarity.
Insight, optimism, and
good humor are the hall-
marks of his artistic style.
His vivid and affectionate
portraits of our country
have become a beloved
part of the American
tradition.” You might say
in Ely as well as in many
other places.

This exhibit can be
seen in the Fine Arts Lobby
of VCC for the months of
March and April. The pre-
vious one has been moved
to the Ely Public Library
for two months. Should
you be able to identify
faces in any of the photos,
please contact the Ely-
Winton Historical Society
Office at 218-365-3928.

EQUAL RIGHTS

‘Unhappy Hour’ marked in Ely
April 2 is pay equity day for women

ELY - Individuals across
the country will join together on
Tuesday, April 2, to mark Equal
Pay Day. According to Bureau of
Labor statistics, it takes until that
April date for women to earn a salary
comparable to their male counter-
parts' previous year's salary.

The day will be marked in Ely
with an “Unhappy Hour” from 4:30
- 6:30 p.m. at Northern Grounds.
The event, which is open to the
public, is sponsored by the Ely
branch of American Association
of University Women and the Ely
Rotary Club in cooperation with
Northern Grounds.

Caroline Owens, AAUW public
policy chair, said, “It's an opportu-
nity for community members to talk
about the issues surrounding equal
pay. At this year's event,” said
Owens, “we have much to celebrate.
For the previous two years of this
event, MN Congressional District
has ranked dead last in the state in
pay equity. But with the most recent
statistics, the district has risen from
8th to 5th. We are also celebrating
the 87 local businesses who have
joined in support of equal pay for
their employees by signing an Equal
Pay Affirmation.”

Representatives from ERA MN

will also be present at the event
to talk about state efforts to add
an ERA amendment to the state
constitution. The amendment has
passed the house, and is waiting to
be taken up in senate committee
before the floor vote. Following an
affirmative vote in the state senate,
the amendment will be placed as a
resolution on the 2020 ballot so that
citizens can make the final decision
on whether to add the amendment to
the state constitution. Individuals
who attend will have the opportu-
nity to sign postcards and petitions
urging support of the amendment.

Individuals who attend
Unhappy Hour will receive a
21.5 percent discount on a selected
menu. That discount reflects the
difference in equal pay for equal
work between men and women
on the Iron Range. Cookies will
be provided. Information will be
available for both employees and
employers, including definitions of
equal pay, information on current
law, and actions and protections
for employees who do not receive
comparable pay for the work they
do.

Owens said, “There are pay dif-
ferences because of the type of jobs
women have traditionally chosen

and because women often take time
off from work for child-rearing.
Those differences do not, however,
account for the disparity in pay
when you compare the pay differ-
ential between men and women
in substantially the same job with
substantially the same education
and experience.” She said it is those
differences the event will focus on
as a way to promote equal pay for
equal work.

The Equal Pay Act was signed
into law by John F. Kennedy on
June 10, 1963. The law mandates
that men and women receive equal
pay for “substantially equal” work
at the same establishment. A year
later, Congress passed the Civil
Rights Act of 1964 that added
protections against discrimination
based on an individual's national
origin, religion, race or sex.

Owens said, “The issue isn't
so much that laws mandating pay
equity don't exist, but that the
mechanisms for monitoring and
enforcement are not in place.”
Additionally, she said, education
on pay equity issues will help
both employers and employees in
ensuring adherence to pay equity
for all.

News in Brief

Ely Women Who Care aid
Community Health Center

ELY - In one hour last Sunday
the 100+ Women Who Care organi-
zation raised thousands of dollars for
the Ely Community Health Center,
the selected charity for this spring's
event.

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.

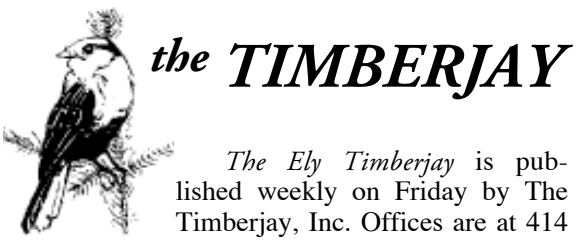
To date the group has donated
over \$30,000 to local charities. At
their last event, in October 2018,
100+ Ely women joined together and
voted to contribute more than \$7,800
to Northern Lights Clubhouse, one
of Ely's many non-profits serving
the Ely community.

An awards ceremony will be
scheduled to present the funds to
the Ely Community Health Clinic.

In the meantime, donations
can be made directly to the Ely
Community Health Center and
mailed to 100+ Ely Women Who
Care, PO Box 216, Ely, MN 55731.

For more information, go to
100ElyWomenWhoCare.org.

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NORTHERN LAKES ARTS ASSOCIATION



NLAA presents 'Cabaret'

ELY - The Ely Community Spring Musical, presented by the Northern Lakes Arts Association, is the 1966 stage version of "Cabaret."

The production, with collaboration from Vermilion Community College, opened this week and features shows in the Vermilion College Fine Arts Theater.

Cabaret runs Friday and Saturday, March 29-30 at 7 p.m., a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. on March 31, continuing on Tuesday, April 2, and Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 4-6 at 7 p.m.

Advance tickets are available at BrownPaperTickets.com (credit cards) and Kess Gallery (cash/check) or at the door. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for NLAA members and \$8 for students.

"The story focuses on the nightlife at the seedy Kit Kat Klub, and revolves around American writer Cliff Bradshaw (Todd Crego) and his relationship with

English cabaret performer Sally Bowles (Nicole Sophia)," Artistic Director Sara Skelton said. A subplot involves the doomed romance between German boarding house owner Frau Schneider (Maria Pascke) and her suitor Herr Schultz (Zeke Smith), a Jewish fruit vendor.

Overseeing the action is the Master of Ceremonies (Tom Bennet) at the Kit Kat Klub. "Although much different from the movie, the 1966 musical version does contain some adult themes and parental guidance is suggested," Skelton said.

An array of college students and community members fill out the cast as Kit Kat Klub dancers, waiters, patrons and various Berliners from many walks of life.

For more information, please check the Northern Lakes Arts Association website at northern-lakesarts.org.



The Ely Spring Musical, "Cabaret," presented by the Northern Lakes Arts Association, runs through April 6 at the Vermilion Community College Fine Arts Theater. photos by K. Vandervort

OUR COMMUNITY

Ely gymnastics duo brings home medals

Ely gymnasts Avary Brandau and Sovia Meyer, both both nine years old, competed last weekend with the Northern Twisters Gymnastics, of Virginia, in the Minnesota State Gymnastics meet at the Xcel Gold level.

Both girls scored well enough to qualify for the

multi-state regional competition next month. Avary medaled in vault (tied for 7th), uneven bars (tied for 9th), and floor exercise (tied for 10th). Sovia medaled in the all-around (6th place), beam (tied for 2nd), floor exercise (tied for 4th), and vault (tied for 10th).



News in In Brief

Ely PEO meets Thursday

ELY - PEO Chapter FD will be meeting on Thursday, April 4, at 1 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, E. Conan Street. Visitors from other PEO Chapters are welcome. If anyone has any questions, please call Kathy Champa, 365-5920.

Have coffee with a cop

ELY - Join members of the Ely Police Department at the Front Porch Coffee and Tea Co. on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. for Coffee with a Cop.

The program was started as a community-police initiative to build relationships between law enforcement and the community they serve. "This event will provide a way to meet a police officer from the Ely Police Department in an informal and relaxed setting," said Chief John Lahtonen.

Feel free to stop by, grab a cup of coffee and have a chat with the police officer, who will have discussion topics on hand for those who just want to listen.

Yesterday's news, this week

from the archives of

THE ELY MINER

Courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society

March, 28, 1919

Officers elected

At a meeting of the directors of the Community Center held Tuesday evening, a constitution was adopted.

The name of the organization shall be the Ely Community Service Center. The object of the organization shall be to promote the moral and social welfare of the community.

The officers shall be a president, secretary, and treasurer chosen from the board of directors and elected by ballot by the directors, and such an election to take place at the first regular meeting after the annual organization of the City Council. Such officers shall also constitute the executive committee.

The treasurer shall be required to furnish a surety bond in the amount designated by the board of directors. The premium for said bond shall be paid for out of the funds of the organization.

The first set of officers elected shall hold office until their successors have been elected and qualified.

The regular meetings of this organization shall be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Community Center building at 8 p.m. Special meetings may be called by the president or by any three of the board of directors, due notice of which shall be given to all members. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

This constitution may be amended at any time by a two-thirds vote of the board of directors, notice of such amendment to be presented in writing at a regular meeting and action taken upon the same at a subsequent meeting.

The officers elected are as follows: president, Geo. T. Ayres; secretary, Mrs. W.D. Gallagher; treasurer, H.E. White.

Save daylight

The nation will turn forward its clocks an hour on March 30 because daylight saving law is not affected by the coming of peace.

While passed as a measure to conserve fuel, the daylight saving law is on the statute books to stay as a permanent national policy unless Congress repeals it.

The general impression in Washington is that the people are pretty well satisfied with the daylight law.

2019 STATE BOYS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT WELCOME HOME



A homecoming celebration was held for the North Woods Grizzlies on Monday night after the team returned from the 2019 State Boys Basketball Tournament in Minneapolis. The team went to the championship game for the third year in a row, taking second place after being defeated by Henning High School. Despite the loss, the team was in high spirits. Above: Seniors Blake Scofield, Dylan Chiabotti, Cade Goggleye, Ian Sherman, Chase Kleppe, Tanner Barto, and Parker Jones. Not pictured: Kent Villebrun Below: Players sign shirts for fans. photos by C. Stone

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 we 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 612-325-0258.

Register through nw-famn.org@gmail.com or by calling Alberta Whit-enack 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.

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.

Red Hats' event, March 31

TOWER- On Sunday, 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. 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.

Virgie Hegg invites scholarship applicants

REGIONAL - Each year VHHP gives out two high school scholarships and one college scholarship each in the amount of \$1,000. Applicants must be pursuing a career in the medical field such as nursing, physician assistant, dental, EMT etc. High school students from the Cook,

Nett Lake, Orr, Tower and Soudan school attendance area may apply. If you live in one of these attendance areas, you don't have to be going to that school, just have an address that falls in one of the listed areas. Any previous scholarship recipients now in college are encouraged to apply for the college scholarship as well as any other college student, who lives in the same attendance areas.

Applications are due to VHHP postmarked by April 15. Applications

can be obtained from the North Woods High School counselor's office or by contacting program director Becca Bundy at 218-780-5423 or vhhpdirector@gmail.com.

High school and college recipients will be notified by mail in May. The college scholarship is mailed to the recipient in mid June and high school recipients will receive their scholarship after successfully completing one semester of college and mailing a transcript to VHHP.

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

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Holy Cross Catholic Church
ANNUAL LENTEN FISH FRY

Friday, April 5 • 5-7 PM
Orr American Legion



Dinner includes:
All-you-can-eat cod loins, potatoes, salads, rolls, dessert, beverages.

Adults \$12
Children (10 and under) \$5
All proceeds go to our general fund/youth fund to support various projects.

Please bring an item for the Food Shelf.

NEWS FROM THE LAKE

The Crane Lake News by the Singing Teapot Dames



April 1 is rapidly approaching which means that lots of pranks and practical jokes are being hatched in the heads of the more devious among us. Have you ever wondered where this tradition came from? It would seem to be a fairly recent event, but actually April Fools' Day has been around for a while. Although April Fools' Day, also called All Fools' Day, has been celebrated for several centuries by different cultures, its exact origins remain a mystery. Some historians speculate that

April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1, continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 and became the butt of jokes and hoaxes. These pranks included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as "poisson d'avril" (April fish), said to symbolize a young, easily-caught fish and a gullible person.

Historians have also linked April Fools' Day to festivals such as Hilaria, which was celebrated in ancient Rome at the end of March and involved people dressing up in disguises.

There's also speculation that April Fools' Day was tied to the vernal equinox, or first day of spring in the North-

ern Hemisphere, when Mother Nature fooled people with changing, unpredictable weather.

In modern times, people have gone to great lengths to create elaborate April Fools' Day hoaxes. Newspapers, radio and TV stations and websites have participated in the April 1 tradition of reporting outrageous fictional claims that have fooled their audiences. One news station "reported" that the spaghetti crop that year was going to be exceptional, and they even showed pictures of farmers "harvesting" spaghetti noodles from the trees. Another trick was a fast food chain that advertised the left handed burger—and was embarrassed by the number of patrons that tried to order it!

April Fools' Day is observed throughout the Western world. Practices include sending someone on a "fool's errand," looking for things

that don't exist; playing pranks; and trying to get people to believe ridiculous things.

However you choose to celebrate this special day, the Dames hope you have great fun with it. After all, the best thing about April Fools' Day is that it is only one month until May Day—which means fishing season opens again and all the promises of summer and great times are not far behind.

No April Fool here—wishes for comfort and peace to all our neighbors and friends who are experiencing health issues or needing emotional support at this time.

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

Until next week, the Teapot Dames are singing off!

GRIZZLY UPDATE

Meet Mrs. Jill Stark

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

Today we interview our school's counselor, Mrs. Jill Stark, a helping hand for so many of our kids, who guides them academically towards their future goals and emotionally to help manage their lives.

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

Mrs. S: I am from Lakeland, just south of Biwabik. I went to Mesabi East High School (Go Giants!). I received my A.A. from Mesabi, my B.A. in Sociology and my Master's in Counseling from UWS.

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

Mrs. S: Yes, Mr. Legueri was my high school English teacher. Mr. Klabachek, my chemistry teacher, and Mr. Johnson, my Physics teacher, were also influences.

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

Mrs. S: They all had a passion for their subject area, and really knew how to build connections with us as students.



JOHN VUKMANICH

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

Mrs. S: Actually, I am the school counselor.

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

Mrs. S: I chose counseling because I knew I wanted to work with students, but didn't want to actually be a teacher. For my sociology degree, I had to do some internships, and did them at youth facilities. That is where I decided I wanted to work with kids.

Mr. V: What are your hobbies?

Mrs. S: Spending time with family, snowboarding, hiking, and taking my kids to all their activities. I enjoy spending time with my family at the hunting



JILL STARK

shack, and my husband is an avid outdoorsman, so we spend a lot of time outside.

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

Mrs. S: I feel like we're a family and we really do work together. I know everyone says that, but it's true. I also like really knowing almost all of my students.

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

Mrs. S: I am always looking at how to better manage my time. There are so many things to fit in, and even when I schedule my day, things come up that take precedence. I also want to make sure that I am giving kids the tools they need to plan for their fu-

tures.

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

Mrs. S: I love the seasons.

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

Mrs. S: Do everything that you can to learn the skills to manage your emotions and stress, because it is a part of life you will have to face.

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

Mrs. S: "In a world where you can be anything, be kind."

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

Mrs. S: I hope they remember that I truly cared about what they were going through and that I was there to listen.

Thank you to Mrs. Stark for always being there to help our students in tough times, to listen to their side, and to help them be successful in life after high school. You wear many hats at North Woods, and you are appreciated!

Go Grizzlies!

**Your Principal,
John Vukmanich**

Briefly

Mail-A-Book services available

REGIONAL- The Mail-A-Book service from the Arrowhead Library System (ALS) loans paperback books and other items via the U.S. Mail, free of charge. This tax-supported service delivers library items directly to your mailbox, including the cost of postage. They arrive in a canvas bag with a return label and prepaid return postage.

Who is eligible for this service? Rural residents and people who live in a city without a public library. Paper catalogs listing more than 1,000 items are sent out twice a year to more than 2,250 households. If you are interested in cooking, audio books on CD, DVDs, inspirational books, or children's items, they also have catalogs listing the titles available from Mail-A-Book. Do you have a favorite author?

Mail-A-Book can provide you with a list of available titles by that author. Also, Mail-A-Book items are listed in the regional online catalog via the Internet at www.alslib.info/online_catalog/.

Items can be ordered by postcard, e-mail, phone, or a form on the ALS website at www.alslib.info/services/mail-a-book and mail book@alslib.info, or 218-741-3840.

Find Mail-A-Book on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo.

If you need "large print" reading materials, the Arrowhead Library System has a collection of large print books.

Mail-A-Book staff are always happy to respond to your questions.

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 noon

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

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

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



the TIMBERJAY

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TOWER

Mayor responds to allegations presented by Councilor Fitton

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER- Mayor Orlyn Kringstad attempted to lay to rest a number of allegations and innuendo brought forward by council member Kevin Fitton last month.

Fitton, in February, had accused Kringstad of “having an agenda” when he ran for mayor, raised concerns about a possible conflict of interest with the harbor project, and suggested the new mayor was creating a hostile work environment at city hall by seeking to investigate apparent falsification of city records by the city clerk-treasurer. Fitton also cited a complaint he had received from Ambulance Director Steve Altenburg, who claims that Kringstad called him “sexist” sometime before taking office.

On Monday, Kringstad had his say, and read a letter aloud to the council addressing each of Fitton’s issues in turn.

Kringstad recalled how he first realized back in November that a copy of the city’s roster of commission and committee terms, provided to him by Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith, was inconsistent with city minutes from previous reorganizations. “I did extensive research, becoming increasingly concerned by what appeared to be discrepancies of the assigned positions, and potential falsification of an

Explains he acted on the advice of the city attorney in presenting information

official city document,” wrote Kringstad. He said he was not fully aware of protocol in contacting the city attorney, since he was not yet sworn into office, so he contacted an independent attorney for advice.

The attorney advised Kringstad to request the committee roster again once he was sworn in and then contact the city attorney if the same falsifications appeared on the official version that the clerk-treasurer provided to the full council. When that version included the same alterations, Kringstad said he contacted the city attorney to find out how to proceed. “To avoid complicity, if in fact the altering of official city documents was occurring, it was my responsibility to bring this to the attention of the entire city council,” Kringstad stated. He said he then contacted the city attorney to determine how to proceed under the law.

“The outcome and results from his advice were the research packet that I provided to each of the council members, [the clerk-treasurer, her union representative and city attorney] at the January 28 Council meeting,” said Kringstad.

Kringstad also addressed concerns raised by Fitton that he had shared information from

a closed session of the council with the *Timberjay*, a claim that both Kringstad and this newspaper have denied. Kringstad said he had informed the council in closed session in January that his research packet came from public city records, news media reports, and communications with affected individuals. He noted that one of the local newspapers [apparently referring to the *Timberjay*], was already investigating the issue of falsification of records well prior to any closed session on the matter.

Kringstad said he would provide testimony from other witnesses, who could attest that the city clerk-treasurer had disclosed information from the closed session to members of the general public. In addition, the clerk-treasurer’s union representative had revealed at a February council meeting that Kringstad had brought up allegations of records falsification during the closed session. In addition, on Monday, Fitton himself revealed that the council was seeking to hire an investigator to look into allegations against the clerk-treasurer, which was information that had previously been limited to closed session.

On Altenburg’s claim, Kringstad denied calling him “sexist,” and asked that the

person who made the original allegation come forward with the actual wording. He said he recalls discussing the need for zero tolerance towards gender or racial bias in city employment and indicated he has heard complaints about Altenburg but said those complaints were made in confidence and could only be brought forward by the individuals involved.

On the subject of conflict of interest, Kringstad said he had completely divested himself from his interest in Tower Harbor Shores, which is the company behind the town home development at the harbor. “Your perception of conflict of interest is over-reaching and incorrect,” said Kringstad, addressing Fitton.

But Fitton did not appear satisfied by the explanation and he and Kringstad engaged in several minutes of back and forth argument, with Fitton pointing out that Kringstad did not win a majority in the most recent mayor’s race, which he suggested means he’s not the only one with questions. “What is going to please you for proof that I am not benefitting?” Kringstad asked.

Fitton repeated his request for an investigator to examine the situation to see whether Kringstad had adequately divest-

ed himself.

That’s when Councilor Rachel Beldo spoke up. “I’ve lived in Tower for less than a year and I take this as a big responsibility and compliment that I’m sitting in this chair,” she said, adding that some of the councilors appear to be basing their actions on a number of assumptions. “A lot of concerns brought up here, many could have been resolved by a conversation,” she said. “That’s why I’ve reached out to the League [of Minnesota Cities] to have a representative come work with us. It’s a free service.”

Beldo urged the council to actually sit down and engage in “open and honest” conversation about their concerns in hopes of heading off the kind of division the city has been experiencing. “None of us are professionally-trained politicians. I want to get help on bettering ourselves as a council.”

Beldo’s statement drew loud applause from a council chamber packed to overflowing with city residents.

Beldo said she would like to let the current issues settle out and then set up a session with the League’s Pam Whitlock for later in the spring.

Tower Council expresses concerns with grievance process

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The handling of Linda Keith’s union grievance by the city of Tower’s grievance committee came under review and considerable criticism at the city council meeting here on Monday.

The grievance committee had met previously on March 14, upholding Keith’s grievance on a 2-1 vote, but decided to wait to get advice of legal counsel before finalizing a remedy. Instead, grievance committee members Steve Altenburg and Brooke Anderson, met on Friday, March 22, and drafted a remedy on their own, which they then sent to the union without consulting the third member of the grievance committee, Steve Abrahamson, the city council, or an attorney.

The remedy outlines the steps the city council must take in response to the grievance, and the language adopted by Altenburg and Anderson largely mirrored the request by the union. As written, the grievance remedy would require the city to halt any further investigation or review of Keith’s job performance and prohibit Mayor Orlyn Kringstad from participating in any way in any future human resource matters involving Keith.

Both Kringstad, who was targeted in the grievance complaint, and

Abrahamson questioned the process involved.

“I was not informed of the meeting,” Kringstad noted. “I would like to have known about it.”

Kringstad also questioned Altenburg’s seat on the committee, since he is also a city department head. He noted the council is still working on filling some committee assignments, so this is something the council may review in the future.

During public input, resident Mary Shedd questioned the appropriateness of Altenburg serving on the grievance committee under the circumstances. “There is no scenario for a person with an open grievance against the mayor to sit in judgment,” she said, referencing Altenburg’s complaint against Kringstad.

Kringstad said that city attorney Andy Peterson said any remedy needs to be first sent to the city council, before being sent. “This needs to be tabled,” Kringstad said, noting that the city attorney was on vacation this week and was not available to advise the council.

Abrahamson also expressed concerns about the process. He said he had not received notice of the committee meeting, which apparently had been sent to his city of Tower email address, which he had stopped using due to concerns about security.

“I do have a serious

problem with this whole thing,” Abrahamson said. “When we left the last meeting, we were going to have the city attorney there to answer questions.”

Keith noted that Peterson had declined to be involved.

But Abrahamson noted that the committee had talked about getting an outside attorney in that case.

“I feel this is very tainted,” he said.

When the mayor asked grievance committee chair Altenburg to read the letter he drafted with Anderson, Altenburg asked the council to table to issue.

“The union reps said he wasn’t sure if the remedy had to be made public,” Altenburg said.

The remedy was developed during a grievance committee meeting, which was open to the public.

Kringstad reiterated his conversation with the city attorney, who said the remedy first needed to be approved by the city council.

“Their contract doesn’t say that,” Altenburg responded.

Keith agreed with Altenburg’s assessment, saying she was not sure that was correct.

A motion to take no action on the remedy for the grievance was passed on a 3-0 vote, with Fitton abstaining. Councilor Brooke Anderson was absent from Monday’s meeting.

If a grievance remedy is not agreed on, or is not accepted by both parties, the issue then moves to a mediation process.

The council gave an

initial review to a general grievance policy submitted by Altenburg, who said it was based on information he had found on the internet.

The council tabled the policy, subject to getting more information from the League of Minnesota Cities, and finding some policies from other cities to review.

The council also tabled a public input policy that had been presented by Keith.

“I want this to be easy,” said councilor Rachel Beldo. “This might be a little restrictive.” The policy as proposed by Keith would have required anyone wishing to give public input to fill out a full-page form in advance. The council does already have a time limit of three minutes on public input.

City financials

A request from Kringstad to have monthly financial reports given to the council members was not met with enthusiasm by the clerk-treasurer. “I’ve never led a board meeting without having a financial report to let the board members know how we are doing. We need a picture of where we are each month, revenues, expenses, cash flow,” he said. Kringstad noted he was looking for something one or two pages, with a simple format, along with fund balances and a budget forecast for the upcoming 12 months.

“We don’t even have some of that data,” said Keith, who said some cities have a finance committee to help streamline the meetings.



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CITY OF TOWER

Council extends harbor agreement’s April 1 deadline

City plat still not approved; developers ask for six-month extension

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The developers of the planned town home project at the city of Tower’s harbor have six more months to make a commitment to move forward with the project.

The Tower City Council, on Monday, extended the April 1 deadline for Tower Harbor Shores (THS) to commit to building the first of the three planned town home units, after the city failed to provide a completed plat for the project ahead of the deadline. The project development agreement between the city and the developers required the developers to sign a sufficient number of purchase contracts with prospective buyers to move forward with the first of the town home units by April 1. But the developers have noted for more than a year that they can’t legally sign purchase agreements until the city has delivered a final plat.

Project developer Jeremy Schoenfelder, who was on speakerphone during this portion of the meeting, noted the plat was

supposed to be completed last November when the developers agreed to the terms of the new agreement.

“We’ve been stuck in a holding pattern,” he said.

Jason Chopp, an engineer with SEH, explained the plat had been submitted to St. Louis County several weeks ago, but there were three issues still outstanding. Two of these issues, Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith told the council, should be resolved in the next two weeks. But Chopp said the third, an issue regarding a snowmobile trail easement with the DNR, is unresolved.

“We submitted easement issue documents to the DNR back in November,” Chopp said. “They haven’t made any progress. They want their specific language, but we haven’t received it yet.”

Keith stated that the lack of a finalized plat wouldn’t preclude the development group from working on their own Common Interest Community, or CIC,

overlay. Schoenfelder said those documents are nearly complete, but still require final language in the plat to insert into their overlay.

Mayor Orlyn Kringstad, who divested himself from his ownership stake in THS once elected last November, asked what type of extension the developers were requesting.

Schoenfelder said it was difficult to know, since there was no way to know when the plat would be approved, but he suggested a six-month extension of the initial April 1 deadline, with all the other connected deadlines in the development agreement being extended for the same period.

Councilor Steve Abrahamson said he would talk to the DNR to see why there was a delay with the snowmobile easement approval.

The council voted to approve a six-month delay.

A little later in the meeting, Fitton asked the clerk if the

mayor had voted on the issue of approving the delay, and Keith confirmed that he had, prompting Fitton to again allude to a conflict of interest.

Kringstad responded that he has nothing to financially gain from the project, which is the normal criteria for establishing a conflict of interest. “My wife and I have completely divested ourselves from Tower Harbor Shores,” Kringstad said.

Former council member Joan Broten, sitting in the audience, spoke up on the issue. “The citizens of Tower voted for you as our mayor. They knew you had involvement with Tower Harbor Shores. That was a given. I don’t even know why that is coming into play, except for somebody trying to sabotage everything.”

Fitton said this was a reason he wanted the city to hire an independent investigator to look into the issue. Fitton commented that the example right here, “voting for something that you had an obvious attachment to.”

Kringstad reiterated that he had no financial benefit from the project but emphasized that the project is important to the city itself. He noted the millions of dollars invested over the past 15 years.

“You better believe that THS is important to this mayor and to this town,” he said.

Kringstad added that he feels the council needs to get behind the project and make sure it happens.

Fitton responded that the previous council had wanted to get the project done with and move on, placing blame on the developers for taking a year and a half to sign the development agreement.

But, in fact, on Nov. 26, 2018, some prior council members had attempted to nix the project and had planned to issue a new request for proposals for harbor development, rather than signing a new agreement with Tower Harbor Shores.

TOWER...Continued from page 1

own email from various locations, he was able to determine that at least one other IP address had accessed and downloaded his email — the IP address serving Tower City Hall.

“One must know the account password to be able to log in and download email,” Kringstad said, noting that he and Tower City Clerk-Treasurer Linda Keith are the only ones he knows for sure have his password. He added: “I am simply explaining the information, not making any accusations.”

Yet the implications of his comments were unmistakable, and throughout his presentation, Keith remained silent, keeping her head down, while appearing to make occasional notes on an agenda.

Kringstad laid it out clearly: “Someone with knowledge of my password has used the network at city hall to access my email. More than 50 emails were retrieved during this period,” he said, noting that the access logs he obtained ran from mid-February to March 13. He noted that the last time his email was improperly accessed was on the evening of March 11, right after the city council meeting when Kringstad first announced the email intrusions. “After the last council meeting was adjourned, the break-ins have ceased to happen,” said Kringstad.

Kringstad noted that he had never used the Internet system at city hall prior to last week, when he accessed the system to confirm the IP address matched the one indicating intrusions to his email account.

It’s not clear how many people might have been involved in the email break-ins, but Kringstad said some of his emails were accessed and downloaded from at least one other IP address, and possibly a third one, in the Tower-Soudan area. That means more than one person could be implicated in the scheme.

Confirming the identity of those addresses, however, would likely require access to the perpetrator’s email account, which might necessitate a subpoena.

That’s why Kringstad said it was time to hand the matter off to law enforcement.

“I can’t carry this any further at this point,” he said.

Kringstad said he had contacted city attorney Andy Peterson to determine next steps, and said it was Peterson’s advice to forward the matter to the county attorney. He said county attorney Mark Rubin had asked him to spread the word that anyone who accessed his email should not attempt to remove his email data from their computer,

since taking such steps could now be considered obstruction of justice.

Kringstad said he is willing to make all the results of his own investigation available to anyone requesting it. That includes screen recordings, download logs, and a listing of IP addresses involved.

Other issues under investigation

Meanwhile, the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office is also investigating a criminal complaint filed last month over the falsification of city records, particularly the terms of individuals serving on city commissions and committees.

Those terms are maintained on an official roster under the control of the city clerk-treasurer. The alterations of terms, as previously reported in the *Timberjay*, appear to have included nearly a dozen individuals on at least three committees, including the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Gunderson Trust Board, and the Tower Economic Development Authority.

Falsification of official city records could run afoul of criminal statutes, particularly Minn. Stat. 609.43, Subd. 4, which makes it a gross misdemeanor for a public official to knowingly produce an official document having knowledge that it is false

in any material way.

The alteration of Marshall Helmberger’s term on TEDA, however, is the primary subject of the criminal investigation. In that case, it appears the city clerk-treasurer altered Helmberger’s term on TEDA to make it possible for former Mayor Josh Carlson to remove Helmberger without due process required by law for members of economic development authorities. Under state law, members of an EDA cannot be removed without legitimate cause, which is limited to neglect of duty or malfeasance.

In the case of Helmberger, Carlson and the city council voted to remove him in apparent retaliation for news reporting and editorials in the *Timberjay* that angered city officials.

City records confirm that, in 2017, the city council had appointed Helmberger to a three-year term expiring at the end of 2019. But Helmberger’s term was later switched to one year in order to make it appear that his term had simply expired, making it possible to remove him without required due

process.

The criminal complaint on the matter, filed by Helmberger in early February, cites violations of Minn. Stat. 609.43, Subds. 2, 3 and 4, as well as a possible violation of Minn. Stat. 609.175, Subd. 2, which relates to criminal conspiracy.

Under the law, any coordination between individuals in the furtherance of a separate violation of the criminal code constitutes conspiracy. If city officials coordinated their actions in order to remove Helmberger from TEDA, it could constitute a second criminal act in addition to the falsification of records.

City investigation likely

The city council is also weighing its own investigation into the actions of the city clerk-treasurer.


That revelation, which had been considered private data before Monday’s meeting, came from council member Kevin Fitton, who blurted it out during a discussion of his own request for an investigator to look into Kringstad’s actions (see separate story). “Right

now, the city is looking for investigators to investigate the claims against the clerk-treasurer,” he said.

Councilor Rachel Beldo, apparently realizing the sensitivity of Fitton’s comment, immediately steered the conversation away from the subject, but the comment was the first confirmation that the council has discussed hiring an investigator during a series of closed sessions that the council has held in recent weeks.

The revelation is significant because it could prohibit the city council from holding any more closed sessions over the clerk’s performance issues. If what Fitton said is true, the council has almost certainly gone beyond preliminary consideration of performance or allegations.

According to the Minn. Stat. 13D.05, Subd. 2 (b), requires that once a council determines that some form of discipline “may” be warranted, which the decision to hire an investigator would strongly suggest, further meetings related to those charges or allegations, held after that conclusion is reached, “must be open.”



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CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Tower man sentenced in child porn case

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — District Court Judge Gary Pagliaccetti has sentenced a Tower man in connection with a felony conviction reached earlier this year for possession of child pornography.

Joshua Stewart Diaz, age 27, pled guilty in a Virginia courtroom on

Jan. 23. On March 4, Pagliaccetti sentenced Diaz to 15 months in the St. Cloud state adult correctional facility, although he stayed that sentence for two years in favor of supervised release.

According to the criminal complaint filed with the court by the St. Louis County Attorney's Office, officials with the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

identified Diaz, who lives at 103 Cedar St., Apt. A106, through an investigation of child pornography downloads. BCA officials executed a search warrant on June 2, 2017 at Diaz's residence at which time they confiscated a home computer. Later examination of the device uncovered images and videos that were linked to child victims through the

use of a national database of missing and exploited children.

Images included very young children between the ages of five and eight, according to the criminal complaint.

The sentencing of Diaz comes in the wake of a separate Dec. 18, 2017 conviction for non-consensual 5th degree criminal sexual contact. As

part of a plea, authorities dismissed a more serious charge of 2nd degree criminal sexual contact with a child under the age of 13 stemming from an incident involving a local child. Diaz was arrested in March 2017 in the incident and served three days in the St. Louis County Jail before being released on \$20,000 bond. Diaz was later sentenced to one year

in the St. Louis County Jail, although that sentence was also stayed for three years should he not re-offend.

Diaz's offenses require registration as a predatory sex offender and that he undergo sex offender treatment as part of his supervised release.

OUTDOORS

Piragis makes list of 'essential outdoor stores' in Minnesota

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — Piragis Northwoods Company has been recognized as one of the top outdoor equipment stores in the state, according to the website www.stepoutside.org.

Just in time for the start of the camping season, the organization released a list of seven "essential outdoor stores" in Minnesota and the Piragis store was rated second, right behind REI.

"Piragis is a premier outfitter for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness," according to the website. "In addition



Piragis Northwoods Co., of Ely was recently ranked among the top outdoor stores in the state. photo by D. Stone

to permits, canoe rentals, and a ton of good advice, they also have a retail operation that sells new and used gear from respected outdoor brands like Nemo Equipment,

Sea to Summit, and Sierra Designs. If you don't want to drive to Ely to grab your gear, you can order online from their Boundary Waters catalog."

Tim Stouffer, mar-

keting manager at Piragis Northwoods, said the staff welcomed the nomination and the honor of making the list. "We found out about this ranking on social media, like everyone else," he said. "As far as I can tell, it was an independent ranking. We sure gained a lot of attention, and that's good thing for us and all of Ely."

He said the Ely retail store and outfitting operation remains the biggest portion of the 40-year-old business. "We have a great reputation as a must-stop for our summer visitors," he added, "and our online presence, started

in 1997, has really taken off. We send out as many as 585,000 catalogs every year, and ship orders for clothing and other outdoor-related supplies around the world."

Piragis employs about 20 people year-round, while their staff jumps to about 50 in the summer months. "Ely residents and businesses do a tremendous job of treating people with respect, and care that folks go home from vacation wishing they could be part of our community," he said. "We take the time to listen and do customer service one-on-one."

He added that the Piragis bookstore is "like a store within a store" on the upper level of the business. "Many people, visitors and residents alike, comment to us that it is a nice hidden gem in Ely to have that service here."

With recent reports of retail store closings in Ely, Stouffer relished the positive ranking for Ely. "It feels good to have some good news," he said. "It puts our store and our town back in people's minds in a positive way and reminds them that we all do things a little bit differently up here at the end of the road."

COUNTY SCHOOLS

School board meets four-legged addition to Babbitt Police Department

by MARCUS WHITE
Cook/Orr Editor

BABBITT - The St.

Louis County School Board met the newest addition to the Babbitt Police Department at their

meeting here on Tuesday night. The board visited Northeast Range for their March business meeting.

Tac, short for Taconite, is a two-year old puppy aiding in educational programs as well as drug sweeps at Northeast Range since joining the force last year.

Police Chief Chad Loewen said Tac began training last year and has already been making stops at the school to the enjoyment of the students who get to see the furry officer

in the hallways.

In addition to meeting Tac, the school board also watched a presentation from the Northeast Range robotics team who showed a video and talked briefly about the rigors of their short six-week season.

In other business, the school board:

► Approved contracts for the South Ridge expansion project in the amount

of \$3,023,289.

► Heard a report from Northeast Range Principal Kelly Engman on the school's rollout of the district's multi-tiered support system.

► Went into a closed session to discuss negotiation strategies for upcoming teachers' union negotiations.

ELY...Continued from page 1

tendent.

Board member Heidi Mann asked for background information on the school's administrative configuration and expenditures.

"When the position opened, after some discussion, for a school our size, we felt that three full-time administrators was rather steep for a district with 550-600 students," said Board Chair Ray Marsnik.

He distributed a comparison of northern Minnesota school district administrative costs for 2014 and 2017 as prepared by the Minnesota Department of Education. Of the 14 school districts compared, ISD 696 is at the top of each list.

The most recent data from MDE indicates the following administrative cost percentages for area schools from 2018: Mt.

Iron/Buhl, 15.44 percent; Chisholm, 12.5 percent; Ely, 11.82 percent; St. Louis County, 9.92 percent; Mesabi East, 9.82 percent; Nashwauk-Keewatin, 9.45 percent; and Cook County, 9.10 percent.

Marsnik said he preferred to compare Ely with Cook County, Mt. Iron/Buhl and Nashwauk-Keewatin school districts. Cook County shares a superintendent with Lake Superior School District.

Cook County has a K-12 principal and K-12 assistant principal that

also serves as the activities/athletics director. Mt. Iron/Buhl shares a superintendent with St. Louis County School District (ISD 2142), and employs a K-12 principal and a K-12 dean of students. Nashwauk-Keewatin shares a superintendent with Deer River School District.

Many school districts in northern Minnesota have gone the shared-superintendent route to reduce administrative costs. ISD 696 has never had the opportunity to share a top administrator, and it appears there are no nearby districts available to strike a deal.

Mesabi East School District has a full-time superintendent, along with a K-6 principal and 7-12 principal. Abrahamson and Marsnik said they have both considered that school district as a potential superintendent-sharing partner. Abrahamson said he posed that question to the Mesabi East School District several months ago. "I just re-asked the question and their response was, 'not now,'" he said. "They didn't say not ever, just not now. Their current superintendent is probably within about two years of retirement."

He recommended that if the board was happy with the current administrative configuration, they should advertise for the position as soon as possi-

ble and see what kind of response they get. He said he is willing to stay with the district past his June 30 contract expiration until a new leader is in place.

"I'm afraid if we don't do things quickly here, we may be on the outside looking in," Marsnik said.

"I have no reason to believe that the current configuration isn't working," said board member Tom Omerza. "We're not burning the candle at both ends. Is there another Kevin out there to get the job done?"

Board member Rochelle Sjoberg also voiced her approval of the current configuration. "For us, being on a smaller scale, have the administrative team function in the way they do. I appreciate the two principals and the entire staff. It takes a team for this to run. This could not be a .6 (superintendent's position) without our admin team."

Board members eventually agreed to stay with the current configuration of a part-time administrator and two full-time principals. In the special meeting following the study session, board members agreed to advertise for the position with an application deadline of April 15. They will review the anticipated applicants at a study session on Tuesday, April 16.

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Morgan McClelland, left, builds a culvert model, and Anna Dunn, right, builds a hovercraft during the STEM workshop last Saturday at Vermillion Community College. The Science, Technology, Engineering, Math event is hosted annually by the Ely branch of the American Association of University Women. photos by K. Vandervort



STEM...Continued from page 1

terparts.

Sixth-grader Anna Dunn was taking advantage of the chance. She built a hovercraft with construction paper, pipe cleaners, paper cups and other materials and tested her design in a vertical wind tunnel. "This is a fun way to learn and experiment," she said.

Three subjects were covered this year by area educators and professionals:

► "Tantalizing Test Tube Teasers: An Exploration in Chemistry," with Sherry Abts, Instructor from Laurentian Environmental Center.

► "Wind Tunnels and Hovercrafts," with Bobbi Zenner, Instructor from Laurentian Environmental Center.

► "Culvert Conundrum," with Becca Reiss, Community Conservationist from North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District.

The workshop



Ely-area STEM students work on a hovercraft experiment at VCC last Saturday.

ended with a presentation by Julie Lucas, Environmental Manager from Hibbing Taconite,

on the benefits of a STEM career.

"We're so pleased that we had so many girls

participate this year," said Ely AAUW STEM Workshop coordinator Jeanne Tomlinson. "STEM is such an important part of our education today, and we are able to provide a full day for the girls with fun and learning at the same time."

STEM education in the United States is increasing in popularity. More schools are implementing STEM learning into their curriculum and making it an integral part

of what they teach.

Advocates argue that STEM education fosters ingenuity and creativity, builds resilience and problem-solving skills in students, and encourages experimentation and teamwork.

In STEM education, students are taught skills that they can use in the real world, which motivates students to learn, as they know that the skills they acquire can be utilized immediately

or as they enter the workforce. STEM learning also teaches kids about the power of technology and innovation. So, when students encounter new technologies, they will be prepared to embrace them, instead of being hesitant or fearful. This will give them the upper hand in the global landscape, as the world is becoming increasingly tech-centered.

GRANTS...Continued from page 1

Charitable Trust, said the initiative represents the organization's latest multi-site initiative to improve the quality of healthcare available to rural residents in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and Wyoming.

"Our goal has always been to improve access to exceptional medical treatment for those who live in rural America," Panzire said. "To that end, rural hospitals need to remain viable and have the latest equipment to ensure their patients can

receive essential, quality healthcare services locally. This initiative is just one of many that strives to improve healthcare outcomes throughout the Upper Midwest."

Panzire said critical access hospitals in the seven-state region are hampered by outdated equipment. Over the last four years, the Helmsley Charitable Trust's Rural Healthcare Program has awarded more than \$30

million in grants to 82 hospitals in the Upper Midwest to purchase state-of-the-art computer tomography (CT) scanners.

"Technology has advanced so much, even over the last decade," said Panzire. "These grants, allowing for the purchase of advanced x-ray devices, will provide incredible benefits for medical workers and their patients for the foreseeable future."

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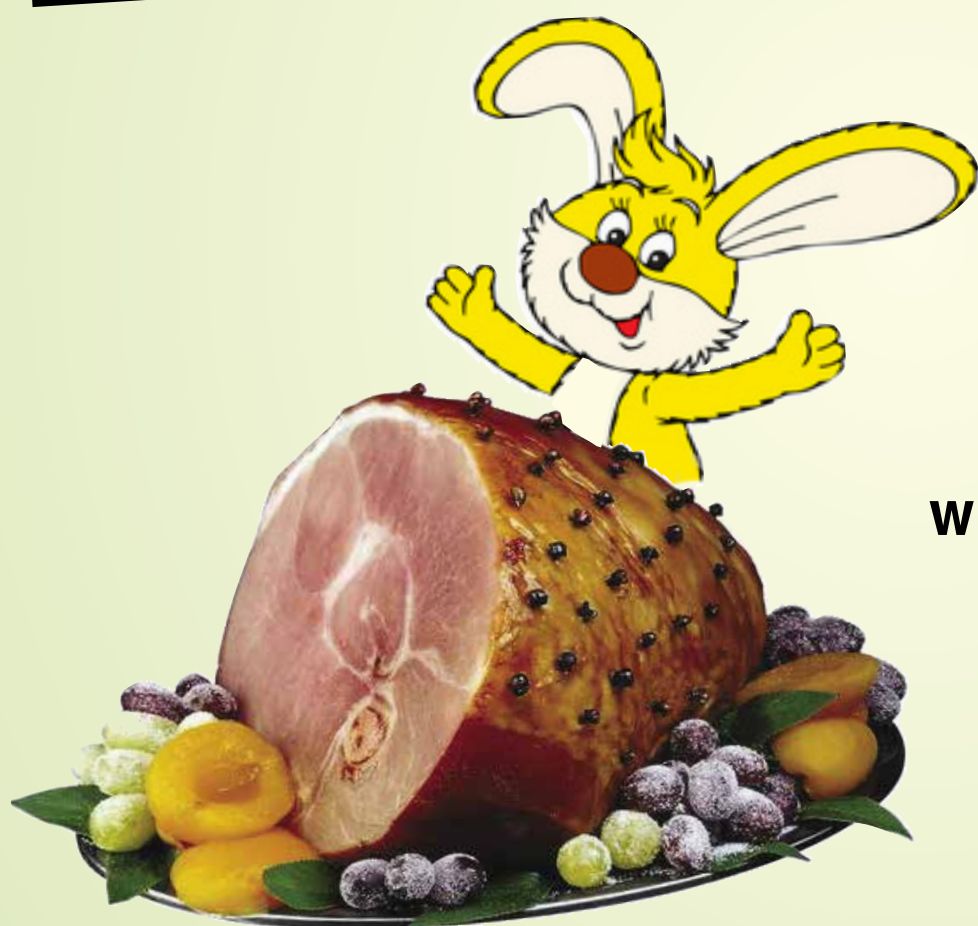
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BOYS BASKETBALL

Hornets outlast Grizzlies

North Woods 3-peats in Class A tourney

by MARCUS WHITE
Cook-Orr Editor

MINNEAPOLIS - The North Woods Grizzlies went to Minneapolis hoping their third trip to the boys basketball state tournament would yield a title. But the surprise team of the tournament, fourth-seeded Henning, had other ideas as they dominated North Woods in their Class A state title bout, 67-42. For the Grizzlies, it was the third straight year they made it to the state championship only to come away with second place.

"It wasn't the way we wanted it to end, but we are glad we got to go down for the past three years," senior guard Chase Kleppe said. "It's been bittersweet. We've been so close yet so far each time."

From the start the Hornets outpaced the Grizzlies in both speed and shooting.

"Henning's speed created matchup issues for us," said Head Coach Will Kleppe. "We were turning the ball over more than we usually do. That's a credit to their defense. And they were good shooters."

Junior forward Trevor Morrison led the team in scoring with 11 points and 13 rebounds, notching his third straight double-double of the tournament. Chase Kleppe added 10 of his own with six more rebounds. Senior forward Ian Sherman had six points with senior guard Cade Goggleye adding another five.

The shot heard around the court

The Grizzlies' road to the title tilt nearly hit a detour in their semi-final round contest, when second-seeded Ada-Borup took the lead in the final two minutes after trailing the Grizzlies most of the game. But with just three seconds on the clock, and down by one, the Grizzlies in-bounded to Cade Goggleye who connected on a seemingly impossible three-point shot at the buzzer to send North Woods fans to their feet and the Grizzlies onto the finals with a 57-55 victory.

"You think you've seen it all and then Cade ups it," Coach Kleppe said.

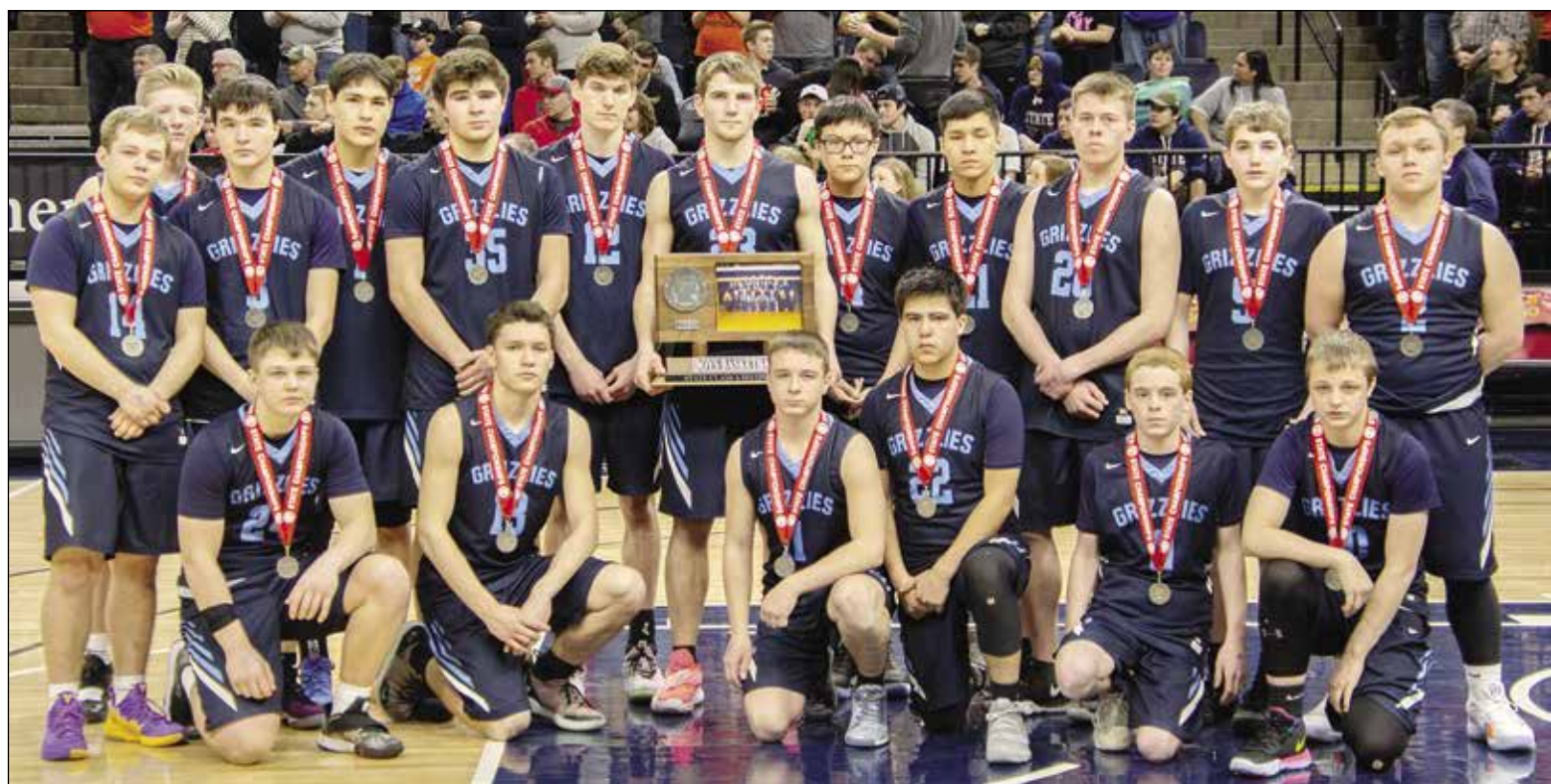
Kleppe said he knew the matchup between North Woods and Ada-Borup was going to be challenging, and that proved true.

"There was no putting them away," he said.

The Grizzlies led through most of the game but lost ground midway through the second half



Clockwise from top left: Trevor Morrison up for the jump shot; The Grizzlies celebrate after Cade Goggleye's game-winning shot against Ada-Borup; Goggleye fighting to keep possession of the ball; T.J. Chiabotti fighting to gain possession of a loose ball; The team poses with their trophy after being awarded medals; Senior girls cheer on the Grizzlies during their matchup with Ada-Borup.
photos by C. Stone



See GRIZZLIES, pg. 2B

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GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

allowing the Cougars to rally and take the lead in the final minutes.

“It felt good putting my team in a good position to win,” Goggleye said. “You can’t really explain the feeling, it’s just crazy.”

Morrison once again led with 20 points and 10 rebounds. Goggleye added 18 points and six assists, while Chase Kleppe tallied nine rebounds.

Quarterfinals

In the opening round last Thursday, the Grizzlies dominated the second half to claim a convincing 56-39 win over Westbrook-Walnut Grove. The Grizzlies started off slowly, giving the Chargers a slim lead in the early going. But the experienced Grizzlies took charge by the midway point, using the press to keep the Chargers off-balance. A second half reset by North Woods put a quick end to the Chargers as the Grizzlies dominated the rest of the way.

“We needed to put more pressure on them,” Coach Kleppe said. “There



The North Woods Grizzlies cheer from the sidelines as they win the semifinal to advance to the championship game for the third time. photo by C. Stone

was a lot more perimeter pressure on the ball in the second half; our guards did a great job.”

Morrison again posted 20 points with 10 rebounds, for a double-double. Freshman guard T.J.

Chiabotti poured in 11 points with five steals and assists. Goggleye added 10 points with seven assists.

Going forward

The Grizzlies are losing star players as

the season comes to a close. The coach and the players agree that recruiting younger players will be a top priority and they hope the team’s three-time championship appearance will aid that cause.

“We put North Woods on the map,” Goggleye said. “No one knew about us until we went down in tenth grade. I feel we gave the younger kids hope.”

There will be growing pains for returning players

as they take on the roles of mentors.

“I am going to have to pick up on the rebounding a lot,” said Morrison, who will return as a senior next season. “You have to help the younger guys out who are going to fill the roles.”

Both Chase Kleppe and Cade Goggleye said they have high hopes for the team to keep building on the momentum.

“I want to see them with a state tournament banner,” Goggleye said.

As the team rebuilds some of the seniors will be moving on to new college careers, such as Kleppe who is returning to the football field next year as part of the St. Scholastica team.

Goggleye is tight-lipped on his future plans. He said he’d have something to say “soon” but wouldn’t elaborate.

For now, the team is relaxing and patting themselves on the back for another successful season.

“It hasn’t quite hit me yet,” Kleppe said. “I think about the memories I’ve had with everyone. It goes by so fast.”

COMMUNITY

First annual veterans resource fair coming to Hibbing next month

HIBBING- Hibbing/Chisholm Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is sponsoring their First Annual Veteran Information and Resource Fair on Wednesday, April 10 from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Hibbing Memorial Building.

Nearly 40 providers of military and veteran resources will be available to answer questions about benefits, and connect veterans, service members and families to needed resources. BTYR-H/C was formed in 2011 through a partnership of Minnesota National Guard and community members from Hibbing and Chisholm to develop

a network of health, faith, business, education, public safety, and local government organizations to support service members, veterans and their families.

The goals of BTYR-H/C are to assist local service members through a successful transition from military to civilian life, bringing them all the way home while building stronger, more compassionate communities. Our First Annual Veterans Information and Resource Fair will do this by bringing a variety of providers together in one location to connect veterans to needed resources.

Over the years, thou-

sands of Minnesotans have served our country in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy. Through their service, these men and women have earned our gratitude and support. That’s why events like this are so important bringing resources and information to our veterans who have made sacrifices on behalf of our country.

While many of the providers are locally based, just as many are coming from the Twin Cities, Duluth, and Camp Ripley to meet one-on-one with veterans who would otherwise need to drive hours or communicate

over-the-phone or by email to resolve issues.

With nearly 40 veteran-related organizations participating, this event will provide free services and referrals in a variety of areas including VA medical enrollment, VA benefits, education, housing, legal, employment, transportation, medical, and mental health. The fair is open to all veterans, National Guard service members and families with proof of veteran/military status. After registering, the following providers will be available, including volunteer tax preparers for those last minute tax filings.

Booths will include:

Veterans Benefits Administration, VA Homeless Programs, Senator Klobuchar’s Office, Social Security Administration, Military One Source, Military Family Assistance Center, MN Dept of Veterans Affairs, MN Dept of Transportation, MN Employment & Econ. Dev., MN DNR, Veteran Service Officers, Duluth Vet Center, MAC-V, NEMN Women Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, Recover Health, Humana, CapTel, MN Disability Law Center, Lutheran Social Services,

Red Cross, Salvation Army, AEOA, Itasca Community College, Mesabi Range College, Hibbing Community College, United for Veterans, Habitat for Humanity, Veterans Community Thrift Store, H&R Block, VFW/Legion/DAV Auxiliaries, Operation 23 to 0, and MN Brain Injury Alliance.

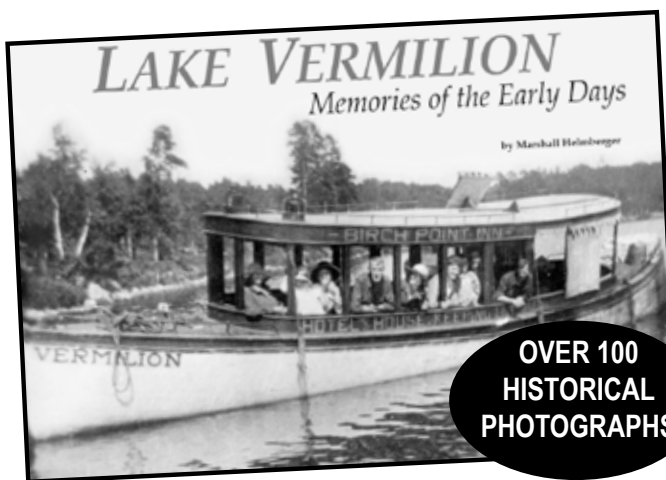
For more information about the First Annual Veteran Information and Resource Fair at the Hibbing Memorial Building Arena on Wednesday, April 10, call 218-969-7137, email magnussonc@yahoo.com, or visit the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/btyr.Hibbing.Chisholm.



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QPR- Suicide prevention class in Virginia, April 2

VIRGINIA- Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) is a free, one-hour presentation sponsored by NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) that covers the three steps anyone can learn to help prevent suicide - Question, Persuade, and Refer. Just like CPR, QPR is an emergency response to someone in crisis and can save lives. QPR is the most widely-taught gatekeeper training program in the United States, and more than one million adults have been trained in classroom settings in more than 48 states. A QPR class will be offered on Tuesday, April 2 from 5 - 6 p.m., at the Roosevelt Elementary Resource Center, 411 S 5th Ave. in Virginia. Enter the school through Door 2. For more information, or to make the required registration, contact NAMI at 651-645-2948 or see “classes” at namimn.org.

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Vermilion Dream Quilters will meet Thursday, April 11 in Tower

TOWER- Vermilion Dream Quilters will meet Thursday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Martin’s Catholic Church Social Hall in Tower.

The program for April is Share Advice Day. Bring your in-need-of-repair or problem project to get suggestions for help, or prepare a “don’t do this” tip and example to help prevent problems for others. Nancy A. will present Brown Bag Challenge 2. Please bring your projects for Show and Tell; we all love to see what you are doing, especially your projects from our April retreat.

April hostesses are Joyce Swanson, Dede Yapel, Nancy Lindbeck, and Corrine Hill.

The Vermilion Dream Quilters is a guild with members from throughout the Iron Range and Arrowhead Region and is open to anyone interested in quilting and creative sewing. Members encourage and instruct each other and share tips. Guests and visitors are welcome. For more information, please contact Corrine Hill in Tower at 218-753-4600.

Sons of Norway to meet April 4

VIRGINIA- Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge 40 will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 4 in the Virginia City Hall Club Room. We plan to trim stamps for Tubfrim prior to our meeting so come a bit early. Our program will be Show and Tell and we encourage those attending to bring something from their heritage to share with the group. Serving committee is Ann Terhark and Sharon Crep. Anyone interested in Norwegian culture and heritage is invited to attend.

Free business development and marketing classes offered in Ely

ELY- The Ely Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the city of Ely is pleased to announce a new business development series. Cecilia Quattromani, of CQ Squared Consulting, will offer two Human Resource development sessions: Employee Engagement, and Recruiting and Onboarding Strategies. Jane Pederson, from Glensheen Mansion in Duluth, who specializes in social media, will have sessions Tweet, Post, Gram, and Engaging Your Audience with Instagram. Molly Solberg, from MAS Marketing, will present three sessions on marketing tools and strategies: Your Website – Everything You Need to Know About Your #1 Sales Tool; Creating Killer Social Media Content, Planning and Scheduling; and How to Market Your Local Business, Mobile Marketing, and Future Trends.

Each session is offered free of charge through a generous grant from the Blandin Foundation. The Grand Ely Lodge is the host site for each development session. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and sessions begin at 9 a.m. Each session will be 2-1/2 to 3 hours in length and includes a soup and sandwich lunch. Advanced registration is required and seating is limited to 25 participants.

Development session schedule: Tweet, Post, Gram (April 8), Employee Engagement (April 15), How to Market Your Local Business, Mobile Marketing, and Future Trends (April 23), How to Create Killer Social Media Content (April 30), and Engaging Your Audience with Instagram (May 10).

Each business attending one or more seminars will be entered into a drawing for one of three one-on-one consultations with Molly Solberg. Limit one consultation per business.

Registration is available by contacting the Chamber at 218-365-6123 or director@ely.org.

COMMUNITY SURVEY Residents asked to give feedback to St. Louis County

REGIONAL- St. Louis County’s residential survey is now available online for anyone wanting to give feedback or input to the county about issues ranging from quality of life to the services provided by the county. The survey can be accessed at bit.ly/stlouissurvey.

Earlier this year, the National Research Center, working on behalf of St. Louis County and four other counties, mailed surveys to 2,100 randomly-selected residences county-wide. Those survey results are being tabulated now and are considered statistically valid.



Responses to this online survey will not be factored into the official results, but will be reviewed and carefully considered. Anyone wishing to complete the survey should do so by April 10.

“When the survey was originally announced, we received inquiries from a number of people who weren’t among the randomly-selected pool, but still wanted to participate,” said Dana Kazel, St. Louis County communications manager. “We’re always interested to hear from the

public, so this is a great opportunity to expand what we gain from the survey.”

Results from the mail-in survey will be shared by early summer and are taken into consideration by staff and commissioners as they prioritize projects and programs, and work on the 2020 budget and long-range plans.

St. Louis County partnered with Dakota, Olmsted, Scott, and Washington counties to produce the survey. The county has conducted similar surveys four other times, most recently in 2016.

Ruby’s Pantry receives donation from Waschke Family GM

INTERNATIONAL FALLS- Ruby’s Pantry is pleased to accept a \$325 donation from Waschke Family GM Center in International Falls.

The local car dealer contributes to the community monthly, according to Beth Gable, Office Manager. “We prefer to keep the money local,” said Gable. “We like to focus on organizations who assist children and those who work to alleviate food insecurity.”

The community giving program was started last fall by General Manager Scott Eckman and is based on monthly sales figures. “The more we sell, the more we can help the community,” said Eckman.

Ruby’s Pantry is a monthly food distribution program that helps keep consumable food out of landfills. For a \$20 cash donation, guests receive two baskets of food that can include meat, vegetables, bread, paper products and more. See www.rubyspantry.org for more information about the program.



Scott Eckman and Beth Gable present Ward Merrill with a donation to Ruby’s Pantry food distribution program.

Mesabi Range receives grant to expand education for early childhood educators

VIRGINIA - The Mesabi Range College Early Childhood program was recently awarded a grant for \$42,392 from the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) to address the need to provide innovative solutions to grow educators in our most rural and remote areas by providing opportunities for high school students to

experience a pragmatic view and explore various careers in education while earning college credit. Students will be well informed and thus will be equipped to make better decisions when selecting their career paths. Students with a passion for working with young children will be able to earn the Child Development Associate (CDA) TM– which is a

nationally recognized credential. Students will enter the workforce sooner, addressing the need for more qualified Early Childhood staff and providers. Additional funds from the IRRRB will allow Mesabi Range to also provide CDA Training for area child care providers.

Lake Country Power Cook area member meeting rescheduled to April 2

COOK- Lake Country Power has rescheduled the Feb. 7 District 1 member meeting in Cook to Tuesday, April 2. The original meeting was postponed because of the winter storm warning. The rescheduled meeting will be held at the Doug

Johnson Recreation Center in Cook beginning with dinner at 5 p.m., followed by staff updates from Lake Country Power and time for member questions.

Co-op members are asked to RSVP if they plan to attend by

calling Angie Hanttula at 218-322-4521 or 1-800-421-9959, extension 4521. Members may also RSVP by email to ahanttula@lcp.coop.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Geraldine M. Hanks

Geraldine Marie Hanks, 68, of Tower, passed away on Sunday, March 24, 2019, at Essentia Health Virginia Care Center. Visitation will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 28 at the Vermilion Wellness Center. Services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 29 at the Nett Lake Government Center with visitation one hour prior. Pastor Kevin Land will officiate. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

Geraldine was born on Sept. 23, 1950, in Cook, to Frank and Evelyn (Porter)

Dupree. She was united in marriage to Eugene “Gene” Hanks on Nov. 17, 1979, in Minneapolis. She enjoyed traveling, gardening, pow wows, music, dancing, and going to the casino. She loved being with her great-grandchildren, having family get-togethers and catching up.

She is survived by her husband, Gene; daughters, Christina (Gary Boshey) and Naomi (David Medicine); son, Alan Sam; sister, Cathy Johnson; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her twin sons; parents; sisters, Vivian Buckanaga and Donna Dupree; and brothers, Alvin, Francis and Terry Dupree.

Jeffrey D. Carlon


Jeffrey D. Carlon, 42, of Tower, died unexpectedly on Sunday, March 24, 2019. Funeral arrangements are pending with Bauman’s Vermilion Funeral Home in Tower.

James L. Suihkonen

James L. Suihkonen, 76, of Embarrass, passed away on Sunday, March 24, 2019, at his home. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 30 at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Babbitt with Pastor Barnes officiating. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. Military rites will be accorded by the Babbitt Color Guard. Spring burial will be in the Embarrass Cemetery. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Survivors include his children, Chad (Della) Suihkonen of Grand Rapids and Janelle (Eric) Wilhelm of Crystal; grandchildren, Tyler and Saraphina Wilhelm and Avery (Kelderman) Jackson; sister, Catherine (Jim) Moore of San Antonio, Texas; half-sister, Irene Ronning of Two Harbors; and several nieces and nephews.

Connect with your Co-op – at the Lake Country Power Annual Meeting




Annual Meeting

April 17 – Lincoln Elementary School Auditorium, Hibbing
1114 East 23rd Street, Hibbing, MN 55746
(Located at the intersection of 11th Avenue and 23rd Street, one block from high school)

Registration: 4:45 p.m.
With dinner (ham & turkey) and entertainment by Due North.

Annual Business Meeting: 6:00 p.m.
Door prizes will be awarded.
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Outdoors

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WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Chronic wasting disease tops concerns at deer meeting

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — Chronic wasting disease was the topic of most concern to about two dozen area residents who turned out for a whitetail deer management discussion at the DNR's area office here on Tuesday.

With the recent discovery of a wild deer with the highly-contagious disease, north

of Brainerd, concerns over CWD have spiked among those who consume venison in northern Minnesota. It's also a concern to DNR wildlife managers, who rely on license sales for much of the revenue that funds their operations. The more widespread problem of CWD in southeastern Minnesota has already led to a 10-15 percent drop in deer permit sales there, according to DNR biologist Jeremy

Masloski. "Hunters just don't want to deal with that can of worms," he said. Tower area wildlife manager Tom Rusch said Wisconsin, where the disease is far more established than in Minnesota, has also seen a decline in license sales.

And the issue was clearly on the minds of the hunters who turned out to air their concerns regarding deer management to wildlife staff in Tower. Hunters were frus-

trated with the DNR's limited legal authority to manage the risks surrounding game farms, deer feeding, and also the sale of deer products, particularly urine-based scents, which several hunters suggested could be another means that the prions that cause CWD could be spread throughout the region.

Rusch acknowledged that

See **DEER...**pg. 5B



DNR Tower Area Wildlife Manager Tom Rusch responded to questions about deer management. M. HelMBERGER



FOREST MANAGEMENT

The "Big Gulp" gets green light

Hi-Lo forest treatment project to impact 17,000 acres along Echo Trail corridor

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — A forest treatment plan that encompasses more than 17,000 acres in and around the Echo Trail north of Ely has gotten the green light from the Superior National Forest supervisor. It's known as the Hi-Lo project and it is certain to have a noticeable impact on a large swath of recreational territory just north of Ely, including much of the north shore of Burntside Lake as well as more than a dozen other lakes to the north and east of Burntside. Those include High, Dry, Low, Bass, Everett, Fenske, Nels, Grassy, Ed Shave, and Big lakes.

In the Record of Decision signed on March 11, forest supervisor Connie Cummins stated that the project is intended to improve wildlife habitat, provide timber resources to industry, enhance recreational opportunities, and reduce fire danger to properties located along the edges of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Of the 17,700 acres scheduled for treatment, a total of 5,575 acres will be subject to various types of commercial timber harvest, ranging from clearcutting to thinning.

The vast majority of the treatment will be completed through prescribed burning, encompassing a total of 11,532 acres.

Kawishiwi District Ranger Gus Smith said while the project has generated some controversy over the four years it's been under development, it's consistent with the Forest Service's ongoing efforts to protect resources in a heavily-used portion of the Superior from the potentially catastrophic effects of a major wildfire.

"That area is probably our most

Above: A Forest Service firefighter ignites a prescribed fire near Ely.

Right: Smoke rises from an escaped prescribed fire in 2016 near the west end of Burntside Lake.

attractive recreational part of the district," he said. "The Bass Lake trails, the North Arm, Burntside Lake in general, is all prime recreational area." And interspersed among the federal lands at issue are numerous cabins and lake homes, as well as resorts and camps, including both Widjiwagan and Camp du Nord operated by the YMCA.

Significant blowdown events, most recently in 2016, which flattened about 66,000 acres of forest within the Kawishiwi District, have built up forest fuels that Forest Service officials fear could spark a devastating fire. And thousands of acres of dead and dying balsam fir and spruce, killed in recent years by spruce budworm, have only added to the fire danger.

Smith, whose professional background is in fire ecology, notes that fire has a useful role to play in forest management as long as it is used frequently enough to limit the buildup of ladder fuels that can quickly convert an otherwise low-intensity underburn into a catastrophic crown fire.

By reducing forest fuels along the perimeter of the Boundary Waters, particularly in areas most likely to be downwind of a fire within the wilderness, Smith said it allows the Forest Service to let fire play more of its natural role within the wilderness boundaries. "The idea was to come up with a strategy that hardens the boundary



and reduces the risk of fire escaping the Boundary Waters," he said.

The Forest Service took initial steps in that direction a few years ago using a combination of mechanical treatment and prescribed fire between the wilderness boundary and the North Arm Road. Smith said he expects that fire crews will be back in that same area, possibly as early as this spring, to continue that work.

Smith acknowledges that the scale of the Hi-Lo project constitutes what he calls "a big gulp," but he said it's a project that will likely take at least five years to complete and will involve plenty of meetings with affected parties and property owners as the work progresses.

Despite the scale of the project, it generated relatively few objections from the public. The environmental group Wilderness Watch did object to a plan to use prescribed fire on 1,341 acres of forest within the BWCAW boundaries. But Smith said it was an effort to balance possible

See **MANAGEMENT...**pg. 5B

Outdoors in brief



Learn the basics of a DIY solar greenhouse

REGIONAL — How would you like grow your own vegetables ten months out of the year, right here in the North Country? It's not a pipe dream. Just ask Marshall HelMBERGER, publisher of the *Timberjay*, who built his own solar greenhouse in 2014. Imagine your planting season starting March 1 and the harvest running from mid-April through Christmas each year...And doing it with minimal supplemental heating, relying almost entirely on the sun and heat storage.

If that sounds intriguing, you can learn much more at a workshop that HelMBERGER will offer at the Natural Harvest Food Co-op in Virginia this coming Thursday, April 4, from 5:30-7 p.m.

HelMBERGER will outline the basic design characteristics of a DIY solar greenhouse. There may still be snow on the ground, but with your own solar greenhouse you could be watching another season's crop growing right now.

Contact Natural Harvest at 741-4663 to register by phone or stop into the store to register in person. The cost is \$13 for co-op members and \$15 for non-members.

Fishing report

Ely fish

Lake trout are still being caught on Burntside Lake, but most are on the small side. Fish from two-to-five pounds seem to be the norm. Active jigging still remains the best option to connect with fish, but a few are also being caught on tip-ups or dead sticks baited with minnows or frozen smelt.

Crappie action is beginning to heat up on area lakes. Birch Lake saw a lot of action over the weekend, and most anglers saw some success there. Live minnows were the bait of choice, but some folks were also connecting using small jigs tipped with wax worms. The ice on most lakes has been around twenty to twenty-two inches, but the accesses are beginning to deteriorate with the warmer temperatures.

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

Outdoors briefly

Be careful on the ice

REGIONAL — Despite cold temperatures much of the past winter, the DNR is warning the public that ice conditions may no longer be safe, even in parts of northern Minnesota.

Bad slush conditions much of the winter may have limited the formation of strong, clear ice. Combined with the recent warmer-than-average temperatures and significant rainfall in mid-March, ice may not be as strong as it often is this time of year.

In addition, many lakes are now free of snowcover, which allows the increasingly-strong daytime sun to further weaken lake ice.

Ice this time of year is dangerously deceptive in its appearance and thickness. Snow ice, which looks milky and has been through the freeze-thaw cycle, is only half as strong as new, clear ice.

“We’ve had reports of anglers falling through ice that was just fine an hour earlier — that’s how fast things can change,” said Lisa Dugan, recreation safety outreach coordinator for the DNR Enforcement Division. “If you choose to venture onto late-season ice, use extreme caution.”

Stay away from channels and areas with a current or runoff, as they tend to be the first spots with open water, Dugan advises. Wear a life jacket or float coat and remember — no fish is worth the risk of losing a life.

There already have been five ice-related fatalities reported during the 2018-2019 ice season, and each year people fall through the ice as winter turns to spring.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday

40 15

Saturday

32 11

Sunday

39 18

Monday

42 26

Tuesday

45 25

Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
03/18	39	2	0.00		03/18	39	-2	0.00		03/18	36	6	0.00		03/18	42	6	0.00		03/18	28	3	0.00	0.6"
03/19	41	22	0.00		03/19	41	19	0.00		03/19	42	22	0.00		03/19	No readings				03/19	No readings			
03/20	45	23	0.00		03/20	45	17	0.00		03/20	45	24	0.00		03/20	at presstime				03/20	at presstime			
03/21	39	29	0.00		03/21	39	25	0.00		03/21	46	23	0.00		03/21					03/21				
03/22	52	28	0.00		03/22	51	25	0.00		03/22	50	28	0.00		03/22					03/22				
03/23	43	18	0.00		03/23	44	17	0.00		03/23	42	20	0.00		03/23					03/23				
03/24	54	18	0.00		03/24	53	15	0.00		03/24	53	27	0.00		03/24					03/24				
Totals			2.44	72.4"	Totals			2.79	59.7"	Totals			2.62	65.6"	Totals			1.52	NA	Totals			2.17	63.4"

MANAGEMENT...Continued from page 4B

harm, noting that the impact to the affected portion of the Boundary Waters could be significantly greater if a severe fire broke out.

The plan’s extensive use of prescribed fire does pose some risks, as the Forest Service demonstrated in 2016 when the planned Foss Lake burn escaped the prescribed perimeter and became a wildfire that burned 1,015 acres near the western tip of Burntside Lake.

In that instance, the wind direction pushed the fire into the Boundary Waters, which spared valuable lakeshore property on Burntside Lake.

While prescribed fire does come with risks, it also has noticeable benefits for wildlife, particularly moose, which are strongly attracted to areas regenerating from recent fire.

Impact to roadless areas

Some also questioned the Hi-Lo project’s plan to use some commercial logging in both the Big Lake and Agassa Lake roadless areas. The plan calls for various types of forest thinning in those areas, which Smith contends should leave a more natural situation when it’s complete. He said the affected roadless areas include large areas of planted pine, much of it in traditional rows. He said the thinning plan is designed to eliminate the “row effect” of typical of plantations and leave a more natural-looking forest instead.

DEER...Continued from page 4B

the DNR has not tested the various deer scents that are sold throughout the state but acknowledged that they could pose a risk.

Rusch said other types of attractants, like mineral blocks, can also be a risk, since deer can spread prions in their saliva. He said that’s one reason he’s stopped using mineral licks where he hunts. “We can take a lot of these steps on our own,” said Rusch, suggesting that solutions aren’t always dependent on new laws or regulations.

The good news is that the one positive test north of Brainerd may be a relatively isolated instance. So far, Rusch said USDA animal control staff have taken about 20 other wild deer in the vicinity, without finding any other positive tests. But he noted that the owner of the game farm suspected in the transmission of CWD to the wild deer has refused to remove his animals and state law does not currently require that he do so. The farm has had several positive CWD tests in recent years.

Several hunters urged more study. Rusch agreed that more research is needed, but noted that wildlife studies are expensive. “Our budget can’t handle this,” he said, noting that the issue takes limited staff time away from other types of management work. He noted that DNR wildlife staff is already stretched thin, with just 2.5 full-time equivalent staff in Tower to cover a 3.1 million-acre work area.

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Friday Night April 12 Kick-Off at Messiah Lutheran Church starting at 6 p.m.

Speaker Mark Shepard will offer a session on "Beginning Restoration Agriculture" and there will be a screening of the documentary short "The Power of Minnesota"

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**CITY OF ELY,
MINNESOTA
WEST CAMP STREET,
PATTISON STREET
EAST IMPROVEMENTS**

**ADVERTISEMENT
FOR BIDS**

Sealed Bids for the construction of the West Camp Street, Pattison Street East Improvements will be received for a single prime contract, by the City of Ely (The Owner), at the office of the City Clerk, until 1:00 p.m. local time on April 25, 2019, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. The Project consists of constructing approximately 1,800 tons bituminous paving, 1,600 feet RCP storm sewer, 4 sanitary manholes, 25 storm manholes and catch basins, 11,000 square feet concrete

walk, 3,400 feet concrete curb and gutter, 985 feet water main and 1,300 feet sanitary sewer. Bids shall be on a unit price basis, with additive alternate bid items as indicated in the Bid Form.

Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office (Office of the Engineer): JPJ Engineering, Inc., P.O. Box 656, 425 Grant Street, Hibbing, MN 55746, Phone: 218- 262-5528, www.jpjeng.com.

Bidding Documents also may be examined at the office of the Owner, the Hibbing Builders Exchange and the Duluth Builders Exchange.

Printed copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained

EMPLOYMENT

**North American Bear Center, Ely
SALES ASSOCIATE POSITIONS**



If you are a people person who loves the outdoors, we want you on our team! The North American Bear Center is searching for people to fill one of our sales associate positions for the 2019 season. We are interested in applicants with a positive attitude, who have experience working with the public. Work shifts will fall between the hours of 8:30 am and 6:30 pm daily. If you are interested stop by the North American Bear Center (located just west of Ely off HWY 169) to pick up an application Mon-Fri between the hours of 9 am - 2 pm or call 218-365-7879 for more information! 3/29

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The International Wolf Center has openings for seasonal part-time retail and admissions positions, 16-32 hours per week. Must be able to work in a fun, fast-paced environment, work weekends, evenings and have excellent customer service skills. To apply, submit a cover letter and resume to careers@wolf.org or stop by the International Wolf Center (located just east of Ely on Hwy 169) to pick up an application.

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

4/19

**POSITION OPENING
ISD No. 696 ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1.0 FTE Media Generalist**

Salary and fringes as per Master Agreement Between ISD No. 696 and the Ely Education Association and School Board policy. Include district application, resume', official transcripts, letters of recommendation and current Minnesota teaching license; background check required.

Application available at www.ely.k12.mn.us, click on District then on Job Openings, then Application for Employment in Licensed Position or at the General Office, 2nd floor of the Memorial Building; return materials to: ISD No. 696, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731. Application deadline: May 31, 2019. 4/19

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James J. Varichak, Superintendent
Nett Lake Schools, 13090 Westley Drive
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from the Issuing Office upon payment of \$75.00 for each set. No refund will be provided. Checks for Bidding Documents shall be payable to JPJ Engineering, Inc. Upon request and receipt of payment indicated above, the Issuing Office will transmit the Bidding Documents via U.S. mail. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

Alternatively, Bidding Documents may be ordered on line by registering with the Issuing Office at www.jpjeng.com under the "Construction Bidding Information" link for \$25.00 (non-refundable). These documents may be downloaded by selecting this project and entering the eBid-DocTM Number 6248355 on the "Search Projects" page. For assistance and free membership registration, contact QuestCDN at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com. Following registration, complete sets of Bidding Documents may be

downloaded from the Issuing Office's website as portable document format (PDF) files.

Bidders responding to this solicitation document shall submit to the Owner a signed statement under oath by an owner or officer verifying compliance with each of the minimum criteria in Minnesota Statutes, Section 16C.285, subdivision 3.

Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders, in an amount not less than 5% (five percent) of the Total Bid. The successful bidder will be required to provide a Performance Bond, Payment Bond and a Certificate of Insurance.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities and informalities and to award the contract in the best interest of the OWNER.

By order of the
Ely City Council.
March 19, 2019
Harold Langowski,
P.E. / Clerk-Treasurer

*Published in the Timberjay,
March 29 & April 5, 2019*

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by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦♦ Moderate ♦♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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**CITY OF ELY
Important Information Regarding
Property Assessments
This may affect your 2020 property taxes**

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Ely, MN will meet on April 11, 2019 from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 209 E Chapman St. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Harold R Langowski, Clerk/Treasurer

Published in the Timberjay, March 29 & April 5, 2019

EMPLOYMENT

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

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SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED- Age 55+ workers needed for part-time custodial work at the Lake Vermilion State Park. Contact Green View at 651-639-1913. 4/5v

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Weekly SUDOKU Answer

3	1	9	5	6	4	2	7	8
2	4	7	1	8	3	6	5	9
5	8	6	9	2	7	1	3	4
1	2	4	8	7	5	3	9	6
7	6	3	4	9	1	8	2	5
9	5	8	6	3	2	7	4	1
4	3	1	7	5	8	9	6	2
8	9	2	3	4	6	5	1	7
6	7	5	2	1	9	4	8	3

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SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Crossword
puzzle
answers
on page 8B
this week

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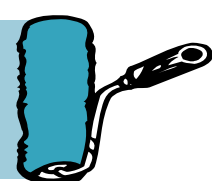
Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Spanish sailing ships
9 Regrets
13 Disney's Ariel, e.g.
20 Classic Italian song
21 About
22 Powell of "Rosalie"
23 Agitates
24 Ticket for a suitcase at an airport
26 Model Banks
27 "Let me think ..."
29 1836 Texas siege setting
30 Farm baby
34 "Cleopatra" director
41 Health insurance invoice
45 Off the clock for a while at work
46 "Law & Order: —" (TV spinoff)
47 Libertine
48 Fore-and-aft rig section
51 Actress Capshaw
52 Alabama march city
54 Suffix with ranch
56 Lighten up
- 57 Trait sources
58 Randy Quaid thriller about a menacing car
62 Cherry, e.g.
63 Biblical wife of Isaac
64 "Showdown" rock gp.
65 "Aha!"
67 "Westworld" airer
70 Those, to Juan
71 Lisa, vis-à-vis the Simpson kids
75 Anjou, e.g.
76 Pigs' hangout
77 Towed-away car, maybe
78 Route
79 "Yep, sounds about right"
81 Star of Earth
82 Pic on a web page, say
86 Start to use
89 La — Tar Pits
90 Dallas-to-NYC dir.
91 Circular gasket
93 Paella need
94 "Ay, —!" (cry from Bart Simpson)
- 97 Ride ordered via app
99 — Nabisco (old corp.)
100 "Conga" singer Gloria
102 Shameless untruth
105 Branch of knowledge
108 — Hashana
109 Ungiving sort
110 Western tribe
112 First lessons
116 Like the god Anubis
122 Anchor in a forest
126 Brother of Wilbur Wright
127 Watch datum
128 Electronic device's evaluation state
129 "Sure, hon"
130 Tater
131 This puzzle's nine longest answers use only the first half of it
- DOWN**
- 1 Price
2 Pale grayish
3 Mimic a lion
4 Lye, e.g.
5 Neckline type
- 6 Type widths
7 Actress Lucy
8 Jr.-to-be
9 Flesh on a rack
10 A, in Iberia
11 Work unit
12 George of "King Rat"
13 Tons of a vitamin, say
14 Oxygen, e.g.
15 Do one's part again?
16 — jongg
17 Prop-ender
18 Summer Games gp.
19 Dwight Gooden's nickname
25 Eur. nation
28 Nero's 1,150
31 Just slightly
32 — Zedong
33 Highest-quality
35 AFL- —
36 Urge along
37 Annoyed
38 Be on a slant
39 Not punctual
40 Barely gets, with "out"
41 Orig. texts
42 "Nurse Jackie" actress
43 All-work-and-no-play Jack, per an adage
- 44 Michael of "Juno"
49 Goat's bleat
50 PC character format
53 West and Busch
55 Took way too much, in brief
57 "Shucks!"
59 Dean who invented the Segway
60 Laid up
61 Lerner's partner
62 — -wip (dessert topping)
63 In medias —
66 Control on a sound mixer
67 1971 Donny Osmond hit
68 Non-barking hunting dog
69 Italian gold
72 Red Sox Hall of Famer Bobby
73 Ill-bred guy
74 Jekyll and —
75 Jack of old talk TV
77 Tire snagger
80 Goopy camp snacks
81 Haste
83 "Give — call!"
84 Disney deer
- 85 Ample, to Li'l Abner
86 With 114-Down, phone number part
87 Part of DVD
88 Bi- x four
89 One exiling
92 Univ. senior's test
94 Prince Charles' wife
95 Sweetie, in modern lingo
96 Referred
98 Green: Prefix
101 Doe or sow
103 Pesticide banned in '72
104 "— & Greg" (old sitcom)
106 So-so grade
107 Greek Week groups
111 "— Kett"
113 — tube (TV)
114 See
115 "Let it stand"
116 Great delight
117 Plural "is"
118 Rite Aid competitor
119 Farm baby
120 Fast swim
121 Very big bird
123 Priest's study: Abbr.
124 Sci-fi ability
125 Suffix of ordinals

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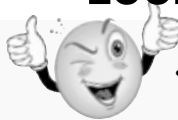


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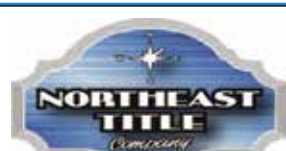
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Super Crossword

Answers

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O	S	O	L	E	M	I	O		I	N	R	E		E	L	E	A	N	O	R
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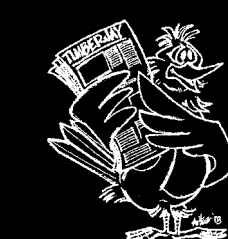


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